

It's Still FREE

BONAIRE
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

Bonaire Reporter- May 30-June 13, 2016, Year 23, Issue 11

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



Plastic collection: 1st place winners: Spruit Family (4,305 pieces of plastic collected!); 2nd place: Tanisha Raymond (2,257 pieces); 3rd place: Theo Polanco (1,529 pieces). Total pieces of plastic collected by winners: 8,091.



Beautiful hats, purses and more-all made by Bonairean ladies from discarded plastic bags here on-island –see process below



The Selibon/Plastic Fantastic team did a spectacular job



Discarded bags are cut up after washing



Then formed into plastic yarn



And crocheted into beautiful products

Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE

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Earlier this month a blue ribbon delegation from Bonaire led by Maurice Adriaens, CEO Tourism Corporation Bonaire, visited the headquarters of three US air carriers: Delta, United and American.

The meetings with Delta and United focused on strengthening partnership to maximize the air transport and to explore the possibilities to expand, while the discussions with American Airlines were focused on starting service to Bonaire.

The delegation presented a short video about Bonaire, the future expansion of the airport, the growing property sector, tourism improvements and the expected increase in demand for the island.

Delta and United have both confirmed their plans to continue service and the flexibility to deploy larger aircraft on the Bonaire route. They also plan to install new slim seats that automatically increase the seating capacity by 12 to 19 seats.

American Airlines will study the information and promised to come back with its recommendations

► Last Friday afternoon the Supervisory Board of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) was informed that the current Director, Maurice Adriaens, was nominated as the new Director of the Tourism Office in Curacao. Mr. Adriaens took the Bonaire job just last month.



The TCB Supervisory Board, and Bonaire Holding Maatschappij as the Bonaire Government shareholder, talked with Mr. Adriaens and said they were surprised by these developments. It is mutually agreed that Adriaens, by July 1, will decide if he will end his relationship with Bonaire.

During this interval Adriaens will continue to lead the TCB. It was also agreed that no comments will be made to the media until Adriaens makes a decision.

► All 12 schools for primary education in the Caribbean Netherlands now measure up to meet basic Dutch quality standards. On Bonaire the final two schools to qualify were Brede School Papa Cornes and Kolegio Strea Briante (formerly known as Kolegio Watapana).

Bonaire educational institutions which

achieved basic quality at an earlier stage are: Fundashon Forma (social opportunity pathways for the young) and primary schools De Pelikaan, Kolegio San Bernardo, Kolegio San Luis Bertran, Kolegio Rayo di Solo and Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador.

► THE HAGUE - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, 20 May, updated travel advice for Venezuela. Travel to cities and densely populated areas is not recommended. The advice is to only go there if it is strictly necessary. The reason is the increased crime in Venezuela.

Travelers are advised to stay away from demonstrations, particularly in the cities. They must take into account the scarcity of food, water and electricity. Travelers were also warned not to travel to the border with Colombia because of increased tensions between the two countries.

► Recently Dutch army trucks and troops were on the island as well as warships in the harbor earlier this month. The soldiers conducted training exercises and helped with a number of community projects: rebuilding shade houses on Klein Bonaire, assisting animal welfare groups-n projects needing a lot of muscle.

The Dutch Ministry of Defense has the responsibility for the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands in Europe and the Caribbean. Land and naval forces are stationed in Curacao and hold periodic maneuvers and training on Bonaire. The military land forces positioned in the Caribbean rotate every four months. The purpose of this training is to get a good picture of the situation on the islands. The volatile situation in nearby Venezuela makes their presence even more important.



► Police raided four places on Bonaire and two in the Netherlands last Wednesday as part of an anti-money laundering operation. The locations searched on the island included Yacht Club Apartments on

Kaya Gobernador Debrot and other locations. Nobody has been arrested yet, but authorities seized cash, bank accounts, real estate, cars and scooters (photo). An investigation was started in February against local residents J.A. den B. and B.G.B. on suspicion of criminal laundering proceeds.

► Parents in Bonaire with an income of less than the minimum wage can again get a compensation to cover the school necessities of their elementary and high school children for the upcoming school year, stated Commissioner Nina den Heyer. People earning less than US \$1,500 per month can register during the coming days to qualify for the aid. Annually, some 800 primary schoolchildren on the island get the compensation to buy uniforms, pens, notebooks, etc.

► The Caribbean Netherlands Tax Department says 3,829 taxpayers filed their income tax returns by the May 16 deadline. A total of 7,435 IB tax return forms were distributed. Many of the taxpayers, who did not yet file their tax return, requested an extension.



► During last Monday's demonstration at the RCN building *Rijkswetervoorwoordiger* (Crown Representative) Gilbert Isabella Monday accepted a petition from James Finies, leader of protest group *Nos Ke Boneiru Bèk* (We Want Bonaire Back). The protesters are objecting to the direction the Dutch government is taking following the "no vote" in last year's non-binding Bonaire referendum.

Isabella had invited Finies to his office, but Finies wanted to deliver the petition letter in the presence of the protesters. *Nos*

(Continued on page 3)

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Ke Boneiru Bak protests every Monday at lunchtime in front of the RCN office.

► **WEB Bonaire** announced a reduction of the electricity tariff per April 1, 2016. The tariff will be reduced by 0.02 dollar cent per kWh. The new rate will be 0.329 dollar cent per kWh and will be applied on the invoices starting book month May 2016 with a retroactive refund for April. Pagabon (pre-pay) users will also receive the 0.02 dollar cent reduction.

► Brad Swanson has advised *The Reporter* that, "The Consular Officer of the Consulate General of United States for the Dutch Caribbean will be in Bonaire for American Citizen Services on Friday, June 3, from 9am to 1pm. As in the past, TWR is letting them use the big studio at Trans World Radio at Kaya Gobernador De-brot #64, on the traffic circle in Hato. Here is a Web page with all the info: http://www.bonairehelpdesk.com/?page_id=419



Note that the visit is only for American Citizen related services and not for visas and the like. There is info about that at the bottom of the Web page. Services like passport applications, notarizations, etc. are by appointment only.

The list of documents needed for each service is published on : Curacao.USConsulate.gov. To schedule an appointment, email ascuro@state.gov or call 5999-461-3066 Ext. 2225. ■ G.L.D.

New Bonaire Local Government Takes Office



The "Delft Blue" coalition on the Island Council and Executive Council Commissioners: Milena Silberie -MPB; Jeanoushka (Nunu) Raphaela --Independent; Daisy Coffie -MPB; Joselito Stata-MPB; Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai*-MPB; Nina Gougou-Den Heyer*-MPB; Esther Bernabela -Independent; and Elvis Tjin Asjoe -MPB party leader. * member of the Executive Council.*

The new Bonaire government leaders (above), sworn in mid- May 2016, break new ground in that women are in the majority in leadership positions for the first time in Bonaire's history. The portfolios of the three new commissioners are:

Commissioner **Ms. R. Hellburg-Makaai**: Land development and management, Traffic and Transport, LVV, Environment and Nature, Sports Affairs and Policy, ICT and Facility Management

Commissioner **Ms. N. S. den Heyer**: Public Health, Education, Culture, Legal, Social Affairs/Welfare, Youth and Family, Civil Registration / Population; Housing/FCB, Health, and Museum and SKAL Department of Culture



The "Watermelon" opposition: Michael Pieters - PDB, Marugia Janga - PDB, Robby Beukenboom - PDB (Chairman), and James Kroon - UPB

Commissioner **Mr. J. J. Stata**: Economic development, Tourism, Investment promotion, Finance, Staff and Organization (reorganization OLB), Internal and External communications, Post and Archives, *Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire* (FWNB); Telecommunication. Government NVs.

The new coalition will present their governance plan in June and pledged to take action within 100 days. They will focus on pension reform, wages, the economy and infrastructure. ■ G.D.



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Kaya Maria 7

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 Total living area 114 m2 • 3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
 Quiet neighborhood • Large garden



Bara di Karta 90

\$ 70.000 US Dollar

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 Total living area 95 m2 • 3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
 Renovation project with lots of possibilities



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A Garden? Just Do It

**GREEN
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GLADDEN
US ALL**



A green garden gives peace and rest. The more green, the more tranquility one feels in a garden.

But what I notice is the absence of green in a lot of yards. There is a lack of trees, plants, flowers—those things that make a yard look like a garden.

So I thought I would offer some positive hints that might trigger you for a green garden.

The color green relaxes the eyes and helps to ease stress. With the natural green of plants and trees it's the same. A green garden is a peaceful oasis where one can catch up with himself again after a busy working day. A nice breeze and the rustle of the trees can make you enjoy your garden and the peaceful moment even more. Just like people may enjoy the sound of water one can enjoy the rustle of the leaves in the trees too.

Plants, trees and shrubs give shade and freshness; your garden never gets overly hot but stays fresh and cool. This helps you to relax even better with all the green around you and some sunlight that filters through the branches.

A lot of people think that maintenance of a garden is a big job. But it's not, especially here on Bonaire where will not have a jungle in your yard because of the dry weather. Once a week maintenance is enough. Making it too clean is also not good. For live creatures like ants, worms and so on there must be some dead leaves, some grass, some pieces of stones, rocks to keep the yard alive. These bugs also are part of nature which have a very

Green in the garden

important role in nature and even in our life.

A green garden may look a little disorderly. That's how nature looks too. Letting grow what grows can offer some nice surprises sometimes (like me with my wild growing tomato plant full of young tomatoes). Some plants just grow by themselves from seeds that birds spread around. And animals like birds, butterflies and worms will be very happy that you didn't clean every seed from the soil.

Working with and in nature is a natural therapy for body and mind. Being busy in a garden makes one calm and relaxed. A job in the garden is not a stress job. There's nothing there to put pressure on you. You just go the way you feel and want to go.

Garden work gives satisfaction. You see results and enjoy it even more because you did it.

Plants and trees are living things and they will show you how thankful they are when you take good care of them. And by being busy with nature you learn so much about it. No book can teach you all the secrets of nature as when you experience it by yourself.

You will be surprised how often you will wonder about nature while dealing with plants. ■



Bonaire Swimmers' News



Bonaire Barracudas Swim & Water polo team: Water polo tournament in Curacao.

purpose for becoming the greatest and strongest sports team of Bonaire. ■ Sergio Villamizar Edited by Chaz Sweers

Master Swimmers Compete In London



After making history for Bonaire last year at the Pan American Masters swimming Championships, the Bonaire Barracudas Master swimmers took it to a higher level for the European Masters Championships in the iconic (Olympic) London, England Aquatics Centre this last weekend.

More than 10,000 athletes from around the world participated in synchronized swimming, diving, relay swimming and more from May 25-29. So far our Bonaire team has gained a **silver medal for Evy Witlox with a new Dutch Masters record time in the 200 m backstroke and an 8th place in Relay out of 67 competing teams—a new national record.** As we go to press the events are underway and we await further results from team members Simone, Anita, Evy and Nathalie (photo above). Check <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireBarracudas>

Many thanks to sponsors: Bondigro, Digicel, Sorobon Beach Resort, Nature's Discount Bonaire, Guardian Group Dutch Caribbean, DeFreewieler, Bonfysio, Bonbida Spa and Gym, *Bonaire Reporter*, *Bonaire Nu*, and *Bon Siman*. ■ G.D./L.D./PRelease

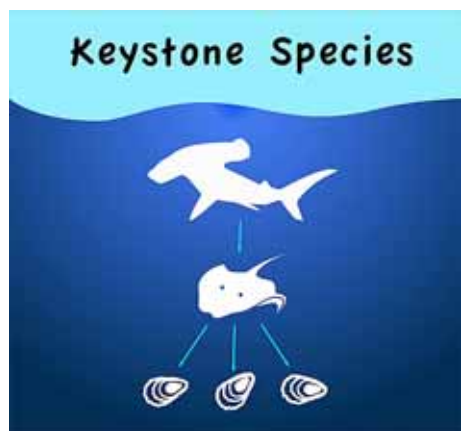
DID YOU KNOW?

Sharks are important to Ocean ecosystems – so important that in some areas they are considered keystone species.

What is a keystone species? Keystone species are special because they keep a balance in the ecosystem, more so than other species. By definition, they are not numerous, but when they are removed from an ecosystem, it causes the entire ecosystem to shift or change. In the worst case scenario, the ecosystem collapses.

Hammerheads along the Eastern seaboard of the USA are thought to be keystone species. Hammerheads feed on cownose rays and cownose rays feed on scallops. There used to be healthy populations of hammerheads there until shark finning became popular (killing sharks for their fins). When the hammerhead population went down, the cownose ray population went up. They in turn ate all the scallops and the scallop population plummeted, leaving none for the fishermen. Removing the hammerhead sharks caused the collapse of the scallop fishery (and altered the entire ecosystem).

As you might imagine, this had terrible economic consequences as well. This is just one example of what has happened in one place. It is estimated that 100 million sharks are being killed every year. Sharks



are in trouble! And they are worthy of protection. All sharks and rays are protected in Bonaire. To learn more about sharks, join STINAPA at Bonaire Shark Week from June 18-25. Our event schedule is posted on the STINAPA website and Facebook. www.stinapa.org ■

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



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Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Havana, Cuba

Bonaire resident Jan-Pieter van der Hoek sent us this photo taken on a recent trip to Cuba taken by his wife Roosje during their fantastic Cuba trip. In one of the book shops in Old Havana they saw the Cuban sister of *The Bonaire Reporter*, "The Havana Reporter."

What we want to know if it is "Still Free." ■

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.



How Swine Smart Are You?

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.



Pig at work

THIS PLACE IS A PIG STY!

I'm sure you've been eagerly awaiting the answers to the Pig Quiz from our first article. Well, your wait is almost over! But first, let's talk about one of several misconceptions about pigs: that they are very dirty and messy. In fact, pigs are quite clean. Like us, they will have different places for eating, sleeping and for going to the bathroom. They are habitual creatures, liking to travel the same routes through a "home range" to find food and sleep at night. Their needs are quite simple; they want adequate and reliable access to food, water, shade and a place to sleep.

As long as those conditions are met, they are not picky as to where they reside: they can live in remote areas or near places densely populated with people; they can live anywhere from sea level up to 13,000ft (~4,000m) above it; and they can live in plains, mountains, humid swamps, or dry forests. Being able to adapt quite easily to this variety of conditions means they are known as "habitat generalists."

No wonder it wasn't hard for them to spread around the world from their ancestral routes in Eurasia!

Now, time for those long-awaited quiz answers, let's see how you did! Who's Smarter?

A Pig – Pigs are some of the most intelligent animals!

Which of the following is true about pigs? All of the above are true - So, throw out that other common phrase, "Sweating like a pig!"

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

12 – Females can give birth twice in one year; average litters are 6 piglets

Which of these foods will pigs refuse to eat?

None of the above – Pigs are not picky eaters!

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

True – But, we'll discuss this more in depth in a future article!

Information for this article was borrowed from: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/64381/feral-hog-behavior>

For information about this project, please email Julianka@echobonaire.org or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS). ■ Lauren Schmalz for Echo



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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.

SUNGLASSES AND UMBRELLA SUPERFLUOUS

For months it's dry, partly cloudy and very warm. And this is happening in the so-called "rainy season" during which rain pours down and you quickly have to find shelter when the first drops appear. Otherwise you will be soaked and have to go home to dry off and dress again. This year that did not happen to me, not even once. Now the sky is dark again, but I do not believe in rain. That sounds desperate, but there is also resignation. What can you do? Praying or doing a rain dance or turning on the drip system every day to keep your own plants alive? I've tried everything. The only thing that works is the drip system.

Contemplating all these wonders of the world I see in front of my (thankfully unsullied) flip-flops two objects that connect seamlessly with my musings: sunglasses without glass and an umbrella, both child-size. This child must have had the same despair and resignation as I have. I am very curious as to what made her throw away this stuff.....

Excitedly Marly grabs her presents on her birthday in October. A small packet and one of a somewhat larger size. Wow, this is great: black and white sunglasses and a colorful umbrella. She will make her classmates jealous. When the sun shines, she will come to school with those glasses and in the rain with the umbrella: prepared for all weather, which you cannot say for most of the children, those stupid as sheep. The disappointment is high as it remains cloudy on her birthday and there is not a drop of rain. Sunglasses and umbrella remain unusable.

As the weather doesn't change, she decides to put on her sunglasses the next day anyhow. That gives her a movie star feeling, until she stumbles over her own feet. The glass is too dark. Away with them. She puts the black and white frame back on her nose, minus the dark glass, and goes to school.

There she gets it. Those stupid sheep now see their chance: glasses without glass! Of course that's the stupidest thing you can put on your nose. Still, Marly keeps the frame



on her nose all day. They won't be able to abuse her. On returning home she puts the useless black and white frame out of sight and has a clear vision again.

All hopes are pinned on the umbrella, which will make her have an appearance at the level that she is used to. She can imagine it already: all those children, dripping with water, who are crying for a towel. Their clothing has gone transparent, their underpants shine through dresses and trousers like a half moon through a veiled cloud. "You laughed at me because I have glasses without glasses? Look at you with your filthy underwear," she would say, high and dry underneath her brightly colored umbrella.

And then May came and still no drop of rain. Yes there was, at Christmas, but then school was closed. Marly was angry at everything: her parents who gave her such useless gifts, the weather that was too dry, the sun that came while she had removed the glass from her sunglasses and her classmates who were complete morons. That anger must be indulged and fortunately Marly does not harm her parents or classmates, but turns to the things which are the cause of all misery. She walks away from home with her mutilated glasses and umbrella and leaves the stuff behind in a place where she never wants to come back to.

And, kids, she lived happily ever after even though she should not have dumped them. She should have taken them to the landfill. The moral of this story: never give your child any "useful" gifts. ■ *Story & photo by Justine Verschoor*



Bonaire Museum Reopens

"Museo Boneiru" reopened on International Museum Day, May 18. Three years ago the old house in Playa where the museum was housed was closed. It was decided to relocate the museum to the abandoned Kas di Art building (the oldest building on Bonaire-the original slave hospital) along the waterfront. During the three-year interval the artifacts were stored in non-air-conditioned containers while the Kas di Art site was being renovated.

Interim-director Timoteo Silberie of Bonaire's Art, Culture and Literature Section (SKAL) that manages the museum, presided over the gala opening. An important part of the collection was gathered by museum founder, Frans Booi, who was present at the opening as guest of honor. One of the rooms is named after Booi.



Director Silberie shows one of the prized possessions in the museum's collection: a skeleton of a native ("Indian") inhabitant dating back more than 750 years.

The (now air-conditioned) museum's location along the promenade is a valuable cultural resource of the island's people, especially children, and is sure to become a main tourist attraction. The Museo Boneiru is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to noon and 2 to 4pm. Admission is free.

Look for more about the museum in future editions of *The Reporter*. ■ GD



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The Bike Professionals

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

HOPING FOR A REASONABLE JOB ON BONAIRE (PART 2)

"No man likes to acknowledge that he has made a mistake in the choice of his profession, and every man, worthy of the name, will row long against wind and tide before he allows himself to cry out; I am baffled! and submits to be floated passively back to land." (Charlotte Brontë)

After doodling around -- not just on my iPad -- but also on the Bonaire job market for about a year, desperation sets in hard. Mostly I focus on acquiring teaching and tutoring jobs, but they just seem to melt away in the warmth of the Bonaire sun. That is to say, the gulf between initial motivation and a lasting commitment among my students is all too often prodigious. And then my own motivation admits to showing cracks as well.



When I apply at a well-known tour guiding company, my rather subdued mo-

tivation and confidence levels get a happy boost. At last, I'll be able to combine my teaching skills with guiding talents, the latter of which I had exactly NONE, by the way. No matter, I end up having a very capable female instructor who has the daunting task of teaching a teacher. I try my best to be a good listener. And barely succeed. After a few months of training, she lets me loose on the cruise victims, I mean tourists. I leave cancellations, flakiness and crankiness of past employers and students far behind as I venture into a world where I encounter timeliness, commitment and good ole fun.

During my first guiding tour, however, I definitely make a faux pas or two. When I start to introduce our driver and myself to the cruise tourists, not only do I momentarily forget the bus chauffeur's name, my flummoxed brain blanks on my own as well. After I finally retrieve both of our names, which the then still-friendly driver had to whisper into my reddened ear, I remember to remove the wooden step-up (for the tourists to enter the bus) just as the heavily loaded bus, now gaining momentum in first gear, thoroughly obliterates this much-needed device. Oops!

I can tell that the not-so-friendly-anymore driver is not all that impressed with my new found guiding skills. However, the tourists are having a ball with my goofball skills. Still three more hours to go and I haven't even begun to show and tell about our *dushi* island. The first tourist attraction I point out to my eager beaver cruisers is neither a donkey nor a goat, but my grumpy looking and

packin' (groceries, not a gun) husband.

While I truly enjoy my guiding job and gradually improve my abilities while doing it, I continue to make efforts to land a more steady occupation. Guiding tours remain a part-time "gig" really. They're seasonal, from November through April, which is cruise boat time on Bonaire.



When SGB (School district Bonaire) contacts me by email, to substitute teach in English for a few months, I do not jump into the air with joy. Instead I linger to commit. From its inception, this temporary appointment does not look promising. I receive the urgent email calling me to duty literally the day before I'm due to begin teaching in this temp job. Human Resources and one of my many, many academic "team leaders" are in dispute regarding my contract. Without a contract, no pay. This argument takes up several days. Meanwhile, I twiddle my thumbs whilst my SGB students twiddle theirs, still awaiting their as yet no-show English teacher.

After the contract finally appears, I end up instructing at SGB for fully three months, three months of absolute nail-

biting agony (read my *Bonaire Reporter* column of January 18, 2016 regarding this personal nightmare). But I did get paid!



Now on to one of my latest endeavors to secure me a lasting *métier*: Via an acquaintance I get word that there is a call for teachers who will instruct some of Bonaire's ex-convicts in Dutch and English. I'm game, so I contact one of the people in charge of the program. We set a date for an interview, but it's postponed; then rescheduled interviews are further postponed twice more. Not a good sign. But, alas, who am I to complain. I am desperado.

When we finally manage a brief meeting, he has to rush off. Yet in those few minutes, he clearly appears to recognize my teaching, language and young people skills, and he hires me on the spot.

A week later and I hear *nada*. Then, there's an email in which he invites me for an interview. What? Does that five-minute interview in which he praised my expertise and flair not count? Guess not; he can't recall we met. My hubby tells me to forget it and move on. But I have nowhere to "move on" to. I gotta have that

(Continued on page 12)



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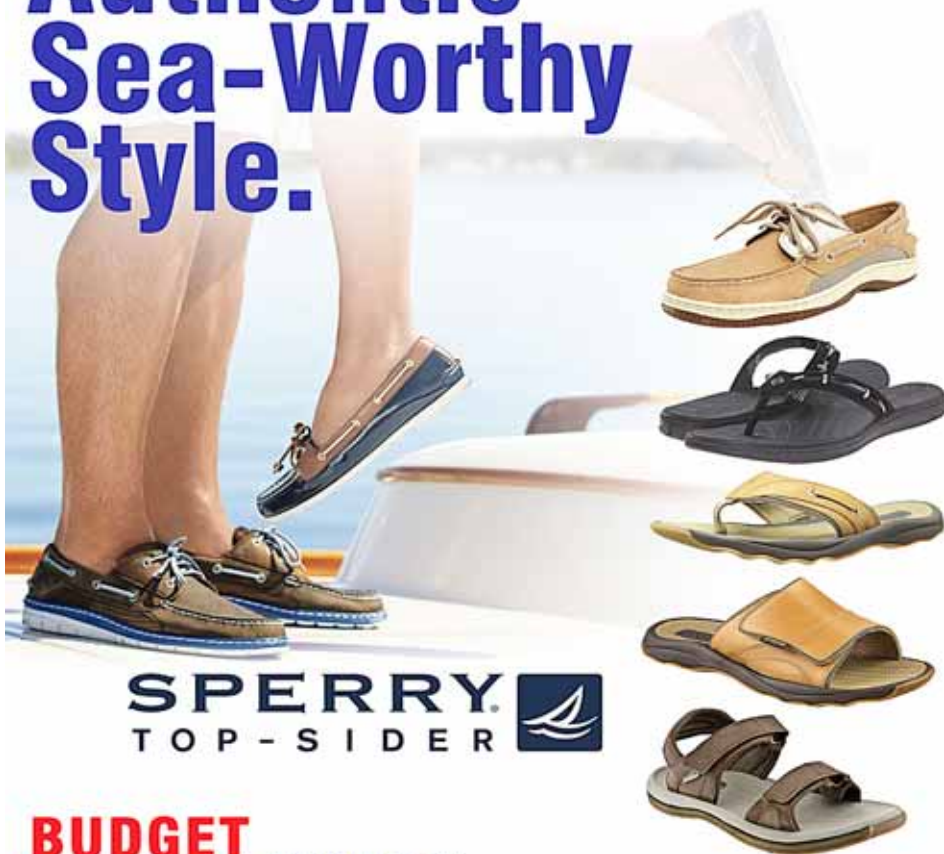
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On the Island Since...1975 - Javier Boezem



The Boezem family: Standing L to R: daughter Pamela, Javier, his wife Maris, daughter Caroline and Scarlet (daughter Barbara's girlfriend). Front row: two-year old Meymar (Caroline's son), Erika (neighbor girl) and daughter Barbara.



Javier keeping Meymar busy

“I was born on Aruba and came to live here when I was nine. My father is Bonairean, my mom is from Aruba. When Bopec opened on Bonaire, my father came back from Aruba and built a house here on Kaya Amsterdam. When it was ready we moved.

Bonaire was a whole different world: nature and sea. After school we'd walk to Hotel Bonaire (where Coco Beach is now) and spend our afternoons at the beach. When I was 14 my parents got divorced and the island became too small for them. So my mother, my brother Carlos, my youngest brother, and myself, went to Holland. It was a complete culture shock. I'd been an A-student on Bonaire and I thought my Dutch was pretty good, but in Holland I couldn't understand a word people were saying! It was weird, maybe it was the accent – I don't know! However, after some months I picked it up and from then on everything went smoothly. Life was new and interesting: the seasons, the trains, I learned to skate and I loved to go to the markets. It was a beautiful experience and I made a lot of friends.

I played in all kinds of bands, and after graduating high school I started my own company: interior finishing/dry construction work. We did offices, police stations, banks and prisons. We would get an empty building shell and finish it. As it wasn't very healthy work because of the insulation materials, I called it quits after five years. I'd made a whole lot of money and decided to go back to school to study sound engineering. After my graduation I started playing reggae and funk together with a good friend of mine, Mimoun Himmit. We jammed and played every day around home and also in Germany, Belgium and France. It was like one big jam session with people from all over the world - priceless! It lasted until January, 1998 when I came here for vacation and decided not to go return to Holland. I'd lived in Holland for 17½ years and I'd seen enough winters. I was 31.

For a while I lived with my dad at his kunuku at Tras di Montaña, at what's now Aletta's Goat Farm. I was working at the front desk of Lion's Dive – now Buddy Dive - a dream job! ALM flights from Miami would come in late at night and when the job was done I would drive to Rincon to play in a reggae band called 'One Blood.' Rincon was people laughing, talking, drinking, dancing – sweet times! *Hopi ambiente!*

One night I saw pieces of white plaster falling from the ceiling and I looked at the time. It was 2:30am and it was because we were playing so loud. But there wasn't a soul complaining! I told myself 'I want to live here, because these people love music!'”

My dad worked for an oil inspection company at Bopec and I wanted to work together with him. Thanks to Peter Lensvelt, the manager at Lion's Dive, I got enough time to work free lance at Bopec. I took a course and soon enough I was one of the first certified oil inspectors in the Caribbean. I left Lion's Dive and entered a whole new world where everything was mega huge. Tankers of two million barrels and tanks of 750,000 barrels. Throughout the years I took a variety of training and courses. It was exiting. I did it for 11 years and gained a lot of experience.

“...Don't think you've got all the time in the world, children. If you want to do something... do it now!”

In December 2001, I got married. My wife already had two children, and one of them I acknowledged. The relationship didn't last and we divorced, but luckily we get along and I see my daughter often. In July 2004, I met my present wife, Maris Sierra Lopez, who was living on Curacao. Six months later she came to Bonaire and we started our business, 'Kos Bon So'. First it was a snack and now it's a bar/restaurant. Because I had my job at Bopec, Maris was running it with the help of people from Rincon, but when her two older daughters came to live with us they started working with her.

And then, in October 2006, my only biological daughter, Barbara, was born. She's a wonderful child who surprises me every day. Sometimes I think she's going to be like this or that but then it turns out 10 times better! I'd just turned 40 when Maris gave birth to her and the very first thing I thought was 'why didn't I do this when I was 18?' It felt like everything finally came together and fell into place and my whole life became so clear to me. I'm delighted to

have her.

After Bopec I started making documentaries. I was always interested in filming and photography, and because of the music I had plenty of experience with the software to record and edit. As I'd done sound engineering it was almost a seamless transition to image. Together with Boi Antoin we bought an editing system for his foundation FuHiKuBo to edit his *Herensia* programs and I coached the project and trained Ivan Wilson. Through this connection I met a Dutch producer. We became friends and decided to make a series about all six Dutch Antilles islands, just before 10-10-10. We wanted to show the beauty of life of the islands, underwater and above- all the positive things. The result was 'Tropical Kingdom,' a series of six episodes. During that time I also met Merel Notten with whom I worked with on different projects. Later on,

around 2010, I made a film for Sea Turtle Conservation.

In 2009 Fundashon *Plataforma Kultural* was founded and my friend Mimoun Himmit and his partner Marieke Knol became the directors. Its goal was and is to intensify cooperation between cultural organizations on Bonaire and cooperate with cultural organizations in other countries. Many, many projects have followed throughout the years, like successful performances in Holland by *Grupo Tutti Frutti*, the digitalization of the greater part of Boi Antoin's archives. In cooperation with *Mangazina di Rei*, Mimoun and I set up a project, '*Pone Bari Ronka*,' teaching children how to make and play the drums – which you can find on YouTube. And of course it didn't stop there.

In January 2011 I went for a year to the Dominican Republic to set up a business. It was a wild plan and it didn't work out, but I have no regrets. However, while I was there, Mimoun and Marieke bought an old Bonairean house in Antrio which needed a

massive renovation. I took the challenge and in 2013 I was busy with it for nine months. It was fun and rewarding and lots of stress, hahaha! As Mimoun and Marieke have a lot of land they had an idea to build a cultural center, *Hòfi Kultural*, to bring new cultural influences and ideas to Bonaire. We got financing from Holland and local sponsors. The first stone was laid February 18th this year Being the contractor of the project, I can say that by the end of the year everything should be in full swing.

Well, last year in February there was a birthday party for Daniella Gustowski. Mimoun and I and a couple of other musicians went to play at her house, and right there and then 'RPM Live' was born. A week later we played at Kant'i Awa for a large crowd and from then on, on a regular basis, all over the island and also at parties (for reservations phone Javier at 787-1847 or Mimoun 700-5304). It's fun; we're having a blast.

In my life I've learned a couple of lessons, but there's one I never forgot. In my exam year at Havo the teacher came into the classroom, looking very sad. He told us that a dear friend of his had passed away. He looked at us and said, 'Don't think you've got all the time in the world, children. If you want to do something... do it now!' It was a lesson in life I've applied every day. And so, to start all over again and take up something new has never been a problem. On the contrary, I love it.

I came back to Bonaire because it's my home and I want to stay here. Bonaire has always been friendly to everyone but lately, almost unnoticed, resistance to foreigners has infiltrated into our society and I do worry about it. You know, when you think about it, we are all foreigners here; there are no native Bonaireans. I was asking myself why, as a child, I liked Rincon so much and I came to the conclusion that it was because of the special atmosphere, the greetings, the kindness and interest in others and I think this is what we should save and conserve, because one of Bonaire's greatest treasures is that we don't have to live in fear.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

Editor's note: Javier Boezem named *The Reporter's* astronomy column "Sky Park" in March 1999.



20 Years Ago In These Pages



BONAIRE IN 1996 – 20 YEARS AGO

The year 1996 was pivotal for Bonaire. Many of the things we take for granted had their roots in that year. The *Port Call*, *The Bonaire's Reporter's* predecessor, gave details, in English, of that time—mostly about the waterfront, environment and tourist news every week. In this edition, and subsequent ones, we will recall some of the stories of that time.

The waterfront was different. The promenade was incomplete, there were many more yachts anchored off Playa, well over 100 at times. Bonaire became known as the place for yachts to hide from hurricanes. Anchoring in Kralendijk was permitted and free. **Karel's Beach Bar**

welcomed yacht dinghies. *Port Call* grew as the island did. It began the year at four A-4 size pages grew to six then to eight pages by the end of 1996. It was 100% printed on Bonaire at National Printing. The *Port Call* was free, and is still free, but available by mail subscription: \$25 for 12 issues mailed anywhere in the world. (Now it's \$25/year on-line for a voluntary donation)

Some of the top stories in 1996 were:
 —Klein Bonaire to be developed and the start of the effort to save it for the people. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URUCZ5bPuZ8>

- Armed robbery of the MCB Bank main branch, escape by boat
- The investigation into the Parker Project- "The Point" scandal and its effect-sales tax
- Bonaire's population growth. It reached 14,000
- Cruise Ship Arrivals Increase



Immigration Stamp

In January:
 Jan.5- -Web lowers electricity rates as of first of year (for hotels only) to Naf 22.7 cents. Its price was just dropped to \$0.329 cents per kilowatt hour in April 2016. That's a 250% increase in 20 years.

Water cost Naf 8.10 (\$4.55) per cubic meter, it's now \$6.69, a 50% increase in 20 years
 Jan. 12

—“The Liners are Coming” – Fastest cruise ship built in last 25 years, *Oriana*, will visit Bonaire. Six luxury lines will make their initial call this year, thanks to Bonaire Cruise Association

(shipping agents, businessmen, TCB, BONHATA, Kralendijk Port Services and Bonaire Tours). Bonaire Shipping Manager **Steve Gustowski** has two ships a week as his goal.

—The Central Bank of the Netherland Antilles is broke.

—Bonaire's population is now more than 14,000. 1,435 people moved to Bonaire last year.

Jan. 19
 - There is no sales tax at the start of the year. But a sales tax is in the works, the room tax is set to rise. (It is 6% or 8% today.) There will be surcharges on parcels arriving by sea or air (now 10%). Prices at gas stations are slightly higher.

—BOPEC (oil terminal) and ARM (Antillean Rice Mills) shipped record amounts of their products.

—More foreigners than locals married in Bonaire last year for the first time: 77 non-islanders (69 were Dutch couples) versus 73 locals.



Regatta- Sunset Beach

- Coast Guard for the Netherlands Antilles is set up, primarily for the purpose of drug interdiction.

-Gas pump shock: prices rose about 10% . Per liter - Unleaded- Naf 1.173 (\$0.659) –now gas is about 30 cents more at \$0.949; Diesel-Naf 0.453 (\$0.254), now \$0.548, more than double.

-Bonaire rated #1 Diving from shore in the world says *Rodales Scuba Diving Magazine*. **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** rated top dive operation on Bonaire; **Bon Bini Divers** managed by **Susan Davis** is runner up. Bonaire remains #1 in most dive tourism categories. ■ G./L.D.



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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.

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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.



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From School Desk To Work Place

“It is the bridge between the labor market and the secondary vocational education system (MBO) on the BES islands.” That defines what the *Raad Onderwijs Arbeidsmarkt* (Council Education Labor-Market) is, according to its director, Elyane Paul. Elyane explains, “The work of the ROA can be divided into two main functions. It advises MBOs about needed training courses, and it facilitates students’ practical vocational training (before called internship or stage) by identifying qualifying companies and coaching job trainers.”

In ROA’s bright blue main office on Kaya Korona, six people work to create job opportunities for others. On both Saba and Statia respectively one other colleague carries out ROA’s activities. In its first role, ROA has a mainly inquiring and advisory function. The council has close contacts with the local labor market and gives advice to the MBOs concerning the curricula they offer based on expectant employment possibilities on the three islands. To get information about the local and regional labor market, ROA organizes branch meetings with local companies and initiated, together with the local governmental body (OLB), a so-called “labor platform.” This platform brings various stakeholders of the educational and the labor market together, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the ministry of social affairs and welfare, and the

various educational institutions on the BES islands.

“Most MBO students will look for a job in the local labor market when finishing their studies,” Elyane explains, “so we have to focus on the needs of the islands in establishing a solid education system. Moreover, it will be impossible to get financing for training programs where students are obliged to leave the island for employment,” Elyane adds. Only if there are factual numbers indicating that there are employment opportunities can ROA approve of particular programs. To clarify her point the director gives an example: “Maybe there are students on the islands who would love to study space technology, but we can never allow such a program, nor get it financed, since there is no space center on the BES islands and there won’t be options for students to find work within the region.”

Besides local relevancy, there must of course be enough students interested to subscribe for a particular study program. ROA can only advise the institutions they work with, and it is up to the schools and other partners to use this advice and to stimulate the popularity of particular programs. Elyane personally, however, would like to push students a little more in the “right direction.” “Often students just choose what they already know, or what their friends choose because they don’t receive enough information about alternative options,” she explains. “More information about the study programs that provide more opportunities for work and for development of the islands should already be provided in the lower secondary professional education



Training the Job Trainer at ROA

(VMBO).” Currently ROA sees many opportunities for the sectors of leisure, tourism, construction and technology. Less developed but with great future potential is also the sector, “green.” Unfortunately, these are currently not the programs that are popular amongst young students. “Many prefer administration; they think that this program will get them a job in an air conditioned space, where they can regularly check their Facebook account,” Elyane says, “but that sector is already very much saturated here.”

ROA has grown much over the past five years. At first it focused on establishing a network establishment, on gaining knowledge and presenting new training programs. Now the time has come to give unsolicited advice to the schools about programs that might have to be discontinued. “It is our statutory duty to give advice based on the employment possibilities we see in the region, and sometimes that can have a negative impact on existing programs,” Elyane ex-

plains. A program that is currently at risk, unfortunately, is the MBO program of “Sport and Movement.” “This is sad for students who like this particular program, but we have to look to the needs of the island,” she re-emphasizes. “We look into possibilities but we also have to focus on restrictions.”

The other function of ROA that bridges the schooling system with the local labor market, is to support practical vocational training for MBO students.

Part 2 of this article, in the next issue, will focus on the relationship between ROA and individual students.

For more information see www.roacn.com or contact the council at +599-717 5450/info@roacn.com.

Story & photo by Gerjanne Voortman



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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 30		02:08	06:43	14:13	20:32		
		0.19 ft	0.55 ft	-0.25 ft	0.71 ft	6:09	18:57
Tue 31		03:25	07:38	14:43	21:12		
		0.12 ft	0.43 ft	-0.23 ft	0.83 ft	6:09	18:57
JUN		04:42	08:41	15:16	21:56		
Wed 01		0.04 ft	0.31 ft	-0.20 ft	0.94 ft	6:09	18:57
		05:58	09:54	15:53	22:44		
Thu 02		-0.05 ft	0.20 ft	-0.15 ft	1.03 ft	6:09	18:57
		07:10	11:20	16:33	23:34		
Fri 03		-0.15 ft	0.12 ft	-0.09 ft	1.08 ft	6:09	18:58
		08:16	12:56	17:20	New Moon		
Sat 04		-0.24 ft	0.09 ft	-0.03 ft		6:10	18:58
		00:27	09:16	14:32	18:16		
Sun 05	1.10 ft	-0.32 ft	0.11 ft	0.05 ft		6:10	18:58
		01:22	10:10	15:54	19:27		
Mon 06	1.08 ft	-0.37 ft	0.18 ft	0.12 ft		6:10	18:58
		02:16	10:59	16:58	20:49		
Tue 07	1.04 ft	-0.40 ft	0.26 ft	0.18 ft		6:10	18:59
		03:11	11:44	17:49	22:13		
Wed 08	0.97 ft	-0.40 ft	0.35 ft	0.22 ft		6:10	18:59
		04:03	12:25	18:33	23:32		
Thu 09	0.88 ft	-0.38 ft	0.44 ft	0.24 ft		6:10	18:59
		04:54	13:01	19:13			
Fri 10	0.78 ft	-0.34 ft	0.52 ft			6:10	19:00
		00:48	05:42	13:35	19:51		
Sat 11		0.24 ft	0.66 ft	-0.29 ft	0.59 ft	6:10	19:00
		First Quarter	02:01	06:29	14:04	20:26	
Sun 12		0.22 ft	0.54 ft	-0.23 ft	0.66 ft	6:10	19:00
		03:11	07:16	14:29	20:59		
Mon 13		0.18 ft	0.43 ft	-0.16 ft	0.71 ft	6:10	19:00

Reflections (Continued from page 7)

job. After I've dragged myself to yet another meeting with and hiring by Mr. Flake, I commence instructing English and Dutch to a band of seven 19 year-olds, fresh out of prison. What a great bunch of ambitious kids though. I love this job, which lasted all of about two hours. Mr. Flakeroo has fled the scene, it seems; conveniently, he vanished, together with my salary due, leaving both teacher and students in the lurch.

Unfortunately, such gigs seem to happen more than occasionally on *dushi* Bonaire. But it's not just Bonaire. I've had virtually the same experiences with a slightly different local flavor in the US in recent years. And it's not just me and my luck or lack of it. Colleagues and friends tell virtually the same stories from both here and abroad. Former US Budget Director and noted economic analyst David Stockman reports that, in the infinitely larger labor

market of the United States, the decline in full-time, what he calls "breadwinner" jobs has now become a long-term trend. Not only has the overall workforce participation rate declined substantially over the past near decade, but the overwhelming percentage of new jobs are, in fact, part-time "gigs," situated at the bottom end of the pay scale, sans benefits and longevity.

That brings me to my final fun gig -- writing about bad gigs! Now that's a gig I truly love.

"Your work is to discover your world and then with all your heart to give yourself to it." (Buddha)

Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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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

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

Thursday, June 2—Wine Tasting at Barrel. Includes six wines and complimentary small bites, \$25 per person. South Pier Mall. More on page 7

Saturday, June 4—Marshe di Kunukero— Farmers Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Yatu Baku, next to Aquamarin School. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, crafts, local food, drinks, more. 8am to 1 pm.

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 Defiwind Challenge

June 18-25 -Bonaire Shark Week. Event schedule at WWW.Stinapa.org and Facebook. More on page 4

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.



DOGS ARE FROM MARS, CATS ARE FROM VENUS

Most people still remember the book, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus. It was a big hit and explored the differences between men and women and how differently they see the world. The differences between dogs and cats and how they see the world is somewhat like that.

Dogs

When you come to the Animal Shelter Bonaire to pick out a dog, the dog sometimes picks you. As you look around there's usually that one dog that somehow draws you and often it's a mutual feeling. Once you've found your dog it's good to know what to expect.

Dogs attach themselves to people and will choose one person as their "main" person. They will be wonderful with the rest of the family, but there is always that one person who the dog perceives as the leader of the pack. They will become attached to their home and yard, but the people will always be the most important. Moving house with a dog is generally a fairly painless event. As long as the dog has his or her "pack" with them they will adjust very quickly. Once the dog knows what you expect of him or her they will usually

try to be a "good dog." Training your dog is important and there are dog trainers who can help you with this. When your dog understands your expectations everyone will benefit.

Cats

When you come to the Shelter to pick out a cat, the cat, just like the dog, often picks you. But that's where the similarities more or less end. Cats become attached to where they live, their house and, if they are inside/outside cats, their yard. When you first bring your cat home it's important that you keep the cat inside for three to four weeks. In that time the cat will make the house his or her own: finding favorite spots and places to sleep and groom. Once they've established themselves they can be let outside in the yard. Moving house with a cat requires the cat being kept inside all over again.

All that being said there are many exceptions as cats and dogs, just like people are individuals and some dogs are extremely attached to their environment and some cats are more attached to their owners.

Regardless, all animals need love from their owners and that remains the most important thing you can give your new pet. ■ *Marijke*

Pets Of The Week



Meet **Gina**, the taller of the two. She is a beautiful girl with a sweet personality. She is two years old, happy and has good manners. She has been a wonderful role model for **Tisha**, the other dog in the picture. Tisha is seven months old, playful and "listens" quite well to Gina! Both these fantastic dogs are available for adoption. All the dogs available for adoption are healthy and sociable They've had their shots, been

wormed, will have an ID chip and sterilized..

You are welcome to visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire during their new opening times: Tuesday through Friday, 9am to noon, and 3 to 5pm. Saturdays 8am to 3pm, non-stop. Closed Sundays and public holidays. Tel. 717-4989. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com, See them on Facebook too. ■ *Story & photo by Marijke*

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THE STARS HAVE IT

June 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. Think hard before going into business with friends or family. You may find that romance will unfold through business connections. Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. You may want to get involved in some kind of creative group. Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. You need to do more things that you enjoy. Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. Now is a good time to ask for favors. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. You can make career changes that may put you in a much higher earning bracket. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Stick to your work and avoid emotional confrontations. Social events should be the highlight of your day. Your accomplishments could exceed your expectations if you mix a little business with pleasure. Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. You will be encouraged to get involved in a moneymaking venture. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. Your ability to come up with good solutions for problems related to work will no doubt help you in getting a promotion. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. You

can become obsessed with detail and must be sure to divide your time appropriately. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can accomplish a great deal. You must act quickly. You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. Be primed to use your intellect in order to get what you want. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. Listen to the advice given by others. Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. Your magnetic, outgoing personality will capture hearts. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't overspend on entertainment, on children, or make poor investments. Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. It's time to make professional changes. Sign up for tours or courses that will enlighten you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Changes in your home may be alarming at first. You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Kick your shoes off and relax. Don't take sides if you wish to remain on good terms with both parties. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

HEAD TO HEAD, PLANET TO PLANET

As we roll into June, two planets shine brightly. And, as he does every June, the mighty **Hercules** flexes his muscles in the eastern sky. He's strong, brave, tough, but how do I put this delicately...but he's not very bright! And his dim stars make him hard to find.

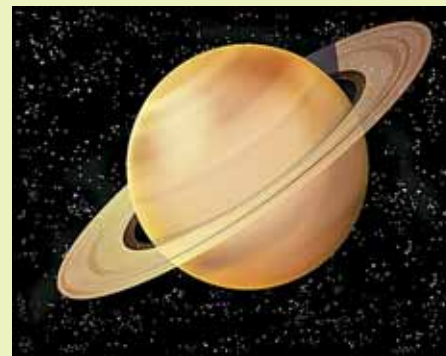
Luckily Hercules is also hard-headed because when I show you how to find him, you'll see that he goes head to head with another large constellation.

On any night this week at around 10:30pm face southeast. That's where you can find two planets just after sunset. They look like very bright stars, but are much, much different.

Which planets are these? Well, let me give you some clues. The brighter of the two, and the one up and to the right is also known as the **Red Planet**. It's the fourth planet from the **Sun** and is the place to look for Martians. **Mars!**

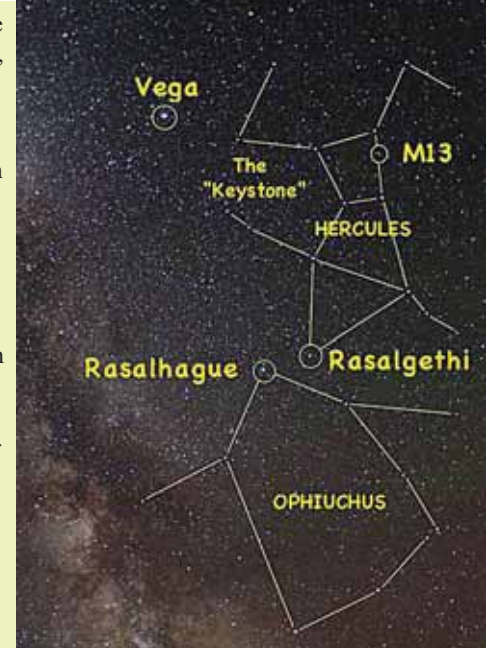
Mars usually appears redder than the other stars, but this spring, well that isn't the case. Lower in the southeast you'll spy a red, twinkly **star called Antares**. This marks the beating heart of the **constellation Scorpius the Scorpion**.

Mars and Antares should be similar in color. After all, the Greek name for Mars was Ares. And Ant-ares means, "rival of Mars." The other planet is that yellow star-like object to the left. I don't need to give you any verbal clues for this one. I'll just show you a photo and you'll say...



Saturn! Saturn will be closest to **Earth** this week so definitely check it out.

Face east, southeast at 10:30pm, and we're looking for a muscle-bound hero. And Hercules is tough to find even for me. I



Head to head

first look for the **bright blue star Vega**. That lets me know I'm in the area. Above Vega is a four-sided figure of stars called the **Keystone**. That is Hercules' body- up-side-down.

He seems to be doing some acrobatics with another constellation named **Ophiuchus**. He's just as tough to picture in the stars, but Greek legends say he's holding a snake as well.

Hercules and Ophiuchus are head to head in the sky and the names of their stars attest to that. Hercules' **head-star is named Rasalgethi** and it means "Head of the Kneeler." It's dimmer than the **North Star** but you may detect a slightly reddish tint to it. That's because Rasalgethi is a red giant star about 360 light years away from us. Ophiuchus' **head star is called Rasalhague** and it means "Head of the Serpent Collector." Ophiuchus may look like he is being strangled by the snake, but he's actually showing it off. Greek myths say that he learned to bring the dead back to life thanks to the help of a snake. You know the symbol on ambulances of the snake coiled around a staff? That comes from this legend. And behold their head-stars, Rasalgethi and Rasalhague. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

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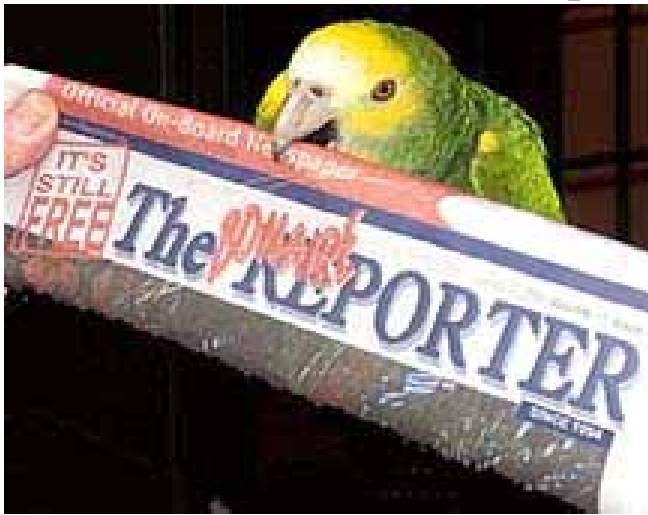
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