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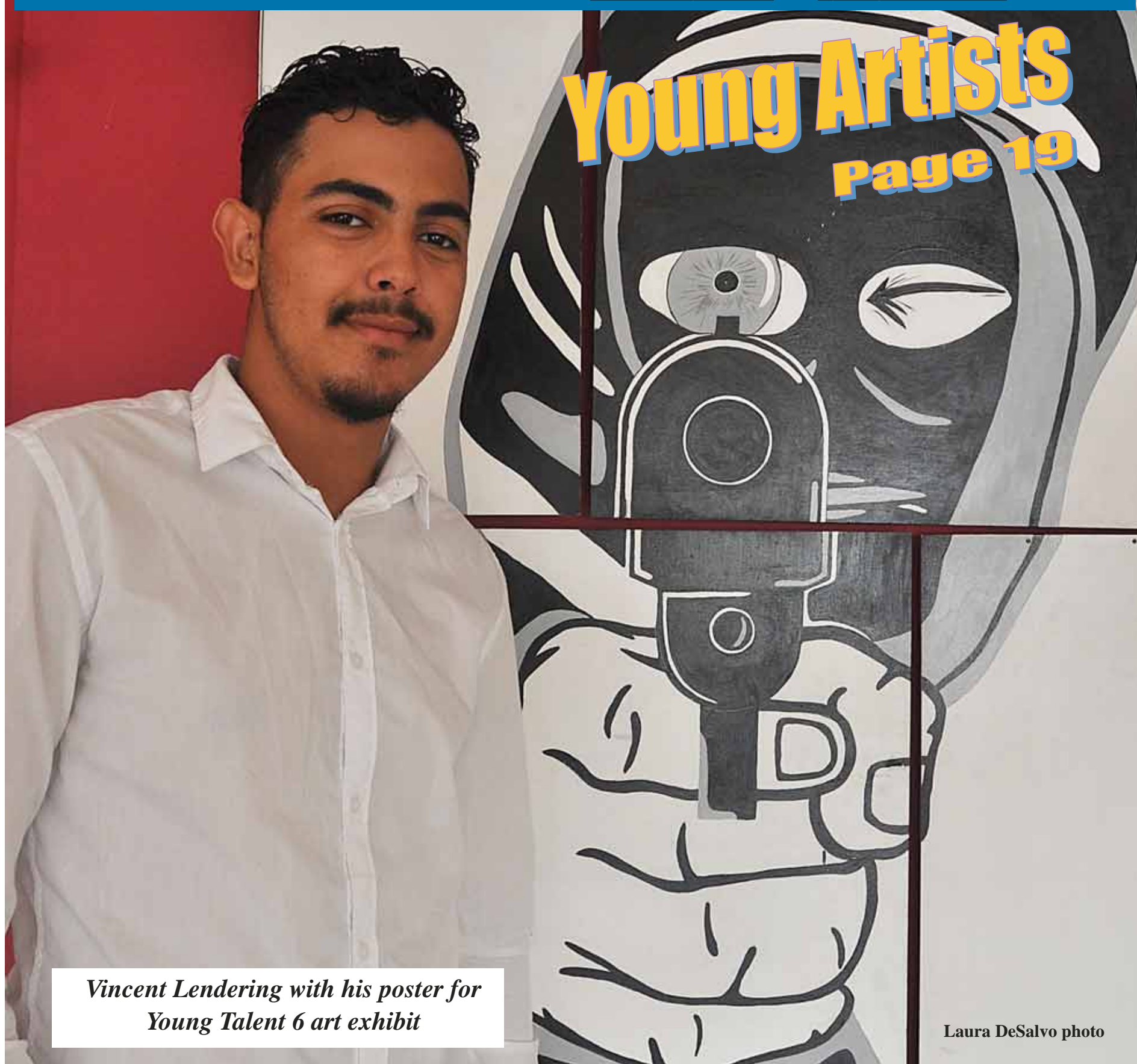
**BONAIRE**

June 22- July 6, 2015, Year 22, Issue 12

# 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

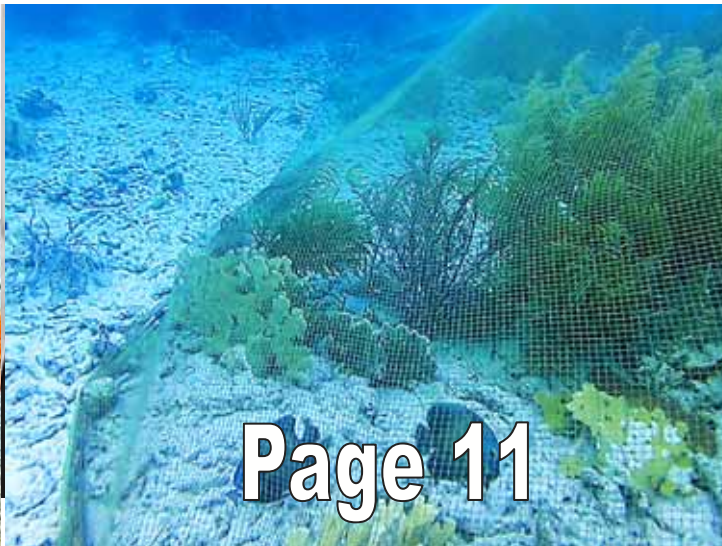


*Vincent Lendering with his poster for  
Young Talent 6 art exhibit*

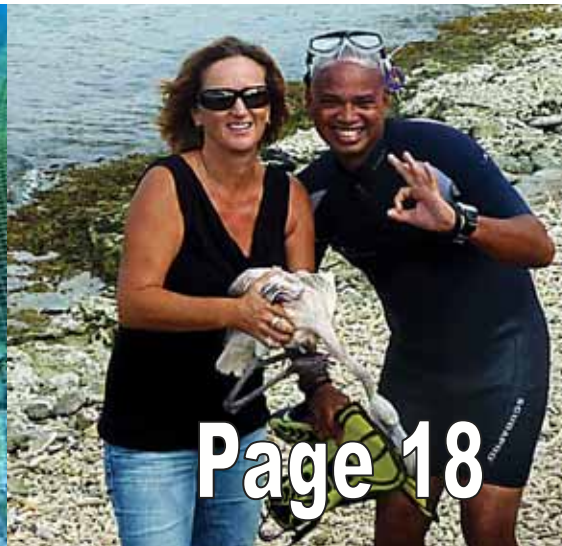
Laura DeSalvo photo



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NKBB agreement

The “Occupy Bonaire” action came to an end last Friday morning following 222 days of very visible action to request a new referendum to re-evaluate the constitutional status of the island of Bonaire. James Finies’ NKBB- *Nos Ke Boneiru Bek*- group set themselves up in front of the government offices last year with posters in three languages to inform locals and tourists of their viewpoint. Last week the new Bonaire government very publicly agreed with NKBB in a small ceremony at the protest site. The governor and two commissioners (photo) shook hands with Finies who commented, “The people want to have a referendum on the governing status of Bonaire so the people will have a referendum. My gratitude and appreciation goes to the wise patience and tolerance of the Governor and the practical wisdom of the members of the coalition for listening to the representatives of a majority of the locals and population of Bonaire.”

► **St. Eustatius, “Statia,” the BES island that voted to remain part of the Netherlands Antilles and not establish “closer ties with The Netherlands,” was essentially taken over administratively and financially by Holland earlier this month.** Island Governor Gerald Berkel sent a letter to Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk last Wednesday in protest of the Minister’s decision.

► **The independent evaluation committee investigating the consequences of the new constitutional structure of the Caribbean Netherlands made in 2010 will be on Bonaire this week.** Their research focuses on three topics: the functioning of the legislation, the functioning of the governmental structure and the consequences of the transition in 2010 for the populations of

Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The people of Bonaire are encouraged to cooperate in the evaluation by sharing their experiences with the evaluation committee. This is also possible until 1 August 2015 via the website of the committee: [www.evaluationcaribbean.net](http://www.evaluationcaribbean.net). The evaluation committee will offer its final results by 10 October 2015 at the latest. So far the activities of the committee are on schedule.

It is possible to meet the members of the evaluation committee. Everyone is welcome to share his or her experiences and to hear the progress of the investigation of members of the evaluation committee in person. **Thursday, June 25, from 18:30- 20:30, Sentro di Bario Antriol and Friday, June 26, from 17:30 to 19:30, Sentro di Baria Nort’i Saliña.** Snacks and drinks will be available.

► **Bonaire and Saba can look back on relatively successful Caribbean Netherlands Week meetings,** which promised more money to address improving the ports, airports and the communities on the islands. Even more important was the confirmation that the Dutch government to fulfill its agreement on structural funding.

“That fundamental agreement was a topic that has long been avoided,” said Bonaire Commissioner Abraham. Minister Ronald Plasterk of Kingdom Relations, confirmed that the Netherlands has yet to address the precise nature of that structural funding. Tens of millions of dollars have been promised for infrastructure, social benefits, airports and a harbor port.

► **Sint Eustatius withdrew from the above CN Week in reaction to the reaction of the Dutch Government.** The Sint Eustatius Island Government had been placed under direct Dutch Central Government supervision because of a budget deficit and other perceived problems with the local government.

► **Last Friday, June 19th, just before dawn, Bonaire was totally blacked out by a power failure.** Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB) started an investigation immediately to determine the cause of the power outage. At 10:48 am a most of the island was again provided with electricity but Republiek was not connected until around 2:30 pm. The power outage was caused by a short circuit in a high-voltage grid near the Republiek area according to WEB. Based on its performance WEB appears to be an appalling combination of inadequate supply, high prices, spotty customer service and faulty billing. Friday’s island-wide outage is another example. And this time WEB could not blame the rain.

► **On Monday, June 8, 2015, the Court of First In-**



Downtown waterfront

**stance of BES heard objections to the government plan aimed at opening up the Bonaire National Marine Park for development.** The plaintiffs, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and Bonaire National Parks Foundation (STINAPA) were represented by NautaDutilh, an international law firm. The defendant, the local government, the OLB, was represented by HBN Law. The plaintiffs contend that the government’s plan will have a negative impact on the marine ecosystem. It’s expected that a verdict will be announced within six weeks.



Chogogo Fast Ferry

► **There is a new interest to revive the idea of having a daily fast ferry connection that could carry people, autos and cargo between the ABC islands.** Minister Plasterk (Interior and Kingdom Relations), in his opening speech of the Kingdom Conference on Curaçao, said interconnection by sea would provide a significant boost to the economy of the islands. A feasibility study has already been commissioned by Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. Sea ferry service was the most common way to travel between islands in the last century, often by sail. However, with the advent of air travel, offering a

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (from page 2) fast, smooth passage, ferry service declined, then disappeared. For a time a Venezuelan ferry operation on inexpensive subsidized fuel was successful, then the passenger-only *Chogogo* Fast Ferry ran until maintenance and financial problems led to its demise. An attempt to put a large ex-North Sea ferry into service was thwarted by high tonnage-based port fees in Curacao.

A new ferry service will have to overcome competition from Insel Air and other airlines, the freight boat operators, the rough seas that make eastward passages very uncomfortable, the trade-wind-driven seas that pound the vessels and port and dockage fees. But the lure of the sea, potential cost savings and tradition may make it happen. "There has been much talk about the plan, but now is the time to work out a business case," said Bonaire Commissioner Clark Abraham.

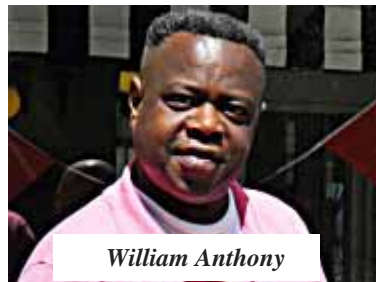
► In 2012 (the most recent figures available) the **direct contribution of tourism to the economy of Bonaire was 16.4%** according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). It is the first time that CBS has determined the contribution of tourism to the economy of Bonaire. It added that 126,000 tourists arrived in Bonaire that year (2012) by air. **That is about double the number that the Tourism Corporation (TCB) reported for 2012.**

The CBS said about 60% of all aircraft tourists on Bonaire were Dutch. Another 20% of the tourists who come by plane are American. In addition, there are also cruise ship tourists on Bonaire and tourists who come with their own boat. Direct tourist spending was \$160 million. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Bonaire was \$372 million.

► Bonaire's landline phone company, **TELBO, in association with Aruban partner SE-TAR, is back in the mobile phone business. It officially opened its mobile LTE network, Kla Mobile** and a new retail store last Friday making it the first operator of true fourth generation high speed cell phone service. There are now once again three options for cellular phone service on Bonaire., TELBO, UTS and Digicel. The event was marked by a large music event in the parking lot next to the TELBO building with performances by the Bonairean band Eso and the popular Aruban group Oreo.

**Long Term Evolution (LTE)** is the new standard in the field of mobile network technology offering a download speed up to 21 megabytes per second (Mb/s) in the first stage. **Check out the TELBO ad on page 11.**

► **The book *Musika Maestro* written by William Anthony has been just published in English.** In such a way the singer is



William Anthony

looking forward to a wider readership. The first Dutch edition was published in 2002 and updated in 2014. This third edition - first edition in English - is more extensive than previous publications and brings the artistic motivation into sharper focus, that of the life of a youthful Bonairean with much pizzazz. The common thread in the book is the will-power, optimism, and perseverance to perform socially acceptable actions in life, however small they may be. It provides a unique glimpse into Antillean life over the past half-century as well. Available at on line bookstores . E-Book: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/william-anthony/musika-maestro/ebook/product-22206165.html>

► **Florence Ditlow**, a long time resident of Bonaire, attended the 28th Annual Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic



(Continued on page 7)



Bonaire's medal-winning chefs

► The Bonaire Culinary Team scored big at the 2015 Taste of the Caribbean "Culinary Olympics" held in Miami, Florida, two weeks ago. They scored top prizes winning in several competitions and the coveted **gold for the National Team of the Year.** Congratulations to our local chefs and to Team Manager **Floris van Loo** for all of his time and dedication. Here are the results:

- Gold: **National Team of the Year**
- Gold: Overall winner: Beef/Seafood Competition - **Miguel Saragoza** (3 medals)
- Silver: Junior Chef - **Giovannie Veld**
- Silver: Chef of the year - **Channethon Jansen**
- Bronze: Pastry chef - **Junior Janga**
- Bronze: Bartender - **Jay Frans**
- Bronze: Cheesecake - **Ronald Gosepa**

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# On The Island Since... 2011 – Viviana Jozephia

“I was born on Curacao in 1954. My dad was from Bonaire, my mom from Curacao. We were 11 children. My dad worked all kinds of jobs, but during the last years of his life he worked for Shell, painting the very tall pipes at the refinery, a job not everyone can do, but he had no fear of heights. I had a great childhood in spite of the fact that I was the eldest and I had to help my mom and dad with the other children. I started cooking when I was nine. But almost every day when my dad came from work we all would go to sea to fish – that was so much fun! I also learned to thank God when there is nothing and when you share whatever there is, there will always be more.

In 1982 my dad fell from a mango tree and was paralyzed from the waist down. I went with him to Holland to see if they could do more for him there, but it was in vain. His situation was irreversible. My dad stayed in Holland, but I had to go back to Curacao because I had five children to take care of. After a couple of months my dad went on a hunger strike. He did not want to live anymore. We brought him back to Curacao, but he said, ‘If I cannot live the way I used to live, I don’t want to be around any longer.’ So he stopped eating and drinking and shortly after he passed away; he was 53 years old. That same year I left for Holland with my five children, I was 28. The same Antillean gentleman who had helped me when I came to Holland with my father the first time, helped us again. Through him we found a student flat, 4 x 4 meters (13 x 13 feet), where I slept with my five children. In the evening when he didn’t have to work, this gentleman took me walking to show me the schools and all the different government offices of the city of Haarlem where we lived. During the daytime I would follow the same route walking with my children and got them signed up for school and crèche. We got our papers and health insurance and I arranged for coats for the children. One week later they went to school.

In the beginning we lived from a government allowance, but once I had all my paper work sorted out I started looking for a job. It was a difficult start. I was obliged to retrain in order to be able to find work. I was also busy looking for another home for us and I was very lucky to meet these wonderful people, Mormons, who came to talk to me frequently. They offered me help, took the children to holiday camps and to the church, which gave me some space to arrange things. And it was also the Mormons who found us a five-bedroom house in Lelystad, a town in the midst of the polders. Coming from a tiny space, it was a mansion!

Lelystad was a new beginning. I went



Viviana looking gorgeous at 61!

on with my studies and got a work contract as a telecommunications technician – working and studying – which was great. Once a week I went to school and four days a week I worked under supervision. Two years later I got an independent job with PTT, a telecommunications company in a town called Naarden. It was a one and a half hour commute twice a day. The children were at school and after school care and my 13 year old daughter would pick them up and take them home, give them a simple snack and something to drink and play mom for a while until I came home, mostly around 7pm. Then I would cook for my children and we all ate together. Then they would go to bed and I would do laundry. Long days, but you get used to it. Besides going to school, all my children took music classes and the girls played softball – just like me – and my son played basketball. Where we lived it was easy. They could go there by bike. Also, I wanted them to be busy. I didn’t want them home alone with a lot of time to invent stupid things.

**“I also learned to thank God when there is nothing, and when you share whatever there is, there will always be more.”**

For years life went on like this. I took care of my kids and made sure they got a good education, but... I’ve always said that when they’d grown up I would do something fun for myself. In 2003 I came to Bonaire to do a market survey to find out what it was that youth on Bonaire needed to develop in a positive direction. I did it for myself because I wanted to come and live here and I wanted something to do, but my intention was also to improve the situation of the youngsters on the island. In 2004 I came back with a business plan to establish a sports complex. I had everything on paper and I had done training with Intent, a foundation in The Hague, which helped people who wanted to go back to their country of origin. So I had everything on paper and a bank guarantee, but the government had to give me land to build the sports complex. For one and a half years I went back and forth between all the relevant authorities and other organizations to get the



Viviana on her way to work in her greenhouse

land, but I didn’t succeed so I went back to Holland in 2005.

Of course I had to pick up my life in Holland again and build up my strength and financial back-up. The children had all left the house and I became a full-time baby sitter (*opas oma*) for my own grandchildren, a job which in those days was paid for by the government.

However, in 2003 I bought a kunuku on Bonaire so I was saving my money to eventually be able to return to Bonaire because I am a go-getter; I don’t give up. In 2011 I told my children ‘I’m going to retire nicely on Bonaire and do what I like!’

So I came and fixed the house and I made furniture out of pallets – which doesn’t cost anything but nails. I was one of the first people driving around with a pick-up full of pallets all the time, be-

son lives in Holland. All together I have 10 grandchildren. Every morning I get up early and take my daughter’s children to school, then I come back and water the plants. After a little breakfast I go to the greenhouse once more, not just because there’s a lot to do, but it’s another world: cool and shady and calm. I’m growing lots of sweet potatoes, tomatoes, spinach, broccoli, melon and watermelon. Recently I’ve planted papaya, mango and guava, but it is dry and the plants are suffering from the drought. Two years ago the land was totally covered in green with our corn plants but last year we couldn’t plant any; it was too dry. I also use stuff from nature to make handicrafts which I sell at the market at Tera Kora Ranch, every second and third Saturday of the month. I play softball at Jossy Boekhoudt’s Ballpark and I am on the same team as my daughters and sometimes I play better than they do. HaHaHa!

I’m working on making my dream come true and I’m getting there, little by little. Whatever I have, I invest in the kunuku. Luckily I am healthy/ I don’t smoke or drink and my motto is if you want to do something, you have to set your mind to it and the rest will follow.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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## Celebrating 60 Years of Service at Rocargo



Five employees celebrated their anniversary at Rocargo Services. Special congratulations were there for **Michel Boekhoudt**, supervisor of our relocation department. Michel celebrated his 25 years of employment with Rocargo. Michel joined Rocargo when he was 22 years old.

**David Rodriguez**, operations manager of our shipping department; **Shajeni Tokaay**, working in the department of container movements and insurance; and **Monique Stricks**, maintenance department, celebrated their 10 years of service. And **Shandal Thode**, in charge of the FedEx deliveries, celebrated five years of service. A total of 60 years of dedication to their jobs.

Robby and Marisela thanked all the jubilees for their dedication and work during the past years and recognized the important role that each of them have in Rocargo. Also the other staff were

thanked for their dedication and good service to customers and involvements in community activities.

Rocargo also celebrated the results of their annual ISO certification audit. ISO stands for International Standard Organization, an internationally recognized quality system. Again they achieved with the efforts of the entire staff and management the renewal of the ISO 9001: 2008 certificate without deviations.

Rocargo is a ship and freight handling company business and strives for continuous improvement where customer service is central. Rocargo became the first Bonaire company to become ISO 9002 certified in 2000. Rocargo is very proud and grateful to its employees. We residents of Bonaire wonder what would we ever do if we didn't have Rocargo to depend on. ■ *Rocargo release*

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Lucerne, Switzerland



Peter and Susan Baveling from Uithoorn, Holland, write, "We visited our dear Swiss friends, Inge and René Frey, in their hometown, Lucerne. We travelled from Holland in our open English car, the Morgan. We and Inge and René Frey have been regular visitors to Bonaire for more than 10 years. The Freys and we have our holiday homes at the beautiful El Pueblo. The picture is with our Morgan car. ■

*Inset photo of the couples at the famous wooden bridge in the center of Lucerne.*






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# Celebration 25 Years As A Man Of God



On June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm a crowd was gathered at the San Luis Beltran Church in Rincon. The reason for their coming: the celebration of 25 years as a priest for Pastor Ivan Dario Perez Gomez. The church was completely full of people: citizens from Rincon as well as invited people from Bonaire and a lot of other places. There were for example colleague-priests from Colombia, Surinam and Curacao. They had their places at the altar too and took part in the service. There were also pastors from other churches in Bonaire: Pastor Seintje and Pastor Ramiro Richards (Pentecostal church). The latter spoke and sang as part of the celebration, a very nice gesture which makes clear that the ecumenical way of thinking is present in Bonairean churches.

Pastor Ivan (as he is called by his community members) comes originally from Colombia. He became a priest in Curacao and since December 2009 he's worked in Rincon. He is one of 17 children of which two choose for the priesthood. His mother, who has uncountable grandchildren and grand-grandchildren, attended the service as well. She had travelled from Colombia together with a brother of the pastor to be present on this occasion. Quite extraordinary for a woman 87 years of age. Pastor Ivan mentioned all the love he felt for her and the hardship she must have had to have children leave for another land and culture.

Pastor Ivan is quite popular, and during the service it became clear why. He is an entertainer, does not stay on the altar but walks through the church with a microphone and asks people questions to have interaction. He mentioned that his choice to become a priest wasn't always easy

and made it clear he is as human as anyone else. The priest from Curacao had a surprise for him: he offered a paper message from the Pope to congratulate Pastor Ivan on the event.

During the two-hour service there was a lot of singing. The choir was impressive: a selection from the choir-members of the three Catholic churches of Bonaire (San Luis Beltran, Coromoto and San Bernardo) sang their hearts out.

Pastor Ivan is a man with a lot of energy. He wants to make a difference in Rincon and is concerned about all the problems he sees in the village. Every month food-parcels from the food-bank are delivered to his parish and he makes sure they are given to the people who need it most. He also offers classes and courses in his parish to give people a better chance. There are computer-courses offered as well as courses for fathers to become a good parent.

After the service there were snacks, drinks and a band playing in the open air in the square of the church: a wonderful sight under the moon, lots of people and nationalities and a beautiful church in the background!

After the celebration the pastor left for his homeland Colombia, but he will be back at the end of this month.

So go and visit this nice church in Rincon some time and meet the pastor. He will be glad to welcome you. ■

Story & photo by  
Justine Verschoor



# Helmets



## DN Wheels



Helmets growing responsibly  
in Hato

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> in a series of short Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Hato/Bonaire –

Luckily there are more and more helmets on Bonaire. And luckily more and more persons are wearing a helmet. As we all know arms and legs are replaceable by nice artificial ones made of aluminum, stainless steel and/or titanium. Unfortunately, heads cannot be replaced yet. They are working on it though.

T.E. Lawrence lost his life when he hit a tree during his last and fatal trip with his invincible British-made Brough Superior motorcycle. James Dean died in an accident with his Porsche sports car, Bertus on his Norton and Tinus on his BSA. They all passed away, not having worn a helmet.

Last week the driver of a white bugs control van stopped his vehicle. He saw me, being busy around the house and asked me about all those helmets in the

tree along the Kaya Gobernador Debrot. For years he wondered about the reason for all those helmets, growing from that tree. They were all hard hat helmets, used for safety in construction. I explained to him about my "mission" to inform and to convince the public about the advantages of wearing a helmet during dangerous labor, on a motorcycle, a moped or scooter, a bicycle or on a long board, during kite surfing. Then the guy understood. We both agreed we did not need more rules, but we had to focus attention on responsibility. Every person carries his or her own responsibility. As long as your head is attached to your body, try to think this over.

When the front door of the private house along the Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot in Hato is open, the owner is at home and there is always a small stock and a variety of helmets to take away for free. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



## Remembering....

Leo van Olphen who passed away recently in Bonaire. He was born in 1935 in The Netherlands and lived with his wife, Barbara van Olphen on Bonaire since 1995.

Leo loved snorkeling, traveling, good food and wine and playing Scrabble with his sister Francine.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, two sons, Thomas and Hugo, and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Beppy, and daughter, Heike.

Leo was beloved by lots of friends and his family. ■



# The Bonaire Reporter Read It. You Need It!



# What Is Spinning?



Spinning session at Bon Bida Spa and Gym earlier this year

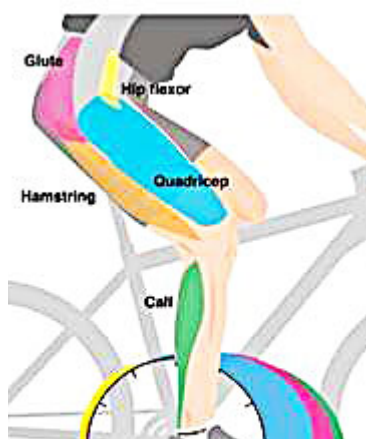
**S**pinning, an indoor group cycling workout class, can benefit people of all ages and fitness levels ..

I've seen it myself and in my students. Spinning is a studio cycling workout and is one of the most intense exercise classes available on Bonaire. The factor that makes spinning the choice of people wanting to stay fit is that the rider being able to tailor the workout to their ability by adjusting their own bike. The workouts are great fun and done to music, so with a good instructor, the time flies by! The sessions are 50-55 minutes, because if they were any longer you would be crawling out of that room.

**If you think spinning isn't for you or tried it somewhere else and didn't like it, here are six reasons that might change your mind:**

**Burn More Calories:** I may be into fitness, but like everyone else, I have trouble motivating myself. I'm most likely to choose light, comfortable or moderate exercise vs. challenging myself. If I head toward the machines at the gym, I'm more likely to breeze through a so-so workout with my mind elsewhere. That is why I love spinning so much: It makes me focus and push myself. If I were left to my own devices, sure I'd work out; but I'd go easier on myself and put less time in. Spinning classes, like most good fitness classes, help motivate me to work harder and get a better workout. And for most people spinning class gets better results and higher calorie burn than I know I'd do on my own.

**Give Your Joints a Break:** Spinning is a low-impact cardio exercise, which means it's easier on your joints, including your knees and ankles, than many other forms of cardio. Many people who are rehabilitating injuries or recovering from surgeries are advised to try low-impact forms of exercise (like biking or spin-



Muscles exercised  
Joints unstressed

ning) in lieu of jarring activities like running. If you have an upper body injury, you can still ride the bike and get a good workout.



Spinning is for everyone

**Stay in Control:** How many group workouts have you ever tried that can easily seamlessly accommodate beginners, people with injuries, hardcore exercisers, young and old, and advanced exercisers in a single room? Not many, I'm sure. That is the beauty of spinning: It's something everyone can do. You should think of your spinning instructor as a friendly guide for your workout. He or she usually has a general plan in terms of movements, intensity changes

and pace, but really, YOU are the one in control. You decide how much resistance to add, how fast to pedal, and how hard to work. This means that people of all fitness levels can take the same class and all get a great workout. I encourage my students to listen to their bodies, monitor how they're feeling, and to go easier or harder than I dictate, if they choose. My classes have included teens, seniors, beginners, triathletes, people with joint injuries--you name it. We're all there and we're all getting a great workout!

**Enjoy the Great Indoors:**



Many people love biking—and the benefits it provides as a great cardio workout with low-impact on the joints—but don't love biking in traffic on Bonaire's bumpy streets. Spinning will provide the same benefits without the uneasiness of cycling in an area that's unfriendly to bikes.

**It Doesn't Cost Much:** A spinning class costs \$10 (or less in a "package") and is included in your membership fee at Bon Bida Spa and Gym. If you'd like to try it, Bon Bida will allow you to try a class for free. If you commit to spinning or join the gym you don't need any special equipment or attire to get started. Sure, a padded gel seat (\$15) might ease the discomfort you feel in the beginning (yes, it does pass with time), and cycling shoes (\$80 and up) could help you get more out of your workout, but you really don't need anything except a water bottle and a hand towel.



Miss Bonaire 2010, Benazir Berends-Charles, spinning at Bon Bida

**Feel the Energy:** I think that people either love spinning or hate it. When you're at a class, chances are that everyone there loves it (otherwise, they wouldn't be there). That creates a positive, high-energy atmosphere that can motivate you to push yourself and make you feel good about working out. It makes the whole workout experience more fun—and helps you feel connected with the people around you, like you're all in it together. But at the same time, spinning is non-competitive. You don't have to feel self-conscious for "modifying" the workout—probably no one even notices if you're going slower or choose to sit instead of standing. And if anything, they're secretly rooting you on.

If I haven't convinced you to try a class, simply show up at Bon Bida, it's the only gym in town offering spinning, and look in on a class in session. Classes are held Monday at 10 am, Wednesday at 9 am and 7 pm and Saturday at 9 am. You can watch a class in action or even better; talk with me, the instructor, and learn more. Perhaps you can join the class. ■ *George DeSalvo*



George DeSalvo is a certified Spinning® instructor and publisher of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)*

Humor (AATH) in Philadelphia, PA, May 28-31. This year's theme, "Stayin' Alive: Keeping Your Brain Healthy and Active with Humor," focused on the latest research in the field of neuroscience and its relationship to therapeutic humor and well-being. About 110 guests representing the fields of healthcare, education, business and more from around the world took part.

► There is a rumor that beginning next month there will be **direct flights by a small airline company between Bonaire and the Caracas' International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela.** There haven't been scheduled Bonaire Caracas flights for more than 10 years.

► Bonaire now has **four monthly Farmers Markets** where you can buy local produce, jams, jellies, juices, plants, food and more.

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

**Second and Third Saturdays of the month – Tera Kora Ranch Market** – past the ball field on the road to Sorobon.

As well as the above they have clothes, games for kids and second hand items, 9am-3pm

**Last Saturday of the month – is the Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei** – traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations – 8am-2pm. On the road to Rincon, south of the entrance to Rincon.

There is also a plan for a **weekly market** at Jong Bonaire



► Celebration of the **festival of San Juan** will be celebrated on June 23 and 24 in Rincon at the Rose Inn at 8 pm. The event is sponsored by Grupo Sonoro Rinconero. Fire jumping is often included.

► **Head to Rum Runners restaurant at Captain Don's habitat on SATURDAY, July 4th** for the celebration of the birthday of the USA for a BBQ Buffet and Fireworks. It's an annual event. Details on page 8. ■ *LD/G.D.*



# St. James' Mi Dushi Tour

On the beautiful Sunday of June 7th 2015, members of the Saint James School of Medicine journeyed throughout Bonaire on an island tour meant to enrich the minds of the students and get them more acquainted with the island. This tour was hosted by the school's Multi-Cultural Student Association (MCSA) Club from 10am-3pm. Driven by school bus driver, Gino, the list of sites visited includes the beautiful Salt Flats, the historical Slave Huts, the appreciated Lighthouse, the gorgeous Sorobon, the splendid 1000 Steps, the attractive Gotomeer Lake, the cherished Rincon and the magnificent Seru Langu, where you can see the capital city of Kralendijk and the little island of Klein Bonaire.

In Rincon, the group passed by the Cadushy Distillery where some anticipate future experiences to participate in samples of the famous cactus delights. The popular Mangazina Di Rei was a site to see as the second-oldest stone building on Bonaire. Standing at about 1.5km east of Rincon, this museum was looked upon with great expectations by the whole group in its beautiful, timeless setting. After a well spent day of excitement and many pictures, the group was treated to drinks by their Dean of Basic Sciences, Dr. Torik Ayoubi. The tour ended in Kralendijk.



The central purpose of the island tour was to adopt one of the main visions of the MCSA club, which seeks to incorporate the culture of Bonaire into the SJSM campus. MCSA's vision embodies a Tri-culture. It takes into consideration that we all come from different cultures and backgrounds and this group celebrates just that. The tri-culture mentioned includes every student's culture, the culture of medicine and of course the culture of Bonaire.

The activities presented within this club encourage interactions within the student body and serves as a way to embrace exposure to different cultural perspectives. The "Bonaire Mi Dushi" Island Tour, as it was dubbed, was a great way of exposure to the beauties of the island of Bonaire. It has surely increased appreciation by these medical students as they look upon the island with new light and a sense of island pride that will go with them even unto their future careers. ■ Shannon Powell

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# A Garden? Just Do It!

As we've all noticed, the weather continues to be dry and windy with not a drop of rain. Plant lovers are desperate because a lot of their plants have died. I get a lot of questions these days about which trees can stand this weather and still stay green.

So I thought, let me write about this matter. Of course there are more trees here which stay green, but I decided to talk about two popular trees on Bonaire: one we like and one we don't notice as much although it's such a nice tree.

## SOURSOP



The Soursop is known on Bonaire as the *sorsaka* (Papiamentu). Its a fruit of *Annona muricata*, a broadleaf, flowering evergreen tree native to the Caribbean, Central and South America, Asia, the Pacific and Eastern Nigeria.

It's in the same family as the papaya. Other common names are *guanabana* (Spanish), *zuurzak* (Dutch), *sirsak* (Indonesian), *graviola* (Brazilian Portuguese), *mtomoko* (Swahili), *corosol* (French), *Coracao de boi* (Mozambique), *sonsakka* (Surinamese).

This tree grows easily here and bears fruit about once a year. It needs water but can stand this dry weather very well. After awhile it drops its leaves, then gets fresh new ones again. Sometimes if it's not growing well it should be trimmed.

Raw Soursop contains: sugar, dietary fiber, fat (0,3 gr per 100 gr), protein, vitamins like Thiamine(B1), Riboflavin(B2), Niacin(B3), Panthothenic acid(B5), vitamin B6, cholene and vitamin C. Trace metals are: calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, zinc.

The pulp is used to make fruit nectar, smoothies, fruit juices, candies, sorbets, and ice cream flavorings. In the Americas it's a common fruit to use for desserts as an only ingredient or as an aqua fresco beverage or for juices mixed with milk.

In the Philippines they use the leaves to tenderize meat. Tea made from the leaves is very helpful for a good night's sleep. Also a few leaves in your pillow can help for a sweet sleep.

The white flower has a very pleasant scent, especially in the morning.

Usually the fruits are taken from the tree when they mature and left to ripen in a dark corner, to be eaten when they are fully ripe.

Many sites on the internet advertise and promote *graviola* (*sorsaka*) capsules as a cancer cure, but, according to Cancer Research UK, "none of them are supported by any reputable scientific cancer organization and there is no evidence to show that *graviola* works as a cure for cancer." And consequently they do not support its use as a treatment for cancer because there is no medical evidence that

it is effective.

There are also scientists who say that eating too much of this fruit can make some people ill.

## SEA GRAPES



Sea grapes or *coccoloba wifera* is a species of flowering plant in the buckwheat family native to coastal beaches throughout tropical America and the Caribbean. The common names are sea grapes or bay grapes.

Sea grapes grow easily on Bonaire. As an evergreen plant it's wind resistant and highly tolerant of salt. So it's a great tree for your yard when you live close to the beach where other plants can hardly live. Also iguanas have no interest in this tree. With its wide branches it gives a nice shade in your yard.

Sea grape is a dioecious species. That is, male and female flowers are born on separate plants, and cross pollination is necessary for fruit to develop.

The plant is often used in landscaping as it is a popular ornamental plant as well as a dune stabilizer and coastal wind-

break and also for its shade.

Tall sea grape plants are used to make a light barrier along coastlines to protect sea turtles.

The reddish fruits may eaten raw, cooked into jellies and jams or fermented into sea grape wine. The wine may also fermented into sea grape vinegar which is also useful in cooking. The sap of the plant is used in the West Indies and Jamaica for dyeing and tanning leather. The leaves are used to make nice bouquets in hotels, restaurants and offices. They stay green a long while, and with some small flowers like the tuturutu or hibiscus in a glass you can have a nice bouquet on your porch table.

Here on Bonaire we have a lot of these trees growing in the wild, but we don't do much with this fruit even though we can make so much of it. But children (and the birds) love it, and when there is a tree full of ripe purple grapes you will see children picking them and enjoying the nice taste.

Well done, children. Keep on showing us this good habit and teach the grown ups to eat and enjoy nature's good stuff. Oh, yes, and when you have a bucket full of grapes, ask your mom to make a nice jam or juice for you. You will love this great fruit even more. ■

Story & photos by  
Angliet,  
Nature Lover



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# Bonaire's Great "Bait Ball" of 2015 and the Lion Killing Maasai of East Africa



"With ochre smeared on his cheeks, a javelin in his right hand and an intense gaze in his eyes, 18-year-old Maasai Tipape Lekatoo looks ready to hunt lions lurking in the shadow of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro. But as Lekatoo hurled the javelin deep into the veldt, there was no risk of impaling a lion. Instead, his aim was to win a gold medal at the 'Maasai Olympics', a biennial event focused on ending Maasais' enduring cultural tradition of killing lions."

On the African Great Plains below Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya, the Maasai tribes of East Africa have hunted lions ruthlessly for hundreds of years. There were many reasons for this killing. It was done as a rite of passage for young boys to become men; to win the affection of Maasai women; and to protect their livelihood by avenging attacks on cattle.

Unfortunately, due to such aggressive hunts, the lion population dropped from 250,000 four decades ago to only 35,000 by 2015 and in some areas to as low as 2,000.



The beautiful bait ball

If their numbers had dropped any lower, the lion population would not be sustainable. Lions would be extinct. A loss of the species would not only end important Maasai traditions but also the economic value that came from tourists who enjoy the great cats of East Africa, and on which the region so much depends.

**Now let's come to Bonaire.**

Over a few weeks of April and early May, a massive and beautiful bait ball of masbango and other fish formed in front of Bachelor's

Beach. Feasting on this delight, tarpons, pelicans, seagulls, and others came in full force, dancing, diving, and otherwise enjoying the bait. They were joined by amazed tourists and locals. Scuba divers and snorkelers came with friends and children, to witness this natural beauty. Even though bait balls are regular occurrences in many parts of the Caribbean, many had never seen anything like it recently, and others had only seen it a few times in their decade of coming to Bonaire. All rejoiced in this festival, since this meant that the reef was doing well, and the much prized dolphin sightings would



Pelican above bait ball

increase, as their favorite food was back in stock.

For days, everyone watched, swam with, and filmed the bait ball. The beautiful orchestral maneuvers in the light and dark blue seas of Bonaire's Marine Park continued from one sunrise to another. To show off its skill, the ball of fish convulsed in fractal formations, as if being conducted by God's hand itself. The bright sun of Bonaire bounced off the shimmering skin of the dancing fish, reflecting in multiple angles the arced beams of light. As predators darted in and out of the bait ball, it split and re-joined seamlessly around the underwater predator, trying also to avoid the smashing diving runs of the aerial ones. It was pure magic and one of the very best experiences of what Bonaire's Marine Park has to offer.

The gushing joy was palpable as admirers spoke about how this was the beauty that made them love Bonaire so much, and why

(Continued on page 11)

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**The huge net spread out by commercial fisherman**

**Bait Ball of 2015** (Continued from page 10)

they lived here or returned so often. Pride was expressed in the preservation values of Bonaire's Marine Park that created conditions for this spectacle to occur. This pride was shared with friends around the world, who watched "Bonaire's Great Bait Ball of 2015" performance on YouTube and other social media, just wishing that they too were on Bonaire.

And then, the unthinkable happened.

A few rumbling cars screeched to a halt under the palapas of Bachelor's Beach. From within them, swarmed a number of hands with massive set of nets the size of a few football fields. In focused moves, 8-10 operators descended on the sandy white beach. And with a boat on the water, started

laying down a trap for the bait ball. The net spread from the shores of Bachelor's Beach out to the buoy in the dark blue, across to the right for a while, and back again to the Beach. This massive net took hours to lay out in a coordinate set of maneuvers. It was not the traditional net cast by one or two hard working fisherman from a boat to feed themselves and their family. It was a near industrial size operation, set up to entrap the bait ball and take all of it away, in one fell swoop.

Witnesses watched with horror. Shocked residents, tourists, and even other fisherman reached out for help in any direction they could. Phone calls and cries streamed into STINAPA, police, coast guard, the Dutch Authorities. In short, pleas went out for anyone to step in and stop what appeared



**Net lying on top of broken coral with Queen Angel fish trapped**

to be a great tragedy unfolding. The net had been left overnight, draped over the coral – essentially unattended – so turtles and reef fish, and the underwater coral assets of Bonaire, were all at risk.

Nearly 20 hours after the alarms went out, a lonely assistant STINAPA ranger did show up. He declared the fishing legal. Later, to their credit, additional STINAPA divers came and helped adjust the net to restrict coral damage.

According to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), a turtle in stress can die in a few minutes if caught in a net. And this was a time of year when it is the mating season for loggerhead

(endangered) and hawksbill (critically endangered) turtles. Vast nets that reach the beach floor and are dragged back in – as this one was - can break the coral. In fact, incriminating photos taken by divers showed that a turtle was in the vicinity of the nets, queen angel fish were under the net, and coral was damaged.

Let us be clear. No one is calling for complete elimination of fishing from the Marine Reserve. There is mutual interest in sustainable fishing and no one is against legitimate livelihood of fisherman. Unfortunately, the discourse is not mature. And this has to change. The group capturing the bait ball was angry

and offended that "outsiders" were creating an intrusion into their livelihoods and traditions. To observers asking questions, they used foul language and even threatened violence. This continued online with frustrated comments being made, even by an individual STINAPA employee!

As calm thinkers will realize, the issue of fishing in the Marine Park – especially with large industrial sized nets -- is not about "us" and "them." Bonaire's bounty should be for all to enjoy in a sustainable manner. Fishermen are as entitled to enjoy the seas as others. And if overfishing is done, the fish don't care if it is by tourists or Bonaireans. Abuse of our nature is not in the long term interest of either visitors or locals, or the reef, which is why some fishermen have also complained to STINAPA about the net hunts.

Like the threat to lions of the Serengeti, if the reef is harmed, it will affect the livelihood of fisherman, and the lives of many many more that depend on the Marine Park and its visitors for their livelihoods. Like fishermen, divers and snorkelers are very interested in preserving the beauty of Bonaire, and, importantly, through their fees pay for the preservation of the Park, and for a substantial part of the income of STINAPA. Their travels and stay on Bonaire sustain

(Continued on page 12)

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*Bait Ball 2015 (Continued from page 11)*  
our merchants, restaurants, dive shops, hotels, car rental companies and even the airport. Finding out a responsible way to manage the Marine Park is in everyone's interest.

What can we learn from the wise elders and chiefs of the Maasai? While lions are not masbango, the Maasai made dramatic adjustments to their lifestyles and traditions to preserve nature. Once they realized the implications, the Maasai saw the threat to the lions as also a threat to their way of life. To prevent specie collapse -- with the help of thoughtful outsiders -- they examined their traditions and devised sustainable ways of living with their environment. After reflection and consultation, the Maasai took the dramatic step of reversing hundreds of years of tradition and forbid warriors from hunting lions. Community leaders, such as David Rudisha, Kenya's Olympic 800 meters champion and the world's most famous Maasai, spoke out against the lion hunt. Through concerted efforts, these modern-day warriors reinvented their traditions to help save the lions they once prided themselves on killing. The lion hunt was replaced, with the "Maasai Olympics," and by a Predator Compensation Fund. Moreover, it is rumored that some of the most powerful park rangers in the Serengeti protecting the lions from poachers, are now from the Maasai tribe. Those who killed are now the guardians. Sustainability and peaceful co-existence has returned to the plains of Africa.

Like the elders of the community of Maasai, the elders of Bonaire need to

figure out -- with thoughtful outsiders -- how the reef can be preserved for fisherman, divers, other tourists, and all lovers of Bonaire's unique treasures. Creative incentives -- including a possible "Marine Park Fund" -- can be constructed directly by divers, sailors and others, to protect those truly harmed by traditional practices that now need to be modified. In fact, mechanisms should be created so that fisherman and other Bonairean locals end up becoming as powerful protectors of Bonaire's reef as "outsiders."

The world is a small place. Our little piece of paradise is even smaller. Thoughtfulness with each other, and with other species, is important for the survival of all. An honest and respectful discussion is a first step towards finding solutions. Let's have that discussion, get some questions answered, remembering that we are all in this together.

Sustainability and peaceful co-existence need to return to the waters of Bonaire. ■  
*Adnan Hassan*

Adnan Hassan is a resident of Bonaire, married into some of the oldest families on the island. All his children go to school on the island and are proud of the Bonairean part of their rich heritage. He is a former senior official of the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., and served on the Board of Directors. He is a global advisor, author, entrepreneur and financier, who has been coming to Bonaire for over 17 years. Mr. Hassan can be reached at [ceomecasa@gmail.com](mailto:ceomecasa@gmail.com)



### Ten Questions For Bonaire's Policy Makers

- 1. Policy Making:** Who determines policy that balances the best interest of the fisherman, with sustainable harvesting of fish, especially in areas close to shore, where juvenile fish find shelter and grow?
- 2. Net Size:** Is there a size limit on the casting/dragging nets? If yes, what size? If not, then can a commercial boat (say from Curacao or Japan) come over and harvest with a net 10 times the size of the one used at Bachelor's Beach?
- 3. Unattended Nets:** If someone must be present at all times at the net, does the person need to remain on a boat from where the net was cast, or can they return on shore, once the net is in place?
- 4. Net Monitoring:** How are nets monitored?
- 5. Two Hour and Night Monitoring:** If the fisherman has to swim every two hours around the net to examine it, how can this be done diligently at night? If it can't, can these nets be left overnight? And given that a stressed turtle can die in a few minutes if strangled by a net, is the two hour monitoring limit too long (even if it was judiciously applied)?
- 6. Incident Self-Reporting:** If a turtle dies and is discarded by the fisherman, how do Authorities find out? Is there a conflict-of-interest in expecting a potential culprit to self report their crime, especially if the reporting will result in a confiscation of the fisherman's net? Does anyone check that the fishermen are following the rules, or do we rely on their self-regulation?
- 7. Ultimate Accountability:** Given that the Marine Park and its beauty is such an integral part of Bonaire's economic viability, what role does the tourism industry, STINAPA and the government in Bonaire and The Netherlands play to protect this vital asset? Who is ultimately accountable?
- 8. Reliable Data:** Does anyone have research data on exactly what is happening with fish stock around Bonaire? Not just with "masbango" but with other fishes that may even be served in our restaurants?
- 9. Continued Research:** How can reliable research be conducted on the health of the Marine Park, to get data, and engage world specialists to protect it?
- 10. Next Steps:** Who is responsible for driving the agenda? Island Council, Dutch Authorities, Civil Society Organizations, STINAPA?

Reference: 'Maasai Olympics' replace lion killings in Kenya,' by Drazen Jorgi <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/13/us-kenya-athletics-idUSKBN0JR0KX20141213>

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# Special Olympics Bonaire Prepares For LA

**B**onaire is fielding teams in swimming, track and bowling for participation, for the fifth time, in the Special Olympics World Games. The Games return to the USA this time, to Los Angeles California. Thanks to fundraising events like the Walkathon, donations from individuals and businesses and government support, Bonaire is sending a team of 12 athletes, plus coaches and officials to Los Angeles next month. The *Bonaire Reporter* will accompany the team and provide reports from the events. Special Olympics will have in-depth coverage beamed to the world by ESPN as well.

The Opening Ceremony of the 2015 World Games will take place on Saturday evening, 25 July 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The centerpiece will be the

Parade of Athletes, representing the largest gathering of nations ever in Los Angeles. The current record of 140 nations present for a single event is expected to be exceeded since 170 nations are expected to participate.

Prior to the games the Bonaire team will be hosted by the California town of Glendale to allow the athletes to acclimate to the US.

Under head coach Chio Semeleer and his assistants the teams have been preparing for months at the Kralendijk Stadium, the FKPD bolas courts and in the sea with the Bonaire Barracudas swim team.

Through the power of sports, Special Olympics helps people with intellectual disabilities feel welcome in their communities and develop a profound belief in themselves. One of the best ways to explain how we help

our athletes is to share the words of Ana DeMello, mother of Special Olympics gymnast Lani DeMello: "When you have a child with an intellectual disability, you think your world is going to be closed. Special Olympics has opened a whole new world for Lani and given her opportunities that we never dreamed would be possible for our daughter."

Donations to our Special Olympics team are appreciated. Contact Arlene Marselia-Engelhart by email: [moshar07@hotmail.com](mailto:moshar07@hotmail.com)

There will be more Special Olympics coverage in upcoming editions of *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■ G.D.



*Special Olympics is world-wide. Pope Francis Special Olympics embraces a member of the Italian Olympics team in Rome*

## Roster of Bonaire's Special Olympics Athletes representing Bonaire in the Los Angeles World Games:

Event	Name	Date of Birth	Experience
<b>Swimming</b>			
25 meter Freestyle	Josafat Isaias Cicilia	02-27-1995	First Time participant in the World Games
25 meter Breaststroke 50 meter Breaststroke	Nataniel Raphael Tielman	02-12-1997	First Time participant in the World Games
25 meter Breaststroke 50 meter Freestyle	Nina Maria Braeken	12-17-1990	First Time participant in the World Games
25 meter Freestyle 50 meter Breaststroke	Suraya Hendriks	06-04-1994	First Time participant in the World Games
<b>Track</b>			
50 meter Sprint 100 meter Sprint	Patrick Francisco Bernabela	07-13-1970	Four time participant: Games in North Carolina, Ireland, and Shanghai,
25 meter Sprint 50 meter Sprint.	Marcelino Danimar Josefa	01-10-1987	Second time participant: Previous Greece
3 Kg Shotput Softball throw	Swinda Maria Offerman	09-18-1966	Third time participant: North Carolina and Ireland
3 Kg Shotput Softball throw	Natiana Gregoria Nicolina	02-26-1985	Second time participant: Shanghai
<b>Lawn Bowling</b>			
Bocce Doubles Bolas Team	Omar Rigoberto Leonicia	05-02-1976	Third time participant: Shanghai and Greece
Bocce Doubles Bolas Team	Dionysius Anatole Reina	12-10-1986	First Time participant in the World Games
Bocce Doubles Bocce Team	Lucille Demetria Pikerie	06-20-1966	Third time participant: North Carolina and Ireland
Bocce Doubles Bocce Team	Hellen Teodula Agostien	09-12-1963	Third time participant: North Carolina and Ireland



**Bowling**



**Swimming**



**Track**

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Bonaire Reporter- June 22- July 6, 2015



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sung Refrigerator - \$150 Midea Micro-  
wave with Grill - \$150 Dog/Pet Porter  
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**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 22		00:01 0.31 ft	<b>04:51</b> <b>0.61 ft</b>	12:58 -0.21 ft	19:25 0.53 ft	6:12	19:02
Tue 23		01:13 0.29 ft	<b>05:32</b> <b>0.52 ft</b>	13:21 -0.17 ft	19:49 0.60 ft	6:12	19:03
Wed 24	<b>First Quarter</b>	02:21 0.25 ft	06:13 0.43 ft	13:40 -0.14 ft	20:15 0.67 ft	6:13	19:03
Thu 25		03:25 0.19 ft	06:57 0.34 ft	13:59 -0.11 ft	20:41 0.74 ft	6:13	19:03
Fri 26		04:27 0.13 ft	07:44 0.25 ft	14:16 -0.08 ft	21:10 0.80 ft	6:13	19:03
Sat 27		05:28 0.07 ft	08:36 0.17 ft	14:32 -0.05 ft	21:40 0.86 ft	6:13	19:03
Sun 28		06:28 0.00 ft	09:36 0.09 ft	14:46 -0.04 ft	22:14 0.92 ft	6:14	19:03
Mon 29		07:24 -0.06 ft	10:51 0.04 ft	15:01 -0.02 ft	22:51 0.96 ft	6:14	19:04
Tue 30		08:14 -0.12 ft	12:28 0.01 ft	15:12 -0.00 ft	23:32 0.98 ft	6:14	19:04
Wed 01		08:59 -0.17 ft			<b>Full Moon</b>	6:14	19:04
Thu 02	00:17 0.99 ft	09:37 -0.21 ft				6:15	19:04
Fri 03	01:05 0.97 ft	10:12 -0.24 ft	16:30 0.17 ft	18:19 0.17 ft		6:15	19:04
Sat 04	01:56 0.92 ft	10:45 -0.27 ft	16:48 0.28 ft	20:29 0.22 ft		6:15	19:04
Sun 05	02:50 0.85 ft	11:17 -0.28 ft	17:20 0.41 ft	22:17 0.24 ft		6:15	19:04
Mon 06	03:45 0.76 ft	11:49 -0.28 ft	17:57 0.56 ft	23:50 0.21 ft		6:16	19:04

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5726, 717-3696.**

**House For Rent** – Kaya Mississippi  
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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.

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**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

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## RESTAURANTS

**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 thing 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

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII, Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry

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

**Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

**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.

•**Tera Kora Ranch Market**—2nd & 3rd Saturdays- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items

•**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.

### Wednesdays

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

•**Divers' Night at Zazu Bar at Bistro de 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Cru-

sita 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](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 .

**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.

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Friday, June 26—Opening of Bara di Karta (tourist route), a 15k route through the countryside for cars, bikes and walkers.** At the starting point, Kaminda Lagun, 3:30-5pm

**June 17 to 27—Record Freediving Attempt**—by Carlos Coste at Plaza Resort. Go to Facebook [CARLOS COSTE](https://www.facebook.com/CARLOS-COSTE) Free diving World Champion for more info. The event will be covered in *The Reporter*.

**June 24-30—Cultural Celebrations of San Juan and San Pedro in the different barrios.** More on page 7.



**Saturday, June 27—Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**, 8am-2pm. Traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. On the Rincon Road at the eastern entrance to Rincon

**Sunday, June 28—Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park**, food, drinks, culture, music. Sponsored by TCB, about 6 pm

**July 3-5—ProKids Bonaire Freestyle and Slalom Championship.**

**Saturday, July 4**

—US Independence Day –Celebrate at Rum Runners at Capt. Don's Habitat, dinner and fireworks. See page 8

—Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) at Kriabon, Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-1pm, local produce, plants, food and drink, handicrafts, animals

**Saturday, Sunday, July 4 & 5—“Sabor Krioyo” - music interchange between ABC islands**, Jong Bonaire. Saturday-8pm; Sunday- 6 pm



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# THE STARS HAVE IT

## June 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't count your chickens before they hatch. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional disputes. If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. You will need to take a look at the renovations that are necessary and try to find the cheapest way to get things done. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. You need more space for the whole family. New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21)

Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. This will not be the best day to initiate change. Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be just the place. Courses dealing with psychology or health care will be of interest. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Good friends will give you honest answers. Spend time with youngsters this week. You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Take a look at investment opportunities. You can buy or sell if you're so inclined. Don't make those you live with feel unloved or unworthy. You may want to take a trip; however, before you do, make sure that your car is serviced properly. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't let your work and your personal life interfere with each other. Take special care in any home improvement project you work on this week, you'll be glad you did. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. You may be in an extremely passionate mood this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Changes in your home environment are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Real estate ventures will be to your advantage. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. A second chance will result in good work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Limitations with females could lead to unfortunate circumstances. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Past partners may try to come back into your life. You should focus on moneymaking matters and stay away from emotional disputes. You probably aren't getting straight answers to your questions. You will find it easy to learn and excel. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move this week. You can make or break your personal relationship this week. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. You must take care not to over exert yourself if involved in sports. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. This is not the day to be extravagant. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. ■

Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

## \*to find it... just look up

### THE EVENING STAR MEETS THE KING OF THE PLANETS!

Most people get excited about eclipses or comets, and those are all great sky events. But I've always been fascinated by planetary alignment like what's coming up. There's a good reason. Because of the changing positions of the planets in the solar system, we often see a few of them passing close to each other in the sky. Ancient star watchers took these motions very seriously, because any motion they saw in the sky was interpreted as a message from the gods.

Superstitions aside, they just look pretty. Besides, when you see the planets get close like this, you can't help but let your mind wander about the amazing cosmic forces that drive the planets in their orbits. It's gravity that makes this a good week to watch Venus and Jupiter get closer to each other.

Just after sunset near the end of the week, Thursday, June 25th, face west, where we'll see two bright lights just below the stars making up the head of Leo the lion. Leo's stars resemble a backwards question mark. The two bright lights you see are Jupiter and Venus. Jupiter is the one up and to the left, and Venus is the one down and to the right. Over the next few days, watch how Venus and Jupiter appear to trade places in the sky.

At present, the planets Venus and Jupiter are both heading eastward (upward) along the ecliptic, toward the star Regulus. You might think Jupiter should get to Regulus first, since the king planet lodges so much closer to Regulus, the only 1st-magnitude star to sit almost squarely on the ecliptic. However, the closer that a planet resides to the Sun, the faster that the planet travels in its smaller orbit. Venus, the second planet outward from the Sun, races along at 35 kilometers per second whereas Jupiter, the fifth planet outward, plods along at 13 kilometers per second.

But that's not all. Jupiter's orbital path is a solid seven times longer than that traveled by Venus. For that reason, Venus will zoom toward Regulus day by day, whereas Jupiter will travel at a snail's



pace. And on the 28<sup>th</sup> on over near the Moon the planet Saturn will appear super close to the Moon among the stars of Scorpius the Scorpion.

Now back to the action in the western sky. Venus and Jupiter in action. This would be a great time to try to look at both planets with a telescope. If you look at Jupiter, you'll see its four largest moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. Just before sunset on June 28th, Europa will be on Jupiter's left, and Ganymede, Io and Callisto will be on Jupiter's right. Observe how close Ganymede and Io are! If you're viewing this in the Sky Park you'll see Ganymede and Io get farther and farther apart as Jupiter sets.

If you aim your telescope at Venus on the evening of the same day, Sunday, June 28th, our evening star will resemble a waxing crescent Moon, just shy of being first quarter.

Venus, however, is on its way toward the morning sky. So, not only will the lit portion we see get smaller and smaller, but Venus' apparent size will get larger and larger. When Galileo saw this, it gave him evidence showing that Venus indeed orbits the Sun.

Let's continue to watch the planets as they get closer across the sky and at their closest on June 30th. ■



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# Animal Shelter Tips & News

Aixa, Valerio, their three children and three dogs were asleep when disaster struck. In one night this family became homeless! Their house burned down and they realized they had nowhere to go.

The neighborhood and other helpful people immediately gave emergency assistance by fundraising for the necessities of life.

The family had a big concern about how to take care of their three loving female dogs. The dogs could not stay on the premises of the burned house because of danger and they were not allowed to stay with the family in their temporarily studio.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire and Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelters secondhand shop) offered help by boarding these loving dogs as well as a free shopping morning at the Pakus di Pruga. The family was very grateful and every time they come to the Shelter to visit their dogs we hope they will be together soon!



The only question is when will this family be reunited again?

If you'd like to help please visit the Animal Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26, or call for more information.

(7174989) or e-mail us at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

Story & photo by Natalie Peterson



# Pets of the Week



Beautiful Animal Shelter puppies are looking for a new home! They are all healthy, vaccinated, micro chipped and ready to live in a new loving home. Will you be the lucky new owner of one or more amazing puppies? Come over for a puppy hug, visit the Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26, open Monday through Saturday, 9am-1pm and 3-5pm. Tel. 717-4989. ■

# Flamingo Rescue

One morning Janita Monna was riding her bicycle into town when she spotted two juvenile flamingos looking lost along the waterfront in Kralendijk. She called STINAPA for help who, with the help of Dive Friends staff, captured the exhausted birds and took them back to Cargill. Employees at Cargill Salt took over the birds and brought them inside the Cargill area to reunite them with other flamingos. Cargill checked on them the next day to see how they were doing and whether more action needed to be taken.

Lately, a lot of juvenile Flamingos, whose feathers are still grey and not the pink they grow into, have been spotted around the island, having been separated from their colony. The wind blows them off course and they become too tired and weak to find their way back.

1. Approach them carefully, they are quite easy to catch as they are so weak.

2. Grab them by the wing or leg. They may try to bite you but the bite doesn't hurt. They also may try to peck at your eyes, so keep your shades on if possible. Hold both wings into the body so they can't flap and hurt themselves.

3. Place them in your car, preferably wrapped in a towel so they can't flap around. If they are very panicked it helps to cover their eyes. Make sure they get enough air to breathe under the towel!

4. Take them to Cargill Salt. The staff there will return them to a colony of Flamingos inside the area.



The author retrieves a baby flamingo

On Bonaire Flamingos are legally protected. They like to gather and breed in large groups, so when you spot one you are likely to see many others. Populations are concentrated at Pekelmeer (the exclusive breeding ground of the Southern Caribbean Flamingo) on the salt flats in the South, in the North at Lake Gotomeer and in the Washington Slagbaai National Park. The male and female flamingo mate for life, and they share the duties of building the nest, sitting on the nest to incubate the egg, and feeding the chick. ■ Anoushka van de Ven for Stinapa



**Pakus di Pruga** is a second hand shop run by devoted Animal Shelter volunteers. It is the Animal Shelter's every Saturday Garage Sale, 8am-5pm, Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. All funds raised go to the Shelter for the basic care and medical services the dogs and cats require, like dog food, cat food, cat litter, vet care, medications, vaccinations and other supplies.

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# Young Artists' Spectacular Show



The results of the yearly exam of our high school's art students was on exhibition in downtown Kralendijk on Saturday, June 20. The Show is named YOUNG TALENT 6. Karine de Wit, the art teacher writes, "As every year, this show is filled with amazing artwork that the students have made in their art classes at school. There is a lot to see: colorful pop art portraits, abstract paintings and artworks inspired by the theme, 'Tension,' for example the painting that is shown in the poster that is the background for the cover of this issue of *The Reporter*. Besides that, there will be many works of art that qualify as their final work. The big assignment that has kept them busy for months and in which they had to show their teacher all they have got. The theme for this assignment was 'Observation.' The students start with what they see and then let it lead them through artistic experiment and imagination to a final work of art."

Curious? Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this exhibit which continues until July 4, at Kaya Simon Bolivar 6 (formerly Pakus di Tela), next to Telbo. You will be amazed at these young people's talents. ■ *Press release/L.D.*



Some of the student artists: Monica Maestroni, Miguel Wout, Virgi Balentin, Skye Romeijn, Vincent Lendering (in front) with art teachers Nichi Obediente (VMBO) and Karine De Wit (Havo/VWO)



Virgi Balentin and her work

Most of the works in the show were made in the High School Art Class

Skye Romeijn composite art with the theme to Explore and Fall In Love With Life

After the first day of the Swimming Competition in Medellin, Colombia, Bonaire swimmers have taken top medals. And there's more to come. Medalists are:

- Anita Smits:** Silver Medal 50m Butterfly, Bronze Medal 100m Freestyle
- Annouck Loos:** Gold Medal 50m Breaststroke
- Evy Witlox:** Gold Medal 200m Backstroke, Bronze Medal 100m Freestyle
- Nathalie Petersen:** Gold medal 100m Freestyle, Bronze Medal 200m Freestyle
- Simone Sweers:** Gold medal 100m Freestyle, Gold Medal 50m Butterfly.



Bonaire Barracuda senior swimmers at the airport on the way to the South American races last Friday.

## Facebook Auction

The camel and the giraffe are looking for a new home! The creative Saturday Animal Shelter volunteer girls decorated these two big donated wooden animals. [Go to https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire?fref=ts) to bid on them on line. You can make your bid on the Animal Shelter Facebook wall for these remarkable exotic garden ornaments. (If you are interested in them as a pair, bid for them separately)

You can come and check them out at the Shelter at Kaminda Lagoon 26, open Monday-Saturday, 9 am till 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. The auction will be closed June 30!

Of course all profits will benefit the homeless cats and dogs of Bonaire. ■



## Free Diving Record Attempts

As we go to press Carlos Coste, the current world record holder for diving deep underwater with just the breath he took on the surface, is trying to beat his own record for deep diving.

Coste, who lives in Bonaire and has a shop on Kaya Grandi, will be trying to better his previous personal best and plunge to more than 475 ft. (145 meters) on a single breath. Using a weighted "sled" to go deep he will follow a line to a set mark.

He then must return to the surface under his own power using flippers.

His first challenge was on June 21<sup>st</sup> with backup attempts later in the week. Two officials of AIDA international will certify the results. Other divers, listed at the right, will be trying to improve their marks. ■ *G.D.*

### LIST OF REGISTERED ATHLETES

	Name	Gender	Country
1	Carlos Coste	M	VEN
2	Warley Souza	M	BRA
3	Sebastian Lira	M	CHIL
4	Edgardo Andrade	M	HON
5	Martyn Bromley	M	UK
6	Boy Roozendaal	M	NED
7	Courtney Williams	F	USA
8	Maarten Boon	M	NED
9	John Viney	M	VEN



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