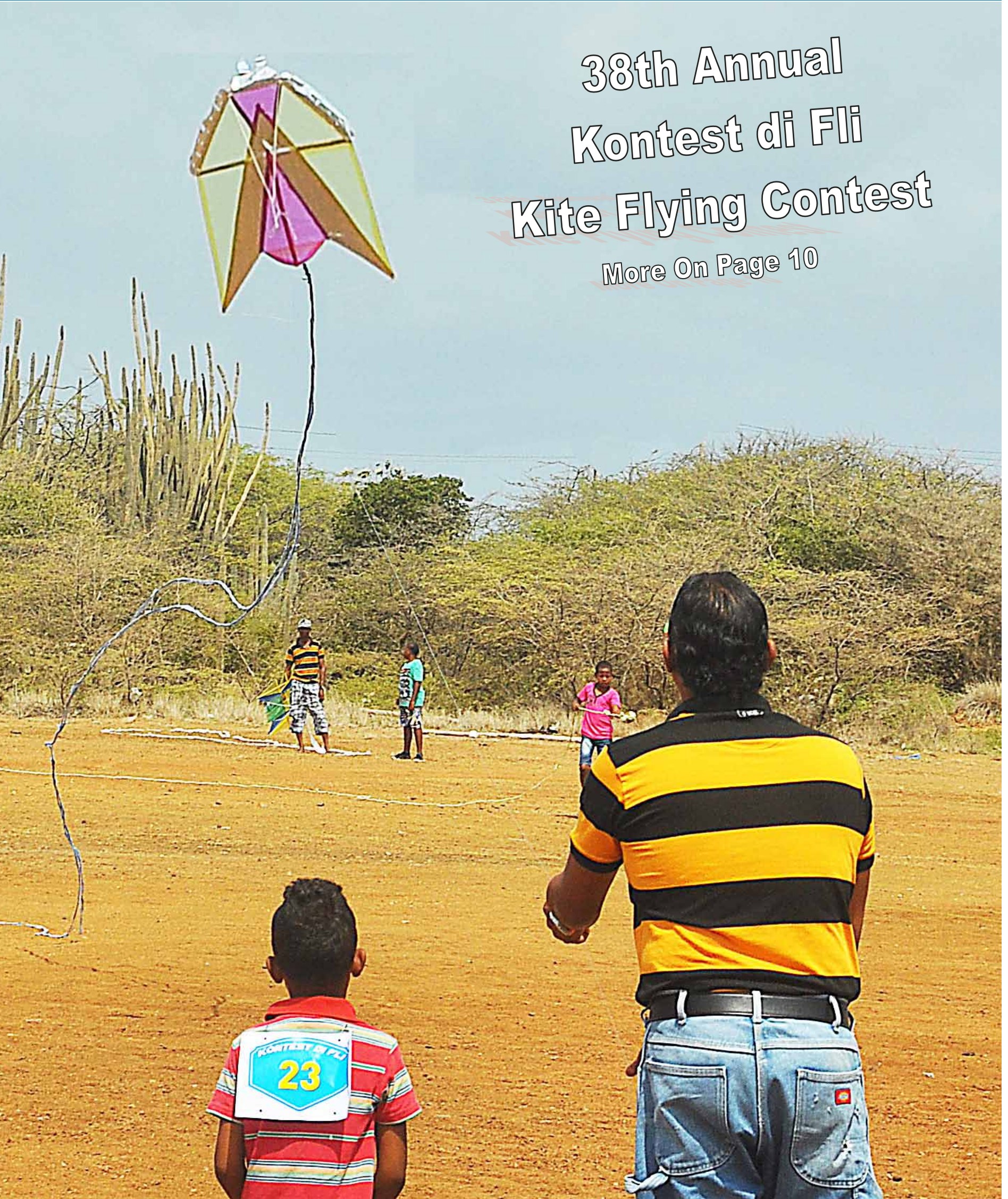


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Bonaire Reporter- April 4-18, 2016- Year 23, Issue 7
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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**38th Annual
Kontest di Fli
Kite Flying Contest**
More On Page 10

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

On March 18, a three-judge panel sitting at the Joint Court of Justice heard final appeals in two points of the ongoing legal case to prevent changes made to zoning-related laws that would allow a large commercial pier in the waters of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

STINAPA Bonaire and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, the island's two marine conservation organizations, have focused the case on the government's legal responsibility to follow its own policy and law, and to involve the public, when changing the direction of development laws.

More information regarding the initiative Save Bonaire Marine Park can be found at the dedicated website www.savebonairemarinepark.org or the Facebook page Save Bonaire Marine Park.

The judges' verdict is expected to be available by June 3rd, 2016.

► **The National Ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen, and his team will be on Bonaire** from Monday, April 11th through Friday, April 15th to hear anyone with complaints about the functioning of the government and public institutions. There will be office hours in several neighborhoods To make an appointment call 521- 6573 (access only from April 11 to 15). Often the National Ombudsman can get results when other remedies fail

► **Bonaire will be getting its first Marriott in October of this year.** Up until now there's been no

major brand hotel on the island. **It will be a Courtyard Marriott, part of the Marriott chain's expansion** in the Caribbean. The hotel will have 140 rooms on the lagoons adjacent to the Plaza Resort and Flamingo Airport.

Marriott International, Inc. says it is positioned for even more growth in the region as it rolls out new properties.



► **On Sunday, April 3rd, the biography of Miguel Pourier was blessed by Father Baak in Rincon.** Miguel Pourier was a former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles and a founder of Curacao's PAR political. His story begins in Rincon, where he was born and attended primary school while working every day on his parents' kunuku. His biography notes his passion for sports, his shyness, especially in his youth,

his love of music, his faith in God and the way he handled tensions and disappointments.

It tells about his boarding school in Curacao, studying in the Netherlands, his career in government as an official and as minister for Bonaire, his activities in the private sector and his return to Curacao to become Prime Minister. **His report on a sustainable approach to tourism for Bonaire continues as a model for current development.** The story culminates in his efforts as Prime Minister to put house in order, and offers a different perspective on the relations between the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands.

Miguel Pourier: Live To Serve was written by Bernadette Heiligers, commissioned by Foundation Miguel Pourier. The book is offered for sale to all interested parties, friends and comrades of the former Prime Minister.

► They say, "You are what you eat." But what should you eat especially if you are trying to become healthier or lose weight? Now you can find out. **Lucinda van der Wart, a Registered Dietician, can provide advice.** Her new practice, "Food and Vitality," offers diet and nutrition advice and coaching, is approved for ZVK health insurance and private coverage. She draws on 18 years experience to help. You can find her at Bon Bida, Bulevar Go. N. Debrot 74, phone 785-0170 or 717-7030. Email: lucinda@foodandvitality.info



Lucinda van der Wart

► **BRIDGETOWN, Barbados--For the first time since the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) began keeping records, the Caribbean outperformed every other major tourism region in the world in new arrival and spending in 2015, exceeding expectations.**

International tourist trips to the region grew by 7% to 28.7 million visits, much



Miguel Pourier

higher than the projected 4-5% growth. Visitors spent an estimated \$30 billion, a 4.2% over the \$28.8 billion spent in 2014.

► The TCB announced that **Fabien Cousteau** will be visiting Bonaire from April 7 - 13. During his time on island, Mr. Cousteau will be conducting a seminar for local dive tourism stakeholders and volunteering in a variety of scuba diving activities.



Fabien Cousteau

Mr. Cousteau will conduct a **seminar on Monday, April 11**, at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino. During the seminar, Mr. Cousteau will discuss his experience spending 31 days under the sea and contribute his ideas as to how to best protect Bonaire's marine environment. He will also visit the **Coral Restoration Foundation** Bonaire coral nurseries, meet with the STINAPA management team and Marine Park Rangers and participate in **Dive Friends Bonaire's clean up dive** at the North Pier. His visit will be filmed by Bonaire Vision Films.

► **The Court in Curaçao ruled on Thursday in the "Fiji case," an investigation that started in Bonaire in May 2008 with numerous suspects, but ended with the conviction of two defendants A.de G and W. van W.** Confiscated were several properties in Bonaire: 31 gold bars worth more than \$1.12 million, more than 900,000 guilders in bank accounts, a small plane, a Boston Whaler boat and two cars.



The Prosecutor's Office considers this a major victory again in its strategy to take away proceeds from criminal activities. The funds in question are to be used for the benefit of society.

► The bi-monthly fuel price adjustment again show a **slight decrease in most types of petroleum-based fuel** including gasoline (88.9 cents/liter), diesel and propane.

► **The Media Bus may be the ultimate promotional tool to fight illiteracy on Bonaire.**

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How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"

The Publisher: George DeSalvo
George@bonairenews.com
Phone 786-6125

The Editor: Laura DeSalvo
Laura@bonairenews.com
Phone 786-6518

Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean
Story tip, question or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
Phone 786-6125

Available on-line at:

www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,

On-line every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on

Monday, April 18, 2016

Story and Ad deadline:

Friday, April 15, 2016

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Media Bus

Every afternoon the Bus will be in another neighborhood. The Bus is aimed at children and parents of young children. The book collection has been chosen for this target group and consists of the latest books aimed at encouraging reading.

The Bus has WiFi, Internet and computers on board that kids can use to consult the catalog, courses and assignments.

The Bus will soon be equipped with everything needed in order to turn it into a mini cinema.

Besides lending books, the Bus is multifunctional and can be used for various other activities such as information campaigns, Dutch courses, Dutch tutoring, reading hours, awareness of Fundashon Forma literacy courses and training extension in vocabulary. There are several local or-

ganizations that have expressed the wish to use the Bus. The Media Bus is sponsored by Rotary Bonaire.

The Media Bus can be reached via: Coordinator Sharnise Alexander, Email: mediabusbonaire@gmail.com

Telephone / Whatsapp: 777-2015 or Facebook: www.facebook.com/Mediabus-Bonaire



Last month the Bonaire Sailing School received six brand new sailing boats from Digicel. A lot of happy children will learn to sail aboard one of these beautiful boats.

On April 10, the sailing club BSSA will have an open house. Head down there and try out sailing. See Happenings on page 16 for more details.

Fan of classical music? Then don't miss the concert on Friday, April 8. See poster on page 13 for details. ■ G./L.D.

Swim, Walk, Ride Against Cancer on April 17th (Sunday)

The Ride For the Roses Bonaire Foundation, established this past January, will hold its first event on Sunday, April 17th, from 7am to noon. They invite everyone on Bonaire to Swim, Walk and Ride to fight against Cancer.

Show your solidarity with cancer patients, their loved ones and survivors by donating \$15 to walk, swim or cycle. If you are really sporty, you can combine two events for \$20 (Walk and Swim or Ride and Swim). The swim start is opposite Kas di Regatta on the boulevard and ends at Sunset Beach. Other events start at Sunset Beach.

It follows the format of the already successful Foundation Ride for the Roses events in Curaçao and the Netherlands and gives the proceeds to the Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire (PWF). This fund enables people to become knowledgeable about cancer risks and symptoms and helps and supports cancer patients and their families. Noritza Rosalia, president of PWF Bonaire, has made the PWF her life's work:

The event's main sponsor is ORCO Bank NV. Its Director, Kenneth R. Canword, has committed to support the organiza-



Chairman John Soliano hands over the first tickets to the Governor

tion for the next three years. "The welfare and health of the community of Bonaire are indeed of vital importance," Said Canword on behalf of ORCO Bank. In addition, ORCO contributed to the start-up costs and supports RftR Bonaire for the kick-off and other activities.

All participants will receive a T-shirt, a bag and a surprise at the finish. On the different routes and afterwards, rides are offered as well as non-alcoholic beverages and fruits. So join in! Contribute and sign up online or buy your tickets from the board members of the Foundation Ride for the Roses Bonaire. For more

information, online registration, questions and donations go to the RftR website, Facebook page or call +599 777-7707. Board members: John Soliano (chairman), Tom Peeters (secretary), Anne-Marie Mercera (treasurer), Jursi Marshall, Frank Bohm, Dirk van Zuidam, Mocky Arends and Charles Lont.

Tickets:
Frank Bohm (+5997868545),
Tom Peeters (+599 701-1020),
Mocky Arends (+599 786-5614),
Jursi Marshall (+5997777707) - Whatsapp,
de Freewieler (Kaya Grandi 61),
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On The Island Since... March 15, 2001 - Oliverio van Zuiden

“I was born in Colombia, and when I was three my little (biological) sister Sandra and I were adopted by Dutch people and we moved to Holland. There we got another sister, adopted from Indonesia. I grew up in Enschede, a place in the east of Holland, close to Germany.

At 17 I started working as a dishwasher in a café called le Monde. From there I went to work as a cook at Graffiti, a Mexican eatery. Then I went to Münster, Germany, to work in a restaurant. All these places had the same owner, and after a while I went back to Holland and was again working at Le Monde and Graffiti. I did breakfast and lunch and late night tapas from 11 pm until 1 am.

Then I worked for a delivery and take-away eatery, also as a cook. Sometime after I became the manager at a delivery and takeaway spare rib line. Until the disastrous day of May 13, 2000, when a catastrophic fireworks explosion occurred at the SE Fireworks Depot in Enschede, killing 23 people including four firefighters. A whole neighborhood of 400 homes was wiped out and 1500 buildings were severely damaged. The moment the explosion took place I was sweeping the sidewalk and washing the windows to leave everything neat and clean as it was the last weekend I was working there. When the factory exploded at less than a kilometer from where I was standing, all the windows were shattered. I didn't get hurt but a colleague of mine was wounded and had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. Luckily he recovered.

That was my last work day. Then I began to work as a chef at Miracle Planet, a huge building with cinemas, a bowling alley, several restaurants and an indoor dive center. Restaurant diners could observe the divers taking their classes. Through the people who owned the dive tower, Rob and Joke, I got the opportunity to come to Bonaire to work as a chef for Henk at what used

Soon enough I began to understand Spanish. It's in my blood, that's a fact, that's why I picked it up fast. We were both 20. I fell for her smile and her spontaneity and in September 2003 we got married.”

“I came to Bonaire in 1998 with my sister to work here. I'm from Chiclayo, Peru,” *Janet says.* “It's a big city in the north of Peru with about 625,000 people. I was 18 and thought it was very quiet here compared to the hustle and bustle at home. But little by little I got used to this place and now I love it! When I first saw Oliverio I thought he was a Latin boy but Magnolia told me he was Dutch and that he only spoke Dutch! The first times we'd go on a date was with Magnolia, however, soon enough we started going out just us. was very different from the boys at home. He loved to party and I do too, but not as much, and his culture was very different from mine – the way of thinking, everything. But as time went by we got to know each other better and he met my family and my mother who was also here and they liked him very much. On our honeymoon we went to Machu Picchu and to my hometown to meet my father and siblings.

From the moment I arrived here I worked for the Apolinarios, doing their administration, first for the father and later for André and Nelson. Nowadays I'm doing the administration for El Mundo, but when it's really busy I'm also waiting tables, washing dishes and doing the cleaning! Everything!”

“Our son Emilio was born in 2005 and our daughter Kimberley in 2008,” *Oliverio says.* That was the last year I worked for Bongos. Henk had a disagreement with the landlord about the terrain and he had to leave. As he wasn't sure what to do next I looked for another job. City Café was mentioned because Mr. Huub Groot stepped aside and the Apolinario brothers needed a new shareholder. For one year I was co-owner of City Café. Then I moved on and bought Warung

“I like it here. I do worry about the situation at the high school which isn't very good, but I do have hopes it will improve. ..”

to be Bongos, now Spice.

When I arrived here a gentleman at Customs asked me, ‘Where are you going to live?’ As I had no idea, I answered ‘Klein Bonaire’ and the guy wrote it down neatly without blinking an eye!

I began to help Henk sanding tables as he wasn't ready to open yet. Then we had the grand opening with a band from Amsterdam, ‘De Dijk’. It was a success; the place became very popular. We were living the life – easy going, barefoot in the sand and the Friday barbecue became famous. I worked there for seven years.

The first year on Bonaire I met Janeth in the street at Cultimara. I was in the car with a colleague of mine, Magnolia, and it turned out that they were friends. The girls started talking together, but I didn't understand a word of Spanish. Nevertheless, I liked her! We smiled at each other and one day we went to the beach – of course with Magnolia who had to translate. That's how it started.

Louise and started El Mundo.

People who knew me from Bongos would ask for different kinds of food and because it had been an Indonesian restaurant, I put some of the dishes of the previous owner on the menu as well. Then Janeth reminded me that my first job had been at café Le Monde and so we decided to name the place El Mundo. The fact that it's a Spanish name doesn't mean that we're only serving Latino and local food. As the name El Mundo means ‘The World’ we're happy to serve all people all kinds of different food!

Our dishes vary from cheese fondue to typical Indonesian plates, to Surinamese roti, Mexican fajitas and local stoba. Nowadays one of my biggest hit are the pinchos – giant skewers with meat, chicken or shrimps. And last Friday we were celebrating our seventh year with live cooking – a huge pot of paella cooked on wood outside the restaurant.

Well, four years ago I got cancer, and I



Oliverio and Janeth with their children, Emilio and Kimberley



Oliverio and Janeth

was treated in Curacao, Colombia and Holland. When I was in Colombia I looked for my biological family, but I didn't find anybody. It's not a big deal for me; we'll see. I didn't work for one whole year. My wife gave up her job and travelled everywhere with me. She's been my backbone, she kept me going. The children stayed with her family on the island and El Mundo was run by my sister Sandra and Jackson, Janeth's brother-in-law. Thanks to them the restaurant could stay open and we survived. Nowadays my health is very good; I only have to go for check-ups once a year and that's it!

We're located at a most wonderful place, right at the cruise ship market in the center of town. I heard that Addo Stuur of Addo's Books and Toys is working on founding a downtown association to be able to organize more events –like the tremendously successful Christmas Market -and I'm looking forward to that!

I like it here. I do worry about the situation at the high school which isn't very good, but I do have hopes it will improve.

My children – and my wife – mean everything to me. I don't see as much of them as I probably should as we are open seven days a week, but that's the way it is and has been ever since I was 17. During the week the

children go to after school care at Juffrouw Ana's and in the evenings Janeth is always home with them. Every year we close for three weeks in July. Then we visit my family in Norway, Holland or the US. Janeth goes every year to Peru to see her family as well.

I'm taking better care of myself now. I live healthy and whenever I can I spend time with my family, especially with my son who is very attached to me.

I think in this crazy world Bonaire is still a safe place, although I do worry about the future of my children. Personally I feel that at the moment life is good. The children are doing well, we're working very hard and my wife is a strong lady who is always on my side and covers my back, which is the most wonderful thing because if you don't have that, life can be really tough. And last but not least there is money to pay the bills and clients who come back because they believe in us. We're okay!”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in The Southern Latitudes

The Christmas 2015 edition of *The Reporter* is certainly well traveled! It accompanied honorary Bonaire Ambassadors Patrick Edrington on a cruise from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Valparaiso, Chile. During this trip, Patrick, his wife Della and *The Bonaire Reporter* visited the Falkland



Islands, Antarctica, and Ushuaia, the southern most city in Argentina. ■

WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to 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.

Wonders of Nature

ISLAND CHARM OR PROBLEM?

Among a lot of indefinable waste I see some movement: donkeys are looking for anything edible. Cardboard boxes are good food in their eyes. I see them tasting one after another. Quite a misfortune for me: they eat the waste I use to make stories of. But, why don't I write a story about donkeys instead of waste? Wonders of nature they are, so why not? Immediately memories from all my encounters with them come up.

It is very common to see donkeys, not only in the mondi, but also on the streets of Bonaire. When I lived in a large and impressive house in Republiek, I regularly gave them some bread or leftover food. If I did not come out of the house soon enough, they would mount stately yet gracefully the stairs of the terrace, about six steps high. Once a donkey was about to come in when I opened the door, likely to walk to the kitchen to get himself what he wanted for dinner.

If they are not satisfied with the amount of food they get, they take matters into their own hands. I have come across a cheeky example of this in the neighborhood where I live now. I saw a neighbor's dog enjoying his meal. Five quite innocent looking donkeys ate some grass around him. Then they sauntered to his bowl, forcing him to leave because of *force majeure*. Barking did not impress this group and so Boel (the name of the dog) saw his meal gone in no time by five omnivorous animals. As they walked away, pooping and tough-looking, they



Tom Bergh photo

left a confused and hungry dog behind.

A lot of plans were made to solve the donkey-problem or problem-donkey. These have had little effect because the several groups disagree about the right approach.

Personally, I think our typical characteristic donkeys should be able, after intensive training, to make the short or long route in Washington Slagbaai with cruise tourists. In this way they can make themselves useful and earn their own meals. They will be too tired at night to wander around and make trouble. To me this seems a good plan, but I won't let it be known. If those donkey-interest-groups hear about it they will kick my ass... ■

Justine Verschoor





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In the last edition of The Reporter was a letter to the editor from Mr Gary Galkin concerned about a sick donkey in Slagbaai and that people did not seem to care. Well, people did care. The Reporter received the following email and photos from Marina Melis.

DONKEY RESCUE



keys in Slagbaai and we told Mr. Galkin that we needed permission to take them out. We asked permission from our Governor, Mr. Rijna, and from the Director of Stinapa. They gave us permission and we worked together with Park Manager Paolo Bertuol to save the donkey. Also Mr. Bertuol emailed Mr. Galkin and gave him an update and sent him photos (at top) of our team taking the donkey.

The donkey is now at the Sanctuary and he is doing well (at left).

This is just meant to set things straight and we want people to know that we get all the cooperation from Stinapa and they really care about the animals in the park. That's why we made an appointment to work together.

Marina Melis, Foundation Donkeys Help



Looking better at the Sanctuary

Dear Editor:
We had several emails about the don-

Rincon's Heart



his bilingual book (Papiamentu/Dutch) in Addo's Bookstore at 36 Kaya Grandi.

The presentation is open to the public and is especially interesting for Bonaire experts and lovers of Caribbean history. Chairman of the board of the society, Carmo (Bubui) Cecilia, will provide information about what *Sociedad San Antonio de Padua* is and does. Arthur Sealy describes how the society was established in Rincon during a time in which solidarity flourished. The necessity for a dignified funeral caused founders like Alexander Pourier and over 380 members to join forces in 1924. That *Sociedad San Antonio de Padua* is still operational testifies to social durability within the Bonairean community. Mrs. Riet Sealy did the Dutch translation of the book, in which photographs can be seen of deceased member Martina Anthony and (ex) board members such as Marcelino Beaumont and Losantho Anthony. ■

Press release

The San Antonio de Padua Society commemorates its existence of over 90 years with the publication of "E kurason di Rincon - Het hart van Rincon" (The Heart of Rincon). On Saturday April 9th, author Arthur Sealy will present



Bulevar Gob. N. Debrot 74 (Across from Sand Dollar) Phone 717-7224
bonbida.com

Back On Track - 5 Years



Theo te Brinke- Lead guitar, singer; Peter van Baalen-Percussion, singer; and Bert Poyck-Rhythm guitar, singer

It all started five years ago. The three musicians met, there was an instant musical and personal click and they started rehearsing unplugged at home. Within a couple of months they had their first playlist and were ready for a first "Try Out" in Lee's Bar. Between that start and now they have played at more than a dozen other venues on the island and at private parties, benefits and openings. They always show up with Maarten their "soundman."

At the start they played frequently. Now after all these years they will take only five to six gigs a year. People can still book them (Call Theo te Brinke 786-0150) for some gigs this year. In any case be at Woodstock for the momentous Five Year Anniversary gig. ■ Press release/G.D.

Back On Track 5 Year Anniversary Performance with Rock n' Roll Music and Food at Woodstock Bar in Kralendijk, Start time 5:30. Tel: 786-8326 or email: eric@caribbeanchillout.com for reservations

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www.facebook.com/SemperKontentuGoatcheeseBonaire

More Help For Poor

Since January 1st, 2016, low income people can have more of their expenses paid by the government via the special income support program. Added items are marked (new).

The Social Affairs and Labor Ministry [*Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid*, hereafter referred to as SZW] has decided to provide extra money for special income support. The types of costs which currently qualify for special income support are:

- school uniforms and school supplies for secondary education
- funeral costs of people entitled to income support
- costs of medical diet
- baby supplies and equipment (new, according to the list as described in the policy rules)
- baby bed
- bed mattress or sofa bed
- refrigerator
- cooker
- washing machine
- (ceiling) fan (new, for a baby or elder)
- costs of own contribution in connection with a social security benefit (new)
- usage costs for water on temporary basis
- filling of water reservoir



- replacement of a water pump (new)
- double rent

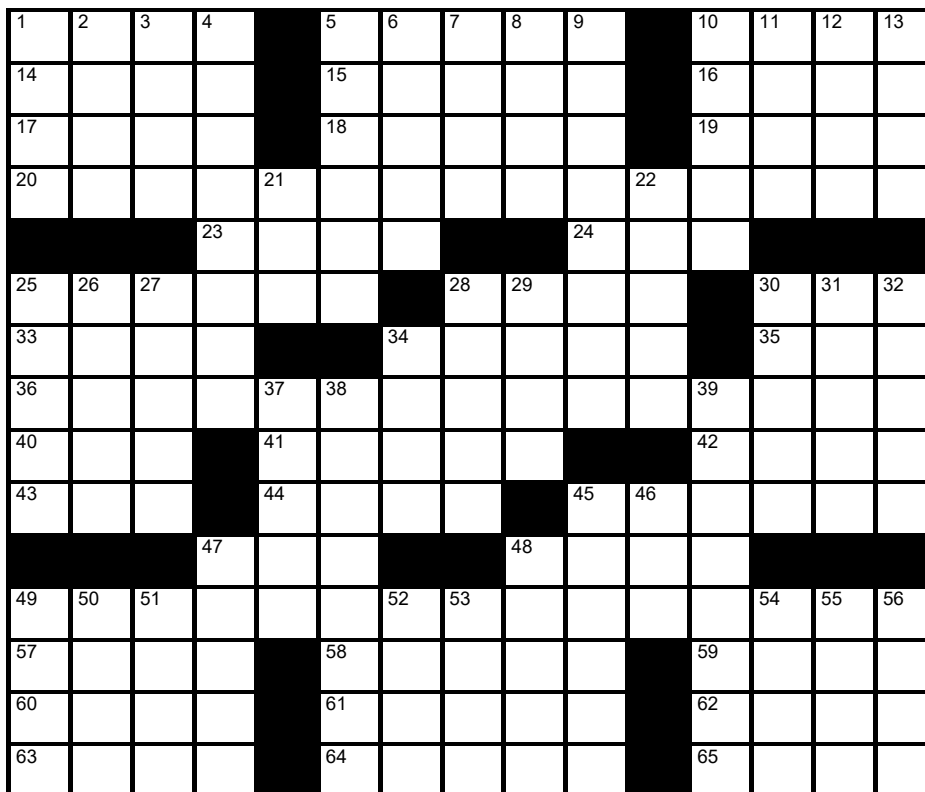
The income threshold for special income support has been adjusted to the (monthly) **minimum wage level applying to 2016. This is \$815 for Bonaire**, \$922 for St. Eustatius and \$931 for Saba. More information about the possibilities to qualify for special income support is available at the RCN SZW unit, telephone number: +599 715-8844, e-mail: info.szw@rijksdienstcn.com

Persons entitled to income support are obliged to make an effort to find a job if appropriate. Also anyone who does not receive a full AOV (retirement) benefit (for example because they have not worked sufficient years in the Caribbean Netherlands) may qualify for income support,

More information about the possibilities to qualify for income support is available at the RCN SZW unit, telephone number: +599 7158844, e-mail: info.szw@rijksdienstcn.com ■ *Press release*

Reef Madness Crossword

Jim Sajdak is a crossword constructor whose puzzles have appeared in the *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *USA Today* and other publications. He is also a regular visitor to the Caribbean and avid snorkeler and UW photographer. He offers our readers a puzzle challenge. The theme is, of course, fish.



Across

- 1 URL start
- 5 In and of itself
- 10 Thicken, as cream
- 14 Hawaiian Island
- 15 Holding __: Leading a drift dive
- 16 Lobsters with eggs
- 17 Word between * and # on a tel.
- 18 Give in
- 19 Andes Indian
- 20 Camouflage expert?
- 23 Home in Hamburg
- 24 TLC providers
- 25 Crossbeam on a boat
- 28 Went snorkeling, maybe
- 30 Handy garden tool
- 33 Comments at a dolphin encounter
- 34 Pointed garden tool
- 35 Britannica, for example: Abbr.
- 36 Caribbean royal?
- 40 " __ it or lose it!"
- 41 Crocodile hunter Steve
- 42 Snack sandwich
- 43 That's a moray!
- 44 Lady's man
- 45 Has faith in
- 47 Comments on seeing the "green flash"
- 48 Town __, popular Kralendijk dive
- 49 Soaring shark cousin
- 57 Place to dive deep
- 58 __ Dame
- 59 No Clue
- 60 Length times width
- 61 More accurate
- 62 Perfect place, just like Bonaire
- 63 New Mexico art colony
- 64 Where Lizardfish are seen
- 65 Office workplace

Down

- 1 Earring style
- 2 Diver's DIY fixer
- 3 TV's " __ Team"
- 4 Spend money on
- 5 Take a __: get less money for the same work
- 6 CHIPS' Estrada, and others
- 7 Bonaire's big attraction
- 8 Be a vendor
- 9 One time Cadillac
- 10 No Clue
- 11 __ a hand
- 12 In the past
- 13 Russian ruler in the past
- 21 "Ash breeze," to sailors
- 22 Like expectations not realized
- 25 Hat for a Canuck
- 26 Home, to Henry
- 27 What the diveboat skipper steers with
- 28 Place for a jib, often
- 29 Sound the alarm
- 30 Princes: __ to the throne
- 31 No Clue
- 32 Humpback location aids
- 34 Cut, like boat lumber
- 37 Time to go for a really different dive
- 38 Birthday surprises
- 39 Name of a certain ocean Butterfly
- 45 Barracudas, the __ of the sea
- 46 Cath. or Prot.
- 47 Book of maps and charts
- 48 Took the peel off
- 49 Cop team type
- 50 Prefix for graph or chute
- 51 Butter alternative
- 52 "Nemo" heroine
- 53 "Vingt- __," Blackjack to Jacques
- 54 Took a bike
- 55 No Clue
- 56 American, slangily

Puzzle solution on page 14



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DID YOU KNOW?



Hammerhead sharks are found in Bonaire?

Last month, an 8 ft/2.4 m long hammerhead shark was spotted at Bloodlet dive site just north of Ol' Blue. How fabulous! A hammerhead shark is easy to tell apart from other sharks because of its odd-shaped head with its eyes way out on each side. Not

only can a hammerhead see farther (forward and backwards and up and down) than other sharks, its wide head helps it to hunt stingrays, its favorite prey. All along its head are sensory cells called ampullae of Lorenzini. These cells allow sharks to sense electric fields produced by the heartbeat or nervous system of their prey. Since stingrays bury themselves under the sand, ham-

merheads travel side to side along the sandy seabed scanning for stingrays or other yummy creatures like crabs, octopus and fish. Since their heads are so wide, hammerheads are able to pinpoint exactly where prey is hiding and scoop it up quickly! They also use their wide heads to pin down stingrays during an attack.

Although hammerhead sharks have been known to bite humans, there have been no recorded fatalities as a result of a hammerhead attack. Due to shark finning, shark fishing and accidental by-catch, many species of sharks, including several species of hammerheads, are threatened with extinction. All sharks are protected in Bonaire. ■

Story by Caren Eckrich, Biologist with STINAPA Bonaire. Connecting people with nature. Photo credit: Jim Abernethy



New Hours For Pharmacies

Bonaire's pharmacies have new hours.

Botika Korona on Kaya Korona is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm.

Botika Bonaire on Kaya Grandi is open Monday through Sunday from 8 am to 6 pm.

On weekends and holidays, Botika Bonaire will be the "on call pharmacy" and will give preference to clients with prescriptions from the emergency room and the house doctor's clinic. All other prescriptions on those days will take more time to process and some may not be filled due to specific requirements that cannot be met on weekends and holidays. The Botika Rincon will maintain its same hours, Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm.

In case of urgent need of medicine after pharmacy business hours, it is advisable to go to the house doctor's clinic which is open during the week until midnight and on weekends until from 8 am to midnight. After midnight, emergency prescriptions can be obtained at the hospital emergency room from midnight until 7 am. Because the house doctor clinic has a limited supply of medicine, if it is necessary the doctor on call will give the patient the medicine needed at that time with a prescription to get more during pharmacy business hours. The intention in the near future is to have the "on call pharmacy" open during the same hours as the house doctor's clinic. Further in the future is a plan to have the "on call pharmacy" open 24 hours a day. ■ *Jane Madden Disko/Extra*





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CARVINGS BY SEAVER



Created in Bonaire from woods that are delivered to Bonaire's shores from far off lands by the deep blue sea, artist Don Seaver's carvings evoke mystery, wonder, humor... The sculptures have found homes here on the island, perfect for our gardens and terraces. Some have gone to Holland to remind their owners of the beauty of Bonaire.

American Don Seaver became inspired to draw faces about eight years ago. He'd been living on a kunuku in Bolivia and it was that perhaps that gave him the passion. "At first I started sketching faces in charcoal, all kinds. I did hundreds of them." That was his beginning. Then his interest expanded to carving three-dimensional faces. Now when he finds a piece of wood, hardwood is best, he looks

at it from all angles, searching for a face that he can make come to life—like Michelangelo looking at what was "hidden" in a piece of marble. "The sculptures started simply," Don says, "then as the 'new' wood arrived it created challenges." Each piece is a unique work of art. Each work can take hours, days, even weeks or months.

But you must be see these marvelous faces for yourself. Right now the sculptures are displayed at La Cantina Restaurant on Kaya Grandi and at Inside Out Furniture store across from Van den Tweel, during their business hours. Prices go from \$200 to \$800. Contact Don at 786-2692 or Laura at *The Reporter*, 786-6518. ■L.D.



Herman van Leeuwen photo

Coney Island

For several weeks the pop-up amusement park has been providing fun for adults and especially children. Find it next to the Kralendijk Stadium. Open evenings and weekends

Bonaire Basics on Kaya Korona is now providing the perfect space to gather and distribute food for those in need. Volunteers for the the *Voedselbank Bonaire* (Bonaire Food Bank) are at the v/d Tweel Supermarket every last Saturday of the month 9.30-2 to receive food from shoppers. The following Monday they distribute it at Bonaire Basics. But food can be donated at Bonaire Basics that same Monday. Leading the program is Ans Buijs. Contact the Bank at voedselbankbonaire@gmail.com. ■



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KONTEST DI FLI Lifts Off

Sunday, April 3, marked the 38th annual springtime tradition of *Kontest di Fli* Boneiru, or Bonaire's kite-flying contest. The yearly competition was launched with dozens of local and nearby-island participants in the vast field behind Kooyman hardware store on Kaya Korona. It was organized, as usual, by Bonaire's Flamingo Bookstore.

About 130 young and not so young participants, divvied up in same-age categories, vied for various awards in the categories of "smallest", "largest", "most beautiful," "most original" and "weirdest," with their home-made and innovative flying kites. At the awards ceremony by the end of the day, the main award went to the most beautiful fli of them all. Afterwards, all kites, lit this time, took to the air. Unfortunately, this paper had to go to press before the finale.

The Kontest began ceremoniously at 9:30 am with a few words from Gezaghbeber Edison Rijna and the event's main organizer, Iris Semeler of Flamingo Bookstore. After a beautiful rendition of the Bonaire National Anthem, the principal organizers and fundraisers, such as Flamingo Bookstore, MCB, Don Andreas, Sabadeco, WEB, NV and Don Andreas, honored Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (FWNB). Sr. P. Thodé of the Fundashon received a placard for long-term service to the Kontest di Fli. A special kite, bearing the FWNB logo, was specifically created for this contest in honor of the Fundashon, and it was flown solo, high and proud for all to admire.

After the last stanzas of *Mi Stima Bo* ("I Love You") played out, MC and co-organizer Gerold Victoria announced the first few, very junior participants to kick off the contest with the launch of their kites.



Carlos is ready to go



Youngest competitor Stephanie

Among these contestants were Carlos and Stephanie from Bonaire, respectively 8- and 2-years old, and Siliandra, 5-years old, from Curaçao.

Next up on the contestant list came the older youngsters (9-11 yrs.) such as a team

from Curaçao, Fria Fria. After struggling with their kite for a while, their *fli* finally gave up its struggle and flew up smartly.

Around 12 pm, the third category (12-15 yrs.) of youngsters, Lili from Bonaire being one of them, showed off their magic kites and around 2 pm, the fourth and final (16 yrs. and older) group of players pitched their entries up high. What a fun filled afternoon with all these kids and their kites!

Iris Semeler of Flamingo Bookstore, the primary organizer of this event, has been passionate about youth kite flying since 1978, when she began it. Flamingo Bookstore used to be Augustinus Bookstore, a chain operating out of Curaçao, before Iris took ownership of the Bonaire branch in 1993. Curaçao's Augustinus bookstore had routinely organized these kite contests every year, so Iris thought it a great idea for Bonaire to have them as well. This event is typically held toward the end of March or at the beginning of April to catch the annual and constant-blowing "lenten" winds: *bientu di kuaresma*. And here it is, thanks especially to Iris Semeler, for organizing this event for the 38th consecutive time. ■ Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



Some of the judges of the event



Four generations of Tromp family kite flyers



Concentration is needed



Sr. P. Thodé of the Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (FWNB) received a placard for long-term service to the Kontest di Fli. Here is the special kite, bearing the FWNB logo



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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Part 1: The *Belastingdienst*)

The **Good**, a.k.a. the friendly locals: "*Bontardi dushi! Bo ta mustra kansà awe (Good afternoon sweetie! You seem tired today).*"

The **Bad**, a.k.a. *The Belastingdienst* (local tax service, kind of like the IRS in America, well, not exactly): "*Mark 'm (taxes due) high and squeeze. We just want to get their attention. Also, we don't actually know where most people live, but we do send out notices anyway just to see what happens.*"

The **Ugly**, a.k.a. *The Belastingdienst* (and most other administrative offices): "*Mañan*" (not really "tomorrow," just not today).

"**K**nock, knock; who's there? *Deurwaarder* (government-commissioned collection agent) here. *Deurwaarder*, WHAT?"

After having enjoyed my life of bliss on Bonaire for only three months, a pleasant looking chap is knocking on my screen door on a Friday afternoon. I love company! After he "*bon tardies*" me, he enters my house and points out our beautiful new City Shop couch, coffee table and dining room set. He would like to take possession of them -- immediately. He says all this in a very gentle manner; he might just as well be inviting me for tea!

While I frantically search for the man of the house -- surely he would comprehend the meaning of all this -- the *deurwaarder* perches on our now very precious sofa. When my hubby comes panting in at last, the *deurwaarder* adds our non-existent car to his list as well. He points at the gleaming new, white Hyundai parked out in front of our house. Luckily, that's not ours. We don't even own a car, but the *deurwaarder* seems untroubled by the niceties of who owns what. He leaves behind his calling card and a "final notice" to pay \$45,000 Bonaire income tax ASAP. I love income! But we'd never earned any on Bonaire and hadn't received any previous tax notices beyond way-late property tax bills.

After an exhausting weekend of no sleep through excessive worry (of course the "evil" *deurwaarder* just had to pay us a visit on a Friday afternoon), my hub and I set out to seek for answers and hopefully relief at the *Belastingkantoor* (local tax office). This must all be some huge mistake. Closed. The whole week. As we both peek in total despair through the darkened glass doors of the Bonaire's then- new version of an IRS lair, hoping to catch sight of an employee -- even the cleaning lady would make us happy at this point -- a hapless gentleman leaves the premises. We put him in a figurative armlock while firing questions at him. Oh, he's a just a customer, a.k.a. another victim. That leaves me optimistic. I try to make my way in but a nice lady at the door blocks my enthusiastic gait. "*Bondia, bonsiman dushi, no time this week. Ayo.*"

How to proceed next? The *Belastingdienst* website appears to be a broken labyrinth, full of passages leading to the land of nowhere (now improved, they say). We started out with numerous questions but this sorry site manages to leave us with more

uncertainties than solutions. However, we persevere in order to find at least a phone number. Nobody is present though to pick up the %#}¥ phone to help us poor suckers. The place is in lock-down mode for the week. Surely a holiday must be approaching? We check the calendar. Nope. Our moods are getting darker by the minute.



Bella stressed

Cat Bella, who's very attuned to her mommy's temper, goes swiftly into hiding in one of the baskets atop our countertop.

After an aggravatingly slow-moving week, D-Day or decision day has arrived. My hub feels too aggravated to make the call while cat Bella's still incommunicado in her hidey hole, so I volunteer to commit the deed. When my call is answered, I jump up in the air with surprise and joy. I find out we need only file a *bezwaarschrift* (objection), a notice to be acquired from that doggone *Belastingdienst* website. Again, we take the road much-traveled by and that has made all the difference (my apologies to Robert Frost for hacking up his poem), and search for the *bezwaarschrift*. It takes us several hours, but at last, we figure out -- several links and vocal outbursts later -- where the thing of evil has been hiding. It's best, according to us, to e-mail a *bezwaarschrift* as well as to deliver a second one personally (carrying a third copy to be stamped as a receipt). Boy, are we smart!

Until, that is, the *deurwaarder* comes knocking again. Time to cough up the \$45,000. Filing a *bezwaarschrift* is all fine and dandy, but he's in *de aanslag* business, he says (*aanslag* really means notice, but literally translates as "attack"). While he's clicking his heels and awaiting a grand sum, I'm prone on the floor with the cat attacking the screen door. It's not a pretty scene. Hub is off making another phone call to the *Belastingdienst*. It's Friday, and need I say more. . . . The *deurwaarder* remains calm, even though our little family's mental and financial state is unraveling before him. "I'll be back!" Hopefully, *mañan* -- not today.

After the weekend, we manage to contact a capable lady in *Belastingdienst*'s collection division. She admits the lack of collaboration and shared customer knowledge between the various divisions and departments. And it gets worse. Income taxes are not exactly calculated but instead dreamed up by the tax invention department, I mean tax assessment division. (I'm guessing the tax-levy geniuses having no real clue how to calculate taxes that might be due, simply make them up). When we add that we never even received any prior *aanslagen* (tax notices), she just shrugs her shoulders. Turns out later that they never had our correct address in their system, and likely never will, since we have to repeat our current address numerous times later to different employees. This is a typical bureaucratic case of left hand unaware and uncaring of right hand doings.

Many recalculations, advisors and attorneys later, \$45,000 was reduced to a "mere" \$20,000 in double taxation of our prior years' American income. "Oh, we never double tax income that's already been taxed somewhere else," we are repeatedly assured by *Belastingdienst* personnel. Well, yeah,



Belastingdienst kantoor- Downtown tax office

now -- after 2010 -- and Bonaire's first-time adherence to Dutch tax treaties.

In any case there's little excuse for the *Belastingdienst* to scare people to death with tax notices bearing arbitrary, incorrect and vastly elevated dollar numbers. There's similarly not much excuse for the *Belastingdienst* to send these notices to wildly erroneous addresses (or so we're repeatedly told by other ex-pat residents here), and then, miraculously, dispatch the *deurwaarder* to the correct home, threatening immediate confiscation of any worldly goods available there. There is also not much good reason for the apparent lack of communication and collaboration between the various *Belastingdienst* divisions and other related departments -- say, the *Afdeling Financiën* (Bonaire's Finance Department), for example.

But, after all of the above is said and done, the employees of Bonaire's *Belastingdienst* -- also the Financial Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Douane* (Customs), *Politie* (Police), *Zorgdienst* (Health Service), among other government agencies on Bonaire -- were, to us, unfailingly *hopi* friendly and polite, obviously struggling to work with and improve a system that had suffered from years of administrative neglect. And that goes *definitely* to the **Good!** ■

Story & photos by
Karen Bastiaansen-
Gilmour



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Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei



Last Saturday's presentation at the Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei of the cultural scarf folding workshop was well-attended and most interesting. Two of our elders, Mrs. Engracia "Gacha" Coffie and Ms. Mamita Fox, illustrated different styles of how the scarf can be folded and the significance of the folds. Several people volunteered to be models during the workshop.

Other visitors to the Market came early to get the smell of fresh hot bread in the morning and to enjoy the goat soup.

At noontime visitors were ordering the goat stew with *funchi*, which is something like a type of polenta. The Island Governor, Mr. Edison Reina, was also present during the Market and he captured a nice view of what the new exhibition has to offer. Another

attraction was a live presentation of the local youngster band, "Formashon Musika Krioyo." (photo above)

To get an impression of the ambience of the Cultural Market visit the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei. A special thanks goes out to all the entrepreneurs, organizations, media and visitors who help sustain and promote the Cultural Market of Mangazina di Rei with the aim make the area of Rincon more attractive for tourism and leisure on the island. **The next Cultural Market will be on Saturday April 30, 8am to 2pm.**

■ Story & photo by Izain J. Mercera



EVERY ONE SAY "love"
Tur Hende Bisa "Amor"

For sure it was not a Donald Trump rally.

Elmund "Lloyd" Obispo, a leader in Bonaire's gender diversity movement for the past five years, announced an initiative to have us better appreciate each other. It aims to raise awareness, self esteem, and togetherness of all Bonaireans and to help motivate young people to become community leaders. The project "Tur Hende Bisa Amor-Everyone Say Love" began a couple of years ago at Lloyd's workplace, when his boss, Joe, gave him a T-shirt printed with that slogan. It matured into the current project which begins this month and runs through June with a schedule of presentations and two-hour workshops with 20 to 24 participants.

Those who complete the course will receive a certificate, small gifts and a T-shirt.

Sponsors include Bonaire Brands with additional financial support from *Samenfonds*.

For more information email Elmond Obispo at human.rights.bonaire@gmail.com. ■ G.D./ Press release

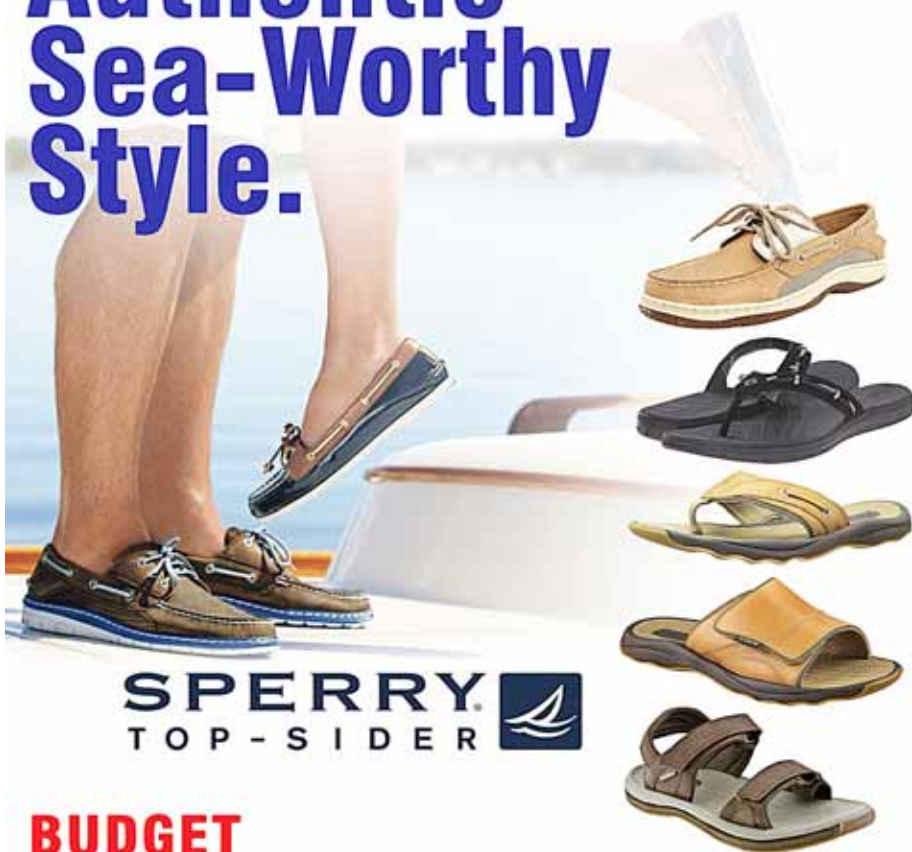


Lloyd recognizes Joe's idea



Lloyd with some of his young supporters

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Buckley's Bonaire Bond

Bonaire's well-known academic spokesman, George Buckley, was honored by Captain Don's Habitat by having the conference center named after him. George began his four decades of visits to Bonaire in 1976. He came to dive and study land snails and bonded with the island and its people. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Meeting Captain Don Stewart was a life changing event. This garrulous swash bucker was creating Aquaventure Habitat and George landed in the midst of a true maelstrom of creativity; Don was the Walt Disney of Caribbean diving and of reef conservation. He coined the meme, "Bonaire is to reef conservation as Greenwich is to time." Along the way, Albert Romijn, Jack Chalk and Clair Sealy worked diligently to keep strong Don's Habitat concepts.

George ended up visiting Bonaire uninterrupted for each of the next 40 years, often three or four or even five times a year, bringing groups from Wattertown High School, the scouting Explorer Post 221, Harvard University, the Boston Sea Rovers and two young Cape Cod boatmen, Max and his cousin Chris, who like all the others fell fast under Captain Don's spell and that of the dynamic reefs and land ecology of Bonaire. Some 125 trips later and the loss of many good Bonaire friends and the gain of many others, Bonaire and his second home, Habitat, remain very special to George.

Along the way there been many great adventures, from the work on aquaculture with Roberto Hensen at CARCO and Marecultura where they were way ahead of their time with the culture of conch, Tridacna clams, algae and pioneering work with Tilapia; the Bonaire Marine Park; and dozens of Disneyesque adventures and endeavors with Captain Don.

When not in Bonaire George serves as Assistant Director and co-founder of a fast-growing Sustainability and Environmental Management program with over 400 Masters Degree candidates at the Harvard University Division of Continuing Education. He teaches a very popular Oceans course, the long running Environmental Management course and leads a highly creative group of Capstone Projects Masters Degree students. Outside of Harvard, his work with numerous environmental organizations has won him wide acclaim. In addition, his work on the film, 'Bonaire Bonanza', has won BONHATA's 'Golden Flamingo Award' for his environmental work in Bonaire; Harvard's 'Shattuck Award' for Excellence in Teaching; the US EPA's 'Lifetime Achievement Award;' and the 'Diver of the Year' at Beneath the Sea in 2014. And most importantly, the 'Gift of Life Award' for donating a kidney to his beloved niece Valerie in 1990. (Many of his Bonaire friends thought that was the end of him as they had never heard of such a thing). One thing is for sure. George will be back on Bonaire soon. ■ *Press release/G.D.*



George Buckley at Captain Don's Habitat

Wall Paint Fun

What to do with this ugly fencing on Kaya Grandi which is hiding the construction on the site of the old Rochaline Hotel? Why not have some whimsical, colorful fun cartoon art—but with Bonairean subjects.



Artist Tony Trinidad

Local artist Tony Trinidad was asked and this is the result. It's attracting passers by, locals as well as tourists.

But the real fun part is that there's a contest for photos of you "in the art." You will notice that there's space in each panel for someone to stand so you're part of the picture. There will be prizes for the best and funniest photos. Send yours to: Facebook/bonairecartooncontest-bcc

The idea was supported by community-minded local shop owners: La Placita Salt Shop, Tante Vita, El Mundo, Mega Shoes. Kriyoyo Paint donated the supplies. ■ *Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo*



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For Sale: Clothes dryer: Bosch 220v., propane heat (economical) condition-never used \$350 or best offer. tel 795-5397 or email rurichard42@hotmail.com

For sale: 13 ft. Boston Whaler boat with new (never used) 25hp Yamaha outboard also includes trailer. \$7900. US contact tel 795-5397 or email rurichard42@hotmail.com

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REAL ESTATE/RENTALS/ ETC...

Retail or office rentals available. Established store to draw traffic, busy road with parking 75m² and 150m². Kaya Neerlandia #21. Call **Budget Marine at 717-3710**

REWARD- Dive gear fell off the dive truck near Sand Dollar on Saturday 8:30am. Thank you for picking it up so it was not damaged by a car. Call Jay 717-5548 or drop off any Dive Friends location or at Sand Dollar. Reward.

FOR RENT: Conveniently located 1-bedrm duplex in quiet and safe neighborhood for the month of May and/or June. NO PETS and NO SMOKING. Call: 00599-795-9760 / email: dovalelaurie@gmail.com

Want to Buy or Sell Something? **Do it with an ad in The Reporter Classified** Personal ads **FREE** Business ads **CHEAP** reporter@bonairenews.com

Obituary

David Gersh, age 55, of Bedminster, NJ, died unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, March 12, 2016.



He is survived by his extended family from Curacao, Costa Rica, Venezuela, the Netherlands, Florida and wonderful friends from Bonaire. He loved them all dearly and all his family and friends will miss his gentle soul and generous heart, especially his sister, Miriam Maduro and her companion, Ian Hart of Pittsfield, MA; his uncle and aunt Eugene and Bonnie Gersh of IN; his two nephews, Adam and Mark and his cousins, Nina and Norman Gruenberg.

David loved visiting the Caribbean Islands, in particular, his ancestral home Curacao and Bonaire, where his family had a home for many years.. There was a service in his memory on March 25. The family has requested no flowers. Donations may be made in David's memory to The American Diabetes Associates, The American Cancer Society or Goodwill Industries.

Press release

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 04		03:52	09:31	17:01	22:35	6:30	18:47
Tue 05		05:08	10:29	17:40	23:29	6:29	18:47
		06:32	11:38	18:24			
Wed 06		-0.01 ft	0.43 ft	-0.07 ft		6:28	18:47
	00:25	07:58	12:58	19:13	New Moon		
Thu 07	0.66 ft	-0.07 ft	0.35 ft	-0.04 ft		6:28	18:47
Fri 08	01:24	09:19	14:23	20:07		6:27	18:47
Sat 09	02:21	10:28	15:42	21:06		6:27	18:47
Sun 10	03:18	11:29	16:52	22:07		6:26	18:47
Mon 11	04:13	12:24	17:52	23:07		6:25	18:47
	05:07	13:14	18:46				
Tue 12	0.94 ft	-0.39 ft	0.35 ft			6:25	18:47
Wed 13		00:07	05:59	14:01	19:36	6:24	18:47
	First Quarter	01:05	06:49	14:46	20:23		
Thu 14	0.05 ft	0.85 ft	-0.34 ft	0.41 ft		6:24	18:47
Fri 15		02:03	07:39	15:28	21:08	6:23	18:47
Sat 16		03:02	08:28	16:08	21:53	6:23	18:47
Sun 17		04:04	09:17	16:44	22:36	6:22	18:48
		05:12	10:10	17:17	23:17		
Mon 18		0.10 ft	0.43 ft	-0.03 ft	0.51 ft	6:21	18:48

Crossword Answer

1	H	2	T	3	T	4	P	5	P	6	E	7	R	8	S	9	E	10	C	11	L	12	O	13	T
14	O	A	H	U	15	A	R	E	E	L	16	H	E	N	S										
17	O	P	E	R	18	Y	I	E	L	D	19	I	N	C	A										
20	P	E	A	C	21	O	C	K	F	L	O	22	U	N	D	E	R								
					23	H	A	U	S			24	R	N	S										
25	T	H	W	A	R	T				26	S	W	A	M				28	H	O	E				
33	O	O	H	S						34	S	P	A	D	E			35	E	N	C				
36	Q	U	E	E	37	N	P	A	R	R	O	T	38	F	I	S	H								
40	U	S	E		41	I	R	W	I	N			42	O	R	E	O								
43	E	E	L		44	G	E	N	T			45	T	R	U	S	T	S							
					47	A	H	S				48	P	I	E	R									
49	S	P	O	T	T	E	52	E	A	G	L	E	54	E	R	A	Y								
57	W	A	L	L			58	N	O	T	R	E		59	Y	O	D	A							
60	A	R	E	A			61	T	R	U	E	R		62	E	D	E	N							
63	T	A	O	S			64	S	A	N	D	S		65	D	E	S	K							

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
Celebrating 22+ years of continuous publishing

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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher; Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Also available on-line on Facebook® and at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters in this issue: James Albury, Angliet Baidjoe, Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour, Caren Eckrich, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden-Disko, Izain J. Mercera, Nathalie Peterson, Dean Regas, Michael Thiessen, Justine Verschoor. Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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A Garden? Just Do It

Aloe On Bonaire

MORE MAGIC OF ALOE

Did you think that I had finished talking about Aloe Vera in the last issue of *The Reporter*? Sorry, I am not; I couldn't write everything in one article. Now I am going to tell you the special relationship that Aloe has with Bonaire and what Aloe meant in the 'old days' to Bonaire and its people. This is an interesting part of Bonairean history.

In the 'old days' there were a lot of Aloe plantations all over Bonaire. The production of the Aloe Vera was an important economic income for the island. **For you to understand this I have to tell you a story.**

The leaves of the Aloe Vera were cut lengthwise and put in a long wooden funnel, raised at one end so that the aloids (juice) would run downward into old kerosene cans to be collected. It was the ladies' jobs to tie rope around the cans so that they could be lifted and taken to the oven. A man would stir the aloids with different types of spoons. Their handles were two meters long and the spoon itself was 35 cms in diameter. Each spoon was designed for a different job and looked different: some had holes in them (see photo); spoons to turn the aloids while it cooked and spoons to push the cooked aloids into boxes. The oven was in two parts. One was a large, 1.5 meter-wide section that was built on stones and cement. Under the pot was a space for wood that had been gathered from the kunuku to start the fire. There were big, thick blocks of wood to keep the fire very hot.

While the aloid was cooking many wooden boxes were being made, 50cm x 30cm x 30cm. The boxes were lined with a special paper, then the hot, cooked aloid that was still liquid was ladled into the boxes with one of the wooden spoons. As the liquid aloid cooled it became solid. Then the lids were put on. These boxes of cooked aloid were sent to Curacao to be exported to the US.

Curacao also made Aloe this way and all of the boxes of Aloe were labeled in Curacao as "Made in Curacao," includ-

ing the Bonaire Aloe. This was a good business trade with the US until one day the whole thing came to a stop. Wonder why? On Curacao there were bad people who put stones in their Aloe boxes so that the box would weigh more, as the Aloe was sold by weight. Now the companies in the US that were using this Aloe needed large machines to break up the Aloe blocks, but these machines were getting damaged with the stones that had been added to the Curacao Aloe! The US companies decided to stop using the Aloe from the Antilles as it was damaging their machines and they no longer trusted the Aloe supply. This in turn damaged the income of Bonaire as the trade in Aloe stopped.

Nowadays people living on Bonaire are becoming interested in Aloe Vera again and are starting companies producing all kinds of aloe products. One of the companies, "Onima," has become popular on Bonaire. (photo lower right). They chose this name because one of the kunukus in the past that was growing the aloe for export was called Kunuku Onima. You can find the "Onima" products in the shops and at the cruise market, but there are also products from Curacao here on Bonaire, so you have a choice.

Springtime is a well known time to detox the body. Besides the Aloe products that you can buy, you also can use your own fresh Aloe from your yard to detox. Aloe Vera has the ability to absorb and bind to toxins in the body and expel them from the body naturally. By using Aloe Vera for a minimum of three months it will clean and restore the whole body. This means from the throat all the way through the stomach and colon which again gives more energy, clears the skin, helps digestion and gives better function to the whole digestive system. It brings balance to your internal bacteria, stimulates cell renewal and growth. It improves stamina and is very rich in minerals which are essential for mental and physical health.



Antique utensils used to process aloe (above)
A trough used to funnel the liquid aloe into recycled kerosene cans (below)



Aloe Manan is a very important ingredient. This is a substance that exists in the plants when they have been growing for a minimum of six years. The Aloe Manan is a natural bio-cortisone and is a very strong anti-inflammatory. This makes it good to restore the colon flora and to rejuvenate and restore skin.

So go ahead and take your wonderful, healthy, restoring and rejuvenating Aloe Vera right here from dushi Bonaire.

Story by Angliet,
Nature lover; photos
by Mylene Oudejans



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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 Kocks 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 (Bonaire Duodero)**- 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, 2nd hand items

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

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

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

#	DAY	NAME	Time in Port	Cruise Line
Cruise Ship Schedule				
49	6-04-16	Club Med 2	0800-1700	Club Med
50	14-04-16	Star Breeze	0800-2200	Windstar
51	16-04-16	Saint Laurent	1200-0400	Haimark Line
52	18-04-16	Royal Princess	1200-1900	Princess

Sundays

• **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

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 or 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@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **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 **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Cruscita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701- 9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

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 or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194 ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, April 8 —CMBB concert. See poster on page 13

Saturday, April 9— Dive Friends Bonaire · Kralendijk Quarterly Clean Up Dive 10 am

Saturday, April 9— Connecting People with Nature, "Coral Reef Fish Behavior" by STINAPA biologist Caren Eckrich. 7-8pm at Divi Flamingo Hotel, Capture Room, free entrance

Sunday, April 10—Open day at Bonaire Sailing School , at Kas di Regatta from 10am to noon.

Monday, April 11—Fabian Cousteau Seminar at Divi Flamingo , "How to protect the environment and more.." More on page 2



Sunday, April 15 —Open day at Bouncerland, Kaya Theresa Ilario #35, Tera Cora, 4pm. Info 785-9802

Sunday, April 17

—Ride For the Roses Fundraiser. More on page 3

—Back On Track 5 Year Anniversary Performance with Rock n' Roll Music and Food at Woodstock Bar in Kralendijk, Start time 5:30. Tel: 786-8326 or email: eric@caribbeanhillout.com for reservations. More on page 6

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

Free listing in this directory for regular repeat *Reporter* advertisers

AIRLINES

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

AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.



BEAUTY

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

BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

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.

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.

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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 15.

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?** 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. 19

Animal Shelter News

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

VACCINATIONS FOR YOUR PETS

Vaccines help prevent many illnesses that affect pets. Vaccinating your pet has long been considered one of the easiest ways to help him live a long, healthy life. When your pet is a puppy or kitten there is a standard schedule of vaccinations that needs to be met during his or her first year of life. After this initial year, the core vaccinations of parvovirus and (feline) distemper, feline viral Rhinotracheitis and the feline Herpesvirus should be administered yearly for dogs and one to three years for felines, based on your veterinarian's recommendation.

Parvo (Parvovirus) in Dogs is a highly contagious viral disease that can produce a life threatening illness. The general symptoms of parvovirus are lethargy, severe vomiting, loss of appetite and bloody, foul-smelling diarrhea and dehydration. Parvovirus is extremely contagious and can be transmitted by any person, animal or object that comes in contact with an infected dog's feces. Highly resistant, the virus can live in the environment for months, and may survive on inanimate objects such as food bowls, shoes, clothes, carpet and floors. It is common for an unvaccinated dog to contract parvovirus from the streets, especially in urban areas where there are many dogs.



Feline viral rhinotracheitis is an upper respiratory or pulmonary infection of cats caused by *feline herpesvirus*. Viral respiratory diseases in cats can be very serious, especially in causing one-half of the respiratory diseases in cats, Feline viral rhinotracheitis is the most important of these diseases and is found worldwide especially where cats live together. It's very contagious and can cause severe disease, including death from pneumonia. Initial signs include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, and sometimes fever and loss of appetite. If your cat has these signs get treatment and **keep it inside to prevent the spread of the disease.** ■

Story by Nathalie Peterson & Marijke Passer



Pets of the Week

LOVE STORY

TROY: One morning we found a neglected dog tangled in wire in front of the Animal Shelter. He was in terrible shape, thin, skin issues, ticks and fleas and dehydrated. We managed to bring him back to good health with a lot of great care and love from all the staff and volunteers. We named him Troy after the Greek warrior who overcame great odds. Now he's healthy but lonely!



L → R: Bob, Katie and Troy

KATIE: This little mother was found in front of the Shelter with her three babies. She was a fabulous mother who took great care of her puppies even though she was not well herself. They were all covered with fleas and ticks and very dirty. Her pups are now old enough and all are adopted. So now she's healthy but lonely!

BOB: An elderly couple brought this young pup to the Shelter because they found out that the husband is allergic to dogs. They were heartbroken that they had to give him up. He was very well taken care of and a very playful and happy pup. But now he's very lonely!

Guess what happened next..... They now all live together as a happy little family! And are all available for adoption. Adoptable cat and dogs are all vaccinated, de-wormed, micro-chipped, free from fleas and ticks and spayed or neutered.

Please come and visit our happy little family at the Animal Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26, or call for more information. (717-4989/701-4989) or e-mail us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com and like us on Facebook. ■ Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson & Marijke Passer

Vakatura empleado Asilo di bestia na Bonaire

Fundashon Dierenasiel Bonaire ta bai ekspandé su tim.

E fundashon ta buska un empleado pa 20 ora pa siman.

E persona lo hasi tareanan diario na Asilo di bestia, i tambe tareanan pa e 'dog control' program.

Nos ta buska un persona;

- ku por anda bon ku kachó inkluso kachó agresivo
- ku por anda bon ku hende
- ku ta musta utoridat
- ku ta dispuesto pa traha orarionan iregular
- bon di salú, ku por karga si mester un kènel ku kachó grandi
- ku tin rijbewijs B

ku ta papia Papiamentu i Hulandes

Si bo ta interesá, bo por manda bo karta/ email pa Animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com of pasa lag'é na Animal Shelter mes, na Kaminda Lagoen 26.



Vacature Medewerker Dierenasiel

De Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire is op zoek naar uitbreiding van haar team.

Ten behoeve hiervan zoeken wij een nieuwe medewerk(st)er, voor ± 20 uur per week.

De medewerker zal zowel ingezet worden voor dagelijkse werkzaamheden op het asiel, als voor het "Dog Control" programma.

Wij zoeken iemand die past in de volgende profielschets

Zeer goed in omgang met honden inclusief aggressief gedrag ervan.

Zeer goed in omgang met mensen

Uitstraling/overwicht.

Bereid tot het werken op onregelmatige uren.

Is fysiek fit en in staat tot zo nu en dan zwaar tillen (van bijv. kennels met grote honden).

In het bezit van rijbewijs B.

Bij voorkeur:

Spreekt Papiaments en Nederlands.

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THE STARS HAVE IT

APRIL 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your intuition will be right o. Follow your feelings in matters pertaining to financial investments. Time to deal with institutional environments, government agencies, and matters of a private nature this month. You need to take a break with the ones you love. You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Plan a day of enjoyment with them. You will be a bit of a spendthrift this month. Money problems will get worse if your partner hasn't been playing by the rules. Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Think about starting your own small business, Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. You can make drastic changes in your professional direction this month. You will be drawn to individuals who can provide you with both intellectual conversation and physical passion. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You should put your efforts into creative projects. Social events will be plentiful. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this month. Try to be precise in your communications. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Visitors may relieve the tension. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You should put in some extra hours developing that creative idea you have. All your energy should be directed into moneymaking opportunities. Plan some family outings. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Set a limit, or you'll wind up on a tight budget. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. Trips will be enjoyable, and communication with your lover will clear up any misconceptions. Help children with important projects. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Look into real estate. You should be promoting your ideas. Your creative talent will prove to be lucrative if put to proper use. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try to do things with children that will enable you to bond closer to them. Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. Try to convince a good friend to take a holiday with you. Don't be taken advantage of by any fast talking salesperson trying to part you from your cash. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take care of chores that have been hanging over your head. Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. Take time to catch up on gossip and make plans to do a little adventure travel. Be careful of disclosing personal information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to judge too quickly. You need to sit back and enjoy. Go out shopping this month. You can make career moves that will bring you a much higher income. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvement's. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. You can expect to have problems with your mate if you've been spending too much time away from home. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE BRIGHTEST STAR WE SEE THE MOST OFTEN

What's the brightest star we see the most often? Before you all shout "Sirius!" as the brightest star we see the most, you better guess again.

While the star Sirius is the brightest star we can see with the naked eye, there is another star that is indeed the brightest star we see most often in the heavens from the northern hemisphere.

This other star is only the 6th brightest star in the sky, but we see it most often because it is the brightest star closest to the **North Star**. This means it is visible more nights of the year from the northern hemisphere than any other bright star.

Face due north this week between the hours of 8 and 10. And to find this brightest star we see in the sky more than any other bright star simply locate the seven stars of the **Big Dipper**, then shoot an imaginary arrow through the two stars that mark the rim of the cup in the direction away from the handle, and your arrow will land smack dab on the bright yellow star named **Capella**, which is the brightest star of the **constellation Auriga, the charioteer**.

Capella means 'the goat star'. You see, long ago, Auriga was depicted as both a charioteer and as a goat herder. In fact, you can see that Capella is the mother of the herd and her three kid goats are very close by. At any rate while the concept of a goat in the heavens isn't all that poetic to me, nevertheless the true nature of Capella as a celestial object is absolutely wonderful.

Although it looks yellowish to the naked eye, and although through even the greatest telescope on earth, it appears as a single star, nothing could be farther from the truth. Indeed, back in 1899 an instrument called a **spectroscope** revealed that Capella is two stars, each several times larger than our **Sun**, separated by only 70 million miles.

A few years later two more stars were discovered, two tiny red **dwarf stars** orbiting almost 1/5 of a light year away. So when we look up at Capella we are actually seeing two giant yellow stars orbiting each other and two red dwarf stars orbiting each other.



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Earthshine on the Moon

Like to see a super skinny Moon in the evening sky? This week we have an opportunity to see a really good one. On Thursday, April 7, right after sunset, face west. This will be a very young Moon but not a record setting opportunity. The youngest Moon spotted with the naked eye was seen in 1990. It was only 15 hours 38 minutes old. The one next week will be about twice as old.

But it will still be a challenge to spot it and it will be worth your time. The next night April 8th it will be much easier but still give you a good chance to see a somewhat rare Moon image - the old Moon in the new Moon's arms.

If you have clear skies look for a faint ghostly image of the unlit portion of the Moon above the crescent. This ghostly light is the real Moon but is lit by twice reflected light. The light has come from the **Sun**, reflected off the **Earth** to the Moon, then reflected again from the Moon back down to the Earth.

This is **Earthlight** or **Earthshine**. It's often visible at every young or every old Moon, but most people never notice. Be among the few to see the Earth's reflected light on the Moon. ■ Dean Regas & James Albury

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