

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** Bonaire Reporter- February 1-15, 2016 Year 23, Issue 3  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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Readers  
Happy Valentine's Day

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**Children's Karnaval  
In Rincon  
Page 9**



**A**lthough the mosquito-borne Zika virus will likely spread to all countries in the Caribbean basin it has not yet been reported on Bonaire. It has been reported on Curacao.



An outbreak in Brazil led to reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome (a paralysis illness) and pregnant women giving birth to babies with birth defects and poor pregnancy outcomes. Margaret Chan, head of the World Health organization said, "Arrival of the virus in some cases has been associated with a steep increase in the birth of babies with abnormally small heads."

Zika is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is also known to carry dengue, yellow fever and Chikungunya viruses. There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika, which typically causes mild fevers and rashes, although about 80% of those infected show no symptoms.

France's Sanofi SA, which won approval late last year for the first dengue vaccine, has said it is reviewing the possibility of applying its technology for Zika.

In the meantime make sure you have no standing water in your neighborhood where mosquitoes breed.

► Bonaire Commissioner of Culture, Care and Education, **Benito Dirksz**, received an honorary **Masters Degree** in Public Administration Management of the Western Hospitality Institute in Jamaica last week. The commissioner received the title for his tireless efforts for preservation and promotion of Bonairean culture and the Papiamentu language at local, regional and international levels.



► THE HAGUE—Leader of the Democratic Party D66 and former Minister of Kingdom Relations, **Alexander Pechtold**, has

announced his return to the Kingdom Relations portfolio in the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. Pechtold was one of the most well-respected Dutch parliamentarians by Bonairean people when he previously had the job. He replaces **Wassila Hachchi**, who resigned as a Member of the Second Chamber last week to work for the campaign team of US Presidential candidate **Hillary Clinton**.

► Bonaire's government **adjusts fuel prices every two months** in response to changes in oil prices on the international market. The following changes in tariffs will apply beginning February 2016. There's a drop in the price of gasoline and diesel, while rates for kerosene, gas cylinders, large and small gas tanks increase. Rates at the pump:

<b>Gasoline</b>	94.90 cents per liter.
<b>Kerosene</b>	40.60 cents per liter.
<b>Diesel</b>	54.80cents per liter.
<b>LPG 100lbs</b>	\$27.31 per tank.
<b>LPG 20lbs</b>	\$7.31 USD per tank.

► On Wednesday, December 9th, the Executive Council decided, after consultation with the government employees union ABVO, to **increase the year-end bonus to OLB (Island Government) officials based on a "13<sup>th</sup> month payout**. Deputy Abraham believes the (re) introduction of a performance-based 13th month will motivate officials to increase and improve their performances throughout the year. Increases will be guided by the last year's NIBUD report on wages and costs in Bonaire.

**NIBUD reported that** 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.

► The vocational track administrators of the high school (MBO) presented a comprehensive, **Byzantine report detailing their plans to lift the ban on issuing diplomas to the students of the school**. Last month the Dutch Education Ministry blocked the vocational school from issuing diplomas and conduction tests because of continued bad educational practices. After review it was determined that some specialties had no problems while others had several steps to go through before normal operations could resume. In any case on Feb-

ruary 1, 2016, the Education Inspectorate was to receive an overview of all programs, which must be substantiated whether the necessary qualifications are met.

► On January 25 **Alfredo Koolman**, CEO of WEB Bonaire, and **Wil Verhoeven**, director of Van den Tweel Group, signed an agreement establishing **another selling point for Pagabon credit – the Van den Tweel Supermarket**.



Pagabon, a pre-pay system for electric service in homes, was established in 2007 to deal with the inability of people to pay their electric bills. According to WEB its prime benefits for users are better control of their electrical use, elimination of the possibility of power cutoff and reconnection fees if bills aren't paid, and no surprisingly high expense bills to pay.

At first it might seem ludicrous that the island's only "luxury" supermarket has this service, but van der Tweel is a participant in the *Bon Kompra* minimum price program and in fact often has lower prices than many neighborhood markets.

Existing points of sale are Gas Express at Kaya Neerlandia, the WEB head office and the WEB office in Rincon.

► In a dedication ceremony last week Bonaire's traffic circle at the Church in Kralendijk was **named after the Sisters of Roosendaal**. Commissioner Gerald Silberie unveiled the nameplate. The nuns, who came from the Netherlands did a lot for the island in the past regarding education, public health and elderly care.

► The island government extended the deadline for paying the first half of the 2016 road tax to February 15th. The second installment shall be paid no later than June 30, 2016. If payment of the first half of the tax due by February 15, 2016 is not met, you must pay the full annual amount after February 16.



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(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)

►During their recent visit to Bonaire for maneuvers the Dutch military helped build 38 large dog houses on the island. The action, organized by Foundation for Animal Assistance, primarily targeted homes where dogs were being kept on chains without shelter. The donated material was carried on army trucks that went into the *barios* to do the job. The foundation's volunteers also spoke to the dog owners about better care for their pets.

►InselAir has discontinued non-stop flights from Bonaire to Aruba. Those who still want to travel to Aruba must do so via Curaçao, just like before. Many Bonaire travelers made use of the non-stop flight when InselAir flew to the US from Aruba (now discontinued) because they could clear US Customs and Immigration before leaving Aruba.

►THE HAGUE—Private security guards are patrolling parts of The Hague this winter, dealing with issues which the police have no time to cover. Some have asked if it is an approach that might be useful on Bonaire.

They patrol the district, look out for suspicious circumstances, give information about break-ins and robberies and ring doorbells if necessary. Using private guards means the police have a much better picture of what is happening on the streets. The city council said the private security guards are operating in and close to shopping areas and cannot detain suspects. The project is part of an initiative known as the "Dark Days Offensive" (*Donkere Dagen Offensief*), aimed at reducing theft. The approach is controversial and opposed by the Police Union.

►At the start of the year the Meteorological Department of Curacao stopped issuing weather forecasts for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustasius because the weather forecasting service for those islands is now be under the KNMI (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute) based in De Bilt, The Netherlands.

According to a KNMI press release: "The observational, satellite and radar data of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba reach the Netherlands in real time, so that the meteorologists at KNMI can follow the weather on the islands closely in spite of the large distance. MDC has maintained its great website....and they are less than 50 miles away so their weather service and radar website for Bonaire is still very useful.

►Beginning Wednesday, 3 February, Boot Camp training becomes available on Bonaire. It makes you fitter, faster and stronger, Every Wednesday 17:30 hours be at Bon Bida gym, across from Sand Dollar (Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 74). It's only \$7 per session (\$4 for Bon Bida members). Open to women and men.

Boot Camp training is varied and focused on the entire body. The Boot Camp training takes place out of doors for approximately one hour. Participants can make free use of the dressing rooms and showers at the gym.

For more information you can call or e-mail. Tel. No: 785-1234 E-mail: Astridnaber@hotmail.com



►Have you volunteered for Bon Doet yet? It's one of Bonaire's most uplifting events See the poster on page 11 for details.



► If you enjoy a good glass of wine then be sure to take part in "The Californian Sunset Wine Tasting" at 5 pm at the Barrel Wine Bar and Boutique, \$25 per person, 6 red and 6 whites wines to taste. It's this coming Friday, Feb. 5.

► Hidden beyond the current El Niño hype, solid evidence exists that the ending of the record-breaking event has already begun and that all traces of it will have vanished by next August. It is thought responsible for our years-long drought. The warm sea surface temperature anomalies in the central-east Pacific Ocean, which characterize El Niño, have reached a plateau in recent weeks which, based on past experience, is a strong indication that El Niño is ending.

► One of Holland's most acclaimed artists, Ronald Verhoeven, moved with his wife Henny to Bonaire in his retirement years where he opened his studio. A prolific artist, his paintings reflect the influence of the islands. The representations in his paintings are abstract but with lots of recognizable elements. He passed away last year. A retrospective exhibition will open on February 13 in downtown Kralendijk. See poster at right. ■ G./L.D.

**Exhibition**

**Ronald Verhoeven**

Retrospective exhibition of paintings of the late Ronald Verhoeven. His works from 1995 to the present. Opening on Saturday, February 13, from 10am to 5pm. At the Pakus di Tela (Arte), Kaya Lib. Simon Bolivar #6 (next to Telbo). The exhibition will be open every day except Sunday and Monday

**Kaya Dorado 13**

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**Sabadeco Crown Shores 34**

**\$ 490.000 US Dollar**

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Total living area 248m2 • 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms  
Roof terrace • Large pool • Ocean views



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# On The Island Since... 2011 – Shirley van de Haar

“In 2008 I came here for the first time for three months to find myself; to figure out what I needed and wanted. I didn’t feel at ease in Holland anymore. I felt that ‘to belong’ you had to follow ‘the rules’ of fashion and appearances. The cold weather didn’t do my back pains any good and people were no longer friendly. I didn’t have a steady job, but with two partners I ran a dog school. When my relationship of 13 years ended, one of my business partners, who owned several apartments and houses on Bonaire, advised me to take a break and get some rest on Bonaire.

So I came here in 2008 to find inner peace and strength, and I can say I was born again on this island. I remember that moment very clearly. I was sitting on the porch under an immensely beautiful 20-year old flamboyant tree which was in full bloom and I felt such peace coming over me – unbelievable – I felt like a new person.

I started working as a volunteer at the animal shelter which I did full-time for two and a half months. Then I went back to Holland again. At home – with my suitcase still in my hand and a feeling that I could conquer the world – I immediately called the employment agency and two days later I got a job. For seven months I worked on a glass fiber project with an IT company, but half way through, in February 2009, I was back on Bonaire for four weeks to refuel. And again I worked at the shelter. Then I went back to Holland, finished the project, then started a new job with the Mac Donald’s organization where

beautiful but tough job and I’ve had some dips. But for two years I observed, I wrote reports, I was a supervisor and a mentor and it was so worth it!

In the meantime I’d started taking care of houses, my dog training business was also a success and I didn’t want to stress too much I couldn’t work much less with Forsa, so we parted, but I still miss it!

I’ve been in the dog training business for 18 years now, and most of the time I’ve done puppy training. Animals are very special to me. I have the feeling they understand me, but also they de-stress me. When I look at my own dogs I see myself in them. That’s what happens when you learn to read and write with your dogs – a very beautiful thing to accomplish. For instance, my dog Lady is like my inner self, very caring but also adventurous. Then, when I look at Beau, my other dog, I see my outside – really tough, but when he feels safe he’s sweet and devoted. It’s like a mutual need and fulfillment. You could say that the dogs I have, have saved me, not entirely of course.” *She laughs* “But they play a big part in my well-being and they add a lot to my life.

With my dog school, ‘De Uitdaging’ (The Challenge), I do mostly puppy training, but we also have a group of working dogs – German Shepherds – where we do training, obedience and protection work. Besides that I give basic obedience training to other dogs and as a follow-up to the puppy training. If people want to make an appointment they can contact me [shirl2901@hotmail.com](mailto:shirl2901@hotmail.com).



Shirley van de Haar



A new dog house made from old pallets - Old house in inset

**“It’s all about helping people and making life for them and their animals easier, nicer.”**

I worked on the layout for the menu screens in Holland, France, Russia and Ireland. It was a great job, but in between times I would always come to Bonaire.

I started thinking about living here and I’d heard there was a demand for a dog trainer. Six months before I made the move I told my boss and colleagues I was leaving. What I’d found on Bonaire I couldn’t find in Holland. I was 37, single and I knew what it was I wanted. It wasn’t scary at all; it was meant to be!

I arrived on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Previously, in January that same year, I’d been here to buy a car and rent an apartment. I’d applied for a job with Van der Tweel as an administrator, and on November 15<sup>th</sup> we started with the whole team to set up the business.

I worked there almost a year, then it was time to do something else – my most beautiful experience ever – working for Stichting Projekt/Forsa, a foundation for children with behavioral problems. I was one of the supervisors, offering a daily structure to the children and for school vacation time I also made the activities program. The children come from an unstable environment and often abuse is involved, so there is nothing better than to give them a feeling of home. There have been lots of precious and very special moments. It’s a

At the moment I only work for myself which gives me a whole lot of time to be a volunteer. Most of the time I work with Tineke Looman of Stichting Dierenhulp (Foundation for Animal Help), who has been doing this work on the island for more than eight years. But we also work with the Animal Welfare Foundation. So, every Tuesday and Thursday, Tineke and I go out to pick up dogs for sterilization/castration and take them to Jan, the vet, where they’re sterilized/castrated. When they’re ready we go to fetch them and bring them back home.

In between, when the animals are at the vet’s, we hit the road again to make new appointments for sterilization/castration, and also for things Jan has to check like broken legs, skin problems and other ailments. **By the way, our phone number is 796-7000 – people can always call for help.**

Every Saturday Tineke and I also go out to check on special cases. At the moment we have a huge tick problem on the island and dogs can really get sick from it or even die with tick disease. Tineke and I go out with kennels, water and food and medication and we always have a plan of action. We take one neighborhood and go from door to door asking if people need help with their animals. That’s all. We are not there to judge anybody or to meddle in

their affairs or to take their animals away from them. We’re just there to help.

Everything we do is for free. People don’t have to pay a thing, except for the annual vaccinations. Those we cannot afford. Recently, the Animal Welfare Foundation received a donation for medication and we bought NexGard® – pills that give a three-month protection for fleas and ticks. That’s what we give the dogs so that they’re protected for a longer period of time.

It’s all about helping people and making life for them and their animals easier, nicer.

When a dog gets sterilized people have to sign a form giving us permission, otherwise we won’t do it. We also explain what to do when the animal comes home again and how to take care of it. And the day before the sterilization we call the owners to remind them they shouldn’t feed the dog anymore after 7 pm the day before. It’s a lot of work but it gives a great deal of satisfaction because every dog counts!

Our latest project has been the Dog House Project organized by the Animal Welfare Foundation. Tineke and I collected 160 shipping pallets. Then the Dutch army came, which had an agreement with Maryke Barendregt of the Animal Welfare Foundation to convert the pallets, floors and roof plates into an assembly kit and install them in people’s gardens on the spot! A built-in water bucket was added as

dogs always spill their water. In total, 37 new dog houses were built and placed. (See related text at top left of page 3 n Flotsam and Jetsam.)

This coming May the project will be even bigger. In the meantime we’re carrying on, however, a bit slower. When we install the dog houses the dogs are also checked. If necessary they get medical treatment and/or they are sterilized/castrated.

You see, I’m busy! But I’m no longer stressed. I get a lot of energy from what I’m doing, from all that we accomplish and from the fact that people are calling us, not only for their own pets, but also for their family’s and neighbor’s animals.

I’ve found my peace here because I can live the way I want to live. All my life, since I was a child, I had to do everything alone and it made me strong.

For me the best things in life are the starry skies at night, the full moon shining and a long stroll with my dogs. I live very simply and I don’t need much. I am happy with the little things and so there is always plenty to give.” ■

Story & photos by  
Greta Kooistra





## New Stormvogel T-shirts at the New Budget Marine Store

It is a new year and that means new beginnings. Budget Marine is now firmly established in their new expanded facility on Kaya Neerlandia 21. Because of the extra room they now have, owners Pam and Peter Werdath have generously created a display of Stormvogel products, something that they just could just not do in the old store. Stormvogel is the last of the sailing cargo boats of the ABC Islands and all proceeds from the sales go to the boat's historic restoration.



Thea Winklaar with the new shirts

But that is not all that is new. Fundashon Patrimonio Maritimo Boneiru (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) has stocked Budget Marine with their new style, pure-cotton T-shirts for 2016 with the title, Stormvogel Rising, on the front. Sizes run from small to XXL in teal, beige, red and black and cost \$20. There are also new bottle koozies in bright yellow or sea blue that keep your beverage cool. Just ask Budget Marine employee Thea Winklaar to help you out. She has all kinds of sea stories to tell since her father, Lucio Soliano, served as a deckhand aboard Stormvogel in the 1950s.

Other retailers selling Project Stormvogel products are Boutique Vita on Kaya

Grandi, the Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina and the Kanti Awa Million Dollar Bar. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian



Bottle koozies are a must on Bonaire

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Ketchikan, Alaska



Harold and Maira Vaseur took an awesome Alaska cruise with their friend Senaida Hart who celebrated her birthday on the trip. They enjoyed each and every single moment. The scenery is one of a kind and they remembered to bring along a Bonaire Reporter. ■

### 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

## Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

### BIKING BUNITA BONAIRE

*I can ride my bike with no handlebars  
No handlebars  
No handlebars  
I can ride my bike with no handlebars  
No handlebars  
No handlebars (Flobots)*

After a strenuous bike ride (avec handlebars) one morning, I was inhaling my second *koffie verkeerd* (milk with a little bit of coffee) at Gio's around 10 am when an army of kids burned up Kaya Grandi with bikes (sans handlebars) and scooters. An old lady shuffled across the street, shaking her gnarly fist at the bad boys. At Gio's, a few Dutch patrons murmured disapproval. The cacophony of horns, laughter and screeching tires had disturbed their peaceful coffee klatch (in Dutch: *koffietijd*). Rule number one in the Netherlands: not to interfere while a Dutchie is enjoying *koffie met een koekje* (coffee with a cookie) during mid-morning break.

Amazingly, none of the juveniles got injured while performing wheelies and other freestyle wonders on Bonaire's crowded main drag. Even the few relatively uncrowded Bonaire roads are rough and don't lend themselves so well even to careful drivers of cars, or of scooters and bikes, let alone to acrobatic performers atop of one of them.

For a long time on Bonaire, few of us much believed in the possibility of biking our arduous roads here. And our hot, humid climate typically doesn't inspire intense physical exercise. However, the genuine cycling enthusiast, such as myself, is not easily intimidated. Biking has become increasingly popular, especially mountain biking. Of course, there are the typical tourists, peddling to and from their hotels to Playa, possibly venturing even farther afield on road bikes. But many road cyclists, like me, are increasingly using mountain bikes. Mostly we still stick to the "paved" roads, but now and again may strike out for the unpaved ones as well. Then there's the hardcore mountain biker; who "don't need no stinkin'" roads like us wussies. They let themselves go wild on the wilderness treks of the kunuku, along imposing cliffs and up and over steep *kabritu* (goat) trails.

The Bonairean landscape is actually pretty

ideal for the vigorous mountain biker, so long as you heed the dehydration danger posed by our high temps. One can find approximately 250-300 km. of unpaved roads and paths, consisting mostly of off-pavement kunuku roads and animal trails. The goat trails, especially, pose a formidable challenge to beginners and even to intermediate bikers. But to advanced lovers of this sport, they just add to the fun.

Popular mountain bike tracks and trails are Andrea's Passage, Flat Tire Road, Pink Trail, Kaminda Jan-Henk and Killer, among others. Washington-Slagbaai Park also features fun routes. You can find paved roads with a slope of 20%; however, some dirt hill trails surpass even this high percentage grade.

Who are these mountain bikers (MTB-ers) who like to defy these suckers?

Most MTB-ers enjoy practicing together in same-level groups. The real "cracks," a.k.a. "nut heads," like to speed up at least to 27 km. per hour on these aforementioned goat and kunuku trails; whereas beginners marvel at surviving just a minor length of such a trail after a careful spin on a more accessible road.

When the "cracks" go down, they go down hard. And such unexpected plunges aren't exactly cushioned by cuddly vegetation. Indeed, because of the rugged limestone terrain, an involuntary kiss with a prickly pear or any bristly bush is unavoidable. There are no soft landings!

The Bonaire Xtreme Sport Foundation organizes fun races every six to seven weeks in which beginners and real die-hards are able to participate. Another event, the Bonaire MTB Duo Xtreme, is held every October, when teams of two are required to finish together over quite rugged terrain. (Thanks to Martijn Eichhorn and Sabine Engel for providing me info and photos of *real* biking.)

I fancy my island biking at a more civilized pace and pitch, sharing space with goats, donkeys, birds and iguanas, while peddling about 23 km. per hour on mostly "paved" roads -- shoulderless, severely cracked and deeply potholed, notwithstanding. But here you have to compete for passage with drivers who sometimes seem to have invented "uncivilized." This category includes insane scooter and motorcycle clowns who have a way of pushing you to the side when "fevering." This means lifting up their steering wheels and front tires at the same time, creating the look of a bucking bronco out of control, which of course, they

are. Steering wheel up means not much steering means unguided missile! (Can this possibly be legal on Bonaire?) So, a splendid idea: Get off the beaten track, if you can.

I must add, though, that most motorists act courteously and offer friendly waves to bikers. Where I live and cycle, thoroughfares such as Kaya International, Kaya Debrot and EEG Boulevard offer major structural challenges. Bike paths would surely be desirable here. I love the bike route on Nikiboko South. Too bad it just quits in town (just when you need the darn bike path most) and dumps you off into congested traffic.

Wretched roads are one thing, hellish hounds are quite another. As Bob and I headed out to Tera Kora one late afternoon with our mountain bikes, a ferocious canine came charging and nipping after us. I was ready to haul my bike and bootie out of there, but the hub surprised me with a talent I didn't know he possessed. He started to snarl and growl (no, not the dog) and hopped up and down like a menacing chicken on steroids. A face-off. I love face-offs! The pooch's feral bark quickly turned



Duo-Xtreme MTB ride

into a yelp and a downward tail. Poor doggie!

Aside from mad mongrels and "fevering" fools on our scary streets, biking on Bonaire means feeling the wind though your hair, experiencing the dappled light through the acacias, feasting one's eyes on frolicking *ezels* (donkeys) and passionate *prikichis* (parakeets), admiring foraging flamingos among the mangroves in Lac Cai or up north in the Gotomeer, watching fishermen hauling in the catch of the day, savoring salty ocean breezes, greeting friendly locals, pausing for a drink and salad at Lac Baai or Jibe City, or sipping a latte at Gio's while gazing not only at Bonaire's cavorting youth on wheels, but also at the passing parade of clueless cruise boat tourists and languid local shoppers. I love this menagerie. ■

Karen Bastiaan Gilmore



Karen on the road



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# Tribute To Environmental Pioneers

A group of friends of Captain Don and Jack Chalk worked together to have a bronze plaque honoring them mounted above the dive shop at Habitat. The words chosen represent the best of what they were to each other, Habitat, the island of Bonaire and the diving community at large:

**“Friends, Colleagues, Patriots and Environmental Leaders”**

Those who sponsored and worked on the plaque project include George Buckley, Janet Thibault, Valerie Gould, Jenny Choate, Mookie Stewart, Fernando Simal, Mel McCombie, Harris Friedberg, John and Martha Lange, Chris Viprino, Max Tringale, Philippe, Jan and Alexandra Cousteau, Jerry Beatty, James Castanino, Tyler Bartley, George and Laura DeSalvo .. and from Habitat: Henry, Claire, Jason, Wilco and Roger. ■ *George Buckley*



Claire Sealy, George Buckley, Janet Thibault and Roger Hauge under the plaque

# Protecting Our Monuments



Members of the board meet with the Executive Council

Bonaire Historical Advisory Board came back to life on November 14, 2014, and since that day the board has had meetings on a regular basis. Its purpose is to advise the government on the structures on the island that merit protection from demolition and are candidates for restoration. On January 19 the Board had its first meeting with the Executive Council of Bonaire and handed over its first “Position Paper.”

The Board is appointed by the Executive Council, for two years. The Board consists of the following members: Fransisco Soleano, Christie Dovale, Frans Booi, Dr.J.Haviser, Tarcisius T. Da Costa and Lyongo Juliana. ■ *Christie Dovale*

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# Goat Ware



Goat skin purse

**MÈH BONAIRE GOAT WARE IS READY FOR THE NEXT STEP!**

In December of 2015 Boneiru Duradero launched a new line of products made of goat leather- "MÈH Bonaire Goat Ware." The products were displayed at Marshe di Playa and the feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive. One of the next steps in the development of MÈH would be to train native Bonaireans in the craft of artisan tanning. At the moment the supply of tanned goat hides, to be transformed into a finished product, is insufficient. Boneiru Duradero is looking for Bonaireans who want to learn this natural tanning process as well as teaching the craft of making leather products to make a living. Boneiru Duradero will make the brand name MÈH available to those who produce local goat products and will also offer marketing support. Locally produced goat ware can become a very successful product for Bonaire and for its local entrepreneurs.

The product line for MÈH Bonaire Goat Ware was designed by **Nicolette Zwartkruis**. Nicolette graduated from Art school in 1993 where she specialized in Fashion and Design. She's worked for various companies, such as women's and men's fashion retail businesses. As chief designer she was always in charge of developing the collections. In 2008 Nicolette decided to become a freelancer with NicZ Design & Development, where she was involved with a social sustainable project in Kenya (Africa), called Mikono. This project's goal was to better the lives of disadvantaged women by teaching them how to make products with a knitting machine. Nicolette developed a line of knit ware for Mikono and also taught the women to work with the knitting machine.

By the end of 2014 Nicolette moved to Bonaire with her partner. Always eager to learn new skills she took a tanning workshop organized by Boneiru Duradero. At that time Boneiru Duradero had already developed the brand name MÈH Bonaire Goat Ware but was still in need of a designer to develop a professional line of products. Nicolette was enthusiastic to get involved in yet another sustainable community project. In December 2015 the collaboration between NicZ Design & Development and Boneiru Duradero paid off. Nicolette designed and produced a beautiful collection of personal and home accessories and will be teaching the course for making goat leather products, available only to native Bonaireans who are interested in developing goat ware as a business opportunity. Send a private message to Boneiru Duradero Portal on Facebook or an email to [info@boneiruduradero.nl](mailto:info@boneiruduradero.nl) if you are interested in producing goat ware. In the mean time Nicolette will offer goat leather products at Marshe di Playa every Saturday morning at Jong Bonaire from 9am to 1pm. ■ Sharon Bol



## SUPERB MEDICAL CARE

Dear Editor:

I would like to personally thank the San Francisco Hospital & Fundashon Mariadal for the excellent care that I received last Saturday (23<sup>rd</sup>) in the emergency room.

My experience, starting with reception and going through the entire staff I met was excellent. I have several different pulmonary diseases. I was experiencing severe pain and shortness of breath, so I decided I needed to go to the ER.

I was well received into the care of Marko, the nurse in ER, who started the preliminary evaluation.

He then brought in Dr. Bogaerts-Samama who started some tests to try and eliminate what could be wrong. The decision was to run blood tests, EKG, x-ray and finally a CT scan. Dr. Peters, the internist, was brought in to consult on my situation. They started eliminating things like pulmonary embolism (gads!) and decided on pneumonia (that was great-'only' pneumonia!). I have been on antibiotics and steroids for a week. Slowly getting back to my old self.

Again I would like to thank everyone for their excellent care and concern for my health.

I have been to the hospital several times since coming to the island in 1997. (My husband and I live on Bonaire for three months out of the year.) The upgrades on the hospital, i.e. ct scan and remodeling of the ER are very nice.

Lee Scruggs, part-time resident



Who are you calling tiny ??

Be calm its Neri-yah's birthday!  
XO from Melchior, Melati and Meranti.  
Hugs, kisses and blessings.

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# Kid's Karnaval In Rincon



Drum Corps (photos by Laura DeSalvo)



The Children's Parade in Rincon was small but big on enthusiasm and cuteness. It was led by the drum corps who set the beat.



Above:  
Is it a girl?  
Or is it a palm tree?  
It's both!



Some participants were a little suspicious of the photographer.

Others were happy to wave and smile.

But all of them were darling and extravagantly dressed and made up.

## Artist Cremer to Show in Miami

Eric Cremer's work chosen for exhibition at the Art Fusion Galleries in Miami



"Because I was creating art for tourists, I was more or less forced to make small pieces as people couldn't take it in their suitcases. Within those limitations I created different variations on my theme, 'Habitats,' but soon it appeared that only one or two of those specific choices were sold. The consequence was that I kept on making the same things over and over again, which is killing for an artist because your creativity comes to a standstill.

Ever since I started with this theme I had a dream of making monumental pieces – which made things even worse." He smiles. "And so, in an attempt to widen my horizons, I mailed photos of my work to a number of galleries in Miami. At long last I was invited by the Art Fusion Galleries in Miami to exhibit my work. I was bewildered and overwhelmed with joy!

The Art Fusion Galleries are showing an extensive collection of contemporary modern art from emerging to mid-career artists from all over the world. Last year

the gallery was named 'Best Gallery in Florida For 2015', so you can imagine that I am extremely happy with their invitation.

I will show six pieces of my art which are all inspired by the ways people live. Before I came to live on Bonaire in 2012 I travelled the world extensively and I've always been fascinated by the variety of habitats people live in – from mansions to Kasbahs and from temples to slums; extraordinary variations.

The exhibition takes place from the beginning of April through the end of June and there will be a grand opening, which of course my wife and I will attend! But above all I'm going to Miami in hopes of finding a new market where I can develop myself, because the essence of an artist is to be challenged by new experiments, to find new angles of incidence. It has to stay exciting!" ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

For more info contact:  
[liekeric1@gmail.com](mailto:liekeric1@gmail.com)

## Wonders of Nature A Fictional Story With a Message

Every day I walk my dogs in the *mondi* (countryside). And every day nature looks different; I never get bored. Unfortunately there is more to see than pure nature in the *mondi*. A lot of people think they should brighten up nature with their own waste materials. So, every day I see new trash and that makes me wonder. I will share my wondering about this waste and nature with you and hope that this might contribute to putting waste where it belongs: in the landfill.

### The Bowl of a Toilet

Strolling on a bright yellow dirt road with an orange-red sunset before me, I suddenly step into a toilet bowl cut in half. Memories of the way my parents divorced darken the horizon. "Share and share all" was their motto, and when they split up they cut all their belongings in half. I was able to avoid a bloody half of myself, because I have a twin brother.

But why immediately think about the worst? My frame of reference cannot be referred to as standard. It is quite possible that the broken bowl has a different background. For instance, an obese, sweaty toilet visitor could have been on this bowl long and frequently. Hard stools make him sit for hours on the pot,



Justine Verschuur photo

armed with a newspaper and matches. His flesh hangs heavily over the toilet seat and he moans and growls during his tough job. Suddenly he hears a sound as if a string breaks. First he thinks that his own body is likely to fail, but then he sees trickling water to his feet. A crack in the porcelain produced an unstoppable flow. Before the toilet explodes, he stumbles away with his pants around his ankles. But how come there is only half a bowl, what happened to the other half?

And how come you always see just one shoe of a pair of thrown-away shoes in the *mondi*? It has become dark and I walk back to the car caught in these thoughts.

When I come home from my walk, I suddenly realize that I have given more attention to a filthy piece of waste than to the beautiful orange sunset. The heavenly splendor floored by the earthy ugliness, filth preferred to sublimity. Isn't it tragic that our imaginings are sometimes more easily captured by ugliness rather than splendor? ■ Justine Verschuur



Educational programs based on every child's personality and talents

# KID'S COLLEGE

*This is the first in a series about Kid's College written by Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour*

**KID'S COLLEGE** offers a new way of assisting students who struggle in their first few years of HAVO/VWO (higher level learning) or during their four years of MAVO and VMBO (lower level learning) with focus on homework guidance and improving Dutch language skills. The student's personality, abilities and needs are at the center of learning here.



Kid's College photos

The school

Kid's College, on Kaminda Lagoen 50 B, is the critical new educational initiative of Brenda Brouwer, a certified and experienced teacher, and John Van 't Hoff, former director of Bonaire's high school, SGB, and a qualified teacher.

The founders of Kid's College believe that when students feel confident about themselves, those feelings will very likely have a positive effect on their grades. Instead of just assuming a student's strengths or shortcomings, Brenda and John take the time to get acquainted with each student applicant during the admissions interview. A Dutch language skills exam is part of the admissions process as well. In addition, students are tested with regard to their sentiments and motivations regarding school and homework.

Based on the outcomes of their interviews and test results, Kid's College offers each student an individualized program, based on personality type, specific skills and special needs. Together with the students, Brenda and John create action plans for each, which will engage their parents or guardians as well. Each student's development is closely monitored in consultation with students and parents and then carefully evaluated at least four times a year. If a student is not progressing as hoped, adjustments are made. When relevant to special linguistic needs, Kid's College offers a program called "Dutch as a Second Language" (NT2).

Kid's College takes an innovative approach, called meaningful learning, which focuses on practicing skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity, critical

thinking and problem solving. Brenda and John believe that kids learn best when they experience first hand why they need to know something and then, how they are able to do it.

With the assistance of Lego Education, a very popular tool in the United States, Kid's College places emphasis on applying knowledge as a means to expand learning rather than simply rote learning and memorization in order to pass exams. Using Lego Ed, students work together in small groups of no more than five in the areas of Nature and Technique, Dutch Language, Arithmetic and Mathematics, or Human and Society, using their "meaningful learning" skills in doing so.



Brenda (above) and John (below) helping students



### Why choose Kid's College for homework guidance and learning Dutch?

They are open from 3 until 6 pm every weekday and in the mornings during most school holidays. Kid's College has the availability of a large air-conditioned workspace and study room with computers for all to use. The overall language is Dutch, in order both to increase Dutch-speaking abilities and to facilitate students' progress in the Dutch educational system. But personal development is at the core. Pupils work in a structured way with other kids, small groups only, in a cozy, but safe and supervised environment. The college offers lemonade and healthy mid-afternoon snacks every afternoon.

Prospective students are encouraged to taste the atmosphere at Kid's College for an afternoon before actually applying. It's free!

Brenda and John, together with their professional staff, are very knowledgeable about Bonaire's educational system and of the new challenges faced here under recently adopted guidelines. They have both had years of teaching experience and are dedicated to helping Bonaire's children improve their learning skills. As one parent put it, "Brenda and John have heart for the students." (See: [kid-collegebonaire.com](http://kid-collegebonaire.com) website for further info.) ■ Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour



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# Program For Gifted Kids

*In a world of globalization, where no island is an island, small places can come up with BIG ideas.*

## Why a Focus on "Giftedness" and "Youth"?

The future of a society is in its youth and educational system. While all youngsters deserve attention it is the most gifted ones who sometimes suffer the most since their potential is not fully explored. Gifted youth have exceptional abilities and qualities in areas such as academics, culture, leadership, arts, creativity and sport. Due to lack of awareness, resources, and expertise, "gifted" children get ignored in school and by parents. Often their caregivers don't recognize "giftedness" and if they do see it, they don't know what to do about it. As a result, those with learning difficulties get attention, but those with learning facilities get ignored and left to fend for themselves. Given that these gifted youth are the potential innovators, and entrepreneurs for a society, when they lose, we all lose.

## Bonaire Has Its Challenges and Opportunities

Like the rest of the world, Bonaire has its challenges. A new initiative, The Bonaire Institutes for Giftedness ("BIG") Ideas Foundation wants to step up to the challenge.

After two years of significant private funding by the founders and complex research between Bonaire, The Netherlands, and the United States, "The BIG Ideas Foundation" is about to get going on our island. One of the first initiatives of this new foundation is the launch of "**The Bonaire Institute for Giftedness**," which will hold its inaugural "**BIG Giftedness Retreat**" from **Feb 22-Mar 4, 2016** at the Landhuis Wanapa. Language of the inaugural retreat is principally Dutch.

For the BIG Giftedness Retreat, a lot of preparatory work has been done. A group of leading **European Council for High Ability (ECHA)** specialists in gifted education, trained at **Radboud University in Nijmegen**, are coming to Bonaire this month to work with gifted youth, teachers and schools. The team has been preparing for months. It includes well-known leaders in the European giftedness field, such as **Marieke Schekkerman**, **Marieke van der Zee**, **Astrid Loontjens**, and **Anita Wuestman**, who also chairs the Foundation of Dutch Specialists in Gifted Education. The BIG Giftedness effort has also benefited from advice from **Tijl Koenderink**, founder of Novilo, and his colleague, **Roland Louwerse**, and **Lianne Hoogveen**, Head of the Center for Giftedness at Radboud University, who is also a member of ECHA's Board. In designing its plans, the BIG Team has coordinated with **Onnie Emerenciana**, Bonaire's School Attendance Officer (*Leerplichtempenaar*), **Natasha van den Heuvel-Rach**, Director, and **Renata Domacasse** from EOZ, **Mimi Dongen**, Sentro Hubentut I Famia, **Nolly Oleana**, RCN/OCW, principals of schools on Bonaire, and others. The **BIG Giftedness Retreat** has two parts:

The **BIG Giftedness "Family" Program**, Feb 22-26, will run during the first week of the Retreat. This Family Program is focused on gifted youth and their families, covering both local youngsters and families, and those coming from Europe. At least one parent is expected to attend with their

"gifted" child/children. There will be a morning and afternoon field-trip (optional) session. **Costs range around \$1,400**, depending on number of family members. Some **scholarship funds are available**. Ages of the children may be from 5-13+ years, but likely to be focused on primary school-aged children. Spaces are limited.

The **BIG Giftedness "Professionals" Program**, Feb 29 - Mar 4, will likely run during the second week of the Retreat. This Professional's Program is more focused on schools and officials. It is expected to include an "*Overview on Giftedness for Teachers*" and a "*Teacher's Program for Giftedness Specialists*." Sessions for these Programs may be over a few days, held in the afternoons, and ideally rotated across a few schools, so that the principals can host teachers in each other's school. (*Final decision on the structure and funding of the Professionals Program is imminent but pending with EOZ as this article was going to press*).

**Gifted youngsters are found in every cultural, social, ethnic and socioeconomic group** – in Washington and Amsterdam; from Rincon, to Sabadeco; and from Tera Cora to Belnem. In any population group, statistically there will be 1-2% "gifted" youth. This means that statistically we have 80-100 or more "gifted" young people on island.

Giftedness has special characteristics. Sometimes a gifted youngster's rapidly developing cognitive abilities create a divergence between their chronological age, intellectual maturity, and emotional maturity, causing some gifted youth to experience an intensity or sensitivity of feelings and emotions. This may leave the gifted youth open to teasing and social isolation at school and a challenge at home and elsewhere.

## The Joys and Challenges of Being Gifted

Gifted youth are extremely curious; have excellent memory; have fluent and flexible thinking; excellent problem solving skills; learn quickly, with less practice and repetition; have unusual and/or vivid imagination; are very sensitive emotionally and even physically; are concerned about fairness and injustice; are perfectionist; relate well to adults; have extensive vocabulary; read rapidly and widely; and enjoy learning new things.

But they also have challenges. Gifted youth can be unhappy because they find it difficult to form satisfying bonds with peer groups; they can be generally frustrated and want to be only with adult or elder peers; they can be overly sensitive to environments, leading to moodiness, irritability, or anxiousness; and have a focus on perfectionism and procrastination leading to under achievement in school.

All of this creates a dilemma, because giftedness really is a "special need" that requires thoughtful attention by parents, teachers, psychologists, and other caregivers. Like any other special need, it needs special attention, and normal parenting or care giving is not enough. This program hopes to provide this.

## An Optimistic Future for Bonaire

Bonaire is connected to the world today in ways that were unimaginable only a few decades ago. The next generation of chil-



Marieke Schekkerman, Adnan Hassan and Astrid Loontjens in Maastricht, The Netherlands, where they discussed the upcoming **BIG Giftedness Retreat**.

dren on Bonaire, in Europe, and elsewhere, are entitled to benefit from the best the world has to offer, especially in the field of education. Bonaire needs to grow and retain its talent. For all children it is particularly important that they have the tools and inspiration to achieve their biggest dreams. With the launch of the BIG Giftedness Retreat, Bonaire will be in a lead position in the field of "gifted" education in the BES and for the Caribbean Netherlands, and as a point for innovation on "giftedness" between Europe, and the Americas.

Is all of this naïve? Maybe. A BIG idea? Certainly. Possible? Definitely! ■ **Adnan Hassan**, Founder, *The BIG Ideas Foundation*, Bonaire

For more information on participation, costs, etc. please refer to the website at [bigbonaire.weebly.com](http://bigbonaire.weebly.com), or send an email to [bigbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:bigbonaire@gmail.com). Spaces are limited. Donations for the Foundation are welcome at MCB #411.036.36

**HOOGBEGAAFD ... en wat dan?**  
Een initiatief van de BIG Ideas Foundation

**KOM NAAR DE BIG RETREAT OP BONAIRE.**

De Bonaire Institute of Giftedness ("BIG") stelt u in staat om samen met uw kind(eren) onder begeleiding van een aantal specialisten op het gebied van hoogbegaafdheid, te werken aan de problematiek, rondom het hoogbegaafde kind. Dit alles op het schitterende eiland Bonaire, waar niet alleen gewerkt wordt, maar waar u ook kunt genieten van de pracht en rust van het Caribisch gebied.

[bigbonaire.weebly.com](http://bigbonaire.weebly.com)



## BON DOET March 11 & 12 2016

Join Stichting Project in BON DOET, the greatest volunteers' event on Bonaire!

This year Stichting Project will be painting.

We are ON for BON DOET! Are you?

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**Hasi bon, pasa bon!**



# 28th Bonaire International and Local Fishing Tournament

THE RESULTS ARE IN...



Documenting the catch—

**All we can say is that from the start, the tournament was awesome! With the first strike only 12 minutes after lines went into the water, the first day saw more releases than the entire tournament of years past.**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Bonaire International and Local Fishing Tournaments were each a fantastic success. The International tournament saw 24 participants, from Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and Bonaire. This is a catch and release tournament, targeting Bill fish. Only pictures together with a control code given over the radio when they report a strike are taken and the fish never leave the water. Each Blue Marlin is awarded 300 points, Whites and Sailfish are awarded 150 points, no matter the size. Blue Marlin over 300lbs may be caught for as many points as it weighs, but beware, if it is less than 300lbs there is a stiff penalty. At least one boat reported Blues larger than the 300lbs but elected as conservationists and good sportsmen to leave the fish to grow yet more. Several fish were also tagged before releasing. One tagged fish was also caught, and reported to the International Billfish Association.

There are over \$12,000 of cash awards in this contest, including prizes for most points, largest and most Tuna, Wahoo and Dorado, first release of each day, and several spontaneous prizes, like next Tuna, next release and so on. If someone could bring in a record breaker of over 803 lbs, they could go home with a Toyota Highlux pickup truck!

On the registration evening we enjoyed music, a short captains' meeting and BBQ. We thank Customs and Immigration for joining us at the opening registration and party as well as the closing, making the arri-

val and departure for the participants as simple as can be.

Friday, the first day of fishing, began clear and calm with a quick but heavy rain shower slowing the departure from a big breakfast. The fishermen headed over to claim their goodie bags full of food and snacks for lunch, ice and beer, then across the street to the boats. The running start began with a bang of fireworks. With all boats facing south to cross the imaginary line, they all followed that by a quick turn, as nearly all headed North rocking in the splashing wakes.

**On Day One, there was an unprecedented 36 strikes of which only 2 were lost, 2 Tunas that were boarded and the release of 9 Blue Marlin, 3 Sailfish and 20 White Marlin.** One of the lost Blues was not so easily lost. After 2 hours of fighting he snapped the rod in half, but that was not it, they continued to fight the fish by hand for over another half hour when he finally managed to get free only yards from the boat. The day closed with a great party, many stories, the rock and reggae from the band RPM and a big buffet so everyone was content for the night.

**Day Two was not far behind with 33 strikes, boarding 3 Dorado, again only 2 lost, and releasing 3 Blue, 8 Sail and 17 Whites.**

The second day also included the **Local Tournament where local fishermen go out for fish to eat.** There are no intentional releases here! Among the 18 boats that participated, Buni, small tunas were the largest haul with the fishermen racing far out to the tankers waiting for their spot on the pier and fishing at night in their bright lights. There were also Yellow fin tunas, Jacks of many sorts, rainbow runners, barracudas, snappers, and more. For this contest the boats are split into 2 categories, large, 17' and over, and small, under 17'. Many people and restaurants were able to buy the fish returning fresh off of the boats. The fishermen keep their catch, so there was plenty of sushi around the island! **The total haul was about 550kgs of fish.** For the local small boats **E. Josephia on Suly took 3rd place with 47.5kg of fish while Celso Thielman on Kuna switched places from last year with Larry Gerharts on Kwido who took first this year with 55 kg by a**

**margin of only 1kg.** A similar margin separated them last year as well with the other taking first. Maybe a tie for next year?

For the large boats, **Andy Serberie on Fatima took third with 55.5kg and Rudy de Jongh on My Toy hauled in 38 fish for a total of 76.5kg while Marlon Nicolaas on Wild Ladys also brought in 38 fish for a total of 105kg.**

Without the community support of sponsors this great event could not take place. The main sponsors and hosts, Napa and It Rains Fishes, plus all of the other sponsors, Don Andres, Bonaire Liquor and Tobacco, Polar, Stone Crusher, Akkerman Auto supply, Rocargo, Bonaire Affair, Vinnie Desigz, Harbour Village, Bonaire Marine Center, TCB, Maduro Bank, Budget Marine, Window Wizard and Caribbean Laundry helped bring all of these sportsmen to Bonaire. Not only do they come and fish, but they often come early to train and bring along family and friends that enjoy the island often for an extended vacation.

The awards opened with a moment of silence for **2 people lost this year: Jerry deVries** who manned our radios at the control and was a valued member of the organization, and **Dominico Tassan**, an avid fisherman and many time participant in this event. This was followed by a short presentation by Project Stormvogel who showed a short video of their project to restore the last remaining cargo sailing ship built here on Bonaire, restoring not only the boat, but a part of boat building history. They also honored their Jr shipwrights and volunteers, learning the traditional methods of Bonaire shipbuilding. You can find more information and support Project Stormvogel on Facebook.

And the Awards... **Tara from Aruba enjoyed \$300 for the first release of the day** taking less than 45 minutes from lines in the water. On Day Two, **Picante beat out Cash Flow, which had the first strike, by releasing his white before his fellow Curacao boat could dominate his Blue.**

**Living Easy took 2<sup>nd</sup> place edging out Talkia for 3<sup>rd</sup>, taking home \$3,500 and \$2,000 respectively.** Though both Aruban boats ended with the same 1050 points, **Living Easy** reached the points by noon time and **Talika** had three releases in the late

afternoon to pull up to the same result. **Living Easy** completed a grand Slam with a **Blue, White and Sailfish all on the first day having a total of 4 whites, 1 sail and 1 blue.** **Talika** took this honor by the second day as well with 3 whites, 2 sails and 1 blue.

A diver reported that they saw a Blue Marlin on a dive to the south, a sight nearly never seen on the reefs! Guess he was trying to hide from all of the boats up north!

The Curacao boat, **Hey Chama** cleaned up with a grand slam with their first 3 fish, and a total of 1500 points, hauling in 4 sails, 2 white and 2 blues, going home with the first prize of \$6,000. The grand prize of the truck remains as the record stands for another year. The tournament was finished off by the band Eso with their Latin music that got everyone on their feet and hips moving, no matter how tired they were! We hope to see you next year to enjoy the festivities and fishing with us! ■

Pam Teitel-Werdath





# 25 Years of Turtle Protection



## SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION BONAIRE CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!

Twenty-five years ago Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) was established to protect Bonaire's endangered sea turtles. Since its inception, STCB has not only contributed to the conservation of endangered sea turtles but also has connected people to sea turtle conservation in ways that inspire caring for nature. STCB is undoubtedly playing a crucial role in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting Bonaire's endangered sea turtles and their habitats.

In 1991 sea turtles were only partially protected: only females laying their nests and the sea turtle eggs were protected by local legislation. It was actually legal to catch turtles in the waters. At that time sea turtles were an important source of food for Bonaire, and they were also caught for their shells which were used for arts and crafts. The catching of sea turtles globally has led to a serious decline of sea turtles to the extent that they have been given the status of endangered or critically endangered species, at risk of extinction.

Twenty-five years ago two young men on Bonaire, **Albert de Soet** and **Larry**

**Gerharts**, witnessed local fishermen selling sea turtles at Lac. Instead of buying them for food or crafts they bought the sea turtles to release them on the west coast. This act of compassion was the beginning of a long journey to protect these charismatic animals on Bonaire.

In 1991 Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire NL (STCB-NL) was registered in The Netherlands to fundraise and support Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). In that same year, and thanks to the work of STCB, local legislation was amended to fully protect sea turtles in all their life stages on Bonaire. Initially STCB solely depended on dedicated volunteers and students doing their internships to do the conservation work until the first funding was received in 2002. This funding gave STCB the opportunity to hire STCB's first Project Director, **Dr Robert van Dam**, and their first Field Assistant, **Gielmon Egbrehts (Funchi)**, in 2003. With the arrival of Robert and Funchi the STCB's two main conservation activities; nest monitoring and in-water surveys were established.

Three years later, in 2005, **Mabel Nava** was hired as Manager of STCB to integrate the research component with education, public awareness, fundraising, regional networking, communication and



STCB staff: **Mabel Nava, Lisette van Marrewijk, Funchi Egbrehts and Sue Willis**

advocacy. After her placement, STCB set up their strategic plan for 2006-2010 and gained WWF-NL as their main source of funding in 2008. The support from WWF-NL gave STCB the opportunity to raise more awareness by branding the organization, setting up a sustainable merchandise line and hiring **Dr. Sue Willis** as STCB's Program Coordinator.

With the arrival of Sue Willis, the Beachkeepers' Program and the Fishing Line Recovery Project were created and The Ministry of Economic Affairs of The Netherlands started to financially support STCB's on-going monitoring work. Given STCB's experience in sea turtle conservation they also started to support sea turtle conservation work in Curacao, Sint Maarten and Antigua. Not only has STCB supported other Caribbean partner organizations, together with STINAPA, they created the "Save Bonaire Marine Park" initiative in 2013 which has raised the importance of advocacy on the local

agenda aiming to prevent negative impacts on Bonaire's marine park. During the past two years STCB moved office to Kaya Korona #53, received a new boat funded by the WWF-NL Junior Rangers, introduced STCB's strategic plan 2014-2018 and hired **Lisette van Marrewijk** as communication coordinator to support the organizational growth needed for the work that STCB does today.

STCB will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a dedicated 25 years logo, a new website, a crowd funding campaign and a limited edition of specially designed STCB shopping bags. They are also pleased to announce that they will offer 25 sea turtle nests available for adoption for local companies – more details to follow! STCB encourages everyone to join their 25th Anniversary celebration by taking part in these celebrations and also by taking extra special care of our natural environment. ■ *Press release*

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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 01		01:11	07:45	15:37	19:27		
		-0.04 ft	0.75 ft	0.06 ft	0.24 ft	7:00	18:37
Tue 02		01:31	08:14	16:26	20:12		
		-0.04 ft	0.81 ft	0.02 ft	0.18 ft	7:00	18:38
Wed 03		01:53	08:47	17:15	20:58		
		-0.04 ft	0.86 ft	-0.02 ft	0.13 ft	7:00	18:38
Thu 04		02:16	09:22	18:04	21:49		
		-0.03 ft	0.90 ft	-0.06 ft	0.09 ft	7:00	18:38
Fri 05		02:44	10:01	18:52	22:47		
		-0.03 ft	0.92 ft	-0.08 ft	0.07 ft	7:00	18:39
Sat 06		03:18	10:42	19:37	23:55		
		-0.01 ft	0.92 ft	-0.11 ft	0.08 ft	7:00	18:39
Sun 07		04:04	11:28	20:19			
		0.02 ft	0.89 ft	-0.12 ft		6:59	18:39
Mon 08	01:07	05:10	12:18	20:57	<b>New Moon</b>		
	0.13 ft	0.07 ft	0.85 ft	-0.14 ft		6:59	18:40
Tue 09	02:13	06:40	13:13	21:34			
	0.21 ft	0.12 ft	0.78 ft	-0.15 ft		6:59	18:40
Wed 10	03:09	08:23	14:13	22:10			
	0.33 ft	0.15 ft	0.69 ft	-0.16 ft		6:59	18:40
Thu 11	03:59	10:03	15:17	22:47			
	0.46 ft	0.12 ft	0.60 ft	-0.17 ft		6:58	18:41
Fri 12	04:45	11:30	16:22	23:26			
	0.60 ft	0.06 ft	0.51 ft	-0.17 ft		6:58	18:41
Sat 13	05:32	12:45	17:25				
	0.74 ft	-0.02 ft	0.43 ft			6:58	18:41
Sun 14		00:05	06:18	13:51	18:27		
		-0.17 ft	0.86 ft	-0.09 ft	0.36 ft	6:57	18:42
Mon 15	<b>First Quarter</b>	00:46	07:04	14:51	19:27		
		-0.16 ft	0.95 ft	-0.15 ft	0.30 ft	6:57	18:42



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# A Garden? Some Like It Hot

## Just Do It

### Some like it hot!

Oh, sorry, don't misunderstand me, I just mean some like hot spices like pepper. Here on Bonaire a lot of people ask me for peppers and chutneys. People love spicy food, and in the Bonairean stobas (stews), soups, sauces and relishes there is a lot of spice added like black pepper, fresh chilies, curry, ginger and so on. And it tastes great.

A popular spice which grows easily on Bonaire is pepper (or chili). I started in September last year growing my own chili. I found an old wheelbarrow with holes in the bottom which was perfect for my young chili plants. I got some seeds from the well-known Madam Jeanet pepper from Surinam and put them in a pot with black dirt. Soon after that the plants came up. After a month I transplanted them to the wheelbarrow. Before that I made a mix of black dirt with goat droppings and compost of very dry leaves in the wheelbarrow. Once I planted the young pepper plants there they grew like crazy. Of course I had to water them twice a day and protect them from the white fly by spraying them with tea made from Neem Tree leaves. I also protected them from iguanas and lizards. But then after two months I got

the best peppers with a great taste. Every day I pick at least a handful of peppers from only six plants. Peppers do very well in this climate with the sun nearly always shining above.

Here in our kriojo food we use pepper in *arros bruha* (stewed rice in beans with an unsliced whole pepper), in the typical Bonairean pepper-onion relish, on fried fish with funchi, and in goat stoba.

Now with your own chili plants available fresh every day in your kitchen, its good to know more about this spice.

The chili pepper is the fruit of plants from the genus *Capsicum*, members of the nightshade family *Solanaceae*. The sub-



My own homemade pepper-onion relish

stances that give the chili peppers their hotness when in-

gested or applied topically are *capsaicin* and several related chemicals, collectively called *capsaicinoids*.

When consumed *capsaicinoids* bind with pain receptors in the mouth and throat that are responsible for sensing heat. Once activated by the *capsaicinoids*, these receptors send a message to the brain that the person has consumed something hot. The brain responds to the burning sensation by raising the heart rate, increasing the perspiration and releasing endorphins.

Chilies originated in the Americas. After the Colombian Exchange, many cultivars of chilies spread across the world, used in both food and medicine. They were brought to Asia by Portuguese navigators during the 16th century. Nowadays India is the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of chili peppers.

Chilies have been part of human diet in the Americas since at least 7,500 BC and domesticated more than 6,000 years ago in Mexico.

Columbus was one of the first Europeans to encounter them and called them "peppers." Chilies were grown as botanical curiosities in the gardens of Spanish and Portuguese monasteries and later were taken by



My own planted peppers in an old wheelbarrow

Portuguese traders to Asia, who realized their trade value. Today chilies are an integral part of Asian-Caribbean cuisine.

### Five species of chili peppers:

-*Capsicum annuum* which includes many common varieties such as bell peppers, wax, cayenne, jalapenos and the chilipin.

- *C. frutescens* which includes Tabasco, Thai peppers, piri piri, Malawian Kambuzi.

-*C. chinense* which includes the hottest peppers such as the naga, habanero, Datil and Scotch bonnet.

-*C. pubescens* which includes American rocoto peppers.

-*C. baccatum* which includes the South American aji peppers.

**Most popular** are the bell peppers, sweet and hot peppers commonly broken down into three groupings.

### How to Find and Use Chilies

Chilies can be found and used fresh, smoked-dried, dried, ground into powder, or roasted, and are present in many cuisines. Leaves, which are mildly bitter and not hot, are cooked as greens in Filipino, Korean and Japanese food.

### Nutritional Value

It's good to know what you eat.

Red chilies contain a large amount of vitamin C and a small amount of carotene. They are a good source of most B-vitamins and vitamin B6 in particular. They are very high in potassium, magnesium and iron.

They say when buying peppers you pay one time but get to enjoy it two times! ■

Angliet,  
Nature lover



### Successful clean up dive. Dive Friends Bonaire does it again!

On Saturday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 135 volunteers and a sea dog met each other at the Yellow Submarine Location of Dive Friends Bonaire at Playa Lechi. This time's goal was the underwater world around Karel's Pier leeward of the center of Kralendijk. Asko Zuidam from Dive Friends Bonaire informed all volunteers (divers and non-divers) about the system and rules for recovery of debris from the ocean. As always one of the goals was recovering new fishing line as this almost invisible pollution is a threat for the protected turtles. All active divers had to be alert for their buoyancy and weight as the mesh bags got heavier and heavier because of the increasing load of the found trash. In fact it takes only experienced divers to do the cleaning job. Apart from the huge amount of divers there were also a lot of volunteers ashore to assist the divers getting into the water and to collect the filled mesh bags. Finally, at the end of the one-hour, non-deco dive over 2700 collected items were counted, among them over 100 pieces of fishing line, eight sunglasses, one ashtray, two hats, one buoy, a pair of goggles and a broom.

Weather and sea conditions, temperature and current were excellent and the un-



derwater world seemed to be a little cleaner compared to earlier clean up dives. Hopefully people finally get more and more aware of pollution and the importance of the value of our seas and oceans. Still there is a lot to do to get the water cleaner for sea life and mankind.

At 6 in the evening Dive Friends organized a pot luck barbecue at their Hamlet Location in Hato. Dive Friends took care of the main dish and a free drink and all volunteers contributed with all kinds of side dishes and desserts. Thank you, volunteers and Dive Friends. Thank you for organizing everything and for the supply of free air! ■ Jan Brouwer

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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 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 Industrija, **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,

#	DAY	DATE	NAME	PAX	Line
<b>Cruise Ship Schedule</b>					
20	2-02-16	<i>Royal Princess</i>	1200-1900	3600	Princess
21	3-02-16	<i>Oosterdam</i>	0800-1800	2388	HAL
22	5-02-16	<i>Thomson Celebration</i>	0700-1300	1254	Thomson
23	8-02-16	<i>Carnival Glory</i>	0800-1600	2974	Carnival
24	9-02-16	<i>Carnival Sunshine</i>	0800-1600	2974	Carnival
25	10-02-16	<i>Aida Diva</i>	0800-1800	2194	AIDA
26	14-02-16	<i>Club Med 2</i>	0800-1800	390	Club Med

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 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 [12stappenbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stappenbonaire@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@echobridgebonaire.org](mailto:info@echobridgebonaire.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 **2nd and 4th 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

**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 Cruscita 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 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 Antrioi*- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Friday, Feb. 5-**"The Californian Sunset Wine Tasting" at 5 pm at the Barrel Wine Bar and Boutique, \$25 per person, 6 red and 6 whites wines to taste.

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

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

**Tuesday, Feb 9— Farewell to Karnaval, Burning of Momo at Stadium**

**Saturday, Feb. 13— Retrospective exhibition of the paintings of the late Ronald Verhoeven**, Pakus di Tela (Arte), next to Telbo. 10am-5pm. Open every day except Sunday and Monday. More on page 3.

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

**Feb. 22-March 4 —BIG Giftedness Retreat at Landhuis Wanapa.** See story on page 11.

**Sunday, March 6 -Walkathon** from White Slave Huts to Rincon. Start 5 am to benefit Special Olympics Donation \$15 gets breakfast and T-Shirt.

**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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# SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

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## AIRLINES

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

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## BIKES

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## 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).

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## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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**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



# Pets of the Week



Meet Brutus and Sara

Sara is a very pretty short legged young girl with an easy going personality. Her boyfriend Brutus is the biggest affectionate teddy bear who likes to cuddle a lot. He is a very strong, loving and cool Labrador-Bull mix, and hopefully they will find a new family soon. They are both very good with kids and can walk well on a leash. Perfect family dogs!

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are treated against ticks and fleas, are de-wormed, vaccinated and micro chipped.



If you would like to meet Sara or Brutus or even both of them,

come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717 4989. E-mail to [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com). ■  
 Marijke Passer and Nathalie Peterson

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# Animal Shelter Tips & News

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is a refuge for dogs and cats that can no longer be cared for by their owners, have been abandoned, or were born in the wild and brought in by concerned citizens and tourists.

The Shelter also offers a boarding place for cats and dogs. There is a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter.

THANK YOU FROM ALL US AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE!

This is to thank everyone for a great year at our Shelter, the best one yet!

★ Those who give of their time week after week at the Shelter, the Pakus di Pruga and the cruise market;

★ Those who bring food for our cats and dogs in small and large amounts;

★ Those who donate money;

★ Those who do odd jobs around the Shelter, making it a better place for the animals;

★ Those who foster our unwell or failure-to-thrive animals and nurse them back to health;

★ Those who adopt and provide loving homes for our dogs and cats;

★ Those who have adopted animals in Bonaire and take them back to Europe and North America;

★ Those who come to visit every time they're on Bonaire, bringing toys, collars, leashes and other much needed supplies;

★ And to all those we may not have mentioned.

Thank You!



We had our most successful year in 2015 with 171 dogs and 59 cats going to happy homes with caring families and 32 dogs and 5 cats returned to their owners.

Thanks to all your monetary donations we were able to spay and neuter over 500 animals!!

Would you like to sterilize your cat or dog please call the Animal Shelter Bonaire for more information at 7014989/ 7174989

You can also make a contribution to the fund by means of a donation. Look for the Animal Shelter dog house donation boxes in many shops and businesses on Bonaire or shop at our thrift store, "Pakhuis di Pruga," or at the Shelter booth at the cruise market. Visit our Facebook page for the PayPal information or just pass by the Animal Shelter Bonaire on Kaminda Lagun 26a. Our animals are always happy to give you a big welcoming hug too!

We're hoping to make 2016 even better with help from all you wonderful people in the community here and abroad. ■ Marijke Passer and Nathalie Peterson

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 Saturday 08:00-13:00





# THE STARS HAVE IT

## February 2016

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take your time; do not make any decisions in haste. You might not be as reserved on an emotional level as you'd like. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture. You mustn't give too much to your children. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) If you're preoccupied, be careful while operating a vehicle or any kind of equipment or machinery. You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy. Don't push your luck with authority. You can bet that you'll draw attention to yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Children will be of major concern if you haven't kept the lines of communication open. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. Don't expect anything for nothing and you won't be disappointed. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) However, you must not neglect your family. Family members may want you at home, when your heart is telling you to spend time with someone you recently met. Personal problems may be hanging over your head but don't confront the situation. You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your mate may want to pick a fight but if you're persistent with your affections their anger should dissipate. Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. Later in the week your boss will pat you on the back for a job well done. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Coworkers may not be completely honest with you; try not to rely on help from others. Financial difficulties may be worrying you. Do yourself a favor and leave your plastic at home. Work at home if at all possible. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make changes regarding your friendships. Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be popular with acquaintances; however, loved ones could feel left out and insecure. The knowledge you have will enhance your reputation. You need to look into new philosophies. Make sure any presentation you have is ready. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can win points if you present your ideas this month. You can invest in profitable ventures. Organize social events or family gatherings. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go. You will have to put those you live with in their place if they try to interfere with your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. Look into joining groups that can give you hands-on advice about business. You will have a greater involvement in groups; however, they may not be to your advantage. Travel will also entice you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

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

### "THE WINTER (AMERICAN) FOOTBALL IN THE SKY"

This is perfect star-gazing weather... . . . And perfect football weather in the Bonaire Sky Park..

The most distinguishing feature of the winter sky is a star pattern called the **Winter Hexagon**. It covers almost half the sky, incorporates six constellations and eight of the 20 brightest stars visible from **Earth**. The Winter Hexagon definitely puts its stamp on the season.

But in honor of the NFL playoffs and the upcoming Super Bowl, I recommend changing its name to the **Winter Football**. When you step outside and see the clear winter sky, you'll know what I'm talking about.

Around 9 pm look southeast. Look at all those bright stars! A ring of sparkling, multicolored jewels will shine down on you. Some call this the **Winter Circle** or Winter Hexagon, but I think these stars look like a giant football flying through the air, pointy on two ends, rounded in the middles.

And winter is the season for football. And the main player inside the winter football is **Orion the hunter**. Easily recognized by the three stars that make his snazzy belt, Orion stands about halfway up in the southeastern sky, like a hulking linebacker about to make a tackle.

Now let's take a tour around the winter football. Begin with the brightest star in the sky. This is the **Dog Star, named Sirius**. If you connect the dots of Orion's belt stars and continue that line to the left, you can't miss it. Sirius is a brilliant white star and one of our closest stellar neighbors. Following our football theme, Sirius marks the nose of one of our two team mascots, the **Big Dog, or Canis Major**. In Greek mythology, Canis Major was one of Orion's great hunting dogs.

Orion's other hunting dog, and our other team mascot, can be found up and to the left of Sirius - around the bright **star Procyon**. Procyon is a yellow-white star in the constellation **Canis Minor, the Little Dog**.

Keep going up and to the left, and you'll find two stars of similar brightness. These are the two heads of the **Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor**. Both twins were in-



credibly athletic and would make a great quarterback and wide receiver combo.

The bright star nearest the zenith, and at the tip of the football is called **Capella**. Capella is the brightest star in the constellation **Auriga, the Charioteer**. Auriga could serve as coach and chauffeur to the football team. Greek myths described him as the inventor of the chariot. But he was also good at giving advice and can look over the field from his position high in the sky.

Let's start going down the other side of the football and we'll come to a bright, orange star. This is **Aldebaran**, the glowing eye of **Taurus the Bull**.

The last star in the football is the bright **blue star, Rigel**. This marks the left foot of our buddy Orion and is one of the truly amazing stars in our galaxy. It's around 800 light years away from us and is still one of the brightest stars...It must be humongous!

Finally, you're back around to Sirius. Congratulations! you've traced the winter football in the sky. Look for it after dark for the next few months.

But what's that bright star in the middle of the football? That's the infamous **Betelgeuse**, a red supergiant star that makes even Rigel look puny. Let's compare Rigel to our **Sun**. In size...They're not even close. Now let's compare Betelgeuse to Rigel.

Betelgeuse is even larger than the Earth's orbit. That means that if Betelgeuse was our Sun, we'd be orbiting inside of it. Good thing we're far, far away from it!

So go out to see the big game in the sky. The winter football has more big stars than any pro team. And they're available to you every night until baseball season and beyond. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

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## Kralendijk, Waterlands Village Cottage 5

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