

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Dec 5-19, 2016, Year 23, Issue 23
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 777-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

*Sanikolas Comes
To Town
Page 9*

*Bonaire's Future?
Page 6*



Donna Wuyts-DeSalvo photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Bonaire continues to shine as a premier dive destination as the island secured 12 different awards in the 2016 Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice



Awards, including three #1 rankings. For the 24th consecutive year, Bonaire has maintained its first place position with the #1 Shore Diving Destination in the Caribbean/Atlantic region. Bonaire received first place in two other Caribbean/Atlantic categories: Best Macro Diving and Best Diving for Beginners

► **Gas prices rose slightly in December**

Gasoline 95 octane	101.67 ct. per liter.
Kerosene	51.30
Diesel	58.10
LPG 100LBS	\$30.36
LPG 20LBS	\$7.83



► Last week the Bonaire Executive Council signed a memorandum of understanding with businessman Gerrit Shoe to build the first multi-level parking garage on the island at the site of the old Ford garage in downtown Kralendijk on Kaya Princess Marie. The building was purchased over 10 years ago together with the nearby Cultimara (now Top) supermarket. Approximately 250 cars can be accommodated.

► As reported in the *Curaçao Chronicle*, according to Curaçao aviation expert Nelson Ramiz, **InselAir has 17 aircraft. Currently, they only operate four of them.** 12 of those aircraft are either damaged or going through heavy checks that instead of taking 45 days are taking months due to the lack of money.

Some aircraft are simply thrown into a corner of the airport that is known as the graveyard. This graveyard serves as a warehouse for parts, components, engines, and fuselage parts that are removed trying to keep the four operating aircraft flying.

Ramiz said, "In my experience ..., the majority of these aircraft are thrown there without the proper storage procedures collecting corrosion in a very adverse location. We must remember the proximity to the ocean."

► **Several days later InsulAir responded. It said it has 14 aircraft: four MD 82s, two MD 83s, four Fokker 50s and four Fokker 70s.** It is operating nine planes currently, and plans to up it to 12 for the high season in July 2017. It is doing its own heavy maintenance (C-check) since 2013 in their hangar at Curaçao Airport. The InselAir spokesman added, "InselAir is, since 2011, an IOSA-certified airline. IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit) is the highest global benchmark for airline safety. InselAir also meets the requirements of the US FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). Due to implemented actions and measures InselAir has managed to improve the on-time performance from 60% to 72% in recent weeks and strives to get it back to 85%, which would be above the industry standard."

► **Charter airline TUIfly suspended its code share cooperation agreement with InselAir** a few weeks after KLM did. It is rebooking its passengers on other airlines, it said without saying which ones. This was confirmed by TUI. InselAir is struggling with flight delays, cancellations and financial problems as a result of a long outstanding claim of \$100 million for tickets sold in Venezuela, yet to be released. The veracity of this claim was not confirmed. The Curaçao government, which holds 21% of the InselAir stock, has been reluctant to advance Insel another loan.



► The red turboprop airplane frequenting Flamingo airport is an **InselAir Fokker 50 still partly wearing Avianca livery.** Insel has other ex-Avianca Fokkers but they have been repainted.

► **TELBO announced that clients will be billed in advance for the fixed costs of telephony, TV and/or internet.** The variable costs (phone calls) will be charged afterwards at the end of the month. In the previous billing system, all customers receive an invoice at the end of the corresponding month in which they are billed for the fixed and variable costs of the past month. As part of the new billing system you will receive a new Account Number (*Klantenummer*) on your invoice. Customers who object to paying both invoices in one month may apply for deferred payment of the invoice with the fixed and variable costs of the past month. For additional information call 9212 free.



► **The Reporter has had several inquiries about the many mushrooms appearing around the island.** We asked Herman Sieben, the Director of STINAPA, who is knowledgeable about the mushrooms of the European Netherlands. He wrote that he is now also learning the mushrooms of Bonaire. The most common mushroom is *Podaxis pistillaris* at left. **The mushroom is not edible.** A few day ago he found an edible species of *Lepista* at right. (see photos) **Do not eat any mushrooms growing in Bonaire unless you obtain verification of their suitability from an expert!**

► **BOAT PARTY! Sunday December 11th there will be lots going on at Kant'i Awa snack and Kas di Regatta.** Popular band RPM will be playing live music with Reggae tunes and more. Johnny Kleinmodig will also be playing live Latin tunes. You never know who else may jump in and jam for a bit! There will be music all day long. There is BBQ and lots of other food and drinks and the coldest beer on the island available, no need to go hungry or thirsty. Come play in the water, with or without a boat!

► **Want to compete in the triathlon or sailing events?** It is time to come in and sign up at Budget Marine. The Short Triathlon is a

(Continued on page 3)

This Week's Stories

Marriott Courtyard Opens	3
Letter to the Editor— Computer Leak?	5
Bonaire's Future? James Finies	6
MCB's Annual Merit Awards	7
Prisoners' Art Show	7
Must Be Underwater Love	8
Cover Story—Sinterklas Arrives	9
Bonaire Maritime Film Festival	10
Animal Shelter Auction	10
Green Label Changes Hands— But Gradually!	14
1200 New Trees -Echo	14
Working Together for Animals	15

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On The Island Since (Eric Hagens & Estefani Pabon)	4
Picture Yourself (Stockholm, Sweden)	5
A Garden—Just Do It (Taming the Garden)	9
Classifieds, Masthead	11
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	11
What's Happening + Cruise Ship	12
Bonaire Sky Park (Goodbye Summer Triangle. Hello Orion)	13
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	13
Did You Know? Ruddy Turnstones	14
Pet of the Week (Plito)	15
Pets and Fireworks	15

How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"

The Publisher: George DeSalvo
George@bonairenews.com
Phone 777-6125

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

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

Available on-line at:

www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,

On-line every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Story and Ad deadline:

Friday, December 16, 2016



TUNG FONG STORE N.V.

"The Store With Almost Everything"

Kaya Korona 52 Tel. 599 - 717 4224 FAX. 599 - 717 5224

Opening hours: 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

Green Label Kaya Industria 28
Tel: 7178310, info@greenlabelbonaire.nl
www.greenlabelbonaire.nl

Open Monday to Friday
07:30-12:00 & 14:00-17:30
Saturday 08:00-13:00



Green Label Red & White Poinsettia's, Orchids, Kalanchoe, Spathiphyllum & More



As the Nobel Poet Laureate Bob Dylan wrote, "The times they are a changin';" at least for Bonaire. This was made very evident when Bonaire's first hotel, part of an international brand hotel chain, opened last Friday.

The 140-room Marriott Courtyard opened on schedule on Friday, December 2. Antoinette van den Burg, Area Marketing Director for Marriott, explained that The Courtyard brand, usually associated with business hotels also has leisure properties and was a good fit for the island because of its affordable rates, quality amenities and service. Fifty-five new jobs were created.

Introductory rates are \$128-209 per room and the hotel has a canal-side infinity pool, whirlpool, fitness center, dive shop, spacious public rooms, restaurants and bar. Miami-based Azul Properties N.V. is the well-respected owner of the resort.

The 18-month long task rescued the abandoned buildings of an earlier venture and is one of the last sections of the original Flamingo Paradise development which created the canals by blasting channels in the limestone shore. ■ G.D.



The official opening: Shown are Pedro Vera of Azul Properties, Governor Rijna, young author Guillaume Martiszoon who cut the ribbon. The pastor of St. Bernardus Church did the blessing.



General Manager Koen Hietbrink is no stranger to Bonaire. Fifteen years ago he began his hospitality career as an intern at Harbour Village.



Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 2)
great start for a first time triathlon. (\$15 per person for sailing or triathlon). You do not need to sign up for the boat party. The clubs will have fantastic games for kids at the waterfront. There will be Grabbel ton, face painting, ring toss and many more. **Come support Hart Voor Bonaire, Jong Bonaire, Bonaire Barracudas, Bonaire Sailing Association and the Athletics federation**, or just come and have a great day at the sea!

► **Budget Marine has reusable shopping bags for you.** Big bag free with a \$50 purchase. If you just want the coolest bag in town the small bags cost \$1 and the large \$2.



► **Want the perfect fun gift for a young lady?** Or use the eco-friendly nail polish for yourself. Several great long-lasting colors available. **Pass by Penny Lane, downtown and buy a bottle.** Their slogan is "Natural As Mud."



► **Christmas plants like red and white poinsettias, orchids and more** have arrived at Green Label garden cen-

ter. Get yours before they run out.

► **Holiday time is when we eat more than usual.** Counteract that by exercising more. **Bon Bida gym has weights, machines and classes to get you more fit and lose weight if you must. It has the only spin studio on Bonaire.** Spinning is increasingly popular in America and Europe because it burns the maximum number of calories but allows a person to set his/her own pace stimulated by motivational music and instruction. Pass by on Monday, Wednesday or Saturday mornings and check it out. The first class is free.

► **Bonaire's Sunfish Sailing team was disappointed with their performance at the World Sunfish Regatta** in Colombia last month. Ultra light winds put our team at a disadvantage because they rarely get to practice in those conditions here. But a good time was had and the team gained experience and respect for the light wind sailors.

► While new restaurants are springing up, familiar ones are closing. The **unique Lac Baai Restaurant on the east side of Bonaire run by the team of Raoul, Persia, Marcel and Dave** closed on November 27. It will reopen on January 10 with a new team and chef.

► **The next edition of The Reporter is just before Christmas.** If you want an advertising message get your ad in before 16 December. ■ G./L.D.

FOR SALE New Development RESORT BONAIRE



PRICES:

Hardin Apartment

Ground floor unit (2-4 persons)
Start at \$ 194.500 US Dollar

Bunita Apartment

First floor unit (4-6 persons)
Start at \$ 229.500 US Dollar

Abundante Penthouse

Top floor unit (4-6 persons)
Start at \$ 384.500 US Dollar

Prices are excluding 8% VAT and notary costs.

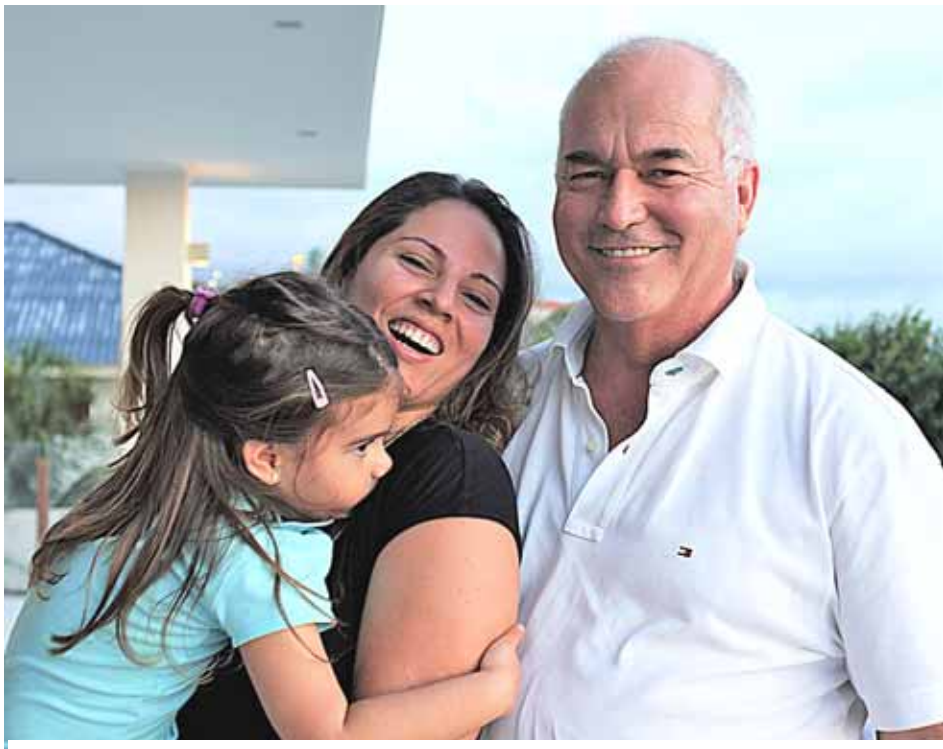
Located south of the airport, just a stone's throw away from the Caribbean Sea, a brand new complex is being built. Resort Bonaire will be finished by the summer of 2017. The resort will feature a beautiful tropical garden, large swimming pool with bar and a sandy beach!

Contact us for more information.



Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire

On the Island Since... 1986 and 1999 - Eric Hagens and Estefani Pabon



Emily, Estefani and Eric



At the practice: Eric and his assistants Sandra Yepes-Castro and Ana Maria Montoya.

“My mother was a purebred Amsterdam girl from a neighborhood called ‘De Pijp.’ My father was from Surinam, but his dad was Chinese and his mom from Chinese/Portuguese descent. Originally my family name was Tjon A Kien, which was later changed – for various reasons - into Hagens. My mom and dad had met in Holland where my father was studying to become a doctor. After my father graduated they came to live in Surinam where I was born.

When I was 16 I left for Holland to finish VWO and become a pilot. My father was not a fan of the idea but he let me because there were about 300 candidates and only 30 would be selected, so he thought I wouldn’t make it. But when I came closer to the final selection he told me he didn’t want me to become a flying bus driver and that I should choose a different education. So I went to university to study dentistry. However, my father did pay for a private training for me to become a pilot and I was 19 when I became one. In 1979 I graduated as a dentist. I was 22, the youngest graduated dentist in Holland ever. Immediately I left for Surinam. All the time it had been my dream to go home and build my life.

Pretty soon I found out that the political situation was very tense. It was a few months before the coup of February 1980, but little did we know at the time. As the situation worsened I decided to leave for Aruba where I could take over a dental practice. My very first patient asked me when I called him in, ‘When is the dentist coming?’ He grins. “Yeah... I was 22...”

For me personally it was a big change: the culture, the smallness of the island, always the same faces and the language – Papiamentu. But I adapted fast, however, I never lost hope and my dream to go back to Surinam one day stayed alive. You see, I love nature and I love to grow my own produce. My dad used to have his own chicken farm, and we had fruit trees and every day we would eat fresh

from the land. It’s so different from the life we have here.

In 1986 I came to Bonaire and opened my own practice. On Aruba the Lago Refinery had closed and Aruba was sinking into a deep depression. Bonaire was quiet. From the airport you could see Kralendijk. I slept with my windows and doors open and I never had to lock my car. I kept my practice on Aruba and worked one week here, one week there.

While flying back and forth all the time the ‘flying-virus’ resurfaced and my dream job popped back into my mind. I applied at Air Aruba because they needed pilots. In 1995 I got a call asking if I could pass by the office. They told me I was selected to fly the next Monday to Miami. Maybe they thought I would never give up my practice to fly as a co-pilot, but I had my secretary cancel my patients and went flying! I sold my practice on Aruba but kept the one on Bonaire where I worked my three free days every week. I felt very lucky! Why did I do it? I didn’t want to die thinking ‘if only...’ So, I did it. I lived it and it was fun! I flew for seven years, then Air Aruba went bankrupt in 2000.

My first son, Andrew, was born in 1988 and after the birth of my second son Emill in 1989 (named after my grandpa who came from China and couldn’t spell very well) I got married. I stayed on Aruba and came three days a week to Bonaire. Then Andrew went to study in Holland in 2006 and Emill followed in 2008. The day he left I also left and went to live on Bonaire. My marriage had failed. I was already in the process of divorce when I met Estefani Pabon.”

“I went to apply for a job at Sentro Dental Bonaire,” Estefani says, “where I was hired by Eric who wanted to train me as a dental assistant. The new building at Kaya Soeur Bartola was just finished and there were two treatment rooms while he had only one assistant. The work was interesting. One week later, on a Friday, he asked me to go with him for a happy

hour and I said, ‘No, I prefer to stay at home.’ He started teasing me: ‘You’re so young and so boring, so I said, ‘Huh! Let’s go!’ And that’s how it all started. He is a quiet guy, he’s not possessive and not controlling. In fact he was the exact opposite of my ex-boyfriend. He was a grown-up and I liked it.”

“For me it was a challenge’ Eric says. “She was a very attractive girl. I had to give in many times, but it was the same for her and now I feel I’ve really grown up. My problem is that I don’t have the patience to explain things to people because I don’t understand why they don’t get it immediately.” “We talked a lot after work,” Estefani says, “and I also pointed out to him that his behavior wasn’t so nice and he took it to heart. He changed a lot, in a positive way. When our relationship became strong we felt we were missing something, and after having been together for five years we decided to start a family and our daughter Emily was born in 2013.”

“When my sons were born,” Eric says, “I was an ambitious dentist, eager to build a future. I was at a different time in my life. Luckily the relationship I have with my sons now is 1000%. We have a very intense contact and they are happy with their little sister. Both of them live in Holland where Emill is an economist with Nike International and Andrew is Head of Research and Development with Finaps in Amsterdam.

To have a three year old daughter at my age is precious. Of course it comes with challenges because she has just started and I am over the hill, which is something I think about often. But every day it’s a joy to come home and Emily is very attached to me. She is a sweet girl – just like her mom – but she has a strong will just like me and her mom! I grew up in a culture where we didn’t snuggle a lot. It was more about order and duty - but Estefani is a real Latina who is sweet and warm and who gives us a lot of attention.” “Eric was cold when I met him,” Estefani laughs “but now he likes to cuddle too!

I am from Cúcuta, Colombia, and came to Bonaire in 1999 with my mother and my brother Jason. I was 10 and Jason was 11 when we arrived here. I was super happy: a new life, a new school, new kids – a new challenge - that’s what I love! I had a real nice time and as there was only one high school, all the children of Bonaire were together. It was like we were one family and all of us went out on the boulevard on Friday night! It was fun! Bonaire has been good to me and I love the island.”

“When I moved here in 2008,” Eric says, “I immediately decided to build a new practice. Throughout the years it has grown from a solo-practice to an all-around oral care facility where dentistry from A-Z is offered. We have 11 people working here, but the orthodontist, the implantologist, the periodontist and (via the hospital) the dental surgeons (because we have the equipment) come to work here on a regular basis. Today we had the IGZ (Health Inspection) from Holland visiting and they were very impressed with the progress. Also they mentioned that our practice is absolutely not inferior to one in the Netherlands. I worked hard to come to this level and I’m still working hard and spending a lot of time and money to keep it up to date. And in my pursuit of perfection I recently followed an education about cosmetics around the mouth. Nowadays I’m allowed to use fillers and Botox to complete the perfect smile.

My life is perfect; I found a real good balance. I love to be home and I would rather have people coming here than to go out. I love my garden where I have a lot of different fruit trees and vegetables from Surinam and of course I do miss my country – its nature and its fertile land, and one never knows about the future, but for now I am happy here.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





COMPUTER LEAKING?

Dear Editor:

Before I came to the Caribbean in 2008, I bought a new laptop in Vancouver with an extended warranty and fearing overheating, I bought an under-laptop cooling fan.

Every Saturday night, I perform a full weekly backup to an external USB drive. Before I went to bed, I checked that the backup was complete, disconnected the external disk and turned off the laptop and had a good night sleep, knowing I had a backup copy safely tucked away.

One particular Sunday morning, I went into my home office and turned on the laptop and it didn't start up. I thought "This is why I bought the extra 2 year warranty" and looked for the warranty forms. Of course, the warranty expired YESTERDAY!

I was now a bit frustrated, so I picked up the laptop wondering which Window™ to throw it out of, and noticed a puddle of water on the cooling fan. When I moved the cooling fan, there was an even bigger puddle of water on the desk.

Being a geek at heart, I got out my screwdrivers and took apart the laptop (all 39 screws) only to find it was very wet inside. I put a bit of the water on my finger and tasted it and it was very salty.

It was at that point that the numbers

added up and I checked the under-laptop cooling fan and realized that I forgot to turn it off.

All night it had been cooling a cool computer in a hot humid climate, causing the salt water to condense and basically short out the computer.

With nothing to lose, I removed the hard drive and took the motherboard to the kitchen sink and washed it with soap and water, much to the chagrin of my wife.

I put it out in the sun to dry, and then reassembled it and BINGO, it worked!!!

That was in 2009 and I am writing this article on the same computer, but now I remember to turn off the cooling fan each night.

Brian Niessen

Brian Niessen a Canadian computer consultant, recently arrived on Bonaire, who has been working in IT since 1976. He plans to do computer consulting here.

He has offered to help our readers with their computer problems. If you have any questions you would like answered, email Brian@BonaireTechSupport.com and if he can't answer them in a column in *The Reporter*, he will answer them on the Bonaire Tech Support Facebook page or website at www.BonaireTechSupport.com

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Stockholm, Sweden



Bonaire personality Pierre Perigault Monte sends us greetings from Stockholm, Sweden along with his copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Pierre has been active in helping with Bonaire youngsters at FORMA and Jong Bonaire.

WIN A DINNER AT A TOP BONAIRE RESTAURANT: Send your photo to reporter @bonairenews.com to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture.

ROCARGO
Logistics Services, B.V.

Kaya Industria #12, PO Box 20, Kralendijk, Bonaire, C.N.
Phones (599) 717 8922 / (599) 717 8033
WEB- www.Rocargo.com Email: info@rocargo.com
Office Hours: 07:30-12:00 13:30-17:00



Offering solid, reliable and efficient service in Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire since 1982.
-Shipping Agents, Cruise and Yacht Agents.
- Cargo Handling: incoming and outgoing moving by air or by sea.
- International Freight Forwarders: regular service from U.S.A., Europe, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Curacao.- All types of Cargo and Projects. Movements handled.- Customs Clearance.- Stevedoring.- Inland Transportation- Air Courier Services-- Bonded Warehouse.
- Storage Warehouse Rental.



From the USA

AMCAR FREIGHT, INC.

Amcar Freight, Inc.

The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Miami, USA to Bonaire
www.amcarfreight.com

Amcar Freight
12600 NW 25 Street
Suite 107
Miami, FL 33182
Tel. (305) 599-8866
Fax (305) 599-2808

From Europe

International Freight (Car) BV

The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Europe/Holland to Bonaire
www.ifc-consolidators.nl

Jupiterweg 1A (Ecopark)
4761 RW Moerdijk, Holland
Tel 31-(0) 168-40-94 94
Fax 31-(0) 168-40 94 70

Bonaire's Future?

Lots of people on Bonaire want the United Nations to intervene to pressure the Netherlands to redefine the constitutional structure of their island and sister islands that has existed for more than six years.

After Bonaire voters chose the option of "direct ties to the Kingdom" of the Netherlands in a 2004 Referendum, in 2005, a Round Table Conference of officials from the Netherlands Antilles and Dutch governments laid the groundwork for the determination the future of the islands. Both Curaçao and St. Maarten would become semi-autonomous countries ("status aparté") of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, (as Aruba had in 1986), while Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (the BES islands) would be a "public entity" within the Netherlands.

Consequently on October 10, 2010, the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved and the new political/constitutional structure became effective. During the next six years the results of the changes became apparent. Not everyone was pleased with the results, especially in the BES Islands. One of the most vocal critics of the structure was James Fines, a former executive of a local bank, who founded the Foundation *Nos Kier Boneiru Bek- NKBB* (We Want Bonaire Back) to call attention to the inequalities and problems. He conducted a long-running sit-in during 2014/15, only stopping when the local government agreed to a new Referendum.

On Friday, December 1, Finies, in collaboration with Davika Bissessar, Chairwoman of The "We Dare To Care Founda-



L→R: Davika Bissessar, James Finies, Fulbright Scholar Ms. Livingstone and Dr. Corbin

tion," took a bold step. They organized a critical public forum focusing on the political future of the Dutch-administered Caribbean in a well-attended conference in the Cacique Hall of Plaza Resort. Topics explored included the implications of the October 10, 2010 (10/10/10) changes focusing on the self-determination of the BES islands – as well as other Caribbean territories, with the possibility of joining the United Nations list as Non-Self Governing Territories (NSGTs).

Keynote speaker of the conference was the honorable Dr. Carlyle Corbin, United Nations expert and main advisor to the government of French Polynesia regarding its historical relisting as an NSGT. The full-afternoon symposium was followed that evening by a fundraising "Gala" at Eddie's Restaurant. At least 80 attendees listened and participated as government officials and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

specialists from various cultures and backgrounds discussed the political status options for island dependencies to achieve full political and social equality. Noticeably absent were official representatives from St. Eustatius (said to be engaged in immediately pressing governmental issues on that island), Saba, and the Dutch Kingdom (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland*).

Nilco Rollan, who MC'd the event, first introduced all participants to a chillingly beautiful rendition of the Bonaire National Hymn, followed by a moment of silence for the fallen heroes who fought for the freedom of Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. The song *Pueblo Ta Cry* ("A Nation is Crying"), performed by some of Bonaire's finest young artists, clearly moved the entire audience. The colorfully filmed ballad, according to Davika Bissessar, reflects the ongoing problems on Bonaire, such as the socio-economic and cultural differences within the



Davika Bissessar and James Finies

island's diverse culture.

Among several guest speakers from other islands, notably Aruba and Curaçao, who elaborated on the evolution of autonomous country status and other dependency and semi-dependency arrangements, was Ful-



Governor Rijna and Carlyle Corbin

bright scholar, Ms. Lodesca Livingstone, from Providencia Island, Columbia. Ms. Livingstone compared Providencia Island's efforts to preserve its cultural traditions (its English-language colonial history with Great Britain, later as a dependency of the Columbian government and its subsequent fight for political and cultural freedom) to NKBB's current struggle to free the BES islands from the Netherlands' cultural and regulatory embrace.

Host of the evening, James Finies, briefly provided background information regarding

(Continued on page 16)

Challenge Us!



Looking for the best mortgage deal?

Take your time explore... Afterwards visit and Challenge Us!
We will offer you the best mortgage loan tailored to your needs to realize your dream house!

For more information visit us at Kaya Grandi # 48, or call one of our personal banking professionals at telephone: +599 7172000.



Your Personal Banker

info@orcobank.com www.orcobank.com

BUDGET MARINE SAIL & TRIATHLON

11 DECEMBER 2016
LOCATION: KANT'I AWA / KAS DI REGATTA

TRIATHLON 07:30 AM Long: 750m swim / 22k bike / 5k run Short: 375m swim / 10k bike / 2.5k run Entry fee \$ 15 adults & \$10 kids 12 and under	
SAILING RACES 10:00 AM Optimist, Sunfish, Windsurfing, Sailing Yachts and Microboats. Entry fee \$ 15 adults & \$10 kids 12 and under	
BOAT PARTY & BBQ 12:00 PM Join with or without boat. Live music, Food, Drinks, water bouncers & more! Live music by RPM and Johnny Kleinmoedig	
FUNDRAISING ALL DAY For Sailing Club, Bonaire Barracudas, Atletiek Federation, Hart Voor Bonaire and Jong Bonaire	



Sail & Triathlon 2016



For more information:

Budget Marine Bonaire
Kaya Neerlandia #21, Kralendijk, Bonaire
Telephone: +599-717-3710



www.budgetmarine.com

www.bonairewaterfrontevents.com

MCB Annual Merit Awards

Each year a poll is taken of MCB Bank Bonaire employees to get their view on which of the islands charitable foundations are deserving of a cash prize from the bank. This year, at an informal outdoor press conference **Managing**

Director Leonard Domacassé and Cherethy Kirindongo presented the awards to three deserving foundations: **Akademia Talento Nobo** (New Talent Academy), **Fundashon Sonrisa** (Smile Foundation) and **Stichting Dierenaseil Bonaire** (Bonaire Animal Shelter) ■ *G.D.*

The **Akademia Talento** has about 50 members who get together every week to practice traditional and modern dancing, drama, theater and poetry. On Mother's Day they offered an entertaining show. Overall they provide creative activities and a wholesome focus for Bonaire youngsters.



Akademia Talento Nobo Group

Founded in 2012, the **Sonrisa Foundation** is a group of friends who offer activities and direction for less privileged youngsters between ages 4 and 16. They make children smile by offering visits, trips, pizza and activities free. Over 300 children have partici-



Dalitza Rijna accepting for Fundashon Sonrisa

The **Bonaire Animal Shelter** has consistently worked to provide a better life for Bonaire's animals and people. They provide care, free neutering, adoptions, and education to the public. They work to shelter homeless pets and control the animal population.



Paul Wichers accepting for the Bonaire Animal Shelter

Prisoners' Art Show



JICN social workers were hostesses: Chanta Espacia, Mary-Ann Thomas, Suphaemy Janga, Aisheline La Croes

Artist and teacher **Adi Figaroa** is very proud of the works of his students who reside in the prison in Bonaire. Adi has been giving art lessons to the prisoners for the last four years, and it's amazing to see what these incarcerated people can create.

For several years the JICN, which

oversees the prison, has put together an exhibit for the public. This year it was on Sunday, November 27, at the Sporthall from 1 to 5 pm. The theme was Christmas and the art and handwork was varied, expressive and very creative. ■ *Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo*

Frog by Udemiar Fidangué

Conch by R. Abrahamsz

Mermaid by Irma

Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night

Local Christmas dishes, Arts & Crafts and Shopping

**Lots of prizes and raffles
Take a picture with Santa
Donation / Proceeds will go to
the Bonaire Food Bank**

**Kaya Grandi will be filled
with Live Music and DJ's**

**Saturday 17 December 2016
@ Wilhelmina Park & Kaya Grandi
From 17:00 to 22:00**

**Powered By: Tourism Corporation Bonaire
& Bonaire Arts Craft Association**



DE FREEWIELER

Sales and Repair for Road, Mountain and Dutch bikes

Featuring Giant, Bikkell and Golden Lion bikes

Parts and accessories for all brands of bikes and scooters
Beautiful Bike Clothes, shoes

All type of house and car keys duplicated

Kaya Grandi #61
"The blue building"
Call 717-8545

Open: 8:30-12:30, 2:00-5:30
Owner Operated

Web: www.bonairefreewieler.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com



The Bike Professionals

This Must Be Underwater Love



On the dive

with highly flammable liquid nitrogen and two million moving parts all provided by the lowest bidder in a government contract anyway?

Flash forward to Curaçao 2016. Me and my beloved Tine are lying on Tugboat Beach, a nice quiet place where you can snorkel, away from the touristic crowds. While we were sipping Zula we mock the apprentice-divers who cautiously step into the water. "You must be crazy, wearing a full body spandex suit, combined with all that heavy gear, having to walk like penguins in this heat. Never in our lives we are going to look that ridiculous."

As a boy I wanted to be an astronaut. Not a cop, not a fireman - an astronaut. So I went to the library and read 'How to become an astronaut.' It had a lot of pictures, everybody was happy, even the moon smiled. At the end of the book there was a questionnaire; I wasn't allowed to scribble in a library book so I jotted down the answers on a separate page, added it to the book and returned it. Somehow I thought NASA would be smart enough to scan all juvenile libraries in the world in search of smart boys who suited their program. I confused NASA with the NSA. For months I waited. In the meantime I kept working on my skills: I made a helmet out of a cardboard box, I tried very slow jumping, I practiced the 'It's one small step'-speech. But NASA never called, and disgruntled, I chose to be writer which is kind of exactly the same but different. Who wants to be strapped to huge tanks filled

Fast-forward to Bonaire, two months later. Tine and I are stumbling around on the rocky shores of Salt Pier, trying to get into the water without breaking a hip. We are currently wearing: a full body wetsuit - Tine even a 5mm-suit - and about 25 kilos of gear on our back. We move like penguins on acid.

What happened? Well, Ryanne, that's what happened. You might remember Ryanne as the person who convinced me to swim to Klein Bonaire, an epic adventure that nearly ended with me lying on the bottom of the ocean. Ryanne has a knack for coaxing people into doing things they solemnly promised themselves they would never do. Ryanne is a experienced diver and an experienced hypnotist. "Just try it. You will never want to snorkel again." She kept repeating that sentence, over and over again,



Roderik, Tine, Ryanne and Wouter (back to front)

and like a subliminal message on a Beatles-album, it got stuck in our minds. So Tine and I went on a test dive with the great people of VIP Dive. The next day we signed up to get our Padi. Due to Tine's crazy shifts at the hospital, we had to take the course separately. And there I was again: reading a book called 'How to become a diver.' It even had a questionnaire at the end of each chapter. In the morning my instructor, a kind guy called Daniel, gave me an exam. I passed with flying colors, and after that we went into the water, practicing all the necessary skills like sitting on the bottom of the ocean watching

barracudas swim by. I learnt a lot in just a few days, and yes there are some tedious parts - like having to watch a four-hour Padi-promo-video on how to buy matching diving gear - but once you are below water, a new wondrous world opens up. Amazing is a too small a word. When you think about it, there are a lot of parallels between diving and being an astronaut. First of all: it's dangerous. You float through an environment that doesn't contain air. But you are trained to be very careful and check your instruments regularly. Things can go

(Continued on page 11)

Live the Dream



Perched on a hill with unobstructed 270-degree ocean views, this one-of-a-kind home offers low maintenance out-door living all year long. The perfect place to live your dream. It sits on 27.5 acres (11+ hectare) of private property in a planned and gated community for complete privacy... but is only 15 minutes from town.

The home features multiple outdoor living and dining areas and an immense cook's kitchen with 6-burner stove and two sinks. A large patio pool creates a soothing, cooling water feature in the main living area. Currently configured with two en-suite bedrooms but the oversized office/TV room could be easily transformed into one or two more bedrooms.

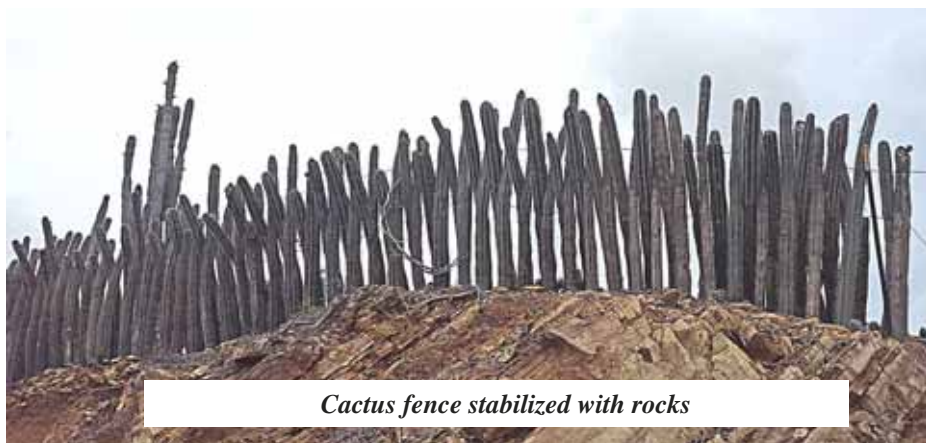
Special aerodynamics ensure that the temperature inside is always cool and breezy. It has been featured in several magazine articles including Caribbean Travel & Life, Retirement Living and Home Power. The land is protected through deed restrictions to keep it green and natural forever but a second house can be built on the lot. This solar powered off-the-grid home

boasts all the modern amenities and all furnishings are included in the price.

\$980,000

Contact Margon: +1-599-7862992
More photos: www.sunspotsbonaire.com/sale

A Garden? Just Do It



Cactus fence stabilized with rocks

TAMING THE GARDEN

For the last few years nature on Bonaire has suffered from lack of rain, but now we have so much of it that our yards are spilling over.

And with that other problems are popping up— like weeds, fast growing grass and wild plants that are over growing your nice plants. A lot of mosquitoes are now living in the grass which harbors water, and that's just what they need to reproduce themselves. And also all that overflowing water can transport your good garden soil with it into the street. So you are loosing the nice garden dirt you had around your trees and in your veggy garden. Some of us have had enough of this and are looking for solutions.

Well, there are some ideas how, for a while or for a long time, you can protect your garden against all of this. I myself will start soon with these ideas and I thought I would share my ideas with you.

What do you think about rocks and stones in your garden? This is not something new on Bonaire because a lot of people decorate their garden with these natural stones. So I thought let me do that too. Even though I don't necessarily want them forever, but yes it's a nice change and it can solve for awhile my concerns about my garden.

First, start with the white broken beach stones. Before you cover your soil with them, you have to clean the yard or that part you want to cover. Totally remove any grass and level the area. Cover the soil with big thick plastic (rolls), like those used during the building of houses. Then spread the white broken stones on the plastic, as much as is needed to cover the plastic well.

Another way to protect your dirt in the yard is making paths with flat natural stones. They can be flat beach rocks but also other flat rocks you can find in the mondi or along the coast. Sometimes you have to remove some dirt. Lay the flat rocks the way you planned and add the dirt in between the rocks so that it looks like one level area. So less grass can grow, you don't have all that mud under your shoes while walking in your yard and you have less grass growing with all kind of bugs living there.

I heard from a friend that they lost some fruit trees that came down with roots and all because the soil was too muddy to keep the trees steady. Some of those trees were papaya, bacoba and young coco trees. These trees need extra support to keep their roots strong in the muddy soil.

This idea might be a solution. Put more dirt mixed with small stones and old rotten wood around the trees. Make it high like about 30 to 40 centimeter. Make a strong edge with big rocks around , so that the dirt



Rock border protecting the garden

cannot easily flow away with heavy rain. This is very good protection against the loss of dirt for your trees and garden with veggy and flowering plants as well. If you want you can add some small stones on top to decorate your garden (see photos).

Also it can happen that your border plants or your cactus fence may get in trouble with all that water. The same idea might help you out. Make the area around the fence high, put flat rocks in the soil and add some smaller stones in the dirt. It makes it all stronger and keeps your fence in its place (instead of drifting away with water).

Thanks to the nature of Bonaire one can find all kind of rocks and stones everywhere on the island. You only need some time to go around, pick up these things and fix your garden. It's a nice creative job to do.

I made a plan first with how I wanted to start. The loss of dirt was my first priority. So in front of my yard, where the dirt was going to the street I added the small stones for some square meters. Then I filled part of my yard with bigger rocks around plants and flat rocks and tiles.

I'm still busy with this and I have a lot of fun doing it because out of this effort I get a total other yard with a fresh kind of look.

I hope to finish this by end of this year so that my new year will start with a beautiful creative new garden. It feels already like a happy new year. ■

Story & Photo by Angliet, Nature Lover



Santa Comes To Town

It was looking very gloomy and rainy that day when Sanikolas was supposed to arrive, but despite everything he and his wondrous Swarte Pieten made

it. They landed by boat as is traditional, but the site of the action had been changed from Wilhelmina Park to Jong Bonaire where a mammoth high decibel screaming crowd was waiting.

The Swarte Pieten cavorted, danced and tumbled, all to the delight of the crowd— kids and adults alike. The Pieten arriving in Bonaire all had “black face,” by popular demand. In parts of Holland the Pieten these days are supposed to look “dusky,” not black. (Bonaire prefers the traditional!) Candy was thrown, kids scrambled, photos were snapped, games were played. Sanikolas had his book that lists good and bad children. Everyone had a marvelous time.

If you were lucky you might have encountered some of the Swarte Pieten during the following week going through town on their way to bring joy and laughter to the old folks home, to children's parties and businesses.

They are Bonaire's loveable characters



Santa and the Swarte Pieten



and they come only once a year, at the end of November. Don't miss them! ■ Laura DeSalvo, Dennis Lensink photos

Penny Lane Exchange

A NEW WAY TO SHOP, RECYCLE, CONSIGN

Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night

December 17th, 2016

Come stop by our Christmas Booth!

Penny Lane is on the **second floor** of La Terraza, downtown Kralendijk Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio's Ice Cream,

Shopping Hours: Tues: 10am to 5:30; Weds & Thurs: 10:30 to 5:30 Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.

Phone 599-795-9332 email- Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com



BONAIRE MARITIME FILM FESTIVAL

Vanishing Sail Headlines the Bonaire Maritime Film Festival

A special evening of film and honor highlight the Bonaire Maritime Film Festival to be held at Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire, Saturday **January 14, 2017 from 5-7:30 pm.** The evening will feature the award-winning documentary, *Vanishing Sail*.

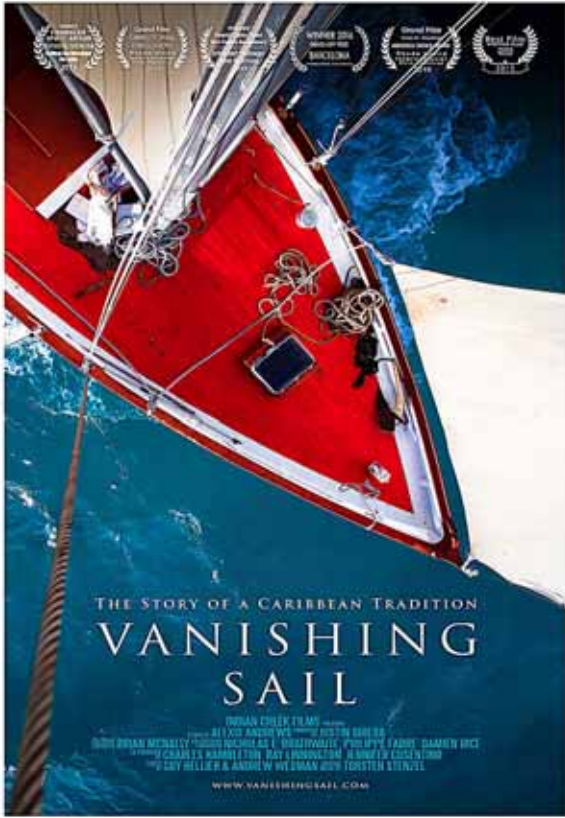
This 90-minute film tells the story of trade and smuggling by sail in the West Indies, and follows a community of boat builders in Carriacou who struggle to maintain their tenuous grip on a dying culture. Viewers will see shipwright Alwyn Enoe overcome all odds, completing the sloop just in time to compete in the prestigious Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta.

"We are very honored to be part of the Bonaire Maritime Film Festival," says Alexis Andrews, the producer of documentary. "Since I first heard about Project *Stormvogel* through my friend Francois Van der Hoeven, we have enjoyed maintaining a connection between our islands and the boatbuilding traditions of the entire region. So far *Vanishing Sail* has journeyed to Old Providence and San Andres in Colombia, Bequia, Grenada, Carriacou, St. Barthelemy, Antigua, Turks & Caicos, Trinidad, Aruba, Bermuda as well as boatbuilding communities in the East and West coasts of the US and even the Outer Hebrides in Scotland where good people have engaged with the story of Alwyn Enoe in the village of Windward, Carriacou and his dream to keep his tradition alive."

Stormvogel Rising, a short film about the rebirth of the last of the sailing cargo ships of the ABC Islands, will kick off the evening. It shows how the 45-foot cutter, *Stormvogel*, was rescued from a Curacao backwater and brought home to Bonaire where it had been built in 1951.

The Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation organized this event as a fundraiser for *Stormvogel*. All proceeds will go to the boat's historical restoration.

Immediately following will be A Salute to the Sailors. Five men connected to *Stormvogel* during its



early sailing days will be honored on stage. The elderly seamen include Ismael Soliano, captain; Jan Felida, boat building crew; Luis Coffi, cook; and deckhands Lucio Soliano and Boechi Frans. Foundation president, Boi Antoin and head of restoration, Johnny Craane, will present awards to the crew. Intermission will include a cash bar and snacks.

Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire graciously donated its 150-seat conference room for the event. But it was those from Bonaire's boat industry who donated the funds necessary for the film festival. They include ABC Marine, Boto Blanku, Budget Marine, Don Andres NV, Harbour Village Marina and Wanna Dive. Special thanks to The Sign Studio for graphics and design support. Without their contributions, this event would not be possible.

"We hope that the festival will be a great success and encourage the completion of this wonderful local vessel, *Stormvogel*," concludes Andrews. "Then we can invite her and the crew to our annual St. Barth West Indies Regatta and continue reconnecting our islands with traditional sail."

So mark the date, Saturday January 14, 2017 and enjoy the shared maritime heritage of our islands through film and celebration. Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased at Budget Marine, 4 Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas or at projectstormvogel@gmail.com

Patrick Holian

More on the
Festival in
upcoming
editions



Animal Shelter Auction

The Bonaire Animal Shelter Auction on November 27 was the most successful fundraiser they ever had: 187 tickets were sold and they reached their goal of about \$15,000. The setting was dramatic and welcoming at a spectacular waterfront home in Sabadeco.

Auction items were abundant, varied (dive courses, sculptures, fishing trips, art works, dinners, etc. etc.) and at all price levels. About 15 volunteers made drinks, passed hors d'oeuvres and gave information on the silent auction items. Popular musician Benji Schaub played in the background. Everyone had a marvelous time before the excitement of the bidding began.

Huub Groot, one of the most amazing and fast talking auctioneers we've ever heard in our life, got people excited and several bidding wars went on. Notary Anniek kept track of who bid, and won, on what. Many guests got what they bid on but everyone, no matter whether they won or lost, had a marvelous time. It was a night to remember!

In the next edition of *The Reporter* there will be an article praising by name all the sponsors, donors and volunteers involved. It couldn't have been done without them. It was a night to remember. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*



Auctioneer Huub Groot encourages the crowds to bid higher, "It's for the animals at the Shelter!"



Some of the volunteers posing for the camera in the kitchen. It was hard to get them all together as they were so busy working all over the house and the terrace.



Shelter Board President Paul Wichers holds the mike for auction organizer Dabney Lassiter to speak. Two of the hardest working people on the island!



A view of the house from the seaside terrace—3 levels!



A successful bidder



Guests enjoyed the sunset, music by Benji, chatting, drinks and very tasty canapés.

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds—Really Work!
Got something to buy or sell?**

Non-Business Classified Ads (up to 4 lines/ 20± words) are
still **FREE** for 2 insertions.

Commercial Ads only \$0.77 per word, for each two-week issue. Call 786-6518 or 786-6125 or email
info@bonairereporter.com



LUNCH TO GO

Starting from \$5 per meal.

Call **CHINA NOBO**

717-8981.

Web site:

www.chinanobobonaire.com



**OUTDOOR
BONAIRE**
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEILLEN • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING

+(599) 785-6272

hansoutdoor@hotmail.com

www.outdoorbonaire.com

**For Quality
House and Office
Cleaning and
Maintenance ..
CALL JRA**



Serving Bonaire for
more than 20 years

Honest, Reliable, Efficient, Thorough,
Low rates, References. One time or many.

Phone 785-9041 ... and relax.

Want to Buy or Sell Something?

**Do it with an ad in
The Reporter Classified**

Personal ads **FREE**

Business ads **CHEAP**

reporter@bonairenews.com



**Be Wise
Sterilize**

Bonaire Animal Shelter

**16 Flights a day
between Bonaire
and Curaçao**
Divi Divi Air
Reservations
24 hours a day
Call **(+5999 839-1515)**
or **(5999 563-1913)**



Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio

VINYASA FLOW, HATHA YOGA,
MEDITATION, PRIVATE LESSONS

Located at Plaza Resort
info +599 700 5779

FB: SMILING BUDDHA YOGA STUDIO
smilingbuddhayogabonaire@gmail.com

**FOR SALE: Beautiful pictorial
art books.** Feel free to come by and
have a look during my every Saturday
Sale from 10 am to 6pm or call: **795-
9760**/email: dovalclaurie@gmail.com
for an appointment. No strings at-
tached.

White cruiser bicycle seat, brand
new, 26 cms. (10") widest part of seat.
Very comfortable. \$25.00. **599-786-
6583**

**Small studio for rent as of end of
November.** With roof terrace, 2 min-
utes walking from Bachelors Beach.
Completely furnished including water,
electricity, wifi, TV price \$325 per
month. 2 months deposit. Year con-
tract. No cats, no dogs, one person
only. Address Kaya Uranus 4b Belnem.
Theresebonaire@gmail.com mobile
phone **00599785-9900** home Phone
00599717-2698

**For RENT in Belnem: Large fully
furnished 2-bedroom apartment.**
Good location in quiet and safe area.
Walking distance to the sea.
Garden and private parking. Long term
\$800.= per month. Short term on request.
Free wireless internet + Cable TV.
2 months Deposit. No pets. Cell: +
(599) 796-5530

**FOR SALE: Private Property at
Kaya Turkesa, Republiek. 4A-270.**
1.420 m2. Asking price \$142,000.
Call or write: **Tel. 00599-795-9760**
or email: dovalclaurie@gmail.com.

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
		00:43	07:15	11:02	16:39		
Mon 05	-0.14 ft	0.47 ft	0.42 ft	0.82 ft	6:43	18:09	
		01:03	07:21	12:29	17:25		
Tue 06	-0.13 ft	0.56 ft	0.39 ft	0.74 ft	6:43	18:10	
		First	01:25	07:42	13:47	18:13	
Wed 07	-0.13 ft	0.67 ft	0.34 ft	0.64 ft	6:44	18:10	
		01:49	08:12	15:03	19:06		
Thu 08	-0.12 ft	0.80 ft	0.27 ft	0.53 ft	6:44	18:10	
		02:16	08:48	16:18	20:06		
Fri 09	-0.11 ft	0.93 ft	0.18 ft	0.41 ft	6:45	18:11	
		02:47	09:29	17:30	21:14		
Sat 10	-0.10 ft	1.05 ft	0.08 ft	0.30 ft	6:46	18:11	
		03:21	10:15	18:40	22:34		
Sun 11	-0.07 ft	1.14 ft	-0.02 ft	0.22 ft	6:46	18:12	
		04:00	11:04	19:45			
Mon 12	-0.03 ft	1.20 ft	-0.11 ft		6:47	18:12	
	00:05	04:45	11:56	20:45	Full		
Tue 13	0.17 ft	0.03 ft	1.23 ft	-0.19 ft	6:47	18:12	
	01:40	05:39	12:50	21:39	Moon		
Wed 14	0.18 ft	0.10 ft	1.22 ft	-0.26 ft	6:48	18:13	
	03:08	06:46	13:45	22:30			
Thu 15	0.24 ft	0.17 ft	1.18 ft	-0.30 ft	6:48	18:13	
	04:18	08:09	14:41	23:16			
Fri 16	0.32 ft	0.24 ft	1.11 ft	-0.31 ft	6:49	18:14	
	05:15	09:37	15:36	23:59			
Sat 17	0.42 ft	0.29 ft	1.02 ft	-0.30 ft	6:49	18:14	
	06:03	11:03	16:30				
Sun 18	0.52 ft	0.31 ft	0.91 ft		6:50	18:15	
		00:38	06:47	12:24	17:22		
Mon 19	-0.27 ft	0.62 ft	0.31 ft	0.78 ft	6:50	18:15	

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

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$95; By mail to Europe \$190. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 Internet donation.) For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 777-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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

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

Reporters in this issue: James Albury, Angliet Baidjoe, Patrick Holian, Greta Koois-
tra., Nathalie Peterson, Dean Regas, Lauren Schmaltz, Herman Sieben (STINAPA),
Roderik Six, Michael Thiessen

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

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

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

© 2016 The Bonaire Reporter

Underwater Love (Continued from page 8)
terribly wrong but only if you act stupid.
Remain calm. Inhale and exhale. Repeat.
Despite the fact that you are doing
something unnatural, that you are provoking
death, I find it very relaxing.
Second, there is the bliss of beauty. I can
imagine an astronaut looking down on earth,
that quiet distant blueish and oh-so-fragile
sphere, and being touched by a nearly divine
beauty. That is what I feel under water
watching the reefs and the coral and the
spectacular fishes: a humbling. Combined
with a certain solitude, which much be the
same in space, there is the feeling that you
are privileged to watch creatures you never
thought existed.

And finally, you rarely dive alone, just like
astronauts - except when you are a Russian
cosmonaut stuck in MIR for eight months.
It's not only much safer to dive with a
buddy, it's so much more fun. Diving with

Tine is a pleasure, mostly because she can't
stop giggling when a funny looking
pufferfish passes by. She laughs so hard
under water that she scares the fishes. The
only thing she doesn't like is the fact that she
can't talk under water. Me, not so much.
But she is a good navigator, and I can lift
heavy tanks and I get to hold her hand while
we exit the water. We form a team, we put
our lives in each others hands - it's very
intimate, being stuck under millions of
gallons of water, with nobody else to rely on
then the person you love the most. Diving,
just like marriage, requires faith. And the
reward is the same:
pure beauty. ■

Story by **Roderik
Six. Photos by
Wouter Lubbers**

Roderik is an award-
winning writer from
Belgium and a new
certified diver



What's Happening

Cruises

REGULAR EVENTS

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.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events— bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2016: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**- Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, across from Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products. .

•**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

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

Page 12

#	Day	Date	Ship Name	Port Time	# Pax	Shipping Line
82	Wednesday	7-12-16	<i>Star Pride</i>	0700-2400	208	Windstar
83	Thursday	8-12-16	<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	0800-1700	738	Regent Seven Seas
84	Thursday	8-12-16	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	0700-1700	3200	Princess
85	Friday	9-12-16	<i>Koningdam</i>	0800-1800	2650	HAL
86	Friday	9-12-16	<i>Royal Clipper</i>	0900-1500	227	Star Clippers
87	Saturday	10-12-16	<i>Star Pride</i>	0700-2400	208	Windstar
88	Sunday	11-12-16	<i>Silver Spirit</i>	1400-2200	540	Silversea
89	Monday	12-12-16	<i>Mein Schiff 5</i>	0730-1900	2500	TUI
90	Tuesday	13-12-16	<i>Azamara Quest</i>	0900-2100	694	Azamara
91	Wednesday	14-12-16	<i>Carnival Sunshine</i>	0800-1600	2974	Carnival
92	Wednesday	14-12-16	<i>Aida Diva</i>	0800-1800	2194	AIDA
93	Thursday	15-12-16	<i>Navigator of the Seas</i>	1000-1800	3114	Royal Caribbean
94	Monday	19-12-16	<i>Serenade of the Seas</i>	1300-2000	2490	Royal Caribbean

•**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 email 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.

•**Chess Club** meets to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

Fridays

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

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

• **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Monday-Friday. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101

•**Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

•**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

•**Bonaire Museum**-on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

•**Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free

•**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.

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 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 or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 10—Bird watching with Stinapa, 4:30-6pm, at LVV on the Lagun Road, Call Stinapa to reserve 717-8444

Sunday, Dec. 11

—**Budget Marine Triathlon & Sailing Event.** See page 2 and schedule on page 6.

—**Art Fair at Restaurant La Cantina/DelMar/Brewery on Kaya Grandi**, 10:30am-4pm. Artists: Jose Smit, Ana Klein Heerebrink, Tom Bergh, Camila, Fred v.d. Brock, Wolmot Jansen, Paulien Knip, Lorenzo Mittiga. Sign up wolmoet@gmail.com

Tuesday, Dec. 13—Yogarriba Full Moon Festival-Yoga, TaiChi, more!

YOGARRIBA FULL MOON FESTIVAL



YOGA • TAI-CHI • LIVE MUSIC • AFRICAN DRUMS • DINNER • WINE AND FRESH SALAD FROM OUR GREEN HOUSE.

YOGARRIBA EARTHSHIP

DATE: DECEMBER 13 TIME: 6PM

RESERVATIONS: 7012302 PRICE: \$25

Thursday, Dec. 15—Kingdom Day—official holiday. Government and some private business closed.

Saturday, Dec. 17—Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night at Wilhelmina Park and Kaya Grandi, 5-10pm. Santa, Live music, DJs, prizes, raffles. Proceeds to Bonaire Food Bank. More on page 7

Sunday, Dec. 18— Bonaire Art Day in Rincon, 4pm-midnight. Music, dancing, poetry. To reserve a stand, call 717-6420. Sponsored by Arte Bonaire.



THE STARS HAVE IT

December 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Your fight for those less fortunate is not likely to end in sweet victory. Try not to attempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Do not force your opinions on others the connections will be short lived. Try to visit a country that excites you. You can't win and they won't listen. Romantic opportunities may not be as they appear. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Things aren't as they appear. Ask others to help, or you may feel that a burden is weighing you down. You need more space for the whole family. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Do not get upset over trivial matters. You don't want to give anyone fuel for the fire. You can pick up additional responsibility that will lead to higher wages and a better position. Be extra careful with your valuables; loss and theft are evident this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Attend trade shows that will allow you to look at new products. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Don't let someone talk you into parting with your cash unless you can truly see the benefits of doing so. Such over indulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. You can enjoy doing things that include children. Be sure not to reveal private information to

the wrong individuals. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Use discrimination and play hard to get. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this month. You can make successful moves. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your pursuits may end up being fruit less. A residential move may be necessary to get a better job. There will be hidden matters that you may find disturbing. Your talents might just be discovered. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let relatives make demands of you. Work hard on improving your living quarters. You can make rewarding connections through the organized groups you associate with. Do things because you want to, not because someone else thinks you should. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take care of matters involving institutions or government agencies. Evasion is likely if you aren't direct about your feelings. You can change your living arrangements. First find out if they're married. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Sign up for courses that will help you understand yourself better. You'll have great insight. You should want to feel good about yourself and your goals. Make sure that you make reservations early. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Take care of matters involving institutions or government agencies. Matters pertaining to your home environment will be favorable if you are direct. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude. Changes in your home environment are likely. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Good-Bye Summer Triangle, Hello Orion

With sunset coming earlier in the Sky Park, you can see the stars earlier at night. As darkness falls, brilliant **Venus** will greet you. If you keep watching you will see both the stars of summer and the constellations of winter. In the west, the stars that lit up our summer vacation, the **Summer triangle**, are heading out for the season. While in the east, the stars of winter will start poking their heads above the horizon. And one guy's wearing a snazzy belt.

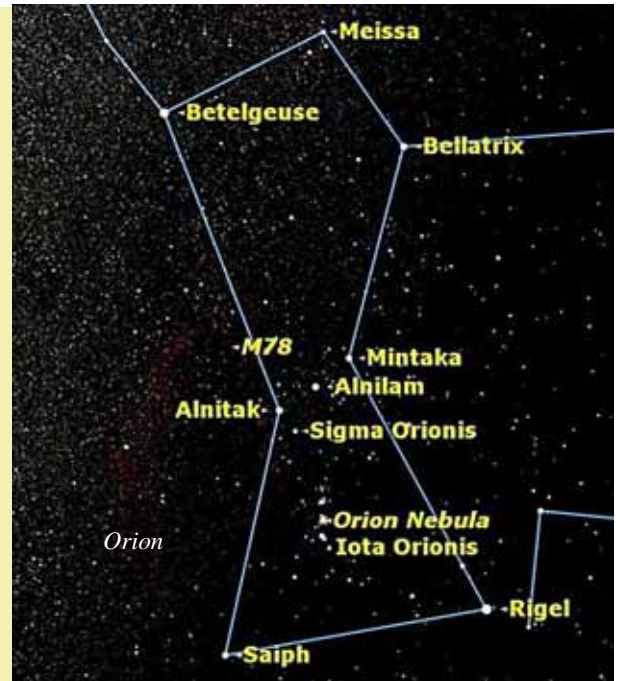
Just after sunset this week face southwest where you can't miss **Venus** blazing away. Wait until it's fully dark, after 9 pm and you will see some lovely new stars rising. And after 10pm the stars of winter really shine.

You'll see the summer triangle stars in the western sky sinking in order of brightness, **Vega, Altair, and Deneb**. And you'll still see them in this part of the sky for a few more weeks. Vega is part of the **Constellation Lyra the harp...** which looks like a little parallelogram attached to Vega. Altair is part of the **eagle constellation named Aquila...** which looks like a diamond-shape. Deneb is the tail of **Cygnus the Swan...** which some people also call the **Northern Cross**.

Each night these stars will set earlier and earlier but they will linger in the evening skies through December.

Now face east to preview the stars of winter. Here you'll find six of the 20 brightest stars in the sky and some of the most distinct and recognizable constellations.

Two stars of similar brightness are low in the northeast. You might call them... twins... they're **Pollux and Castor**, stars that mark the heads of the celestial **Gemini twins**. Up higher in the east you'll spot bright, white **Capella**. This is the brightest star in the **constellation Auriga the Charioteer**. Over to the right of Capella is a star with an orange tint embedded in a v-shape of fainter stars. This is the bull's eye



of **Taurus the Bull** - a star called **Aldebaran**.

Then zoom into the real sign of the season, the belted one, **Orion the Hunter**. Do you see him over there low in the east?

Orion is easy to find, with his distinctive three stars in a row just above the cactus tops. The belt stars bear the Arabic names, **Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka**. The belt is definitely cool, but the brighter stars in Orion are great to check out too. The bluer star to the right is called **Rigel**. That marks the left foot of the mighty Orion. Rigel is one of the absolute brightest stars around. It's really far away, as stars go, at almost 800 light years from us. Then, the star in Orion that is decidedly redder, is up and to the left of the belt. This is **Betelgeuse**, a red supergiant star, about 640 light years away.

It's easy to remember because it just so happens to mark Orion's armpit. Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars in the galaxy. If it took the place of our **Sun**, Betelgeuse would extend out beyond the orbit of **Mars**. That means the **Earth** would orbit inside of it!

So enjoy the early stargazing this week and look for **Venus** right after sunset. Then stay up after 10pm to see the summer triangle setting in the west while Orion, Gemini, Auriga, and Taurus rise in the east..■

Dean Regas & James Albury

Pasa Bon Pizza & Bar
780-1111



Not Just Great Pizzas!

Call ahead to Pre Order

Open Wednesday to Sunday
5 PM to 10 PM



SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Member: American Society for Industrial Security

WANT TO FEEL SAFER? SIGN UP WITH US

- Transport of Money and Valuables
- Vehicle patrols
- Private Investigations
- Burglar Alarms
- Fire Alarm Systems

In Business Over 30 Years

Kaya Nikiboko Nord 37A, PO Box 225 Tel: (599) 717- 8125
Fax (599) 717- 6125 E-mail sss@bonairelive.com

Green Label Changes Hands, But Gradually



Bonaire Garden icon Ap van Eldik (at right) of Green Label passes on the legacy to Remco de Valk

There is new growth at the Green Label Garden Center and it's not only the plants. There is a new manager as Ap van Eldik and his wife and business partner, Agnes, will move to Holland where their children are in school.

Since 1999 Green Label has been the place to go for plants, gardening advice, landscaping and garden maintenance. Under Ap van Eldik's influence the island's flora has become more green and varied

through the years. He refused to believe that only natural plants and trees could survive on this dry, salty wind island with poor soil. That's what he was told by many locals. So through the years he has experimented with more and more varieties and he's growing them here rather than importing them. "We have more than 500 different varieties of plants that we propagate here on the island, and we're always looking for something new." Ap

continues, "But we have to be careful as there is Palm Weevil in Curacao. We won't be bringing anything in from there. We're concerned as on this small island the wind spreads these diseases easily." And, he continues, "Things you do here should belong to the island!"

Speaking of his staff, Ap proudly says, "There are four people who have been with us for nearly the whole time." Green Label has the reputation of being good to their employees.

New Green Label head, as of the first of November, is Remco de Valk. Having the same love for plants and with a business background, Remco got hands on landscape training in the Haag and was in the landscape and maintenance business for nearly five years. But gardening in Bonaire is a challenge. It's something new. "I have all kinds of knowledge but I must leave it there in Holland," Remco laughs. "I'm adapting by 'doing it' here and working with Ap. It's a wonderful challenge." Remco continues, "This is a great place to live with my wife and kids. I am so thankful and fortunate for this opportunity." His goal is to continue Green Label as it is now. "In the future we would like to have more products. If a customer needs something, they should speak out. What would they like to see more of in the shop? We're here to give information about what's here." Remco would like to grow more vegetables and fruits and improve some of the existing ones like watermelon, Surinam bean, pak-soi for example.

Ap will be here, then back and forth from Holland. "I'm still involved with the company but will be working on finishing up some big projects I've started here. The transition will be as long as it takes," he says. When Ap is in Holland he will be researching new suppliers and materials, new groundcovers.

Ap van Eldik, coming from a garden oriented family, arrived on the island after some years in the horticultural business on Curacao. He worked for the Plaza Hotel, landscaping department, then started Green Label in 1999.

Some of the projects that Green Label has done include the palms on the water-side of Terramar, Capt. Don's Habitat Oasis, Bon Bida Residence, Blue Water Residence. They work every day in all neighborhoods, in Sabadeco, Republiek, Bel Mar. "All the jobs we do," Ap explains, "we respect, as long as it's involved with plants."

I asked Ap for some words of wisdom. He answered, "I came here for a year. As I have kids I found it was a paradise to raise them here. I have never regretted it for one minute. Bonaire gave me everything I ever dreamed of and I'm grateful. Remco is a very good guy. His heart is in the right place!" ■ *Story & photo by Laura De Salvo*



DID YOU KNOW?

That many of our Ruddy Turnstones leave Bonaire in the summer?

From August until May, you often see stocky, brightly patterned shorebirds, the Ruddy Turnstones, actively pecking, probing and flipping over stones along our rocky shores. All winter long you find them along the coast, but also near seaside hotels and restaurants where they feed on all sorts of tidbits left by tourists after eating their breakfasts! Our Ruddy Turnstones fly all the way to Alaska and Canada to breed.

Last week I saw three Ruddy Turnstones with leg bands. These birds are normally banded/flagged on the right leg, but the ones I saw had green bands on their left legs. With my binoculars I was able to see the letters and numbers printed on the bands (4MA, 425 and 9GH). On the website I was able to find information about the birds. The bird 9GH was banded in 2009 in New Jersey! This bird had already been seen and reported once before in Bonaire. The Ruddy Turnstone with 4MA on his band had been seen and reported twice before! The bird with the band 425 had been captured once in Mispillion Harbor in Delaware, USA.

We can learn so much about birds by banding them and also reporting the band numbers/letters when we see them. So much is now known about Ruddy Turnstones as a result of banding. For in-



Ruddy Turnstone

stance, Ruddy Turnstones that breed in Western Canada fly south to spend the winter in North America, Australia and New Zealand! Some of the Ruddy Turnstones breeding in Northern Canada and Alaska come here to the Caribbean to spend the winter. The Ruddy Turnstones that breed in Greenland fly to Western Europe for the winter.

So, if you ever see a bird with leg bands/flags, grab some binoculars, record the numbers/letters, and report your findings so that we may continue to learn more about our birds! ■

Story & photo by Herman Sieben, STINAPA Director.



1200 New Trees



Last month the Echo Foundation led the planting of 1,200 native trees in Washington Park. The ultimate goal is that at the end of the rainy season about 2,000 trees will have been planted in a protected area within the Park.

The area planted is approximately 1.3 hectares (3.2 acres). A dozen volunteers from Cargill Salt Company and about 10 other local volunteers, in collaboration with STINAPA, added 680 specially selected native trees to the 500 trees that were planted in October. All volunteers were very dedicated and worked hard and as a result they managed to plant more trees in less time than in the previous tree planting event. Upcoming (and the final for the year) is a tree-planting event which will again take place within the WSNP, this time in partnership with the STINAPA Junior Rangers. The goal is to plant 500 trees on a site created on the Slagbaai side (near Juwa Pass). The reforestation project is carried out by Echo on behalf of the Bonaire island government. By planting native trees in protected areas Echo helps to restore the unique dry forests of Bonaire and protect its nature. More trees and a greater variety of trees are better for the animals, the soil, the climate and the people, of course.

If your business or organization can assist Echo in planting native trees, please contact Quirijn Coolen (quirijn@echobonaire.org or 785-4128) or Edshel Martha (edshelmartha@hotmail.com 796-2534).

More info: www.facebook.com/Nos-ta-biba-di-naturalesa-539435279585019 ■ *Lauren Schmaltz-Echo/ G.D.*



Pets and Fireworks

Tips to Help Keep them Calm & Safe

Keeping Animals Safe and Stress Free during the fireworks

The celebrations of the New Year are approaching and before you get into all the planning of your celebrations, let's stop and think for a moment.

Each year, numbers of animals get scared and shocked by fireworks, they tear loose in panic, slip out of their collars, escape and many of them get hurt.

If you don't have animals and you are planning to make a big firework show for the New Year, please consider finding a place for it, where as little amount of animals will be disturbed. You may even save a life.

Every year pets will suffer as a result of fireworks being set off. Animals have very acute hearing. Loud bangs and whistles may

cause them actual pain in their ears. But by following these simple guidelines your pet doesn't need to suffer.

Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being set off

If you walk your dog, make sure your dog is walked earlier in the day before the fireworks start.

Close all windows and doors, and block off cat flaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum.

Ensure dogs are wearing at least a collar and tag.

Think about fitting pets with a microchip, so that if they do run away they have a better chance of being quickly reunited with their owner.

Prepare a safe place for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.

Pet Of The Week

Hi, my name is Pluto. I was brought to the Animal Shelter along with my sister and two brothers. They all found new owners, but I am still waiting for more than one year until my new family will come to take me home! I am a very happy, easy going and affectionate young guy. I like to learn, play and cuddle a lot. I will make a wonderful family friend who will protect and love you forever!



Pluto bathing

If you are interested in adopting Pluto, come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a. For more information call the Animal Shelter Bonaire (+599) 701-4989 or e-mail at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire>

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are sociable with people, treated against ticks and fleas, are spayed or neutered, de-wormed, vaccinated and micro chipped. ■

Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson



Let your pet pace around, whine, meow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out. They're just trying to find safety and should not be disturbed.

Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behavior. If they prefer to hide under your bed, let them do this instead.

Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or peed after being left alone. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed. ■

Nathalie Peterson

Affordable Self Storage Conveniently located in Hato



Choose your size from 5'x5' to 10'x20'.
Prices from \$32 to \$153 per month.
Call 700-1753

Working Together For Happier Animals

There are four animal welfare organizations operating on Bonaire and while all have the same worthwhile goal- making life better for the island's animals- their approaches differ. This has created controversy and ill will among their supporters. The new organizations: **Stichting Dierenbescherming Bonaire** (Foundation for Animal Protection), **Stichting Dierenhulp** (Foundation for Animal Rescue), **Fundashon Kunuku Kakelvers** (Fresh Farm Foundation), veterinarians Jan Laarakker and Fulco de Vries met recently with the fourth and original organization, **Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire (Bonaire Animal Shelter)**, under the auspices of the Island Government (OLB) to discuss the issues, especially involving stray dog control and to iron out difficulties. ■ *Press release/G.D.*



Scheduled Water Taxi TO KLEIN BONAIRE

From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

HOTEL PICKUP SERVICE

Daily trips via resorts 10 am, 12, 2

THE ONLY WALKON / WALKOFF

Catamaran **KANTIKA DI AMOR**

up to 27 adults or larger

catamaran **KANTIKA TOO**

up to 50 adults

Also available for group trips



BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA—At It Rains Fishes Restaurant

Call Henk at 560-7254 / Bob 786-5399 info@bonairenauticomarina.com /VHF 68



Sportswear, fashion, skate and sporting goods.

Keeping Kaya Grandi cool since 2015.... That's Dushi Style!



dushi style
kaya grandi 6
kralendijk bonaire
599.717.5911 retail@diver-friends-bonaire.com



Sabadeco, Crown West 230

Highlights:

- gorgeous island & sea views
- separate apartment & parking at 1st floor
- villa with 3 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms at 2nd floor
- large & deep negative edge salt water pool
- wide covered wrap-around porch
- bordering a green zone for additional privacy
- carport/covered parking under the villa
- freehold land (registered 4-A-2362)
- total lot size: 26,953 sq.ft / 2.505 m²
- living area: 3,529 sq.ft / 328 m² (excl. pool & deck)

Asking price
US\$ 747,000

Buyers cost



Kaya L.D. Gerharts 3 & 8, Kralendijk
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Sunbelt  Realty

717 6560 info@sunbeltbonaire.com
www.sunbeltbonaire.com

NKBB Future Conference (Continued from page 6) the transformation in the political status of the BES islands after 10/10/10, from previously existing as an island territory within the Netherlands Antilles to becoming partially integrated with the European Netherlands. For Finies and other like-minded citizens and public officials on Bonaire, this new status amounted to a unilateral annexation, characterized by political, economic and cultural inequality. From this perspective, the “public entity” label does not reflect the wishes of the majority of the people of Bonaire, who voted their overwhelming discontent with “the situation” after 10/10/10 in a questionable public referendum, on December 18, 2015, that was not overseen by an impartial outside authority like the UN. According to Finies and others, this “No” vote constituted a formal rejection of “direct ties” with or even partial integration with the Netherlands. Various Bonaireans represented at the conference, either in person or in filmed interviews, expressed a feeling of loss of their beloved *Boneiru* to the *Makambas* (aliens), as they call the Dutch immigrants who, they argue, act like oppressors, eradicating the Bonairean identity, culture, language and values, and imposing all manner of new, burdensome and unwanted regulations.

Bonaireans are generally regarded as a friendly people who respect and love their nature, culture, language and religion. But now many generations-long, local residents feel oppressed by an overflow of the latest Dutch immigrants who regard this island as their own. According to this view, some of these Dutch, especially the ones who ar-

rived shortly after 10/10/10, came to claim their jobs, start new competing businesses and purchase houses – all as if they had a right to them. The traditional islander’s culture and language seemed to get disregarded as more Dutch flood Bonaire. Christian values and beliefs, such as anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia sentiments, were trampled upon. Even as the Dutch government has poured money into infrastructure, health care and education, in order to improve these areas, they argue that poverty and despair on Bonaire have increased, nevertheless.

In Bonaire’s schools children are required to learn in Dutch -- not their first language, which is Papiamentu. All their exams, except for foreign language tests, are in Dutch. All of their textbooks, even some of the foreign language texts, are written in Dutch. Their teachers speak Dutch. These students are overwhelmingly second-language learners of Dutch. However, they are required to read, speak, write and understand the Dutch language at the same level as the Dutch students in the Netherlands, and to do so in an equal period of time. Consequently, some Bonairean students are overwhelmed and lose motivation. Others drop out altogether.

Bonaire’s poverty levels have increased measurably as the result of wage stagnation and post-2011 “dollarization,” the introduction of the US dollar to replace the Antillean guilder, inflation accompanied by hugely increasing local prices. Many Bonaireans are expressing their rising frustration with a system of political and social inequality that is not of their choosing. They are alarmed

that the public entity status of the BES islands imposed on its inhabitants had been misrepresented as a genuine status of political and economic equality by the Kingdom. They are deeply concerned that the Kingdom of the Netherlands is proceeding with measures to legitimize dependency status, contrary to international norms of democratic governance.

NKBB, representing the people of Bonaire who voted ‘No’ in the 2015 referendum, now calls for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other relevant U.N. member states to initiate the necessary procedures to re-list the former Netherlands Antilles islands, in particular Bonaire and St. Eustatius, on the United Nations roster of Non-Self Governing Territories in order to provide the international community with a required platform to review such democratic inconsistencies as may exist in the dependency form of government.

Dr. Corbin, who presently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly and who has worked as a United Nations authority on self-determination and governance for over two decades, and as a U.N. Development Program expert on governance, was featured as the main speaker of the conference. He affirmed Bonaire’s wish to be considered for self-determination and to be listed as a NSGT. Other Caribbean islands listed are for example, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, US Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. These places underwent several territorial transformations, from slavery to colonization to dependency to autonomy. In this taxonomy,

Bonaire is stuck in the third stage, one of peripheral dependency and only partial integration. The tag line for Corbin was, “In my view, it is not now too late to change this status.”

Finies’ hope to list Bonaire as NSGT will make it possible, he argues, for Bonaireans to be a nation once again with its own culture, language, identity and uniqueness. The Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations, also known as the Committee of Twenty-Four (the original number of members), reviews the political, economic and social situation of all NSGT’s on the U.N. list. The Special Committee, it is hoped, will help defend Bonaire’s rights by forcing the Netherlands to continue giving care in the areas of child care, roads, education, health care but at the same time eradicating poverty by providing more security and welfare to the ones who need it most, without asserting full control over the island.

The main question, for Finies, Bissessar and others, is, will the Netherlands indeed respect the voice of the Bonairean people and go back on its current policy of political inequality, while assuring self-determination and providing financial assistance at the same time? ■ *Story & photos by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour*

Many thanks to James Finies and Davika Bissessar for their assistance to make this piece come alive; I used some of James’ words literally to express his emotions as they are. I also made use of online sources to provide more complete explanations and background info.