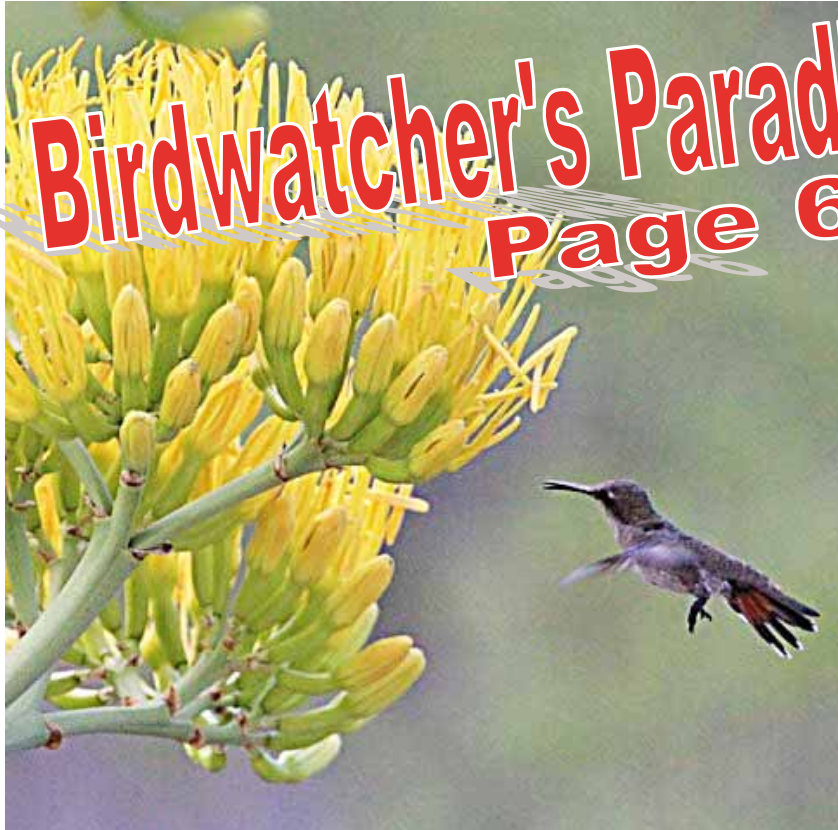


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*Bonaire Reporter- June 13-27, 2016, Year 23, Issue 12*  
**The BONAIRE REPORTER**  
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**Birdwatcher's Paradise**  
**Page 6**



Photos by Herman C. van Leeuwen



Stinapa Photo



Photo by: Lorenzo Mittiga

**A** Higher Court Ruled in favor of conservation, decreeing that **no commercial construction work is allowed in Bonaire National Marine Park under current legislation.** Eight weeks ago, the Joint Court of Justice heard the second round of appeals against the local government (OLB). The plaintiffs, STCB and STINAPA, believe that ongoing local government attempts to open the Bonaire National Marine Park to commercial development could have irreversible negative impacts on the marine ecosystem and received the support of the Joint Court.

The Joint Court decision confirms the ruling of the lower court against the OLB, supporting the plaintiffs, denying the re-zoning of portions of the marine park. The re-zoning was intended to allow large commercial development at several locations in the waters of the BNMP. The Joint Court of Justice confirmed that the local government did not follow procedures according to good governance, which means that **construction at several locations in the waters of the Bonaire Marine Park is not permitted** under current legislation.

Mabel Nava, manager of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, said "We are pleased with the verdict because it shows the importance of following good governance and working together to foster sustainable economic development on Bonaire. At this moment all parties involved are communicating with each other with the goal of moving towards a sustainable lasting strategy for the future. We are extremely thankful for all our Save Bonaire Marine Park supporters. Without their support we would not have come this far."

More information regarding the initiative Save Bonaire Marine Park can be found at the dedicated website, [www.savebonairemarinepark.org](http://www.savebonairemarinepark.org).

► **Bonaire is adding several tourist driving, cycling and walking routes near Rincon that are indicated with these signs** such as this one for motorists at Gotomeer. **Tourist TV will soon air a video of the routes.**



► **Tall ships** such as the *ARC Gloria* (Colombia) and the *B.E. Esmeralda* (Chile) will be in Curaçao on July 15, 2018, as part of "SAILS Latin America 2018," a **grand nautical tour around the South American continent.** It starts on March 25, 2018, in Rio de Janeiro. **Can something be arranged so they stop in Bonaire?**

► For the first time **Statistics Netherlands (CBS) has defined purchasing power developments** on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. The figures are three years old but are helpful to understand local spending power of the population of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. **They show improvements in 2012 as well as in 2013,** although the latter increase was approximately half that of the previous year.

The median purchasing of power went up for all three islands in 2012. **On Bonaire it rose by 3.2%.** In 2013, the average purchasing power rose as well, but not as markedly as in the previous year. It rose by 1.4% for people on Bonaire as a whole, but on Bonaire, some 45% of the local population actually lost spending power in 2013.

Old-age insurance (AOV) on Bonaire was raised by 2.2% in 2013, but on the other hand, prices also went up by 1.7%

in 2013. The increase in real terms was only 0.5%, nearly equal to the median change in purchasing power for people on Bonaire aged 60 and over (0.4%).



► **Want delicious local products?** Look for Mrs. Josepha and her tamarind products (above). She was at Bondigro on Saturday.

► **Three Bonaire restaurants have banded together to create the "Bonaire Culinary Passport"** which offers patrons a token gift after dining in all the restaurants. The three restaurants are Cuba Compagnie, Ingridien Restaurant and It Rains Fishes. At each restaurant, guests get a passport stamp after eating. When the passport has all three stamps it can be exchanged at any of the three restaurants for a Bonaire souvenir from The Saltman.

► **HAVANA, Cuba—**Minority political parties representing St. Eustatius and Bonaire and James Finies of *Nos Kier Boneiru Bek* have sent a **letter petitioning the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) for support to have the two islands re-listed by the United Nations** as non-self-governing territories and to have a self-governance assessment performed for both islands as was done in the past for Curaçao.

The letter was signed by James Finies (*Nos Kier Boneiru Bek*), Clyde van Putten (Statia Progressive Labour Party), Rueben Merkman (United People's Coalition) and Robert Beukenboom (*Partido Demokratiko Boneriano*).

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## How to contact us

### Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"

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

**The Editor:** Laura DeSalvo  
Laura@bonairenews.com  
Phone 786-6518  
Box 407, Bonaire,  
Dutch Caribbean

#### Story tip, question or idea:

info@bonairenews.com  
Phone 786-6125

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► **Muslims in Bonaire joined Muslims worldwide to observe the fasting in the holy month of Ramadan**, beginning Sunday, June 5. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad.

► **The population of our sister island, Curaçao, increased by more than 2,000 last year**, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). The count now stands at 158,986 legal residents. No estimate was given for illegal residents. About 6,000 persons were admitted in 2015, while 4,500 left the island. Most newcomers came from the Netherlands, nearly 3,500. **Bonaire population is currently estimated to be close to 20,000, growing by about 1,000 annually.**

► **Since 2011 Netherlands teenagers can start formal driving lessons at 16 and take the driving test as soon as they turn 17.** They can then drive with a designated coach until they turn 18 and get a full license. The new system began after experiments in Germany showed a sharp reduction in accidents involving new drivers. Safety Research SWOV has also shown that people who started driving at 16 are 26% less likely to be involved in an accident than those who started later. **Is this available for Bonaire teens?**

► **Members of the newly appointed Bonaire Island Council are in The Netherlands** to obtain experience and to promote the island's interests. The atmosphere seems to be more cooperative than the adversarial approach of the previous Bonaire Council.

Its members requested the attention of Parliament to strengthen the Bonaire economy, explaining that it is the best way to fight poverty, improve the 60-year-old island infrastructure and to raise the social welfare levels. They also pointed out to the ministries that implementation can be better done locally in many cases rather than "detour" through The Hague. This transfer is already taking place in Saba.

The Council delegates acknowledged that there is room for improvement in Bonaire and has already begun a review of the local government organization.



Photo: Nico van der Ven

**Rolanda Helburg-Makaii, Esther Bernabela, Elvis Tjin A Sjoie, Minister Henk Kamp, Daisy Coffie, Milena Silberie**

► **Word on the street is that the current parking lot behind Bonaire Tobacco & Liquor will soon be developed into a retail shopping mall with apartments above.** So the big question, where will you park to access these shops?

► **The University of Curaçao Teacher Education Foundation Education (LOFO) is considering organizing classes for teacher training and engineering on Bonaire.** Admission is open to Bonairean students with a HAVO, VWO or MBO 4 diploma. Students who are older than 23 years must take the university entrance examination.

To register, or for more information, contact the office of the University at Kaya L.B. Gerharts 10, units 8 and 9. The office can be reached at 717-3152. The staff is accessible via e-mail or [r.dejong@uoc.cw](mailto:r.dejong@uoc.cw) [d.manuel@uoc.cw](mailto:d.manuel@uoc.cw).

► **Dutch Minister of Interior and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk will be visiting Bonaire and Curaçao** from Monday, June 13, up to and including Wednesday, June 15. The working trip is to focus on self-reliance and cooperation within the Kingdom. On June 13 he will be in Bonaire to meet with Island Governor Edison Rijna as well as Commissioners Rolanda Helburg-Makaii and Nina Den Heyer.

► **The Unkobon Consumers Union is disappointed with the results of a four-month long investigation by Water and Electricity Bonaire (WEB)** into possible causes of occasional extremely high water bills. Based on reports from WEB, Unkobon is of the opinion WEB was apparently not capable and/or willing to investigate the possible causes to the degree necessary. "WEB had promised to thoroughly

investigate all the possible causes, like air in the pipes, abnormally high water pressure, different measurement period and others.

However, WEB limited its investigation to the 'bucket test.' That only checks whether the water meter works correctly. It does not, however, give a decisive answer about other possible causes."

► **This week, Thursday, June 16, come by the Barrel Wine Bar on the South pier to taste and sample their delicious summer wine selections!** These wines were specifically chosen for their unique freshness and summery tastes. Think about delicious sparkling wines, fresh, crisp, sauvignon blanc, juicy, fruity reds, and much more! Standard Tasting is just \$25 including meat, cheese platters, and small bites. ■

G./L.D.

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# On the Island Since... 2008 - Michael and Berit Pement



Berit and Michael at home . Don Seaver's sculpture, "Serenity," at left.



Michael and some of his dive gear

"I came here in 2002 on my first dive trip with a copy of Suzy Swygert's dive guide. I knew nothing about Bonaire. We lived in Oregon, in the US, and there the water is very cold, dark and murky and after half an hour your hands and feet are numb and you can see about three meters on a good day. So, Bonaire was very different. In the Pacific Northwest we have different creatures like the Giant Pacific Octopus, Wolf Eel, Lingcod, many kinds of rock fish and lots of mud! We don't have corals but we do have Plumose Anemones .

After finding Bonaire we dove other Caribbean locations like Cozumel, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, the Florida Keys and Belize – which is amazing – and when we came back to Bonaire in 2008 for another dive trip, we bought our house by accident. As you can't dive all the time we were having a real estate agent show us properties, but we couldn't afford any of them. Then, two days before we were to leave, he showed us this little two-bedroom house in a nice neighborhood. It was inexpensive, it was secluded and the yard sold us. We loved it. We made an offer and it was accepted. Then we thought: 'Now what did we do? We bought ourselves a house.'

In the beginning we had to leave after 90 days and then we came back after 90 days as that was the rule. We did that crazy schedule for two years until in 2011 we became residents and got our *sedulas*. Usually we are in Oregon for a couple of months in the summer and for Christmas, and the rest of the time we spend here. If we didn't have kids we would not go back to the US.

Berit and I have been together since 1990. Each of us got married as teenagers to our high school sweethearts. I started working for the company Berit's father owned while she worked in one of his warehouses, but we never met. During the 1980s Berit lived in Mexico with her husband and they had two children. I lived in Oregon with my wife and we had three children. Then my marriage ended and I continued to work as shop foreman for Berit's father. Then her marriage ended and she returned from Mexico and went to work at the office. Then we met and fell in love."

"So, together we have five children, who

are all in their 30s," Berit says, "and we have five grandchildren. Two are in college, one is 18 months, one nine months and one is only two months old, and I am the baby sitter. Nowadays, the entire salary of one of the parents goes to daycare and I feel those babies would be better off with their own grandmother. Also, it becomes harder for me to be here as my father is sick and my brother needs me." She sighs, "I am really torn between two places, because I love it here."

"We bought the house next door thinking our children would come to visit us often." Michael says, "but they didn't. They have very busy lives and they get little vacation time and it's quite expensive even if you have a place where you can stay for free.



Michael ready for a tech dive

The way things are now I'm here more often than Berit. I am a technical diver – I dive deep water and I stay under water for many hours. We know a lot about the part near the top of the reef, because that's where all the scuba divers go. But once you go over the edge of the cliff and start dropping, it's a whole different world. My deepest dive is to 135 meters (442 feet), but usually I dive at around 60 meters (200

feet). I always go alone because I cannot find anybody here who can buddy with me. In recreational diving in shallow waters your buddy is your back-up air supply. But in technical diving you have back-up air supply with you. With a rebreather, you can use the same air over and over again. There is no noise, you can go deeper and you can stay under water much longer.

When I was a boy I wanted to be an astronaut, and going into the sea or in a cave in Mexico where people hardly ever go is like going to outer space. I see things no one else sees. The coral reef here continues on down. Many people think the sand begins at 30 meters and when you go deep you just see barren wastelands of sand. That's not true. There are colonies of fish on the corals and the rock structure that's deep and certain fishes that are being studied by people like Richard Pyle (who collects specimen in the deep reef). I see them. The same kind of diversity in the shallow reef is also in the deep reef, but it is not seen by many. For me it's not so much about taking pictures or making movies and sharing those with others. It's like a spiritual experience and about enjoying the dive.

to supporting the Junior Rangers as well. That's how we met **Desiree Croes**. We worked with her to establish the *Foundation Respetá Mucha* and eventually she introduced us to the **Wilsoe** twins, **Arnold and Raynold**, who needed sponsoring for their windsurfing. Just now, in the **Copa Julia**, Arnold won first place in freestyle and slalom, and **Raynold** won third place for both. They're 16 and both of them are going to compete next month July at the Aruba Hi-Winds Competition. They are good boys; they give us a lot of joy. They want to be famous like **Tati and Tonki Frans**, and if we can help them getting there, that would be great!

My other passion on the island is the birds, and when I met **Jerry Ligon** we did two tours with him and became friends. He would let me come along on his tours and sometimes he would bring his bird tour to our yard because we have so many different birds in our garden as we put out sugar and water. Also he would come to see some unusual visitors to our yard, the migrant birds. Those birds like the Baltimore Oriole, the Scarlet Tanager and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak would come for several days in a row. Then Jerry would come so

**"To us Bonaire is so wonderful because its population is low and construction is not extensive. It's a small, natural beautiful island and that's its charm."**

Down there I find a lot of Lionfish and together we just finished catching 4,100 Lionfish, even though Berit is not a tech diver. We go into the water together and then we each do our own dives, but Berit carries her own bail-out system in case her primary system fails. She has her buddy on her back. It's not safe to dive alone if you're not capable of self-rescue."

"We've always been interested in trying to make the world a more pleasant place," Berit says, "and when we first came to the island we were befriended by **Michael Gaynor** who had many projects, and we were glad to help. He also introduced us to **Alan Gross and Jane Townsend** and we began to support Jong Bonaire, which led

he could add them to his year sighting list, because every year he had a goal to see at least 100 species of birds. I miss him. In his final words he left his binoculars to me and said I should be happy when I looked through them. Although I take them with me when I go out, I cannot use them yet..."

Michael continues, "To us Bonaire is so wonderful because its population is low and construction is not extensive. It's a small, natural beautiful island and that's its charm. I think the tourist industry can provide jobs showing people that natural

(Continued on page 14)

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Ranana Falls, Fiji



Judy Myers sent us this photo of herself, Bill and Rosie Barton, and her husband, Ron in Fiji. They are all from California. She and Ron have been coming to Bonaire for 15 years. Last September they received ambassadors' medals for both 10 year and 15 year anniversaries. Rosie and Bill have been coming for 10 years and received their medal last year.

In this picture they all were on a hike to the waterfall, celebrating Ron's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. They plan to return to Bonaire in September. ■

### WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture.

## Champion Chefs



Bonaire's medal winning Chef team: Max Maaertense, Maria Mastrangelo, Coach Floris van Loo from Rum Runners, Sherundly Bernabela, Miguel Saragoza. Kevin Ventura (Bartender), not in photo, also won a medal

This year 14 Caribbean countries throw their culinary hats into the ring to compete for the honor of becoming the best chef, culinary team, bartender and pastry chef in the Caribbean. Each participating team represents a Caribbean island and has competed on a national level to qualify and participate. Each team is composed of two senior chefs, one junior chef, one bartender, one pastry chef and one manager.

Preliminary results show that Bonaire's team walked away with more than a half-dozen medals from the recently com-

pleted Taste of the Caribbean in Miami.

Awards Bonaire won this year include: Chef of the Year, Seafood, Beef, Pastry, Cheesecake, Junior Chef, and Bartender of the Year.

Since 1993, the best Caribbean's chefs and culinary teams compete to learn, demonstrate their skills and provide the general public a scintillating exhibition of the most savory and delectable treats of the islands.

Bonaire first sent a team in 1997 when the event was in Puerto Rico. ■ G.D.



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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.

## SIT DOWN, BUT DO NOT STAY TOO LONG

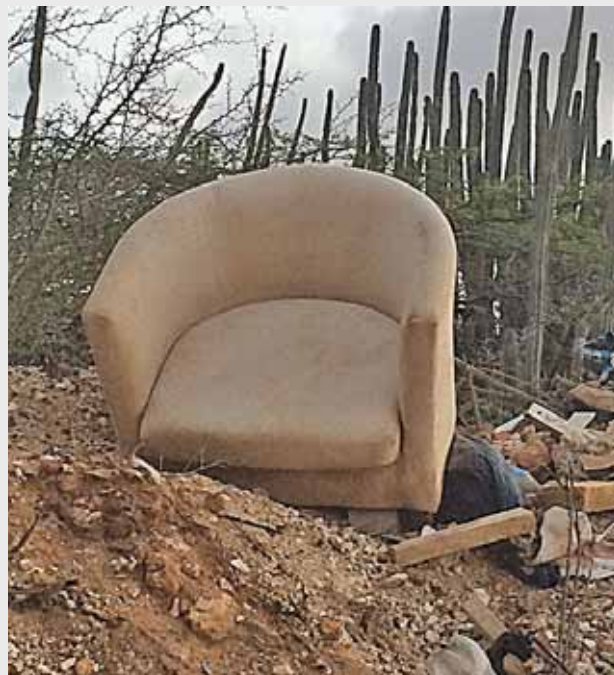
I see a chair rising, on top of concrete fragments, looking as good as new. It feels like stepping into a showroom of designer furniture. I climb up to get there. When I sit down, I have to brace myself in order not to roll down the hill on my knees. But it's worth it. The chair is perfect and the view from the hill is beautiful. From here I can see the complete chaos of discarded building materials. I appreciate the construction of such a seat alongside my walking trail. I let the dogs enjoy themselves and look around. With a nice cup of tea, the pleasure would be complete.

I enjoy the falling dusk, and the black plastic bags that are caught in the trees add an extra spooky touch. The wind rustles through the cacti and crackles through the plastic bags. Sinister black outlines are shaped by the wind that fills the bags: bats, humpback people, vultures and black cats. Psychedelic chills occur along my spine and I feel the earlier coziness disappear. Meanwhile, the muscles of my highly trained legs are about to snap in the position in which the seat is forcing me. The installer apparently wanted to avoid creating a hangout. After a maximum of 10 minutes every sitter is guaranteed to give up. The go-getter who goes over this amount of time can go straight to the emergency room with torn knees and ankle ligaments. I do not want to go that far, so I leave and move down the hill.

When I arrive at the road I remember that I'd seen a designer chair in a museum that was derived from the same principle as the chair I just met: a chair with front legs shorter than the back legs. If there is no hill nearby (which is usually the case in living rooms), you can use such a seat for the same effect. Chairs designed for folks that you would rather see going than coming. If you are prompted upon entry to sit in that chair you know how your host or hostess evaluates you.

After you've taken a seat in the consciously designed chair to which you get assigned by the host, you immediately receive from the hostess a cup of tea filled to the brim, along with a biscuit and spoon on the saucer.

Meanwhile, you push yourself with all the power you have to the back, sweat on your forehead. With a huge effort, you try to keep yourself and the cup balanced. The spoon falls to the floor, caused by the vibration of the tightened muscles. As you try to grab it, you shift down



from the slanting chair, sitting while holding the cup of tea high above you in your right hand. From your left hand the saucer with the cookie fall down. Ultimately, you have to let go of the cup of tea to break the fall of your forehead to the ground with your right hand. The tea falls onto your woolen sweater and you stammer, with your broken nose on the ground, that you cannot stay for long. You really need to go away right now. The host and hostess look with relief as you start to crawl to the front door like a bug that's been beaten nearly to death. You are startled by the sound of the intercom in the hallway. The hostess walks to it. "Is your company gone? Can we go out for dinner?" you hear. "Yeah, come on up, we can leave immediately." "Fortunately, you got rid of that asshole who found it necessary to invite himself!" The door opens and two merry people in evening dress stumble over you. They look pityingly at your bloodied nose and soaked sweater. You crawl over to the threshold and mutter, "Thanks for the tea, have a good night out."

How low can you sink? This is humiliation at its worst. This would never happen to me. I would refuse to sit down in that chair and leave immediately.

Suddenly I realize that not that long ago I was sitting in such a seat that was put there for the same principle: to make you feel that you're not really welcome. I'm never gonna sit there anymore!

I walk proudly to the car, with my head up and leg muscles aching. Fortunately, the dogs were my only witnesses and I know them: they will not say a word about what happened.

Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



## Bird Watching With STINAPA.

Cover Story

Bonaire is a favorite for bird-watchers with over 210 species of birds living on the island.

Bonaire's birds can be classified into three categories: shore birds, seabirds and land birds. The best place to watch Bonaire's feathered symbol, the flamingo, is at the island's salt ponds in the National Park, at Goto Meer or at the southern end of the island at the Pekelmeer Sanctuary. The flamingos can be seen from the road. It's important to keep your distance and not disturb the birds.

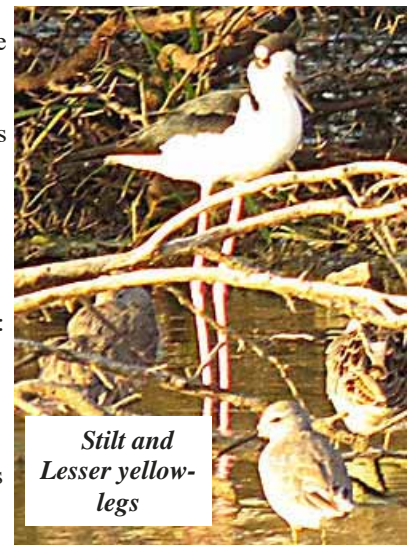
The Caribbean parakeet (Prikichi) and the yellow-shouldered parrot (Lora) are two tropical birds found only on Bonaire. Bonaire is a critical breeding ground for the survival of this species. Prikichis are more numerous and can be seen anywhere on the island where there is vegetation. The best places to see Loras are in the cactus fields of the north and in fruit trees. The Bonaire Lora is endangered, with a growing island population numbering around 1,000 thanks to 10 years of ardent conservation.

Learn about the birds we have on our island firsthand. Join STINAPA on a bird watching trip on Saturday, June 18, from 5 to 6:30pm at the LVV facility on Kaminda Lagoen, just to the east of the Animal Shelter. This area has a constant supply of fresh water which attracts an abundance of bird species. Very rare species of birds for the ABC islands have also been spotted in this area. During the past weeks, for example, Southern Lapwings, Caribbean Coots and Black Ibis were sighted.

Bring binoculars (if don't have any we can provide you a pair), drinking water and good walking shoes. Please call 717-8444 to make your reservation. There are no costs involved but donations are always welcome. We will meet at the office building next to the wastewater tanks.

More bird watching opportunities will be July 23, August 20, September 30, October 29, November 26 and December 17 this year. Times and locations for the dates mentioned will be announced at a later date.

STINAPA Press release/G.D.



Stilt and Lesser yellow-legs



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# 20 Years Ago In These Pages

BONAIRE IN FEBRUARY, 1996 – 20 YEARS AGO  
Looking back at some of the stories from the pages of *Port Call*, *The Bonaire Reporter's* earlier name:



The newly paved tourist road– 1996

The newspaper ran a contest to discover what made Bonaire a great place to live and visit... by what it didn't have. Here is a list of some of the submissions:— Many of the entries had a message: The relatively unspoiled Bonaire environment must be preserved, protected and improved. Several focused on the negative impact of the automobile on the island. Some of the best entries in the What Bonaire Doesn't Have Contest were:

- 24 hour convenience stores,
- 6 lanes of anything,
- Advertising From Planes,
- Bridge To Klein Bonaire,
- Commuter Traffic, **it's getting there**
- Dog track,
- Escalators, see photo
- Famine,
- Fertility Clinic,
- Gun Shop,

- Hurricanes,
- Iguana Farm,
- Jetski Rentals,
- Marineland,
- McDonalds,
- Nuclear Reactor,
- Offshore Oil Drilling.
- Parking Meters,
- Parasailing,
- Red Tide.
- Refineries,
- Sales Tax, **now 6% or 8%**
- Segregation,
- Sex Shops,
- Shark Attacks,
- Snow, **except for the snow machine at Christmas time**



- Spear Fishing, **but only for lionfish now**
  - Steel Mill,
  - Subways, **Just sandwiches, however**
  - Tarantulas,
  - The Marlboro Man,
  - A Third Disco, **no discos at all now**
  - Topless Bars,
  - Traffic Lights, **but more traffic circles**
  - Turtle Soup
- Ann Joseph and associates won first prize in the contest. Other winners were R. Calistrat and D. Ricks. Prizes were a Sunset Cruise on the *Oscarina.*, a Leeward In pizza and a bucket of KFC chicken.
- Update notes in red.**

⇒-Island Council says that Naf 120.000



Bonaire now has an escalator at the midtown Bonaire Mall. Ava loves it!

collected by Stinapa will be for **Marine Park use only**. Money from the diving fees had been diverted for other uses, but legislation says the \$10 fee will be for the exclusive use of the Marine Park.

⇒-Newly paved tourist road along the west coast

⇒-TCB says 60,000 tourists took vacation in Bonaire in 1995 (US- 45%; Europe -34%)

⇒-Big thanks to ZeeZicht and Karel's Beach Bar for providing dinghy tie up and trash disposal to visiting yachts. ■ *G./L.D.*

**Next edition:** The Great Bonaire Bank Robbery and more.

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# A Garden? Just Do It



*Glorious Kenepa Fruit and Leaves*

## KENEPAS MEAN GREEN

**R**iding around on my bike on Bonaire I do see a lot of nature. And because I wrote last time about a lush garden, I now pay extra attention to those green gardens. So I was on my bike when my eyes caught a huge beautiful green tree full of fruit in a yard. I should behave, but this time I did not. I got off the bike and picked some of those fruits, tasted one and I tell you what, it was like honey drops in my mouth.

Yes, I'm talking about the kenepa fruit. Can you imagine that in spite of all this drought, all the *loras*, *prikichis*, and other birds, still there is a tree full of green leaves and delicious fruit?

So I knew this will be my next story for *The Reporter*.

Kenepa is what that tree is called on Bonaire. It's a real tropical tree known by many names around the region where it grows: mamoncillo in middle America; Spanish lime, chenette in Trinidad; gnep or ginep in the US; quenepa in Mexico; knippa in Surinam; limoncello in the Dominican Republic; in Central America talpa jocote; and ackee in Barbados.

The genus *Melicoccus bijugatus* (scientific name - a mouthful for such a small fruit) is native to northern South America, Central America, the Caribbean and parts of the Old World Tropics. The tree can reach heights of up to 25 meters and has alternate, compound leaves. The pulp of the fruit is orange, salmon or yellowish in color with a somewhat juicy and pasty texture. The fruit can be sweet or sour.

It's somewhat like a cross between a lychee and a lime, has a tight and thin but rigid layer of skin, traditionally opened by biting into with the teeth.

Inside the skin has a tart, tangy creamy pulp, (technically the seed coat or aril) which is sucked by putting the whole fruit inside the mouth because the seed takes most of the space of what is inside the skin. (Be careful with children when putting the seed in their mouths). In a cool place the fruit can

stay edible for a few days.

The juice can leave a stain of a dark brown color and was often used by the indigenous Arawak natives to dye cloth.

The species is also commonly planted along roadsides as an ornamental tree. The tree takes about seven years to grow and bear fruit. It grows best in poor sandy soil. After two years the branches can be trimmed. The dry leaves are perfect to use as a compost for poor soil.

Do you know what you get when eating a kenepa? Vitamin B1, B2, B3, Vitamin C, fat Calcium, phosphor, iron, carbohydrates.

The kenepa tree fits perfectly in a backyard or in the kunuku. Since it will become a big tree, don't plant it close to any building. It also drops a lot of leaves so you might need some more time to clean up your yard. On the other hand the kenepa tree is a perfect tree for a lot of shade and makes your yard a lush garden, a place to relax and enjoy the many birds who like to be in this tree and also build their nests there. Under the tree is a great place for plants which cannot stand the sun. Plant them under the tree, put pots under the tree or hang the pots in the tree. The coolness and shade is a good protection for sensitive plants and orchids.

For children its nice to have a little garden under such a big tree. Children are always interested in nature and experience is the best teacher. They learn how to deal with a garden, what and how to plant and they enjoy eating their own planted veggies.

For the very little ones a small playground under the kenepa tree is real cool. When the tree is mature, the branches are strong enough for a swing or to climb on, to have a tree house or a picnic place right there.

So much to do with the always green strong kenepa tree which grows easily right here on Bonaire. ■

Story & Photo by Angliet-Nature lover



# Beautiful Art For Our Tourists



*In cooperation with the TCB FORMA students constructed an original art piece*

**S**tudents from Fundashon FORMA— from the study of Qualifying Labor market Assistant MBO level 1— had the opportunity from Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) to create an art piece in Kralendijk.

This is to be a beautiful attraction for both tourists and locals. The art piece should have the main characteristics that represent Bonaire.

To make this Project possible, the students had to design, plan and carry out the whole process. The Project was part of the class "Wood Design Workshop," where students have to execute different projects in groups to help them demonstrate the abilities tied to their study.

Throughout this Project the students got the opportunity to express their talent and at the same time learn and develop their abilities which will prepare them to become assistants who are qualified for the labor market. During this period the students dedicated their time to plan and

execute.

They are proud of the final Project for everyone on the island to enjoy. TCB gave a Certificate of Excellence to the students for their great performance.

The art piece is located next to the entrance of the Pier Chico Mercelina, in front of Wilhelmina Park. TCB is extremely happy with the final project and would like to ask the whole community to please take care of this.

The students who helped in this Project are: **Andruw Bernabela, Angel van Wordragen, Brayan Angela Valdez, Cassandra Malcolm Reid, Etienne Priest, Geomar Alberto, Jean-Carlos Leyba, Jordrick Arrindel, Juëlston Janga, Marionelis Serberie, Queen-Vianique Thom, Reuël Trinidad, Rudaisca Geerman, Valdemar Janga, Angie Albarracin Cuevas and Diego Albarracin Ibarra.** Thank you also to the teacher **Mr. Dietrich Winklaar.** ■  
*Press release*

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# Bonaire Museum Reopens



*The washi becomes a wiri, a musical instrument, demonstrated by Timoteo Silberie*

## The New Bonaire Museum “Retrieving history from the display case”

“Welcome to the *Hadrei*.” Entering the recently re-opened Bonaire Museum is like entering a Bonairean living room from the 30s. Felix “Papito” Thomas who has been in charge of the composition of the current exhibition shows the different pieces of historical furniture, pointing out the portrait of former Dutch queen Wilhelmina on the wall and the statue of *el niño Jesus* in the corner. “After the 30s more trade with other islands and countries arose, but till those days every piece of furniture and every piece of art was handmade on the island,” he emphasizes. The different pieces in the museum have been donated by inhabitants of the island since the museum first opened its doors in 1989. “Papito” guides visitors through the museum effortlessly in Papiamentu, Dutch, English or Spanish. But, the museum does not only just want to be a place where *bati pañas*, *palo funchis* and ancient shards are exposed in display cases. It also wants to play an active role in transmitting and strengthening local culture.

The former Bonaire museum, established by Frans Booi, was located in the Sabana neighborhood. In 2013 it had to close its doors for a renovation of the building. All museum pieces were stored, carefully awaiting their new exhibition site. Last year became clear that the museum would be relocated to the former *Kas di Arte* at the Boulevard. “A shame the museum had to close its doors for so long, but now we have a very beautiful location,” Timoteo Silberie mentions. The interim director of SKAL (Services for Culture, Art and Literature) sits on the bench in front of the museum overlooking the calm sea and greeting passing by visitors.

The SKAL management is housed in the same building as the museum and responsible for its operation. Interim director and cultural policy advisor Timoteo likes that his office is directly connected to the exhibition and enjoys guiding visitors through the museum now and then. “Look, this *washi* used to become a *wiri* at night.”

Timoteo demonstrates how music can be made with the antique washboard.

Every room in the museum has the name of a Bonairean inhabitant who has played an important role in the creation or preservation of the islands culture. Apart from *Sala Frans Booi*, there is *Sala Papi Cilia* and *Sala Winfred Dania*. Whereas most pieces focus on recent history – providing a look into our parents and grandparents daily lives – the last room is reserved for archeological finds from earlier decades. The centerpiece in this room is a skeleton about 800 years old. “Soon specialist from Curacao will come to give the skeleton a more human form,” Timoteo says, looking at the seemingly random compilation of human bones.

“Much of Bonaire’s history has been scraped away by bulldozers over the last decennia,” Timoteo explains. Currently there is fortunately more attention for archeological research at construction sites. The site where a new MBO building is planned will for example be researched extensively before any new construction is built. Also below sea level many historical pieces can be found. Divers have brought the museum several pieces they found around Bonaire’s coastline.

It is very important to keep expanding knowledge about our ancestors, Timoteo explains. “History that is taught in schools is very much centered on European history. This doesn’t give local children a good image of their own forefathers. History tells something about who we are, about why we do things in a particular way.”

“There is a general feeling in society that Europe is deciding too much for the island, that we have to adapt to standards others decide for us,” Timoteo continues, “but only we ourselves can protect our own identity and cherish our culture. We should not perceive culture as something static, or something that divides people with different backgrounds,” according to the passionate director. Culture is dynamic and created and adapted constantly by all people visiting and living on the island. “Foreigners have always co-created our culture.”

In order to retrieve culture from the display case, several projects have been in-



*The new museum location on the waterfront boulevard*



*Papito Thomas with an antique grinding mill*

troduced. An example is the simultaneous visit of a group of children and a group of elderly to the museum. This has already shown to be successful. “We saw a beautiful exchange in which elderly people explained how special and how complicated it was to receive a phone call when they were younger. The children in turn gave a spontaneous workshop explaining how to use a smart phone.” The Bonaire museum is also interested in contemporary culture and working on capturing current events and trendy items on video and in pictures for future generations.

The museum management further plans to use local celebrations to expose more of Bonairean culture. **An upcoming event on June 20 will be a “fire jumping” performance in front of the museum in honor of the opening of the San Juan and the San Pedro period.** Fire jumping was traditionally done in this period to provoke rainfall for the *kunukeros* and to protect the fisherman at sea. Everyone

who is interested can come and participate. **Another performance will be given during “The Taste of Bonaire” on June 25 at Wilhelmina Park.**

Timoteo hopes that in the future the museum will be just the center point of a more extended cultural network on Bonaire. “When there is seeding or harvesting we should be going to the *kunuku* (farms) to experience culture live. When there is a local party we should be celebrating together. We can play traditional games, cook Bonairean food. There are many ways to keep culture alive outside the museum.” The newly re-opened Bonaire museum does not only want to display historical pieces but aims to stimulate all of Bonaire’s inhabitants to profile, to transmit, and to embrace the islands culture and identity. The museum is open on weekdays 9am to noon and 2 to 4pm. Entry is free. ■

*Story & photos by Gerjanne Voortman*

“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.”

**PART 2**

CONTINUED FROM THE LAST EDITION

**R**OA arranges the recognition of training companies and organizes training sessions and workshops for job trainers within those companies. Only when an employer from a particular company takes a three-day course at ROA, focused on how to stimulate the learning of a student, can the company become an official training company and host students for their practical training.

“We carefully check whether a company can improve the learning curve of the students from a particular program,” Director **Elyane Paul** explains. All local companies that are recognized as a learning company can be found on the ROA website. Officially the students should be able to choose at which of the companies they want to do their practical training. In

practice it is often the school, however, that plays a big role in matching students with companies.

“Teachers know their students and know where they can develop most,” Elyane explains. “In smaller companies, for example, it might be possible to get more attention.”

ROA itself also hosts students to work within the organization during their practical vocational training. Currently **Koeyman Bautista**, an administration student, works three days a week at the council during a three-month period. Office Manager **Arviene Wilson** is Koeyman’s job trainer. “Practical training within a company is very important,” Arviene explains. “At school you learn theory, but in practice you learn to adjust the theory to reality.” Arviene herself did her internship at ROA as well. “I learned so many things here that I didn’t know from my studies,” she says, looking back. “I learned for example how to work with annoying or impatient clients.” Now she works for the council and guides Koeyman in his learning process. Koeyman would like to work for ROA when he finishes his studies. “I don’t feel like I’m going to work when I come here. We work hard, but we also laugh a lot,” he says.

Whether the practical vocational training is something students look forward to all depends on where they are placed, Koeyman explains. “Some companies are boring, but in others you get to laugh. Then it is fun.”

Koeyman is learning many new things at ROA, like printing, picking up the phone and working with their digital systems. The most difficult task so far was to

organize a work trip for a colleague. “I had to contact the hotels and the car rental, and I had to arrange a flight.”

A company can also learn a lot from the MBO student, who brings new skills and ideas and can alleviate the workload.

Arviene for example turned out to have great skills in graphic design and Photoshop during her training period. “She shared those skills with us and thereby improved the company as a whole,” Elyane says. “And Koeyman is very creative and uses this to make some of our work processes more effective.” It is a great challenge to adjust every training to the competences and personality of every single student, Arviene and Elyane explain.

The ladies really enjoy seeing a student develop within the short period working with them. “Koeyman was very quiet when he started working with us,” Arviene says, “but now he is the one who makes us laugh.” “We shouldn’t put students down, but stimulate them and get the best out of them!” Elyane adds.



*Elyane, Koeyman and Arviene*

The most important lesson Arviene wants to give “her” students is to show courage. “Sometimes you just have to close your eyes and go for it!” she says. It was the biggest lesson she learned herself when she started working. And of course it is important to stay positive both ladies add. “We spend so many hours of our day at work, it is important to keep a smile on your face.”

ROA is always interested in working with new training companies. For more information see [www.roacn.com](http://www.roacn.com) or contact the council at +599-717 5450/[info@roacn.com](mailto:info@roacn.com) ■

Story & photo by Gerjanne Voortman



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## EATING RIGHT IF YOU HAVE TYPE 2 DIABETES

Worldwide, 347 million people have diabetes. 26 million Americans have it (8.3% of the population). In the Netherlands more than 1 million people have diabetes (6% of the population). On Bonaire around 10% of the population older than 55 have diabetes. Around 4 million people die each year from the complications of diabetes. In 2030 diabetes will be the 7<sup>th</sup> most important cause of death. (World Health Organization 2013, *Kon salu Boneiru ta 2002*).



The right diet can change a case of type 2 diabetes for the better, while eating the wrong foods can lead to dangerous complications. Luckily, it's not so difficult to eat well and enjoy food, even if you have diabetes.

There's no one-size-fits-all type of diabetic diet. Some people respond well to carbohydrate counting (keeping track of the amount of carbohydrates you ingest with each food product), others to portion control (adjusting portion size to produce desired blood sugar levels). Your dietitian can help you with this. After all everybody has different (carbohydrate) needs depending on weight, gender, amount of exercise, age, etc.

Meal planning for someone with type 2 diabetes is all about healthy eating with a balance of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. It's important not to eat (or drink) too many carbohydrates at one time as this will spike your blood sugar. (Carbohydrates can be found in starchy and sugary products like rice, potatoes, pasta, bread, pizza, sweets, fruit juices and fruit, sweets, cakes etc.). It is important to spread carbohydrate intake evenly throughout the day to keep the blood sugar stable.

### So, what should you choose?

- Eat loads of (non-starchy) vegetables like spinach, carrots, broccoli, green beans, cauliflower, tomatoes, etc. and two servings of fruit a day.
- Eat fiber rich foods like brown rice and whole wheat pasta, cereal and bread, starchy beans, lentils, vegetables, sweet potatoes, berries (especially raspberries and blackberries).
- Choose fish over meat at least twice a week.
- Eat healthy oils regularly like olive oil, avocados, nuts and seeds.
- For meat, choose lean pork, lean beef, or chicken or turkey with the skin removed.



Dairy (cheese, yogurt, milk) is important, but go for non-fat or semi-skimmed versions.

### Foods to Avoid

- Sodas, fruit juices and other sugar-sweetened drinks are chock-full of sugar. So opt for diet drinks, water or (green) tea.
- Sugary snacks (cookies, cakes, chips, ice cream) fill you up with empty calories and sugars. Choose healthier snack options instead

### A high-fiber diet can help people manage diabetes.

Fiber helps slow down the body's absorption of carbohydrates, which keeps blood sugar on a more even keel. Just keep in mind that even high-fiber foods raise blood sugar to some extent, so you always want to pair them with protein to help stabilize your blood sugar. For example, pair a piece of fruit with some nuts or cottage cheese, serve scrambled eggs with whole-grain toast, or enjoy a bowl of chili made with beans and lean ground turkey.

Eating well is one of the pleasures of life. If you have type 2 diabetes, you don't have to forgo the enjoyment of food. You just have to adapt and change your eating habits and, maybe, some of the foods you eat. ■ *Story by Lucinda van der Wardt*

More info: [www.foodandvitality.info](http://www.foodandvitality.info)  
tel: 599-7850170 [lucinda@foodandvitality.info](mailto:lucinda@foodandvitality.info)

*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 the Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk.*



## SGB OnTrack

*SGB On Track is a summary of the comments on the blog of Frans van Efferink, the new director of the SGB high school..*

What

really matters in high school education? It's high quality instruction for adolescents. I believe in making learning fun and practical for our students. It's crucial that educators connect with the world kids live in. Only then can we truly reach out to them and have them absorb what they are learning.



Next school semester 2016, SGB will introduce classes which combine theory and hands-on practice at the VMBO (pre-vocational school) level. The director of the VMBO unit created, together with her team leaders, this novel concept. The idea is to teach these classes with a connection to the local Bonairean culture and language. The two focus areas of the new classes will be Technique/Administration and Care/Well-Being. It's crucial that theory and hands-on practice will be com-

binated in the VMBO classes. For students, who might not learn well, but who probably have some idea what they would like to do, learning becomes more fun and real since the training connects to their future.

Another novel idea relating to the same concept, SGB has plans to experiment using laptops in two classes. These laptops are necessary to implement the knowledge students learn from the instructor. The teacher will help the students building vocabulary, if necessary, explaining in Papiamentu. Learning will be strengthened because the child's memory and understanding are approached in a fun way and on different levels. Internet makes it possible to practice and repeat while at the same time the student most likely will enjoy the learning process. When students enjoy what and how they learn, they're more likely to pass their exams as well.

These innovations at SGB are exciting for teachers and students alike, and yet, more wonderful events are happening soon. As some of you know, Liseo Boneriano will be expanded with a MAVO; therefore, a new building will be necessary to house more students. There are renovation plans for MBO, SLP and VMBO in the works too.

In short, SGB is improving inside and out. Staff and students seem to be enthusiastic about this change. And that's the dream of every director. ■ *Frans van Efferink (edited & translated by Karen B. Gilmour)*

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- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 - 8 pm  
**STRANGE LIVES OF SHARKS** Presentation at CIEE Research Station
- Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 - 9 pm  
**SHARK TRIVIA NIGHT** at Little Havana, prizes for winners
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> 6 - 10 pm  
**'SHARK ART EXTRAVAGANZA'** at Taste of Bonaire by El Mundo  
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NATIONALE POSTCODE LOTERIJ SAVE OUR SHARKS DCNA

# Rocargo Celebrates



Gathering of employees and management of Rocargo

Rocargo Services recently celebrated the anniversary of nine of its employees. Together these employees represent a total of 105 years of service at Rocargo Services. Rocargo is

The anniversaries were celebrated at Landhuis Wanapa during a festive evening with music and entertainment.

**Rodney Thode and Mariela Goeloe** were honored for their 30 years of service at Rocargo. **Dirtsa Koeks, Ludsilla Rosario and Errol Martha** were honored for their 10 years' anniversaries and **Marie St. Jago, Itishmira Croes, Deva Martha and Robert Croes** were honored for their 5 years of service at

Rocargo.

Marisela and Robert Jr. recollected how each of these employees started and developed through the years at Rocargo. The management team also acknowledged all the other employees with gratitude for their dedication at work and for the great service provided to every customer every day.

Special congratulations go to **Rodney Thode, warehouse manager,** and **Mariella Goeloe Dortalina, manager,** who are both celebrating their 30th anniversary. Rodney Thode and Mariella Goeloe were the first employees of Rocargo and have grown with the company



The hosts and some honored guests at the Wanapa party

ever since. Both have followed various in-house, national and international courses during their careers at Rocargo. This demonstrates that with great effort and collaboration companies and employees can work towards a bright future.

The management team and employees of Rocargo also said their farewells to their colleague **Annelien Beukenboom** who retired this year. **Annelien Beukenboom** just celebrated her 19th year of service at Rocargo.

Rocargo services also celebrated the renewal of their ISO 9001:2008\* certification without unconformities. Rocargo

Services is a ship and cargo handling agent on Bonaire and was the first Bonaire company to obtain an ISO 9002 quality certifications in the year 2000. ■

Press release/G.D.

\*ISO9001 is an internationally recognized Quality Management System. It is focused on ensuring the business delivers a consistent level of quality to its customers by having well defined and regularly reviewed processes and procedures.

## Bonaire Master Swimmers Win in UK.

Recently, over 10,000 athletes from 28 different countries came together to compete at the iconic (Olympic) London Aquatics Centre. **The Bonaire Barracudas Master swimmers have proven with honor that they belong to the 10 strongest swimming countries.**

**Simone Sweers, Anita Smits, Nathalie Petersen and Evy Witlox** competed against 67 national teams in the relay races. The most exciting team events were the **4x 50 freestyle in which they won an official certificate for the 8<sup>th</sup> place in a new national record and in the 4x50 medley were they managed to achieve a nice 10<sup>th</sup> place!**

Individually the women had to race against more than 100 competitors in their own age groups and achieved great results too. **Evy won an amazing silver medal and broke the Dutch national Masters record in the 200m. backstroke. She also captured the 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 100m. backstroke. Nathalie captured the 15<sup>th</sup> place in the 200m. butterfly with a new personal best time. Simone Sweers excelled in the freestyle events with a 16<sup>th</sup> place and a new personal best time. Anita Smits managed to finish in the top 20 in the races she swam.**

By participating in international championships, and especially a great event as the European Masters Championships, our swimmers showed youngsters and



Bonaire Barracudas photo

adults on Bonaire that "There is always a way to live up to your dreams and goals in life, no matter what your age." Sports and exercise promotes meeting people and respecting others. Last but not least it is a great, fun way to keep yourself disciplined and mentally and physically fit. They believe that social responsibility is very important and are therefore all involved in programs to educate youth on Bonaire in sports and health.

If you are you interested in these programs or if you like to support it please get in contact with: [barracudasbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:barracudasbonaire@gmail.com)

Like the team on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireBarracudas>

A special thank you to the sponsors for the amazing support: BonDiGro, Guardian Group (Fatum), Nature's Discount (Nutrition Center), Sorobon Beach Resort Bonaire, Digicel, MCB, TCB, Bon Bida Gym, FXDC-Communications, De Freewieler Bonaire, Mangasina di Boneiru (The Storehouse), *The Bonaire Reporter.* ■

Press release/G.D.

## Mangazina Workshops & Fun

During the Last Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei Mr. Wolter "Wotty" de Palm explained about tanning leather without chemical products.

One of the products he used was Bonairean salt. During the workshop he explained about the processes of tanning leather. He also showed how the leather would look like after each process. As part of the workshop Wotty informed the audience that a lot of goat skin goes to waste each year. As the final part Mr. Wolter "Wotty" de Palm showed a purse and a box made out of goat skin and sheep skin.

There were a lot of other activities on the program of the last Cultural Market such as the scarf workshop and a liquor workshop, demonstrating how to make an alcoholic beverage. Also as part of the program there were educational talks on topics such as traditional clothing, permaculture and organic agriculture and ancient games.

A lot of visitors came early in the morning to have a traditional breakfast with the local chocolate drink considered a favorite by many. The hamburger made of goat meat was much loved. During mid day you could get the local



Mangazina di Rei photo

Gruppo Krioyo Mangazina di Rei

traditional plates but this time there was something which attracted a lot of attention - a watermelon stew.

Later in the morning there was a live presentation of the local band "Grupo Krioyo," then during midday there was another live presentation of the local band "Grupo Wayaká" to close off the event.

To get an impression of the ambience during the last Cultural Market you may see the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei](http://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 of making the area of Rincon more attractive for tourism and leisure on the island.

**The next Cultural Market will be on Saturday, June 25, 8am to 2pm.**

See, Feel & Taste the lovely Culture of Bonaire at the Cultural Market of Mangazina di Rei. ■ *Izain J. Mercera*

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**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 13		03:11 0.18 ft	07:16 0.43 ft	14:29 -0.16 ft	20:59 0.71 ft	6:10	19:00
Tue 14		04:20 0.14 ft	08:04 0.31 ft	14:50 -0.10 ft	21:31 0.76 ft	6:11	19:01
Wed 15		05:29 0.09 ft	08:56 0.21 ft	15:06 -0.05 ft	22:02 0.80 ft	6:11	19:01
Thu 16		06:37 0.03 ft	10:00 0.13 ft	15:15 0.00 ft	22:34 0.83 ft	6:11	19:01
Fri 17		07:41 -0.03 ft	11:28 0.07 ft	15:10 0.03 ft	23:06 0.85 ft	6:11	19:01
Sat 18		08:39 -0.10 ft	23:41 0.87 ft			6:11	19:02
Sun 19		09:27 -0.15 ft				6:12	19:02
Mon 20	00:17 0.88 ft	10:08 -0.19 ft			Full Moon	6:12	19:02
Tue 21	00:56 0.89 ft	10:41 -0.22 ft				6:12	19:02
Wed 22	01:37 0.88 ft	11:09 -0.24 ft				6:12	19:03
Thu 23	02:21 0.85 ft	11:34 -0.25 ft				6:12	19:03
Fri 24	03:06 0.81 ft	11:56 -0.25 ft	18:26 0.34 ft	22:05 0.30 ft		6:13	19:03
Sat 25	03:54 0.74 ft	12:19 -0.25 ft	18:36 0.46 ft	23:45 0.28 ft		6:13	19:03
Sun 26	04:44 0.65 ft	12:43 -0.25 ft	19:00 0.59 ft			6:13	19:03
Mon 27	L Quarter	01:10 0.22 ft	05:37 0.55 ft	13:10 -0.25 ft	19:33 0.74 ft	6:13	19:03

*On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)*

beauty, whether it's diving, hiking, biking or bird watching. There is so much to do and to see on Bonaire."

"There are many, many people all over the world," *Berit says*, "who are birders and just like divers love fish, birders love birds. This island is a wonderful destination for people who love and want to observe them. If we could follow up on the Wetlands Plan Jerry Ligon introduced a couple of years ago and if there would be a follow up to Jerry's tours, it would bring people for sure.

While we're here primarily for scuba diving we love the rest of the island and its people and for sure those who are trying to save nature, like *Sabine Engel* with the bees and conch and *Elsmarie* reforesting Klein Bonaire and *Al Catafulmo* opening the wells, the sea turtle conservation and the coral restoration. And not many islands

have a Marine Park like Bonaire has! We're very happy we found this little Caribbean paradise. Even with all its challenges it is a wonderful place and we love it." ■



Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

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# 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.



Echo photo

Note that in this picture the mama pig is “rooting.” This is a common feeding behavior and one which makes them quite good at digging up prized mushrooms, but also which makes them infamous for destroying ornamental plants in people’s yards. Also, “rooting” is exactly as the name suggests, they are going after the root of the plant which is the main way that a plant gets its needed water and nutrients. When a plant loses its roots it rarely is able to survive.

## AS HUNGRY AS A.... HOG?!

Pigs are considered opportunistic omnivores, which means that they will eat just about anything. This can be good, if you want to keep them at home and have them eat all of your leftover kitchen scraps. But, it can also be really bad if they are left to roam and feed themselves on native vegetation, agricultural crops, and home gardens. Most of a pig’s diet consists of plant matter (approximately 85-90%), but the rest is made up of animal matter. What animals do pigs eat? Well, whatever they encounter, really. They are known to eat the eggs of ground-nesting birds, small reptiles and amphibians, and even small mammals, most of which we have on Bonaire.



This pig attended Rincon Day festivities

food is available is one of the main reasons why they have been so successful in establishing themselves wherever people have introduced them. And, Bonaire is no exception.

**Remember:** We Live from our Nature! (*Nos ta Biba di Naturalesa*) ■ Story and photo by Lauren Schmaltz for Echo

Information for this article was borrowed from:

- <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/frequently-asked-questions-wild-pigs/>
- <http://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/feral-hog>
- <http://articles.extension.org/pages/63655/food-habits-of-feral-hogs>

For information about this project, please email [Julianka@echobonaire.org](mailto:Julianka@echobonaire.org) or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS).

### Time for a simple math problem:

If a wild pig weighs 100 kilos and needs to eat about 3% of his body weight each day and 90% of what he eats is plant matter, how much vegetation do you think he will eat each day? Send me your answers!

Wild pigs compete with native animals for access to food resources, which is a concern here on Bonaire, especially now, when all plants and animals are suffering from the severe and prolonged drought we have been experiencing. Pigs will adjust their diets according to what is seasonably available and will eat as much as they can of a preferred food whenever they find it.

So, for example, it would be like having me and my friends buying all of the mangos when the one shipment of the week comes in on the *Don Andres*, and leaving almost none for you. For our native fauna (animals and birds) who may have more restricted diets this could mean that they are not getting enough of the foods that they need. The ability of pigs to adjust their diet based on what



# DID YOU KNOW?



Internet photo

Several Divers on Bonaire have encountered whale sharks during shore dives

That the whale shark is the largest living species of fish on the planet? They are not actually whales, just whale-sized! Whale sharks can grow over 12m (40’) in length. That’s the length of a school bus. They can weigh up to 21.5 tons (47,000 lbs) - that’s the weight of five pick-up trucks put together!

Surprisingly, these massive sharks eat some of the smallest things in the ocean: they filter feed on plankton and tiny fish. Young whale sharks eat about 21 kg (46 pounds) of plankton every day to support their enormous energy needs- that’s the weight of 100 hamburgers! It not just adults that are massive. Whale sharks have the largest eggs of any animal on Earth, reaching up to 35cm (14”) in diameter. That’s the size of a basketball. Some species of sharks lay eggs, while others give birth to live young.

Whale sharks are a mix of both. The eggs develop inside a mother until they are ready

to hatch, and she gives birth to fully developed babies. Unfortunately, these gentle giants are endangered. They are targeted for oil, medicine and meat.

Learn more fun facts about sharks and local shark conservation efforts during STINAPA’s Bonaire Shark Week, June 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>. The event kicks off Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Kas di Regatta from 3 to 7:30pm. See you there!

For the complete Shark Week Schedule please go to [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org). ■

Hannah Rempel

Hannah Rempel is the STINAPA Monitoring & Outreach Intern; she has a B.A. in biology from Lewis & Clark College.



(*Piedra So Golf -Continued from page 7*) the potential golf scene -- seemed ideal for Artie to drive, pitch and putt a few balls. He grabbed his ole golf bag with rusty clubs, removed rocks, created “holes” from discarded car tires in the area, and *voilà*, a nine-hole golf course was born, on which, soon enough, a few other participants would join him.



Sunday at the driving range

Founded officially in 2004, nothing much about Piedra So has changed since. A few bushes have been chopped and the brush pushed back. The car tires have been replaced by regulation-style holes, pins and flags and a couple of the existing “browns” are now scheduled for an upgrade in green with artificial turf. Piedra So’s three-member board hopes that this latest improvement will attract more members.

In addition to casual play on this unique course, current members particularly enjoy the club’s monthly tournaments. Players bring food and drinks while typically playing a competitive nine holes. Golf lessons are frequently available and membership fees are remarkably inexpensive. And, hey, Piedra So is a genuine 18-hole course, desert-like and challenging. But watch out, you might just really love it.

But why, for Pete’s sake, would you really want to play golf here? Let me tell you. Piedra So is Bonaire’s best-kept secret. It’s certainly not for wussies. Surrounded by our beloved donkeys and goats, flowering Cadushis and Acacias, you beat the blazes out of a little ball while listening to singing birds and crashing ocean waves. You taste the salty air and feel the sun’s desert-hot rays on your back whilst attempting to score a three-, four- or five-par hole on a dog-legged course. When your partner screws up even worse than you do because all his balls end up in the pricklers, you laugh. You shrug your shoulders. You continue on to the next hole. What a great day.

■ Story & photos by Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour



# What's Happening



## REGULAR EVENTS

**Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

**Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

**Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park)** Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

## Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (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, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items

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

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

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

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

#	DAY	NAME	Time in Port	Cruise Line
<b>Cruise Ship Schedule</b>				
58	28-06-16	<i>Adventure of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	Royal Caribbean

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

## Sundays

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

## Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950-** Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

•**Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: *Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma* and the newest book, *Reef Windows*. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

## Wednesdays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.

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

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

•**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **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 appreci-

ated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

**Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. **Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

**Lions Club** meets every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

**Toastmasters Club** meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Crusita 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

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

[ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto: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 16—Wine Tasting at Barrel.** Includes six wines and complimentary small bites, \$25 per person. South Pier Mall. More on page 7

**June 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Defiwind Challenge**-long distance kite and windsurfing event. Details at [www.http://defiwindcaribbean.com/](http://defiwindcaribbean.com/)

**June 16-19 Sorobon Masters**— at Sorobon Beach. Schedule and details at [www.http://sorobonmasters.com](http://sorobonmasters.com)

**Saturday, June 18—Birdwatching with STINAPA**, at LVV, 5-6:30pm. More on page 6

**June 19-25 -Bonaire Shark Week.** Event schedule at [www.Stinapa.org](http://www.Stinapa.org) and Facebook. More on page 9 & 12

**Sunday, June 19—Shark Week Kick-off**, Kas di Regatta, 3-7:30pm. Movies and more on pages 9 & 12

**Monday, June 20—Fire jumping performance.** for San Juan and San Pedro period. Bonaire Museum on the waterfront. Evening hours

**Saturday-June 25—Taste of Bonaire....Fire jumping performance,** Wilhelmina Park. Foods, drinks, music, dancing. From 6pm, Wilhelmina Park



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## BEAUTY

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

## BIKES

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

## DENTURE REPAIR

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## ON and IN the WATER

**Budget Marine** has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems. Ad on page 11.

**Dive Friends** has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket. See pg. 2

## LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

**The Wine Barrel** has one of the island's widest selection of wines and spirits at Bonaire's new "In Spot," the South Pier Mall. It's a classy bar/bistro in the evening and sells a wide selection of alcoholic beverages in the day. See ad on page 7.



## 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

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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 things 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.



## SECURITY

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## SUPERMARKETS

### TOP Supermarket—

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## 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)

# 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.

## FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS



**S**ila came to the Shelter as one of a litter of four dogs. Her siblings were quickly adopted but she stayed a while. Until.....that perfect family came along.



Sila en-route to SFO

They were visiting from California and stopped by the Shelter to look at the puppies and collectively fell in love with Sila and she with them.

Plans were made and a month later Sila went on her big trip. She went with one of the Shelter people to escort her to her new home. Leaving Bonaire early morning, a stop in Miami and on to San Francisco where after a few tense moments she was accepted by her new buddy, Bonita. They live in a fabulous section, close to a wilderness area where the dogs go for daily walks and Sila loves it!

Her new family is thrilled to pieces

with her, especially the kids. It doesn't get any better than this! ■

### STERILIZATION FUND



The Bonaire Animal Shelter tries to stimulate the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. To make it accessible for all the pet owners on Bonaire the **spaying and neutering is free of charge for all and paid by the Animal Shelter Bonaire**. For information call 7174989/7014989 or e-mail to: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

If you'd like to support the fund by means of a donation please make a deposit in MCB bank account #10616410 (Sterilization Fund) ■

Nathalie Peterson

# Pet Of The Week

**T**his sweet little girl is a cat cuddler's dream cat! Mona, with her unique "batman" mask, arrived at the Shelter all alone in April. She was about 10 weeks old and it was clear from the beginning that she was accustomed to human attention and affection. She would cry and "mon-a" until she was picked up and held. The minute a human hand touched her, she began to purr at an incredibly loud volume.



Photo: Monique Degenaar

Mona

After Mona was examined for good health and received her vaccinations, worm and flea medicine, she was cleared for transfer to the "kitty kresh," the area in the main compound where kittens run free and play without interference from the adult residents. But Mona would have no part of that! She wasn't interested in playing with other kittens; she wanted to be out in the large compound where human volunteers and visitors are more frequently present.

Mona follows people around like a little dog and is quite vocal about what she wants. "Please hold me, pet me, love me!" Her purr has grown louder as she continues to grow, and she is content to sit by your side "rumbling" away after she has gotten her dose of "hands on" affection. Mona is now

about four months old and a perfect addition to a home with children as she loves to be handled, or to an adult home that enjoys the close and loyal companionship of a beautiful feline. She gets along well with other cats, but is more than happy to play on her own until her human is at hand.

You can visit Mona and all her Shelter companions at the Animal Shelter Bonaire on the Lagun Road, telephone 717-4989. They're open Tuesday through Friday 9am to noon and 3 to 5pm. Saturday 8am to 3pm, non-stop. Take a look at the "kitty cam" at [www.bonairecatcam.com](http://www.bonairecatcam.com). ■

Jane Madden Disko



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# THE STARS HAVE IT

## 2nd Half of 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 this month 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 this month 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 this month 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 this month 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 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

### PLANETS IN JUNE

Soon after the Sun sets and the sky becomes sufficiently dark to see the brighter stars, our attention is drawn to not one, but three bright planets. High in the southern part of the sky we can see silvery-white **Jupiter**, while low in the south-southeast glows amber colored **Mars**, while cream-colored **Saturn** is coming up over the south-east horizon.

Jupiter, the brightest of the bunch, is found in the western half of the sky and lights up the night until midnight or later. Mars, only a touch fainter than Jupiter, shines above Saturn in the southeast sky at nightfall. Saturn was closest to **Earth** for the year on **June 3**, less than four days after Mars' closest approach to Earth on **May 30**. Mars and Saturn shine close to the supergiant **red star Antares** on the sky's dome, painting a bright and colorful triangle on the blackboard of night. Not only are Mars and Saturn at their brightest and best in late May and early June, they're out all night long. **Mercury** appears as a morning "star" before sunrise, though this morning showing of Mercury greatly favors the Southern Hemisphere. The brightest planet – **Venus** – is lost in the glare of Sun in June as it **transitions from morning to evening star**.

For all of us, Jupiter sets in the west at or around midnight. It will remain a fine evening object throughout July and into August. Jupiter is almost impossible to miss. It's the fourth-brightest celestial object, after the Sun, Moon and Venus. But Venus is now lost in the glare of the Sun, so Jupiter rules the nighttime on June evenings. Although Mars is not all that much fainter than Jupiter in early June, Jupiter and Mars are nowhere close together on the sky's dome. As evening falls, Mars and Saturn sit rather low in the southeast sky, while Jupiter appears in the western half of sky. Most of all, Mars' bloody-red color is dead giveaway of the red planet. Jupiter, on the other hand, shines bold white.

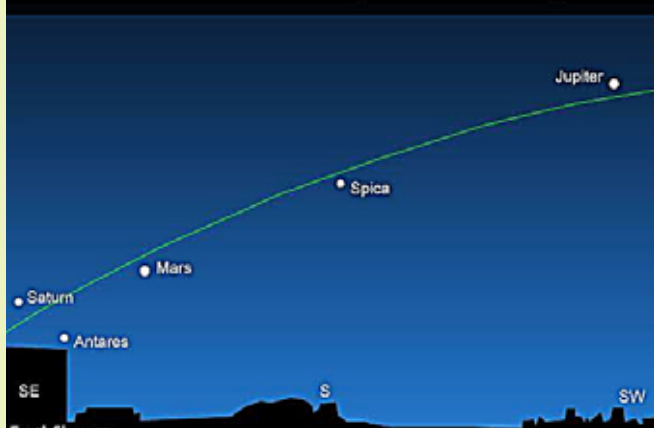
Saturn, dusk until dawn, shines near Mars. The ringed planet starts the month rising in the east around sunset. That's because Saturn will be at **opposition – opposite the Sun in Earth's sky** – on June 3. At opposition, Saturn is rising in the east at sunset, and setting in the west at sunrise. At midnight, meanwhile, Saturn is highest up for the night. By the month's end, Saturn will be coming up in the east roughly two hours before sunset and will soar to its highest point for the night around 10 pm local time (11 pm local Daylight Saving Time).

Mars will eventually catch up with Saturn on August 24, to present a **conjunction** of these two worlds in the August evening sky.

Watch for the Moon to swing by Saturn for several days, centered on or near June 18.

If you have binoculars (on a tripod) or a telescope, it's fairly easy to see Jupiter's four major moons, which look like pin-pricks of light on or near the same plane. They are often called the **Galilean Moons** to honor Galileo, who discovered these great **Jovian Moons** in 1610. In their order from Jupiter, these moons are **Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto**. ■  
*Dean Regas & James Albury*

### Southeast to Southwest, June 2016 Nightfall



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