

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Feb. 16 - Mar. 2, 2015 Year 22, Issue 5
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

**KING KONG
at KARNAVAL**

See Pages 10, 11



Richeling Saragoza's Gorilla/
King Kong Karnaval Group



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Following another hard-to-extinguish multi-day fire (above), Selibon, the government waste management company which manages the landfill, announced that the public will not be admitted to the area of the landfill in places where trash is ultimately dumped. Instead, trash must be placed at the entrance where containers are located. Selibon's management hopes that this measure will halt the numerous fires recently which caused much inconvenience, health hazards and environmental damage. Selibon will more actively encourage people to separate waste as much as possible.

The various containers that are at the entrance of the site will be clearly marked as to what trash is to be deposited in which container. Selibon distinguishes two types of waste. The first category is garbage, including recyclables, such as glass, plastic, hard plastic, paper, cardboard, metal, aluminum, scrap metal, fabric, clothing, footwear, old medications, batteries and batteries, electronics, motor oil and cooking oil, paint residues and chemical waste. (Recyclables should continue to be dropped off at the Environmental Square on Kaya Industria next to Warehouse Supermarket)

Bulky waste such as branches and garden waste, gets dropped at the entrance of the landfill. Effective February 15, the landfill will be closed on Sundays.



► Bonaire's Mariadal Foundation which runs the local hospital brought in a temporary Operating Room (OR) last Friday (see photo above) so that surgeries no longer have to be delayed. Due to a malfunction in the air conditioning system of the regular clinical O.R. only urgent and small operations have been conducted there

(Continued on page 3)

Elections 2015



It appears that next month's elections will offer the largest number of political parties fielding candidates in memory. Six political and one blank lists will participate. The seven political organizations will vie for seats on the Bonaire Island Council Elections on March 18.

They include:

- Union Patriótico Boneriano (UPB)** list number 1,
- Partido Demokráitiko Boneriano (PDB)** List 2,
- Partido Pro Hustisia i Union (PHU)** list number 3
- Aliansa Kristian Boneiru (AKB)** list number 4
- Movementu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB)** list number 5,
- Un Tim Magno** number 6
- Blanco List Eric Soleana** number 7.

In the numerical order that the parties are

listed, the system specifies that parties which have participated in the 2011 elections and won a seat in the Island Council automatically are numbered according to the number of votes obtained. The numerical order for the other registered groups will be drawn in a public session. Normally, Movementu Boneiru Liber (MBL) of Benito Dirksz would get number 4, but this party decided to join the PDB so that the PHU moved up to number 3.

Lt. Governor Rijna used the opportunity to press the participating groups to observe the rules of good conduct and ethics and the same for their supporters and followers. "After the elections we must get along with each other as siblings," he said.

Governor Rijna also gave a brief explanation of a rule that would hold if one of the candidates, who is 16, is named to the Island Council. Under the law that person cannot serve on the Island Council at that age; he must be 18 in the coming year; the party must name another candidate from the list until that time. "Theoretically, a 14-year-old can get elected and serve in the last year of the elected term. The idea is to arouse the interest of young people in the development of their country. That is the spirit behind the law," added the Secretary of the Island Government (OLB), Nerry Gonzales.

Who Can Vote?



Island Council elections will be held on Wednesday, 18 March, 2015. This year voting cards for those residents eligible to vote will be distributed by Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean (the new post office service) between 21 February and 4 March. The government asks that a person 18 years or over be at home on the day and hours indicated to receive and sign for the voting cards. Following is the delivery schedule by date and neighborhood:

- Saturday, 21 February, 9am to 3pm: **Rincon, North Salina, Tras di Montana, Buena Vista**
- Sunday, 22 February, 9am to 3pm.: **Belnem, Tera Kora**

- Monday, 23 February, 6pm to 9pm: **Niki-boko South, Amboina, Jato Bako, Den Cheffie**
- Tuesday, 24 February, 6pm to 9pm: **Playa Pariba, Playa Pabou**
- Wednesday, 25 February, 6pm to 9pm: **Antriol Pariba**
- Thursday, 26 February, 6pm to 9pm: **Antriol Pabou**
- Saturday, 28 February, 9am to 3pm: **Sabadeco, Hato**

A voter must meet the following requirements to be entitled to cast a vote in the elections to the Bonaire Island Council:

- the voter must be 18 years of age or over on election day
- the voter must be a resident of the public body (OLB, the island) on nomination day (2 February 2015).

Residents are those who are registered in the Base Registry Persons BES (*Bevolking*). These requirements apply equally to all non-Dutch nationals who have legally resided (with residency permit) in the Caribbean Netherlands for at least five years. **In other words, possessing Dutch nationality is not a requirement to be entitled to vote in the local elections.** -Jane Madden Disko

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Bonaire Special Olympics team showing a few of the medals they won in Shanghai in 2007

► **The 13th Annual Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon will be held on Sunday March 8, starting at 5 am at the White Slave Huts.** It finishes at Pasa Dia Kariño center in Rincon. The annual event is one of the two major fund raisers for the Bonaire Special Olympics team which will participate in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles in July. It commemorates the weekly trek of the salt slaves who walked the 30 km. between the salt pans and their families who lived in Rincon. There will be three places where participants can start. **1. White slave huts 2. Kralendijk Stadium and 3. Bon Bida (Hato).** As usual there will be water stations and volunteer assistants, Red Cross and coaches along the route.

The price for the ticket is \$15 and includes a T-shirt and a cup of soup plus breakfast in Rincon. The persons to contact for tickets are: Arlene 780-5323, Elske 701-1999, Ruth 786-6930, Chio 787-2304

Pre-register and pick-up the T-shirts before the event at El Mundo (Kaya Grandi) on Friday, March 6th from 5 till 7 pm or Saturday

March 7th from 10 am till 4 pm

The executive board of directors of SOB (Special Olympics Bonaire) consists of President Anne Marie Mercera; Vice-President Elmer Marselia; Treasurer Dayanara Martis; and Secretary Mary Tjin-Asjoe. Arlene Marselia-Engelhart is the National Director of Special Olympics Bonaire.

Special Olympics Bonaire is affiliated with the international Special Olympics organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

The athletes who are going to Los Angeles include:

Track and field: - **Marcelino Josefa, Patrick Bernabela, Swinda Offerman and Natania Nicolina**

Bocce: - **Helen Agustin, - Lucille Pikerie, Dennis Reina and Omar Leonica**

Aquatics: - **Josafat Ciclia, Nathan Thielman, Suraya Hendriks, and Nina Breaken. ■ Arlene Marselia-Engelhart / G.D.**

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Hasi bon, pasa bon!



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

since December. The hope is that this problem can be solved by March 2015.

► **Dutch children younger than 12 must have their own passports when travelling, as of April 1.**

From that date, it will no longer be possible for children to travel on the passports of their parents, not even when they have been included in their parents' passports. Since a passport is relatively expensive, and on account of the current financial situation in the Caribbean Netherlands, the authorities have decided to grant minors, who were younger than 12 in January 2015, an exemption of fees for the acquisition of their first passport.

► **Tax office (Belastingdienst) penalty fees were raised last month.**

If you pay your taxes on time these fees don't apply. People who are unable to pay when taxes are due can contact the tax office to work together on finding a suitable solution and perhaps avoid the fees which range from \$4 to \$40.

► **Last month Water and Energy Bonaire (WEB) had to temporarily shut down the drinking water**

supply for households in Belnem South due to contamination.

The source of the problem was the connection of a sewage drain line to the WEB supply by a resident of the area. This is not permitted by law for obvious reasons.

The source was located and corrective measures were taken to flush and disinfect the lines.

WEB stated, "The results of laboratory monitoring have shown that the drinking water supply in Belnem South is now safe for consumption and also meets the established norms for drinking water. Several people reported to this newspaper that they had become sick.

There have also been lab tests showing legionella bacteria is present in piped water supplies. According to authorities the level is below dangerous amounts and not uncommon in municipal water systems.

► WEB and the multinational company, Oskomera Solar Power Solutions, are **testing a 785-solar panel photovoltaic (PV) system in the Colombia Plantation area where Radio Netherlands used to be located.**

The work will help WEB to determine the impact of PV power on

Fuel prices went down on Monday, February 9. For example, gasoline by almost a quarter (25 cents), from 122.80 to 98.00 cents per liter. The table below summarizes the new prices for petroleum product prices on Bonaire. Even cooking gas, LPG is cheaper. A 100 lb. tank will cost \$ 11.85 less.

| Product | | Price December 2014 | Price February 2015 | Reduction USDct/ltr. | % reduction |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Mogas 95 | USDcent/ltr | 122.80 | 98.00 | -24.80 | -20.20% |
| Kerosine | USDcent/ltr | 80.00 | 48.80 | -31.20 | -39.00% |
| Diesel | USDcent/ltr | 86.40 | 69.10 | -17.30 | -20.02% |
| LPG 100 lbs | USD/cyl | 39.00 | 27.15 | -11.85 | -30.38% |
| LPG 20 lbs | USD/cyl | 9.00 | 7.26 | -1.74 | -19.33% |

the grid of the island when electricity is generated by solar panels. This is in preparation for a possible large solar installation on the island.

The pilot plant consists of 785 high-efficiency solar panels equipped with a high quality and accurate monitoring system recording solar radiation, temperature and wind speed.

► **THE HAGUE--3,550 persons of Dutch Caribbean descent were locked up in Dutch prisons in 2013,** according to recent figures provided by the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics. The percent-

age of inmates from the islands in prison in the Netherlands was 8.3% of the total prison population. The highest percentage of non-native prisoners, 10.6%, was of Moroccan descent, followed by the Surinamese with 9.7%..

► **Last month Customs intercepted 261 hemp seeds and a bong set (water pipe) on St. Eustatius and 1077 grams of cocaine on Bonaire.**

On Friday, 23 January 2015 Customs intercepted a quantity of liquid cocaine in a postal package which was mailed at the Post Office of Bonaire. On inspection, 10

bottles of protein shake were found to have been tampered with. The confiscated package had a gross weight of **377 grams** and was handed over to the police for further investigation. On Saturday, 31 January, Customs officers also intercepted **700 grams of cocaine** at the Bonaire airport. The cocaine was hidden in luggage.

► **THE HAGUE--King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and his wife Queen Máxima will be visiting Aruba and Bonaire in late April.** The King and Queen

(Continued on page 6)

On The Island Since... November 1996 - Lolymar Sanchez

My brother was living here for a few months and I came to visit him. I said, 'This is a fun place; the blue eyes of the Dutch guys and the blue of the sea!' and I decided to stay to work on my language skills. In those days nobody left Venezuela – they all thought I was crazy to leave for an island with only donkeys! I



Lolymar at the kunuku

wanted to study tourism and languages because it was my passion to travel and work with people. I came from Maracaibo, Venezuela, population 3.5 million, a lot of noise, a lot of peculiar people, a lot of screaming and yelling – a good place to grow up. An industrial city with lots of international companies related to the oil industry, because Maracaibo used to be all about oil and famers.... All that is gone.

I was 22 and I took an English course and partied a lot and I would always meet the same people. Bonaire had a lot fewer people at the time. Then, because of the permit limitation, I went back to Venezuela and I saw I had everything there in my house. I had been a spoiled child because my father had been very successful. There were two more brothers who were quite small, and my sister who was 10 years old. My mother had passed away and two unmarried aunts were taking care of everybody and the household. My father was sick with Alzheimer's. I stayed for five months and then I felt I should move on and I came back to Bonaire. I started working at Zeezicht restaurant, then at Rum Runners where I met Rob van den Berge, who is now my husband.

We didn't click immediately because we were both in a relationship with somebody else. He was the owner of Rum Runners, the boss who came from Curacao to check. My direct boss here was Huub Groot and I learned a lot from him. I worked for them for eight years. They opened several other restaurants- The Dome and the Dock of the Bay -and I worked there as well. But Bonaire in those days was getting a little bit too small for me and I wanted to leave the island.

In the meantime Rob had moved to Bonaire and was working at Rum Runners while I worked at Dock of the Bay, and the whole thing between us started there. But still, I wanted to leave. I needed more action

and excitement in my life and I wanted to travel. Although Rob and I had a lot of fun and a real good time, I didn't think it was going to be serious. However, at some point the relationship deepened and we started living together, and after two years our daughter Ruby was born on July 23, 2002.

It was challenging to live with a Dutch guy, although he was not typically Dutch, but I was very, very Venezuelan, a real *Maracaibo* (someone from Maracaibo): passionate, full of emotion, messy and I didn't take things so seriously, hahaha! I didn't read instructions. I take life as it comes, no plan and all that is not so Dutch, hahaha! There was a lot going on; that was the reality! But... here we are, still together, still having fun.

"I believe the more teachers there are, the more people will do yoga and Bonaire could also become a wellness destination."

After Ruby was born I wanted to do something different and opened a mystical, spiritual shop on Kaya Grandi named 'Tambu' where I also sold fresh fruit shakes. Angelique Salsbach helped me and introduced me to aroma therapy, energy courses and Brahma Kumaris, and my lovely friend, the late Marion Wilson, became my partner. But somehow the shop was not so much my thing. I found it boring because people would come and talk for hours, but they didn't buy much.

Then I told Rob, 'I want to get married.' And he answered he would never get married. So after three years we got married.

The civil marriage was on Bonaire, then we had two amazing parties- one in Caracas with a lot of whiskey for the Venezuelans and a charter flying in with our



Ruby, Rob, Valentina and Lolymar

friends from Bonaire. A week later we went to Amsterdam where we partied on.

After the wedding we sold the shop and I got pregnant with our second daughter, Valentina, who was born August 23d, 2006. When she was about a year old, I worked briefly for the Central Bureau of Statistics doing interviews, but somehow I felt restless and was thinking about leaving the island... again! Then I became the sales manager at Digicel where I worked for almost four years. Business was

about it. After I'd quit Digicel, I picked it up again with Desiree. So in Curacao, with the whole family – oh my God, it was a crazy thing to make that move – but also nice, I started searching for yoga teachers. Then Rob said, 'Why don't you become a yoga teacher?' I answered, 'There is no way I could ever do that because I cannot speak softly and become thin and do all those fantastic poses all the time and quit drinking wine!' Hahaha! But I found a Canadian teacher and I talked to her about the training and she said, 'Yoga is also about networking and sharing and getting a school that works for you.' In the meantime I was in the middle of a drama as we were in the process of moving back to Bonaire and Rob told me, 'You want to be a yoga teacher? Fine with me!'

All the yoga teacher trainings are different, but then I found Live, Love and Teach and I felt attracted by the name. It was December and I had to go to Providence, Rhode Island, while Rob went back to Bonaire with the girls. In my first class I saw a lot of teachers, all certified with a large network in the States and there I am. They started coaching me, 'Stand up and teach a class, Lolymar!' I am talking about 40 people, all professionals and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh....' But they gave me confidence and when there's love in what you do, you should not feel fear.

I finished the training and came back to Bonaire and started teaching classes with my friend Laura. I was not certified yet. I wanted to create yoga events and combine them with the things I love- people talking to people, sharing experiences, drinking wine and eating chocolate and not being so serious or stressed

about it. Then I went to Newport, to the same school, to get certified for the 200 hours, and we had a blizzard, and I loved Bonaire more than ever! From there I went on to reach 500 hours doing the anatomy course in Houston with the same school.

Then I started with the Yogariba classes at our kunuku. In a retreat that was held on Bonaire, I met Jane and we started doing these yoga adventures and special events. I believe the more teachers there are, the more people will do yoga, and Bonaire could become a wellness destination.

I studied Ayurvedic massage as well and I do it once or twice a week on request at the kunuku. Nowadays I give group classes at Health & Fitness Center Bonaire, at Divi Flamingo and at the kunuku and private classes on demand.

Yoga has given me peace- the whole realization and acceptance of what you are -and I still love to dance the Salsa! After such a long time I finally found a love for Bonaire and I thank Bonaire for everything it has given me.

I was always looking for new excitement, but now I've found my balance and my family which is the most important thing: Rob and my daughters.

You see, nothing has changed, everything is still the same but now there is so much more to enjoy. I never knew that all this time I had all the answers right in front of me."■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being discussed "on the street"

Closings and openings of shops and even the ground are featured in this edition of "Word On The Street."

- Closing.....Word on the street is that **Retro Pizza** on Kaya Grandi has ceased operation.
- Closing...**Benetton** clothing store on Kaya Grandi will close its doors as of March 1. Management has requested that anyone who has a gift certificate should use it no later than 28 February. Word on the street is that the Benetton corporation is closing all their "small venue" stores and will continue to operate only their large retail locations in malls and high traffic shopping districts.
- **Opening**....another new furniture/design store. **Inside & Out Tropical Living** opened February 13 located at Kaya Industria 30C. The store offers "furniture and more." The owners had previously offered a lot of their items at another local furniture/design store.
- **Aimed Ayubi**, popular local radio/TV journalist is leaving Radio Digital where he served as station manager and chief editor of the news department. Aimed has announced that he will soon be launching his own new radio station on Bonaire. "Stay tuned" for more information. Success, Aimed!
- Digging up more dirt! Last issue Bula reported that WEB would soon be **digging** up a number of houses in Hato to install the next phase of the *kloaka* (sewer project). Well, it seems even more dirt will be dug. Last week TELBO announced their "Fiber to the Home" project which will begin with visits to all Hato homes and businesses to look for the best way to dig up people's yards to make the underground fiber connection with "as little inconvenience as possible." All homes and businesses have the right to receive the fiber optic connection at no cost to them. When asked if they would coordinate the "trenching" with WEB to prevent "double digging," Bula was told they have a "letter of agreement" with WEB to coordinate the dig. Bula will keep you up to date.
- Word on the street is that **two new fishing charters** will soon be operating in Bonaire's waters. Yuri van Kampen, former manager of Bellafonte, will launch **Fish Tales Bonaire Big Game Fishing** within the next few months. He is currently waiting on delivery of a Pursuit 3000 Offshore, a 30-foot-open fish boat to serve his charters. Details on the second new charter operation are still not clear. Bula is angling for more information! ■ *Bula Bonchi*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in The Hague, The Netherlands



Joost van Gaalen wrote in December, "This week I went to my family in the Netherlands to celebrate Christmas. As is custom in our family everybody brings a part of the dinner and I opted for the starter, a Bonairean goat cheese roll. I brought home an abundance of Aletta's goat cheese and a *Reporter*: to picture my family in the Netherlands with a scaled down Christmas tree.

So here is a Christmas picture with my family, a goat cheese appetizer, a scaled down Christmas tree, me and a *Reporter* in The Hague - The Netherlands. (Me right on the picture holding the Reporter, my mother behind me, and my brother on the chair next to me) it was fun, it was good to be back with family, and... and a day later I woke up in a white snowy landscape..." ■

AND

Zurich, Switzerland



Thomas Wellinger writes, "I've traveled for over 15 years to Bonaire. In spring 2015 I will celebrate my 10th visit @ Bonaire - accompanied by 10 friends ;-). In the meantime, some friends from my home share my enthusiasm for the island. We are all divers, love uncomplicated life and friendly people, good food and last but not least the Polar beer under the Caribbean sun - diving freedom - which is what we found on Bonaire. We look forward to the next visit. So, sunny regards from Zurich, Switzerland." ■

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Letters to the Editor

BIKING DANGERS

Dear Editor:
How is it possible that there are still bikers riding in the evening without lights on their bikes? Bonaire is getting more and more traffic and it's a busy place today compared to five years ago. Bonaire traffic changes, but it looks like people are not joining together with the new situation. Yes, 10 years ago bikers could ride a bike without lights. All you needed were brakes, a bell, handlebars and two wheels. But **now bikers are a big danger in the night without a light.**



A week ago I was a passenger in a car driving on Kaya International where it's very dark in some areas. Suddenly a biker popped up just in front of the car. Wow! That was a shock for the driver. It was like a ghost suddenly appearing in front of the car. This could have ended in a serious accident but thanks to the calm reaction of the driver it didn't.

Bikers should know that not only they themselves can end up in a serious accident but also the driver has to live the rest of his life with such a terrible experience. Bikers, know we all are very vulnerable on the road. Make sure you are safe.

A bad thing for bikers is **the fine red dust in sandy roads and alleys.** When I'm in such streets (like mine is) and a car passes I have to get off my bike, keep my eyes closed and

cover my nose with my hand because of all that dust that is stirred up by the car. It's well known that bikers are affected a lot more by dust than other traffic and it's very bad for our health. The same with the dirty smog from certain old cars. Often, when I'm waiting on a corner for passing traffic suddenly a car passes with all that **nasty black smoke** in my face. It's horrible to get this nasty smoke in the lungs and it smells awful too.

Last thing are **the dogs on the street** that are dangerous for bikers. Why are the dogs not in their yards? There are three types of dogs on the street: The calm, lazy dog that doesn't react. The aggressive dog that comes after the biker and wants to attack. Then there is the sneaky dog who suddenly pops up behind your leg and bites at your feet. This is awful. I'm scared to death in streets with dogs everywhere. The worst thing is when the owner sees how the dog is after you and just says with a sweet voice: "Come here *dushi*. Oh, you can ride on, this dog doesn't bite, he just doesn't like bikes." Then he turns his or her back with the dog still after you. It's a shame!

A Biker

NOISE REGULATION FOR ALL

Dear Editor:

Recently all the dive operators on Bonaire were presented with a lot of new regulations that need to be followed sometime in the near future. **One of these was noise, especially from compressors.** As someone who has been in this business for 42 years, I have yet to hear anyone complain about compressor noise. Granted I have not spoken to everyone on Bonaire.

The point is if these laws are going to be enforced can someone please tell the cruise

ships that blasting their horns in the early evening is not at all pleasant, especially the one that thinks playing the Love Boat song is cute. At best it is obnoxious and at worse disturbs a peaceful evening after work. I can say factually that I am by far not the only one who feels this way.

Bruce Bowker

PRAISE FROM RINCON

Dear Editor:

It was a pleasure to read *The Reporter* (Jan. 19-Feb. 2). What I liked very much was the information about **drones on Bonaire.**

I did not realize that this happens, since I heard about drones in the war and the Middle East. So it is something useful for good reasons also here on Bonaire. Thank you so much for giving valuable information.

I liked also the way Ms. Greta Kooistra wrote **her interview with Mr. Arends.** Very nice. I called to congratulate her too.

We in Rincon are still doing our effort with our tours, our kunuku preparations and also enjoying retirement. A big thank you, and saludos from Rincon, the heart of Bonaire.

Maria Koeks Sintjago

Maria Koeks is the founder and operator of Soldachi Tours and vacation house Kas Rincon. She helped pioneer the resurgence of tourism in Rincon.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) will first visit Bonaire where, on April 30, they will be at the *Dia di Rincón* (Rincon Day) festivities, an island holiday. On April 30, it will be exactly two years since King Willem-Alexander took over from his mother. The last visit of the royal couple to the Dutch Caribbean was in Nov. 2013.

► An idea for Bonaire? **Last week. Skydive Jump Curaçao got permission to take people parachute jumping.** Half an hour later after the permit was granted the first customer was taken up in a Cessna 172.. The introductory price until February 20 is US \$350, which includes photos and a video.

► **"Spinning" or riding a stationary bike in a group is exploding as a fitness alternative in Europe and the Americas.** Bon Bida Gym is the leader on Bonaire for spinning. They have a lot of new bikes and invite anyone who wants to join to pass by. Individual classes are only \$10 and classes are included free with a membership. **Spinning bikes in good condition for home or gym are available now on Bonaire for about \$500.** See the ad on the next page. The bikes are great and the price is excellent value.

► **Reminder: Don't miss the Classical Music Board Bonaire's (CMMB) next concert on Saturday, February 21, at 8pm** in the charming and acoustically endowed little San Francisco Hospital chapel on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. It's sophisticated entertainment in a uniquely beautiful venue. See the poster on page 9. ■

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Fishing Line Project



On Sunday, February 8th, no less than 36 volunteers gathered together at Dive Friends Bonaire to receive instructions about the most efficient way to recover fishing line, hooks and lures. The goal this time was the underwater world of the Town Pier. It really takes experienced divers to cope with the increasing weight of the collected lines, hooks and lead. As always this was a one-hour, non-deco dive. The divers were explicitly instructed only to go for fishing line, hooks and lures and leave all other debris alone. Lines really are a threat for turtles. The Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire launched their Fishing Line Project some years ago.

It turns out that especially the bottom of the underwater world under and around piers and jetties is seriously polluted by fishing line. We have to understand that we cannot really blame the fishermen. Nobody likes to get rid of his rig by breaking a line or having to cut off hooks, lead and lines because the material is stuck. Bonaireans have always been fishermen and even today a lot of them do the fishing to collect some healthy food.

This Sunday weather conditions and the condition of the sea were close to perfect again. A lot of fishing material was collected. Dive Friends Bonaire offered their location and air for free again. Thank you again: STCB, Volunteers, Dive Friends Bonaire. Next Fishing Line Project clean up dive will be organized Sunday, March 8th. Put it on your calendar and contribute to a better world! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Victor

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Flamingos Nesting



Recently STINAPA staff discovered flamingo nests and chicks during monitoring efforts for the Caribbean Waterbird Census.

During the past few weeks STINAPA staff participated in an international Caribbean survey (Caribbean Waterbird Census) on waterfowl. This was done in collaboration with the Birds Caribbean organization. These counts were done in addition to the normal monitoring by STINAPA which the waterfowl census is part of. STINAPA surveys regularly in the salt marshes of the Washington Park.

During bird counts that took place in late January and early February, nice discoveries were made. Flamingos are back in large numbers at Gotomeer, where 1,587 were counted. Flamingo nests and chicks were also discovered in one of the salt marshes of the Washington Park. This

is very valuable information for STINAPA because until recently flamingos were thought to be only building nests at the Pekelmeer. STINAPA will continue to monitor the nests and chicks at the new location.

Paulo Bertuol, STINAPA biologist, noted that taxi drivers and tourist guides are very well behaved around Gotomeer. They let the tourists take pictures from the car or the bus so the flamingos are not disturbed. They respect the nature. This makes the flamingos come closer, making it possible to take beautiful pictures.

STINAPA requests everyone to observe flamingos from a suitable distance and not approach them, as flamingos frighten easily and they may not come back to an area after having been disturbed. ■ *Story & photo by Peter Montanus/Stinapa release*

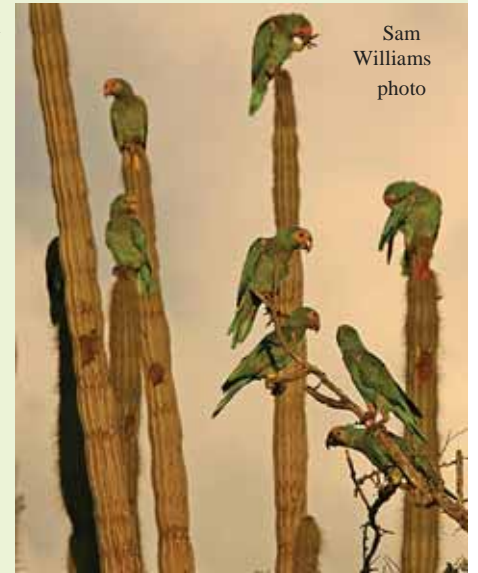
Parrot Protection Working

During the annual Lora (parrot) count more than 1,000 individual parrots were observed. Judging from trends over the last 10 years, we could tentatively draw the conclusion that the protection of the endangered native parrot has positive results. The census of 2015 took place on Saturday, January 31.

The number of counted Loras only gives an indication of the minimum number of birds on the island. Not all Loras were counted. Several participants reported that they heard more Loras in the area than they counted. The past two years about 850 Loras were recorded.

In Washington Slagbaai National Park about the same number of Loras were counted as last year: nearly 300. As previous surveys have shown, most parrots are therefore outside the park. This year that was nearly 800. There are places where every year the Loras are counted, but the distribution of Loras on the island may differ each time. The erratic behavior of the parrots makes the count a challenge to the participating volunteers.

STINAPA staff counted inside the Washington Slagbaai Park. Outside the park, about 25 volunteers looked for the parrots around daybreak. The number of Loras are recorded in a simultaneous count. That means on that Saturday morning before dawn, dozens of volunteers set out to look for Loras at the same time in different locations all over the island. Each Lora flying up is counted once. By simultaneously counting at all those different places, the organizers are trying to get a



Sam Williams photo

picture of the minimum number of Loras on the island. The census is important for nature conservation of Bonaire.

Not everyone is happy with the parrots. When Loras are hungry, they love to plunder fruit trees, much to the chagrin of the owners. To ensure that parrots can find more food in nature, reforestation projects have been set up and submitted to the government for funding.

The Lora census is held every year on the last Saturday in January. The count of this year was the 20th time and it was organized by the Department of Environment and Nature of the public body of Bonaire, STINAPA Bonaire and Echo Foundation. ■

Anouschka van de Ven/ Stinapa

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Germaine Nijdam – the Evolution of an Artist



Germaine



The sign in front of her house

Most people know Germaine Nijdam as one of the first artists* on the island to use driftwood as her medium. Her pieces are whimsical, humorous and deftly done. All her life Germaine has been creating art, as did her late grandfather who still inspires her.

so much art at once,” she says. “It was such an eye opener – seeing the freedom and departure from just brushes.” She returned to Bonaire and threw herself into her new work, and it is amazing. It’s taken a lot of steps for the artist to come to this point to what she calls her “fine art.”

Now she uses tools from the carpenteria and from the kitchen as well. “I’m still using acrylics but I throw in more texture now. I’m painting on wood and on canvas.” She continues, “My main focus as always been Bonaire. The work should remind you of Bonaire – its colors and its heart and soul.” “I feel so free when I’m working,” she admits. “I have no baggage; it works as healing. I don’t focus on the outcome. Something always comes out and I go with the flow!”

And it’s my yoga practice that makes it flow.” Her new work has had a warm reception. She received a commission to paint a four-meter high “waterfall” for a three-story building and has sold some of the new pieces.

For a real display of many of her works or to ask her to create something for you, stop by her atelier on Kaya Onix #1. It’s best to call ahead. You’ll see signs directing your there. It’s in a beautiful spot overlooking Bonaire and the sea. Homestyle and MG are also selling her pieces. Her funny signs pop up all over Bonaire and Curacao and in hotels. You can’t miss them. ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo

Germaines’ website: WWW.gnartbonaire.com
Tel. 717-2203, Cell 786-1714, email: gnart@bonairenet.com



“Hourglass” (left) and “Waterfall” (right)



But something happened to her recently when she was on vacation in Ashville, North Carolina. “I saw



More than a chair



Wave

*Germaine says it’s Helen Dovale on the island to work with driftwood. (“Elena”) who was the first artist



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Thanks to the Friends of the Classical Music Board Bonaire for continuing to sponsor this fantastic program!

Children's Karnaval Parade



Sanny Ensing photo



Sanny Ensing photo

“Look mum, look! They’ve got pink hair!” says five-year old Kieran as he watches the first troupe approach. We’re at the children’s carnival parade, standing just opposite of Gio’s ice cream parlor in Kaya Grandi, surrounded by kids and adults patiently awaiting the parade to near. Hips start to sway and little feet embrace the rhythm of the song as the group comes closer. One, two, three, they jump, turn left, swirl right and take a step back. Months have gone into practicing this routine and the children know just how to move to the tune of the music. Various dance routines are practiced by all the different carnival

troupe and as they pass through Kaya Grandi they repeatedly stop to show off their great dancing skills.

‘Yeah!’ I hear next to me as Kieran and his school friend are studying the moves and slowly shaking loose too. They are loving it – the hair, the face paint, the costumes, the music and the dancing. Looking ahead they cry out in unison: “Insects!” It’s the next troupe that has bees and ladybirds dancing to a song that starts with them zooming a loud “bzzzzzz...” before they start their intricate moves. The kids love it! A little baby decked out like *Rey di Karnaval* (King of Carnival) is brought forward to dance with the girls of



Fittipaldi Pietersz photo

Insects!



Fittipaldi Pietersz photo

A plea for ear protection from the very loud music

the insect troupe and take pictures with them. The crowd enjoys the attention he gets.

I am guided by the children around me to turn right as they spot feathers in the distance. The shout of “Feathers!” goes up all around me and the music gets louder as the truck nears. These girls can dance and some of them are even smaller than my five-year



Fittipaldi Pietersz photo

Queen of the Children’s Karnaval

old. It is a fantastic sight – colors, sounds and rhythm. Finally the last truck passes by as does the final troupe – a sweet parade with fantastic kids dressed to the nines. A little girl whispers to her friend: “Can you do my make-up like that one day – with all the glitters?!” The fun continues as the parade slowly makes its way to the end of Kaya Grandi.

We linger, have a drink and chat with friends as our kids play together. When we head home it is way past their bedtime. The children are tired but happy – they had a great afternoon. So did we! ■

Sanny Ensing



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Grand Karnaval Parade

The Grand Karnaval parade was held the day after the Children's Parade on February 15. The route of the march was changed from downtown Kralendijk to follow the newly paved road from the traffic circle at Kaya Industria. The modification of the route, bypassing Kaya Grandi, was necessary because of road construction. Assembly of the parade went smoothly and the 10 groups, plus individuals, made for a loud, spectacular sight. Bon Kousa provide much appreciated free ear plugs for the participants and watchers. Here are a few photos. ■ G.D.



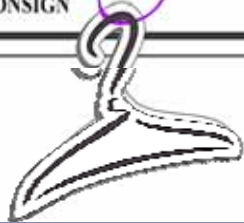
Cover Story



PS: Festivities were dampened in the evening when police ordered an 8 pm shut down of the music, a violation of a 40-year tradition..



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My Little Shop



Pancracia outside her home and shop

On Bonaire there are still some tiny little shops, tokos, to be found in the neighborhoods. They struggle to survive. In order to get the story behind those shops our reporter visits them. If you don't want those shops to disappear, support them by visiting them and buy something. Every dollar counts for them. Let's keep them going. They represent Bonairean history.

RENESY FLOWERS AND CREATIONS

On Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandes #25 you find Ren-

nesy, a flower and gift shop in a pink house. From Kaya Korona, coming from the center of Kralendijk you turn right at the Botica Korona, follow the road and at your left-hand-side you will see a sign. The shop is open from 8am to 6pm, more or less, as the owner lives behind the shop in the same building. Whenever she is home the shop is open.

Who owns this place?

Pancracia Wanga, better known as Gacha, owns the shop. She started it four years ago. Before opening her own shop she worked at Scarlet's Flower shop for 24 years. When

Scarlet's closed Pancracia decided to go for her own shop in the house her mother owns. The front part of the house is filled with the products she sells and people can come in and see all there is. Behind the front part she has her own place. She shares the house with her mother. Her daughters and grandchildren are around as well. The name of the shop is made from the names of her two daughters: Renata and Jennessy.

What is sold?

Gacha sells flowers, fruit baskets, snack baskets, baby baskets, grave bouquets, wedding flowers (and as a joke she mentions selling divorce flowers as well), corsages etc.. For every occasion she can get you the right present. When I came in she was very busy and hardly had any time because of Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the most busy periods for her. At that time she hires some women to deliver the ordered products to people's houses. Usually she works all by herself.

To my surprise I didn't see any flowers in the shop. The flowers are flown in every Friday. They come from Colombia to Bonaire via Curacao. The transport is



Pancracia inside her flower shop without flowers at that moment

very expensive. I visited the shop on Thursday, so there were no flowers yet.

Where do the customers come from?

Customers come from all around the island, not only from the neighborhood. A lot of people order by phone. They don't come to her shop and the order is delivered at their home or at the place where the occasion takes place.

How to survive?

Gacha can live from her shop as there are only a few other shops that sell flowers. There is not that much competition and every shop has their own customers.

The future, hopes and wishes

Gacha would really like it if she could manage to save enough to build a little flower shop in the garden of the house. She does not have any aspirations to have a big business. She likes doing things by herself in her own way. "Klein maar fijn" (little but good) is her motto. Her goal at this moment is to take good care of her mother who is seriously ill and to take care of the house she lives in. ■

Story & photos by Justine Verschoor



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A Garden? Just Do It!

It looks like the rainy season has ended, so we need to make a change too.

Veggies that need a lot of water will not survive during the hot season or your water bill will be very high.

Here are some ideas what to do this coming period.

First, start cleaning your garden. All old veggies and plants that have finished—pull them out.

Then mix the soil with black dirt, rotten leaves, vegetable mold and dung and let it stay for some months.

You know that it's necessary for the soil to recover too. When you use the garden all the time without giving it some time to recover, after a while veggies and plants won't grow well anymore. When the soil becomes poor the plants will die or look bad and will no longer bear. So after a good harvest, just give the soil some vitamins as written above and the chance for some rest. Or you can change your garden spots. When one spot is resting the other spot can be used.

So what should you do if you have only one garden which needs to recover now?

Here is an idea which I've done, and it works perfectly.



Okra in a crate

I collect orange crates. I cut open big black garbage bags and put each one in a crate.

I make holes in that part of the bag that lies on the bottom of the crate so the inside of the crate is totally covered by the plastic bag.

Make a good dirt mix (now you know how to do that) and put this in each crate, depending on what you will grow there. For example, tomatoes need more dirt than parsley. Put the crates on small blocks, on a table or on stone blocks on the soil so the wood will not rot by direct contact with the soil.

So now you still can grow your vegetables while your garden has time off.

What can we grow in these crates?

Herbs and spices: like soup greens, water mint, pepper, ginger, cilantro, mint, wild oregano, Italian basil, celery, chives, rosemary and so on. For these plants, fill the crate only a quarter full with dirt.

Low growing vegetables: *tajerblad* (popular Surinamese veggie here. The plants are sold at the monthly-first Saturday of the month- Kriabon market), *paksoi*, *warmoes* (like a spinach), lettuce, *amsoi*, purslain, spinach, *bimbe* (I wrote about it), lemon grass, *kalaloe* (local veggie like spinach but it's not winding. It grows easily and it's delicious and healthy. Ask locals for it) and so on. Fill the crate half full of dirt.

High growing veggies: eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, bitter melon, *kouseband*, *yerba hole* (basil), the small type okra (*yambo*), pineapple, local oregano, local cucumber (wind), *bontji* (local bean). Fill the crate three quarters full of dirt.

For all these plants you can use barrels cut in half too. But to cut them and make holes and all that, it's easier to start with the crates. Don't forget your old wheel barrel you want to dump. They are fantastic to plant in because you don't need to set them on anything. They're high already and they have a lot of space. You only need



Tajerblad



Bonaire oregano in a pot

to drill some holes in the bottom. I also see old toilet bowls in gardens too with local plants. Makes a nice decoration.

Most of the above mentioned plants are the desired food for iguanas and lizards, especially when they are just popping up. So keep an eye on them and try to protect them by wrapping canvas around them. Also having an active cat or dog in the yard might keep them away.

After planting twice in the same dirt it becomes poor so you need to put fresh new dirt in the crates. But don't throw away that dirt. Just put it in a corner of the yard. Mix it with dung and rotten leaves and let it rest. After a while this dirt is good again for your veggies.

Always recycle your dirt. Never throw it away.

I have to tell you how many vegetables and fruits I got from my garden this brief rainy season. Here we go: pumpkins, eggplants, tomatoes, spinach, *kouseband*, *purslain*, *kalaloe*, *bimbe*, plantain, guaba, soursop, appledam, bacoba, birambi, carambola, okra, and different herbs to make green tea.

I can't complain, I got a lot, enjoyed every bite and made my friends happy with all these goodies. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low | High | Sunrise | Sunset |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Mon 16 | 03:17 -0.08 ft | 10:07 0.95 ft | 18:27 -0.14 ft | 22:57 0.17 ft | | 6:57 | 18:42 |
| Tue 17 | 04:16 -0.05 ft | 10:58 0.91 ft | 19:14 -0.15 ft | | | 6:56 | 18:42 |
| Wed 18 | 00:05 0.23 ft | 05:29 0.00 ft | 11:54 0.83 ft | 20:00 -0.16 ft | New Moon | 6:56 | 18:43 |
| Thu 19 | 01:15 0.32 ft | 06:56 0.04 ft | 12:56 0.74 ft | 20:47 -0.17 ft | | 6:55 | 18:43 |
| Fri 20 | 02:21 0.44 ft | 08:31 0.05 ft | 14:03 0.64 ft | 21:34 -0.17 ft | | 6:55 | 18:43 |
| Sat 21 | 03:21 0.56 ft | 10:03 0.02 ft | 15:13 0.55 ft | 22:20 -0.16 ft | | 6:55 | 18:43 |
| Sun 22 | 04:17 0.69 ft | 11:25 -0.05 ft | 16:22 0.47 ft | 23:07 -0.16 ft | | 6:54 | 18:43 |
| Mon 23 | 05:09 0.79 ft | 12:36 -0.12 ft | 17:28 0.41 ft | 23:52 -0.14 ft | | 6:54 | 18:44 |
| Tue 24 | 05:59 0.87 ft | 13:38 -0.17 ft | 18:30 0.35 ft | | | 6:53 | 18:44 |
| Wed 25 | First Quarter | 00:37 -0.12 ft | 06:47 0.92 ft | 14:36 -0.20 ft | 19:27 0.31 ft | 6:53 | 18:44 |
| Thu 26 | | 01:20 -0.10 ft | 07:34 0.93 ft | 15:31 -0.21 ft | 20:21 0.27 ft | 6:52 | 18:44 |
| Fri 27 | | 02:02 -0.07 ft | 08:21 0.91 ft | 16:23 -0.19 ft | 21:13 0.24 ft | 6:52 | 18:44 |
| Sat 28 | | 02:43 -0.03 ft | 09:06 0.87 ft | 17:15 -0.16 ft | 22:05 0.22 ft | 6:51 | 18:44 |
| Sun 01 | | 03:24 0.01 ft | 09:50 0.80 ft | 18:06 -0.12 ft | 22:59 0.21 ft | 6:51 | 18:45 |
| Mon 02 | | 04:04 0.05 ft | 10:35 0.72 ft | 18:55 -0.08 ft | 23:56 0.21 ft | 6:50 | 18:45 |
| Tue 03 | | 04:49 0.10 ft | 11:20 0.64 ft | 19:42 -0.04 ft | | 6:50 | 18:45 |
| Wed 04 | 00:57 0.22 ft | 05:45 0.14 ft | 12:07 0.56 ft | 20:26 0.00 ft | | 6:49 | 18:45 |
| Thu 05 | 01:54 0.26 ft | 07:00 0.17 ft | 13:00 0.48 ft | 21:02 0.03 ft | Full Moon | 6:49 | 18:45 |
| Fri 06 | 02:41 0.31 ft | 08:31 0.17 ft | 13:59 0.41 ft | 21:32 0.06 ft | | 6:48 | 18:45 |
| Sat 07 | 03:17 0.37 ft | 09:58 0.14 ft | 15:02 0.35 ft | 21:56 0.08 ft | | 6:48 | 18:45 |
| Sun 08 | 03:48 0.43 ft | 11:07 0.09 ft | 16:02 0.30 ft | 22:17 0.09 ft | | 6:47 | 18:45 |
| Mon 09 | 04:17 0.51 ft | 12:02 0.03 ft | 16:55 0.27 ft | 22:38 0.09 ft | | 6:46 | 18:45 |

Friday- 27 Feb.

**INDIAN
FOOD**

Once a month buffet-
12+ delicious choices
Starts at 7 pm. Open at 6:00

At Bonaire Basics
Kaya Korona 47

Reservations recommended
Tel:700-5488
Tina Woodley

MISCELLANEOUS

**FOR SALE One-of-a-kind 2nd hand
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dovalelaurie@gmail.com

Spin Bike For Sale. \$500

Used "Body Bike" in excellent shape
See more on page 7. Call 786-6125,

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**Phone 785-9900. House phone 717-
2698 thereserosier@telbonet.an**

**PRIVATE WATERFRONT PROP-
ERTY, MAGNIFICENT OCEAN
VIEW.** For sale by owner. For details e-
mail bonbini2@aol.com or call 508-788-
6321 USA.

**FOR SALE Private property in Re-
publiek on Kaya Turkesa #19. 1.420m2**
Tel. 795-9760/dovalelaurie@gmail.com

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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. The office is 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.

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-finds" 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?**



SPAS/GYM/FITNESS

Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility- Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Spin bike HQ for Bonaire. 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 mugs 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 Habitat, 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.

Cruise Ship Schedule

| DAY | DATE | NAME | CAPACITY | CRUISE LINE |
|-----------|----------|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| Monday | 16-02-15 | Mein Schiff 1 | 2114 | TUI CRUISES |
| Monday | 16-02-15 | Explorer of the Seas | 3114 | RCCL |
| Wednesday | 18-02-15 | Aida Luna | 2194 | Aida Cruises |
| Friday | 20-02-15 | Legend of the Seas | 2435 | RCCL |
| Friday | 20-02-15 | Eclipse | 2852 | CEL |
| Saturday | 21-02-15 | Seabourn Legend | 208 | HAL |
| Monday | 23-02-15 | Royal Princess | 3600 | Princess Cruises |
| Monday | 2-03-15 | Mein Schiff 1 | 2114 | TUI CRUISES |
| Monday | 2-03-15 | Explorer of the Seas | 3114 | RCCL |

call 786-6416 , email: info@bonaireyoga.coim

• **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, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, February 21—Concert with pianist Armand Simon and violinist Simon Gollo playing Mozart, Saint Saens, Dvorak, and more. At the little Mariadal chapel, Kaya L.D. Gerharts. Sponsored by Classical Music Board Bonaire, 8 pm. Tickets via website: ClassicalMusicBoardBonaire.com, Addo's Books, Flamingo Bookstore, Valerie's Airport Shop. \$25, \$30 at the door. Students \$10. More on page 9

Friday, February 27— Indian Food at Bonaire Basics See page 14 at top.

Saturday, February 28 –Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, food and drink

Monday evenings March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd Free Seminars On Reef Fish Identification at C.I.E.E. Free Seminars On Reef Fish Identification 6:30-7:00 pm by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White. CIEE is a Kaya Gob. Debrot 26. All welcome. It's still free.

Saturday, March 7—Kriabon Farmers' Market, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-1pm. Local produce, plants, animals, birds, foods, drinks, crafts

Sunday, March 8

-Special Olympics Walkathon This year our teams are off to Los Angeles. See story on page 3.

-Fishing Line Cleanup sponsored by Dive Friends

Wednesday, March 18—Island Council Elections— See page 2

Friday and Saturday, March 20, 21— Bon Doet— Bonaire's annual "Give back to the community day." See page 3.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu 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
Last part of February 2015

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 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 GOD OF LOVE VS. THE GOD OF WAR"

West, Evening

We have something really special happening this week that we get to share with the red planet **Mars**. Mars, **Venus** and **Earth** will be in just the right position that we'll get to see a Mars-Venus **scoochie**, and if you were on Mars, you would see a Venus-Earth scoochie. As many of you know, the planets orbit the **Sun** in **nested ellipses**, **Mercury** being the closest planet to the Sun; then Venus, then Earth and then Mars. As we travel around the Sun, we're all traveling at different speeds. The **astronomer Johannes Kepler** noticed that planets closer to the Sun travel faster than those further away. It takes Mercury only 88 Earth days to orbit the Sun, and Venus takes 225 days to orbit the Sun. Earth takes approximately 365 days (or one year) to orbit the Sun. Meanwhile Mars takes almost two years to orbit the Sun. When we view the **Solar System** from above, the planets look like runners on a race track, with each planet in a different lane.

On February 20th and 21st, Venus, Earth and Mars will be arranged in such a way that we on Earth will see what most astronomers call a **conjunction** or what we star gazers call a scoochie. Venus and Mars will be next to each other in the sky just after sunset.

And if we had an observer on Mars, like the **Curiosity Mars Rover** for example, it would see Venus and Earth next to each other in the sky just before sunrise.

For any night this week, just after sunset, face west. Your attention will be immediately drawn to two bright, non-twinkling lights. The brighter of the two is our sister planet Venus, named after the Roman goddess of beauty and love. The dimmer and redder of the two is the red



February 21, 2015 – presents the closest conjunction of the planets Venus and Mars since September 11, 2008, and they won't couple up this closely again until October 5, 2017. As soon as darkness falls, look for these embracing worlds to pop out beneath the waxing crescent moon in your western sky.

planet Mars, named after the Roman god of war. Mars will be up and to the right of Venus. However, as the week passes, you'll see Venus getting closer and closer to Mars. Then, on February 20th, a slender **waxing crescent Moon** joins Venus and Mars for an exquisite partnering in the evening twilight. Then, on February 21st, Mars and Venus reach their closest appearance to each other in the sky, and this is the day when Martians will be able to see an equally close conjunction of Venus and Earth.

If we could aim the Mars Curiosity Rover's camera to just south of east, we would see our home planet Earth snuggling up with our sister planet Venus. And with a telescope you'd see a **gibbous Earth** with a tiny gibbous pinpoint of light next to it. That's none other than our moon. Now how neat is that?!

Such wonderful things to see, on our world and throughout the solar system. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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Pet of the Week

DAISY -THE GINGER GIRL

Daisy is a rare beauty....a female ginger cat! Only one out of every five ginger cats is a female so she is as precious as she is sweet. Also called marmalade, red or orange tabbies, ginger cats are not a specific breed of cat; rather it is a type of color pattern that can occur in all breeds. They are also known for their sweet and attention-seeking personalities, giving them another nickname as "sunshine" cats. And Daisy certainly lives up to that observation! She is the first to greet visitors to the Animal Shelter Bonaire Cat Palace, immediately looking for some affection and gladly rolling over for some belly rubs. She thinks a human lap is the purr-fect spot for relaxing and napping.

At first glance, ginger cats may appear to be a solid color, but on closer examination, you will see the pale stripes, whorls, or spots of the typical tabby cat. The stripes appear a shade or two darker than the main orange color of the cat. Daisy has all these beautiful attributes and you can also see her distinctive tabby facial markings, including the magnificent "M" on her forehead above her beautiful pale green eyes. This same "M" appears on many of the big jungle cats, such as tigers, cheetahs, and ocelots. Ginger cats, like other tabbies, are generally healthy, sturdy cats with very few veterinary issues.



Daisy

Daisy is about two or three years old, healthy, sterilized and a mature, calm and quiet cat. Her personality and her looks make her very unique and the perfect candidate for someone looking for a companion cat that is beyond the hyper-active kitten stage. She's happy just to eat, sleep, give head bumps, and get belly rubs. But she is not a "senior" cat. Daisy still enjoys an active game of chase the mouse or ball that will entertain you and keep her slim, fit and healthy. She is well deserving of a forever home where she can share the love she has to give. You can visit Daisy and all her Shelter mates at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Monday through Saturday 8am to 1pm and 3 to 5pm at Kaminda Lagun 26A, 717-4989. WWW.Animalshelterbonaire.com ■ Jane Madden-Disko

Shelter News



As their trainer I enjoyed working with Marlies and Willem and I hope they will continue training, especially "Tracking on the Trail" that you both enjoyed so much.

We all will miss your cheerful presence in class! ■ Shirley van de Haar.

2. TRAIL TRACKING

Trail tracking is an event to encourage dogs to make use of their strongest facility, the ability to follow a scent trail. This technique trains dogs

to locate certain objects by using the object's scent, for a variety of purposes. Tracking has always been an essential skill for dogs to survive in the wild, through hunting and tracking down potential prey.

There are several uses for tracking:

Tracking in police work as police dogs: Tracking tasks may include tracking and finding explosives, drugs, dead individuals and recovering evidence from a crime scene.

Tracking for search and rescuing as search and rescue dogs: Tracking dogs are used to find individuals trapped in avalanches or disaster zones.

Tracking in hunting: To recover animals shot down by hunters.

Tracking as a dog sport: such as in tracking competitions using tracking trails. ■ Nathalie Petersen



DOG TRAINING:

1. MARLIES & WILLEM

Next to all Marlies' hard work at the Animal Shelter she also likes to train and learn more about dog training. That's why she decided to follow dog training classes with her dog "Willem."

Dog Willem showed he had lots of energy and liked playing around more than staying still for a long time during his training. So very quickly it became clear that being patient is a very good thing. In Dutch the saying is "geduld een schone zaak is."

With lots of patience Marlies and Willem showed they are the perfect couple and did all their behaviors right. They loved to play the "Relay Game" and Willem was always at his best during "Tracking on the Trail." At the end they passed all the dog training tests and brought a nice certificate home. Job well done!



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Ayo, Marlies

After an amazing eight plus years as manager of the Bonaire Animal Shelter, Marlies Tiepel is leaving to return to Holland. In her wake she leaves an enormous legacy.

First and foremost the Shelter animals had a staunch supporter who was loving and patient but strong and outspoken about their care. But it was all done with such good humor that nearly everyone loved her.

Marlies created such a warm, fun, open environment at the Shelter that her volunteers loved working there.

Not only did Marlies feel that all these homeless animals be given a chance but she felt the same way about humans. Working alongside her were clients from the FKPD, people on judicial probation, school kids. Marlies always had time for you.

With her winning personality and Internet detective work, Marlies found organizations to help fund the Shelter, some in Holland who've given big! She gave a lot of attention to publicity – constantly upgrading the the Shelter webpage, putting it on Facebook, even getting a webcam for the new cat “palace.”

Programs that have become a regular thing she started. The free sterilization program is only one. Then there is the free “chipping” to identify dogs and cats with their owners. The Shelter is always open to school groups for pet education and to have a fun time with the animals.



Friends and volunteers showed up for two big goodbye parties for Marlies and her partner, Annemiek, recently. It was a full house!

As one of the local Shelter volunteers says, “Marlies leaves big shoes to fill and an even bigger heart.”

Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo



DO YOU KNOW?

That fish larvae produce sounds? In a recent study, pre-settlement larvae (larvae that still lives in the plankton before joining the reef) of the grey snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*) have been found to produce various ‘knock’ and ‘growl’ sounds. These grey snapper larvae sounds were recorded in both laboratory and natural settings and occurred only at night. It is known that adult fish use acoustic signals during mating and feeding and for defense and protection. While the function of these newly discovered fish larvae sounds are unknown, scientists believe they may help keep larval groups together at night when light is not available. The next time you’re out on the reef, if you listen close enough, you may just hear fish larvae ‘growling’ at you! ■



Photo Credit: Erica Staaterman

Garrett Fundakowski is a double major in Mathematics and Biology at the University of Richmond in Virginia. He studied on Bonaire for the Fall 2014 semester at the CIEE Research Station and worked on a research project with marine sponges.



Bonaire artist Janice Huckaby's latest work is a triple 6 x 18 ft mural in a private Belnem home. →→→→→

Awesome Jan Art



Cher and Janice



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