

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** *Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 18- Feb. 1, 2016 Year 23, Issue 2*  
**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



**Awesome Catch**  
**Page 10**

*wesharebonaire.com photo*



**Page 11**

**Page 12**

**LANTINA**  
**Art-Weekend**  
**Expositie**

Rik van Tongeren met olie verf schilderijen  
Josephine Ebing met beeldhouwwerk  
Fred van den Broek met olie verf schilderijen

Date:	Saturday 30 January	Time:	12:00 - 16:00	Where:	Kaya
	Sunday 31 January				
Date:	Saturday 13 February	Time:	12:00 - 16:00	Where:	Kaya
	Sunday 14 February				



**Page 13**

**Last week Bonaire's high school got a wake-up call about its effectiveness.**

**Pass**



**Fail**



The SGB High School has long been criticized by parents, students and teachers that its poor management and administration was undermining Bonaire's efforts to improve education. (See related story in [Reflections on Dushi Bonaire](#) on page 6)

The belated announcement that for the time being no examinations may be held at the middle vocational (MBO) level and that no more diplomas would be issued because the Educational Ministry Inspectorate has no confidence in the Bonaire Board of Examiners caused **MBO vocational students to hold a protest in front of the high school** when they learned the news. Social media posting expressed disgust of the situation.

Students worried that their schooling, which for some has been going on for three plus years, may not get accredited. For some, no diploma means no job.

The school management had been warned by the Inspectorate earlier in March 2015, but measures taken were insufficient and ineffective, and in mid-December the school was told its authority to test and credit the students was suspended. If the new plan is accepted and proves effective, exams may be given as early as springtime.

**The School Board and management has promised to remedy the situation as soon as possible.** It's important to note that vocational students of Forma, an institute for adult education, are not affected and their students' diploma-awarding ceremony is planned for February 18.

►THE HAGUE—Pressured by the Dutch National Ombudsman, the Caribbean Netherlands Tax Office will accept cash payments in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The National Ombudsman announced this in a press release that the Caribbean Netherlands Tax Office had acted upon the Ombudsman's recommendation to reverse the decision to terminate all cash payment facilities in Bonaire.

The Tax Office on Bonaire closed all but one of its cash desks on May 1, 2015. As of June 1, 2015, the Office no longer accepted cash payments at all.



Value of the euro dropping vs. dollar

► **For your information** The European Dutch minimum wage is \$11.51 per hour for a 36 hour/week job. The Bonaire Caribbean Dutch minimum wage for comparable work is \$4.63 per hour. The cost of living, as determined by NIBUD, a Dutch agency, is 20% higher on Bonaire than in The Netherlands. Is there a problem here? Or is the euro going to drop 60% to provide parity? See graph above.

► **Video streaming service provider Netflix Inc's subscribers will no longer be able to use proxies to watch content not available in their home country.**

Subscribers in Bonaire often use proxy addresses to view program content in their home countries like the US or The Netherlands. Enforcement will begin in a few weeks a Netflix spokesman said.



► **A Penny Lane first ~ Four generations of shoppers.** Well known Bonaire dive tour organizer and developer Ann Caradonna shopped at Bonaire's popular Penny Lane consignment shop. In the photo: Elisa, Ann, Grace and Gia. (top down)

► **Amazingly, in the dead of winter, a rare hurricane is swirling in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.** "Alex," which was named a Subtropical Storm last Wednesday, has steadily strengthened and is making history as an extraordinarily rare January hurricane. The National Hurricane Center says Alex is the first Atlantic hurricane to form in January since 1938. It is not a threat to Bonaire. The storm has peak winds of 85

mph, the strongest on record for the month. Positioned 490 miles south of the Azores, Alex headed toward the group of islands that sit about 900 miles west of Portugal.

► **Unbelievable Restaurant, which has been on the market for some time, has sold.** Word on the street is that new owner is of Chinese descent and will soon open with a "gourmet Chinese" food menu not the typical "snack" fare. Think "Peking Duck", etc.

► **For yacht people: There is a new requirement for all foreign-flagged boats to apply for a cruising license on initial entry into the USA.** The Cruising License can only be issued after a face-to-face meeting with a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer. Once issued, it permits multiple re-entries into the USA for up to one year and permits travel within the US without the requirement to report to Customs at each port visited. See the CBP web page for more details.

► **BON DOET will start up on March 11 and 12.** Organized by the NGO Platform Bonaire in collaboration with the Oranje Fonds, BON DOET, is the largest community volunteer action of Bonaire. It is the sixth time that BON DOET will happen. Last year there were 67 jobs done by more than 1,400 volunteers. This year has just begun and there are already 22 registered jobs.



Foundations and associations can apply to perform jobs and for financial assistance of up to \$650 for material up to 22 January. **On Tuesday, January 19th, there will be a Happy Hour at the NGO Platform office for organizations wishing to accept a job or even just want to brainstorm.** Together we go for maximum results!

BON DOET provides foundations and businesses the opportunity to offer help to the needy.

To join with BON DOET as foundation, association, business, a volunteer or sponsor, please contact the NGO Platform Bonaire by phone 717-2366, email [ngoplatformbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:ngoplatformbonaire@gmail.com), [bon-doet2016@gmail.com](mailto:bon-doet2016@gmail.com) or [www.bon-doet-website.com](http://www.bon-doet-website.com). Together we will make it a success! *Nos ta on!*

(Continued on page 3)

### This Week's Stories

Renew auto tags	3
And the Picture Yourself Winner Is... The Zales	5
Karpata Clean-Up	7
2016's First Baby	7
Bonaire Has Lowest Income	8
Marshe di Playa Update	8
Hot Spot on the South Pier	9
Stormvogel's New Year & Beyond	11
International Fishing Tournament	10
Art Weekend at La Cantina	12
Karnaval Schedule	12
Adopt a (Turtle) Nest	12
TCB Head Named	13
Livestock Workshop	13
Blanca Acuna Pacheco (Obituary)	15
Changes At Dive Friends	15

### Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
Born on Bonaire ... Alfred Ramon	
George 'Yellowman' Martis	4
Picture Yourself- Going 'around the world'	5
Reflections on Dushi Bonaire—We Don't Need No Education	6
Classifieds, Masthead	14
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	14
A Garden...(Herbs & Spices)	15
What's Happening + Cruise Ship Schedule	16
Shopping and Dining Guide	17
Pet of the Week (Sweet Yogi)	18
Pet Project Results	18
Bonaire Sky Park -Supermarket Solar System	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19

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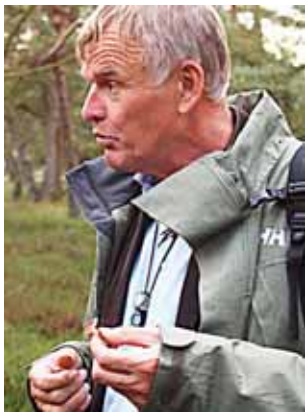
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(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)

►The Board of STINAPA is pleased to announce that **Herman Sieben (at right) was appointed Director of STINAPA** on January 15, 2016. He succeeds Johan Afman, who was interim-director for the past 18 months.



Mr. Sieben has extensive experience in the policy and management of nature conservation and the environmental matters and organizations. He was Regional Director of the Dutch Northern Forestry Commission responsible for policy and management of 90,000 hectares of nature and recreational areas.

►**Alleviation of poverty, economic development and more efficiency are to become the priorities** if it were up to Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba following last year's evaluation of the islands' constitutional status as public entities. These focal points were defined at the conclusion of a two-day summit with Members of the Dutch Parliament's First and Second Chambers in Saba two weeks ago.

►**On January 7, the Foundation Ride for the Roses was established** to raise funds for the fight against cancer on Bonaire. It plans to organize events such as

the Ride for the Roses, the Walk for the Roses and even the Swim for the Roses. It's a sporty, healthy and enjoyable way to raise money for the fight against cancer.

In April 2016 the first events will start with the sponsorship of Orco Bank, in cooperation with the Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire Foundation.

The start up team includes: **John Soliano, Anne-Marie Mercera, Tom Peeters, Charles Wick, Frank Bohm, Dirk Zuidam, Albert Arends and Jursi Marshall.** For more information, contact Jursi Marshall, by phone +599 777-7707.

► **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Saturday, January 30th, is the date of the annual Lora (Bonaire parrot) count.** Volunteers are invited to help as last year there were not enough volunteers to have at least two participants at each roosting site. It's an exhilarating experience as you're in the middle of nature before the sun comes up and as it does, nature comes awake and alive. Contact Peter Montanus: [peter.montanus@bonairegov.com](mailto:peter.montanus@bonairegov.com)

► **SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico--The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued a travel warning following the first reported case of Zika virus in Puerto Rico.** The outbreak of the mosquito-borne virus began in Brazil last May, followed by outbreaks in several Central and South American countries, according to the CDC warning. Brazil announced on November 28 that researchers had found the Zika virus present in the brain tissue of a newborn with microcephaly who died. *G./L.D.*

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Gasoline	BF òf MF	USD 136.90	USD 68.45	USD	5.60
Diesel	Z	USD 1,257.00	USD 628.50	USD	5.60

►The Island Government announced that **you can start to pay 2016 road tax (MRB).** Rates are listed above. **Tax must be paid by January 31, 2016.** The second installment must be paid no later than June 30, 2016. If payment of the first half of the tax due by January 31, 2016 is not met, you must pay the full annual amount as of February 1, 2016.

You can make the payment via online banking or through the window function in the banks. Please give your license plate number, your CRIB number or name and period. The tax office gives you the opportunity to make the payment free of charge at the Giro Bank.

**NO annual plate stickers will be provided.** Keep your bank statement as proof of payment. At the cashier facility in the tax office you can pay there in cash or card.

►Police have in recent weeks carried out **several traffic controls on EEC Boulevard, Kaya International and Kaya G. F. Croes.** Several drivers have been fined for driving without a license or driving a car without insurance and tax papers. There were also several cases of cars that had defective lighting. This creates very dangerous situations in the evenings.

Police regularly fine violators. The amount of the penalty is then determined by the Public Prosecutor. The amounts, depending on the offense, can be **up to \$280.** The prosecutor can also order temporary seizure of a vehicle when someone repeatedly is uninsured or drives without a license. *G./L.D.*

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# Born on Bonaire 11-11-'60 ... Alfred Ramon George 'Yellowman' Martis

**"I** was born in Playa Lechi, right on the sea. In the house which is named 'Villa Betty' – after my little sister. I have two more brothers and four sisters and only one of them, Greta, lives in Holland. My father was Head of Finances in the government and my mom was at home. I was three or four years old when my papa threw me in the sea and told me to swim. That's what you did when you were born on the seaside!

When we were a bit bigger, we would go to school, come home, eat, sleep for a couple of hours, then we had to do our chores- help in the house or clean outside. After that we were allowed to go swimming which we liked most of all! We fished a lot too – there was a great reef and lots of fish, much more than now. At that time there were hardly any boats with engines – just sailboats and the water was quiet. Maybe that's why there were more fish.

Every Sunday all our friends would gather at the 'Plenchi Machi Ines' – the tiny plaza named after my mom right across from the house. We would sit there and eat and tell stories about the sea, about fishing and sailing and boats, peppered with a bunch of jokes! There was music and a barbecue and everybody brought something – beer, chicken or fish. There was always plenty to eat and drink. That's how I grew up.



*"Yellowman" Martis*

Messina - a heavy wind came up and we had to reef the sail when something went wrong and I fell from the mast. I don't remember anything. When I came to I was in Napoli in the hospital where I stayed for almost two months. I'd broken my back and they'd put in steel plates. After two months I went to Amsterdam where I had to go for check-ups every couple of days. Then, six weeks later, they took off the cast and I asked the doctor for therapy. The doctor said, 'The best therapy is swimming.' That was on a Thursday and on Sunday I flew to Bonaire and I never went back to Holland. The children stayed in Holland with their mom.

Bonaire for me is easy; it's my home and I know everybody. I recovered completely and I started sailing again, Sunfish. I par-

just like me; she loves everything about the sea. She only eats fish and no meat and she likes sailing. She is perfect! We are both Scorpio: she's born on the 12th of November and I'm from the 11th. She is 42 and I'm 55. I found my absolute match. We live together but every day

it's like I just met her. She is so beautiful. She has nice hair and nice eyes. She is petite and sweet and creative and a real outdoor person because she bikes and runs and swims."

"He is very authentic," *Sirus*, "which is really important to me. He is an excellent person with his family. He always makes me smile and we both love the sea so much. And I love his dreadlocks!"

"Yeah, I'm famous," *Alfred grins, flashing his gold teeth.* "About 30 years ago there was this reggae singer from Jamaica who was called Yellowman. And because I'm blond – from the sea and sun – and my dreadlocks are natural – I don't use aloe, it's pure nature – they started calling me 'Yellowman.' As I'm always sitting here with my friends and my dushi under the trees which I decorated with all that I found in the sea, everybody knows me and I even have a dive spot on Klein Bonaire named Yellow Reef.

I don't go out and I don't travel much. I have the whole world here. But we're talking about going to Cartagena, whether I will be qualified to race or not – I will support the team! And we're thinking of going to Holland, to Amsterdam, for vacation and to see my children. The eldest is now 34 and the youngest is 17. I have a good relationship with them."

"We live in the present but we have plans," *Sirus laughs and Alfred looks at her and adds,* "I also want to go to Margarita. I want to see her house and family, the place and people she comes from and of course her daughter who is studying at the university in Margarita.

My mom is still alive, she's 80 and she's well. We live with my sister Elsa and my mom in this house. For me personally Bon-



*Alfred and Sirus in their tree 'nest'*

aire is still the same. I mean, as I don't go out, my world is the house, the sea and the tiny plaza across where I meet my people. All that hasn't changed. But the island has definitely changed. You don't see local people so much anymore. When you go to town you see mostly Dutch people or tourists. To meet Bonaireans you have to go to a local snack. Even at Lac you see more Latinos than local people nowadays. It's also because people don't have a lot of money to spend which is much different from when we had the guilders. At that time everybody could go out and party on Friday night and the tourists felt rich when they arrived with their dollars, but now they are also poor on Bonaire when they charge you \$4 for a beer! But we're still good here and hopefully it will stay like this - tranquil.

I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very good 2016, especially the sailing team of Plenchi Machi Ines.

You know, talking about changes - together with Mrs. Frans, who lives a bit further - we are the only Bonairean family left in Playa Lechi, the only ones who still live on the oceanfront. So... a lot did change when you really think about it. And every month we have about five, six people coming to the door asking if they can buy the house. But my mother says that if we do that my father will rise up from the grave and kill everybody! So, we don't sell the house – it's not going to happen - never!" ■

*Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



**"... six weeks later they took off the cast and I asked the doctor for therapy. The doctor said 'The best therapy is swimming.' That was on a Thursday and on Sunday I flew to Bonaire and I never went back to Holland. "**

I went into the army in 1980/81 in Aruba and it was one of my best times because when you're under 18 mother and father still have a say over you, but when you're 18 you are free? When I came back to Bonaire I started with the Sunfish sailing boats – small boats -just for fun. It became my hobby and it still is. I never dove; I don't like to go under! In 1978 I began working at WEB, in water distribution. During weekends and after 4 when I was free and the wind was good, I sailed. Sailing is... no noise, no stink, it's the sound of the sea and the power of the wind, and every day it's different but you always feel one with nature.

In 2000 I went to Holland with my wife and four children. My wife thought school would be better there for them so we left. Holland was okay – in the summer best of the best. But in winter I didn't like it. Most of the 11 years I was in Holland, I wasn't living there as I worked on a private boat, a 50-meter (164 foot) sailing boat. I travelled a lot, sailed the Adriatic Sea from Montenegro in the Balkans to Brindisi in southern Italy. It was beautiful. One day, when we were on a trip from Italy to St. Tropez in France – we'd just passed the Strait of

anticipated in world championships and last year I went to Paracas, Peru. In Peru I didn't do well. The water was freezing cold and I didn't bring my wet suit and with the steel plate in my back it became very unpleasant. This year the competition will be in Cartagena, Colombia, and Cartagena will be better for sure!

I went back to WEB to work but this time on a contract. At night I sit at the sea or up in the tree in front of the house together with my love, Sirus. She is from Isla Margarita. We met when she was passing by the house."

"I came in 2011," *Sirus says,* "for vacation and to learn how to dive. Then I returned to Margarita where I've been an artist making jewelry for 20 years. However, in Venezuela things became really difficult. I used to sell my jewelry at the market in Puerto de Guamache but because of the political situation not many ships visited there anymore. I liked Bonaire, it was so tranquil – it reminded me very much of Margarita when I was little. So I came back and now I'm selling my jewelry at the cruise ship market here."

"When I saw her, we started talking," *Yellowman says,* "and I found out she's

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter And The Winner Is...

...The Zales for their dedication to the Picture Yourself column. Why do we say that? For several reasons:

- ◆ This photo, taken 35,000 ft high is the highest *The Reporter* has ever been. (second is the top of Mt. Everest, 29,029 ft.) When the Captain of United flight 1422 announced the plane was at its cruising altitude of 35,000 feet they had their friend snap the photo.
- ◆ In 2014 they submitted three entries that were published; in 2015, two photos and one earlier this year.
- ◆ They motivated at least four of their friends to submit photos.



Another of the 2015 photos taken statue of our Blessed Mother at our church, Sacred Heart Church in Hartsdale, NY for the recovery of our editor, Laura.



**Joan and Alan Zale**

- ◆ All their photos, as well as those of their friends, are of high quality both technically and in their subject matter

So it is with great pleasure we name them the 2015 Picture Yourself with The Reporter winners of a fabulous dinner for two at a top restaurant on Bonaire. Congratulations! ■

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Going 'around the world'



Bonaire resident Lourae cruised 'around the world' in early 2015 aboard the cruise ship *Silver Whisper*, carrying *The Bonaire Reporter* with her. This photo shows just a few of the many places visited around the world. "I took along *The Reporter* during my four-month World Cruise aboard the *Silver Whisper*. What a wonderful trip! Here are numerous pictures of just a few of the places visited. This copy has been in the air for 3,952 miles and over water for 31,432 nautical miles while visiting five continents, 30 countries, 50 ports; it is pretty-well tattered at this point.."■

### WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture. Be sure to include something about the place where it was taken and yourself. Last year it was a fabulous dinner for two at La Balandra. ■



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# Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

## WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION

*We don't need no education  
We don't need no thought control  
No dark sarcasm in the classroom  
Teachers leave them kids alone  
Hey! Teachers! Leave them kids alone!*

- Pink Floyd

This robust song greeted me the moment I set foot in one of Bonaire's SGB (high school) classrooms at the new Liseo (just off Kaya Amsterdam) on my first afternoon. I was pleased. At least the English sounded good.

The rest of that period was spent trying to discover the students' identities, but I was awash in a sea of nameless faces. Laughter swelled over me when I pronounced them "funny." To make matters worse, I was armed with neither a class list nor books for the class. What kind of teacher shows up with no books and can't even pronounce our names? Even easy names, too, like Rigshantely and "Masamur!" Lucky for me, I was able to score at least a room for that first class (not always so easy as one might think). Earlier that morning I had already been required to instruct sans chamber, and that wasn't the half of it . . .

It was a dark and stormy night in Boise, Idaho, a few days earlier, when I decided to accept a substitute teaching assignment back on sunny Bonaire, instructing various levels of English at SGB. Little did I know that the sequel to that storm would rage on until the moment I would leave SGB, some three months later. That same squall would also continue to shake the ocean of my sleep: I had recurring nightmares about that school until kingdom come.

Two days later, still groggy from my Boise adventure, I found myself in a dusty, August sun-lit classroom full of very lively students. At least I had a room!



SGB High School on Kaya Korona—Entrance



SGB High School on Kaya Korona—Inner area

I was assigned to both SGB locations, at Kaya Korona in the morning and at Kaya Amsterdam in the afternoon. My first English morning class was at Kaya Korona, a rambling complex of one- and two-story, nondescript buildings, housing a bewildering assortment of mostly unidentified classrooms. I was to be in "Room B." I never did locate Room B that morning. Neither did I manage to find the class itself, at least not for a full half hour after our appointed time.

The class finally found me, though looking disheveled and half-naked from a dog's overly tender

embrace. I'll explain. While I was taking a break from my desperate room search, a tail-wagging dog wanted to befriend me just outside the SGB premises. I love dogs!

But this one dog was taller than I, and in his loving enthusiasm he ripped my shirt over my shoulders and my skirt down to my knees. There I was standing in my undies, for all to see, including my future students. At last, I had found my class, but now I was going to have a heck of a time



Not the dog



Liseo High School on Kaya Amsterdam—Entrance



Liseo High School on Kaya Amsterdam—Behind

gaining respect from those guys: no room, no books, and on top of that, no clothes. Reminds me of the signs at the food stores along Kaya Industria: "No Shirt; No Shoes; No Service!"

I had to teach this same class (fully garbed thereafter) outside on the benches a few times. When I finally did manage to find elusive Room B the following day, with assistance from a really smart room detective, another teacher had taken possession of the space. This classroom "belongs to me," she claimed, possession being nine-tenths of the law, and all that. She and our mutual students started to prepare for an ownership rumble, but I backed out. I was too elegantly dressed for serious battle. I found a "team leader" (of what exact "team" always remained unclear to me) somewhere on campus to settle the issue, but he was

just as clueless as I. Oh well, at least he made a mean cup of coffee to calm my nerves.

Later some teachers confided in me that the first few months of a new school semester typically feature messy classroom assignments (two or three instructors sharing a room, elbowing for teaching space), few or no books, no class lists and spotty computer access. So, I was hardly the only one without basic teaching tools. I felt better already.

One team leader or maybe he was one of the "unit directors," put it nicely: "A good teacher doesn't need books, class lists or a computer. The only thing he needs is the students." And that's what I

(Continued on page 7)



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(Reflections... Continued from page 6)  
got: Just me and the kids. I was quite pleased to be such a good teacher.

Later that month, I did discover several books for my students. For most of my classes, I found them variously tossed in a shed, or heaped in one big pile in a non-English classroom. Since I usually didn't have enough books for one class, I was told to hand them out randomly and to make copies for the remaining book-less kids. You can guess how many kids wanted the unbound copies as opposed to real books. It took me two full days to calm the herd.

Add those two days to the first few weeks of teaching without books, plus not always having the availability of a room, plus no Internet access. Well, this just might amount to mayhem and disinterest on the part of the students. I couldn't blame them so I tried to peak their interest by showing interest in their lives. And so it was that most of my classes finally seemed to care about learning, which is what I had hoped. Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul, / And sings the tune—without the words, / And never stops at all – Emily Dickinson

During one of my final days at SGB, I was again barred from my classroom by another instructor. This time because she and her class were ordered to leave their assigned room by senior administrators who wanted to hold a meeting there with loads of team leaders and unit directors and such. Good idea! The teacher needed my room since she liked it better than the other she had been directed to. Mine had an actual computer and screen, and not an inoperative old dinosaur. And besides, she got there first. That left my students and me wandering placeless again; kind of a domino theory in action.

During my three months, this particular class -- a bunch of teenage boys -- found themselves repeatedly without space, and they never received their books or even copies. They had every right to be scornful. Instead of books, we had to rely on the Internet. That's fine, so long as it works -- quite a concept on Bonaire. But I was glad these boys had such a great sense of humor; we found ourselves laughing continuously. I approved, as long as the fun involved speaking English.

This assignment was the cancer of my dreams and aspirations. There is no good reason why teachers had to struggle to find classrooms. There is no good reason why there are no (decent) books on campus from the start of each term. There is no good reason why technology is lacking in the classrooms. And there is no good reason why there are way too many chiefs (team leaders and unit directors) and no Indians: meaning no clear, recognizable lines of authority and responsibility. There is also no good reason that students have to suffer from all the above!

I did come to love most of my students and I truly appreciated my dear and overwrought colleagues. They suffered through the same ordeal I did, but 10 times over because they have to fulfill yearlong contracts. And they do care a great deal about their students.

On Bonaire, kids do need education; they need caring teachers (which they have); and they need a well-organized and well-managed SGB. ■

Story & photos by  
Karen Bastiaensen  
-Gilmour



## Karpata Clean Up 2016



Volunteers at Karpata

January 5th found 20 hard working people doing a much needed cleanup of the Karpata Dive Site. The event was the brainchild of Rene and Inge Frey. They coordinated getting four containers from Selibon. Elsmarie Beukenboom was a huge help in telling us which plants to cut and which ones to leave alone. Tim Geerdink brought a tracked backhoe to remove the old toilet area and helped lift the very heavy items! Without the help and support of these people the dive site would still look like it needed a remodel. Now it is back to the pristine look that Mother Nature intended it to be.

A huge thanks again to all that helped! Many hands make light work. ■ Lee Scruggs



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## 2016's First Baby

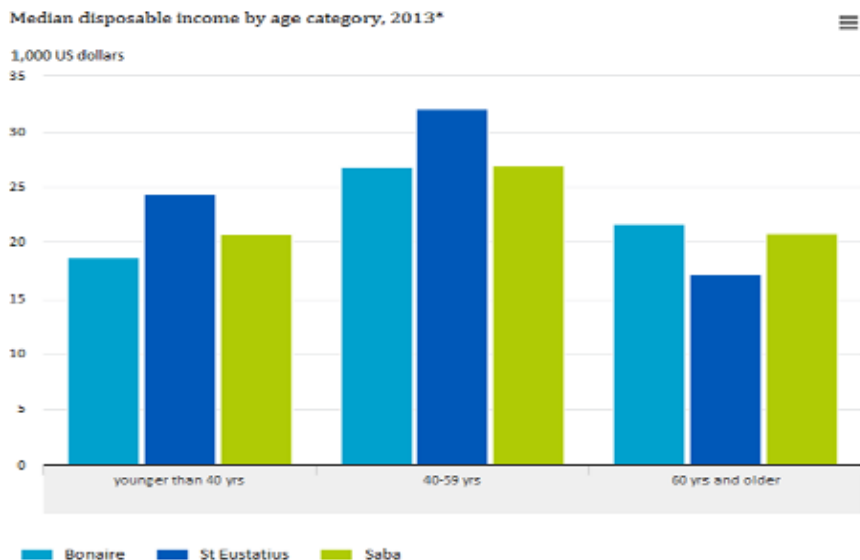


Health Commissioner Benito Dirksz congratulates the parents of the first baby of the year

Geni-Ann was born January 3, at 7:30pm, making her Bonaire's first baby of the New Year. Weighing 2,100 grams, and measuring 48 centimeters, she is the daughter of Soyla Kraal.

A day after the birth she was visited by Maduro & Curiel's Bank's mascot "Lito" with a gift, as is the custom. Later Commissioner Dirksz visited to congratulate the parents and wish them good luck on behalf of the government of Bonaire. He presented them with a basket of baby products. Mrs. Kraal thanked the commissioner for his visit and she is very happy with the gift from the government of Bonaire. ■ Press

# CBS: Bonaire Has the Lowest Income



The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has reported on the median disposable income in the Caribbean Netherlands for 2013. Compared to 2012, the median disposable income on Bonaire rose marginally but households on St Eustatius and Saba saw their incomes decline. With \$26.3 thousand per household, the highest disposable income in the Caribbean Netherlands in 2013 was recorded on St Eustatius. Annually, households on Bonaire had \$22.9 thousand to spend. On Saba it was \$23.4 thousand as data provided by Statistics.

On each of the three islands, the main breadwinner in the highest income households is aged somewhere between 40 and 60. People in this age category have more work experience than their younger col-

leagues and usually occupy better jobs and earn higher wages. On Bonaire and Saba, the median incomes in this category were \$26.9 thousand and \$27 thousand respectively.

### Highest incomes for the over-60s is on Bonaire and Saba

If the household's main breadwinner reaches retirement age, their incomes are usually reduced and they need to rely on old age and supplementary pension schemes. The fall in income is most substantial on St Eustatius. With \$17.1 thousand, the median income level is evidently lower than on Bonaire and Saba, where over-60s can rely on \$21.7 thousand and \$20.9 thousand respectively. ■ *Press release, Source CBS website*

# Marshé di Playa Update

The Marshé di Playa, held weekly at Jong Bonaire, is a five-year long pilot project of Boneiru Duradero (BD), funded by the World Wildlife Fund. The project is intended to encourage local residents to become entrepreneurs. In this, the fifth and final year of the project, Boneiru Duradero has chosen to encourage community empowerment.

Marshé di Playa was launched last October 31<sup>st</sup> with a budget of \$20,000. "After the initial marketplace phase of eight weeks we are taking stock and adjusting our plans," says Sharon Bol, project coordinator Boneiru Duradero.

At the start of the project more than 30 market vendors signed up to participate, but the number has dwindled. The core group is approximately 18 vendors who offer items for sale every week. Until now only locally produced products were offered.

Boneiru Duradero evaluated the pilot with Agnes Joosten of the Kriabon Farmers Market, Onnie Emerenciana, a participant, and several market stallholders. The evaluation shows among other things that the offerings of the market should be broadened. From now on the Marshé will offer more everyday products such as clothing, shoes, underwear and household items.

Currently a score of vendors of food and fresh vegetables and plants do best, followed by recycled items and natural personal care products. There is less demand for arts and crafts, but that is partly due to the relatively low number of tourist visitors.



Duradero Coordinator Bol says, "On average there are about 75 -100 visitors on a Saturday morning and it is still too few." Marshé di Playa has built up a loyal group of visitors who support the market weekly with their purchases.

Based on the evaluation a number of improvements were identified. For example, the opening time of the market changed from 9am to 1 pm. The market focuses on both local visitors and tourists. Dutch tourists know about the market and where it can be found, but it attracts relatively few American visitors.

Registration for participation in the Marshé di Playa is via the Boneiru Duradero Internet portal. Participation costs just \$10 per week / per vendor. ■ *Press release*

Note: The difference between the other "local" markets and Marshé di Playa is that this market guides the "start ups" with workshops and consultancy towards becoming a successful entrepreneur. It is about community empowerment: focusing mainly on local native residents. *Sharon Bol*

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# Hot Spot On The South Pier



Fireworks added to the fanfare of the reopening

## BARREL WINE BAR AND LOUNGE

*An elegant locale to relax, sip your favorite vino, or perhaps whiskey, or specialty cocktail – harbor and ocean vistas complimentary!*

First for Bonaire: an elegant new wine bar! Situated right on the Bay at the northerly end of the South Pier mall (lots of parking space out front), the new wine bar and lounge was launched by Rajiv Daryanani on Friday evening, January 8.

Rajiv opened his bar with more than the usual fanfare. A full fireworks display on an adjacent pier (though not entirely expected) set the tone. Not only was he able to attract at least 20 eager customers for opening night, he also, together with his very able staff, provided them attentive helpful service.

Upon entry, Bob and I were treated to delicious Lychee Martinis (lychee liquor with Beefeater gin, fresh lemon juice, guava based homemade syrup and egg white...yummm!) by Larry, a professional bartender, a.k.a. "the Cocktail Wizard." The author of this article knows cocktails! And take it from me, these offerings are as tasty and creative as they come. The second, "Passion Flower," a blend of passion fruit, homemade syrup and liquor 43, went down easily as well. Bob gave high marks for the subtlety of the different flavors, in high contrast to the generic and over-done fruit punches at the tourist bars. We both savored the fresh black raspberry and apple slices atop our drinks.

Rajiv, the young owner of this gem, grew up variously on Bonaire, Aruba, and the Netherlands. He just recently completed his studies in International Law and Global

Justice in the Netherlands, yet his real calling was to become a musician and wine connoisseur. His father, the locally well-known businessman, Deepak Daryanani, encouraged him to act on his passions. And now he does!

Rajiv also enjoys creating his own music and has worked as a D.J. in different settings. He's been back on Bonaire since June 2015, when he met Larry, just over two months ago. They hit it off right away and determined to introduce a new concept on Bonaire: an exclusive wine bar with wines from all over the world.

Rajiv sources red, white, rosé, and sparkly wines from diverse regions in Argentina, Chile, Spain, Italy, France, California, New Zealand, and Australia. Barrel Wine Bar offers over 150 different wines, including, but not limited to, Chardonnays from Napa Valley and Argentina, Sauvignon Blancs from Chile, Mondavi Riesling, La Delizia Pinot Grigio Blush, Santa Rosa Syrah Rosé, La Linda Malbec and Merlot from Duckhorn Napa Valley, California, a selection of nearly 20 French wines, seven different Italian wines, a large selection of various regional Pinot Noirs, four Zinfandels and sparkly wines, such as Bollinger Champagne, Alamas Brut and Martini d'Asti.

Besides this extensive Barrel Wine Bar and Lounge Menu, Rajiv presents a weekly House Wine Menu, which features different wines every week, such as Malbec from Argentina, Merlot from Chile, and various whites from Chile as well. They're all quite affordable and served with complimentary toast and an assortment of cheeses.

After we pleurably sipped our cocktails (Larry can create any combi you



Luxurious with a walk-in wine cellar

desire), we ordered the Santa Rosa Malbec, which was brought to our table by the lovely Tara, a Dutch native who has a background in marketing and HORECA (hotel, restaurant and cafe business).

Deepak, himself on duty this night, served us the accompanying bread and cheese, which are gratis when you order a glass or a bottle of wine from the house wines menu. What a great deal! My hub and I chatted up the staff a bit, and they all are quite friendly, sociable, and eager to please our palates. While we enjoyed our wine and the cheese, we soaked up the splendid Kralendijk bay view and took the moment to relax from our otherwise busy lives.

"We think Barrel Wine Bar will be a great success on Bonaire," Rajiv says. "It's filling a niche; there's just nothing like it here. We

offer an extensive wine list sourced from every region possible, specialty cocktails on demand, and 25 whiskeys. This new concept should greatly appeal to locals and tourists alike." ■

Story & photos by  
Karen Bastiaensen-  
Gilmour



## OPENING DAYS AND TIMES:

### Monday through Saturday:

--10 am- 6 pm for HORECA clients and consumers (store and boutique)

--6 pm - 11 pm for wine bar patrons (standard service bar and seaside outdoor terrace)









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# Super Fishing For All

2016 International Fishing Tournament and Local Tournament

**3**....2.....1.BING! With a loud crack of fireworks in the early morning sky, thousands upon thousands of accumulated horsepower of engines inside some 25 sport fishing yachts roar to life for the flying start of the two-day, 28th Bonaire International (and local) Fishing Tournament. It's exciting, it's thrilling, it's exhilarating, when the boats start racing towards the fishermen's favorite fishing grounds, somewhere around the deep waters near Bonaire. It is the moment many fishermen have been waiting for, preparing for days if not weeks, giddy with anticipation, for today they can test their skill, against all others who participate, and particularly the fish they are after, the most prized game fish of all: Billfish.

There are several species of Billfish or Marlin and Sailfish (*istiophoridae*). All are pelagic, highly migratory and apex predators. The popular names of the various species are all related to their appearance. There are Short bill Billfish, Swordfish, White Marlins, Striped Marlins, Black Marlins and the most prized of them all, the Blue Marlin. Not all species frequent Bonairean waters, but the Blue certainly does! Blue Marlin can grow to over a thousand pounds (called a "grander") and as such you can imagine the skill and effort it takes to catch one. Not only are they stronger and heavier than any fisherman at the other side of the line, the fight upon hooking of a Marlin is well...unimaginable.

Billfish tournaments are organized worldwide, basically wherever Billfish frequent the waters. They are highly organized, well funded and popular competitions, mostly under the auspices of the International Game Fish Association. (IGFA). IGFA sets the rules under which the tournament will be conducted, such as type of tackle, how to

handle the catch, how to report, and how awarding points are set. For example the catch of a Blue Marlin will earn more points than a Sailfish, how strong the tackle is allowed to be, etc.

Over the years it was recognized that Billfish stocks were declining dramatically by industrial overfishing. And so the various sport fishing organizations have led the drive to preserve the species. Almost all that participate in sport Billfishing will strictly adhere to the policy of catch and release. Many will tag the Marlin and fully cooperate with organizations such as the Billfish Foundation, collecting data and information about the species, so that the species can be protected better. And so it is during this tournament as well.

**FISH ON! HOOK UP!** Someone on the boat will always scream something similar like that on top of their lungs, as if there can be any doubt. The strike of a Marlin is something out of this world. The reel screams, the rod bends impossibly as much as half a mile or even more line is pulled out. A mad frenzy explodes on the deck, as captain, crew and fisherman take positions. All other lines, all teasers to attract the beasts towards the bait need to be taken out of the water. This is the moment when all the tactics, methods and tricks come together, and as every crewmember performs his or her task as fast as possible, there will always be that moment when everybody stops, even if only for a second, as the Mar-



Dawn patrol The fishing fleet departs

lin jumps clear out of the water for the first time. And then again and again. The run of the Marlin! To bring a Marlin to the boat takes skill, a finely tuned effort by the captain, crew, and of course the fisherman who needs serious muscle and physical shape. The drill of a Marlin may take only minutes but can just as easily take many hours! When the fisherman is successful the Marlin will eventually be pulled to the boat, photographed and released. Testosterone law has it that while all of this is going on, the captain of the boat reports by radio, as cool and collective as he possibly can, to on shore control.

On shore, the competition data is collected and displayed on screens for the public. At night when the boats are in, all gather to party, discuss successful or failed tactics, brag and watch the photos on large screens. This year the true bragging rights go to the boat and crew of *Hey Chama* out of Curacao. They are the winners of this year's tournament with an incredible eight marlins



What happens to the fish caught? Well, this 60 kg. yellow fin tuna wound up at Rum Runners Restaurant at Habitat.

caught and released.

Meanwhile, the last of the two days a local fishing tournament was held as well. Contrary to the catch and release rules of the Billfish tournament, here the kilos landed count, no matter what kind of fish. Year after year it is stunning to see how much our local fishermen are able to catch in just one day. During the final evening of partying, collective dinner and music, the winners are honored on the podium. No Bonairean billfish team ascended the podium this year, but there will always be next year. Preparations have already started! ■

Story by Bart Snelder, Photos by Bart Snelder & wesharebonaire.com



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# Stormvogel's New Year & Beyond

It was last March when *Stormvogel*, the last of the sailing cargo boats from the ABC Islands, was returned back to Bonaire where she was built in 1951. *Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru* (the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) had the boat transferred with the help of Don Andres Transportation from Curacao to Navegante Boatyard in Hato where she is now being restored to her former sailing glory.

That is no small task for the ship is 45 feet long, 14 feet wide and weighs seven tons when empty. Most of 2015 was spent securing the boat, assessing its condition and deciding its future. It is estimated that only 15-20% of *Stormvogel* can be salvaged due to neglect and rot over the years. However, the foundation decided it was preferable to save what is left of the historic ship and restore it rather than build a replica. By year's end, keystone pieces of new wood harvested locally had been installed into the hull.

"From this point on you will be able to easily see substantial changes to *Stormvogel* during 2016," says Johnny Craane, head of the restoration. "With *El Maestro*, the main mid-ship rib installed, we will now start to renew or replace all the ribs toward the bow. Once this is done, we will do the same for ribs going from midships back to the stern. We are hoping to have the framing complete in 8-10 months. Then new planking will be installed."

The foundation estimates that the restoration will be complete in two years, but that

is dependent on getting enough funding for materials. Volunteers supply all the labor. Some local residents raised concern that once finished, *Stormvogel* may leave the island, but that is not the case. After restoration, the foundation will begin Phase Three of the project. *Stormvogel* will be relocated at a seaside location in Kralendijk yet to be determined. The old cargo boat will begin its new life as a museum where visitors will get on deck tours and be treated below to films, historic photos and nautical artifacts on display in the hold.

In Phase Four, the ship will return to the sea and become a floating museum. A seamanship program will teach young people sailing skills, navigation and marine safety. The public will enjoy historical sunset cruises in the bay of Kralendijk. There are also plans for *Stormvogel* to travel to Aruba and Curacao on two-week-long goodwill tours where residents there can learn about our shared maritime heritage. Students who graduated from the seamanship program will be part of the crew. But *Stormvogel* will always return home to where she was built 65 years ago along the shores of Playa Pabou.

"We see Project Stormvogel as a long term project," adds Craane. "During all phases, we will involve Bonaire's youth. Right now we have the Junior Shipwright program where young people work right next to us during the restoration. In Phase Three we hope to involve students in the operation of the museum, and once the boat



*Stormvogel* was trucked to the Navegante boatyard



Captain John Craane

returns to the sea, Junior Seamen will hoist sails, maintain the boat and learn to navi-

gate. *Stormvogel* is all that's left from the time when our islands depended on these boats for contact with family and friends. It is important for future generations to keep our maritime traditions going." ■ Story & photos by Patrick Holian

Interested in contributing the historic restoration of *Stormvogel*? Donations can be sent to Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru, MCB account # 40934710 For further information contact [projectstormvogel@gmail.com](mailto:projectstormvogel@gmail.com)

New *Stormvogel* T-shirts coming out this week called "Stormvogel Rising" in four new colors. \$20 at Boutique Vita, Budget Marine and the Zazu Bar.

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# ART Weekend at La Cantina *Karnaval Schedule*



**L**a Cantina, a relatively new restaurant on Kaya Grandi, has come up with a nice new initiative. Since the once popular Kas di Arte has long been closed and the Kaminda di Arte is no longer active it has not been easy for artists to exhibit on Bonaire.

However, La Cantina Restaurant hopes to make it easier. Several artists will have an opportunity to show their work at the La Cantina on Saturday and Sunday, January 30 and 31 as well as on February 13 and 14, from 1pm to 5 pm, in and around the restaurant.

Three artists- **Rik van Tongeren, Josephine Ebing and Fred van den Broek**- will exhibit their work. During the exhibition, they will give an introduction and explain their work.

**Josephine Ebing**, living on Bonaire, is a sculptor who has already earned fame

as an artist. Her work reflects a high level of expression manifested through forms and different materials.

**Rik van Tongeren** of the Netherlands, frequently residing on Bonaire, is active in watercolor, acrylic and oil, featuring nature, buildings, landscape and animals as a starting point for his paintings.

**Fred van den Broek**, living on Bonaire, is self-taught and has worked with oil paints for many years. The light, the atmosphere and the colors of Bonaire serve as inspiration for his paintings.

Everyone is invited to come and visit this exhibition.

If it is successful it is possible that this kind of exhibition combining culinary and artistic collaboration can continue. For more information contact [fredvdbroek48@hotmail.com](mailto:fredvdbroek48@hotmail.com) ■

*Press release/ F.vdB.*

**B**onaire's Karnaval is an ongoing event extending over a month. Below is the remaining schedule of events. Highlights are the *Marcha Hubenil* (Children's Parade), the *Gran Marcha* (Grand Parade) held over the weekend in Rincon and Playa (Kralendijk) and the *Marcha Despidida* (Farewell Parade) held on Shrove Tuesday. Karnaval season is over on *Diarason di Shinishi* (Ash Wednesday). ■ *G.D.*

Date	Event	Location
22 Jan 2016	Elekshon Reina y Prins y Pancho Hubenil	BSF/ Stadion di Rincon
23 Jan 2016	Festival Tumba Grandi	
24 Jan 2016	Festival Tumba Hubenil	
28 Jan 2016	Parada di Blaas	Playa
29 Jan 2016	Elekshon Prins y Pancho, Reina grandi y Señora Karnaval	BSF/ Stadion di Rincon
30 Jan 2016	Marcha Hubenil	Rincon
30 Jan 2016	Jump In	Stadion di Rincon
31 Jan 2016	Marcha Hubenil	Playa
4 Feb 2016	Teener Parade	Playa
5 Feb 2016	Parada Eskolar	Playa
5 Feb 2016	Parada di Nos Grandinan	Playa
5 Feb 2016	Midnight Jump in	Stadion di Rincon
6 Feb 2016	Gran Marcha	Rincon
7 Feb 2016	Gran Marcha	Playa
8 Feb 2016	Marcha despedida Hubenil	Playa
9 Feb 2016	Marcha Despidida	Playa
10 Feb 2016	Diarason di Shinishi	

## Adopt A Nest

**O**ne of the most important ways Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) protects endangered sea turtles is through their nesting program. A sea turtle nest adoption helps STCB to: relocate nests to protect eggs from drowning when water floods a nest; release newborn turtles that become trapped underground during hatching; support the popular volunteer Beachkeepers program; and provides information that helps to protect nests and reveal the status of Bonaire's sea turtles.

In 2015 STCB started the "Adopt a Nest" program and offered local companies the opportunity to adopt a sea turtle nest, a meaningful way to link a company's brand to the protection of Bonaire's most iconic marine life.

During this nesting season five local companies and one local foundation generously adopted a total of seven sea turtle nests! Each company received a certificate of adoption, a map showing the location of their adopted nest, four items of STCB sustainable merchandise and an invitation to join STCB's marine biologist on a three-hour turtle walk on Klein Bonaire.

During 2015 so far, thanks to the efforts of STCB staff and dedicated volunteer Beachkeepers, a total of 76 nests were located and monitored on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, and five nests that had been laid in unsafe positions were very carefully relocated by the STCB team. Every day during the nesting season one of the 38 volunteer Beachkeepers patrolled the nesting beaches on Bonaire and STCB staff and volunteers made 109 nest monitoring patrols on Klein Bonaire last year. With three hawksbill sea turtles still nesting on Klein Bonaire, as this is written, it will be March 2016 until the 2015 nesting season finishes, with the new season likely to begin in April 2016!

"This pilot project proved to be successful and turned into a very positive experience for STCB during the 2015 nesting season," said Mabel Nava, Manager of STCB. "We are working on the continuation of it for next nesting season with the goal of involving more businesses and thus increasing the network of local protection for our endangered sea turtles. This year is STCB's 25th anniversary, so we will aim to have



*Baby sea turtles on Klein Bonaire*

25 nests adopted by local companies to celebrate this important achievement!"

STCB would like to thank Maduro and Curiel's Bank N.V., Administratiekantoor Brandaris B.V., Blue Jay B.V., Flamingo Communications & Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean, Akkermans Auto Supplies B.V. and Foundation Club Roomer Bonaire for their support to safeguard Bonaire's sea turtles. Because of their symbolic ges-

ture of adopting a sea turtle nest, **a total of 693 baby turtles made it to the sea alive during this nesting season.**

If your company missed out last year don't worry, STCB has decided to continue the "Adopt a Nest" campaign for the nesting season in 2016. For more information about "Adopt a Nest" please contact STCB's manager, Mabel Nava, at [stcb@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:stcb@bonaireturtles.org). ■

*Press release/*

# TCB Head Named

**T**CB announced that **Maurice Adriaens (52)** is the new **Director of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB)**. This position was vacant for a year. He starts officially on February 1, 2016.

In January 2015 TCB started looking to hire a new director and the job was posted in April 2015 in the local media in Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten, the Netherlands as well as social media. The vacancy was open to both internal employees and other interested parties

As director of TCB, Mr. Adriaens is charged with the development and implementation of plans and projects together with the stakeholders, formulation and implementation of strategic plans based on the overall Tourism Plan.

Maurice Adriaens appears more than qualified for the job.

Below are some of the key positions he held in Curaçao and The Netherlands since 1989:

- ◆ Head of the Department research and statistics, service Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in Willemstad (Curaçao), from 1989 to 1994
- ◆ Head of the Department for Spatial Planning, service Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in Willemstad (Curaçao), from 1994 to 1995
- ◆ Curaflor director, from 1995 to 2003
- ◆ Minister of Traffic and Transport, from 1998 to June 2002 (Cabinet-Pourier)
- ◆ Member Island Council of Curaçao, from 2002 to 2003



*Maurice Adriaens and family*

- ◆ Member Parliament of the Nederlandse Antillen, 2003
- ◆ Minister of Transport from 1998 to June 2002 (cabinet Pourier)
- ◆ Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles, on July 2003 to June 3, 2004
- ◆ Director CAH (Curaçao Airport Holding), from June 2010 until recently.

Adriaens lived in the Netherlands while studying tropical plants at the Wageningen Agricultural University. He then worked at the Curaçao office of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, where he was more concerned with research into new crops for local farmers. In 1994 he started Pink Curaflor nursery. He has been living in Curaçao, with his wife and daughter. ■ *G.D.*

# Livestock Workshop



**O**n Saturday, January 23, POP Bonaire will hold a workshop on eugenics (production of good offspring) and lamb meat production. The workshop will be given by Ing. Edward Berben, former director of LVV. Mr. Berben has 25 years experience in the breeding of goats and sheep on Bonaire and Curaçao.

POP Bonaire has done research on Bonaire for the goat and sheep meat market, especially lamb. Supermarkets, restaurants and goat farmers were interviewed and it was found that there is a small market for good quality local lamb. For this to be a success it is necessary to improve the quality of existing goats and sheep by crossing them with varieties that produce more meat.

Lamb has advantages for the kunukero in that the animals could be slaughtered earlier and that the meat commands more money per kilo.

The workshop for kunukeros is from 9 am to 3 pm. Cost: \$10, which includes lunch. Location: Punta Kunuku Blanku in Bara di Karta.

Kunukeros can register via email: [POPBonaire@gmail.com](mailto:POPBonaire@gmail.com). The number of participants is limited. *Press Release via Sherwin Pourier and Jan Jaap van Almenkerk of POP*

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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>Mon 18</b>		01:44	08:17	16:09	20:16		
		-0.18 ft	1.02 ft	-0.04 ft	0.27 ft	7:00	18:31
<b>Tue 19</b>		02:21	09:02	17:13	21:21		
		-0.15 ft	1.08 ft	-0.11 ft	0.20 ft	7:01	18:31
<b>Wed 20</b>		02:59	09:49	18:16	22:32		
		-0.11 ft	1.10 ft	-0.15 ft	0.15 ft	7:01	18:32
<b>Thu 21</b>		03:38	10:37	19:17	23:50		
		-0.05 ft	1.09 ft	-0.18 ft	0.12 ft	7:01	18:32
<b>Fri 22</b>		04:19	11:26	20:15			
		0.01 ft	1.04 ft	-0.19 ft		7:01	18:33
<b>Sat 23</b>	01:16	05:03	12:16	21:09	Full Moon		
	0.13 ft	0.08 ft	0.97 ft	-0.19 ft		7:01	18:33
<b>Sun 24</b>	02:45	05:57	13:07	21:57			
	0.18 ft	0.15 ft	0.89 ft	-0.18 ft		7:01	18:34
<b>Mon 25</b>	03:59	07:13	13:58	22:39			
	0.25 ft	0.22 ft	0.80 ft	-0.17 ft		7:01	18:34
<b>Tue 26</b>	04:50	08:48	14:47	23:14			
	0.32 ft	0.27 ft	0.70 ft	-0.14 ft		7:01	18:35
<b>Wed 27</b>	05:27	10:22	15:37	23:43			
	0.40 ft	0.28 ft	0.61 ft	-0.12 ft		7:01	18:35
<b>Thu 28</b>	05:57	11:44	16:25				
	0.48 ft	0.26 ft	0.52 ft			7:01	18:36
<b>Fri 29</b>	00:08	06:24	12:54	17:12			
	-0.09 ft	0.55 ft	0.22 ft	0.44 ft		7:01	18:36
<b>Sat 30</b>	00:30	06:50	13:53	17:58			
	-0.07 ft	0.62 ft	0.17 ft	0.37 ft		7:01	18:36
<b>Sun 31</b>	L Quarter	00:51	07:17	14:47	18:43		
	Quarter	-0.06 ft	0.69 ft	0.11 ft	0.30 ft	7:01	18:37
<b>Mon 01</b>		01:11	07:45	15:37	19:27		
		-0.04 ft	0.75 ft	0.06 ft	0.24 ft	07:00	18:37



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# A Garden? Herbs & Spices Just Do It

Here we go - the New Year has just started and nature of course is different now from that at other times of the year. We might have had some rain on Bonaire, the temperature is soft and there is a kind breeze. It's the best time for gardening.

Some people like to have their own herbs and spices in their yard to pick fresh while cooking. So it's nice to share some information about these plants which we use every day, some in our food. They are a very hardy group of plants.

In general use, **herbs are any plants used for food, flavoring, medicine, or perfume and in some cases spiritual usage.** Culinary use typically distinguishes herbs from spices. **Herbs refer to the leafy green parts of a plant (either fresh or dried), while spice is a product from another part of the plant (usually dried), including seeds, berries, bark, roots and fruits.** Culinary herbs are distinguished from vegetables in that, like spices, they are used in small amounts and provide flavor rather than substance to food. Herbs can be perennials such as thyme or lavender, biennials such as parsley, or annuals like basil.

Perennial herbs can be shrubs such as rosemary or trees such as bay laurel. Some plants are used as both herbs and spice such as dill weed and dill seed or coriander leaves and seeds. Also there are some herbs such as those in the mint family that are used for both culinary and medicinal purposes.

Herbs often have multiple uses. For example, mint may be used for cooking, tea and for pest control.

Examples of herbs and their uses:

**Perennial culinary herbs:** mint, rosemary, thyme, tarragon.

**Annual culinary herbs:** basil, dill, summer savory, cilantro, parsley, celery, Cuban oregano, sage, chives.

**Herbs used for potpourri:** lavender, lemon verbena.

**Herbs used for tea:** mint, lemon verbena, chamomile, bergamot, hibiscus, lemon grass, yerba hole, oregano,

**Herbs used for other purposes:** Stevia for sweetening, aloe for detoxing, feverfew for pest control in gardens, Cuban oregano for the smell against mosquitoes, aloe vera for skin problems.

**Herbs used for spiritual purposes:** rosemary, sage, parsley, henbane, marjoram, thyme, rue, angelica, bay, oregano, dill, aloe, amica, chives and basil. May be tied in bundles for rituals or prayers or placed in charms. For centuries "wise women" and "healers" understood the uses of herbs for the purposes of healing and magic.

**Herbs in our food:** most used herbs are parsley, oregano, chives, lemon grass, basil, celery, coriander, bay, sage, mint, thyme, rosemary and cilantro. On Bonaire aloe vera is used a lot too as a medicine.

If there is no space in the yard you can grow herbs easily in containers with drainage holes.

First, group together in the same container those herbs that like the same amount of water, light and soil. Arrange the containers on your deck, patio, or any place that's easy to access when you are cooking. The area should get between 6-8 hours of sunlight a day.

Once your containers are placed, fill them half-way with high-quality organic potting mix. Then arrange the herbs to your liking. Try three or four different placements before planting. The tallest go in the back. Fill the rest of the container with soil mixed with some goat droppings and organic compost. Pat soil to firm and remove air bubbles. Give the herb containers water a few times a week.

Harvest herbs often. The more you pick, the more they'll grow. It's also nice to have some herbs in your kitchen. They can grow in small hanging pots or on top of a cabinet in a corner.

Just about every dish tastes better with fresh herbs, and there is no better way to get them fresh than to grow them yourself in an herb garden.

In later articles I will give more information about herb gardens. It's a great hobby and a lot of the herbs can grow easily on Bonaire.

Since you start the New Year with good intentions, I'm sure one of them is about eating healthy. So go ahead with your own fresh picked herbs full of minerals, vitamins and taste. ■

*Angliet, Nature lover*



*Herbs in baskets make attractive gifts*



*Another way to grow your herbs is in hanging planters*

## Changes at Dive Friends



Dive Friends has grown from a single dive shop to five dive shops and four retail locations. Now co-founder Peter Muijselaar (far left) is taking over the job of Company Director from Jan Kloos (far right). Carolyn Caporusso, the present Assistant General Manager, will become General Manager, replacing Pascal de Meyer (3rd from left). Pascal will continue to work with Dive Friends Bonaire on a part time consultant basis. ■ *Press Release*

**Maria Blanca Acuna Pacheco. April, 25 1964 - December 24, 2015.**

Blanca called Bonaire her home for over 25 years. In the early 1990s she began working at Hotel Rochaline. She later worked at City Cafe, The Blue Moon and then at Pasa Bon Pizza & Bar for the past 8+ years. She was also working at Somafer NV (building/carpentry business) as an administrative assistant. The following are thoughts from Blancas long time friend, Rianne Abraham. She writes:



"I always will remember Blanca as a caring, hardworking person from our times together in Rochaline, City Cafe and Blue Moon for more than two decades. She was always ready to help and serve people, to make them feel comfortable. There are no words to describe Blancita's loyalty to her work and friends. I will forever miss this wonderful person and best friend. She enjoyed her life the way she wanted. May she rest in peace."

Blanca was diagnosed with cancer in mid-November and passed away a few hours after returning to Bonaire; coming home was her final wish. ■ *Lisa Pawley*

# 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 Playa** -Every Saturday, 8am-noon, Jong Bonaire, locally made and grown products

• **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 & last Saturdays**- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. 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. Free entrance

• **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

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

• **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

#	DAY	DATE	NAME	PAX	Line
		<b>Two ship days</b>			
		<b>Cruise Ship Schedule</b>			
10		19-01-16	<i>Maasdam</i>	0800-1800	1258 HAL
11		20-01-16	<i>Carnival Sunshine</i>	0800-1600	2974 Carnival
12		20-01-16	<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	1200-2300	700 Regent Seven Seas
13		21-01-16	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	0700-1400	490 Regent Seven Seas
14		22-01-16	<i>Carnival Triumph</i>	0800-1700	2754 Carnival
15		25-01-16	<i>Carnival Pride</i>	0800-2300	2124 Carnival
16		25-01-16	<i>Azura</i>	TBA	3200 P&O
17		27-01-16	<i>Aida Diva</i>	0800-1800	2194 AIDA
18		29-01-16	<i>Serenade of the Seas</i>	0700-1400	2490 Royal Caribbean

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.

### Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes 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 Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.

• **12-step meeting (AA/NA).** Every Wednesday at Gogreen/Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona #47. Walk in from 18:45, starts at 19:15, ends at 20:30. Feel free to mail [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com) or [stappenbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:stappenbonaire@gmail.com) for more information.

• **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or emailing: [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

### Fridays

• **Bonaire Goat 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. 717-4200 or 788-2819 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 Crisita 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-8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, Jan. 23**

—Livestock Workshop at Bara di Karta. Sponsored by P.O.P. More on page 13

— Dive Friends Quarterly Clean Up Dive—Meet at Karels Beach Bar at 9:30 am.

**Saturday, Jan. 30-Annual Lora (parrot) Count.** Volunteers needed. More on page 3

**Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 30-31 — Children's Karnaval Parades Rincon and Playa**

**Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30 & 31 –Art Weekend at restaurant La Cantina on Kaya Grandi**, 1-5pm. Artists Rik van Tongeren, Josephine Ebing, Fred v.d. Broek. Repeat on Feb. 13 & 14. More on page 12.

**Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 6-7 - Grand Karnaval Parades, Rincon and Playa**

**Monday, Feb. 8—Karnaval Monday**, legal holiday, no school

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 7pm-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 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu. 717-8332.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antrio*-Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 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 ■



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**Divi Divi Air-** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

## 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.



## BEAUTY

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

## 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.**

## CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

**Telbo,** Bonaire's pioneer phone company, offers the fastest data and voice communication on Bonaire. Sign up and get a variety of special offers.



## 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

**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. Ad on page 11.

**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 Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

## 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. See pg. 2

## LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

**The Wine Barrel** has one of the island's widest selection of wines and spirits at Bonaire's new "In Spot," the South Pier Mall. It's a classy bar/bistro in the evening and sells a wide selection of alcoholic beverages in the day. See ad on the back page.



## 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. See page 19

## PHOTOGRAPHER

**Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life.** Drone photography too. ScubaVision, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at [www.bonairevisionfilms.com](http://www.bonairevisionfilms.com).

## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate;** since 1989 YOUR agent for the purchase, sale, lease and management of residential and commercial properties!



**RE/MAX Paradise Homes** is your one-stop-shop for Selling and Buying real estate; Purchasing an existing business; Commercial or residential development; Holiday rentals and Long term rentals. See page 3.



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



## 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.



**Breeze 'n Bites at the Den Laman Apartments.** Provides a memorable seaside dining experience with fine food. Specializing in Fresh Seafood and Select Meats. Happy Hour 4-6 pm.

**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. See page 18.

**Penny Lane** is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price. See page 11



## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. See page 16.

## 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. See page 19



## 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?** See ad on page 5



## SUPERMARKETS

### TOP Supermarket—

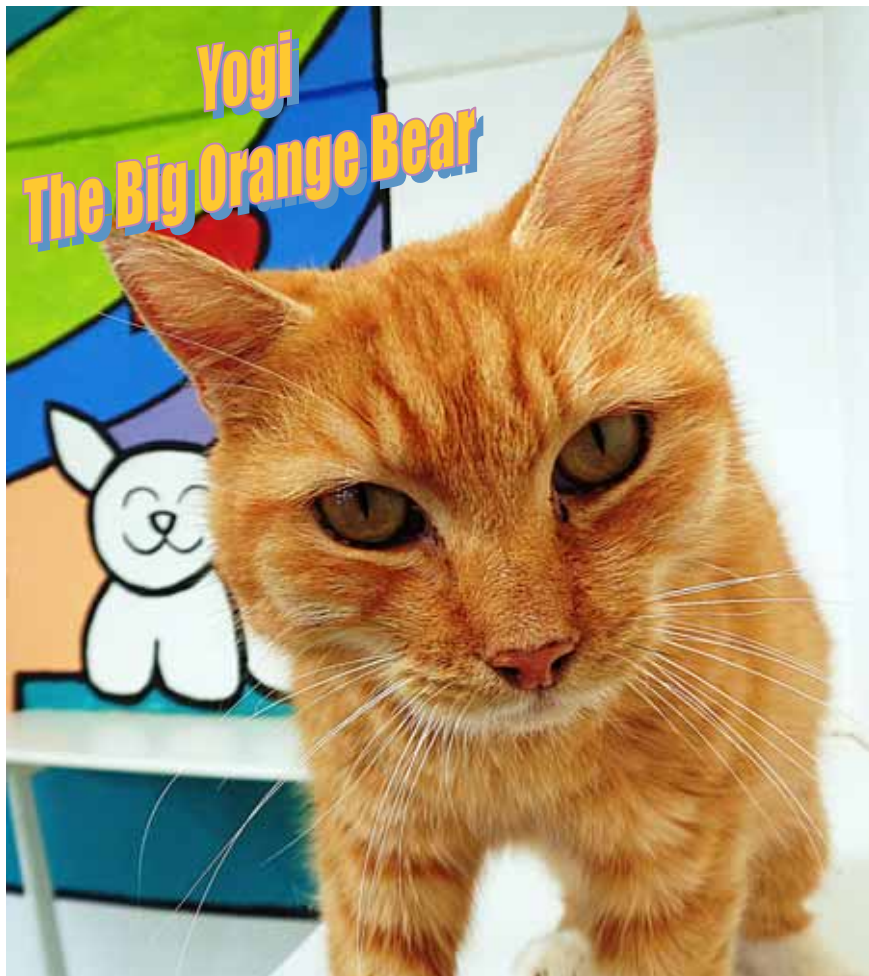
Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. See page 2.



## 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) See pg. 15

# Pet of the Week



Sweet Yogi is really just a big, old teddy bear! He was found wandering the streets about five weeks ago and was rescued before he could be harmed by neighborhood dogs. Yogi, estimated to be between 3 and 5 years old, was obviously someone's house cat. He was wearing a flea collar and is sterilized, chipped and in excellent health. Unfortunately the chip number does not match any numbers in the databases to which the Animal Shelter has access (Bonaire, Curacao or Holland) and so his owner cannot be found. Posts on Facebook and a survey of neighbors in the area where he was found have not resulted in his owner coming forward.

Yogi is a bit shy, but when coaxed with soft words and strokes, he turns into a big, soft purr machine....kneading with his front paws like a young kitten...and happy to give those special feline "head bumps." He is totally non-aggressive to his feline roommates but definitely prefers to just be by himself in human company....he

even prefers to eat when he has a human nearby. He is content to just nap and It is very apparent that Yogi was just a big, lovable, lazy house cat and the reasons for the loss of his home are perplexing and odd.

Yogi is very lonely without a human guardian. He would love to have a real forever home where he can spend his days napping and lazing about with someone who appreciates his calm and loving temperament, plush fur and throaty purr. If you are looking for a snuggle buddy that's as soft as a teddy bear, Yogi is your man.

You can visit Yogi and all his feline and canine friends at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Monday through Saturday, 8 am - 1 pm and 3-5 pm, 717-4989. Check out their Facebook page at Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Jane Madden-Disko



# Pet Project Results



Year 2015 marked the Pet Project's 10th year, supplying Rescue Remedy for treating stress in animals associated with New Years fireworks. In the photo Florence Ditlow (red dress) hands over some collections to Shelter staff Nathalie, Rosa and Marijke. Special thanks to Ella Van Oostrum, Gitta Nijman at Just 4 Pet shop, The Bonaire Reporter and Genady Filkovsky. ■ Florence Ditlow

**No tin suficiente doño pa tur...**

**LAGA STERILISÁ BO KACHO ÒF PUSHI GRÁTIS AWOR!**

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**Flower Power**  
Spice up your garden!

- fire cracker
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- bougainvillea
- oleander
- ixora

green label



# THE STARS HAVE IT

## January 2016

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Friends may not be completely honest with you. Controversial subjects should be avoided at all costs. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Do not ruffle feathers if possible. Help children complete projects they're having difficulty with. Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You have done all you can to sort things out a personal level. You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. This is not the day to be extravagant. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. You should be doing something special with children. Include friends and family members in your redecorating plans. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You have to feel free to come and go as you please to achieve happiness. You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. Your mind will be wandering to exotic destinations. Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Consider applying for a job in another part of the world. However, be careful with luggage; it may be rerouted. You can't help everyone. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Try to calm down and listen to your partner's complaints. Compromise may be neces-

sary. Don't let others put unreasonable demands on you. You can expect changes in your living arrangements. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) For best results get out of the office and do your job en route. Do what you can to help them but don't neglect your own family. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. Don't neglect these problems; deal with them once and for all, then move on to more pleasurable tasks. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Some of that extra energy you have stored up might just be put to good use. Outdoor sports events should entice you. Travel will also be very informative. Use discretion, especially if involved with someone from work. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Join groups of a humanitarian nature. You're intuitive this week; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think. Visit friends or relatives you don't get to see very often. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your romantic inclination should lead to a committed relationship. Business conducted in your own office will proceed smoothly. Empty promises are evident. Romance could develop through social activities or short trips. Your lucky day this week will be Friday. ■ *Michael Thiessen*



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

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

### SUPERMARKET SOLAR SYSTEM

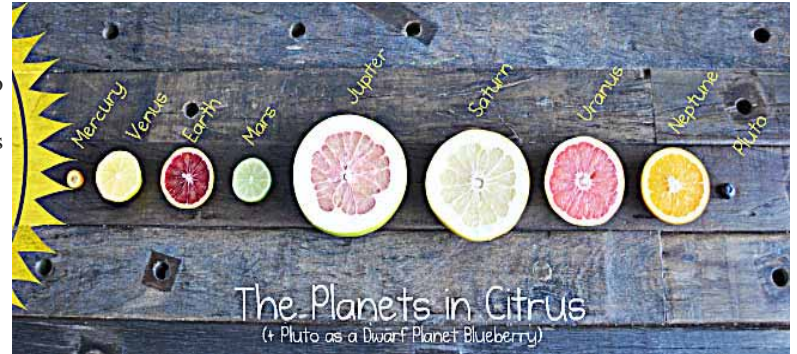
In this issue, we're going to help you put the Sky Park's solar system into perspective. Our solar system is so large with respect to the size of the planets, that most people, ourselves included, have never really had a clear concept of the scale of the universe. To say that space is big is an understatement. How often do we think that those beautiful sparkling points of light in the sky are actually suns like our Sun, yet they're so far away that they appear as mere points of light?

And how often do we think of the differences in sizes between the various planets as they drift across our evening and morning skies? Even with all the easy access we have to information about the universe, many of us still don't really relate to the size and distance of things when it comes to the night sky.

So, we have a neat demonstration that can help, and you can do it at home, using everyday objects you can find in your kitchen. The next time you're in the supermarket, pick up a few of these items and you can make a miniature solar system to scale.

Let's first talk about **Jupiter, Earth** and our **Sun**. Jupiter is our largest planet, but what does that really mean? We can easily look up the fact that we could fit 1,300 Earths inside Jupiter, or it would take 1.3 million Earths to fill up our Sun. Or take their distances for example. If you drove in a car from the Sun to the Earth at 70 miles per hour, it would take you almost 150 years to make the trip. Furthermore, it would take you almost 800 years to drive from the Sun to Jupiter and almost 6,000 years to drive from the Sun to **Pluto**.

But numbers are easily forgotten, so if you really want to relate to the cosmos, it's best to think of it in every day terms and what could be more every day than your kitchen. So, the next time you pick up an orange, pretend that it's the Sun. Then, take



a salt shaker and sprinkle some salt in your hand. If you can pick up just one of those grains of salt, that will represent the Earth, circling the orange at 30 feet away. Now take a black bean. This little black bean represents the Planet Jupiter, circling 200 feet away, or one city block away from the orange. The planet Saturn, would be another black bean, two city blocks away (or 400 feet from the orange). Pluto, everyone's favorite dwarf planet, would be one speck of finely ground pepper, 10 city blocks from the orange.

But our Sun is just one of billions of stars in a family we call our **galaxy**. On this same scale, Sun's closest neighbor, **Alpha Centauri**, is another orange, 1,300 miles away! And all the other stars are fruits of different sizes and on the average are 2,000 miles apart. So our galaxy, from our cosmic kitchen, consists of over 100 billion oranges, grapefruits, cantaloupes and pumpkins, occupying a space 20 million miles in diameter. And that's just one galaxy!

But to show the number of stars in all the galaxies in the visible universe, it would take more oranges, grapefruits, melons and pumpkins than have ever grown since the beginning of time! And remember, our Sun is just one of those oranges, with its eight major planets and five dwarf planets, all mere specks of salt, pepper and black beans, circling less than 15 city blocks away.

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

*Dean Regas & James Albury*

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## Belnem, Kaya Solo 13

### Highlights:

- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms home on a large lot
- in the quiet residential area of Belnem
- close to beaches and Kralendijk
- large plot is perfect for guesthouse/pool/work shop
- long lease (registered 4-F-717) until October 4th, 2053
- Total lot size: 12,180 sq.ft / 1.132 m<sup>2</sup>
- living area: 1,076 sq.ft / 100 m<sup>2</sup>

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 214,500**  
Buyers cost



Sunbelt  Realty

## Barrel Wine Bar and Boutique

The newest, best, wine  
experience on Bonaire!

- Purchase over 100 different fine wines from all over the world!
- Enjoy a drink by the seaside ocean terrace
- Temperature controlled cellar
- Frequent Tastings
- Wine and cocktail workshops

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Contact us at: +599-777-7770 or email [barrelbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:barrelbonaire@gmail.com)