

**It's Still  
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**BONAIRE** Jan. 2-16, 2017, Year 24, Issue 1  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 777-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994

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**Marjan Luinstra-Passchier on the  
De Wit organ at St. Bernardus**

Photo: © Lorenzo Mittiga



Photo: Lorenzo Mittiga

**Jom Gaiteros Kids**

Photo: © Lorenzo Mittiga

# Flotsam and Jetsam

# BOINAIRE The REPORTER

**A**nother new resort next to the existing Eden Beach Resort is in the planning stages. The Domingo brothers, the present Eden Beach Hotel owners, obtained the government OK to build a \$12 million, 60- room hotel adjacent to Eden Beach on the site of the former Bonaire Beach (Sunset Beach) Hotel. The project will be financed by Orco Bank. In 2008 Divi Resorts made an abortive attempt to develop the site.

This is the second hotel planned for the site; several weeks ago the Dutch TUI group announced their intent to begin building a 200-room there next year. Several years ago local residents pushed for the government to make the site a public beach – Playa Publico -- with small local businesses and hotels.

**►Fuel Prices- dropped fractionally for January 2017 (price per liter.)**

Lead-Free Gasoline 95	100.00	USDct
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per cylinder.		
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per cylinder.		

**►PHILIPSBURG—** There is significant risk if too much of an island's economy is based on cruise ship tourism. Recently Port St. Maarten registered a \$9 million loss, a shortfall Government will have to cover, disclosed Finance Minister Richard Gibson. The shortfall is partly blamed on two major cruise lines having opted to move away from the country to other ports of call in the Caribbean. Overall, that shifting of itinerary has cost the local economy some NAf. 90 (\$50) million. Some of that amount represents passenger spending, which is estimated at \$191 per person.



**►On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Cruise ship Industry Group, Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) and the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) joined with the Bonaire Outreach Foundation to organize the 7th "Christmas Holiday Gift Project."** The captain and crew of the cruise ship *Carnival Conquest* brought 200 gifts that were given to 200

kids on Bonaire. The selection of the children took place under the after school program together with Bonaire Outreach Foundation. All the 200 kids together with the volunteers went on board the cruise ship where the whole event was held.



**►The Bonaire Island Council chamber has an updated Coat of Arms,** courtesy of Frans Booi, who designed the original coat of arms in 1986. Along with his wife Maggie, Booi had a new one made and presented it as a gift to the island.

**►THE HAGUE—Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Ronald Plasterk, wants forces within the Dutch Kingdom to protect the fragile Caribbean coral reefs.** The Minister mentioned the various organizations and citizens on the islands who play an active role in protection of nature and the reefs. The protection of the Caribbean coral reefs is on the agenda of the Caribbean Sustainable Development Forum which will be held in Aruba from February 21 to 23, 2017.

**►WILLEMSTAD--Two companies remain interested in operating a fast ferry between the ABC islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao** and hope to begin within a year despite a negative feasibility study. According spokesman, Ton Jansen, a fast ferry can still be profitable and a crossing from Curaçao to Bonaire for \$80 per adult will work.



**►Under pressure from elected officials and the public the Prosecutor's Office in Bonaire withdrew its blanket order to conduct preventive searches on the whole island for an entire month.** The action was considered necessary to curb an apparent spike in illegal arms possession. Authorities confiscated several knives and other items (above) that could be used as cutting or stabbing weapons during an evening's control of vehicles and persons in suspect areas.

However, preventive searching is considered a far-reaching instrument that can affect not only suspects but innocent citizens. After an internal evaluation the prosecutor's office decided to cancel the order.

**► Edwin "Win" Emerenciana, of Punta Blanku Farms, Bonaire's fresh egg farm, and Jaap Ensings's Onima Aloe, grower of Aloe Vera, received funds from POP- Bonaire,** a project to stimulate local agriculture. Punta Blanku will install a reverse osmosis system so they can raise more chickens and Onima Aloe will be able to grow more aloe plants. Both companies are long established on Bonaire and have a reputation for quality.

To receive funding from POP-Bonaire for agricultural projects email: [popbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:popbonaire@gmail.com).

**►The Curacao Parliament agreed to provide financial assistance to InselAir because failure of the airline would have a "huge socio-economic impact."** Consequently, the island government will temporarily oversee the airline's operations with the help of an international interim-manager who is to prepare a stabilization plan. The company will receive a bridging credit under strict conditions, as called for in a unanimous parliamentary motion. Management requested a capital injection of more than \$15 million and postponement of the payment of outstanding taxes and social premiums totaling NAf.35 million in exchange for an option on a majority of the

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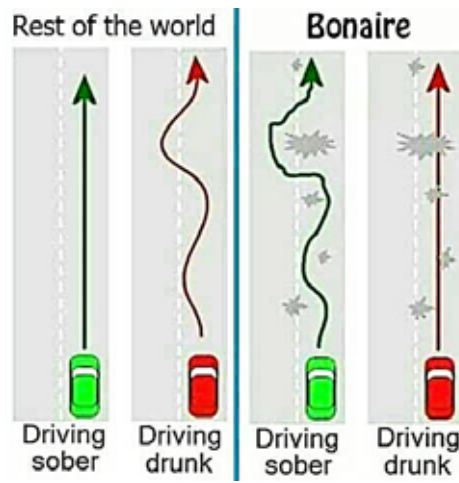
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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) shares of InselAir Curaçao. A Curaçao government press release said about 600 direct and 900 indirect jobs are involved, and the troubled airline provides 25% of the island's stay-over tourists and generates 5% to 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Without the carrier, traffic to Bonaire would be reduced by 80%. The search for a strategic partner must also begin in the next six to nine months and be linked within a year.

► **At the end of December Insel Air (Aruba) launched additional Curacao – Quito service** on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for around \$400, with a Fokker 70. This does not seem in line with its agreement to cut routes

► **WILLEMSTAD** - On Thursday, December 8, around 8 o'clock in the morning, for the very first time in **history a baby was born inside Curaçao International Airport**. It was not confirmed that the mother had been waiting for her InselAir connection.

► **THE HAGUE—Dutch Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur will ask the new Chief of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN), Jose Rosales, to further improve integrity in the Police Force.** Dutch Police Management Chief Gerard Bouman stated that even though the BES Island Police management team had adequately addressed significant integrity violations, there was a culture within the KPCN of using police vehicles for private purposes, engaging in private matters during working hours and writing extra overtime. While this behavior is not a serious violation of integrity, in essence it is, Bouman noted.



► **Social media post about the condition of Bonaire's roads.** We had to print it as it is so on point

► **WILLEMSTAD**—The Chinese Guangdong Zhenrong Energy Co., Ltd. will submit a plan by April 2017 to **re-vamp the century-old Isla Oil Refinery in Curaçao**, a \$5.5 billion project that would give China a foothold in the Caribbean's second-largest oil refinery. Bonaire gets most of its petroleum products from the facility.

If the deal goes ahead, the Chinese firm would replace Venezuela's cash-strapped state oil firm *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.* (PdVSA) as operator of the 335,000-barrel-per-day facility on the island. **Currently the refinery suffers frequent breakdowns and spews pollutants constantly.**

► **Did you know that Terramar Museum located inside the water-**



**front Terramar complex....**

- Welcomed 2,200 visitors in its first five months
- Is housed in a historic building that is over 150 years old
- Is ranked #12 of 54 things to do in Kralendijk on TripAdvisor
- Is the only museum that exhibits the history of the entire Caribbean

In a few weeks, the museum's entrance area will be completely transformed for a brand new exhibition on the Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire. The exhibition will feature a beautiful timeline, several interactive elements and a video of the underwater coral restoration work. In addition, the exhibition will focus on the use of corals by Amerindians who lived on

Bonaire for thousands of years. **Support the museum by becoming a member.** You can become a "Friend of the Museum" for \$100 per year and enjoy unlimited access to the museum and all its events and receive their quarterly newsletter. Your name will be mentioned in its annual report and you will receive the official "Friends Card." Contact Rianne van Rijswijk at [info@terrarmuseum.com](mailto:info@terrarmuseum.com) or call 717-0423.

► **We wish everyone a really good, healthy and happy 2017.** Keep reading *The Reporter* on line or in print to learn more about yours and our favorite island. ■ *G.D.*

► **You may pay your 2017 road tax starting today, although bills may not be received until the end of the month.**

Payment in two installments is possible in most cases. You can make the payment through internet banking or at banks over the counter. State when transferring the license plate number, your crib number, name and time. The tax office offers everyone the opportunity to make the payment without charge at the Giro Bank next to the tax office. Your bank statement serves as proof of payment. No plate sticker will be provided. For further information call +599 717-5330 or email [belasting-olb@bonairegov.com](mailto:belasting-olb@bonairegov.com) c/o unit 637. Rates are as follows:

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Unleaded Gas	TX (taxi) of AB -b	USD 137.00	USD 68.50	USD 8.40
Diesel	TX of AB	USD 209.00	USD 104.50	USD 8.40
Unleaded Gas	MF -motorbike	USD 137.00	USD 68.50	USD 5.60
Diesel	Z- heavy eqpt.	USD 1,257.00	USD 628.50	USD 5.60

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# Born on Bonaire... Sonraida Mercelina - 1961 and Edsel Piar - 1960



Edsel Piar and Sonraida Mercelina



Edsel and Sonraida in front of their Garage/Workshop

**I** was born in Rincon where my father had a construction company. We were 12 children and I was number eight. I grew up helping at the kunuku after school, and during vacations I worked with my dad in construction. I went to technical school and after I'd graduated I started working at Karl Mayer's Toyota Garage, selling auto parts – I was 19. I met Sonraida there."

"I was born in Antriol. We were eight children and I was number seven. My father had a *toko* (a tiny supermarket) in Antriol and a small furniture business. We all would help my mom and dad to get ahead, like we would collect empty Heineken beer bottles, wash them thoroughly and fill them up with kitchen oil - which arrived in big cans – and close them with a cork so they could be sold. My mom baked cakes and cookies to sell and another source of income were the leather sandals my dad sold which were engraved with his name, M.M. Mercelina.

When I was about eight, we moved to our kunuku at Trai' Montaña which is known as 'Dos Iguanas.' Just like Edsel's dad, my dad kept pigs, chickens and goats there and he grew *maishi chikitu* as well. He bought a big truck and we had to collect all the stones we could find. Then my dad would come with his truck and we helped him to load the rocks which he would sell to the crusher.

Every day we got up around 4 am, we took a shower outside, then we walked down the hill to another kunuku where we were picked up by the school bus. At 1pm we had to take the bus again and walk up the hill in the burning midday sun. Luckily we're still alive, hahaha! After we'd eaten our hot lunch we went to the corn fields to scare away the doves. We had a big dam where we washed our clothes which we took there by wheelbarrow. We also made food for the pigs by putting water and flour in a big metal vat, making what we called 'dumplings' for the animals. It was fun! We were brought up in a strict and respectful way, but it was a good childhood.

After elementary school I went to ETAO – economic, touristic administration education—and during that time I also participated in the Miss Teen Bonaire Contest where I was chosen Miss Amity, being the friendliest. In 1979 I went to work at the

office of Karl Mayer's Bonaire Car Dealership, doing the administration."

"I came to work there a few months later," *Edsel continues*. "We didn't know each other. Although there were only 6,000 people on the island, the distance between Rincon and Playa was really far! My dad owned a car, but many children only left Rincon for the very first time when they went to secondary school in Playa.

At work Sonraida and I got to know each other better. She was very helpful and I liked her style and her charisma and she was always in a good mood – very sympathetic! But... I also thought she was very cute!"

**"We came back...because we feel there is no better place on earth than Bonaire. It is truly paradise."**

"I thought Edsel was a handsome boy," *Sonraida says*, "but he was also gentle and nice. We got along really well!"

In 1983 I changed jobs and went to work at Casa Nena and while working there I became curious about Holland and I told my family: 'I'm going!' They didn't believe it, but I went!"

In 1987 I arrived in Holland. It was late autumn; the trees were bare and the world was grey and the first thing that came to my mind was 'I want to go back!' But I'm a person who adjusts everywhere, so I never have problems. It didn't take long before I discovered the possibilities of how to develop myself; there were so many! I lived with Edsel's sister. First I went to a school where I learned administration and proper Dutch. From there I went full-time to school, middle professional education."

"When Karl Mayer passed away," *Edsel says*, "the business went bankrupt and was closed in 1984, and I went to work at Akkermans' Auto Supplies. But when Sonraida left for Holland, I realized that when you stay on Bonaire there are no possibilities to further educate yourself, so I decided to follow her. It wasn't difficult; I had older brothers who lived in Holland and they had told me a lot and showed me photos, so nothing felt strange. And in the

south where we lived, people are really nice. Just like on Bonaire they are good neighbors. Sonraida and I moved in together and I started studying warehouse management and later on car technology. Through an employment agency I worked different jobs. A year later we were blessed with the birth of our first daughter, Tansy. And after a while I got a job with Heineken in Den Bosch. A contract followed and I stayed with them as long as we lived in Holland.

Five years later John Akkermans called us and asked me to come back to work for him. He offered me a good salary and he would take care of everything and pay for the move. Sonraida and I discussed the

matter and came to the conclusion it was an offer we couldn't refuse, so we returned in 1992. Another reason to come back was that both our parents were here and also I'd always dreamt of starting my own business. Sonraida began to work at a garage, doing administration and I worked for John Akkermans until after his passing. But in the meantime we set up our business, 'Takivi Auto Parts,' in Antriol in 1997, then Sonraida started working there."

"Our second daughter Kiara was born in 1995," *Sonraida adds*, "and our third daughter Victoria in 1997. We named the business after our daughters."

"In 1999 we bought what used to be 'Cha Auto Parts,' plus a garage and a snack," *Edsel says*. "We are located on a dirt road behind the old Bondigro. From Kaya Industria you take the road right across from Selibon's Plasa Ambiente and then you take the first road to the right and drive about 100 meters. Together with Cecilia Motors we are the only garage/auto parts business run by Bonaireans that has survived. For a Bonairean it's much harder to get government support than it is for a foreigner. For instance, how many times haven't I asked the government to fix the dirt road we're on because it is in a terrible condition, but so far...nothing!"

Also, as a foreigner you get 10 years free of taxes from the government, but we have to start paying from day one. It hasn't been easy, not only business wise but also personally. We've experienced many hardships as well in both our families. Thank God we are still alive.

The business is doing fairly well. We offer good service, we are friendly and reliable and we deliver quality and all that for a good price! We also train interns, as it is much better to learn a trade than to sit under a tree and do nothing. If you're a hard working person and you've had an education, you'll find a job!"

"We will go on until our children are ready with their studies," *Sonraida says*. "Tancy is going for a Bachelor's degree, Kiara is doing European studies and Victoria, International business and management. So far they're not planning on coming back. Next year my parents will be married for 65 years and then all three of them will be here. If everything goes well with the family, we'll have a party!"

Of course we have our plans for the future too, but at the moment we're not bored! We have a vision and a goal and each of us has to contribute their part. We're always together because we trust each other and we like each other's company. And when we're done working, we go home. Both of us love plants and we have a garden with fruit trees and a greenhouse which is just lovely as it keeps you busy and relaxes you at the same time."

"We came back," *Edsel says*, "because we feel there is no better place on earth than Bonaire. It is truly paradise. And together with Holland Bonaire will have a great future. We cannot do it alone because we don't have an income and no stable government. Since 2010 we have had 12 governments, which is really ridiculous! We are not ready; we don't have the skills or the knowledge to be on our own. With Holland we can grow and the process has already started. Little by little life is getting better and the goal is that eventually each and every one of us will be able to enjoy all that Bonaire has to offer..." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



## Sustainable Sailing Yacht Due Soon In Bonaire



The 10 meter-long Dutch yacht "Ya" (photo above), which claims to be the first purpose-built zero-pollution pleasure boat, has crossed the Atlantic and should be arriving in Bonaire this week. Be sure to check her out.

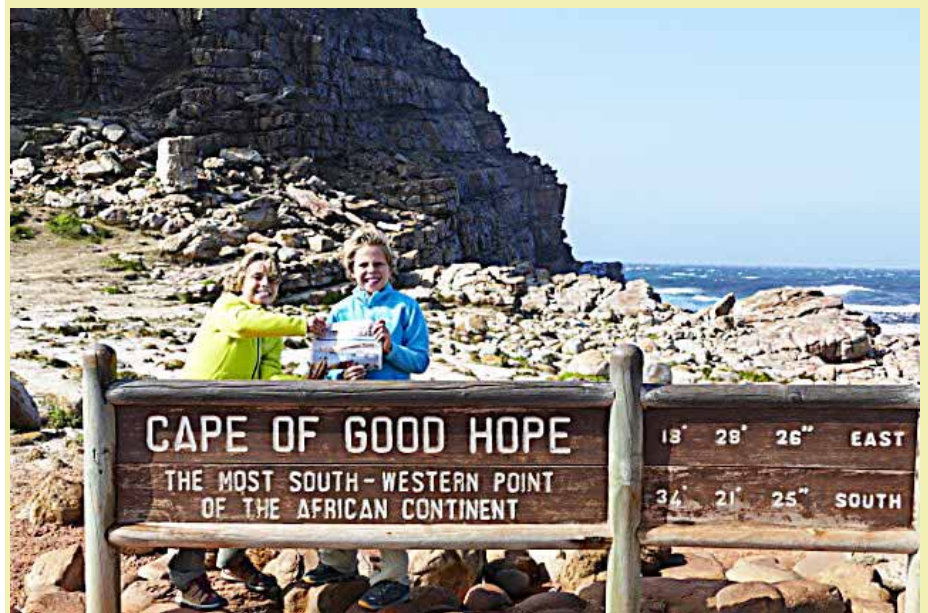
She has been underway four months sailing from The Netherlands to England, France, Portugal, Morocco, the Canary Islands, from the Cape Verde islands crossing the Atlantic making landfall in Barbados. On to Bonaire then Panama and the Galapagos Islands — on course for a circumnavigation.

The boat uses no fossil fuel. Consequently she depends on electricity, generated by solar panels and motor/alternators for auxiliary power, cooking, electronics and lighting. Two 6.5 kW E-Tech motors drive variable pitch propellers providing auxiliary power. The motors double as electric power generators and produce electricity when the boat is being powered only by its sails. **Bonaire has its own zero-pollution sail boat, also electrical/solar powered, Mike Solbach's Grace, a modified Cal 40.**

Ya's progress is reported daily by short radio messages from the crew. Progress and adventures can be followed on [www.duurzaamjacht.nl](http://www.duurzaamjacht.nl) or [www.sustainablyacht.com](http://www.sustainablyacht.com).

They will be accepting passengers for the passages through the Panama Canal towards the Galapagos Islands. ■ G.D./Press release

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the Cape of Good Hope



Jeanette Olthof writes, "Last May was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first KLM flight to Bonaire. In commemoration KLM organized a competition for children, in which the children had to draw their dream destination. Both Fabio (10) and Daniel (9) won the competition with their drawings of Africa and won three tickets to Johannesburg.

In July we flew to Johannesburg and made a road trip of 3,170 kilometers. In total we flew 36, 000 kilometers. Of course we took *The Reporter* with us all the way and made a picture at Cape of Good Hope." ■

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# Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

## Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

### CELEBRATING ZÍKA-MAS

*I don't want a lot for Christmas  
There is just one thing I need  
I don't care about the presents  
Underneath the Christmas tree  
I just want to have no Zika  
More than you could ever know  
Make my wish come true  
All I want for Christmas is HEALTH*  
(With huge apologies to Mariah Carey for butchering her *All I Want for Christmas is You*)

While scratching my red, itchy skin, rubbing sore eyes and carefully flexing my swollen finger joints, I barely manage to unlock a friend's internet Christmas card on Christmas Eve. It's an interactive one; I'm invited to ring the front door bell belonging to a snow-covered mansion. With my unhealthy, distended index finger I have to poke the screen several times until suddenly the manor comes alive with clamoring canines, twinkling tree lights and caroling children. It's all very Christmassy. Absent-minded, I continue to scratch myself into oblivion whilst longing for Happy, Healthy Holidays past.

In Idaho, where I spent 16 Christmases, I loathed the dreary wintertime days, which lasted pretty much until kingdom-come, or at least some eight months out of the year. However, I did cherish the holiday season, which commenced around Thanksgiving, lasting all the way through New Years Day. The day after Thanksgiving, temps usually hovering around low 30s (Fahrenheit), I wouldn't hesitate to decorate the Western



Christmas palm

White Pine adorning our frozen front garden. With a string of flickering fluorescents and gaudy garlands wrapped around its trunk our flashy tree looked like it'd belong on the Las Vegas strip. Near our front door, a radiant reindeer with humongous antlers and a bulbous, reddish nose greeted, or, more likely, frightened a potential visitor. Behind the window panes, waving Santa Clauses beckoned.

My then husband disapproved; I on the other hand couldn't be more blissful. I love glitz and blitz.

In our Bonaire home, I'm eyeballing our holiday-bedecked, fake palm tree. Outside, the Christmas wreath is stirring with a soft breeze while the rays of the tropical sun are playing catch with some of the shiny orna-



Idaho Christmas

ments. I'm waiting for the Christmassy sentiments to overcome my sick self. My, also unhealthy, hub is screaming from upstairs, "What's for dinner?" I crawl to the fridge and peer at the half empty shelves. "Omelet OK?" We both groan at the prospect of having to play chef de cuisine. While I'm itching and scratching, he's fighting the fevers and swollen joints. Merry Zika-mas! (We take some solace in knowing that we are hardly alone in Zika-vile this season.)

Casting back to my glitzy Idaho home, I recall that we used to welcome loads of visitors during the holidays. I lured them in with promises of *glühwein* and oven-baked goodies. Christmas tunes, tantalizing aromas and merrily galumphing dogs filled the house with cheery magic. The fun-filled, gluttonous festivities continued all the way through New Years Day. Then, it was back to the everyday grind and chilly clime.

Consuming our omelets proves to be a challenging affair. Fortunately, a glass of vino makes it all go down more smoothly. Zika causes, besides fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes, headache and muscle pain, also

extreme fatigue and swollen glands. Yet some people infected with the Zika virus may not even realize they have it for want of symptoms. Zika is usually mild and lasts for up to a week; however, lack of energy may continue for a long time. It's spread by the same *Aedes* species mosquito, which can cause dengue and chikungunya. If there's good news, it's that once you've had Zika, you're likely protected from future infections. See a doctor or other healthcare provider if you have the symptoms described here and have visited an area where Zika virus is prominent (and that's most of the Caribbean islands and tropical Americas, including Miami-Dade, Florida). This is especially important if you are pregnant. (cdc.gov.)

Make my wish come true. All I want for Zika-mas is Zika-less. And here's wishing everyone a Zika-less 2017! ■

Story & photos by  
Karen Bastiaensen-  
Gilmour






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## BONAIRE MARITIME FILM FESTIVAL

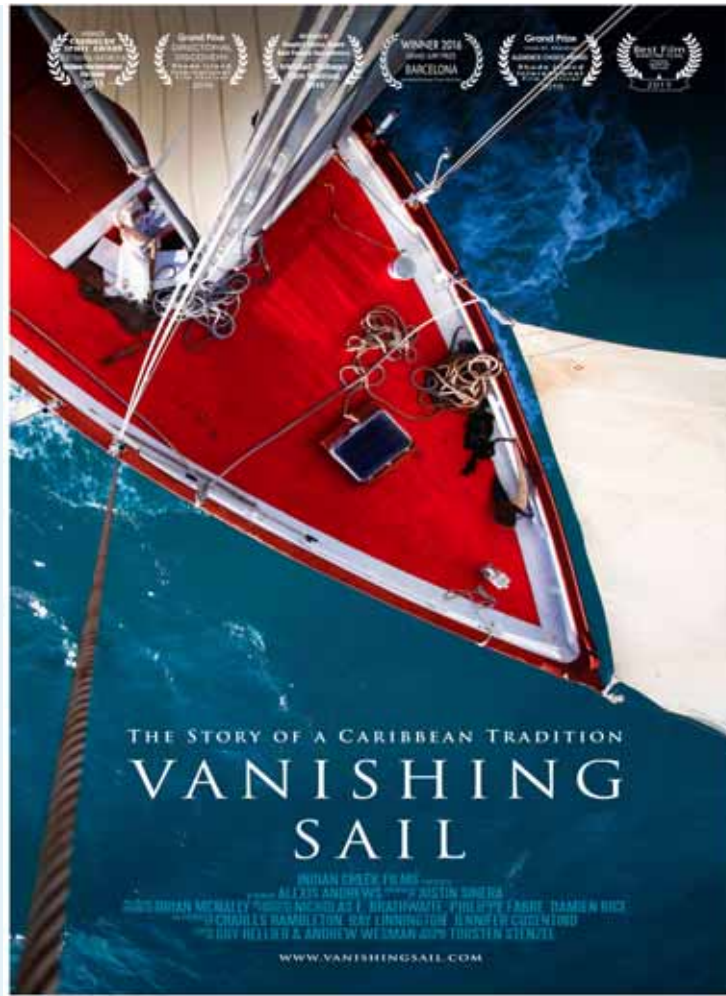
### Maritime Film Festival Nearly Sold Out

The hot ticket in town these days is the one for the **Bonaire Maritime Film Festival** to be held at the **Plaza Beach Resort**, Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30pm. The organizers of the festival, the **Bonaire Maritime Heritage Society**, have sold 90% of the seats to date. Tickets (\$20) can still be purchased at Budget Marine at 4 Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas or directly through the foundation at [projectstormvogel@gmail.com](mailto:projectstormvogel@gmail.com)

Locally produced, *Stormvogel Rising*, will start the evening. The short film tells how the sailing cargo boat, *Stormvogel*, was built on Bonaire in 1951 and served the ABC Islands and Venezuela, transporting people and goods for decades. Historical re-enactments in rich period sepia tone show cargo being

loaded, friends reunited and contraband sampled dockside. **Director Hendrik Wouts** of Bonaire Vision Films artistically blends those scenes with rare film clips and historic photos of the island's rich nautical past.

Immediately following will be a "Salute To The Sailors." Five men from *Stormvogel's* original crew will be honored on stage by the foundation's head of restoration and local seaman, **Johnny Craane**. They include **Ismael Soliano, captain; Jan Felida, boat building crew; Luis Coffi, cook; and deckhands Lucio Soliano and Balentine Frans**. All the men are now in their 80s and have been interviewed about the golden age of sailing throughout our islands. That oral history is now being edited for inclusion in a unique in-schools program on maritime history to be released in 2017.



After a brief intermission, the feature film of the festival, 'Vanishing Sail,' will be shown. Filmed mostly in the eastern Car-

ibbean island of Carriacou, the 90-minute documentary tracks the rebirth of traditional boat building in the Grenadines

through the herculean efforts of shipwright **Alwyn Enoe** and his two sons. It is a fascinating story of personal perseverance, ribald tales of smuggling at sea and the completion of the beautiful wooden sloop in a race against time to enter the thrilling Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta.

The film festival would not be possible without the financial donations of **ABC Marine, Boto Blanku, Budget Marine, Don Andres NV, Harbour Village Marina and Wanna Dive**. Special thanks to **Richard Bilderbeek** and his crew at the **Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire** who graciously donated their 150-seat conference room for the event and the **Sign Studio** for graphics and design support.

So join the celebration of our islands' rich nautical past through film and celebration. Only 20 tickets remain before the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Society hopes to see you there Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30pm. ■

Patrick  
Holian



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# Eighth Annual Christmas Concert

Vibrant sounds of the season filled the nave and alcoves of San Bernardo Church on Boxing Day evening for Bonaire Classical Music Board's annual Christmas Concert. The event featured prominent local musicians, ensembles and soloists, performing their traditional and not-so-traditional musical compositions to enthrall a near-capacity audience.

Local composer-pianist, **Hans Odin Faassen**, and saxophonist, **Caroline de Jong**, kicked off the evening with a medley of popular and seasonal tunes and a duet of Faassen's original "Lazy Afternoon." These gave way to an organ recital by **Marian Luinstra-Passchier**, accompanied by the , which was followed by outbursts of robust percussionist and lyrical joy from **Jom Gaiteros Kids** -- in the old Bonaire tradition, it was said.

After a refreshing pause in the church's courtyard, the concert resumed with a medley of brief classical compositions (J.S. Bach, Georg Händel, E. Elgar and Robert Schumann) and an original Hans Faassen composition, this time with Faassen on violin and Luinstra-Passchier at the grand piano.

What followed were surely the hits of the evening as judged by evident audience appeal. First, a church-length duet improvisation -- Faassen on the grand piano in the front of the church in tandem with Luinstra-Passchier on the pipes from the organ loft above front -- heads craning to see and hear to best advantage. Then, following were two beautiful J. S. Bach renditions by Luinstra-Passchier on the or-

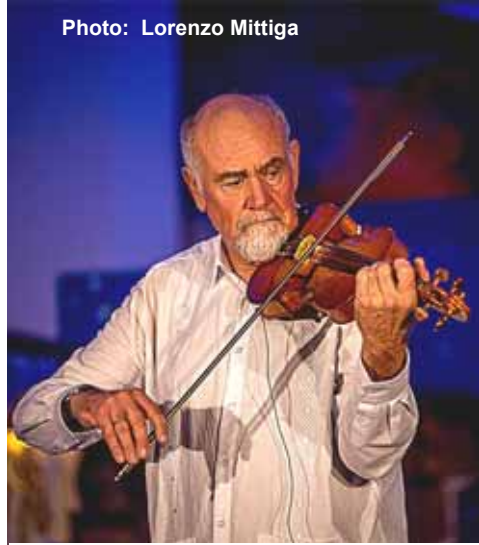


Photo: Lorenzo Mittiga

Hans Faassen on the violin

gan. **Jonchi Dortalina**, backed by the **Ensemble San Bernardo**, provided the ultimate cure for dry eyes with his emotional and stirring performance of "O Holy Night," among other Christmas carols. "Bonaire's own Pavarotti!" was acclaimed more than once from the assembled admirers.

Original ballad and waltz compositions, written and performed on the grand piano by Hans Faassen, rounded out the program, which was capped by a grand improvisational finale, performed by Faassen on piano, De Jong on saxophone and Luinstra-Passchier at the organ and conducted by **Frans C. Lauxen**.

The **Classical Music Board Bonaire** has once again, and for many years running, presented its annual Christmas concert of traditional seasonal offerings with a local flare. ■ *Story by Bob Gilmour, Photos by Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour & Lorenzo Mittiga*



Photo: Lorenzo Mittiga

San Bernardo Choir/Ensemble



Photo: Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour

Hans Faassen on the piano, Caroline deJong on the saxophone

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# New Year's Resolutions

“So what is your new year’s resolution?” A new year, a fresh start. For many of us the beginning of January is the designated moment to set new goals, and make some lifestyle changes.

New Year’s resolutions are not a new concept. The month, January, is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and ends. Julius Caesar decided around 46 B.C.



**Janus**

that the beginning of this month should herald the New Year. The Romans would hand out gifts and make promises, hoping Janus would see this and bless them in the year ahead. But the origin of making New Year’s resolutions is even more antique than the Roman Empire, and rests with the Babylonians, around 2000 B.C. The Babylonians celebrated the New Year’s festival 12 days in a row in March when the spring harvest came in. They used the occasion to make promises to their gods, hoping they would earn good favor in the coming year. Most good intentions had to do with the paying-off of debts to others.

Many of us still set resolutions each year. The fact that we keep making them (and often the same every year) might have to do with the fact that we don’t usually stick with them those 365 days. Most of us abandon the January promises as easily as they are made.

Because...well, these first days of the New Year don’t really count, do they? That bottle of creamy *Ponche Caribe* from the Christmas box isn’t fully finished yet, and it would be a shame to throw it away. And all those parties made us so tired, it will be better to start that power yoga course next week. Then, as the Christmas cookies are fully settled, the champagne has left our system, and we have to get back to work or school, the “January-effect” kicks in and we get motivated. Sweaty fitness selfies will flaunt our Facebook timeline, and we dutifully bring our trash separately to the recycle station. During the next months we might ease up our resolutions a little, set that alarm clock 15 minutes later, and call our mom every other Sunday instead of weekly. By midyear, only that bank statement showing our monthly payment to the gym and those Spanish study books lying below our bed will remind us vaguely of our “about-to-change-our-life-goals.” The months pass by and by the end of the year we will eagerly start thinking about the New Year coming up, imagining how happy, healthy, helpful or rich we will become.

Maybe the reason why elderly people tend to make fewer New Year’s resolutions than younger people has to do with the fact that they start to understand this trick. If you want your resolutions to have a chance, make sure they are realistic, hang in there till the seventh of March (research shows that we need approximately 66 days to get used to a new habit), and share your good intentions with other people, so they can check up on you. What better way to do that in *The*

*Bonaire Reporter* so many people can check up on you?

**Tim:** “My resolution for 2017 is to do more of what I love to do, like traveling, enjoying nice food, and spending time with family and friends.”



**Gisela and Franklin:** “We hope 2017 will bring more unity, love and respect for each other. We will do all we can to make that happen, for example by helping other people out wherever we can.”

**Martha** (no picture): “My resolution for 2017 is to have more patience and to not get angry so easily. I can have quite a temper! No, this is not the first time I set myself this intention.”



**Farid:** “My resolution for 2017 is to convince more people that tourism is good for our island. I want to stimulate people to make use of the benefits tourists can bring.”



**Amy and Mikeely:** “We will keep working hard at school in 2017. We do so already and we won’t give up.”

**My own resolution** for 2017 is to leave the car at home more often and cycle instead. Having this written down will hopefully leave me no choice. Happy 2017!

■ *Story & photos by Gerjanne Voortman*



# Maskarada 2017



*The whole cast poses with Acting Governor Evelina Betancourt Anthony on the steps of the Bestuurcollege. Although it has African roots as well as hints from South America and Europe, Maskarada is unique to Bonaire, appearing every January 1. Men (and sometimes women and children) appear in colorful costumes acting out a play to the rhythm of traditional music. The actors are silent and masked for anonymity but the characters usually remain the same: the donkey, the fisherman, the shark, the policeman, the bull, the old lady.*



*The musicians who follow the actors. As you can see they come in all ages. They lead the troupe, playing traditional instruments: large ukulele (quarto), file (raspa), drum (tambu), accordion*



*The troupe pauses for a photo. Maskarada has been going on in the memory of even the oldest person on Bonaire. Originally performed by members of several neighborhoods, nowadays it is only organized by the Nawati/North Salinja group who is keeping this precious tradition alive.*

# A Garden? Just Do It



Produce used in making several local dishes

## MORE SPICES AND LOCAL DISHES

Of course one article about spices would not be enough for all the spices we use in our daily life. We may not realize it, but herbs and spices are the most used of any other kind of food.

Spices give rare tastes, flavors and colors to our food. It just make your food somehow over the top. It makes your food YOU. You might recognize a particular dish by the person who made it. People often choose restaurants because of the way a particular cook prepares the dishes with herbs and spices. A lot of these herbs you can grow yourself in your vegetable garden or in small pots right there in your kitchen or on your porch, making it easy to pick them while cooking. Add them at the end as they're best not overcooked.

Old Years Eve has a big spiritual and cultural meaning on Bonaire. In the old days locals prepared special foods flavored with herbs from their kunukus and strong spices to celebrate the last day with families and friends. Even now some older people still make these dishes. You might be lucky enough to enjoy these rare dishes at your friendly neighbor's or lovely grandma. And why not learn how to prepare these classic dishes, so they go from generation to generation and never get lost?

Here some of these special dishes to give you an idea what it's all about.

**Karikari with rice or pan dushi or with sweet potatoes.** Karikari is a fish, caught and cleaned by local fishermen. It's salted with a lot of Bonairean salt which locals could get for free from the salt company specially for this purpose. The salted fish could be big ones like tuna, dorado or wahoo, cut in small pieces then salted and dried in the sun for about three days. Small fish like red snappers are just cleaned and salted without cutting in pieces. After three days hanging on a line or on the fence in the sun the salted fish is put into water for a while to remove some of the salt, then cooked once or twice to remove more salt. The cooked fish is now ready to break into small pieces, take the bones out and fry in hot oil with onion, garlic, tomato, paprika and spices like bay leaves, black pepper or just pepper.

Also the salted fish can go with vinegar, onions, bay leaves and peppers. This is so good; this is a happy old year.



Peppers from my garden

And then we have **Iguana Soup**. The freshly killed iguana is washed in a bucket with a lot of vinegar or lemon. It's then cut into pieces for the soup. Some people like it with the skin, others without skin. The soup has potatoes, spices like black pepper, onion, garlic, tomato, yerbahole and parsley. And sometimes with hot peppers because some like it hot.

Don't forget the **Arros Moro**, rice cooked with red kidney beans mixed with onion, star anise, bay leaves, pimento, black pepper, and if desired, small sliced salted beef and/or dried shrimps. And of course in almost every kunuku house there is **Sult** made from cooked pig's ears in vinegar with onion and fresh hot peppers.

At the end we have a homemade dessert, the unbeaten **Kesio** (flan) and local drinks **Awa di Lamunchi** and **Pina Colada**.

With all these delicious Bonairean dishes on my mind I can never wait for Old Years Eve and New Year's dinner at my neighbors.

And so I wish you a great Old Years Evening and a happy healthy blessed New Year. Let your star shine! Cheers!

■ Story & Photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



# Going Green



A few of the volunteer planters

As the year comes to a close and the holidays quickly approach, what nicer way to celebrate all the good things in life than to give something back? That's exactly what **Digicel** and the **STINAPA Junior Rangers** did this past week. Both groups took time away from their work and other activities to join **Echo** in helping to protect and restore Bonaire's dry forest. By planting native trees back into protected areas, Echo and its community partners are helping to restore and protect the unique dry forest environment of Bonaire. Having more trees and a greater variety of trees is better for the animals, soil, climate and people, of course!



Junior Rangers assisting with the planting

On Thursday, December 15th the Digicel Team celebrated Kingdom Day by focusing on team building and bonding. They started their day with a trip out to Echo's second reforestation site in the Washington-Slagbaai National Park. **During their one-hour volunteering experience they planted out 115 trees.**

Then, on Saturday, December 17th 22 STINAPA Junior Rangers and volunteers and 17 members of the community helped the Echo team plant out **another 500 trees of 25 different species!** Through these two events, the Slagbaai reforestation site has reached its halfway point for tree planting this rainy season.

These events are part of Echo's reforestation work, which has been mandated and funded by the Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire and which has been generously supported by STINAPA.

Echo aims to plant out approximately **400 more trees in January** during a final tree-planting event for the 2016-2017 rainy season, which will bring the site in Slagbaai to its target number of trees planted. We are still looking for business and community groups who are interested in volunteering with us and doing their part to help make Bonaire green again.

**If your business or community group is interested in partnering with Echo to plant native trees please contact Quirijn Coolen, Habitat Restoration Warden, at [quirijn@echobonaire.org](mailto:quirijn@echobonaire.org) or 785-4128 or Edshel Martha, Community Liaison, at [edshelmartha@hotmail.com](mailto:edshelmartha@hotmail.com) or 796-2534. ■ Lauren Schmaltz for Echo**





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**S. Newman Darby 1928-2016**  
**The inventor of the windsurf board passed away last month.** S. Newman Darby, a 20-something commercial artist and sign painter who had tinkered with sailboats, rowboats and other small watercraft since he was a child, was trying to fly through the water holding onto a sail. He refined the idea that in 1964 became the sailboard: a rudderless vessel that crosses elements of sailing and surfing and is credited with launching the sport of windsurfing.

Mr. Darby, who died December 3 at 88 at his home in St. Johns, Fla., crucially received no patent for his design, and for many years was overlooked or altogether unknown to windsurfing enthusiasts and historians. Until the mid-1990s, the sport was associated mainly with two Californians, Jim Drake and Hoyle Schweitzer, who in 1970 were granted a patent for a similar design that they called the Skate. It later was redubbed the Baja Board and then the Windsurfer.

He probably never imagined that his invention, 50 years later, would lead to a generation of Bonairean youngsters becoming world champions in the sport he set in motion. ■ G.D.



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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 02	06:54 0.36 ft	08:58 0.36 ft	15:32 0.79 ft			6:57	18:23
Tue 03		00:10 -0.17 ft	06:33 0.45 ft	11:06 0.35 ft	16:20 0.71 ft	6:57	18:23
Wed 04		00:30 -0.17 ft	06:48 0.58 ft	12:38 0.31 ft	17:10 0.61 ft	6:57	18:24
Thu 05		00:52 -0.17 ft	07:14 0.72 ft	13:57 0.23 ft	18:05 0.50 ft	6:58	18:24
Fri 06		01:18 -0.17 ft	07:48 0.86 ft	15:10 0.14 ft	19:02 0.39 ft	6:58	18:25
Sat 07		01:48 -0.16 ft	08:27 0.99 ft	16:18 0.05 ft	20:04 0.28 ft	6:58	18:25
Sun 08		02:21 -0.15 ft	09:10 1.09 ft	17:24 -0.04 ft	21:13 0.20 ft	6:59	18:26
Mon 09		02:59 -0.12 ft	09:56 1.15 ft	18:27 -0.12 ft	22:28 0.14 ft	6:59	18:26
Tue 10		03:40 -0.08 ft	10:45 1.18 ft	19:28 -0.19 ft	23:51 0.11 ft	6:59	18:27
Wed 11		04:26 -0.02 ft	11:37 1.17 ft	20:26 -0.23 ft		6:59	18:27
Thu 12	01:20 0.13 ft	05:21 0.05 ft	12:31 1.12 ft	21:19 -0.26 ft	Full Moon	7:00	18:28
Fri 13	02:45 0.19 ft	06:29 0.13 ft	13:26 1.05 ft	22:09 -0.28 ft		7:00	18:29
Sat 14	03:55 0.28 ft	07:55 0.20 ft	14:22 0.95 ft	22:53 -0.27 ft		7:00	18:29
Sun 15	04:52 0.38 ft	09:28 0.25 ft	15:18 0.84 ft	23:34 -0.25 ft		7:00	18:30
Mon 16	05:39 0.48 ft	10:59 0.26 ft	16:12 0.72 ft			7:00	18:30


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# What's Happening

## 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](http://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, 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.

• **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.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

• **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 email [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

## 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 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.

# Cruises

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAP	C.LINE
Wed	January 4, 2017	Carnival Vista	1300-2200	4000	CCL
Wed	January 4, 2017	Albatros	1400-2200	536	Phoenix
Thu	January 5, 2017	Thomson Discovery	0700-1400	2076	Columbia Cruises
Thu	January 5, 2017	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600	Princess Cruises
Fri	January 6, 2017	Serenissima	1400-2355	110	Premier cruise
Mon	January 9, 2017	Mein Schiff 5	0730-2000	2500	TUI
Mon	January 9, 2017	Sliver Wind	0700-2300	294	Silversea Cruises
Tue	January 10, 2017	Serenade of the Seas	0700-1600	2490	RCCL
Wed	January 11, 2017	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114	RCCL
Wed	January 11, 2017	Aida Diva	0700-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Thu	January 12, 2017	Eclipse	0800-1700	2850	CEL Fred Olsen
Mon	January 16, 2017	Black Watch	1030-2000	758	

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 Cruxita 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:** ( VPG B ), 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 Cochran-Herrera at

[ellenherreracochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherreracochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**January 2-21, 2017 — Love of the Sea** -exhibit of photographic works on canvas by underwater photographer Catherine Salisbury & Cousteau artist, Dominique Serafini. Bistro de Paris

**Friday, January 11— Governors's Annual New Year Open House** at Executive Council Building (*Besturkantoor*) 7-9 pm. All invited. Free.

**Saturday January 14th — Bonaire Maritime Film Festival** at the Plaza Beach Resort, 5-7:30pm. More on page 7 & 14

**Jan 26-28 —Bonaire International Fishing Tournament at Club Nautico.**



Come and enjoy this fantastic event with a lot of fishing, food and fun. Parties starting from Thursday.

**Saturday, January 28—Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**, on the Rincon Rd., at the eastern entrance to Rincon. See the real Bonaire: music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Free. 8am-1pm

**Saturdays, Sundays, Jan. 28, 29, Feb. 4, 5—Yoga Sensible Workshops with Carla Baruchello.** "Through the Elements," Yoga Terrace at Eden Beach Resort, 11am. Single workshop \$70, Special 4 Workshops \$250. Info & booking Elisabetta +599-780-7362, [betta@web.de](mailto:betta@web.de)



# THE STARS HAVE IT

JANUARY 2017

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Take time to catch up on gossip and make plans to do a little adventure travel. Don't let your lover put demands on you. You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain. So smile! Catch up on your correspondence and reading. Involve yourself in group endeavors. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) If they don't want to get involved, work by yourself. You can stabilize your personal relationship if you're willing to communicate honestly. Trips should be your choice. Don't let others take advantage of your good nature. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Control your temper by getting immersed in your work. Be careful signing important contracts this month. Travel will be in your best interest. Problems with relatives and friends could surface. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You can look around for the right place and enlist some of your friends to help you move. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. Your diplomacy will be of utmost importance this month. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Do things you enjoy instead of being a chameleon. Your added discipline will enable you to complete some of those unfinished projects. The locks, stove, gas, or electric wires may not be secure. Don't make any rash decisions that may affect friendships. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Younger relatives may seek your advice. Money-making opportunities will surface. Your

talents are likely to be discovered. You will be able to work in fine detail and present the best possible proposal. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. You may find that getting together with colleagues after hours will be worthwhile. You will probably have to defend your mate. Try not to be so demonstrative. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) There might be one who is quite willing to take the credit for your work. Don't make those you live with feel unloved or unworthy. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Travel, although enticing, will cost more than you expect. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this month. Opportunities for romance are present. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Avoid any hassles. Be sure not to reveal private information to the wrong individuals. New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. ■

Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## Gassy Jupiter

**G**as giant planets are the biggest elements of our Solar System, excluding the Sun. And the king of the Solar System is the most giant of them all, **Jupiter**.

If you're a person who likes to do your planet watching in the Sky Park before sunrise, Jupiter is in a great position for viewing right now. An hour before sunrise any night this week, face south. High in the sky, you'll see two bright lights in the constellation **Virgo the maiden**. The one that's twinkling is the **blue giant star Spica**. The one that isn't twinkling is our friend, Jupiter. Through even a modest telescope, Jupiter shows itself as a disk with dark banding across its surface. And if your skies are particularly steady, and your timing is right, you may catch a glimpse of the **great red spot**.

At current count, **67 moons** surround Jupiter and four of them are close to the same size or larger than our own moon. They're named, **Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto**; and you can see them change position every night, through that small telescope.

Jupiter is not only the largest planet in our Solar System, but its gravity is so strong that it's sometimes referred to as the Solar System's vacuum cleaner. Jupiter's gravity attracts nearby **asteroids** and other small Solar System bodies, and it has been known to dramatically change the orbits of an inbound **comet**, which can shorten or lengthen the amount of time it takes for the comet to orbit the Sun.

In July 1994, fragments of **Comet Shoemaker-levy 9** collided with Jupiter, providing the first direct observation of a collision between two Solar System objects. The planet Jupiter has been observed in the sky since antiquity. The ancient Romans named it after the king of their gods, whom the Greeks referred to as **Zeus**. Babylonian astronomers have records of Jupiter dating back to the 7th century B.C. In his book the **Almagest**, Greek astronomer **Claudius Ptolemy** used Jupiter's motion with respect to the **Earth** to refine his Earth-centered model of the solar system. By doing this, Ptolemy showed that Jupiter took almost 12 years to make a complete circuit of the sky,



which we now know as the amount of time it takes Jupiter to orbit the Sun. In 1610, Italian astronomer **Galileo Galilei**, studied Jupiter using a telescope and is credited with discovering the four largest moons of Jupiter; **Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto**. The motions of these moons around Jupiter provided Galileo with an example supporting **Nicholas Copernicus'** view of a Sun-centered Solar System, because if you look at Jupiter and its moons, they do look like a miniature version of our Solar System.

Astronomers **Giovanni Cassini and Robert Hooke** both noticed a large red spot on Jupiter during their telescopic observations in the 1660s. This spot, affectionately called the **great red spot**, is so large that you could fit two Earths inside it. Jupiter is enormous. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit over 1,000 Earths inside it. If Jupiter were the size of a basketball, Earth would be about the size of a small marble. Jupiter also spins very fast. Its day is only 9.8 hours. Which means that when Jupiter rises at sunset during the winter months (when the sky is dark for more than 12 hours), in the course of only one night, you can actually see the entire surface of the planet. This rapid spinning has caused Jupiter to take on an M&M shape and because Jupiter is not a solid body, Jupiter's atmosphere actually spins faster at the **equator** than it does at the poles, making the clouds form the stripes we've come to know and love. So, get outside and gaze upon the gas giant planet Jupiter this week; it's easy to do. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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# DID YOU KNOW?

That monarch butterflies migrate thousands of miles from North America to as far south as Mexico every fall to escape chilly winters? Luckily, on Bonaire it is warm enough that monarchs can comfortably live here year round.

These butterflies are not only beautiful to look at, they are also important because they pollinate flowers. Female monarchs may lay anywhere from 300 to over 100 eggs! They lay their eggs on milkweed plants like Katuna di seda (*Calotropis procera*). After about a week, these eggs hatch into little caterpillars. The caterpillars feed on the milkweed to grow larger. Katuna di seda is an invasive species, so by eating the leaves, monarchs are launching their own invasive species removal program!

In less than two weeks, once the caterpillars have eaten and grown enough, they hang upside and form a light green chrysalis around their body. During the next two weeks they undergo a dramatic transformation from caterpillar to butterfly. The monarch butterfly emerges from the pupa, ready to fly away and pollinate



flowers. Next time you see bright orange wings fluttering past, or nibble marks in a Katuna di seda plant, pause a moment to spot a monarch butterfly or look for a caterpillar on the underside of the leaves. ■

Story & illustration by Hannah Rempel, STINAPA Assistant Research Biologist.



# Strange (Oil) Bird



An oil bird, (*Steatornis caripensis*) caused quite some commotion recently. As a Caribbean birding member I was pinged on Facebook one Saturday night regarding a very strange bird sighting. Restaurant owners said they had seen it over several evenings.

Lauren Schmalz from Echo and Quirijn Coolen were in town when they saw a large brown bird flying to a palm tree and hanging on the seeds, acting strange and fluttering... Quirijn took pictures even though they thought it would disturb the creature and posted it right away on our Caribbean birding trail site. I immediately started searching in my bird guides for this strange bird as I had never seen nor heard of one like it before.

Upon my grabbing my second bird guide the image was plain as could be! All along the wings of the bird were white dots. The hawk-like face and bill and its tail- not too short, not too long.

This bird has been sighted in Aruba once! AND NOW IN BONAIRE!

The oil bird is quite unusual. It rarely sees daylight as it roosts in caves during daytime and returns at night bringing back seeds. They regurgitate these seeds as they roost in rain forests during the day. This bird is the most important long distance seed 'spreader' in Neotropical forests.

It is a slim, long-winged bird that is found in the north of South America, from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago to Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia in forests and woodland areas. It has been sighted in Costa

Rica and Panama and, yes, even in Aruba and Brazil.

It has small, almost useless feet. Its wing span is 91 cm. It's reddish brown with unmistakably white spots all along the wings. It feeds on the oil palm seeds and tropical laurels whereas all the nightjars and their relatives feed on insects. It is one of the only birds and by the way the only nocturnal bird that knows how to navigate by echolocation. Yes, exactly! Just like bats!

Well, after all this commotion and feeling sorry for myself, as I have only once on Bonaire sighted a 'rare' north American bird in my life, I decided to go and see if I too could catch a glimpse of this unique and original bird.

I ventured out the next day with my Bonaire birder-friend Diana to see if we too could be so lucky. And lo and behold we got to the spot at about 19:30 and it was not long before it came flying over from a tree south of the road, straight for the seeds of the palm tree near us. We stayed until 21:00 and the oil bird showed itself three more times.

Each day since someone connected to our birding group has gone and seen this magnificent bird. The photo shows it roosting in the dark, all tucked up, in a tree away from the restaurant... secluded dark and safe. ■ Story by Christie Dovale, photo by Paulo Bertuol/ STINAPA



## BONAIRE MARITIME

### FILM FESTIVAL

**JANUARY 14, 2017 5-7:30 PM**  
**PLAZA BEACH RESORT**

**STORMVOGEL RISING**

The story about the rebirth of Bonaire-built *Stormvogel*, the last of the sailing cargo ships of the ABC Islands.

**A SALUTE TO THE SAILORS**

The original crew of *Stormvogel*, most now in their 80s, are celebrated by the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation

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# The Paw Pal Award



The Bonaire Animal Shelter is proud to announce this year's winner of **The Paw Pal Award**. This award is presented to a volunteer who gives to the Shelter and its residents their time, expertise and support above and beyond the call of duty.

The award this year goes to **Jane Madden Disko** who has been an integral part of the Shelter for over 15 years. She helped design and build the new cat kennel, donates food and supplies, writes the Pet Of The Week newspaper column, and is on call for help and information when it's needed. Congratulations!

Dabney Lassiter

# Pets Of The Week

## The Seniors

If you would like to meet some amazing animals, pay a visit to the Bonaire Animal Shelter soon where you can meet some mature, mellow, loving dogs who are available to be adopted, fostered or sponsored. There's something to be said for an older dog who knows who he or she is, doesn't do silly puppy things, and who is very appreciative of any attention someone can give.

As are all the other cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter, these dogs are healthy, social, are treated against ticks and fleas, are de-wormed, vaccinated, micro chipped and spayed or neutered.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is on Kaminda Lagun 26a. For more information call #717-4989/ 701-4989 or e-mail us and like us on Facebook [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) / [www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/](http://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/)

Open: Tuesday-Friday—9am until 12noon, 3-5pm.

Saturday - 8am-3pm, non-stop.

Sunday, Monday and public holidays closed.

Meet the ladies:

Pien, Zina and Kiki

Meet the guys:

Opa and Bruintje  
(picture left Kiki and right Bruintje)

■ Story & photos by  
Nathalie Peterson



Pien



Zina



Opa



Bruintje

Kiki

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From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of  
It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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BONAIRE NAUTICO MARINA—At It Rains Fishes Restaurant

Call Henk at 560-7254 / Bob 786-5399 [info@bonairenauticomarina.com](mailto:info@bonairenauticomarina.com) /VHF 68

### AN ELDERLY ROMANCE!

Meet Martin and Miss Bea, both Shelter resident dogs and two of the many senior dogs at the Shelter. As you can see they are older but still full of beans! Miss Bea arrived a few months ago at the Shelter and stole the hearts of the guys, especially dear old Martin. Many senior dogs are waiting for a new home. Adopting a senior dog is a wonderful experience; you will gain a faithful companion. Senior dogs and senior people bring out the best in each other. Old dogs make great friends! You can help support the senior dog program. Adopt, foster or sponsor a senior dog! For more information e-mail [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) or call (+599) 701-4989. ■ Story & photos by Nathalie Peterson



