

**It's Still
FREE**

Bonaire Reporter- May 16-30, 2016, Year 23, Issue 10
The BONAIRE REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

**First Communion
On Ascension Day**



Greta Kooistra photo & story

Thursday May 5th was a big day for some children on Bonaire. After a year of hard studies 38 youngsters made their first communion at Coromoto Church in Antriol.

In Playa, where the children have to study for two years before they first receive the Eucharist, 32 children partici-

pated. Parents and grandparents, siblings and cousins, aunts and uncles, madrinas and padrinos; everybody came together to share this joyous occasion.

In the photo: Dwigshentaly 'Nashma' Lugo leaves the church.

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

The Bonaire Island Government (OLB) has a new ruling coalition. Late on Wednesday, May 5,



Elvis Tjin-Asjoe's (above) MPB (Blue) party and the sole fractions of Esther Bernabela and Nunu Raphaela signed a coalition agreement. The three parties agreed to work towards a better future for the youth, welfare for the elderly, reducing poverty, improving the infrastructure, economic development and more. *The Reporter* proposes the new coalition be named the "Delft Blue" coalition for its expressed affinity for The Netherlands.

The three parties will offer a government program in 30 days.

A new coalition became necessary because the past "Watermelon" coalition (made up of red and green parties) could no longer count on a majority in the Island Council when Councilwoman **Esther Bernabela** withdrew her support and continued as an independent councilor. Previously **Jeanoushka 'Nunu' Raphaela** also went independent from the UPB (see the last edition of *The Reporter*). In the Island Council Elections of 2015, MPB leader **Elvis Tjin-Asjoe** and his party received the most votes. However, his party could not come to an agreement with the other parties and ended up as the opposition. The new government was installed last week.

► **Finally, results from all the studies done to assess Bonaire's situation following the "10-10-10" changes.** The first recommendations from the Dutch government resulting from the Spies Report was that "poverty" actually increased following closer ties with the Netherlands. **To combat poverty on the BES Islands welfare payments (in Dutch "onderstand") are to be increased in steps to the level of the minimum wage.**

Other measures include **improving "the economic structure"** by making available knowledge and expertise from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs for the protection of consumers and to increase competition. **The cabinet is also prepared to take over the responsibility for the youth care on Bonaire.**

Additionally, the islands **will have more time to implement Dutch laws and to keep some "Antillean" laws in force.** In consulta-

tion with the local government, the civil service will be strengthened to achieve better services to residents and businesses. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations says it is committed to improving the housing market on the islands. This should lead to the construction of more rental and owner-occupied homes.

► **A protest was held at the RCN building on Bonaire last Monday.** The demonstrators

headed by social activist James Finies of "Nos ke Boneiru Bèk" because in their opinion, as evidenced by recent Dutch statements, the Dutch Government is ignoring the result of the December 18 referendum, in which a majority of islanders were displeased with developments on Bonaire following 2010's direct ties with the Netherlands. Armed with slogans like "Stop Dutch Apartheid" and "rotten RCN Makamba's Out," the peaceful demonstration drew about 25-30 people. **The demonstrations are planned to continue during the lunch hours every Monday** until there is resolution. Last year Finies demonstrated for 200 days in support of a Referendum.



► **The first Ride, Swim and Walk for the Roses fundraiser on April 28 on Bonaire was not only an athletic success but a financial one as well.** It brought together more than a thousand participants, 38 sponsors and more than 50 volunteers. And the Cancer Fund (Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Bonaire) received a check for \$ 40,000 from the event's proceeds. The next Ride, Swim and Walk for the Roses will be on Sunday, April 16, 2017.

► **Wages are rising in the BES Islands.** Several government employee unions have reached an agreement with the RCN about labor conditions 2016 -2017. Main features are:

- One-time payment of US\$ 500, - gross as benefit for 2015.
- 3% wage increase from January 1st, 2016.
- Increase of the vacation allowance to 8.33% from June 1st, 2016.
- Increase of the gross year-end bonus to

\$1250 beginning December 2016.

• Agreement that all official service, accumulated anywhere in the Kingdom, will be included in compensation calculations. There are several more points included as well



► **A new ferry connection from Venezuela to Aruba and Curaçao is in the works for June of next year,** the Ministry of Communication and Information in Caracas announced. It involves the company Naviera Paraguana that recently received its first ship from Greece with a capacity of 600 passengers, 160 small vehicles and more than 20 containers. The three-deck vessel is at Falcon to be prepared and the plans include reduced tickets for the elderly and children under two. Ferry service for connection to Bonaire is also being studied.



► **In a masterpiece of dramatic timing KLM Regional General Manager Pieter de Man just finished his speech about the history of 80 years of KLM service to Bonaire when the KLM airbus flew over the celebration site at the Summer Dreams resort.** *Rijksvertegenwoordiger* (Kingdom Representative) Gilbert Isabella, whose photos appear on Facebook, was prompted to take a picture, and he did.

The airline's first plane to land on Bonaire was the Fokker 18 "Oriol" with a handful of passengers on May 9, 1936, when the runway at Subi Blanku was only 475 metres long and just dirt. Nowadays KLM brings 200 people to the island on an almost daily basis.

There was also a drawing contest in which local kids could win a dream trip.

► **Now that Aruba Airlines and Tiara**

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Air ceased flying the route Aruba-Curaçao, InselAir once again has a monopoly on this route that is essential for the transport of passengers between the two islands as well as for Bonaire passengers who must transit in Curaçao. InselAir flies the route several times a day with a Fokker 50.

► **All zika virus infections must be reported as of September 1st.** Physicians and laboratories in the Netherlands, including Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, are obliged to report zika infections to the government. Minister of Health Edith Schippers announced.

The notification falls within the category of diseases and viruses, for which isolation of patients is not required, but where it does help to take measures for patient and his or her environment. Chikungunya and dengue also fall within that category. The reporting requirement applies only for the Caribbean Netherlands and not for the European Netherlands.

► **A dangerous Black Widow spider was caught on a hotel property in Bonaire** and Stinapa warned that the invasive species could spread quickly. The red-stained bottom South Black Widow originates from the US Southwest and Mexico but has been spotted in various Caribbean countries. The insect has a venomous bite, and while



everyone reacts differently to the poison, in one in a hundred cases the victim dies. The specimen in question was a female and several eggs were found as well.



► **STINAPA is organizing an art competition on the protection of sharks and rays** to make the Bonairean community aware of the threats that sharks and rays are facing. The competition is open for anybody between the ages of four and 100. The artwork may be a sculpture, drawing, painting, photo, video, song or poem about the sharks and/or rays of Bonaire. All participants should submit their artwork to STINAPA headquarters before or on June 1st 2016. All artwork must include the name, address, phone number and/or email address of the artists.



New Executive Council
Secretary Nerry Gonzales, Gerald Silberie, Nina den Heijer, Joselito Statia, Island Governor Edison Rijna

► **Two new commissioners of Bonaire's incoming MPB-led coalition were sworn in last week to join the Executive Council: Nina den Heijer and Joselito Statia.** However, their third commissioner, **Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai**, could not be appointed yet, so **Gerald Silberie** of the UPB will remain in the position for now.

Joselito Statia had been a member of the MPB-fraction in the prior Island Council Legislature but was recently replaced by **den Heijer**. However, when den Heijer became commissioner (she was required to resign as a member of the Island Council) her seat was taken over by another MPB member, **Milena Silberie**.

The winners will be announced during the **Bonaire Shark Week 2016, from June 18th to the 26th.**

► **United Airlines announced a second weekly non-stop flight to Bonaire.** The new flights will operate every Sunday, between Newark and Bonaire, in addition to the carrier's existing Saturday service from both Newark and Houston to the island. The service will operate **between June 12 and August 14, 2016.**

United Airlines' Newark-Bonaire Sunday

flight, which commences on June 12, 2016, is on sale. The booking window for the sale is now through May 17, 2016. All travel must be completed by August 14, 2016. In most cases, the fares are approximately 25% off current fares from select US originating cities, are based on availability and are subject to change.

► **Victims of World War II were honored in Bonaire** as is the case every Remembrance Day on May 4. Island Secretary

(Continued on page 11)

FOR SALE Kaya Topaz 8 Hidden Gem with Ocean Views



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Vitamin Supplements: Necessary Or Not?



Vitamins and minerals: we know we need them every day. But what are they? They are so called micro nutrients that are indispensable for the body. They play an important role in growth, recovery, good functioning of the body and staying healthy.

Vitamins and minerals are natural substances found in food. The body can't make them by itself, so eating sufficient, varied and healthy food is really important. During certain life stages and special circumstances extra vitamins might be necessary.

There are 13 vitamins. Four fat-soluble vitamins: vitamins A, D, E and K. These vitamins are particularly found in foods containing fat and can be stored in the body. The other nine are the different B vitamins and vitamin C and are water-soluble vitamins. These vitamins are found in the fluids of different foods and can't be stored in the body (except for B12). An excess amount of these vitamins leave the body through the urine.

Some Examples Of When Extra Vitamins Are Needed.

Newborn babies need extra vitamin K the first few months and extra vitamin D until they are four years old because their skin can't make enough vitamin D out of sunlight yet.

The growth spurt during the teen years asks a lot from a teen's body and if they don't eat enough of a variety of foods, their nutrition will lack a lot of vitamins. So in some cases an extra multivitamin supplement is needed.

Older people's aging skin will have more difficulty making vitamin D under the influence of sunlight. That's why women from the age of 50 and men from the age of 70 need more vitamin D. Older people usually eat less so the quality of nutrition and variation are really important to absorb enough vitamins. The absorption of vitamin B₁₂ also decreases in older people. In some cases extra vitamin B₁₂ is needed.

During pregnancy women need extra vitamin D and folic acid (B₁₁) to reduce the chance of the baby developing spina bifida.

Athletes who train at a high level need extra energy and extra vitamins and minerals and sometimes extra supplements.

Vegetarians usually don't need extra vitamins if they eat healthy and varied. Vegans, however, can develop a shortage of vitamin B₁₂ because this vitamin can only be found in animal products. Also, a vegan diet can lead to shortages of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin B₂.

People with certain health problems also need extra supplements. For example people with type 2 diabetes who use the medication metformin need extra vitamin B₁₂ because the absorption of this vitamin is hampered by this medication.

Furthermore it's really important to let your pharmacy know you're taking supplements as they can interfere with some medications. ■ Story by *Lucinda van der Wardt*

More info: www.foodandvitality.info
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Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 18 years. After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk.



(Dancing — Continued from page 9)
Cooperating Foundations), which supports social initiatives for elderly people in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands. Beginning this coming September, Plataforma Kultural will have its own activity center and meeting space in Antriol called "Hôfi Kultural." Meanwhile classes are held in Villa Antonia every Monday from 10:30 to 11:30am. Plataforma Kultural and Villa Antonia invite all 60-plussers living in Antriol to participate. There are

options for younger people to volunteer as well. For more information about the dance classes or to share ideas for other cultural projects on the island, contact Plataforma Kultural via plataformakultural.com or (+599) 700-5304. ■

Story & photos by *Gerjanne Voortman*



DID YOU KNOW?

For male Fiddler Crabs, size matters!

In the battle for the best female and the choicest location in the mudflat, the male Fiddler Crab has evolved an enormous (relative to its overall size) claw. When feeding, the male's small claws move up and down near the large claw and it looks like he is playing the fiddle, thus the crab's name.



Unknown species Fiddler Crab species at Salina di Vlijt – photo by Sipke Stappert

Estimated to be 40% of the male crab's overall weight, the claw must be a burden! Crabs usually use both claws to feed on algae, worms and other critters in the mud, but the male Fiddler can only use one claw to feed. So, what's the deal? How does the crab benefit from having such a huge claw? Sure, males use their big claws to intimidate other males and sometimes fight over territory, but mostly the males wave their large claws up and down in hopes of attracting females to their burrows to mate. It is thought that females, for unknown reasons, began preferring males with larger claws. So, over time the trait was selected. Interestingly, University of Texas professor Darnell found that crabs with bigger claws could stay out in the sun longer (feeding and courting females) than other males because their claws acted as a sort of heat-sink! It helps them stay cool. Bonaire naturalist Sipke Stappert has spent many hours studying the Fiddler Crabs of Salina

di Vlijt and has documented five different species of Fiddler Crabs, one of which is thought to be not described in scientific literature. Although many people may think that muddy, intertidal areas like Salina di Vlijt are worthless, ugly and stinky, salinas have many important functions. They are habitat for many species of invertebrates (including Fiddler Crabs), birds, and plants. Salinas also serve as a natural buffer between land and sea. They filter sediments, chemicals and nutrients from runoff before they reach the coral reef. They also help with flood control. So let's celebrate and protect Bonaire's wetlands, even if they do stink at times! ■

Story by *Caren Eckrich, Biologist with STINAPA Bonaire. Connecting people with nature.*

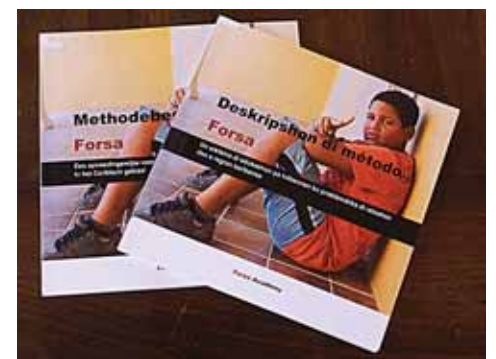


The FORSA Method

Dealing with youngsters can get complicated, especially if they have difficulties. Now there is a book that can help.

Last Wednesday, May 11th, Mick Schmit gave a presentation of the Forsa method at Divi Flamingo. This method, developed on Bonaire, is specifically for youngsters in the Caribbean Netherlands with behavioral problems or behavioral disorders from age nine to 18 years. The method is used in the Orthopedagogical Center, 'Stichting Project,' and it turns out to be the method works year after year.

That's why the Forsa Academy decided to describe the method and release it in a book. During the presentation Mick Schmit spoke proudly about the method and the book, which is available in two languages, Dutch and Papiamentu. In addition to the description of the method, the Forsa Academy provides training and implementation of the Forsa method to organizations and



institutions that work with youngsters with behavioral problems and who come to a decision to implement the Forsa method as a treatment method. It also offers practical training and advice for professional educators, teachers and parents in addressing behavior problems. The courses are taught by professionals and experts.

The presentation had a great attendance of several organizations and schools working with youngsters. For more information about 'Stichting Project' and 'Forsa Academy' please visit www.stichtingproject.com and www.forsaacademy.com ■ Press release

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Wenatchee, Washington State

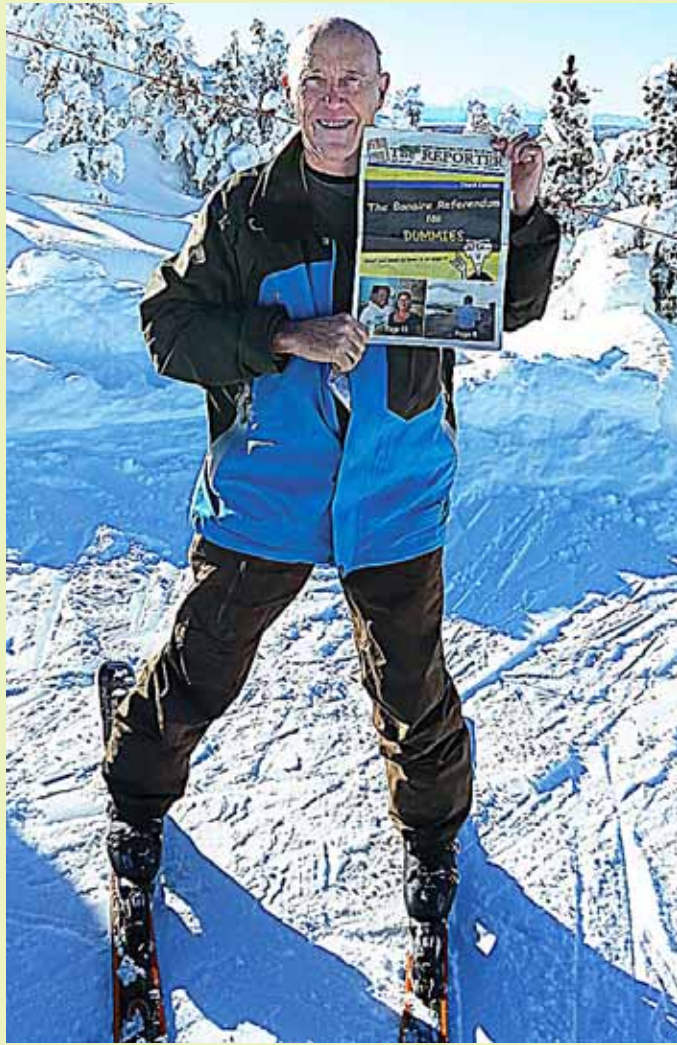
This is a photo of frequent Bonaire visitor **Doug Steinbrech** at 6,700 ft. at the Mission Ridge Ski Resort near Wenatchee in Washington State. Mount Rainier is in the background.

Doug and wife Suzii had just returned from their annual trip to Bonaire a few days previously ■

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.



How Swine Smart Are You?

Swine is another word for "pig." And, believe it or not, we have them on Bonaire. Over the next few months we will be contributing biweekly articles about pigs and what it means to have pigs on Bonaire. Pigs are from the family Suidae, the genus *Sus* and the species *scrofa*. They are hooved animals with even toes - ungulates. They originally came from the Eurasian and African continents, so they are not native to the Americas.

Now, let's see what you know about pigs. Answers will come in our next article. This story is a part of an ongoing series contributed by Echo, an organization who has been mandated by the Island Government to conduct a pig control program on Bonaire. For information about this project, please email Julianka@echobonaire.org or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS).

1. Who's Smarter?

- A Dog
- A Parrot
- A Pig
- A Donkey
- All are equally smart

2. Which of the following is true about pigs?

- They don't have sweat glands
- They have a great sense of smell
- They are highly adaptable and able to survive in a variety of places



Bonaire sow and piglets

A domestic pig which is released into nature will become wild
All of the above are true

3. How many offspring will a sow (female pig) typically have in a year?

- 4
- 8
- 12
- 20

4. Which of these foods will pigs refuse to eat?

- Corn
- Plants
- Bugs
- Fruits
- None of the above

5. True or False: when pigs play in the dirt, they ruin plants.

- True
- False

Quiz questions were derived from: [Do you know the power of a pig? by Heifer International](#) ■ *Lauren Schmalz for Echo*

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Prayer Walk Ministry

ROOI LAMOENCHI OPENS ITS GATES FOR A PRAYER WALK MINISTRY

“Seven years ago, when a group of 30 Christian women from Holland came to volunteer at Krusada, I was asked to invite them to Rooi Lamoenchi. Then, the leader of the group asked me if she could organize a prayer walk for the ladies. I was also invited to participate and it was a great blessing. I feel God used this experience to sow the seed in my soul for the prayer walk at Rooi Lamoenchi as there and then the vision was born. For quite a while I had – because of personal circumstances - no time or energy, nor the strength to realize my dream and I had to let it rest for a number years. However, in 2014, it was God’s time to start. I truly felt His hand, provision and guidance in every aspect of the realization of the vision and it has been a wonderful time and an unprecedented joy.

Also, God made sure that I had help: a 23-year-old Bonairean young man who has worked months with me – doing a great job – at creating the physical aspect of the prayer walk. The route had to be determined, we had to clean the paths and cut back the bushes, working with the terrain. I couldn’t do it alone. The whole puzzle came together; it was God who gave a vision, but also provision. Everything came at His time and my pastor, to whom I presented this vision at first, gave me his full support and I am also assisted by a committee which helps me organizing events.

The basis for the prayer walk ministry is found in *Luke 5:16* where it says that Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray and seek God’s face. As followers of Jesus Christ we want to follow in His footsteps. He gave the example that it is very important. We know we can pray everywhere and in all circumstances and at all times as prayer is a high calling and a great privilege for every believer. But the definition of a contemplative prayer walk is a walk in usually pure nature where one withdraws from daily concerns and the hustle and bustle of every day life



to seek God’s face.

In this process we can empty ourselves and be open to receive whatever the Creator of the beautiful nature that surrounds us wants to reveal to us, because in nature everything points to its majestic Creator and it inspires us to worship our God. A prayer walk like this will enhance our faith and trust in God as we grow in intimacy with Him.

This is something from God, not from Ellen; I see myself only as an instrument in His hand to achieve his purposes for special blessings for anyone who wants to withdraw to pray.

It’s not linked to any denomination; this prayer walk transcends denominational barriers as God offers these blessings to all believers in Christ Jesus.

I am inviting everyone from my heart to participate and experience His joy and peace in a special encounter **every first Sunday of the month (or on request) in the afternoon from 4:30 pm till 7:30 pm at Rooi Lamoenchi.**

Follow Kaya Nikiboko North all the way to where it becomes a dirt road and keep on following the road towards the east coast up to the gate of Rooi Lamoenchi. People can either follow the Via Gloriosa independently or get an A-4 format with prayer options for seven stops. Primarily, it’s meant for Christians, but if you’re searching for God you are also welcome. The prayer walk ministry is for you!”

For more info ellenherrera@coch-rane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800. ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Wonders of Nature

Every day I walk my dogs in the mondi. 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.

OPEN AIR LAUNDROMAT

My daily walk with the dogs: it seems so standard and simple. Same location, same I and the same dogs. Yet there are new items appearing each day and, strangely, also disappearing along the standard trail.

Strolling along the long dirt road I see it from afar: a washer, not a small one at all. In there you can lose mountains of laundry! The machine looks good, no rust, beautiful virginal white, with a proud look. This majestic appearance cannot be left behind as waste, there is definitely a deeper intention behind it.

Suddenly I see that deeper meaning before me: the washing place of the village where all the women gather. Where news is exchanged, women help each other and complain about their husbands and children. The place where dogs look for cool water and are driven away. Where girls are initiated into the art of laundry and their womanhood. The place where women think they are unobserved and wash their daily garb, dressed only in underpants and bra. Centrally located but out of earshot of their families. Soap and clothes are carried in baskets on their heads, heading to that hiding place where they can stay a whole morning away from home, with good reason.

With the advent of the washing machine the era of individualism began, every man for himself, back to your nuclear family. The obvious communication and initiation into the world of the own sex is sacrificed. The loss was made up by "convenience is the man." But is that really so? Look at what we have lost and how lonely people feel today.

This washing machine in the open air symbolizes the return to the community, the sharing, the feeling of togetherness. Tomorrow probably a large water reservoir from WEB and a generator will be placed alongside the machine. Women unite and wash! Or maybe nowadays we can also expect men. It could be that a man has invented this: let the machine do its work, meanwhile, we play cards or we play dominoes. Then you do not have to say you're going to fish (what you never



actually do, and so you never bring anything back home and so you always get looks of pity when you return empty-handed). No, you're going to wash very meaningfully and you come back with a booty: clean laundry. The hunting instinct curbed, a happy and clean family and still you have nice little gossip talks with your friends. The ideal world, everyone happy.

I can already predict that this will be a success: the modern equivalent of the washing place is an outdoor laundry. It starts with one machine but because of the long line of waiting people quickly there will be more. Like windmills they stand to shine and spin in the landscape, symbols of community. Around it improvised seats, chatting people, jointly tamping laundry to get everything in, the fog of washing powder, arguing about who's turn it is. Dutch subsidies find their way and get laundered. Tourists come specifically for the open-air laundry to our island and hang their dirty laundry out.

What a great initiative. I want to support this actively. Delighted about this small-scale world improvement I take the dogs to the car. On the way home I buy a laundry basket and practice to keep it on my head, filled with laundry.

The next day I'm going to see how things are with the power and water construction. I walk the dirt road on and off but the machine is no longer there. Gone, stolen, taken from society and from people who have ideals. Probably the work of some egoist who wanted it for himself.

■ Story & photo by Justine Verschoor





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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire



HOPING FOR A REASONABLE JOB ON BONAIRE (PART 1)

"Hope itself is a species of happiness, and, perhaps, the chief happiness which this world affords; but, like all other pleasures immoderately enjoyed, the excesses of hope must be expiated by pain." (Samuel Johnson)

Regretfully, yet firmly, I declined my (female) job interviewer's wine and cigarette offer. The clock hadn't even struck 12noon. Even I keep standards. The jug of wine on the desk was winking at me, though. We sealed the deal about 30 minutes later. It was five o'clock somewhere, I was certain. Time to celebrate and guzzle up that sucker.

I returned home much later, a happy camper with a part-time teaching job

plus a buzz-on. Fortunately, the buzz vanished rather quickly. Unfortunately, so did the job. The gig consisted of three hours teaching English to RCN students in one of the barrios, from 7 until 10 pm. The time and place mystified me a bit, but I was all too glad to have found my calling here on Bonaire. I showed up, text book and lesson plans *a mano*, while eagerly awaiting my pupils in the dark. And that's where I remained, in the dark; so too the organization that hired me. Nobody knew nothin'.

A few months later, I was determined to give teaching another go. I ended up babysitting at an after-school "homework guidance institute." I lasted two afternoons. On the first day, the students introduced me to their pet, a humongous bloodhound. I love dogs and they usually love me back. That's what I told the kids while trying to befriend the beast. When it bit my leg that friendship ended abruptly. The darn kids actually recorded the event on their cell phones and joked they would put it on Facebook. Whether I would like to befriend them on Facebook?

The second day, I was welcomed by board-skating youths in the upstairs classroom. The chomping canine had been smuggled into the building and was joining in the fun. Raucous laughter and woofing trailed me down the stairs while searching for the director of this odious outfit. I never did locate that director. No wonder, he probably despised the place just as much as I did,

and he had skedaddled out of there never to return. Too bad for me though; he never compensated me for my few haunting hours of hell.

Time to leave the field of education far behind me, and focus on a different kind of employment this time. "Hope floats," right? And so it happened; I thought I could find my calling tending Bonaire's ever-cute donkeys. At the donkey sanctuary I was led from one fluffy donkey to another, while an employee narrated their histories, likes and dislikes. I came to believe I could get paid just to pet the donkeys. They appreciated my tender loving care. Actually, the sanctuary needed a volunteer to clean up donkey carcasses when crushed to pieces on our roads. "Oh, and would you mind wiping toilet seats?"

Back to education I go. "In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn." (Phil Collins). In truth, I missed teaching, especially the ability I have to make a difference in someone's life, and vice versa. I submitted an ad to several papers, looking for willing students who were motivated to learn Dutch and/or English language skills. My first student, a young Columbian male, was inspired enough for both of us. After a few sessions of learning to speak Dutch, he figured he'd be good enough to apply for law school in the Netherlands. And off he went. To where, I'm not so sure.

My second student, a Peruvian hairdresser, needed to become competent in Dutch comprehension so she could actually understand her clientele's wishes instead of improvising on that haircut or color. She was desperate especially to

learn vocabulary related to hair. However, this ambitious lady worked long hours at the salon, and only had time available early in the morning from 7 until 8 am, on Saturdays only. Her Dutch husband relayed this tale of woe to me over the phone.

I appeared at her door at 7 am sharp, on a Saturday. (Her doorstep was a 30-minute ride from mine.) Her husband cracked the gate open just a tad when I rang the bell. Did I mention, at 7 am on a Saturday? I could barely discern his angry nose peeking out when he grumbled, "Take a hike, b\$&@%! It's too early!" I replied, "That's Mrs. Bitch to you, Mr. Kaaskop (Dutch for stupid Cheese Head)."

Subsequently, a string of young, not so young and elderly language learners passed through my open doors of multilingual instruction. It fascinated me that some had a gift for digesting more than one language, while others would probably remain monolingual for the rest of their lives. But they all tried, more or less. Some hung in there for at least six months, others threw in their linguistically abused towels after a few days. It's quite a commitment to be able to master new vocabulary, expressions, grammar and such. I usually tell my students that without commitment to absorbing new languages, there are only promises and hopes -- no real depth.

-To Be Continued ■

Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



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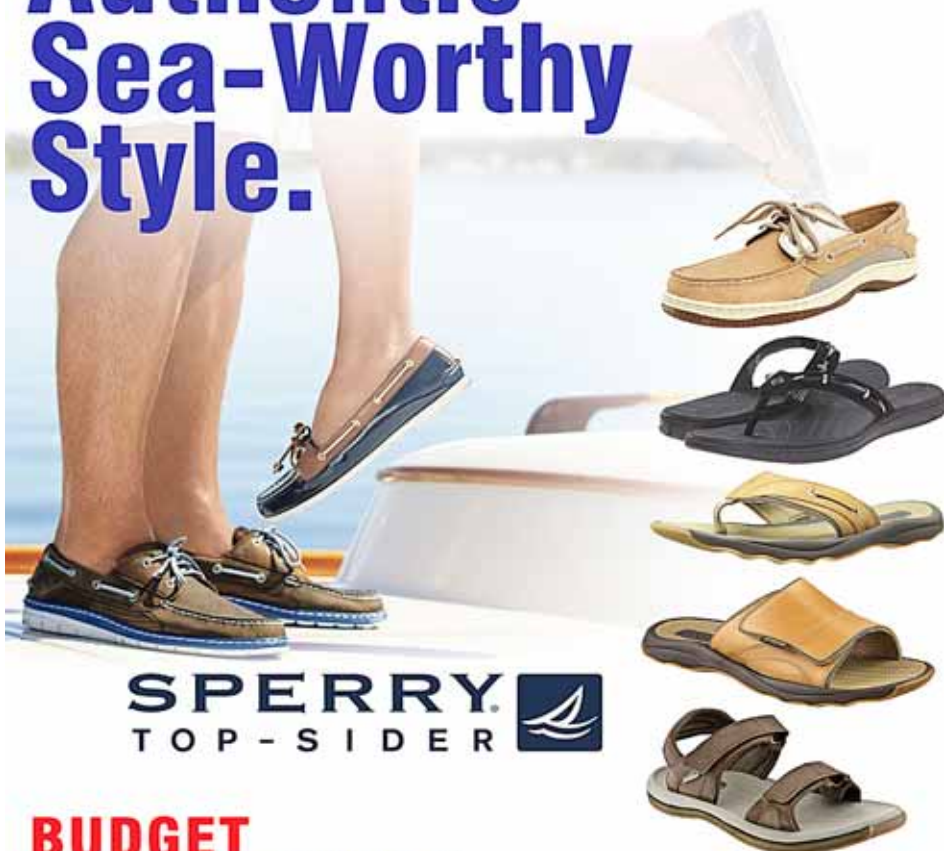
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On the Island Since...June 2014 - Yara and Paulo Bastos



Paulo and Yara Bastos



Paulo and Yara with some of their "local family members:" Leonardo Rojas and Paulo Allee (the rest of the crew wasn't there yet)

“We came from a city named Franca, which is the shoe capital of Brazil. We have 1,500 shoe factories in Franca alone. Fifteen hundred! In my city, just there! And of course, I was in the shoe business for over 25 years. I started at 15, translating English to Portuguese, because the business people would come from England, the US – from all over the world to buy shoes. I knew English because I learned it in Vancouver, Canada, where I’d been an exchange student for the Rotary Club for one year when I was 14. I became a totally different person there, because at 14 you’re open to the world! Oh my God, I cried, waiting for the postman. That one year I received 576 letters from my family and friends. There was no Internet at the time.

My childhood in Franca was all about family and all my family was in the shoe and coffee business because the city is also well-known for its coffee because of the altitude. It’s 1,200 meters above sea level, so it’s cool. We were three children and my dad was also in the shoe and coffee business and a member of the Rotary Club. My sister and I went for the shoes and my brother for the coffee. I was translating for all the factories for about three years, then I became a shoe expert. I did everything in the business, from production to final sales, but I was an expert in export. I sold millions of shoes in my career: to JC Penney, Nordstrom, Macy’s, Pazzo shoes, Hush Puppies and many, many other brands. I travelled every month, always overseas: Milan, Las Vegas, New York, Miami, the Emirates and Holland, the US, Europe, Africa and all of the Caribbean. I really enjoyed my work and the travelling; it was super!

I married Paulo in 2000. Paulo is gentle and so sweet and he’s happy, never in a bad mood. We love each other a lot. Also, we like the same things and we like to be together. He’s a person you can count on no matter what. I wouldn’t have come without Paulo and he wouldn’t have come without me. And here we need each other more than anything. Half of the orange, that’s how we call it. We have one daughter, Vivien, who is 25, married and living in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, where she works in the coffee business. And we have a son, Yuri, who is 22. He just graduated as a civil engineer in Sao Paulo where he lives and works.

I met Paulo in Franca at a friend’s house. Paulo and me... that was something that we played and joked about. Then it became true. He was in the shoe business as well, doing marketing, but he was also helping me to raise the kids.

The first time we came to Bonaire was in 2001. It was our honeymoon. A friend of ours from the US told us we had to come to Bonaire to dive, but in the end it was the whole package – land and sea and silence – that really got us mesmerized. We totally fell in love, so much that from then on we came every year and sometimes twice a year and we brought the children, family and friends to show and share this little paradise – our blue garden – with them. Meanwhile I

still travelled the world for business, but for vacation we wouldn’t go anywhere else but Bonaire.

Then, five years ago, my daughter got married and left for Kenya, and that same year my son left for the US to finish high school in Florida and practice English and do horse jumping because he was a South-American champion in horse jumping in 2012. When they both left I went crazy... an empty nest. And then you realize that they will never come back... and Paulo and I decided to have a new life and the kids totally approved of it. It was 2014. My son came back from the States before we left, but he went to university in Sao Paulo, only 400 kilometers from Franca which is nothing for us so I would go and see him frequently.

Right after my daughter’s wedding we came to Bonaire for one month, and during 2013-2014 we visited the island many times to see if there was an opportunity for us. Paulo and I always loved to cook together and for many, many years our house was like a free restaurant. There was no Brazilian cuisine on Bonaire so we opened Blue Garden – our restaurant – and that year, 2015, we quit our jobs. We said, ‘Let’s fo-

cus and learn!’ We didn’t know a thing but we have a saying for that: ‘learning equals life.’ When you do something for more than 25 years and you’re good and successful at it, it’s still possible to change. And when you’ve lived all your life in your home town, it is also possible to change your country. It’s a challenge, but that’s what I call life: meeting new people, getting new roots and learning, learning, learning.

I think what we did was really good. It’s also an example for the kids; they know now they can always move, they can always change.

began welcoming the guests – very cute – with his English he learned for 18 months here in class. I feel it’s important because this is our new community, our new home.

Our lives used to be very stressful and hectic – which is prohibited here! It’s easy, because when you’re all worked up: Go Dive!

We have 12 employees and to have good service you need that many people. During the day I do the paperwork and I work at the restaurant at night. On Sundays we disappear in Beautiful Bonaire. We go around the island with a cooler and a snorkel and we get lost and come home late at night. And I love Rincon; it’s so pure.

Brazil is one of the richest countries in nature in the world. There are no hurricanes, no earthquakes. A place like Bonaire you can find there too, but... it’s not the same. Our ocean is not blue and the diving is incomparable. In Brazil we’ve had bad governments for the last 32 years. They’ve robbed us and the result is – amongst other things – that we have no good schooling and bad health care. To live a decent life in Brazil you need to have money. You cannot depend on the government for anything – up until now. This week we are going to have a final decision on the impeachment of the president – Dilma Rousseff— who has to go! We need hope for the new generation because Brazil is beautiful and rich and it has good people. It’s been the biggest robbery in the world and the biggest corruption and it made the country very unsafe which was another reason we wanted to move here.

Brazil has 203 million people, so Bonaire is peace and tranquility. This year both kids are coming in July and my mom, who’s 83, is coming again in August. She loves it here and she is coming with my sister. I was never a person who lived in the moment but now I am. I am planning to stay longer; we have adapted well. I have plans but I am not in a hurry, not at all. Having plans is also life.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



I enjoy it very much. I go to all the tables and talk to the people and recently Paulo

“...what I call life: meeting new people, getting new roots and learning, learning, learning.”

Keeping Traditional Dances Alive

“Right, left, right, left, there we go.” Dance teacher Frenk patiently repeats the steps of the waltz to the elderly visitors at Villa Antonia. Some stand in a circle and follow the steps, others, restricted by physical strains or by shyness, sit around, watch and listen to the music playing loudly from a big speaker.

Plataforma Kultural (Cultural Platform) has started a new cultural project to revive traditional dances with elderly people in Antriol. Every Monday dance classes are held that aim to bring elderly people from the neighborhood together, giving them a little exercise, bringing up memories from the old days, and keeping alive those dances that are part of the rich Bonairean culture.

“We start projects only if there are requests from the community,” Marieke Knol, the Managing Director of Plataforma Kultural, emphasizes. Plataforma Kultural is a foundation that aims to strengthen the cultural infrastructure of the island. The foundation supports the organization of cultural activities for the people of Bonaire, mostly at neighborhood level. “We were approached by a lady in Antriol, who wished to revive Bonaire’s traditional dances,” Marieke explains. Her name is Hiacinta Mercelina. Together with Plataforma Kultural



Frenk explaining the steps

she took the initiative to start the dancing project in her neighborhood.

“I can’t dance myself,” Hiacinta admits, “because my parents were very strict. I was never allowed to go to parties and I never got the chance to learn.” When she heard about another project from Plataforma Kultural involving music classes for children, she was very happy to hear that local children were getting the chance to learn about music and dance. She realized, however, that local young-

sters would never learn the dances that were traditionally practiced on the island, like the Waltz and Mazurka. “Only elderly people remember those dances, but they hardly ever dance.”

In Villa Antonia, a day care center for elderly people, where the first class is being held, people seem a little reticent while awaiting the start. Some of the participating ladies carefully try the first steps under the close guidance of teacher Frenk. As the hour ticks away, however, some of the earlier



Bonding through dancing



Hiacinta Mercelina

-mentioned hip and knee complaints seem to disappear. Even some of those unable to stand unaided, swing their upper body side to side to the rhythm of the lively music. “I really loved to dance, but it has been a while,” one of the participants shares. “You show me the steps,” she instructs her dance partner.



Hiacinta hopes that in the long run young people can become involved in the classes, to get them



enthusiastic about traditional dances and to transfer the knowledge to them. Another thing the proud Antriol resident wishes for, is to complement the classes with live music. “Nowadays all music comes from electric devices, but in the old days we had people playing the guitar and the kuarta and so on. That was beautiful.” Music, dance, young and old, Hiacinta hopes this project will bring it all together and make her neighborhood more harmonious. She said she really enjoyed her first class, even though she did not dare to take to the dance floor herself yet. But “one is never too old to learn,” and she might dare to take a first step soon.

The dance project is supported by the program “Samen Oud” (Together Old) from “De Samenwerkende Fondsen” (The

(Continued on page 4)

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 16		04:19 0.14 ft	08:39 0.41 ft	15:43 -0.11 ft	22:06 0.65 ft	6:11	18:53
Tue 17		05:32 0.10 ft	09:33 0.29 ft	16:04 -0.03 ft	22:41 0.68 ft	6:11	18:53
Wed 18		06:48 0.05 ft	10:40 0.19 ft	16:17 0.03 ft	23:14 0.71 ft	6:10	18:53
Thu 19		08:02 -0.01 ft	12:17 0.12 ft	16:15 0.08 ft	23:47 0.73 ft	6:10	18:53
Fri 20		09:05 -0.07 ft				6:10	18:54
Sat 21	00:21 0.76 ft	09:56 -0.14 ft			Full Moon	6:10	18:54
Sun 22	00:57 0.78 ft	10:38 -0.19 ft				6:10	18:54
Mon 23	01:34 0.80 ft	11:13 -0.23 ft				6:10	18:55
Tue 24	02:13 0.81 ft	11:43 -0.26 ft				6:10	18:55
Wed 25	02:54 0.82 ft	12:10 -0.27 ft				6:10	18:55
Thu 26	03:36 0.81 ft	12:34 -0.28 ft	19:17 0.28 ft	21:52 0.27 ft		6:10	18:55
Fri 27	04:19 0.78 ft	12:57 -0.28 ft	19:12 0.35 ft	23:29 0.26 ft		6:09	18:56
Sat 28	05:05 0.73 ft	13:20 -0.27 ft	19:29 0.45 ft			6:09	18:56
Sun 29	L Quar- ter	00:50 0.23 ft	05:52 0.65 ft	13:46 -0.26 ft	19:57 0.58 ft	6:09	18:56
Mon 30		02:08 0.19 ft	06:43 0.55 ft	14:13 -0.25 ft	20:32 0.71 ft	6:09	18:57

Another Emmy

Congratulations to Matthew Sellars, son of the publisher and editor of *The Reporter* (George and Laura DeSalvo). Matt, who now works as a Studio Director for ESPN in Los Angeles, just won his fourth Emmy for directing major sports events.



Matt and his wife, Sara Sellars-Fielstra, will be visiting Bonaire again in July

Matt has been a regular visitor to Bonaire since 1990. In 1996, with the help of his ABC TV station, he produced the short film, "Save Klein Bonaire," which was key in obtaining the financial support from WNF (World Wildlife Fund) and others that enabled the purchase of Klein Bonaire for the Bonairean people.

Since then he's continued to bolster Bonaire. He has spoken to the Sea Rovers at Harvard University and most recently filmed Bonaire's Special Olympics teams as they prepared for the World games last year. He also directed ESPN's post-event Special Olympics TV coverage. He will be visiting Bonaire next month with his wife and son. ■ L./G. D.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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Reforestation Year

The Bonaire island government has declared 2016, The Year of Reforestation. What does that mean for Bonaire?

Our island must once have looked very different from now. Originally, it was completely covered with forest. Over the past five centuries the island has been stripped of most of its native hardwood trees. There are two main causes: the felling of trees and the introduction of goats and donkeys. Brazilwood was cut down to make red dye and paint. And Lignum-vitae (*Wayaca*) was used in shaft bearings and pulley sheaves on sailing ships. Felling has continued for hundreds of years, particularly at the beginning of the 19th century. The consequences are still visible. Most of the trees surviving in the clear-cut areas are thorny, fast-growing species unattractive to grazing goats and donkeys.

Bonaire's trees have only been legally protected since 2010. You cannot cut them without a permit, but enforcement is lax. Hundreds of donkeys and thousands of goats eat up the saplings and shrubs of the desirable species.

Trees provide shelter and food to all kinds of insects, birds and other animals. But they are also important for the conservation of the soil and for keeping the ground water level. Plants, bushes and trees protect the soil against erosion, a kind of wear and tear on the soil. The soil is moved by wind and rain or disappears. If a piece of land is barren, rain and wind have free play. At hefty downpours, the ground turns into mud and can be swept into the sea, threatening the corals. And



if the soil is completely dry, the wind blows small soil particles like dust into the air. So goes the fertile top layer, leaving bare rock where nothing can be grown.

We have been working for years to reforest the island. Every year around November 22, we have a tree planting day. In recent years STINAPA and volunteers have worked hard to reforest parts of Klein Bonaire and Washington Slagbaai Park. Successfully! A good number of newly planted trees have bloomed and borne fruit.

The Echo Foundation, commissioned by the Executive Council, will soon begin reforestation projects around the island. The projects are funded from nature funds made available by the government. ■ *Peter Montanus for STINAPA Bonaire*

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

Neery Gonzales and Island Governor **Edison Rijna** are shown laying a wreath at the monument on Wilhelmina Plaza. Island flags were flown at half-mast.



► **The Dutch Ombudsman recently completed the annual visit to Bonaire.** **Hans Oosterveer**, one of the Ombudsman representatives who visit Bonaire to collect all complaints filed, said, "We received many complaints about the leasehold system and alimony, as well as about medical care, the health-care insurance office (ZVK) and the immigration service (IND). These are matters that the island's people face on a daily basis. We intend to take immediate action on these issues."

Even when the National Ombudsman Team is not physically present on Bonaire people can still send in their complaints via www.nationaleombudsman.nl/cn or via Whatsapp to +31 6 21462188.

Visit the Facebook page for more information: Nationale Ombudsman Caribisch Nederland.

► The US Consulate General in Curacao is pleased to announce the appointment of **Ms. Margaret Hawthorne as the US Consul General to Curacao and**

Chief of Mission to Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten.

Margaret Hawthorne, a career member of the US Foreign Service with 25 years of experience as a US diplomat.



► **Do you know you can be an all inclusive member of the Bon Bida Spa and Gym for less than you pay for TV and Internet, about \$65/month, if you sign up for a year?** Bon Bida is air-conditioned, has the latest computerized machines, numerous classes, on site trainers and physical therapists, spotless locker rooms and much more. It's the only gym with "Spinning" fitness classes which are included in the rate. Why settle for less?

► **Bonaire hoteliers take note:** This past March visitors choosing alternative accommodations have surpassed regular hotel guests in Aruba. There are no official figures available but informed sources say that the trend to staying in non-hotel lodging is growing in Bonaire. The trend is driven by Internet-based reservation systems and sites like VRBO.

► Please join in welcoming **Lucinda van der Wardt** and **Gerjanne Voortman** as regular contributing writers to the pages of *The Reporter*. See their stories on pages 4 and 9. ■ *G.L.D.*

Rincon Traditions

During the last Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei on Saturday April 30, Mrs. Shahaira Cicilia-Figaroa gave an educational talk about a Traditional Rincon Breakfast offering different recipes. One of these recipes was called "Funchi ku Kalmèki." Funchi is a side dish which looks like polenta. Kalmèki is goat milk. She explained that the "funchi" prepared in the morning is different from the one prepared at noon. The "funchi" done in the morning is prepared in a very fast way and it is also light. At the end of the talk everyone had the opportunity to enjoy different types of Traditional Rincon Breakfast. Also at the market in the morning there was fresh local bread and a nice goat soup along with it.



Shahaira Cicilia-Figaroa preparing funchi

At noon there were different foods like goat stew and salted fish served with a traditional side dish, "tutu" or "funchi." There were activities such as a scarf workshop and a workshop about local herbs. As part of the program there was a traditional music presentation.

To get an impression of the ambience during the last Cultural Market you 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 28th of May from 8 o'clock in the morning till 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

See, Feel & Taste the lovely Culture of Bonaire at the Cultural Market of Mangazina di Rei. It can be your most unique Bonaire memory. ■ *Story & photo by Izain J. Mercera*











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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				
56	31-05-16	<i>Adventure of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	Royal Caribbean
57	8-06-16	<i>Carnival Valor</i>	0800-1600	Carnival
58	28-06-16	<i>Adventure of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	Royal Caribbean

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. Debot. 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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochran-Herrera at

ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish spoken. ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Monday, May 16 - Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival at Dos Pos 8 am, guided bird walk with Desiree Croes. Sponsored by Stinapa

Saturday, May 21 - Full Moon Hike Lagadishi Trail at Washington Slagbaai National Park, from 6pm. Sponsored by Stinapa

Saturday, May 22 – Dos Pos Bird Walk ↓↓

Saturday, May 28

-Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei- traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, 8am-1pm

-Taste of Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park-music, foods, drinks, dancing, evening hours

June 1-30—Bonaire Cuisine Month. More information at Tourist Corporation Bonaire

Sunday, June 5

-Washington Park Open House, all day.

-Xtreme Bonaire Fun Race, 7:30am Washington Park. Sign up at the Park or DeFreeweiler-717-8545

June 16th - 19th Defi-wind Challenge

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

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

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

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

Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

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.**

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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

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.



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. **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

Regular repeat advertisers get listed FREE in the Shopping, Service and Dining Guide

Pet of the Week

Roxy, The "Pole Dancer"

Meet "Roxy," the beautiful green-eyed "pole dancer" who loves playing on the cat compound "towers." Roxy was about 5 weeks old when she arrived at the Shelter in April of 2015 with her mom Rachel and her brother Rambo (pictured below). All three of these wonderful cats are still waiting for their "fur"ever home.

Roxy is now a beautiful young lady just over one year old. Her bright green eyes and unique facial markings accentuate her grey and "coffee with cream" tabby stripes. Roxy is affectionate and playful, always ready to chase a ball, a stuffed mouse or dance up and down the cat towers. She is also very fond of "interactive" play with humans so she would be a perfect companion in a home with children who want a cat they can play and cuddle with. Roxy is healthy, sterilized, vaccinated and patiently waiting for the chance to share her love and big personality in a loving home.

Mom Rachel and brother Rambo share many of Roxy's characteristics. Rachel is about two years old and is extremely affectionate. She prefers human company to other cats...except for her two kids who she still continues to bathe and snuggle with quite often. She would be a perfect match in a single cat home as she loves to "lap sit" and snuggle with people. Rambo is long, lean and very athletic, sharing Roxy's love of play. Another perfect match for a home with children. All three can be



adopted separately....or perhaps there is room in your home for a perfect trio of feline fun and affection!

If feline affection and entertainment is on your "to do" list, please pass by Animal Shelter Bonaire and meet with "dancing" Roxy, her mom, brother and all their other roommates. Surely one (or more) of these lovely cats will capture your heart. Animal Shelter Bonaire is open Tuesday through Friday, 9am to 12noon and 3 to 5pm. Saturdays 8am to 3pm nonstop. Be sure to catch the feline fun on the Shelter's "catcam" at www.bonairecatcam.com. ■ *Story & Photos by Jane Madden-Disko*



New Shelter Schedule

Tuesday through Friday 9am to noon and 3 to 5pm. Saturday 8am to 3pm non stop. Closed Sunday, Monday and public holidays

Not enough cats for you? Roxy is featured but if you want to know or adopt a whole cat family consider Rachel and Rambo, her mom and brother.

Photo below: Rachel and Rambo strike a pose.



Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being talked about "on the street"

Rumblings in our neighbors' streets.... On May 7, residents of Curacao were a little shaken by the report of an earthquake that occurred about 8 miles southeast of Curacao, 42 miles east of Bonaire. The quake measured 3.3 on the Richter scale and, since tremors are rarely physically noticed below 4.0 on the scale, it was not significantly felt and no damage occurred.

The "permit plague" strikes again. Last issue Bula reported that Lek Lek Thai food was moving to a new location, Mi Poron Nobo, which would also serve various types of cuisines during the week. Word on the street is that shortly after the restaurant's opening, permit problems caused its closing. Stay tuned for news of re-opening.

Bula's reports last issue regarding a new ice cream parlor and a cafe serving the famous illy coffee have been merged and confirmed! According to the website of Dutch ice cream maker Luc Blok, a "Luciano" ice cream parlor will open soon at the new Terramar Complex in Playa featuring his "famous" ice cream and illy's "famous" coffee.

Following up on the Aggreko generators at WEB. Word is that Bonaire was not producing enough electricity under the Dutch regulations now in effect on Bonaire. As a result,

the generators had to be brought in to meet the standards of production. Hmmmm....didn't we recently build a brand new bazillion dollar power plant in the Bopec area that was supposed to carry us into the future?

Speaking of WEB...this time water. Local media posted a photo of a notice a resident received from WEB alerting him that they were going to shut off the water to the family's home if he did not immediately pay the balance due. **His balance due was .01!** Yes, you read it right...ONE CENT! Those generators must be so expensive they are counting every penny!

Want to indulge yourself with an experience not previously available on Bonaire?

Take part in the premium wine tasting event every Thursday at the Wine Barrel on Kaya C.E.B Helmond 6, at the South Pier Mall. For \$25—savor six premium wines, 2 Whites, 1 Rose, 3 Reds and receive six complementary tapa-sized meals paired specifically with each wine.

Time: 5-10pm. Reserve: barrelbonaire@gmail.com / 717-1121 ■ **Bula Bonchi**



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THE STARS HAVE IT

May 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship. Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. You can enhance your reputation if you treat family and friends with respect and dignity. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects. Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Travel will be exciting. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Keep your wits about you and be sure that you can trust those you confide in. Get busy making those changes to your home. You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Erratic behavior may confuse others, and mood swings may result in isolation. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. Camping, swimming, and biking expeditions should all be considered. Your lucky day be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may find yourself caught in a triangle. Your involvement in organizational events could open doors to new and exciting opportunities. Try to enlist the help of those you trust in order to fulfill the demands being made of you. You could come into extra cash. Your lucky day this

month will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Implement your ideas into your projects at work. Someone you least expect could be trying to make you look bad. Red tape could be impossible to clear up this month. Your devotion will be persuasive. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. Your need to use emotional blackmail will only cause more conflict. Stay mellow. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try not to take others for granted. Tempers could get out of hand this month. You might find group functions tiring. You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play hard to get. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. You will enjoy the interaction with youngsters and take great pride in the projects you've completed. Do not overspend on entertainment. Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Move forward if you want to turn your life around. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Take time to catch up on overdue correspondence. Property deals will pay big dividends. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your outgoing nature will surprise others this month. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. Empty promises will cause upset. Sign up for courses that will help you understand yourself better. Your lucky day this month will be Friday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

MARS MIDNIGHT MADNESS

That planet is back. The one that people get very excited about... The one that people want to see in a telescope..

The one that evokes a warlike deity... The one that gets people thinking about life beyond our world. It's Mars time! Marsapalooza. Mars Madness.

How can we see the Red Planet at its best? After midnight.

On Wednesday, May 18th at 10:30pm, face southeast. A waxing gibbous Moon hangs high in the sky near a bright blue star named Spica. But closer to the horizon is our featured planet, Mars. Mars will look like a really bright orange star. It will be brighter than any star in the sky and shine nearly as bright as Jupiter. And this week you might, just might be able to see one of the Sky Park's favorite stars next to Mars.

That is the star Dschubba in the head of the constellation Scorpious the Scorpion. As the nights roll on, the Moon will wander across the background stars

On May 22 at 10pm, the Moon will have cozied up next to another planet. That's Saturn. But this is Mars' show, so Saturn, you'll have to wait. **May 22nd is the night when Mars is closest to the Earth and looks the brightest in the sky.**

Mars comes close to the Earth like this every 26 months. Here's how it works. The Earth and Mars both orbit the Sun. But the Earth is closer to the Sun and travels faster than Mars does. Every 26 months the Earth goes directly between the Sun and Mars.

We call that **opposition** – when Mars is on the opposite side of the sky from the Sun. Not all oppositions are created equal. The Earth and Mars do not have perfectly circular orbits, so their distance from the Sun varies.

On August 27, 2003, Mars was closer to the Sun than usual, and Earth was farther from the Sun. That put the two planets only 34.5 million miles from each other – about as close as they ever get.



Earth—Mars size comparison

Then on March 3, 2012, Mars was farther from the Sun at the same time Earth was closer to the Sun. At that opposition, the two planets were separated by 62.6 million miles. That's almost twice as far as in 2003.

This opposition, on May 22, 2016, is a fairly close one. We'll be about 47 million miles from Mars, so it should be very bright in our sky.

At this opposition, Mars rises in the southeast, which means it won't go very high in the sky. And it's best to see Mars when it is higher up. It will be higher and better to see on May 22. Between 1 and 2 am is the best time to look at Mars in a telescope. Through a backyard telescope you can see the orange disc of the planet.

Through larger telescopes you might be able to see mysterious dark markings on the planet, and maybe an ice cap.

To see Mars' two tiny moons, you'd need a really, really large scope and a super clear sky. May 22nd may not be a good day for that since the full moon will light up the night.

The red planet is back, so celebrate Marsapalooza - when you can see Mars this week after 10:30pm at its biggest and brightest. And stay up past midnight to see Mars higher in the sky. Get some friends together for a Mars Midnight Madness party. ■ Dean Regas & James Albury

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Santa Barbara, Kaya Krisolito 75

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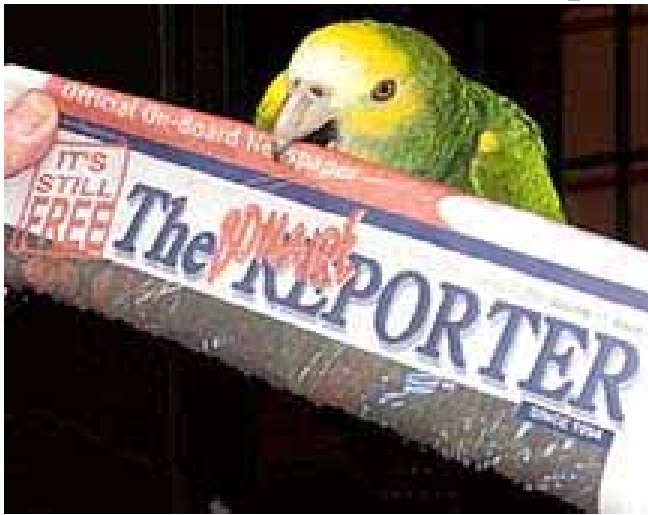
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