

**It's Still
FREE
Happy
Holidays**

BONAIRE Dec. 22, 2014 - Jan. 5, 2015 Year 22, Issue 1
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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Party Time!
 See Pages 5, 8, 9, 11

Greta Kooistra photo

The North Salinja flag was flying at its 5th festival. Page 9



Greta Kooistra photo

Real Rincon fans celebrating the victory of their team. On Friday, December 12th, the nerve-racking soccer finals took place with Real Rincon winning 2-0, while the Estrellas from Nort di Salina came in second.



MCB's Annual Award to a deserving non-profit foundation on the island was presented at a party at Sonia's Home Restaurant, See story on page 8



ORCO Bank celebrated its 5th Anniversary on Bonaire in its historic restored building- See page 11



Ahmed Ayubi (L) makes more breaking news with a live broadcast of the Polar Beer Lottery with lots of prizes and cash with Charles Lont and "Polar Chicas," Melissa and Gabriella



Greta Kooistra photo

On Sunday, December 14th, Panchito's Kreative Kids were invited to perform at the annual Rotary Club Christmas dinner which took place at Habitat this year. Under the guidance of Rhonda Bennett the children sang some beautiful Christmas carols that left the audience in awe.

A referendum to consider alternatives to the current constitutional status of the BES Islands held last week in St. Eustatius (Statia) fell far short of the 60% turnout considered the minimum to make the result binding. The voting percentage of 45% is indeed low, especially on an island where elections and other referenda traditionally have seen a much larger participation.

Some observers said the much of the population felt the exercise wasn't worth the trouble. The vote was:

- Autonomous territory within the kingdom (747 votes)
- Maintain the status quo (374)
- Full integration into the Netherlands (14)
- Independence (5).

► **An increased concentration of the legionella bacteria was found in the drinking water distribution system** in and around the new headquarters building of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force on the Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar in Playa. Drinking water which contains *legionella* isn't necessarily a health hazard. Contamination is only possible by breathing in contaminated drops in, for example, showers and air conditioning cooling systems. The infection is contracted by breathing in the legionella bacteria when it is in aerosol form, like in shower water. Legionella is a pneumonic (lung) illness. It was first discovered in Philadelphia in 1976, when it caused an outbreak of pneumonia at an American Legion Convention, infecting 221 people and killing 34. Many outbreaks have often been in connection with cruise ships, according to the American Center for Disease Control.



In response to these results WEB took action by flushing and chlorinating the Dutch Caribbean Police Force HQ. Overseas experts were called in and exhaustive monitoring is continuing.

► **Coincidentally, jobs to construct two new water supply pipes signed last week** with the BWM and CWM companies. BWM will build a water supply pipe more than two kilometers long from Hato to the tank park at Seru Largu. CWM will build a water supply pipe of almost five kilometers long from the tank park at Seru Lagu to Kaya Maria C. Hellmund.

► With the joint unveiling of the "construction board," Commissioner James Kroon, Commissioner Jona Chirino and RCN/OCW Department Head Hans Kuilder officially kicked off **the construction of the new facilities for the Papa Cornes elementary school.**

The building is split into four phases: during the first phase, the land will be prepared for construction, then respectively the buildings of Papa Cornes nursery and the day care will be built and a covered play area will be constructed. The last phase includes the completion of the site.

THE HAGUE—Dutch State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment Jetta Klijnsma released an overview of \$4 million worth of projects for 2015 to help combat poverty in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Twelve projects for St. Eustatius, eight for Saba and 13 projects for Bonaire were approved. They include integral district improvement, self-management for elderly and people with a light physical handicap, organizing sports activities, coaching youngsters so they can live on their own, go to school or work, renovation of homes of low-income families who will also be offered training to increase their chances of paid work, and, for Bonaire, job programs in the area of construction, agriculture and tourism/hotels/restaurants. Also, emergency social facilities will be offered and the day care centers strengthened.

► **Customs (Douane Caribisch Nederland) intercepted shipments of cocaine, cannabis, cash, spirits and cigarettes in November:** 1521.80 grams of cocaine and 774.80 grams of cannabis with a street value of almost \$86,125; 20 boxes of spirits, 6 cartons of cigarettes and \$80,001 in cash. Arrests were made in Saba, Statia and Bonaire. Some examples: On 18 November, at the Bonaire South Pier, members of Team *Fysiek Toezicht* found 6 cartons of cigarettes during a routine inspection of a fruit boat. The cartons of cigarettes were confiscated and an official report was drawn up. On 20 November members of Physical Supervision Team intercepted 296.80 grams of cocaine at the Bonaire airport. The cocaine was found on a female passenger on a scheduled flight from Curaçao. On inspection it turned out that the passenger was carrying the cocaine internally. The passenger was arrested by Customs and was handed over for further investigation.

On 20 November the Team also



intercepted 674.40 grams of cannabis at the Bonaire airport from a male passenger on a scheduled flight from the Netherlands. On closer inspection it turned out that the passenger **had swallowed balloons (bolitas)** containing cannabis— see photo above.

► After heading the TCB for the past two years the **Director of Tourism, Ethsel Pieterella will step down.**

During his tenure Pieterella headed the team that increased Bonaire tourism numbers especially for cruise tourism. Beginning January 1st 2015 the Supervisory Board of TCB has temporarily appointed the former Lt. Governor of Bonaire, Herbert Domacasse, Commissioner of the Board, to temporarily take over leadership of TCB. Ms. Malinda Hassell will be responsible for the daily affairs until a new Director is appointed.



► **St. Eustatius and Saba governments**

formally requested a postponement of the planned increase of the general sales tax ABB during a meeting with the Ministry of Finance in The Hague last week. This increase, which will be brought up to the level of that of Bonaire, will raise the ABB on services by 50% and 33% for the delivering of goods

► **WILLEMSTAD--The management of the Taams Clinic in Curaçao reports that the hospital has basically stayed open.** The radiology departments, the sleep centre, cardiology, laboratory and lung specialists are operating as patients are accustomed to, and the counter where clients can register is open from 7 in the morning. The clinic is in "dire straits" because of financial problems. However, the property is scheduled to be auctioned in late December.

► **TELBO has started to connect 'Fiber to the Home' in Amboina and Hato.** The fiber optic cable will replace the copper wire lines so TELBO will be able to offer a more stable connection with new services such as HD TV, Pause TV and internet with download speeds up to 100 Mb/s. For additional information visit www.telbo.net, call 717-1115, send an email to fiber@telbo.net.

► Dutch Social Affairs Minister Lodewijk Asscher has finalized draft legislation aimed at stopping companies in the European Netherlands from **paying foreign workers wages different from Dutch staff.** This, the ministers said, is disadvantaging Dutch workers, and by ensuring everyone is paid the same, companies will no longer be able to compete unfairly with each other. "People should get the same pay for the same job, whether they come from Rotterdam or Romania," Asscher said.

We note that in the BES Islands, workers who are significantly underpaid compared to European Dutch counterparts, are not covered by the new legislation
More info at <http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2014/12/minister-acts-to-ensure-equal-pay-for-foreign-workers.php/>

► **The Caribbean Netherlands Belastingdienst (Tax office) will stop making payments and payouts by check,** as of January 1st, 2015. As of that date all refunds will be deposited to your bank account free of charge. Of course that means most taxpayers must have a bank account.

► **The highest point of construction of the seafont TERRAMAR project of upscale shops and apartments, downtown adjacent to the Harbourside Mall was celebrated on December 17th.** As part of the project the historic Kas di van der Dijs will be restored.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Contin. from pg. 2)

► **Starting on Monday, December 15, InselAir returned Trinidad to its network, with new service between Curaçao and Port of Spain.** Three days later, on December 18, the company started direct flights between Curaçao and Georgetown, Guyana. The new flights take InselAir's network to 20 destinations. The airline is also preparing to launch two weekly flights between Aruba and Manaus in northern Brazil beginning in January 2015. **InselAir remains the only carrier that offers direct service (albeit one-stop with a plane change) between the US and Bonaire to Miami.**



UPB. He replaced Ramonsito Booi, who resigned as party leader and councilman ahead of the March 18 elections. Booi told *The Reporter* he wanted to minimize any connection between the vote and because of the appeal in the "Zambezi" case against him scheduled for a week earlier.

► **Havana/Washington—The US and Cuba agreed last Wednesday to restore diplomatic ties** that Washington severed more than 50 years ago, and President Barack Obama called for an end to the long economic embargo against its old Cold War enemy. **A major impact on Caribbean tourism is expected.** With Havana being only 90 miles from the US with lots of unspoiled coast and undeveloped areas, it may be especially attractive to eco-tourists. Flights should cost a small fraction of what they are to the eastern and southern Caribbean.



► **The Harbour Village Beach Club has again been voted Bonaire's Leading Hotel in the 2014 World Travel Awards, hailed as the "Oscars of the Travel Industry" by *The Wall Street Journal*.** It was the resort's second consecutive year to receive the award, which it also won seven other times in the past decade.

► **Harlton "Onnie" Emerenciana was sworn in as a member of Bonaire's Island Council for**

► **Construction of Bonaire's newest 125-person prison will begin January 5, 2015 and construction will last 18 months.** Occupancy is set to begin in late 2016. It will replace the recently completed jailhouse in the middle of Kralendijk. No plans for that was announced.

► **The Karnaval Commission announced that the 2015 Grand Karnaval Parade will follow a different route next year.** It will begin at the Kaya Industria/ Kaya Emerenciana traffic circle and continue along Kaya Nikiboko Sùit to Kaya Caracas, Kaya Simon Bolivar, Blvd. J.A. Abraham, Kaya Gilberto Betico Croes, returning to Kaya Nikiboko Sùit to break up at the van der Tweel supermarket. The Farewell parade will follow essentially the same route but terminate at the Stadium in Playa for the burning of Momo.

► **Can it happen here?** December 18 was one of the busiest days of St. Maarten's cruise tourism season, with 7 cruise vessels in port and an estimated 18,000 cruise passengers and 8,000 crew members. That would be more than entire population of Bonaire. On the same day Aruba celebrated a huge milestone in its tourism history when it welcomed its **one-millionth stay-over visitor in a year.**



Oswald Melchers, Police Chief Hildegard Buitnik, Mike Gaynor, Ameila Pietronella, Esseline Jacobus and Edith Strauss Mercera

► **As has become a tradition, elderly residents of 60-plus organizations in Bonaire were offered a Christmas dinner by a group of anonymous benefactors.** On December 12 over 130 pensioners from Tera Kora, Nikiboko, Antriol, Nort Saliña and Rincon were treated to a festive meal at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. They were served by volunteer employees of Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB), while John Hilgers provided the music. Afterwards all the guests received a small present and a 2015 calendar of Jong Bonaire, as well as pictures of themselves taken during the gathering by contributing photographers Melissa and David Phillip.



► **According to a release from Bonaire's TCB, Bonaire's earnings from cruise ships will increase from \$10 million in 2013 to \$25 million in 2016.** This results in an additional cash injection

to Bonaire of \$24 million in three years (based on an controversial value of \$70 per passenger). If true, for the local economy it means more jobs and business opportunities. **In 2016 cruise tourism is anticipated double to 350,000 from today's 144,000** cruise passengers. This is 35 times more than the assumed growth of 3% in the Caribbean.

(Continued on page 7)

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On The Island Since a few weeks old- Julio Silberie

“My mother had to go to Curacao to give birth,” says Julio Silberie, “because it was too risky to have me here, so I was born on Curacao, July 10th, 1955. Then we went back to Bonaire, to Nort di Saliña. My father, Carlos Silberie, worked at the Washington plantation where he made carbon (charcoal). It was heavy work. Once the charcoal was ready he had to put it in big burlap sacks and take it to the entrance of the plantation where the houses were. There he would get a receipt – a simple piece of paper – with which he could buy groceries at the shop owned by the Washington plantation. However, there was always plenty of food; there were goats, which one could buy from the owner of the plantation, and there were lots of iguanas and fish.

My father spent the whole week at the plantation. He slept there, his life was very hard. The boss would take him home with the truck, sometimes on a Saturday, but most of the time he would only come home on Sundays.

I have one brother and two sisters. My sister Prisca lives here in Nort di Saliña and the two others live on Curacao.

When I was in fifth grade of St. Dominicus elementary school, the head of the school, Friar Candidus, told class, ‘Tomorrow we’re going to Lower Technical School to see what you can learn there after you’ve finished here.’ I went home and told my dad and he said, ‘You could do it, but I’m not making enough money to pay for your schoolbooks.’ When I told the friar what my father said, he answered that he would ask the government for a loan which my father could pay back in installments. But I went home and told my father, ‘You know what? I’m going to find a job so I can help you!’

I went to JC Herrera who imported Amstel beer from Curacao which was brought to Bonaire on Don Andres ships. The ship would arrive full of beer, and after customs had opened it the three of us would unload the cargo. One man would stand in the boat, one on the dock and the other on the pick-up truck. The beer came in boxes which we threw to each other, and when the pick-up truck was full we

went to the storage to unload the truck, then back to the ship until it was empty.

I was 15 and it was hard work. It had to be done in one day because at night the ship would return to Curacao. I did it for about 10 years, then I began to work for Cultimara, at the warehouse, stacking shelves. It was good, by far not as hard as the work at JC Herrera’s. They also had a butcher shop and I told them I wanted to work with them. The boss, Clyde Marchena, said, ‘No problem, but you have to arrange it yourself.’ And so I started the next day. They showed me everything: the meat-saw machine, the freezer, the machine to make sausages and the display. Then they taught me how to serve the customers and how to weigh and calculate.

Later I learned how to debone meat, how to remove the membranes, to recognize the different parts of the meat. You had to learn the exact names. By that time I was 27. After I’d learned how to cut the meat I had to learn to operate the meat saw machine. It was very dangerous; a difficult job. You cannot talk or listen to the radio because you have to stay sharp and pay constant attention. The door would always be closed and when someone would knock, the first thing to do was to turn the machine off. It required great concentration.

After work I would go to Progreso Supermarket to help the gentleman there. They also have a butcher shop but no people to saw. Sometimes I would stop at six at Cultimara, then I would be sawing

really had to watch out, because at Progreso I wasn’t insured. I’d always say some prayers before I started working... you never know. And Cultimara was my regular job; I couldn’t get hurt at Progreso and have Cultimara pay for it!

My parents had already passed away some time before that, when one of my neighbors, Monica Melaan, asked me if I would like her daughter Andi to come and live with me. I told her it was no problem. So when Andi came I didn’t have to get up early anymore to cook before I went to work, and on Sundays I no longer had to wash my clothes. That was then, hahaha! Now I cook Saturdays and Sundays and on Sundays I do laundry too!

We have three children; Lucretia, Luzmarina and Julius. Andi is a good person; she loves to joke. She is always friendly and never angry. Our children are good children too; they are sweet. They listen to us and they’re doing well at school.

I worked for Cash & Carry/ Cultimara for a very long time. I was on vacation when I met IJs-



Julio Silberie



Julio and his daughter Lucretia

“From my father’s side we are descended from the Indians, the first inhabitants of Bonaire ...we come from the Caiquetio Indians, natives of Northwestern Venezuela”

at Progreso till 10 at night to replenish the supply of goat meat, stoba or pork chops. Long days... but, if you like what you’re doing it doesn’t matter! However, I

brand (the manager) who told me that Bonaire Food Group needed someone to operate the dangerous meat saw machine. I went to have a look with IJsbrand and he asked, ‘When will you start?’ I answered that I would take two more vacation days and that I would begin to work the third day. I went to Cultimara to resign and they paid me for all the years I’d worked there. Then I started at Bonaire Food Group. I’ve been there for three years now. It’s okay, but it can be cold! Wooha! I have to wear five different layers of clothing to keep me warm. The meat saw machine there is very different from the ones I’ve worked with, but I’m used to it now. I’m alone in my hutch all day. Nobody disturbs me. A couple of years ago I was

asked if I’d like to help make a movie about the Indians on Bonaire for Tourist TV. This gentleman came to talk to me. He drove me to my house and I told him that he could pick me up the following Sunday. After he’d left I looked around and thought, ‘What am I going to wear!’ Well, I got a couple of burlap sacks, put them in water to soak off the name of the potatoes, and when they were clean I cut them in half and with a fishing line I sewed them together until it was some sort of a loin-cloth, an apron. I did the same for my daughter Lucretia, who was also invited. They took us to Boca Onima and there I put on the cloth while this lady, who belonged to the crew, wrapped Lucretia’s upper body in a long piece of fabric. We got a necklace with beads and animal teeth and a spear and we had to climb on top of a small cave between the cacti. The gentleman stood behind me with the camera and told me to point in the direction of the sea as if I saw a ship coming. Then we walked to the coast, where it’s all wet, while they were filming us. We also got instructions to draw something in the cave, but it was just make believe. I also had to pretend as if I were cooking while I was singing this Indian tune: ‘Ooohohohoh!’ All the time the camera was straight in my face! It was fun; we had a good time and it wasn’t the

first time for me, because I’d also acted when I was younger.

From my father’s side we are descended from the Indians, the first inhabitants of Bonaire. Bòi Antoin found out that we come from the Caiquetio Indians, natives of Northwestern Venezuela. It’s a pity my father never spoke about it and we never asked, because now it’s too late. Once, somebody had some Indians come over from Venezuela to make a roof of palm leaves. When they saw me in the street they all stood still to look at me; they just stood there watching...

For me Bonaire is still good, I work a lot with Makambas (the Dutch) so that’s no problem for me.

There’s only one worry I have and that’s the children who are growing up now. The parents have to pay more attention to them and the children need to learn to listen otherwise I see a lot of trouble in the future. For me personally I feel the island is still tranquil and I hope it will stay that way. I am satisfied.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Kriabon Christmas Fair

Thanks to the rain that fell in the weeks before the Christmas Market on Saturday, December 6th, there was an enormous turnout of people who were eager to buy plants and cuttings and seeds. One of the sellers, who'd just unloaded a truck full of plants, sold his complete green merchandise in the blink of an eye and was asked to deliver it to the owner's residence. So, he had to put everything back on the truck and off he went - happily! However, he wasn't the only lucky one. People had a top day selling a great variety of trees, decorative plants, vegetable cuttings and all kinds of local seeds.

But the market wasn't just about plants. Kunuku Arawak offered sweet little rabbits, which proved to be a magical attraction to the children. There were also love birds for sale and a number of chicks and chickens and roosters. Of course, being a Christmas Market, there was a stand where children could make their own Christmas decorations, and other people were selling Christmas decorations, paper and presents.

There was a stand with driftwood, stands with curries and chutneys and jams and juices, with delicious sandwiches of goat meat and Christmas ham, stands with *pastechis* and *arepas*. There was *bolo*, Johnny cake, *mankaron* and soup and there were mouth watering fruit satehs.

The ambiance was merry. There was a general feeling of happiness and unity, and to top it namic Cajonazos with the typical *gaitas* (Christmas songs) and Rhonda Bennett and her Panchito's Kreative Kids choir performed Christmas songs from around the world. When the children 'stumbled' over 'Silent Night' in Papiamentu, Rhonda appealed to the public for help and 80-year-old Jino Trinidad from Rincon stepped forward, climbed on stage and one could hear a pin drop when he sang with a clear, pure voice 'Silent Night' in Papiamentu, and the soul of Bonaire revealed itself in all its glory... ■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*

The next monthly Kriabon Farmers Market will be on Saturday, January 3, 2015, from 8am to 1pm, at Kaminda Yatu Baku #55, next to Acquamarin School.



Manette selling her delicious sandwiches



Kids and rabbits



Led by Rhonda Bennett Panchito's Kreative Kids performed



The Cajonazos group sang the gaitas

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Tampa, Florida With Jimmy Buffett



Frequent Bonaire visitors since 2002, Warren and Pinky Stewart send us a photo from the annual Jimmy Buffett concert. The festivities started with an 8-hour tailgate party with everyone dressed for the occasion... and they remembered to bring a *Bonaire Reporter*. ■

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Rincon icon Maria Koeks was there...



Mrs. Vlijtig and her decorations

all off two bands were playing: the dy-



I'm looking to get together enough students for Arna Berg, the facilitator of the **Silva Method Workshop** on St. Maarten, to come to Bonaire to teach a two-day class.

The Silva Method teaches you how to achieve your desires. Science shows us that most people use only about 10% of their brain. The Silva Method teaches how to utilize both brain hemispheres and how the mind functions in measurable cycles and much, much more.

If you are interested in learning more and if you would like Arna to come to Bonaire and teach a Silva seminar please send an email to me, Sanny Ensing, at s_ensing@yahoo.com.

Arna's costs are \$300 US a person for a two-day Silva seminar and that includes all course materials as well as free lifetime repeat privileges.

Sudoku Puzzle

4					5	6	8	
			6	7	4			
1	9							
	8	2						
			5			6	9	2
		4	3	6				
			9	3	7			
3	5		8					
9						7	4	

Sudoku Solution

8	3	2	5	1	7	4	6	9
6	1	4	8	3	9	2	5	7
5	9	7	6	8	3	1	4	2
2	4	1	9	6	7	5	8	3
7	6	8	2	4	3	1	9	5
9	8	3	7	5	2	4	6	1
1	2	9	4	6	1	8	3	7
3	7	5	1	9	2	6	4	8
4	6	9	3	8	5	7	1	2

Keeping Culture and Tradition Alive The Bari Drum Festival



Boy Janga demonstrates bari drumming

Come to the Mangazina di Rei on Saturday, December 27. In the morning the Cultural Market will feature the *Ruta di Bari* where you can see how the traditional bari (drums) are made and played.

Then at 8 in the evening, the *Pone Bari Ronka* will take place with, among others, the Foyan Boys, Sabor Krioyo, Eso and Dam dam act. The children and young people who participated in the educational process of building a bari will give a presentation and tell about the history of the Baricultuur on Bonaire. Admission is free.

On Bonaire, December is traditionally the month of Bari. A typical Bonairean percussion instrument, the Bari is a

drum made of a barrel covered with a goatskin. The drum is the center of a lively tradition where all of all the special events of the past year are sung. Have you done something good or have you behaved impolitely? If so, you, you may find that you're mentioned in the songs of the Bari. But you have an opportunity to answer in a song

The name refers to the Spanish barí, Baril (ton, barrel). Making it requires a skilled process. In recent weeks 25 children and young people received lessons in how to make and play barí. They were led by Hubert Mercera and various masters in the art such as Jo Mercera and Pedro Concha. On Saturday, De-

43 BonKarate Students Certified



On December 17, 43 karate students who had passed their exams received their respective belts.

Yellow belts: Loelle Thode, Jo-Ann Velarde, Mysharvienne Gomperts, Alyssa Wijnand, Irión Valentijn, Andrea Francisca, Justin Finies, Jad Dabboussi, Kayden Domacasse, Chazz Laurens, Irlenska Martinus, Diornell Janga, Dante Abraham, Sebastian Shöndorfer, Anderson de Palm, Juan Felipe Flores, Kayla Approo, Jenrette Coffy, Oscar Etmon, Gerald Ellis jr.,

Orange belts: Ylariana Lourens, Shanay Winklaar, Lodaiska Thode, Edumar Huaman, Elvis Mateo Flores, Riordan Carolina, Justin Silberie, Izhar Silberie, Justin Abdul.

Yellow belts: Brandon Fernando, Oscar Martijn, Ryan Augusta, Kyanna Domacasse, Daeline Laurens, Artimah Charles.

Blue belts: Joshua Hart and Jeanique Hart.

Brown belts: Jamal Silberie, Ashanty Martina, Tirsia Silberie and Aron Etmon.

Brown belt: Dylan Loozen

Black belt: Kia-San Silberie

Sensei Peter Silberie together with Tuki Josephia, Elvis Flores, Miguel Pietersz, Everon Vru-taal, Thuersten Winklaar, Kia-San Silberie and Desiree Silberie were very happy and proud of the students. ■ *Press release*

On Saturday, December 27, the students will show what they have learned.

Pone Bari Ronka is an initiative of Fundashon Plataforma Kultural and Fundashon Mangazina di Rei. The organization of the Dia di Bari cooperate with Sabor Krioyo and SKAL.

The project is made possible by Fund for Cul-

tural, Prince Bernhard Culture Caribbean and Public Body Bonaire. Kooyman assisted in the procurement of materials.

To the participants and the activities of "Pone Bari Ronka" follow through our Facebook page www.facebook.com/mangazina. ■ *Press release/L.D.*

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Donation In Memory Of Captain Don



Janet Thibault reads the message from the Accolade Foundation. Rosemary Kurtti, and Jim Leffard at right,



Rosemary Kurtti, a few Junior Rangers, BMP Manager de Leon and Jim Leffard

The first of what is sure to be many tributes to Captain Don was made by two of his old friends. Rosemary Kurtti and Jim Leffard first met Don in the early 1980s. They dove with him, knew him as an icon, a spokesperson for the environment, and the originator of all that is good about marine conservation. Over the past seven years, they got to know Don and his lovely partner, Janet Thibault, behind the scenes. When Don passed away about six months ago they recognized the enormous loss to the island.

Last week they presented a \$1000 donation in Captain Don's honor and memory and his Bonaire Accolade Foundation he

founded to recognize those who make a positive contribution to preserving the environment. They believe Don would want it to be used to support the Junior Rangers mission.

The Junior Rangers program is dedicated to teaching the youth of Bonaire about the importance of the beautiful Bonaire environment, land and sea. The Junior Rangers are this generation of marine conservationists. This is a program that helps to fulfill Don's vision.

The presentation was opened by Habitat's Manager Claire Sealy who gave a lovely introduction. Captain Don's long-time partner Janet Thibault read Accolade President George

Buckley's message from the Accolade Foundation. Desiree Croes, Director of the Junior Rangers, graciously gave front and center to the Junior Rangers when the letter and check were presented. Rosemary Kurtti thanked everyone and said, "We hope this will be an inspiration to others to donate to the very worthy Junior Rangers. We will continue to learn more about the Junior Rangers on Facebook.

Please accept this donation in honor of Bonaire's Captain Don (Donal Adams Stewart), a man who was instrumental in raising the world's awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, especially the beautiful undersea world around

Bonaire. Don founded the Bonaire Accolade Foundation, conceived to be a multinational salutation, an award, and a monument to recognize, acclaim, and honor the ocean pioneers of earth's last frontier, those who make contributions to the preservation of our marine environment." ■ G.D.



Rosemary Kurtti

Flotsam and Jetsam
(Continued from page 3)

► The environmental NGO, Echo, is looking for volunteers. Please share with folks you know who might be interested. <http://www.echobonaire.org/volunteer/current-opportunities/>



► Friends of classical music must be sure to attend the Free Christmas & Jubilee Concert featuring stars Wim Statius Muller, Johnny Kleinmoedig and Combo, the Pop Choir of Bonaire, Jairo Maduro (the singing pastor from Aruba) on Friday, December 26th, starting at 7:30pm at the big San Bernardo Church Bonaire. Enjoy an evening with Christmas songs, Antillean dances, classical and pop music. Entrance for this special concert is free but seats can be reserved at our Classical Music Board Bonaire website.

For more information and/or tickets: telephone 786-0455. See poster on page 11.

► Check out the amazing photo in the Sunbelt Realty ad done by Bon Photo's Zsuzsanna Pusztai ■ G./L.D.

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MCB Award Night

Each December for the past 13 years the MCB Bank in Bonaire holds a party for the press and presents a cash gift to a deserving non-profit foundation on the island. This year the Fundashon Panchito including Rhonda's Kreative Kids was presented with the Merit Award, a \$2000 check and the bank's appreciation for a worthy contribution to the community.

About four years ago Panchito's Kreative Kids was founded by Rhonda Bennett and Anthony Angila under Fundashon Panchito Club, a club for children. "My goal was and is," Rhonda says, "to bring children of all cultures and origins together, to create an environment of music, art and social skills." Who wants to volunteer? People can reach us at 786-7657 or mail me rhondabennett7@aol.com or for more info they can go to the Panchito Club Facebook page. Donations are always welcome and book of the create payment option of Maduro and Curiel's Bank under the letter P for Panchito Club.'

The event at Sonia's Home Restaurant was one of the best ever.



"Panchito" Tony and Rhonda

Sonia and Chef Alberto offered hors d'oeuvres and a vast buffet of sophisticated dishes- fishes, meats, vegetables, pastas - all with an Italian inspired flavor. Serenading the guests were Gerald Alberto and Robert Felida of R&G Entertainment. The boys' moms work for MCB.

The presentations closed with thanks, holiday greetings and a lovely gift for all the members of the press in attendance.

Over the years a variety of organizations serving the public with active volunteers that better the social fabric of the island were honored:

- 2002 Bonaire Sailing Foundation, BSaF
- 2003 Bonaire Special Olympics
- 2004 Sentro pa Hubentut Jong
- Bonaire
- 2005 Bonaire Youth Outreach
- 2006 Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds
- 2007 Fundashon pa Kuido di Bista i Oido (FKBO)
- 2008 Stinapa
- 2009 Fundashon Sebiki



Presentation of the big check by MCB Bank officials



The presentation and party was at Sonia Home



Music by R&G Entertainment—Gerald Alberto & Robert Felida.

- 2010 Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo)
- 2011 Fundashon Diabético Boneriano (Sodibon)
- 2012 Fundashon Pro Hubentut Boneiru
- 2013 Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire. ■

Press release/ G.D/ L.D.

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Noord di Saliña Celebrates # 5

Monday, December 15th was the 5th consecutive celebration of the official Noord di Saliña Day. There was a public celebration which included different informal activities and formal speeches.

The formal part of the celebration was opened by Charlisse Offerman, who sang the official Noord di Salina anthem together with her daughter Amalie Melaan. Further on, the official Noord di Saliña flag was presented by the president of the Nawati Foundation, Hubert Vis. Also four residents of Noord di Saliña were presented with an award of appreciation for their contribution to the neighborhood.

It was obvious that Noord di Saliña is a neighborhood with a population which is tremendously proud of their cultural Indian heritage and who work together towards preserving their culture.

To complete the festivities entertainment was brought to the public by the Krioyo Kids, Nico Melaan, Mamita Melaan i los Principes, Jom Krioyo and Sabor Krioyo. All of the above made for a beautiful celebration and recognition of the neighborhood of Noord di Saliña and its people. ■ Story & photos by Fleurtje Veldkamp



Award winners are (L to R): Kora Niolaas (with hat), the spouse of the late Mr. Vis, Mamita Silberie and Nazario Alberto



Noord di Saliña kids

← Master of ceremonies Charlton Thomas with the flag of Noord di Saliña



Charlisse Offerman and her daughter Amalie Melaan, singing the anthem of Noord di Saliña

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The Restaurant on the Baai

A new and enticing restaurant has opened up on Lac Baai, complete with a professional team of master chef Raoul Lamers, his wife, Persia and team member, Marcel. The old Kon Tiki restaurant has been completely renovated with exquisite taste and to better enjoy the widespread view of Lac Bai. It's quiet, it's tranquil and the food is marvelous. Dining there for lunch you are made to feel like royalty. What comes out of the kitchen is delicious, prepared with care and artistry.

Service by Persia and Marcel is attentive and gracious. You are transported to another world with no stress, the panoramic beauty of nature as seen in the mangrove-ringed bay, the expansive blue sky with fluffy white clouds, a far cry from a sea gull.

Originally from Holland, where they owned their own restaurant Raoul and Persia have seen and worked much of the rest of the world, including eastern Europe.

The restaurant is open for breakfasts, lunch and happy hour. Call 717-5369 or visit www.lacbaai.com

G./L. D.



You'll spot the resort/restaurant just off the road to Sorobon. Around January 15 a separate room suited for meetings and parties will be opened and run by resort manager Rene Oleana



The refurbished restaurant is 100% Wheelchair Accessible. A salt crystal partition and bar edge will set the theme.



A section of fresh marlin ready to be smoked by Chef Raoul Lamers



The Team: Marcel, Persia and Raoul



Some of the desserts offered. Everything from appetizers to these icy desserts is homemade including the ice cream.



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ORCO

Celebrates

ORCO Bank celebrated its Lustrum—5 years—in Bonaire with a bang-up party in the garden (parking lot) of their beautifully restored historical building last week. The highlight of the evening was the announcement by Manager Judy Diaz that the bank would sponsor another cultural heritage book about Rincon, following up on its 2010 book about Kralendijk.

“Because Rincon has been such an important place on the island we want to write about its history, who is from there—well known families—how it’s affected the rest of the island, its nature and more.” Historians Bòi Antoin and Henry Toré will be spearheading the project.

The garden was sparkling with lights, tents, white tablecloths and chairs. Many guests were dressed in holiday finery.

The amazing fare was provided by Huub Groot of It Rains Fishes Restaurant and Norca’s Catering. There were even sushi tables and a tapas table. The party went on until nearly midnight. ■

Laura DeSalvo,
photos by G.D. & L.D.



Having fun at the party: Judy’s daughter, Jermainy Diaz; Orco Bank Manager, Judy Diaz; Kenny Canword, Managing Director and Manager of Bonaire and Margie Bookaljon, ORCO’s Managing Director of Risk



Historians Bòi Antoin and Henry Toré flank bank manager Judy Diaz as the Rincon retrospective book project is announced.



The ORCO bank private parking lot was filled with white tablecloth topped tables and almost 200 guests



Norca Loff offered an incredible array of cheeses, pates, spicy and sweet snacks, pickled things...the ultimate tapas table.

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Saving Bonaire's Nautical Past

On November 17, 2014, Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) was officially registered at Notaris Schouten. The new foundation has five objectives. They are: to preserve artifacts, photographs, documents, charts and the aural/visual history of Bonaire's maritime past; to create a maritime heritage center where residents and visitors can visit and learn about Bonaire's role in the southern Caribbean's nautical history through interpretive displays and audio/video materials; to expose youth of all ages to their maritime past and involve them in learning activities such as seamanship, boat building, boat maintenance and boat restoration in order to develop skills and promote careers in the maritime industry; and to restore boats that are of historical significance to the ABC Islands.

To that end, *Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru* has started Project *Stormvogel*, an effort to save the last of the wooden sailing cargo ships of the ABC Islands. *Stormvogel* (Storm Bird) is a 45-foot cutter that was built and launched on Bonaire in 1951 from the shores of Playa Pabou. Her captain, Martin Felida, had secured a contract to haul propane tanks between Bonaire and Curaçao. *Stormvogel* also transported charcoal, salt and live animals. She joined an unofficial fleet of local cargo ships

that served as the lifeline between the ABC Islands. But beyond delivering goods, these boats united families and friends and were essential to the islands' well-being, economy, and culture.

Stormvogel ended up decades later rotting away dockside in Curaçao. But the future now looks bright for the old boat. Descendants of Martin Felida have donated the vessel to Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru. François van der Hoeven from Curaçao is leading a group of volunteers in preparing the ship for transport to Bonaire in January. For three years, van der Hoeven personally pumped water out of *Stormvogel* weekly in a valiant effort to keep her afloat. He recently arranged for Curaçao Marine to haul out the boat and place her on dry dock free of charge. When asked why his Curaçao crew was working so hard on a boat for Bonaire, van der Hoeven responded, "Because they like wrecking so much! All joking aside, the volunteers here love the idea of saving a historical vessel. It does not matter that it will go to Bonaire. The Curaçao connection with the *Stormvogel* is part of the history of both islands."

The new foundation has a five-member board including Bòi Antoin, president; Eric van de Keuken, treasurer; Patrick Holian, secretary; Johnny Craane, head

of restoration; and François van der Hoeven. While arrangements are being made to transport the boat home, Bòi Antoin is busy videotaping interviews with old sailors from the time of sail when *Stormvogel* plied the seas. That includes Jan Felida, son of the boat's original captain, Martin Felida. Antoin will use these interviews and historic photos to make a documentary about this colorful era of our island's history. Segments will eventually be used on the foundation's website, which is now under development.

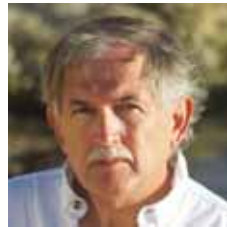
After restoration, *Stormvogel* will become the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Center where volunteer guides will give on-deck tours for school groups, residents and tourists. Maritime artifacts and multimedia displays will offer glimpses into the past below deck. One of the main goals of the foundation is to involve the youth through the project. That begins with the boat's restoration, which will kick off in early 2015 at the Navegante Boatyard in Hato. Eventually *Stormvogel* will serve as a training ship where volunteer adult sailors will teach young people about seamanship, boat operation and ship maintenance. ■

Patrick Holian



The Curaçao crew: L-R standing: Nicky Pietersz, Jessy Rosaria, François van der Hoeven (foundation board member), Leo Makaai and Shirley Juana-Thomas. Kneeling: Charles Juana.

For those interested in financially supporting Project Stormvogel, donations can be deposited in the foundation's MCB account #409.347.10.





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 Front row: Willem Goutziers, Anne Goutziers, Chaz Sweers, Amber van Groenestijn, Pien Goutziers, Brandon Begina, Floortje van Asperen Vervenne, (Agnieszka Spruit, Marcel Spruit en Basi missing in the photo)

The Bonaire Barracudas swim team set record after record at the recently completed 5th Siegfried Francisco Swimming Invitational Competition in Curacao. Although the Barracuda team trains in the sea

backstroke, Anita Smits in the 100m butterfly, Nathalie Petersen in the 200m breaststroke and the Master Relay Team in the 400m medley relay. The Master Relay Team won two gold and one silver medal.

The medals were won in various disciplines and distances like breaststroke, backstroke, front crawl, butterfly, medley and relay. As well, our swimmers jointly set 42 new personal records. The most improved personal records were: Pien Goutziers- 9 seconds in the 50m butterfly, 8 seconds in the 100m front crawl, 7 seconds in the 100m breaststroke; Brandon Begina-6 seconds in the 200m breaststroke; Nikolai Pedersen- 6 seconds in the 50m breaststroke; Ruby van den Berge- 4 seconds in the 100m backstroke, 4 seconds in the 200m individual medley; and Nathalie Petersen- 4 seconds in the 400m front crawl.

The Bonaire Barracudas would like to thank their sponsors, Fundashon Wega di Number, InselAir, Bon Bida Spa & Gym, Flamingo Communications and Wijnand Flake Artwork. Thanks to them Bonaire was able to compete in this international competition. ■ *Press release*

instead of a lap pool, it once again managed to dominate the larger swimming teams in the region. The Barracudas took home 19 gold, 11 silver and 9 bronze medals. They set four records: Evy Witlox in the 50m



Han ten Winkel and Huub Groot, Manager-Owners, Spice Beach Club; Marc van Heemskerck, Owner/Founder Cleanbeach, NL; and Olivier Domingo, Manager-Owner Eden Beach Resort

Recently, the first posts with ecological beach-purposed ashtrays were placed at the Spice Beach Club / Eden Beach Resort beach.

Bonaire has many beaches where tourists and locals linger but are not always clean and kept clean. Cigarette butts are a factor in this problem. Eliminating this eyesore is important, especially considering that a cigarette butt in the water is life-threatening to the turtles and the flora and fauna of Bonaire

The managers of the Spice Beach Club and Eden Beach Resorts recently approached the Clean Beach company to introduce their new innovative beach ashtray to Bonaire. Director and designer Marc Heemskerck of the Netherlands Cleanbeach was excited about the possibility and personally flew in to place the first posts.

Spice Beach Club and Eden Beach Resort are proud to be the first with these posts to contribute to the environmentally quality of the beach. More info at www.cleanbeachcaribbean.com ■ *Press release*

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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Mon 22	02:54 0.11 ft	03:55 0.11 ft	12:38 1.10 ft	21:50 -0.18 ft		6:52	18:16
Tue 23	03:54 0.18 ft	05:28 0.18 ft	13:29 1.07 ft	22:26 -0.22 ft		6:52	18:17
Wed 24	04:25 0.28 ft	07:31 0.25 ft	14:23 1.01 ft	23:02 -0.24 ft		6:53	18:17
Thu 25	05:01 0.40 ft	09:22 0.29 ft	15:18 0.93 ft	23:36 -0.25 ft		6:53	18:18
Fri 26	05:39 0.54 ft	11:01 0.28 ft	16:16 0.82 ft			6:54	18:18
Sat 27		00:11 -0.25 ft	06:19 0.69 ft	12:30 0.24 ft	17:14 0.69 ft	6:54	18:19
Sun 28	First Quarter	00:45 -0.24 ft	07:00 0.83 ft	13:51 0.17 ft	18:14 0.56 ft	6:54	18:19
Mon 29		01:20 -0.21 ft	07:43 0.95 ft	15:06 0.09 ft	19:15 0.43 ft	6:55	18:20
Tue 30		01:55 -0.16 ft	08:27 1.04 ft	16:16 0.02 ft	20:20 0.32 ft	6:55	18:21
Wed 31		02:29 -0.11 ft	09:11 1.10 ft	17:24 -0.05 ft	21:25 0.25 ft	6:56	18:21
January		03:08	09:59	18:30	22:40		
Thu 01		03:39 -0.06 ft	10:44 1.10 ft	19:34 -0.08 ft		6:56	18:22
Fri 02		04:06 0.00 ft	11:30 1.09 ft	20:34 -0.12 ft		6:56	18:22
Sat 03		04:20 0.13 ft	12:15 1.06 ft	21:28 -0.15 ft		6:57	18:23
Sun 04		04:20 0.14 ft	12:15 1.01 ft	21:28 -0.16 ft		6:57	18:23
Mon 05		04:20 0.94 ft	12:15 -0.16 ft	21:28 Moon		6:58	18:24

ECHO IS LOOKING FOR A DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH OFFICER

This role will involve promoting and managing merchandise sales, promoting and leading conservation tours as needed. Identification and development of new fundraising opportunities. The Outreach work will include developing community relations through events and in person and networking such as through attending markets and fairs. Applicants must be creative, highly self-motivated, physically and mentally fit and able to work independently or as part of a team. Papiamentu and English speaking is required
Preferred Qualifications:
- At least 6 months work experience prefera-



bly in a related position
- Microsoft Office competent
Part-time (8-10+ hours/week)
Compensation: Echo is a small NGO and as such cannot provide substantial compensation, this position will be paid at \$100/week.

To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and resume to info@echobonaire.org

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. In-store financing too.



AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. Their office is in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BARS

Zazu Bar at the Marina at Harbour Village is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar— over 50 types! Great hangout spot for divers and sailors.

BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too.

CARS AND BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

ON and IN the WATER

BHM Bonaire Hydro-test & Maintenance offers repair of Scuba Equipment, dive tank hydro testing pressure tests with computerized accuracy. Pickup and delivery too.

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Shoes on Kaya Grandi, open now.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket.

HOME CARE

VanEps Property Management B.V./Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

HEALTH CARE

Best Care Logistics provides everything necessary for people who are disabled or sick, including prostheses, dietary supplements, furnishings, mobility equipment, diabetes aids, hospital beds, oxygen therapy, optical & hearing aids, contraceptives, home aids, communication, and more

Nature's Discount has a complete selection of vitamins, supplements, herbs, sports nutrition, body care and natural foods.

LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

Best Cellars has one of the island's widest selection of spirits including "hard-to-find" brands. In addition there is an exceptional assortment of wines, tobacco products and everything needed for a great party.

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. **ScubaVision**, Kaya Grandi 6. See website scubavision.info or ScubaVision on YouTube. **NEW**— Drone photography

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit.



RESTAURANTS

Bistro de Paris— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it. Its Zazu Bar is a very popular hangout for divers too.



Bobbejans— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.



Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza—Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops — featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs — as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many things we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



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Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility- Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.

SUPERMARKETS

BonDiGro— Cooperative discount super market offering low prices and friendly service. Open all day and Saturday too. New location across from Warehouse



TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



MADE ON BONAIRE

Semper Kontentu goat cheese. Ask for it at restaurants and look for it in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Souvenir gifts available.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

REGULAR EVENTS

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park

Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

Saturdays

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market)** First Saturday of the month, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—Last Saturday of the month**, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon

• **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30pm, Tera Cora Ranch. Info: 786-0150

Sundays

• **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

• **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am**. Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. **\$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5.** 786-6950- Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

• **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**. The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: *Island Adrift*, *Shangri-la*, *Sea Trauma* and the newest book *Reef Windows*. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

• **Touch the Sea** -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals **every Monday when she's on-island** at 8 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Hab-

Cruise Ship Schedule

Day	M/D	Ship Name	Time In	# PAX	Line
Monday	12/22/	<i>Mein Schiff 1</i>	07.00-19.00	2114	TUI
Monday	12/22/	<i>Maasdam</i>	12.00-21.00	1258	HAL
Wednesday	12/24/	<i>Aida Luna</i>	07.00-18.00	2194	Aida
Wednesday	12/24/	<i>Serenissima</i>	06.00-	114	
Saturday	12/27/	<i>Seabourn Legend</i>	08.00-18.00	208	HAL
January					
Monday	5-Jan-15	<i>Mein Schiff 1</i>	07.00-	2114	TUI

tat, Call Habitat at 717-8290 or Dee at 717-8529 .

Wednesdays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information.

• **30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire**, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. Donation. Call 786-6416 , email: info@bonaireyoga.com

• **Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina**. Free house rum when you buy a coke.

• **Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours of their Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and best of all it is led by local guides who are eager to share their knowledge of Bonaire and are donation based. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill before :30 pm and bring good shoes as it's "off road." Alternatively you can book a private tour through Flow Bonaire info@flowbonaire.com Phone: +599 788 4636.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

Fridays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Chichi i Tan Museum. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays**. 10am-3pm. **1st Sunday of month**, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. **Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Bridge Club - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-

4200or788-2819 or

peejeesee@gmail.com

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:00 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

Catholic: *San Bernardus in Kralendijk* – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8332.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republik. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Many Bonaire banks will have the following holiday season hours:

Wednesday, Dec. 24 8am –noon

Wednesday Dec. 31 –8am-noon

ORCO and Giro banks will be closed all day

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 25 and 26

—**Legal holidays** -shops and banks closed.

Friday, Dec. 26—**Free Christmas Concert**-Christmas songs, Antillean dances, classical and popular music, San Bernardo Church, 7:30 pm. Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) More on pages 7 & 11

Saturday, Dec. 27- **Mangazina di Rei Cultural Market & Ruta di Bari** (route of the bari drum), 8am-2pm. Then at 8 pm—**Pone Bari Ronka**-presentation of musicians and drums. Free. See story on page 6

Wednesday, Dec. 31- **New Years Eve. Fireworks all over the island.** Grand display along the western coast and at Seru Largu.

Thursday, Jan. 1

—**New Years Day , Legal holiday**
— **Maskarada** –Mysterious, silent

masked people dance, perform skits. First visit home of Governor.

Later might be found by the Pasa Gran building in town or private homes.



Saturday, Jan. 3—**Kriabon Farmers Market**, 8am-1pm. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, plants, homemade jams, chutneys, more. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School. See story on page 5.

upon request) 10:20am- Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ) Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. ndt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
End of December 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Past partners are likely to reappear. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes. You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. Be aware that joint financial ventures could fall apart. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You are best to concentrate on work. Don't be too hard on yourself. Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Don't be afraid to say what's on your mind. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Talk to an older family member you have helped in the past. You need adventure and excitement in your life. Arguments could prevail. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Travel will enhance romance and adventure. Romance can surface if you get into some of those fitness programs you've been putting off. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. Valuable information can be yours if you listen to those with experience. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. Do not expect others to do your work. You may not get your facts correct this week; double-check before making any statements. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. You can make changes to your living quarters, but not everyone will be pleased with your efforts. Accept the inevitable. Travel should be on your agenda. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. Organize your day to avoid any setbacks that might ignite temper flare-

ups. Changes in your residence may be financially favorable. Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't be too quick to sign documents. Your ideas are good and career moves can be realized. You've been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you've fallen into. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture. You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. You may find that others do not do things the way you want; however, if the job gets done, let it pass. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function. Your sensitive, affectionate nature will capture the heart of anyone you are attracted to. You have more energy than the rest of the people you live with anyway. Focus on using your creative abilities in other ways. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb.19) Changes at home might come fast and furious. Take time to make physical improvements that will enhance your appearance. Social events will be plentiful. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. You will need to take a look at the renovations that are necessary and try to find the cheapest way to get things done. Problems with colleagues are likely. Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE GALAXY GOURMET AND THE KITCHEN COSMOS

It's estimated that, 99.999% of all human beings who've ever lived, ourselves included, have never really had a clear concept of the scale of the universe.

To say that space is big is an understatement. How often do we think that those beautiful sparkling points of light in the sky are actually suns like our Sun, yet they're so far away that they appear as mere points of light? How often do we think of the differences in sizes between the various planets as they drift across our evening and morning skies?

Even with all the easy access we have to information about the universe, many of us still don't really relate to the size and distance of things when it comes to the night sky.

We have a neat demonstration that can help, and you can do it at home, using everyday objects you can find in your kitchen.

Let's first talk about **Jupiter, Earth** and our **Sun**. Jupiter is our largest planet, but what does that really mean? We can easily look up the fact that we could fit 1,300 Earths inside Jupiter, or it would take 1 million, 300 thousand Earths to fill up our Sun. For example, if you drove in a car from the Sun to the earth at 70 miles per hour, it would take you almost 150 years to make the trip. Furthermore, it would take you almost 800 years to drive from the Sun to Jupiter and almost 6,000 years to drive from the Sun to **Pluto**.

But numbers are easily forgotten, so if you really want to relate to the cosmos, it's best to think of it in every day terms, and what could be more every day than your kitchen. So, the next time you pick up an orange, pretend that it's the Sun. Then, take a salt shaker and sprinkle some salt in your hand. If you can pick up just one of those grains of salt, that will represent the Earth, circling the orange at 30 feet away.

Now take a black bean. This little black bean represents the planet Jupiter,



circling 200 feet away, or one city block away from the orange.

The planet **Saturn**, would be another black bean, another city block away (or 400 feet from the orange).

Pluto, everyone's favorite dwarf planet, would be one speck of finely ground pepper, 10 city blocks from the orange.

But our Sun is just one of billions of stars in a family we call our **galaxy**. On this same scale, the Sun's closest neighbor, **Alpha Centauri**, is another orange, 1,300 miles away!

And all the other stars are fruits of different sizes and on the average are 2,000 miles apart. So our galaxy, from our cosmic kitchen, consists of over 100 billion oranges, grapefruits, cantaloupes and pumpkins, occupying a space 20 million miles in diameter. And that's just one galaxy!

But, to show the number of stars in all the galaxies in the visible universe, it would take more oranges, grapefruits, melons and pumpkins than have ever grown since the beginning of time!

Remember, our Sun is just one of those oranges, with its 8 major planets and 5 dwarf planets, all mere specks of salt, pepper and black beans, circling less than 15 city blocks away.

Or think of it like this. The next time you're in your kitchen. If we could fit our entire solar system, our Sun and all its planets, including the distances between them, inside a coffee cup, our galaxy would be the size of North America! ■Dean Regas & James Albury



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Pet of the Week



XENA

Beautiful Xena has been a Shelter resident since March of 2014 when she arrived as a kitten. With her amazing green (and slightly crossed!) eyes and her distinctive striping, she has the look of an exotic jungle cat. Except Xena is a very small cat. Although fully grown she only weighs about five pounds and seems more like a very large kitten. She is playful and talkative and even has the moves of a "mini jungle cat." Xena's favorite place to relax is the "kitty hammock" and, when she is not snoozing in it, she'll vocally ask for your attention or reach out with a paw if you're passing by. Belly rubs are always welcome!

Xena is a little over one year old, sterilized, healthy and patiently waiting for that forever home. While she is tolerant of

other cats, she would make a "purrfect" companion for someone looking for an "only cat." She is very happy entertaining herself with toys or just napping until you are ready for some quality feline company.

Xena and the other Shelter residents invite you to pay them a visit and perhaps provide a forever home to one of the many loving and deserving companion animals who deserve a chance. The Animal Shelter Bonaire is located on Lagun Road, visiting hours 8am-12noon, 3-5pm. Tel. 717-4989. You can also check out their Facebook page at Animal Shelter Bonaire or take a look at the "cat cam" at the www.bonairecatcam.com.

Jane Madden-Disko.



Shelter News



Two very satisfied ladies who helped make the Cat Palace a reality: Shelter Manager Marlies Tiepel, Volunteer Jane Madden-Disko

The Christmas market last Saturday, December 13, was a big success. A lot of people visited the market and the Shelter raised enough money to feed the cats and dogs for one whole month! It was also a historical day because the Shelter opened the new cat compound "Palasio di Pushinan" (Cat Palace).

The cats absolutely love their new home. For the cats this of course is wonderful and in their new palace they all feel (and behave) like they are kings and queens! For the Shelter it is not so good..... The cats do not want to be adopted anymore, they all want to stay in their palace and where their faithful humans will serve them their Christmas dinner.

■ Story by Marlies Tiepel, photos L.D.

Don't forget to lock up your pets during the fireworks season (see next page). The Shelter acts as a refuge for lost animals. 717-4989. Call them if you lost or found a pet.



Cats' palace OK. But we want a puppy palace too!



Conservation Tour



Learn about Bonaire's threatened parrot, the dry forest & Echo's conservation efforts to protect them. EVERY WEDNESDAY 4:30-6 pm @ Dos Pos

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Pets and Fireworks

The Happy New Year's celebration is coming. We'll be so festive when we ring in the year with fireworks. Our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period unfortunately

sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. However, help is available in an inexpensive, non toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety of stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets. Yes! This is safe for people as well as pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year, thanks to The Pet Project and Ella van Oostrom.

Follow simple instructions on the label. The cost of \$3 benefits the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen.

"Just 4 Pet" also has it. Look for the shop on Kaya Industria, across from Rorcargo, open 9am-6pm. Nature's Discount is my supplier for the "flower medicine" and has the solution on sale. There is a Pet spray and Rescue Candy on their shelf. Nature's Discount is at Kaya Pedro Silie 1, open 8:30- 6:00 with a lunch break

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com. ■ Florence Ditlow

Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse, an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center. She has two Shelter pets who take the pet stress remedy.



Help Sally and Weeble

Bonaire premier environmental NGO, Echo, has rescued so many injured wild parrots (Loras) that the aviaries are full. Rescued overweight illegal pets Sally and Weeble are currently in large but separate cages that were never intended for long-term use. They need your support so they can be together again.

Donate now at: <http://www.razoo.com/story/Help-Sally-And-Weeble-Get-A-Room>

It's not only Sally and Weeble, though. Three other pairs have formed from Echo's rescued flock. Loras continue to be rescued and there's an urgent need for more space so everyone can be accommodated. Your support will enable the Echo team to rescue more injured wild parrots.

Echo's current aviaries were built when over 100 parrot and parakeet chicks were rescued and the aviary was planned for releases. Although spacious, they were not intended as a permanent home. Similarly the feeding shed was "thrown" together out of an urgent need, but a better built more hygienic feeding shed is desperately needed.

Echo is receiving an increasing number of injured wild Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots and also Brown-throated Parakeets. Many of these birds have sadly sustained injuries so severe it not possible to release



them again.

We are taking steps to address the long-term solutions to this problem, but the rescued parrots need your help now.

Please donate today and make it possible for Sally and Weeble to have the home they need! Your donation will:

- Give Sally and Weeble an aviary they can call home.
- Build 5 additional aviaries for other pairs and groups freeing up space for new rescues.
- Build a hygienic feeding kitchen and treatment room.

Best of all, our longtime supporters, Cornell and Skipper from Connecticut, USA, have pledged to match the first \$3,000 towards the new aviaries. That's twice the impact your gift can make for the rescued parrots.

Please help Bonaire's parrots: <http://www.razoo.com/story/Help-Sally-And-Weeble-Get-A-Room>. ■ Dr. Sam Williams
Director, Echo www.echobonaire.org

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The Dabboussi Holding family would like to wish you the happiest Christmas ever, and send you our best wishes for the upcoming New Year 2015



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