

**It's Still  
FREE**

# BONAIRE *March 23- April 6, 2015 Year 22, Issue 7* The REPORTER *BES Island News Too*

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994



*Marie Craane plays Bingo with the elderly guests at Kalor di Hogar*



*SHIF (Youth & Family Center) and Animal Shelter volunteers clean at the Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter Flea Market)*



*↑ North Salina Kids Soccer moms handle the paintbrushes*



*North Salina Kids Soccer guys paint the new bathrooms*



*Jong Bonaire kids and volunteers paint walls and build bike racks*



*The North Salina Kids Soccer and volunteers clean the field and restore the clubhouse*

**T**his year's BonDoet event, sponsored by the NGO Platforma Bonaire and Dutch OranjeFonds, the fifth consecutive, was such a success that the numbers of volunteers were beyond count—way over 1,000. 54 NGOs signed up to have 70 dif-

ferent jobs done. Early on groups and individuals signed up to volunteer for those jobs. 1,000 shirts were ordered but so many people kept signing up at the last minute to participate that the exact count was lost. Bon Doet / NGO official, Annemarie Klone

says, "The enthusiasm and impact was fantastic."

Begun as a US event called "Make a Difference," Bonaire was the first island to hold the event. The turnouts have been amazing especially considering the small population. The first

Bon Doet five years ago saw 41 jobs to be done; this year, 70.

Five years ago Oranje Fonds was approached for funding. They accepted and the event was off and running. Bonaire is indeed a "volunteer island." ■  
*Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo*



**B**onaire Customs Agents regularly confiscate spear fishing gear from tourists entering Flamingo airport. (photo right)

Spear fishing is prohibited by law in Bonaire waters since 1971, as the use of the spears do much damage to our coral reef. It is not allowed to enter Bonaire with any kind of spear fishing device. Due to our nature laws, Bonaire is considered a model in coral reef conservation, including dealing with the lionfish invasion since the first sighting of this invasive species in October 2009.

In order to combat the lion fish invasion there is a program implemented involving resident volunteer hunters who keep the lion fish density low (compared to other islands of the Caribbean). These divers are all trained, certified hunters with a STINAPA permit which enables them to use the STINAPA Marine Park supplied ELF's (ELF = Elimination Lion Fish). The ELF is the only tool that is approved for hunting this invasive species.

To qualify for an ELF a Lionfish hunting course must be taken and afterwards the certified hunter can apply for a STINAPA permit for the use of a STINAPA provided and registered ELF.

**All other spear fishing devices are prohibited** and will be confiscated by Customs Agents or STINAPA Rangers. Only STINAPA registered ELF's are allowed to be used in the Bonaire National Marine Park when hunting the Lionfish. STINAPA is grateful to the Customs Agents for their vigilance.



(Continued on page 3)

## Election Results 2015



Sanny Ensing photo

Checking the election results at the Passangrahan

Bonaireans have chosen the political parties who will represent them in the Island Council, but exactly which parties will lead the people via the Executive Council has yet to be decided.

The Island Councils are the bodies of elected people's representatives of each of the public bodies of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba - and previously of each of the island territories of the Netherlands Antilles. The Island Council supervises the island's Executive Council, which is composed of a Lieutenant Governor, Island Secretary and several members appointed by the Council. The Island Council may be compared to a town council. Like a town council, the Island Council is elected for a period of four years.

The number of members of the Island Council differs per island: Bonaire: 9 seats; St Eustatius: 5 seats; Saba: 5 seats

In last Wednesday's Island Council elections in Bonaire **Elvis Tjin Asjoe's** "Movimentu di Pueblo Boneriano" (MPB) beat **Clark Abraham's** "Partido Demokratiko Boneriano" (PDB) by just 33 votes, and the former top vote getter, **James Kroon's** "Union Partiotiko Boneriano" (UPB) by 462 in Wednesday's Island Council election, but each party ended up with three of the nine seats.

None of the four other parties— PHU led by **Heinrich Prinsen/Michel Bijkerk** (645), Lista 7 of **Eric Soleana** (406), **Tim Magno** (364) and **AKB Christians**(215) -

received enough votes for a seat, even though they needed only 75% of the number required to earn a seat outright to vie for a possible residual seat.

The MPB's "Aruba Style" effort was the most visible campaign while the UPB and PDB got going later. Before the elections MPB leader **Elvis Tjin Asjoe** promised he would not work with his UPB former party. A coalition between traditional rivals PDB and UPB would be historic if it happens.

The turnout (78%) was close to the 80% considered respectable compared to the 74% in 2011. However, in Saba the voter's turnout percentage was a staggering 91.3% with the WIPM party the biggest winner.

St. Eustatius voters opted for a coalition government in Wednesday's elections, as none of the six parties in the polls emerged with the needed three or more seats in the Island Council. Statia had a 65.5% voter turnout.

In October 2010 the islands of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba had to conform to the Dutch Electoral Act in all elections for the first time, as was done in the European Netherlands. While the results from those Provincial Elections for the Senate and Water Boards will not be available until March 23, from early returns it appears that the Dutch center-right government will lose a third of its seats in the Senate -upper house of parliament. ■

G.D./S. Ensing

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Flotsam and Jetsam (from page 2)

► **Did you realize that last Wednesday's election in Bonaire was just one of the many municipal elections in the Netherlands? The European Netherlands voted for Water Board and Provincial Government officials.**

Bonaire is not a Dutch Province but has a Council roughly similar to European Dutch councils. Provincial councils (*Provinciale Staten*) run the 12 Dutch provinces and, in turn, their members elect the 75 members of the upper house of Parliament, or senate, three months later. How do the provinces work? The provinces receive money from Central Government to manage nature areas, build and maintain cycle paths, oversee provincial public transport and promote the arts and culture. Each province has a provincial executive and council, both of which are chaired by a king's commissioner. The king's commissioner – a bit like a provincial mayor – is a crown appointee. Read more at [Dutch-News.nl](http://Dutch-News.nl)

► **Pay attention to what you put down the drain since more and more waste water on Bonaire is being recycled.** The treatment plants are designed to purify the human waste. All sorts of other substances and products therefore do not belong in the wastewater. To clarify this, a campaign is underway to **"Watch What You Flush."**

The campaign focuses on all residents and visitors of Bonaire. It does not matter whether the waste water drains into a cess-pool, septic tank or sewer pipe. If you are connected to the sewer system the waste water eventually ends up at the sewage treatment plant. And that only works properly if there are no substances in wastewater that do not belong like **chemicals, medicines, oils, grease, adhesive and paint residues, bandages, textiles and plastics.** These substances interfere with the purification process or cause blockages.

If you're not on the sewer system, the waste filters through the soil and eventually evaporates or passes in to the underground aquifer or into the sea.

Besides the commercials on radio and television, ads also appear in the newspapers and in the social media. Action Teams will hand out flyers on the street. There will be English language signs in public toilets and toilets in hotels to inform tourists.

What to do with the "unflushables?" Oil and fat you

can hand in at the Environment Square of Selibon on Kaya Industria (next to Warehouse). Old medicines will be accepted at the *botikas* (pharmacies). For other substances that do not flush, there is no other solution than the green Klinko bin that's collected by the Selibon trucks. In the future, the government, in collaboration with Selibon, will collect hazardous waste separately. More information: [www.kloaka-bonaire.com](http://www.kloaka-bonaire.com)



► **There's a currency war going on, and the US is losing but Bonaire residents might be winners.** As of last Wednesday, the euro had fallen to a 12-year low of \$1.05, down from as much as \$1.39 just last year. That's a 30% drop in 11 months to be exact, and there's no reason to expect it to stop anytime soon. One forecast is for it to hit \$0.85 in 2017.

Now a strong dollar is good for anyone on a US-dollar-based income, like BES Islanders, especially if they plan to travel to Europe. A strong dollar can, however, affect the Bonaire economy as Dutch investment in Bonaire becomes more expensive and the Dutch are the biggest investors. Why is the dollar up so much? Well, the simple story is that the stronger your economy, the stronger your currency. The slightly more complicated version, though, is that currencies go up when monetary policy is relatively tight and down when it's relatively loose.

► **Last week about 100 officers of the Royal Military Police and Customs Service held a joint enforcement action at Bonaire International Airport.** This action of the two largest enforcement partners at the airport is an intensification of the already close cooperation between Customs and the Caribbean Netherlands Royal Military Police. They inspected airport personnel practices, passenger handling and cargo processes.

Purpose of the action was to evaluate the airport processes and ensure the security and integrity of the airport.

There were a few minor incidents: a troublesome passenger and later a smoking passenger on the platform. **No arrests were made and no drugs or weapons were found.** The action did generate a lot of useful information.

► **According to figures released by Statistics Netherlands this**

## Bonaire Will Participate At The World Games



Special Olympics  
**WORLD GAMES**  
LOS ANGELES 2015

Bonaire will be represented at the 2015 Special Olympics along with 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators. **And our Special Olympics Bonaire Team will be there.** The 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games.

The 2015 World Games will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in

venues throughout the Los Angeles region.

The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, Special Olympics and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) and Special Olympics Bonaire on Facebook.

The 800 tickets sold during the just completed Walkathon will help, but more is needed. **Please help the team have the best chance to represent their island by making a contribution. Their bank account is: 105.780.04 MCB Stichting Special Olympics Bonaire.** For sponsorship or for more information contact one if the executive board members of Special Olympics Bonaire: 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. ■ G.D.

**week, most people on Bonaire speak Papiamentu.** On St Eustatius most people have English as their first language. Only a small number of people have Dutch as a first language. On Bonaire two-thirds of the population indicate that Papiamentu is their first language. On St Eustatius and Saba the first language is English for 85% and 93% of the populations respectively.

Dutch is the first language of 15% of the population on Bonaire and 6% of the inhabitants of St Eustatius. Hardly anyone on Saba speaks it as a first language.

**However, many BES Islanders speak more than one language.** Multilingualism is most common on Bonaire, where 90% of the population speaks more than one language. On St Eustatius this was true for 68% of the population, and on Saba, 57%.

On all three islands multilingualism increases with the level of education: the higher the level of education, the more likely a person is to speak more than one language. It decreases with age, however: relatively more young people speak more than one language, and people aged 65 and older mostly speak one language only.

► **Penny Lane Exchange, the consignment store that is a Bonaire phenomenon,** wants to reward its customers. They will have a big by-invitation-only party on Monday, 30 March. To get your invitation pass by the shop on the second floor of the La Terrazza Mall. Opposite Gio's Ice Cream shop on Kaya Grandi. You can also Enter the "giraf-



► **Did you know** that our airport has a distinguished Board of Directors? The Supervisory Board (SB) of Bonaire International Airport NV (BIA) announced that **Mr. E.Ch.M. (Michael) Nicolaas** is to be the **Bonaire airport CEO** commencing 1 April 2015 and **Mr. L.A. (Les) Laplace** has been **re-appointed as Director of BIA**

In the photo from left to right: Jan Willem storm van 's Gravesande – Vice President supervisory board; Les Laplace – Director BIA; Etienne Ys – President Supervisory board; Michael Nicolaas; Alain Maca – Member supervisory board.

file" to win ➔



Elisa the big stuffed giraffe.

► **Jews and Christians worldwide will celebrate the Passover/Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** At sundown the First Seder dinner will be served poolside at Eddy's Restaurant. It is also

Good Friday and the dinner welcomes all to enjoy and take part in the reading of the story of the Jews exodus out of Egypt. Christians also celebrate this as the Last Supper before the crucifixion.

The traditional Seder Dinner will be served for a modest charge and will feature some surprises. If you or your friends are planning to be on island for Passover and would like to share in this age-old tradition, please contact Michael at 717- 4781 or email [michael@tzdakah@hotmail.com](mailto:michael@tzdakah@hotmail.com)

■ S.E., L./G.D.

# On The Island Since... December 14th, 2008

## Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez

“I came from Barquisimeto, the third biggest city of Venezuela, where I was born on September 17th, 1952. I studied in Mérida at the University of Los Andes from 1971-1977. Then I went to UCLA University Hospital in Barquisimeto – a large hospital with 850 beds. I worked there for two years as a general doctor and was trained as a general surgeon for four years postgraduate by my uncle, Dr. Daniel Gonzalez, and by Dr. Antonio Rodríguez Cirimele, one of Venezuela’s top surgeons who got his education at the Mayo Clinic. I worked in Barquisimeto until 1992. Then in Puerto Rico I studied upper endoscopy and colonoscopy. Later, in Miami, I was trained in laparoscopy by Moises Jacobs, a surgeon at Miami’s Baptist Hospital. I returned to Venezuela, to the UCLA University Hospital in Barquisimeto where I finished my work in 2003. From there I worked at a private clinic that I owned, also in Barquisimeto, until 2008.

Then I got a call from the hospital (Mariadal) on Bonaire. They needed a substitute surgeon for three months. Also, Marite and Gisele Coffi from the hospital came to visit me in Venezuela. I decided to give it a chance. I didn’t know Bonaire; it was the first time I’d come here. I’d visited Curacao and Aruba frequently with my family, but this was a new experience. I liked the place. It was small, nice and quiet and I wanted to give the people my support. But I wondered if there would be enough patients as it is such a thinly populated island. It turned out that Bonaire is no different from other places; it’s the world in a nutshell! We have the same problems as anywhere else: drugs, alcohol, car accidents- you name it. Soon enough I loved being here. The people were sensitive and friendly and when I walked on the street I was greeted by young and old. I felt respected and life seemed simple. After 10 days my wife, Nohilsa, joined me.

First they wanted me to stay for a month, and when the month was finished they asked me, ‘Can you stay one more?’ And again after the second month they asked me if I could stay another month. I think they were watching me during those three months, but I came with a good disposition and



*Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez at his office*

the right attitude and I liked working here.

I still had my own clinic in Venezuela, so after a couple of months I began to wonder, ‘What is the reason I’m on Bonaire?’ Then it occurred to me that God had sent me here. You know, before I was approached by Mariadal I was planning on leaving Venezuela because of the political situation. For four years we’d been busy with preparations to move to Canada. I already had all the paperwork, diplomas and titles translated into English and they were approved and authorized by the Canadian embassy. Only 15 days before we went to finalize the process of emigration, I got the call from Bonaire.

So when they asked me after three months if I’d like to work

**“I feel very sad about the situation in Venezuela. Not only is the country destroyed, but families are destroyed too. They are scattered all over the world, far away from each other....Venezuela used to be of great support and help, especially medically and health wise, to the Antilles.”**

here for one year, I talked to my wife, and I said, ‘I will do it; we’ll take it as a sabbatical year and then we’ll move to Canada.’”

Having said that, during that year I felt like I was at home. I was close to my country, close to my children and my parents and all my other relatives. It didn’t feel like a strange place to me. It felt familiar. I immediately identified myself with the Bonairean culture because it has many similarities to our culture. Also I found out, with the help of Bôl Antoin when I was doing research on my ancestors, that the grandfather of my grandfather on my mother’s side, Miguel Donaire, came from Bonaire to Aroa, Venezuela, to work in the copper mines. So, life is coming full circle.

I feel very sad about the situation in Venezuela. Not only is the country destroyed, but families



*Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez and his wife, Nohilsa*

are destroyed too. They are scattered all over the world, far away from each other. Then, secondly, Venezuela used to be of great support and help, especially medically and health wise, to the Antilles. Nowadays we are depending on Colombia, but Bogota and Medellin are one and a half to two hours by plane while Caracas, Valencia and Barquisimeto are only 30 minutes by plane. That is a lot less time in case of an emergency. I don’t want to complain, but it’s a great pity.

However, the help we receive from Colombia is at a high level. The hospitals are very good and the doctors are highly qualified.

I’ve seen the changes here after 10-10-10, and the changes Holland made in the hospital are really positive. The standard of the hospital is at a higher level and many specialists come with the right attitude, which is very important because we are visitors who are coming to serve the people, to help and educate and improve healthcare on Bonaire.

You need to have the right approach when you come here. Only then can we grow to become a better island. For instance, I communicate with patients in Spanish, Papiamentu and English. It’s interesting because I also speak English with the Dutch and 99% of them are friendly and willing to communicate in Eng-

lish with me.

I am 62 now and I cannot keep jumping from one country to another anymore. I think this is the final place in my career. I am giving my efforts, my experience and my knowledge to a place where I feel that they need me... a little bit. Here I am the only Latin American surgeon. However, I need to respect the conduct and protocol, which is Dutch, and for someone from South America it’s a different approach- more organized. I like it, because it’s more beneficial for the patients and I respect that conduct, but at the same time I learned that European medicine is drier. We doctors from South America have a different manner. We take our time and observe the patient and let them tell their story. We feel very much for them and we listen longer. We don’t work so much by the clock. That’s our way, that’s who we are. Many Dutch rules are more rigid. The Europeans work on a budget and a plan – time is money.

In Venezuela I was working a lot and I made good money in my private clinic, but here I have a salary and that’s a new experience too. I am a general surgeon with a great responsibility and nobody accepts a mistake from me. I always say ‘I am not God,’ but I am a good surgeon with a lifetime of experience and I give it my best. I love my work. I feel a strong responsibility for everybody, no matter what nationality, religion or social status. For me all the patients are important and special. Although I work many, many hours, always more than the contract says – but that counts for many who work at the hospital – I don’t feel that I’m working a lot. I put a great deal of myself

into my work and sometimes too much which is not good for my health, but it happens.

My wife, she knows. We’ve been together for 35 years and she is my companion and also my administrator. Ha! We take care of each other and we complement each other. We have two precious children: our son Miguel Angel, who is 34 and our daughter Mariangel, 31. My son now lives in the US. He’s a mechanical engineer, married and has a daughter, Julieta, who is two years old. She’s our first grandchild. Our daughter is married, lives in Venezuela and has a little boy of one year old called Fabio. Being a grandparent is a beautiful experience. I love it! We talk every day by phone, or Skype or whatsapp, but it’s difficult being apart.

On Bonaire, it’s the two of us: my wife and me. It can be hard for my wife because she sacrifices a lot and suffers from my absence. But when there is time we love to entertain. It’s important to socialize and I always try to learn from others. To relax I read or I play the guitar and the quartet and my wife and I enjoy very much the classical music concerts that perform here on Bonaire, but we also love to travel.

You know, here there is no war and it’s quite safe and God will decide how long I will stay. He directs me and I serve Him by being His instrument and I feel it as a gift from God that I’m here.”

Story & photos  
by  
Greta Kooistra



## Word on the Street

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

**E**lection frenzy is over...but not without at least one "blooper." The number one candidate for one of the parties arrived with some fanfare at one of the voting stations to place his vote. **FAIL:** he left his voting card at home and had to go back and get it!

- Several months ago Bula "rumored" that Bonaire would soon be getting a **cinema**. Well, construction is under way in Hato, in the area of MCB Bank and the Pelikaan School. A recent article in the Dutch news media reports that Empire Cinema will have 150 "outdoor" seats and 100 indoor, air-conditioned seats with an aluminum roof. The facility will also offer a Thai restaurant and be available for concerts and theatre productions. They recently launched a Facebook page at Empire Cinema. Question: An aluminum roof? Will you be able to hear the movie during rainy season?



- The last *Reporter* mentioned that the **Goddard Catering facility** at Bonaire's Flamingo Airport was closed. Word on the street is that employees have been offered continued employment at the other Goddard facilities in Aruba and Curacao with the company paying for all moving expenses. If true, a fine example of good corporate employee relations.

- Voters** noticed that this year there were no "curtains" surrounding the individual voting stations. Talk on the street is that this was to prevent voters from taking photographs of their ballots. Circumventing proof for payment?



- Antilliaans Dagblad* newspaper reports that a new "eco resort" is under construction...**Marquise Eco Resort Bonaire**. Site of the new resort is on the north coast at Playa Grandi, near the Morotin windmills. Plans are for a bar, restaurant, bungalows and palapas on the beach. The article states (translated from Dutch): "According to experts, the plans on the north coast are to be realized without harming nature." ■ *Bula Bonchi*



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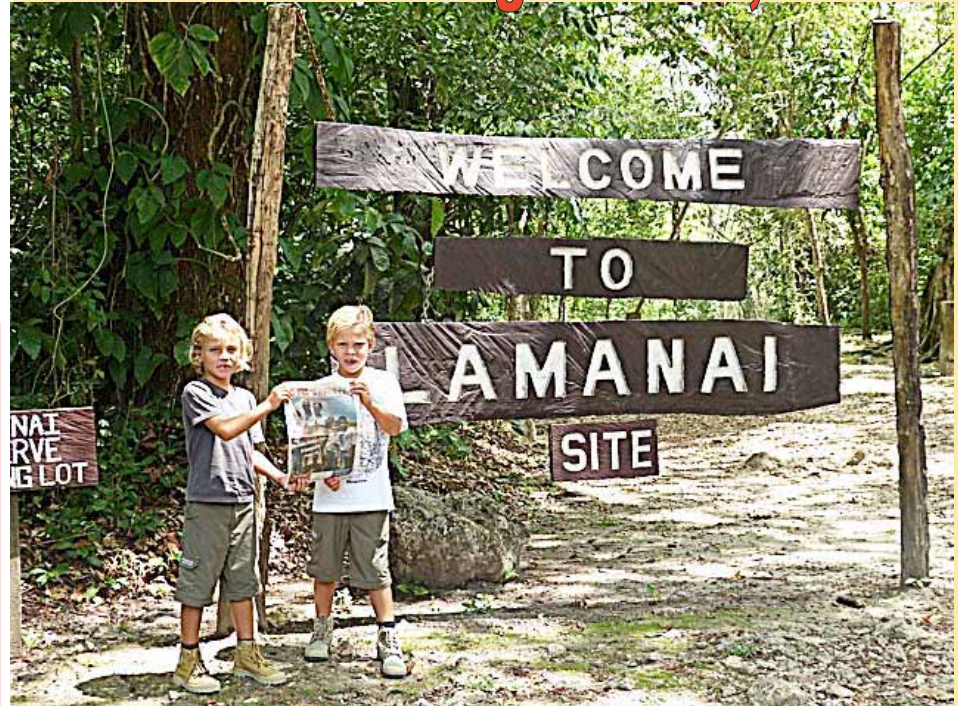
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## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In North Carolina, USA



**T**ony Brown and Nancy Groh, long-time visitors from South Carolina, get ready to head into the woods at deer camp on the coastal plain, hoping to stock the larder. Whitetail deer has a flavor very similar to kabritu. ■

## Lamanai Archeological Site, Belize



**I**n Belize at the Lamanai Archeological Site, **Jeanette Olthof** snapped this photo of her kids **Fabio (8) and Daniel (7) Quilotte**. They've lived on Bonaire since 2010 and were on a 14-day adventurous jungle trip through Belize, carrying *The Reporter* with them all the way. ■

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# Bon Bida Bounces Back

## PHYSIOTHERAPY "NOT INCLUDED"

Until 2013 physiotherapy was part of the comprehensive health care benefits provided by the government for Bonaire residents. Physiotherapist Robert Smaal built a flourishing business in a purpose-built building.

However, in 2013 the Dutch government announced it was removing physiotherapy from the insurance coverage. Robert and many others believed that would have a very negative effect on health care in general and on the health of the Bonairean population. He involved himself in exhaustive discussions, proposals and deliberations with the group of physiotherapists of Bonaire, government representatives and even the minister of Health, Edith Schippers. He says that it literally consumed all of his time.

As he's lived in the Caribbean for a long time he knew about the marginal finances of many of the people. He says, "A lot of people can hardly make it through the month with their income, so you can't expect them to save money to pay for their physiotherapy. This means that physiotherapy is not accessible for a lot of people who need it." The result will be actually more costs for health care, because people will not return for necessary, but costly for them, physiotherapy.

"I was very disappointed by the politics, although we had good arguments and made plans on how to be able to continue with lower costs. Nothing really changed."

Now it's 2015, the cut is in effect and Robert has already had to tell people they have to pay for the necessary continuing



Robert Smaal

therapy. Some have never returned for the treatment they needed. "For me," he says, "this is a heartbreaking experience."

## HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION?

Robert realized that he could not depend on physiotherapy alone to keep his business

**"If you keep thinking creatively and are open for new projects it creates a perspective that can overcome a loss you have."**



going. He did have a gym in his facility, but still he had to find something else to keep it in operation. He got in touch with Medwork on Aruba, where he works each year for a period in the hospital. Medwork is a business that focuses on the health and safety market and helps companies handle sick leave, training and wellness.

In the Dutch Caribbean there is little policy for managed sick leave, and often people stay home without any contact about their illness or investigation on what they can and cannot do. This is a waste of money and time. People sometimes feel like nobody cares about them.

To help with this, Medwork started Corporate Health Solutions in 2011 to look at dealing with sick leave differently. It involved a cultural change. For example: people who are on sick leave are no longer left to themselves. They now get a reintegration package and stay in contact with their boss to see what they are able to do. Currently the RCN, the local government and schools are getting involved in ways to develop preventive and reintegration programs for their personnel.

## COOPERATION

At the end of 2014 the cooperation between Bon Bida and Medwork/Corporate Health

Solutions was agreed on, and Bon Bida has a new division: ArboCure. Together they have created 15 packages to offer people who have become unable to work, in individual as well as group sessions. In those packages physiotherapists and lifestyle coaches from Bon Bida work together with other disciplines around themes like "body, life, family." These arrangements are paid for by the companies.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

It takes work and imagination to make the best out of a situation that seems like doom. "If you keep thinking creatively and are open for new projects," Robert believes, "it creates a perspective that can overcome a loss you have." Keep looking for possibilities and don't act like a victim is the lesson that he learned from a situation that was unwanted and undesirable. ■ Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



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# SGB High School Board Fired

THE HAGUE--

**D**utch State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science Sander Dekker is dismissing the board of Bonaire's SGB high school for secondary education and intermediate vocational education.



Sander Dekker

"The course of action of the SGB board hurts the quality and continuity of education for students. This is especially painful because it is the sole school for secondary education and intermediate vocational education," stated Dekker in a letter to the Dutch Parliament last Thursday. "Students cannot opt for another school. The quality of this school is essential for the subsequent career of these students. Solid management is needed in the interest of the students," Dekker said. The state secretary explained that "severe circumstances forced" the Netherlands to intervene, which is using its instruction authority to send the board home.

The "very critical findings" of Dutch Inspectorate for Education confirmed problems that existed before. The inspectorate concluded in a recent report that the SGB board was not "in control" and that it lacked vision on the quality of educa-



High School Entrance

tion and the financial situation. "The Inspectorate didn't deem the board capable to guarantee and adequately improve the quality of education, and to take befitting measures when the financial situation demanded it," Dekker stated.

The Inspectorate further found that there was "no basis for confidence" that the board's management "sufficiently contributed" to the improvement of the quality of education of the achieving of the objectives of the Educational Agenda for the Caribbean Netherlands.

In 2013, the SGB board was asked to draft a plan to improve the quality of education at the school and to allow the support of management coaches. The board

rejected offers for assistance. The very low success rate in 2014 of students of the HAVO/VWO Lyceum higher education tracks (56%VWO and 71% HAVO) was also a source of great concern. The instruction, which will go into effect on April 6, will order the board to transfer its authority to an interim manager within a week. The interim-manager will have three months to select a new board.

"I am of the opinion that children in Bonaire, for too long, have not been getting the education they deserve. It is high time for a board with suitable people," Dekker said in an interview with NTR. ■

G.D./The Daily Herald

## BACKGROUND

**I**n late October 2014, the Education Inspectorate conducted an investigation into the administrative conduct of Bonaire's SGB High School. Sander Dekker, the Dutch Secretary of Education, told Parliament that the Bonaire High School Board (SGB) should be dismissed no later than mid-April based on a very critical report by the Inspectorate, reports Caribbean Network. If the Board were not replaced, there would be financial sanctions, he threatened.

In that report he states among other things that the quality of education and School Board has lost control of the school finances, even though an auditor approved the financial statements. Dekker says, "If you look at the report of the inspection, you may wonder: what is going to be fine at that school?"

The School Board responded that the allegations were incorrect. Lydia Rove, Board Secretary wrote, "Where the inspection report concludes that the board is not (financially) in control... the board is actually experiencing the desired positive developments." She added the statements in the media were "factually incorrect... , and in any case the board will take appropriate action to ensure that education and the students will not be harmed."

Last year the top administrator of the school was replaced and the former Bonaire Governor Lydia Emerencia put in his place. However, some of the problems mentioned in the report predated her assignment. ■ G.D.

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## Pink Trail ~Great for Kids~

My friend Donna had a great idea the other day – to go on a hike with our children. I am always up for an adventure and even though I'd have to take both kids along (including my two-year-old) I was game. Water, hats, trainers, sunscreen and a back-pack carrier for my two-year-old and we were ready to go. I picked up Donna who had invited another friend (Jenny) and her son (Frank) along and we drove off towards Rincon.

We found the road that circles around the Goto Lake and thankfully Donna knew exactly where to turn in to the right (by a white scarecrow) and we parked our cars just to left. The kids were full of energy, and as it was near nap-time for Sierra (the two-year-old), she was happy on my back. The trail is pretty shady so it is okay to hike at the end of the morning/midday.

Donna had done this trail often with her daughter Ava Rose (5) and knew Ava could hike the full circle. We all brought goodies for a picnic on the way. The fun part of this hike for kids is finding the 'route' – following the big stones that are painted pink. Full of energy they raced ahead while we walked and chatted.

The trail is beautiful with views of the Goto Lake and the surrounding hills, really creating an "out in the middle of nowhere" feeling. Even the children were struck by the beauty of the surroundings going "Wow, look, it is beautiful!" and: "Sssshhhtttt, be quiet (to us) so we can hear the silence." Soon they'd found walking sticks and were climbing up a hill, at the top of which was a wonderful viewpoint as well as a superb spot to sit and have a picnic. With everyone adding fruit, crackers, pancakes, muffins and other foodstuffs to the mix our snack-break was a huge hit with the children.

Our hike continued down a gully and through a tree-filled tunnel



Picture time with the kids at the half-way point



The second part of the hike before we hit the road to Dos Pos.

(which the kids loved) back down to the road. Once you hit the road you have to walk along the tarmac for a good 20 minutes before hitting the well with the windmills (Dos Pos.) This is when the kids started getting tired, but a refreshing blast of water and another snack did the trick, and off we went to the cars.

Donna showed us her favorite spot to have chicken soup at the Chinese Bar in Rincon and we sat down and ordered soup for everyone. We were all hungry and the soup went down a treat. We promised the little ones ice cream too, but as most places were out of ice-cream we ended up buying cones

at the supermarket in Rincon. The children absolutely loved their day and so did we. It was time to head home, hit the showers and have a well-deserved rest.

Apart from beachin' it – this hike is truly a 'must-do' with kids.

The trek takes just about two hours with various stops in between so it might be good to know if your child is an okay "walker." The up side is that with a couple of children and some yummy snacks they don't notice the time. Be aware: The last 15-odd minutes are usually the toughest for the kids. ■

Story by Sanny Ensing,  
Donna Wuyts photos



Kiran, Ava and Frank get a well-deserved treat after a great hike!

## Kontest di Fli Kite Contest



Coming this Sunday, March 29- the annual Kontest di Fli (kite contest), from 8 am to 6 pm, at the field behind Kooyman.

This is the 36th year for this very popular event and it's still going strong! Incredibly creative participants from six to 100 years old strive to build the most beautiful, the biggest, the smallest, the most unusual or the strangest kite—all of them hand made. There are two contests: one for youngsters from six to 15, the other for adults 16 and up. Whole families and groups get together to try to launch their competing kite. Getting them into the air can be quite daunting. One year there was a kite made only of beer cans. That was a tough one to launch. Competitors also come from Curaçao, having their kites shipped over in a container. A group of illustrious, very experienced judges, most the same every year, struggle to choose the winning kites. Along with the kite watching there is music, snacks and drinks. It's a great event for the whole family. Want to compete yourself? Sign up at the Bonaire Book Store on Kaya Grandi. Call 717-6586. ■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo



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# Stormvogel Inches Closer To Home- But Who Was Rosalinda?



The Curaçao volunteers- Left to right: Nicky Pietersz, François van der Hoeven, Bram Janse, Michèle van Veldhoven and Fred Chumaceiro

The last of the ABC Islands' sail-powered cargo boats is on its way to Bonaire for restoration but its naming history is a mystery that complicated the return and sparked a search of old records. *The Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru* (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) has been busy the past few months preparing *Stormvogel* (Storm Bird) for transport back to Bonaire.

A major task was securing the proper paperwork for the export and import of the boat. Legal representative from the Felida family, descendants of Captain Martin Felida who owned *Stormvogel*, transferred ownership of the boat to *Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru* back in January. Then the foundation approached the Curacao Ports Authority (CPA) to obtain the ship's registration papers. The clerk could not find any vessel registered as NC 992 or one named *Stormvogel*! Later, **Fred Scheper** from the CPA spent hours looking through the old archives and discovered a vital

paper. It shows that **Captain Martinus Ramon Felida** had registered the boat in 1963 under the name of *Rosalinda*. Apparently the skipper later changed the name back to *Stormvogel*, but he never informed the CPA. Martin still kept the NC992 registration number painted on the bow of the boat. The question now is-- Who was Rosalinda? Some say that she was one of the captain's daughters. And why did Martin Felida years later change the name back to *Stormvogel*?

While the Rosalinda mystery continues, the Curacao volunteers, **Nicky Pietersz, Bram Janse, Fred Chumaceiro, Michèle van Veldhoven, Adriaan van der Hoeven, Sandjai Mangal, Henk Kroon** and board member **François van der Hoeven**, have been busy removing nearly five tons of unwanted material from the old cutter including 1.5 tons of concrete block, a deck house, an inoperable heavy diesel engine, plus sludge, gas oil and other toxic materials from the hold. The boat, built and launched

from Bonaire in 1951, is now stripped down to her historical core.

But beyond the volunteers, the Dutch foundation, *Stichting Onze Vloot* (our fleet) donated 2500 Netherlands Antillean guilders (nearly \$1400) to the cause. These funds will be instrumental in bringing *Stormvogel* back home. The boat cannot be towed in its present, fragile condition. In February, **Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna** contacted the **Royal Dutch Navy** on behalf of the foundation and asked if they could transport *Stormvogel* to Bonaire as a goodwill gesture. Unfortunately, the Navy denied the request later in March due to logistical reasons.

The foundation then approached the transport provider, **Don Andres BV**. They generously agreed to transport *Stormvogel* free of charge aboard one of the company's two freighters. Then **Harry Faijdherbe**, owner of **Antillean Scrap Company in Curacao**, donated the use of his specialized, low-boy trailer. Its low profile will allow *Stormvogel*



Bram Janse and Fred Chumaceiro stripping the boat down.



Loading on to the trailer

to pass under utilities power lines unobstructed when being towed to and from harbors. Last week the boat was carefully placed on the trailer by a huge crane from **Miles Trucking & Heavy Equipment Services**. Now the Curacao team is currently building a wooden frame to secure the ship. Once complete, *Stormvogel* will be towed to the Willemstad harbor to await transport aboard either the *Doña Luisa* or *Don Andres* freighters.

In the meantime, preparations are being made on Bonaire for *Stormvogel*'s homecoming. A police escort will guide the trailered ship from Kralendijk's docks to Navegante Boatyard in Hato. Owner **Lelle Davidsson** has donated space at his facility for the first year of restoration. He and board member

**Johnny Craane** are currently preparing the site for delivery, which will happen this month. They will be working with anchor blocks donated by **Balentina Fabrica Di Bloki**. *Stormvogel* nearly ended its long life as an abandoned wreck sinking in the waters of Curacao's Schottegat Bay. Thanks to the generosity of many, the old boat gets a reprieve. Once restoration begins, it will provide a wonderful opportunity for the people of Bonaire to reconnect with their rich nautical past and later serve as the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Center. ■

Story by Patrick Holian.  
Photos from Curacao



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# Bon Doet Volunteering for a Better Bonaire



Stinapa Photo

Under the guidance of STINAPA as part of Bon Doet, 200 children from three schools (Kolegio Kristo Bon Wardador, Kolegio Reina Beatrix, Pelikaan) collected 60 sacks of trash at the southern end of Bonaire



←  
Cleaning the garden and building a chicken house at FKPD



Volunteers from FORMA pitch in to paint the clubhouse "Kalor di Hogar" for the elderly



At the cemetery garden cleaning—Bon Doet officials Jolene and Annemarie stop by



The "It Rains Fishes" restaurant crew clean the garden at BSSA (Bonaire Sailing Association)

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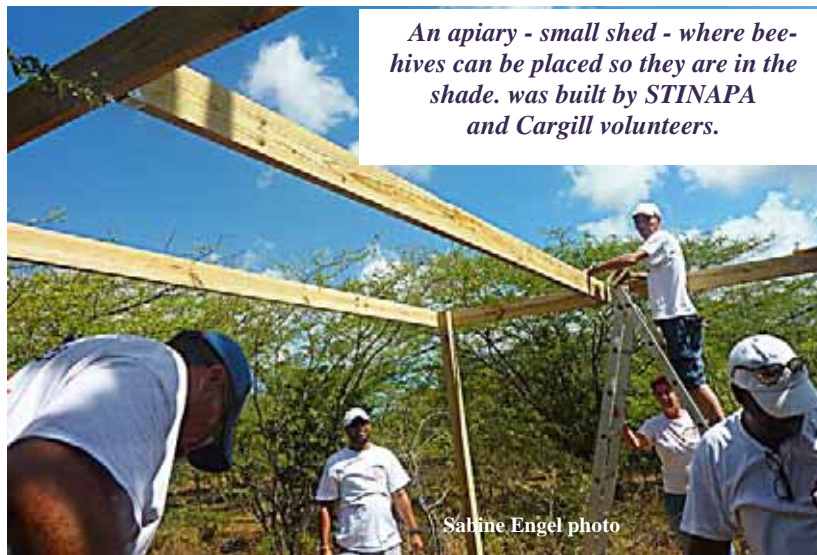
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An apiary - small shed - where bee-hives can be placed so they are in the shade, was built by STINAPA and Cargill volunteers.

Sabine Engel photo



At the North Salina Kids Soccer Field, "Plus Size Models" and others pitch in.



Right: Coach Chio Semeleer and some of the North Salina Kids Soccer team cleaned up the field →

←Left: MCB "Young Professionals" clean up yards and interior of the Bon Kwido Kresh



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# Rediscovering Old Ways



*The new LVV Headquarters*

Bonaire was always a rural, agrarian place in contrast to Curaçao's business and consumer culture. But the impact of tourism and world-wide communication have distorted that social order for several generations. Now there is an effort to take special advantage of rural Bonaire.

Following a meeting in September 2014 at LVV, the agricultural/fisheries/animal husbandry department, the activities of the Bonaire Rural Development Program (POP in Papiamentu) got underway.

The program's primary objective is to develop entrepreneurship in rural areas and agriculture. It is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs for a period of three years.

POP Bonaire consists of 40 projects, divided into four themes.

## Rural tourism

*Bara di Karta*, the kunuku (farm) area in the east of Bonaire, in collaboration with *kunukeros* (farmers), is an ideal way place to begin. POP Bonaire will assist the *kunukeros* to make the area more attractive for tourists with signage and a road map, walking and cycling routes, cleaning up roadside trash and building cactus fences.

Via these routes and trails tourists and holidaymakers can enjoy the rugged east coast, the authentic *kunuku* and old houses in a varied landscape with beautiful trees. The area around Rincon will also be opened for more tourists.

## Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Research indicates that tourists are interested in the local culture and like to make contact with the people of the island. This creates

the possibility for enterprising residents of the areas to open their *kunuku* for tourists or create new opportunities to offer a product or service. Entrepreneurs who want to tackle this professionally can get advice at POP Bonaire.

## Vegetables from the garden

Agriculture played an important part of the culture of Bonaire. Today, much of the fruit and vegetables is imported. The government aims to stimulate local production and self-sufficiency. Eating fruits and vegetables is important for health. What is healthier and tastier than vegetables from your own garden? It also helps to reduce the cost of living.

For people wanting their own garden to grow food themselves, there is a manual on growing fruits and vegetables on Bonaire. In February new gardening workshops for people in the *barios* (neighborhoods) started and later in the year workshops for young people in collaboration with *Man-gazina di Rei*.

## Center for Sustainable Agriculture

A Centre for Sustainable Agriculture has been founded on the LVV site, where entrepreneurs can start commercial horticulture. LVV has started the production



*Mechanized farming will be used where appropriate*



*Advice on small gardens will be offered*

of fodder for the goats to eat. It is expected as a result of this pilot project that knowledge will be gained about having sustainable goat and sheep farming.

Management Society and Care will help to establish the infrastructure for the training of the participants of the job program at the Centre. They will get involved

with rehabilitation in cooperation with Probation, JICN (prison).

If you are interested in developing your entrepreneurial spirit in the field of agriculture, recreation or tourism in a *kunukugebied*, please contact POP via email address [POPBonaire@gmail.com](mailto:POPBonaire@gmail.com).

■ Press release

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# A Garden? Just Do It!

As we all can see, the weather has changed with strong winds, hot sun, lots of dust, not so much rain. It's nothing strange; this is normal. But for our plants it's terrible. Leaves become dry, brown and crunchy. This means that these plants cannot stay out in an open space. They can't stand the strong salty winds and the hot sun. For them to survive they have to be moved to a place out of the sun and protected against the wind—behind your house in the shade where there is no wind, for example. Water them regularly and remove the dry and dead parts. Sometimes it's even best to cut away a large part of the plant so it can grow fresh again.

In this article I'd like to talk about planting nuts. Oh yes, there are some that grow here and they can provide us with a lot of daily goodies.

Here they are: **the peanut, the tropical almond, the cashew and the coconut.**



*Harvesting peanuts*

The **Peanut** is not a real nut but a pea. It is the world's most popular nut, very healthy and delicious.

Take some fresh old nuts and plant them in a big pot or directly in some soft black soil. After a while the plants start growing. It's fun to have your own peanuts in your garden. Water them regu-

larly and keep an eye on them as to when to harvest. Each plant will produce a lot of peanuts over again.

These nuts are not only delicious but they are very healthy too. They have a lot of antioxidants, are good against gallstones and good for the heart. They have a lot of unsaturated fatty acid. It is best eat the peanut with the skin.

Locals used to eat them boiled with salt in the shell. They tasted so good then. But they are also great mixed in salads and meat dishes. Think of Chinese dishes.

In Surinam we make peanut sauce as a dressing on vegetables and snacks. And peanut soup is a popular delicious soup made with peanut butter and root vegetables.



*Tropical Almonds*

The **Tropical Almond** grows as an ornamental tree with large leaves that provide great shade. On Bonaire you often find them in the old yards - big trees with leaves in different colors.

They also have a lot of almonds, usually green with ripe ones colored yellow- red. The skin of these almonds is bitter

sweet and astringent but the nut in the shell is tasty and very healthy. As a child I ate a lot of these nuts. With a hammer I broke the dry shell and with a small knife I pushed them out.

Just look for the dry almonds under the trees, collect them all and enjoy the nuts or use them in a cake (apple pie for example) or make almond juice.

In Surinam a herbal tea made from the leaves is prescribed against diarrhea. Also the bark can be used for this and is good for mouth and throat problems. Make a tea, gargle five times a day and spit it out.

From the nuts we can make a delicious syrup, which tastes like heaven on the tongue.

This tree looks great in a big yard. You can keep it small by just cutting off the top when it becomes too big. It stays like that and it's like an umbrella in your yard. Look for young plants under the old trees. It grows easily on Bonaire and bears fruits after about two to three years. After a while it drops its leaves and gets new ones again.



*Young Cashew Plant*

Do you know the **Cashew Tree**? It's a tropical tree growing up to six meters tall that produces the cashew apple and cashew nut.

The cashew apple is an astringent fruit that can be processed into a sweet drink or just eaten as is.

The apple is a false fruit, colored red or yellow. The true fruit is a single seed: the nut. From the nut one can easily get a new plant. Some people here have it in their yards.

The cashew nut is very nutritious and, just like other tree nuts, a good source of antioxidants. But for some people the cashew, like other tree nuts, can lead to allergic reactions with even fatal results. So be careful if you are one of those people.



*Cashew Fruit*

From the nuts, oil can be made which is dark yellow and good for cooking or salad dressing.

The cashew is a soft fruit, rich in nutrients and contains five times more vitamin C than an orange. It is used in chutneys and jams and cooked in curries and fermented into alcoholic drinks. Think of Brazil with the popular, national drink, caipirinha.

The fruit, bark and leaves can be used for many purposes. They have anti-fungal properties for sores and rashes, and the nut oil is good for cracked heels or as an anti-fungal agent.

Last but not least is the **Coco-nut**. The coconut tree is the king



*Coconuts*

of the tropics. And here on Bonaire it is wonderful to see them blowing in the wind. They make your yard and our beaches look tropical.

This tree grows from the dry old nuts. Just put them in water and after a while you see the young plant coming out. Then it's time to plant it in the garden or in a big pot with soil.

On Bonaire we use only the nuts and sometimes the leaves to make a hut. But in other countries people really use the entire tree for different purposes.

Coconut oil can be made from the nut, an oil that is known to reduce cholesterol.

The coco-water can serve as an emergency short-term intravenous hydration fluid. This is possible because the coconut water has a high level of sugar and other salts that makes it possible to enter the bloodstream much like dextrose.

One can make tea from the husk fibers too. This tea is good for inflammatory disorders.

And just eat a coconut as a fruit or make a nice juice from the coconut milk. That is real tropical life! ■

*Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover*



## Winners of Our "Picture Yourself" Contest Love La Balandra



*The winning photo*



The winners of *The Reporter's* Picture Yourself contest enjoyed their prize-Dinner at Harbour Village's La Balandra restaurant. Winner Grace Davies wrote, "We had a MARVELOUS time at La Balandra Friday night! What a terrific restaurant. The wait staff couldn't have been more friendly, personable, helpful and gracious. The food was delicious and beautifully presented. We ate at a table on the beach, surrounded by tiki torches, and watched the sun go down over Klein Bonaire; a perfect, romantic setting for our last evening on Bonaire (this year, at least!)." Grace's sentiments were seconded by her partner, Stephen Varone. "We had a grand time, definitely our best meal of the week. Your generous prize was most sincerely appreciated." ■



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**Ocean Dive Kayak w/ paddle &  
roller cart.** Asking \$600 OBO. Also  
assorted dive used dive gear available.  
Call 717-0161.

### Spin Bike For Sale. \$500

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

**FOR SALE DREMEL TOOL**, brand  
new in box  
110 volt - \$50 -- **call 788 7919**

### REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

**PRIVATE WATERFRONT PROP-  
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VIEW.** For sale by owner. For details e-  
mail [bonbini2@aol.com](mailto: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**

**FOR RENT: Luxurious apartment on  
Kaya Finlandia #7**, 2 bedrooms – 1  
bathroom, wireless sec., night guard, A/  
C, fully furnished. \$1,200 p/m, incl. ca-  
ble - internet, excl. water - electricity.  
Info: +599 700.72.02

**FOR RENT: Small furnished studio  
with roof terrace and porch** for one  
quiet person at Belnem 2 minutes from  
Bachelors Beach. Long term. No pets.  
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water, electricity, wifi and TV cable.  
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months notice. Rent \$325 a month.  
Phone 785-9900. House phone 717-2698  
[thereserosier@telbonet.an](mailto:thereserosier@telbonet.an)

**FOR SALE: 2½ bath Punt-Vierkant**,  
1500 sq. ft., sea view, community pool  
Cable and internet installed \$200K USD  
contact  
[37bonaire@gmail.com](mailto:37bonaire@gmail.com)



## Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

*Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time*

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 23	03:34	11:25	16:37	22:26		6:38	18:46
	0.80 ft	-0.23 ft	0.34 ft	-0.03 ft			
Tue 24	04:28	12:25	17:41	23:20		6:37	18:46
	0.86 ft	-0.28 ft	0.33 ft	-0.01 ft			
Wed 25	05:20	13:19	18:37			6:36	18:46
	0.88 ft	-0.30 ft	0.33 ft				
Thu 26		00:11	06:10	14:08	19:28	6:36	18:46
		-0.00 ft	0.88 ft	-0.30 ft	0.33 ft		
Fri 27	First Quarter	01:01	06:57	14:54	20:15	6:35	18:46
		0.01 ft	0.84 ft	-0.27 ft	0.33 ft		
Sat 28		01:49	07:43	15:38	21:00	6:34	18:46
		0.03 ft	0.79 ft	-0.22 ft	0.33 ft		
Sun 29		02:37	08:27	16:20	21:43	6:34	18:46
		0.05 ft	0.72 ft	-0.17 ft	0.34 ft		
Mon 30		03:25	09:11	16:58	22:25	6:33	18:46
		0.07 ft	0.63 ft	-0.10 ft	0.35 ft		
Tue 31		04:18	09:55	17:34	23:07	6:33	18:46
		0.10 ft	0.54 ft	-0.04 ft	0.36 ft		
Wed 01		05:18	10:43	18:08	23:49	6:32	18:47
		0.11 ft	0.45 ft	0.02 ft	0.39 ft		
Thu 02		06:30	11:40	18:38		6:31	18:47
		0.12 ft	0.37 ft	0.07 ft			
Fri 03	00:30	07:51	12:51	19:04	Full Moon	6:31	18:47
	0.42 ft	0.10 ft	0.29 ft	0.12 ft			
Sat 04	01:09	09:10	14:19	19:28		6:30	18:47
	0.46 ft	0.05 ft	0.24 ft	0.16 ft			
Sun 05	01:48	10:16	15:48	19:51		6:29	18:47
	0.51 ft	-0.01 ft	0.22 ft	0.18 ft			
Mon 06	02:26	11:07	16:58	20:19		6:29	18:47
	0.57 ft	-0.07 ft	0.21 ft	0.18 ft			

## Sudoku Puzzle

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## Free listing in this directory for regular Reporter advertisers

### 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.

### 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-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?**



### 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**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis DE TUIN on the road to Lac Bai. 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.

•**Divers' Night at Zazu Bar at Bistro de**

## Cruise Ship Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	CAPACITY	CRUISE LINE
Monday	23-03-15	<i>Carnival Pride</i>	2124	TBA
Monday	23-03-15	<i>Artania</i>	1200	Phoenix Cruises
Wednesday	25-03-15	<i>Noordam</i>	1920	HAL
Thursday	2-04-15	<i>Royal Princess</i>	3600	Princess
Wednesday	8-04-15	<i>Carnival Valor</i>	2984	TBA
Friday	17-04-15	<i>Serenade of the Seas</i>	2490	RCCL
Tuesday	21-04-15	<i>Carnival Valor</i>	2984	TBA
Sunday	26-04-15	<i>Maasdam</i>	1258	HAL
END	2014-15	<i>Cruise Season</i>		T

**Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina. Free house rum when you buy a coke.**

•**Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours at the Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and their efforts to protect this endangered species. Book your private tour for \$30 per person (minimum of 2) through Flow: [info@flowbonaire.com](mailto:info@flowbonaire.com) Phone +599 788 4636. Or come to the weekly tour on Wednesday 4.30 pm. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill and bring good shoes as it is 'off road'. We invite you to enjoy Bonaire's nature!

•**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](mailto: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 wel-

come. 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. De-brot. 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](mailto: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

**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 .

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Monday, March 23 - Free Seminar on Reef Fish Identification** at CIEE by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White. Start: 6:30-7pm, at CIEE, Kaya Gob. Debrot 26. All welcome. It's still free.

**Saturday, March 28—Monthly Cultural market at Mangazina Di Rei.** Traditional music and local produce on sale as well as great local dishes and drinks. 8am-2pm

**Sunday, March 29—37th Kontest di Fli (Kite Contest).** Fabulous, innovative, crazy kites, 8am-6pm *Veld di Baka* (sport field behind Kooijman's) Contestants from Bonaire and Curacao. Food and drinks – Sign up at the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi. More on page 8.

**Saturday, April 4—Kriabon Farmers Market** with lots of freshly grown produce of Bonaire as well as plants, seedlings and local drinks and snacks. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamrin School.

**Friday, Sunday and Monday, April 3, 5 and 6—Easter Holidays.**

**Easter Monday, April 6—Simadan**, festive harvest celebrations

**Saturday, April 11—Divers' Clean-up Dive.** Dive Friends Bonaire organizes the second quarterly Bonaire Underwater Clean Up Dive 2015.

**Thursday, April 30—Rincon Day.** Focus on Rincon with an array of local cuisines, local music and traditional dances. Our King and Queen will be there.

+++++

**July 2015 — Plan for Mindfulness Retreats** for the summer of 2015. The two sessions are July 25 through August 1 and August 1 through 8. The focus will be on daily guided meditations at various locations in Bonaire. Also yoga, nature hikes and one-on-one therapist session will be offered. For more information email [ann@bonairecaribbean.com](mailto:ann@bonairecaribbean.com)

**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. Nwndt .25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: [iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com)■



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
End of March 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Don't confide in any relatives whom you know have a tendency to meddle in other people's affairs. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. Fitness or weight loss programs will help your self esteem. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Escapist tendencies will result in a poor reputation and a lack of confidence. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues. Don't overreact to someone's advances. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Do not over expand if you have your own business. Sit tight. Property investments should payoff. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Chronic health problems are likely to surface if you are keeping your problems locked up inside. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't be too quick to blame others for your bad mood. You might find group functions tiring. Take precautions while traveling; you don't have to get anywhere that fast. Changes regarding family members will set you off. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You must not allow them to force you to rush. Don't expect new acquaintances to be completely honest about themselves. Don't tell others of your plans. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for those who attend. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will find it easy to learn and excel. You will find the excitement gratifying. Travel and communications will not run as smoothly as you had hoped. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Work hard on improving your living quarters. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Try to be patient and understanding. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Someone you care about may not be too pleased with you. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your family may not be pleased with your decisions. You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Family may not want to get involved but an entrepreneur will. Attend seminars that will bring you in contact with the right people. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. Think twice before you speak. Only bite off what you can chew. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can make moves, but they won't be settling. They won't pay you back and you'll be upset. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) One-sided relationships are likely. Make some notes regarding the changes that you should make. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. The information that you gain can be used in every aspect of your life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## VENUS AND MARS DEPART—ABOUT THE PLEIADES

Next week we begin to bid farewell to the red planet as it gradually disappears into the glare of the sun.

And the planet **Venus** will be making a close approach to **The Pleiades**.

Just after sunset on Monday, April 6th, face west. Very low in the western sky, you'll find the red planet **Mars** among the stars of **Aries the Ram**. Mars is on its way to superior conjunction on June 14, but we'll lose sight of it long before then because the **Sun** will be between us and Mars. The intense glare of the Sun will begin to wash out Mars in just a few more weeks. Mars won't reappear again until mid-August in the pre-dawn sky.

Venus, on the other hand, went behind the Sun back in November 2014, so it's going to be in our evening sky for another four months. If you go outside just after sunset next week, you'll see the bright planet Venus among the stars of **Taurus the Bull**. To find Taurus, just use the three belt stars of **Orion** and draw a line from east to west and you'll land on the stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull. As the days pass, watch how Venus seems to get higher and higher in the sky. Finally on April 11th, Venus reaches its closest approach to the Pleiades.

Being the closest to the **Earth** and the brightest planet in the sky, Venus has inspired many people. The ancient Maya were fascinated by Venus. The Maya considered Venus to be sacred and coincidentally, the nine-month period of time that Venus spent in the evening sky matched the length of time it took for them to plant, tend and harvest corn.

After observing Venus for centuries, the Maya developed an incredibly accurate set of Venus tables that could predict where Venus would be in the sky for years. They even built an observatory for Venus. This observatory, named *El Caracol* (translated as the snail) is aligned perfectly so that an observer could see Venus through its windows at Venus' northern



Pleiades

and southernmost extremes in the sky.

The Pleiades is a cluster of stars that resembles a tiny version of the Little Dipper. Most people can see only six stars here with the naked eye, but if you have really good eyesight under ideal conditions you can see seven.

And with a pair of binoculars you can see several dozen. In reality, however, there are over 250 stars here, all much larger than our own Sun and burning much, much hotter. Cosmically speaking, they're not very distant, only 400 light years away, which means that we see the Pleiades not as they exist now, but as they existed 400 years ago, at about the same time Galileo trained a telescope on them and discovered them to be a family of dozens of Suns.

And finally, for you **Jupiter** fans, look high overhead just after sunset and you'll see the king of the planets, near the stars marking the head of **Leo the Lion**. Jupiter will form a nice triangle with the stars **Pollux** and **Procyon**. Pollux is the eastern-most bright star in the **Gemini twins**, and Procyon is the brightest star in the constellation **Canis Minor**, Orion's smaller hunting dog. As the weeks pass, you'll see Jupiter drifting closer and closer toward Leo the lion. But mark your calendars for the evening of June 30th. You'll get to see why the planets were called wandering stars. Venus, which appears very far away from Jupiter in the sky right now, will be very close to Jupiter on the evening of June 30th. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



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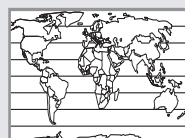
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# Pet of the Week



Laura DeSalvo  
photo

**Beautiful Classic Calico Yasmina**

Yasmina is an absolutely beautiful and classic calico cat. Her markings are very distinct and some of her "red" markings are almost peach in color. Yasmina is a quiet, affectionate cat who likes to play on her own. Her favorites include a purple ball and a bright green mouse....a cat with many colors who loves colors! She does not have a quirky personality...but she does have a quirk! At some point in her young lifetime, Yasmina's tail was broken about two inches from its

base. As a result, her tail has a distinct right angle and sticks out sideways as she walks instead of straight up in the air! It doesn't bother her at all and has no health consequences....in fact, she seems quite proud of her unique attribute.

Yasmina is less than two years old and has been at the Bonaire Animal Shelter for seven months. She loves affection and will gladly engage in a game of fetch with you or if you are busy, she'll entertain herself or take a nap. Yasmina would be a great match for someone who wants an "only" cat as she is "purr-fectly" happy with or without other feline friends. She is healthy, vaccinated and sterilized. As said many times before, adopting an adult cat has great advantages. Their personalities and physical attributes are fully developed....what you see is what you get! No questions as to how they will turn out once their grown, because they already are.

You can visit Yasmina and her shelter-mates at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday-Saturday, 8am-1pm and 3-5pm. Tel.717-4989.

They have a website: BonaireAnimalShelter and a Facebook page or check out the "catcam" at [www.bonairecatcam.com](http://www.bonairecatcam.com) and you might catch a glimpse of Yasmina!■

Jane Madden Disko



# Shelter News

## THE BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER SHOP

Offers great pet products like toys, collars, leashes and more for cats and dogs that generate extra revenue for our animal protection programs. Start shopping today and show your support. At the Animal Shelter Bonaire on Kaminda Lagun 26a.

## FLEA AND TICK AWARENESS

When you decide to adopt a pet don't forget to take steps to help protect them against fleas and ticks. Ticks and fleas survive in microclimates and can survive all temperatures on wild or feral animals, co-cooned as immature pupae, or inside houses and buildings. They feed and breed on animals; a female tick can lay hundreds to thousands of eggs at one time. Although it's practically impossible to keep fleas and ticks completely at bay there are some steps you can take to try and minimize the opportunities for contact with your pet.

**Alter the landscape around the home** to make it unsuitable for ticks and their hosts. For example, keep the weeds down, remove leaf litter and keep it clean. Contact a professional pest specialist if you have any questions regarding environmental treatments for ticks and fleas.

## Use a flea and tick control product

Despite your efforts to reduce the fleas and ticks in your yards pets may still be exposed to these parasites, so you should take measures to help protect them. Treat all dogs and cats in the household with a flea and tick control product. One untreated pet can lead to a flea infestation in the household. Brand products can help protect your dog from unexpected flea and tick sources by killing adult fleas, eggs and larvae and all stages of ticks. It not only stops existing



flea and tick infestations, but also prevents the establishment of new infestations.

**Consistency is key.** Even one missed dose of your monthly flea and tick control can set the stage for a flea infestation that takes months to resolve, or put your pet at greater risk of exposure to a tick-borne disease. So be sure you treat your pet now and continue monthly applications throughout the rest of the year.

Contact your professional veterinarian for all the information you need about flea and tick control or just call the Animal Shelter Bonaire (717-4989) for more information.■

Story & photo  
by Nathalie Petersen



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# Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire



On Sunday, March 8th, the Fishing Line Project, a division of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), organized their monthly clean up dive. Get together was at the Dive Inn location of Dive Friends Bonaire along the south boulevard.

This time it was Sue Willis who welcomed the 19 volunteers and Sneetje the dog. She informed the divers and non-divers about the threat of especially new fishing line. New fishing line is hard to notice for turtles and there is always the risk of getting trapped in loops created by the lost line. (Also for the divers who recover the fishing line.)

Willis instructed the divers about the buoyancy, the handling of the mesh bags, and the cutting of the line. Dragging line can do a lot of harm to the coral!

Thousands and thousands of meters of fishing line (and three times that much in

feet) cover the bottom of our underwater world. Sue informed the divers to go for new fishing line as, in the end, the life underwater takes over and covers a lot of line. This takes years. And a turtle has just a couple of minutes to reach the surface to grab some extra air...

This time the goal was the water under the South Pier. The government and the harbor officials had given permission. All engines from all docked ships were stopped. A one-hour, non-deco dive.

Volunteers ashore, divers in the water and two snorkeling sea nymphs: **Baukje Aarts**, from a very small village in the South of the Netherlands, stagiare at the STCB for four month and **Marlon Tax**, also from the very same small village in Holland, friend of Baukje and as a volunteer connected to the STCB. The two girls just got their open water dive license. They were trained and educated by **Lars Elstrodt**, dive instructor at Dive Friends

## DO YOU KNOW?

That leatherback sea turtles have a "third eye" that senses seasonal changes? If you're lucky enough to have seen a leatherback in person, you may have noticed the pink spot in the center of their forehead. This part of their skull is very thin, acts as a "skylight" that filters ambient light to the pineal gland in their cranium. It is believed that, based on the ambient light, this gland allows the turtles to sense seasonal change of day length that affect their migratory patterns. Leatherbacks migrate up to 18,000 km within a year from their feeding grounds to their breeding grounds, both in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

This gland allows them to sense when day length is growing shorter in the northern hemisphere, and migrate to warmer tropical waters. Leatherbacks have been sighted around Bonaire on occasion. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is a great resource to learn both about the leatherback and other sea turtles more commonly found on Bonaire. ■ *Hannah Rempel*



Photo Credit- Staff of the Anna Maria Island White Sand Beach

*Rempel is a Biology major from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon, USA. Last fall semester she studied at the CIEE Research Station on Bonaire. After graduating college, she plans to continue doing marine ecology research in the Caribbean.*



Bonaire, at the Yellow Submarine location.

As the girls did not have a lot of experience yet, especially not with fishing line recovery, handling with mesh bags, diving under the huge hull of a ship, they preferred the snorkeling.

Dive Friends Bonaire contributed with free air and the use of one of its locations.

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Story & Photo by Jan Brouwer



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