

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Jan.30- Feb. 13, 2017- Year 24, Issue 3
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

**Hummingbirds
of the Night**
Page 8



Unretouched or photoshopped photo

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“Happy New Year To All Our Chinese”

January 28, Starting The Year of the Rooster

Sign in Noord di Salinja

Fishing Tournament Page 9



Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

The Netherlands will conduct Parliamentary elections for the 150 seats in the Second Chamber on the Ides of March* (15 March). **The fortunes of the future of the BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) may ride on the result.** There is little dialog on the islands themselves about which Dutch party(ies) will prevail. The four main Dutch political parties all have a different view of what they want the BES islands to become— from completely Dutch Kingdom dissociated independent states to full integration as a normal European Dutch municipality. Here's a summary as we understand it:

The PVV of Geert Wilders wants Holland to divest itself of all the Caribbean islands ASAP.

The current main coalition government party, **the VVD**, the party of current Prime Minister **Mark Rutte** says the current integration is about the best that can be done.

D66 wants the BES Island citizens to have the same rights and responsibilities as the European Netherlands citizens.

The CDA feels the BES islands are a "Special Responsibility of The Netherlands" and the Dutch Government should do all it can to improve the economy, the infrastructure, and to reduce poverty, especially among the elderly and families with children. Pollsters say it's most likely The Netherlands will have the third cabinet in a row headed by current Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

*The Ides of March were when Roman debts and taxes were to be settled and is memorable as the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.

INSELAIR UPDATES

►An InselAir flight to Miami had to return to Curaçao after the pilots acted on a warning that there was no pressure in the cabin while the aircraft was above 25,000 feet. They followed procedure and made an emergency dive to 10,000 feet. Crew members and passengers had to use the oxygen masks. According to InselAir, the oxygen mask compartments were opened by the pilots. The plane landed safely in Curaçao. The passengers, insofar as needed, were accommodated in a hotel and left for Miami later that night.



Four passengers were treated for ear and nasal symptoms by a doctor at the airport.

►**InselAir's jet schedules were severely disrupted last Wednesday when two pilots grounded their MD-80 aircraft for safety reasons. Bonaire passengers travelling to Miami and St Martin were affected.** According to information provided to SMN News the pilots took the decision to ground the aircraft because it was not safe to fly them due to poor maintenance. Reportedly InselAir is not stocking major parts and other materials to service the aircrafts due to their financial crisis, and as such, they are carrying out minimal maintenance. Dutch authorities have questioned if Civil Aviation in Curaçao is conducting inspections as necessary.

►**On Saturday, 28 January, all InselAir flights to destinations outside of the ABC islands were cancelled.** Although not officially announced, the Aruba and Curaçao Civil Aviation Agencies grounded the MD-series jets for inspection.

►**The management team of InselAir International will present a proposed "Stabilization and Business Plan" as soon as possible** for the approval by the Supervisory Board. The plan will serve as the basis to receive the funds from the Government of Curaçao to ensure the survival of the airline.

►**As reported in the last edition, Curaçao-based InselAir has a new chairman of its management team.** The temporary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the airline is Canadian **Gilles Filiatreault**. He was appointed by the Curaçao Government, which will provide the carrier with a bridge loan totaling \$15 million, so the financially-troubled company can keep its head above water. The airline has already received the first three million dollars. (more about InselAir on page 3)

►**The Bonaire Consumers Union wrote the Kingdom Representative (Rijkvertegenwoordiger) about the performance of InselAir, demanding a response to its complaints over a year ago.**

►**Dutch citizens are among the top nations whose citizens don't need visas for entry to many foreign countries.** As of February 2016, Dutch citizens had visa-

free or visa on arrival access to 174 countries and territories, ranking the Dutch passport 4th in the world (tied with American, Belgian and Danish), according to the Visa Restrictions Index.

►Effective Feb 1 the price of fuel inched up. Prices will be:

| | | |
|--------------|--------|------------------|
| Unleaded gas | 103.70 | USDct per liter. |
| Kerosene | 49.10 | USDct per liter. |
| Diesel | 59.00 | USDct per liter. |
| LPG 100LBS | 30.36 | USD per cyl.. |
| LPG 20LBS | 7.83 | USD per cyl. |

►On Saturday February 4th, the TCB will be organizing the **first Taste of Bonaire for 2017 with Karnval** theme for the first time. The event will take place at Wilhelmina Park from 6pm to 11pm. The program will be filled with music and shows. There will be food stands selling local/international food and also arts and crafts. Grupo ESO, Projekto 2000, the Silver Bullets steel band and Bonazamba will be performing plus and will be a presentation of the Queen of Carnival 2017 plus the Karnaval Prins & Pancho who will present their Karnaval show. For more information contact. Angelo Domacasse at 717-8322.



►**The annual "Lora" count of Bonaire's native parrots took place in the early morning of Saturday, January 28.** The results were surprising to some people. See story on page 6.



►**AMSTERDAM--The number of "mixed marriages" in the Netherlands has remained stable at about one in 10** for years, Dutch national broadcaster NOS reported. When couples who live together are included, some 16% of couples in the Netherlands consist of people with different ethnic backgrounds, according to figures

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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 777-6125

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) from the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS). People of Turkish or Moroccan origin are least likely to pick a partner with a different background and are least likely to live together rather than get married. Nine out of 10 Turkish and Moroccan couples are married, compared with just over half of couples with Antillean or Surinamese roots, the CBS said. The most mixed marriages are between Dutch and Indonesian nationals, followed by Dutch-German and Dutch-Belgian couples.

►HGTV (House and Gardens Television) is filming several more episodes for their popular TV shows. The House Hunters International show with RE/MAX Paradise Homes, Bonaire and Caribbean Life with Sunbelt Realty and their clients. The House Hunters International premiere show last year gave the island significant exposure.



►On Thursday, January 19, at about 9 pm, police arrested a man with initials P.M.C. on the Kaya J.N.E. Craane Boulevard for robbery. A woman, who was swimming, saw the suspect riffling her bag. Barefoot and in her swimsuit she pursued him to reclaim her things. In the melee she was punched and bitten by the suspect. A number of citizens in the neighborhood came to her rescue and helped the suspect to the

ground. They detained him until the police arrived.

►Unfortunately a while later there was a purse snatching on Kaya J.N.E. Craane. But the thief escaped. A woman had been walking on the boulevard when suddenly an unknown man pulled her purse from her shoulder and ran away. People from the neighborhood who heard her screaming ran after the suspect but without success. The case is under investigation.

►Everyone who has a government AOV pension and is married to a younger partner may be entitled to a pension supplement as a result of new legislation. If the joint annual income from the AOV pension and his or her younger partner totals less than \$12,921 on Bonaire, (it's about \$300 higher on Saba or Statia) then a partner supplement can be requested. In this case two situations are possible. A partial partner supplement can be granted when the annual income is between \$7,670 - \$12,921. When the joint annual income is lower than respectively \$7,670 you may receive a full partner supplement.

The maximum amount of the partner supplement that one can receive per month is \$404.

►NOORD-HOLLAND- The highest Dutch administrative court on Wednesday gave the go ahead to cull thousands of fallow deer living in the dune area east of Amsterdam. The province of

(Continued on page 5)

►The Bonaire Business and Employers Association (BBE) believes being well connected by air with neighboring islands is a prerequisite for the maintenance and growth of Bonaire's economy. In a letter to government leaders released last week, it made an urgent call for a concerted effort by local and national government as well as the private sector for safe and reliable air links for Bonaire. The BBE remarked that in recent years accessibility to Bonaire by air has gotten worse. Business and tourist visitors depending on InselAir connections in the region have been frustrated and hindered. The accessibility of Bonaire by air is not a priority for InselAir as demonstrated numerous times. More recently flight safety has been compromised and more frequent preventive emergency landings have occurred.

While falling short of a demand for another airline focusing on serving Bonaire, the Association cited numerous reasons why island life is severely impacted:

- Fears of personal safety
- Unknown length of absence of employees on business trips or medical visits resulting in an unnecessarily long absence from work .
- Increased costs due to longer travel time (additional meals and other accommodations).
- For tourists, having to spend a day or more in Curacao because of unreliable connections is a cause to give Bonaire a miss.
- Travelers miss their connection and have to pay more.
- The stress of the unreliability and customer-unfriendly approach ruin the holiday experience for island visitors
- Business relationships with Curaçao or Aruba suffer because of the possibility that a normal day trip could be extended.
- The very high costs of chartering a plane when a face-to-face visit is needed.
- Bonaire is becoming more and more isolated as a result. This affects most aspects of island life.



Karel Domacasse, Eddy Carrillo, Anja Romeijnders, Burney el Hage, Meriam van Kampen, Steven (Muys) Cieremans, Martien van der Valk

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On the Island Since... 2006 - Danny Klein



Danny Klein with a photo of his son, Daan

“A childhood friend of mine in Holland, Elton Johnson, was from Aruba. When he was 12 his family decided to leave Holland and go back to their island. So we would write each other now and then. After he'd finished high school, Elton came back to Holland to continue his studies. We renewed our friendship, and the first time he was going home for the summer vacation he asked me if I wanted to join him. I was 17 and my parents said, 'Either we pay for your driver's license or we give you the ticket to Aruba,' and guess what I did!

For five weeks I stayed at Elton's house with his family and it wasn't like any vacation. It was like I lived there; I was part of the family. It left a big impression on me and the last day I got on the plane with tears in my eyes. When we came back to Holland we spent a lot of time together during his years of study and working. Then he left, back to Aruba, or at least that's what I thought!

I also moved on with my life; I was working as a chef in my home town, I bought my own house, got married and we had a baby boy whom we named Daan. But... those five weeks on Aruba were engraved in the back of my mind, and I often I told myself, 'One day I will live in the Caribbean.' And then you are 30 and you think, 'If I don't do it now, I will never do it'. It was the right

time. My then wife fully agreed and my little boy was only two. I called Elton to tell him we were on our way to Aruba. He answered, 'I am not there! I am on Bonaire!' So, I asked him what was life like on Bonaire and he answered, 'Even more beautiful!'

We rented our house, quit our jobs and left for Bonaire with three suitcases. I'd found a job as a cook at City Café and I was planning on taking it easy – no hassle, no fuss, just good cooking. Soon enough I found out the staff was betting on how long I was going to stay because in those days Dutch cooks were coming and going. It was a real Bonairean kitchen, but within two weeks I was a sous-chef and I wasn't going anywhere!

Then my wife had an accident and she was flown to Curacao where she stayed in a coma for a week. Four weeks later she left the hospital to rehabilitate. But the facility in Curacao was full and we had no choice but to go back to Holland. Elton and Eugenie took care of Daan until my parents arrived on Bonaire to take over. My ex-boss in Holland paid for my wife's first class ticket as she had to lay flat on the plane, and so I started to work for him once more.

By the time it was going better Daan came to live with us again, and when everything was sort of back to normal I had a breakdown. After talking to a social worker, I was told by him, 'You

should go back to Bonaire.' Of course it wasn't that simple, but I called my ex-boss at City Café and he took me back. Then I quit my job in Holland, which wasn't easy, but in the end we managed to come back to Bonaire in 2008.

I worked at City Café for almost five years, then at Spice Beach Club where I was supposed to set up the kitchen. It would all be arranged very quickly, but in reality I cooked for them for 18 months in one of the Eden Beach apartments. When one of the shareholders stepped aside and shares were released, I was interested in taking over, but one of the top shareholders chose Ed and Joep, saying he would get two for the price of one! I left Spice and went to work as a salesman for Bonaire Food Group. In the meantime my marriage had broken up and everything in my life had changed.

Sometimes it's good to step out of your routine to see what you are missing. I worked at BFG for a year and I met my colleague Angel Martina who is now working with me doing the wine part in my catering business. Then the owners of the Sorobon Hotel offered me a job as a chef, including an apartment on the premises. The most beautiful thing was that my kid – whom I got every other weekend – grew up in that glorious place- fishing, swimming, playing and surfing. That was... until my ex-wife fell in love with someone from our home town and she decided to go back to



Danny and his colleague Angel at work

keep the price low, the expectations are not so high, but when they find out that the quality is excellent, they'll call again! I even have American customers who come here with a canning machine so they can have my soup all year long!

I am happy. For two years I've been living with Jenny who is from Cuba and came to the island looking for a better life while I came here to escape the rat race. So, we have two completely different points of view and in fact it's the essential difference between the Latinos and the Europeans or Americans on Bonaire.

Well, I'm not much of a spender or into material things. The only thing I care about buying are the tickets for my son and me to get together. He's going to

between the local people and the Dutch. I miss the way it used to be. Now it seems like we are two different groups and it doesn't feel right. The fact that Jenny and I are together – so different, but also so good – gives me the opportunity to experience life through the eyes of other cultures and I feel I am part of those cultures too and not just Dutch. I am really annoyed by people who come here and refuse to adjust. It seems they have no idea that they are on a Caribbean island as they just want to live the exact same way they did in Holland. Take for instance those couples on their bicycles on the highway: ridiculous!

Well, I still like Bonaire although I could live anywhere because when you adjust, any

“Bonaire has changed a lot since I'm here and it's good for the business, but personally I miss the good relations and sociability between the local people and the Dutch .”

Holland and my son chose to go with her. I decided to leave the hotel and went to work at Cuba Company, which was a totally different experience... slogging! When a friend of mine suggested I start a catering business during the two days I was off every week I followed his advice and it became so busy that I decided to work for myself full-time. That's how Danny's Catering started!

Of course I have to make money, but I'm not working just for the money. It has to be fulfilling and fun as well. Good thing is that I'm not only catering the rich, because there are all kinds of people with different backgrounds and nationalities who call me. Some put their money together and have me come to the beach or to their house. Some give my services as a present to relatives or friends, and as I'm charging for a five-course meal for two persons \$59.50 it's doable for almost everyone. When you

be 13 in May. Usually we 'What's Ap' but he's busy with school and friends and there's the five or six-hour time difference. But I really think that we have more quality time when he's here compared to when I lived in Holland. He also told me he doesn't want me to come to Holland, he prefers to come here.

One of the best things I did in my life was have him grow up on Bonaire, in another country, a different culture. He was four when he caught his own fish, cleaned it and threw it on the barbecue, and it has shaped him for the rest of his life. He is a boy who doesn't have prejudices; he takes people for who they are. Back in Holland he adjusted well and made new friends almost immediately. I am very proud of him.

Bonaire has changed a lot since I've been here and it's good for the business, but personally I miss the good relations and sociability

place becomes home. The beautiful thing here is that everybody knows you, which can have its cons, but I don't go there. I am a giver and when I'm doing fine others benefit from it too. Last time I asked my son what it was he wanted to become he told me 'a fisherman' and I am so okay with that, because you should do what makes you happy and not live as others expect from you.” ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



For more information contact Danny's Catering at 782-9135

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

DOCTOR VISITS

"Though the doctors treated him, let his blood, and gave him medications to drink, he nevertheless recovered." -- Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace

Visiting one of Bonaire's capable general practitioners usually devours part of your day. The patient normally needs patience, a sense of humor and an entertaining book or friend to endure an extended stretch in the doctor's waiting room. Fortunately, the office staff is always courteous and friendly, maybe a bit too laid-back at times. The patients in the front foyer (awaiting their fate until it seems hell will freeze over) almost always *bondia* or *bontardi* entering fellow sufferers.

A couple of years back Bob had to visit our GP in order to discuss his blood work results. I accompanied the hub. Upon entering, I sighed. The situation looked pretty grim. *Hopi hende* (many people) who barely uttered the customary *bontardis*. More than a few seemed to be suffering in severe agony. Also, no friend in sight. While standing in line to show our *sedulas* (local IDs) to the cheerful receptionist, she allowed several people to cut in front of us. That always gets my *kabritu* (goat), so I spoke up. I even called her *Dushi* (ever popular), while making my case. Needless to say, my words wafted off to

oblivion. Hubby and I lingered at the back of the queue for a long time, eventually starting to *bontardi* each other, out of sheer tediousness.

While I wallowed in self-pity, Bob had to swallow his physical pain for a pressing two hours. Finally, we were beckoned to step through the buzzer-locked door into the back-office waiting room. I became excited. *Mais non*. We were forced to twiddle thumbs for another hour or so, meanwhile observing various patients who entered after we did being ushered into the doctor's inter sanctum. At least I got to wave at little playful kiddos while perusing the glossy Sunbelt real estate mags for the umpteenth time.

When our "turn" finally came, Bob and the doctor commenced analyzing certain tests in detail. I felt the need to intervene by stating hub enjoys sipping a glass of wine or two -- just wanting to be helpful and truthful. Bob retorted, "So do you, my dear." Well, that one certainly backfired. But I wasn't the patient now, was I? Never mind that, the good ole doc went after me with a vengeance.

Now it was all about me. How much did I drink per week (per day sounds better --- two glasses daily as opposed to 14 drinks a week really makes a difference in a conversation; maybe not so much when you write it down), and did I realize how much damage alcohol causes to the brain and body? "It's

worse for women, you know." I really tried hard to revert the case back to my mean hub, but all eyes were on me. Even the skull on the physician's desk stared at me accusingly. He, the doctor, not the skull, advised me to drink tea instead of wine. Tea is so much healthier. Sure, I'll follow your well-intended but foolish advice, doc, -- when pigs fly to the moon.

I followed up though on one of his recommendations, though, to have my own liver function and cholesterol levels tested. Had my arm poked for blood by the *hopi bon* (very good) phlebotomists of BonLab. I enjoy watching my blood flowing smoothly into the tiny vials. I served a stint as a phlebotomist myself back when, so I appreciate a well-executed prick causing a steady stream of sanguine fluid.

Several days later on a Monday morning, I found myself gradually hobbling forward, yet again, in the daily procession at the medical office to obtain my blood work results. Attempting to keep my impatience in check, I approached the peppy secretary's desk. We *bondia*, *bonsiman*-ed each other before she informed me that the printer had gone kaput. "When will the printer be fixed?" I asked naively. "*Mañan*," meaning not today. However, this ambitious doctor-



A good jab

wanna-be helpfully proceeded to read aloud the results to me from her computer screen. The numbers by themselves made no sense to me, of course, since they required the normal ranges, the ones always printed on the form, to evaluate. Upon query, she shrugged her shoulders and confided to me, "All I can tell you is that these numbers don't look so good; way too high."

Luckily, when my doc became available, he quickly defused her alarming interpretation, whilst he and I shared a chuckle regarding the well-meant but wholly inaccurate conclusion. Arriving home I grabbed a glass. Not with tea. ■

Story & photo by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour (who still savors a daily glass of vino)



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) Noord-Holland wants to slash the deer population from 3,800 to 1,000 in order to reduce damage to plants and trees and reduce the risk of road accidents. Animal protection group *Stichting Faunabescherming* has gone to court to have the cull stopped. **The outcome of the case may have implications for Bonaire's roaming goats and donkeys.**

► In 1527 Rincon was founded by the Spanish making it one of the oldest continuously settled towns in the New World and the oldest in the Caribbean Netherlands. **In 10 years Rincon will be 500 years old. Save the date!**

► **On Saturday, January 28, Dive Friends hosted another quarterly Clean Up Dive.** Volunteers checked in at 9:45am at the Yellow Sub location for a briefing for all volunteers at 10am They cleaned up the Karel's Pier dive area.

The focus was on collecting as much discarded fishing line as possible.

Non-divers helped with counting and logging the items removed from the water for PADI Project AWARE Dive Against Debris. The counting and logging was conducted at Yellow Submarine after the dive. At 6pm, there was the traditional potluck BBQ for volunteers at Hamlet Oasis.

If you are interested in helping with another clean-up project for the eastern

coastline, please visit www.debrisfreebonaire.com for more information.

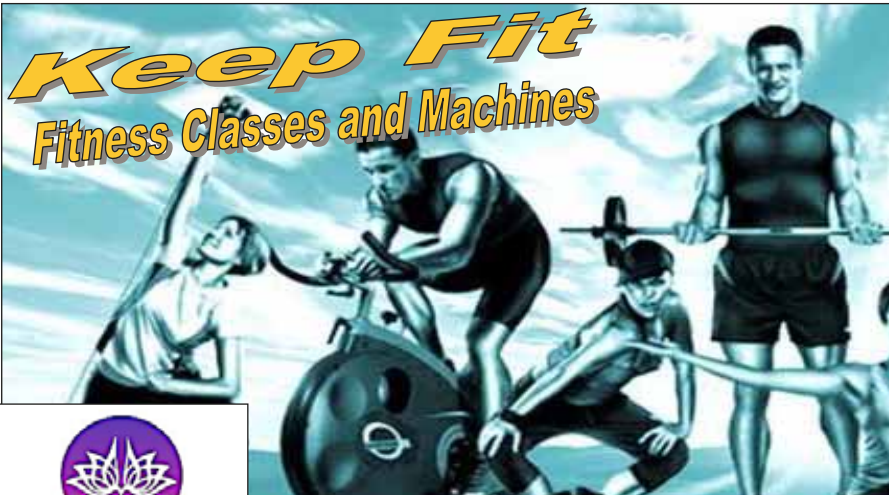
► **Penny Lane** is having a 14% off sale. Can't figure why 14%? It's a Valentine's Day Sale. See their ad on page 9.

► On Sunday, February 12, **learn to massage the shoulders, neck and head** from an expert at the Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio adjacent to the Plaza Resort. It's 9am to 1pm Fee \$50. Confirm your spot via Laura Stefani at smilingbuddhayogabonaire@gmail.com or call 700-5779.

► **The Terramar Museum** is planning a special "night at the museum" event on **Wednesday, March 8.**


There will be a lecture on a very special part of Bonairean history and an archaeological artifact workshop. The event will start at 7pm and will last about two hours. Save the date. More info in upcoming editions.

► **We hope you enjoy this edition of The Bonaire Reporter.** If you do tell the places where you shop to support it with their advertising. Their support keeps *The Reporter* free to our readers.. ■ *G.D.*



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George "Clam" Buckley Honored

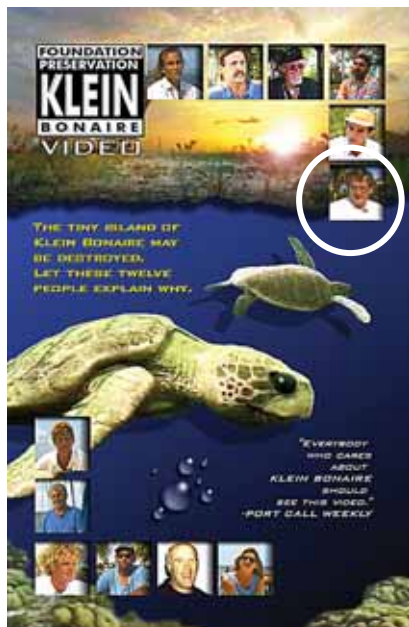


Habitat team and well wishers at the award ceremony



Above: Dr. Buckley with the impressive Platinum Award.

At right-Preserve Klein Bonaire Poster



Dr. George "Clam" Buckley of Harvard University was honored with Platinum Ambassador status at a ceremony at Captain Don's Habitat, for 40 continuous years of Bonaire visits. The award was presented on January 20 jointly by TCB's Helen Thode and Habitat Manager Claire Sealy. They were surrounded by hotel staff, the dive team and well wishers. This was the first Platinum Award for Habitat.

Dr. Buckley is not your average tourist. On one of his first visits to Bonaire, when much of the present day Capt. Don's Habitat Hotel was called "Aqua Venture, Capt. Don Stewart

spotted him walking around the property studiously looking down. The Captain was baffled. Buckley was not looking for lost coins but studying the unique habitat of the land snails which can be found along Bonaire's coastal zone. He is a pioneer of ecological preservation and remote learning and over the years developed close friendships with numerous Bonaire residents. For many years he led groups of youngsters from the US to Bonaire to sample the wonders of the island. He participated in the foundation to get Klein Bonaire a protected area and advises the local government on significant ecological matters. ■ G.D.

Where Have All The Loras Gone?



Loras perching on the wires

After a season of more and heavier rains following a multi-year drought, the Loras seem to have dispersed around the island, making them more difficult to find and count. During the annual parrot roost count, nearly 700 parrots were counted. That is fewer than in previous years, but it is not because they are not here but rather that they may now be sleeping in locations which are more difficult to access and observe. Therefore, not all Loras have been counted. The count takes place on the last Saturday of January every year and gives us an estimate of the minimum number of parrots on the island.

Again this year, several teams reported hearing Loras or seeing them flying nearby but not within the area that they were surveying. Two sites near residential areas which last year had nearly 300 Loras each, had many fewer this year. In the area of Sabadeco, for example, the total number dropped from 229 to just 11! Also in the Washington Slagbaai Park the total count has declined for the second year in a row; this time just over 50 birds were counted. However, the Park Manager, Paulo Bertuol, suspects there may be new roosts forming and these areas will be included in the surveys for next year.

There were roost sites included this year which haven't been counted in many years but which are now showing activity, proving that the Loras are regularly moving around the island and periodically changing their roost location. This unpredictable behavior of the Loras makes it challenging for the participating volunteers to count them each year. The staff of STINAPA counted inside the Washington Slagbaai Park. Outside the park over 50 volunteers visited 17 differ-



Looking for loras

ent sites. The Loras are counted in a simultaneous count, which requires everyone to set off in the very early morning (pre-dawn) hours to locations all over the island. As the Loras wake up and depart from the tree where they've been sleeping, they are counted. Each Lora is only counted once. By adding the numbers which have been simultaneously counted across all the sites, the organizers are able to get a sense of the minimum number of Loras on the island. This annual census is important for parrot conservation on Bonaire and for protecting the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot (*Amazona barbadensis*) globally.

This roost count is held every year on the last Saturday of January. This year's count was the 22nd count overall and the 12th consecutive count. This year's count was organized by Echo, STINAPA and the Department of Environment and Nature of the public entity.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and to the following who contributed prizes for the volunteer raffle which followed the count: Just 4 Pets, Echo, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, STINAPA, and Addo's bookstore. ■ Press release from Echo - Lauren, Izzy, Lily & Jennah

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2016 Picture Winner



The very happy winner of the 2016 *Bonaire Reporter* "Picture Yourself" contest is **Lourae Knoffel**, center. Lourae is shown receiving her prize, a certificate for a delectable dinner for two at the unique La Balandra Restaurant at the Harbour Village Resort, from *Reporter* publisher, George DeSalvo, and Editor in chief, Laura DeSalvo. Lourae brought a copy of *The Reporter*, taking dozens of photos with it, while visiting five continents, 30 countries and 50 ports.



The winner— a collage of photos taken with *The Bonaire Reporter*

Congratulations, Lourae! ■ L.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Sicily, Italy

Joan and Alan Zale (at left in photo), frequent contributors to Picture Yourself with *The Bonaire Reporter*, took the paper on a 16-day tour of Italy. Their first stop was St. Peter's Square in Rome where they posed with the paper following the first feast day mass for St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta who had been canonized the day before, by Pope Francis.



They sent six photos taken with *The Reporter* on that trip and we chose the one taken

on a Food, Wine and Culture tour of Sicily run by **Accursio Lotá**, the Executive Chef of Solare Restaurant in San Diego, CA, who posed with Joan and Alan in a marzipan pastry laboratory with pastry chef/artist **Alessandro Marchese**.

Joan and Alan, who own a condo at Sand Dollar and live in Hartsdale, NY, have been coming to Bonaire since 1995 and have more than 40 visits to the island. ■

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Hummingbirds of the Night "Buttoning-up" For Turtles



© Roland & Renate Kraft

“We always come to Bonaire in January. We stay at the same place and the first thing we do is bring out the special stone where we put brown cane sugar for the birds, and we hang up the hummingbird feeder with sugar water. Soon there are a lot of birds eating our sweets.

But do you remember, until this fall it was very dry for several years. Last January after a few days of feeding the birds, we noticed that in the morning all the sugar and the sugar water were gone and the feeders were empty.

We wondered, what was happening overnight? So we stayed up the next night and watched the feeding stations. Soon we saw fast, dark shadows were flying around: bats, nectar feeders both *Leptonycteris curasoae* (long nose bats) and *Glossophaga longirostris* (long tongued bats).

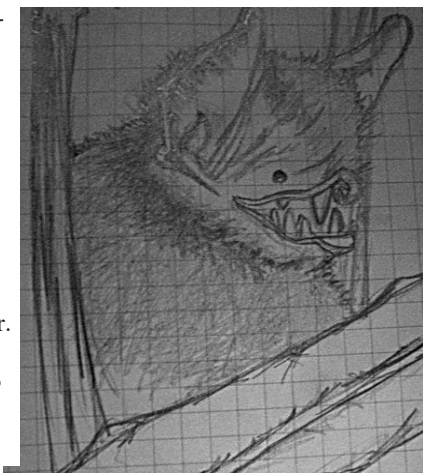
Every evening more and more came. Thirty up to 40 bats came to our nectar stations. Many nights we took hundreds of photos to document this unusual event. But only a dozen photos turned out perfectly. Now this year, after we returned to Bonaire the first thing we did was to bring out the feeding stations but until today no bats, no hummingbirds of the night, appeared.” ■

Story & photos by Roland & Renate Kraft info@photo-kraft.de The Krafts are long term visitors to Bonaire and published photographers in Germany. They are especially well known for their underwater and nature photography.



If you look at the number of mammal species on Earth, a quarter of them are bats. There are over 1,100 species of bats and Bonaire is home to at least nine of them. We have insect-eating bats, fruit/nectar/pollen-eating bats and even fish-eating bats! We have it all! ■ *Caren Eckrich*

Bonaire's eighth bat variety was only identified in 2010. It's a Naked-backed bat (*Pteronotus davyi*). Bat expert biologist Dr. Sophie Petit quipped, “It's the bat with the nicest smile in the whole Caribbean.” Refer to the illustration at right made by Andrea Simal to see what she means ■ *G.D.*



In the beginning of January, as part of the Ecological Restoration of Lac and the South of Bonaire, 50 green buttonwood trees (a native species of mangrove) were planted along the inside of the fence on Te Amo Beach. Over time, the green buttonwood will form a natural barrier that will replace the existing fence.

The fence, which is covered in palm leaves, has been effective at reducing light pollution from the airport, thereby reducing the disorientation of nesting turtles and hatchlings at Te Amo Beach. As the vegetation alongside the fence grows, it will further reduce light from the airport and the road.

The new vegetation will help nesting turtles, such as the critically endangered hawksbill that likes to nest underneath shore plants. The roots of the trees will also bind the sand, which in its turn prevents the sand from blowing away, maintaining one of Bonaire's precious beaches.

The conservation efforts at Te Amo Beach, for which Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire partnered with WILDCONSCIENCE BV, are part of the Ecological Restoration of Lac and the South of Bonaire: a project that is coordinated by the Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire (local government) and funded with ‘natuurgelden’ made available by the Dutch government. In addition, Green Label Landscaping N.V. has sponsored part of the tree planting and also the watering of the plants during their first month to ensure that the buttonwood grows successfully. ■ *Press release*



Saturday Tour Of Dos Pos

Echo, an NGO working for the conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon Parrot, will open its doors to all who are interested for a special Saturday morning tour on 4 February at 10am. The tour of Dos Pos Conservation Centre is donation-based. All funds received go towards helping Echo's conservation efforts on Bonaire. The tour will be lead by a local guide from Rincon.

This special Saturday morning tour has our local residents in mind in particular since many cannot attend the weekly public tours which are held on Wednesdays at 4:30pm. If you are unable to attend the special Saturday morning tour, please consider joining us any Wednesday at 4:30pm – no reservation necessary.

Or you can book a private tour at a time that's suitable for you. The cost of the private tour is \$25 per person and bookings can be made online at: <http://www.echobonaire.org/visit/parrot-tours> or by emailing



info@echobonaire.org. The advantage of selecting a specific time is that you can visit Dos Pos Conservation Centre in the morning when the forest and feeding areas are full of activity! Please book tours 48 hours in advance.

The ‘Parrot Trail’ will take you around Dos Pos Kunuku's (farm) dry-forest where you will learn about Bonaire's history, native trees, Echo's reforestation efforts and be able to view parrots in the rehabilitation aviary. It's also a great opportunity to see the more untouched, natural end of Bonaire. These interactive tours are delivered in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Join them on Saturday February 4, at 10am. ■ *Press release/ G.D.*



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|----------|----------------|
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About 20 sports fishing boats heading north at the start of the tournament

| BOAT | ANGLER | FRIDAY JAN 27 | BOAT | ANGLER | SATURDAY JAN 28 |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| PASO LARGO | CUR N. ZABALA | SAIL | PERFECT CATCH | AUA | RELEASED |
| LIVING EASY | AUA J. GANZALUS | SAIL | VERONIQUE | AUA G. de VEER | RELEASED |
| TALIA | AUA A. THYSSEN | SAIL | WATASHEE | VEN M. SILVA | RELEASED |
| PASO LARGO | CUR N. ZABALA | SAIL | NAIRA | AUA J. ILIARTE | RELEASED |
| NAIRA | AUA C. ISAZA | LOST | PERFECT CATCH | AUA | LOST |
| BLU | VEN E. ALFONZO | SAIL | ILIZA | AUA M. MANSUR | BLUE |
| PICANTE | CUR B. de POULO | SAIL | VERONIQUE | AUA G. de VEER | LOST |
| MAKURADI | BON B. FOUKRAINE | BLUE | WATASHEE | VEN M. SILVA | RELEASED |
| MANNY | CUR C. de HAAR | LOST | NAIRA | AUA J. ILIARTE | RELEASED |
| DESPERADO | CUR S. BOER | LOST | TARA | AUA R. LACLE | RELEASED |
| KARISHMA | AUA R. FINGAL | BLUE | PERFECT CATCH | AUA A. MARUN | RELEASED |
| ILIZA | AUA L. PENATE | RELEASED | NAIRA | AUA B. MANSUR | RELEASED |
| AFISHONADO | CUR B. ROHEWEL | SAIL | PASO LARGO | CUR N. SANALA | RELEASED |
| NABARON | VEN M. LAHIPE | BLUE | NAIRA | AUA J. ILIARTE | LOST |
| GRAND BLUE | BON D. HENDRIKS | TUNA | KARISHMA | AUA M. FINGAL | LOST |
| TARA | VEN R. LACLE | 43.5 KG | PASO LARGO | CUR N. SANALA | RELEASED |
| PASO LARGO | CUR N. ZABALA | RELEASED | TARA | AUA R. LACLE | RELEASED |
| PERFECT CATCH | CUR B. ROHEWEL | RELEASED | TARA | AUA C. MEJIA | RELEASED |
| AFISHONADO | CUR K. KLEINMEDI | RELEASED | ILIZA | AUA J. CROES | RELEASED |
| BALKAN | CUR R. VAN VLIET | WHITE | TARA | AUA R. LACLE | LOST |
| AFISHONADO | CUR K. KLEINMEDI | BLUE | TARA | AUA C. MEJIA | RELEASED |
| VERONIQUE | AUA G. de VEER | TUNA | | | |
| | | 12.5 KG | | | |

| NUMBER of fish | BOAT | KATEGORIE | KANTIDAD | PESAJI KILO |
|----------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| MY SUGAR TWINS | GRANDI | GRANDI | 1 | 1.5 |
| EMELY | GRANDI | GRANDI | 1 | 4.1 |
| GIORDANO | GRANDI | GRANDI | 9 | 108.5 |
| FATIMA | GRANDI | GRANDI | 55 | 86 |
| KUNA | CHIKI | CHIKI | 77 | |

Results board



The Bonaire International Catch and Release Bill Fish and Local Fishermen tournament was a great success. Held last weekend it attracted sports fishermen from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Venezuela. While official results were not published at press time there appeared to have caught and released: 17 Sailfish 8 White marlin, 6 Blue marlin. A couple of tuna were also caught. (Continued on page 15)

Help! Topic Needed!

Boelie, the rednose pitbull, who temporarily took my place as a copy supplier to *The Reporter*, has been fired after one episode. Much to her disappointment, because she had a lot of stories in store. However, if you have read the story you might understand why she received dismissal. It looked as if animals had taken over *The Reporter*. In almost every story they played the leading role. So I take over the baton from Boelie. Again the problem of finding a new subject appears. In any case, no animals and no waste because that is an exhausted theme. I must come up quickly with something else. What do I want to write about? What is my heart's desire? The first thought that comes up is that I want to write a novel. After all those short stories I would like to write something more substantial. But, a novel about what? No idea comes to mind. Dare I ask you readers to make suggestions?



Perhaps it is a writer's block that I am meeting now. No, probably not, I'm writing now! OK, but I don't write about anything. I want to write a real novel. Would you call that nothing? But I do not do it yet, so there might be a block. Maybe I won't succeed and my novel becomes a huge flop, a flop that I share with thousands of readers of *The Reporter*. It might result into my not going out on the streets of Kralendijk any more, out of fear of being recognized as the biggest failure in the history of the novel.

But still, writing a novel without a subject is not very inspiring or possible. I really have doubts about any subject that comes to mind. What a horrible feeling doubt is, where does it come from? I even doubt whether it comes from myself or that it is caused by my surroundings. I want to write a novel. OK, that sounds like a sentence without a doubt, fortunately. What about? Now I feel that dilemma again. So, another question. About what do I **not** want to write? Not about animals, not about trash lying along the side of the road. Obviously, right? I also

(Continued on page 10)

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A Garden? Just Do It



Paved garden path

GARDEN FACE LIFT

I guess I'm not the only one these days who's busy all the time in the yard. Cutting and trimming is one of the weekly jobs and I tell you it is one of the hardest. Climbing trees, cutting grass, removing the plants that are taking over the fence. Sometimes it's too much. And every two weeks all that grass and overgrowth are there again.

So to get rid of part of that heavy work I treated myself, as a Christmas present, to a nice tiled patio of homemade bricks in the yard (see photo). A contractor did the job which was done quickly and cheaply because of the cheap material. I got a great result with a lot of space to put out nice garden things like big clay pots with plants, yard chairs and table, a Buddha statue. You know those nice things that make the garden look like an outdoor extension of the house.

Now, how did we make the bricks? With cement, fine building sand, a mold, building plastic, water and cement water paint (no steel mats). I bought the mold at Kooyman's (see photo).

The contractor cleaned the yard first, then leveled it so water could run down to the street. Then he put down lines to mark the area, then the building plastic. Now the tiling could start. Mix the cement and just pour it into the mold (we had 2 of them). Let it stay a minute, remove it from the mold, put it beside the last brick and pour in more cement. Then repeat. It goes fast and you can do it by yourself if you are able to. With a helping hand you can even do the tiling in one or two days.

Let it dry a day or two. Mix the water paint with a lot of water and just paint the bricks with a broom or by spraying. Two applications might be good enough. Don't bother to mix the paint in the cement as you will need a lot of it. It makes no sense since it's only the surface that needs to have paint. There are different earth colors at Kooyman. One can of paint is enough to finish the job. You have to mix it with water and try it out first.

There are spaces between the bricks. Put some beach sand between the cracks. Repeat this procedure a few times because sand washes away as the bricks settle. There is still space around the tiled space for a garden, and the flowering plants bordering it look even nicer.

My garden got such a great face lift and I enjoy it now much more. With the shade of the trees around, a nice breeze, no grass, so few mosquitoes on the porch and in the house because I moved all the plants from the porch onto the patio where they get the fresh rainwater. So there's no need to water them all the time anymore. I do spend way more relaxing time in my garden than before. And every one who passes by is enthusiastic about it and wants to do it too.

Another positive aspect of these bricks is that after a while when you need some space, you can just remove a few of the bricks. They are not hooked on to each other, you see. Normally you have to damage the whole floor for a change, but in this case you even can use the bricks again. Another thing is that they are very anti-skid. No problem to



The brick mould

park your car there. Not difficult to keep it clean. Nice place for children to play.

While the contractor was busy in the yard he trimmed my trees too and took away a huge tree.



View from the top

This tree grew by itself in my back yard and I let it go, but it kept on growing and became a giant and dangerous for my house. Instead of taking the tree parts in a pickup to the landfill, which would cost me lot, I ordered one of those containers from Selibon: \$50 per day for a small one for 24 hours, or \$65 for a weekend. The bigger size is \$80 per day or \$100 per weekend. Selibon said the price will drop in June. So they bring the container in the morning and pick it up the next morning or after the weekend.

This was a good solution for me: no up and down to the landfill (where it's only free on the weekends) and no rental of a pickup which holds only one-third of what a container holds.

Okay, with the new year you can have a new yard just with a nice face lift. Be creative and make your yard dreams come true. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Bonaire Women March



March for Human Rights at the waterfront

In support of the Women's Marches around the world, about 33 women and a few men turned out in Bonaire on Saturday, January 21, in downtown Kralendijk. March organizers said the event's primary focus is to promote human rights and to defend marginalized groups. The recent elections in the United States have shown how real this threat can be to our collective rights and liberties.

As Ann Joseph, retired lawyer and March organizer explains, "I was so upset that I decided that instead of being upset I had to do something about protesting about an unwell man who is president of the United States." The other participants felt the same way, sporting signs and rallying together. The group was greeted by cars honking and thumbs up. They marched from Wilhelmina Park to Kaya Grandi, ending across the street from the post office. As Joseph said, "At the end I felt fantastic. I had done something and I was with like minded people. The world has to condemn this man."

The decision to gather people on the island to march was a last minute one. Consequently a number of other Bonaire residents of all nationalities said they would have joined the march had they heard about it. Next time the word should be out for all to hear. ■

L.D.



Walkin' the Walk

Topic Needed (Continued from page 9) know I do not want to write a thriller or detective story. Why not? Because I, as a reader, already do not understand that kind of genre. I want something more subtle, preferably something about human behavior, that interests me. A psychological novel would be fun. That is a phrase without any doubt. I stick to solid ground again. The conclusion of all this messing around in my mind is that I'm going to write a psychological novel of which I don't know the subject. It must be something that readers on Bonaire are interested in. Suddenly it comes to my mind that I could ask them to help me. Maybe I can start an interactive novel, the first one on earth (or would someone else have invented this already?). I could ask

for suggestions on the subject and get inspired by them. And then the doubt gets a grip on me again: what to do if no one responds? Or what if thousands of comments are pouring in my mailbox? Then I have to make a choice and disappoint many people. Well, the deadline has been reached by now and I have to deliver this article, no more doubt possible.

Readers, I hope to hear from you, but in moderation! Write your suggestions to: justineverschuur@hotmail.com ■

Justine Verschuur



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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low | High | Sunrise | Sunset |
|--------|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Mon 30 | 04:56 0.27 ft | 07:59 0.25 ft | 14:30 0.70 ft | 23:00 -0.13 ft | | 7:01 | 18:37 |
| Tue 31 | 05:04 0.38 ft | 10:02 0.25 ft | 15:24 0.61 ft | 23:23 -0.14 ft | | 7:00 | 18:37 |
| Wed 01 | 05:28 0.51 ft | 11:37 0.20 ft | 16:21 0.52 ft | 23:48 -0.14 ft | | 7:00 | 18:38 |
| Thu 02 | 06:00 0.65 ft | 12:55 0.12 ft | 17:19 0.43 ft | | | 7:00 | 18:38 |
| Fri 03 | | 00:17 -0.15 ft | 06:37 0.79 ft | 14:03 0.03 ft | 18:17 0.35 ft | 7:00 | 18:38 |
| Sat 04 | | First Quarter 00:50 -0.16 ft | 07:17 0.91 ft | 15:04 -0.05 ft | 19:16 0.27 ft | 7:00 | 18:39 |
| Sun 05 | | 01:26 -0.16 ft | 08:01 1.01 ft | 16:03 -0.12 ft | 20:16 0.21 ft | 7:00 | 18:39 |
| Mon 06 | | 02:05 -0.15 ft | 08:47 1.06 ft | 17:01 -0.17 ft | 21:17 0.17 ft | 6:59 | 18:39 |
| Tue 07 | | 02:48 -0.13 ft | 09:35 1.08 ft | 17:58 -0.20 ft | 22:22 0.14 ft | 6:59 | 18:40 |
| Wed 08 | | 03:35 -0.09 ft | 10:26 1.05 ft | 18:55 -0.21 ft | 23:32 0.14 ft | 6:59 | 18:40 |
| Thu 09 | | 04:27 -0.03 ft | 11:18 1.00 ft | 19:51 -0.21 ft | | 6:59 | 18:40 |
| Fri 10 | 00:48 0.17 ft | 05:29 0.03 ft | 12:13 0.91 ft | 20:44 -0.20 ft | Full Moon | 6:58 | 18:41 |
| Sat 11 | 02:03 0.23 ft | 06:44 0.10 ft | 13:11 0.81 ft | 21:33 -0.18 ft | | 6:58 | 18:41 |
| Sun 12 | 03:10 0.30 ft | 08:12 0.15 ft | 14:10 0.70 ft | 22:18 -0.16 ft | | 6:58 | 18:41 |
| Mon 13 | 04:06 0.39 ft | 09:45 0.16 ft | 15:10 0.60 ft | 22:57 -0.13 ft | | 6:57 | 18:41 |

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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

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 Industrija, **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 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.

• **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.

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

CRUISES

| DAY | DATE | NAME | ARR/DEP | CAP | C.LINE |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------|------------------|
| Mon | January 30, 2017 | <i>Serenade of the Seas</i> | 1300-2000 | 2500 | RCCL |
| Tue | January 31, | <i>Adventure of the</i> | 0800-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |
| Tue | January 31, 2017 | <i>Breamar</i> | 0800-1800 | 929 | Fred Olsen |
| Thu | February 2, 2017 | <i>Caribbean Princess</i> | 0700-1700 | 3200 | Princess Cruises |
| Thu | February 2, 2017 | <i>Thomson Discovery</i> | 0700-1400 | 2076 | Columbia Cruises |
| Fri | February 3, 2017 | <i>Nieuw Amsterdam</i> | 0800-1800 | 1380 | HAL |
| Mon | February 6, 2017 | <i>Mein Schiff 5</i> | 0730-2000 | 2500 | TUI |
| Tue | February 7, 2017 | <i>Carnival Sunshine</i> | 0800-1600 | 2974 | Carnival CL |
| Tue | February 7, 2017 | <i>Seabourn Odyssey</i> | 1000-200 | 450 | Seabourn |
| Wed | February 8, 2017 | <i>Eclipse</i> | 0900-1800 | 2850 | CEL |
| Wed | February 8, 2017 | <i>Aida Diva</i> | 0700-1800 | 2194 | Aida Cruises |
| Thu | February 9, 2017 | <i>Navigator of the Seas</i> | 0700-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |
| Sun | February 12, 2017 | <i>Sea Cloud</i> | 0800-2200 | 98 | |
| Mon | February 13, 2017 | <i>Adventure of the Seas</i> | 0800-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |

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 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: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.)

Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 4 & 5—Yoga Sensible Workshops with Carla Baruchello. "Through the Elements," Yoga Terrace at Eden Beach Resort, 11am. Single workshop \$70, Info & booking Elisabetta +599-780-7362, betta@web.de

Saturday Feb. 4

—Echo will have a special **Dos Pos Tour, 10am—More-** page 8

—**First Taste of Bonaire for 2017, Karnaval theme.** Food, drinks, music, entertainment. Wilhelmina Park, 6 pm. More- page 2

Saturday, Feb. 5— BonDiGro Opening Brunch, 10am-4pm

Karnaval Main events Feb. :
18 Children's Parade Rincon
19 Children's Parade Playa
25 Grand Parade Rincon
26 Grand Parade Playa
27 Feb Karnaval Mon Holiday
28 Burning of King Momo

Sunday, February 12 —Learn to massage the shoulders, neck and head at the Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio adjacent to the Plaza Resort. 9 am to 1 pm Fee \$50. Confirm your spot via Laura Stefani at smilingbuddhayogabonaire@gmail.com or call 700 5779.

Wednesday, March 8.—The Terramar Museum is planning a special "night at the museum" event . More on page 5.

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

Check these places first
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Advertisements in this edition

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BEAUTY

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ON and IN the WATER

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

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value.

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Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. Drone photography too. ScubaVision, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at www.bonairevisionfilms.com.

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RESTAURANTS

Bobbejans— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

BonAroma— One of Bonaire's newest fine restaurants. Just five tables, continental cuisine and superb service

Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 18.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



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THE STARS HAVE IT

February 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Real estate investments could be to your advantage. Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind. Do not lend money or belongings to friends. Your honesty will not only win you points but also respect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. If you can't get away, make plans to do something special with friends or relatives. Take your time before making personal decisions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Being unappreciated by your boss could make it hard to do your work effectively. Keep your ears open, especially to those who care about you. Uncertainties regarding your home and family are evident. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be overly sensitive this month. You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. Use discretion in your dealings and refrain from making verbal promises of any kind. You might not be as reserved on an emotional level as you'd like. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Take your time and try not to overload yourself. Luck is with you, regardless of the financial venture. Take your time. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Look into any educational activities involving the whole family. You can make money if you are careful not to let it trickle through your

fingers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your confidence will stabilize your position. Look into family outings or projects. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Real estate should be lucrative for you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress. You may not see your situation clearly. You must refrain from overspending on entertainment. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be sure to find out all you can before you commit to anything. Exercise programs will be effective. It's time to reevaluate your motives. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to spend some time on your own. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. Help elders in your family. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try looking into new ways to make extra money. You may have a problem dealing with elders. Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. You need to do something that will make you feel better about yourself. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Deceit with coworkers is apparent. Don't make unreasonable promises. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Constellations Everywhere!

We have something special to talk about this week. Is it another planetary close encounter? Or perhaps an eclipse?

Well, none of those actually. We'll tell about constellations. Where did they all come from, and who invented them?

For thousands of years, our ancestors have looked up at the night sky and wondered what it all was. Even as recently as 50 years ago, in Bonaire before the proliferation of street lights, if you went outside on a clear, moonless night, you could see thousands of stars, right from your backyard.

Without a scientific understanding of what the stars actually were, many ancient cultures thought the stars were divine. Each star was considered a god, fixed in position, relative to the others; appearing to rise in the east and set in the west, night after night.

Imagine how magical, mysterious and awesome the heavens must have seemed to our ancestors. As a person went from youth to old age, they would see the same stars in the same locations year after year; the same at age 5 as at age 50. And the sky seemed so high above them that the stars were unreachable, as if they were attached to the inside of a large, crystalline sphere, with us at the center.

And this sphere would appear to rotate around the Earth, again...with us at the center, making the stars appear to rise in the east and set in the west. This repetitive motion of the stars was very predictable, so many ancient people used the night sky as a primitive clock. Because, not only was the daily motion of the stars repetitive, but over the course of a year, the stars you could see would gradually change. However, 365 days later, the same stars you saw a year ago would reappear in the same place; so if you look up at the stars after sunset on your birthday, you'll see the same stars in the same place, every birthday, for as long as you live.

The human brain likes to make order out of chaos. Although the distribution of the stars in the night sky is random, your brain



immediately wants to make patterns out of the brightest stars. So, as our ancestors spent their evenings gazing at the stars, they would play a game of celestial connect-the-dots, making patterns (both big and small) that represented objects, animals or people. We call these patterns, constellations.

There are 88 officially-recognized constellations in modern astronomy. Which constellations you can see is dependent on where on the Earth you're observing. For example, people who live in Australia can see some of the same stars that we can see from the Bonaire Sky Park, but not all of them, and vice versa.

Australians can see the Southern Cross, as can we in Bonaire. We can see Ursa Major (the great bear), but New Zealanders cannot. The only places on Earth where you can actually see all 88 constellations is at the Equator. So as people around the world played connect-the-dots with the stars, they would create fanciful stories about each of the constellations they created. Many of these stories were used to pass down cultural values of morality, or tell stories about love, courage or honor.

Many of the stories of these constellations were handed down from generation to generation, by word of mouth. Sadly, because we have so many street lights today, many of the fainter stars are invisible from where most people live. Therefore, we have gotten out of the habit of creating new stories and new star patterns.

So the next time you go down to Pink Beach at night make the stars your own. Who knows? You might be the first person to create the constellation of the lionfish.

Dean Regas & James Albury



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DID YOU KNOW?



Chad Shmukler photo

That young barracudas live among mangrove roots and seagrass beds until they grow large enough to move to the nearby coral reefs? Mangroves and seagrass beds are called the nurseries of coral reef fish because many reef fish, like barracudas, snappers, grunts, parrotfish and butterflyfish, live there during the early stages of their lives. They take shelter until they grow large enough to move out to the nearby reef habitat. While snorkeling in the mangroves at Lac Bay I saw many juvenile fish, including a 4cm barracuda hiding in the mangrove prop roots! As they grow older barracudas move to the deeper channels in the mangroves, just as kids get older they move from primary to secondary school. When they reach about 40cm in length, barracudas move to the nearby reefs to begin their adult lives. On the reef, they may grow to over 1m in length and some individuals may live for over 18 years! While large barracudas can seem intimidating and scary, they're far more interested in hunting small fish than harassing people. Unless you're swimming with shiny, fish-like lures, there's no need to be apprehensive about barracudas. Small fishes, on the other hand, should

beware. Barracudas use their razor sharp teeth to cut the fish they catch into smaller, bite sized pieces! They typically hunt by ambushing their prey, using short bursts of speed to catch them. After eating, barracudas have even been known to herd schools of fish into a confined area to save for a later meal! On Bonaire, we have two Fish Protected Areas (FPA) that were established 2008 - one from the Hato wall to Harbour Village Marina and the other from Cha Cha Cha to Plaza Marina. These FPAs are important to commercially important reef fishes, like barracudas, because they provide a safe haven where individuals may grow large and reproduce, ensuring that we have barracudas on our reefs for future generations to enjoy. ■ *Hannah Rempel*, STINAPA Assistant Biologist. Connecting people with nature.



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Pet Of The Week

"DONNA," A FUN, CRAZY LADY

This beautiful lady has been at the Animal Shelter Bonaire for four months now. Her name is Donna, and she is a loving and enthusiastic two-year Malinois mix who needs a nice family who can offer lots of love and care. Donna has a beautiful short, light brown coat with a black mask and ears. She is great with other dogs and children, but she is not too fond of cats.

Donna needs some extra training from somebody who can teach her some commands and how she should behave in family life. Her best buddy Joe has recently been adopted so she is hoping to go home with somebody soon as well.

If you are not ready to commit to a long lasting relation with a dog, fostering Donna is also a possibility. If you are interested in being Donna's new human buddy, you can come visit her and all the other residents up for adoption at the Animal Shelter.

All the Shelter pets up for adoption are in excellent health, having had their checkups with the vet, their inoculations, been wormed. They will be sterilized and have an ID chip inserted. And they've been socialized!. All this for the adoption fee.



Delightful Donna

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is at Kaminda Lagun 26, open Tuesday through Friday, 9am-12noon and 3-5pm. Saturdays, they're open 8am to 3pm, non stop. Telephone 717-4989 or 701-4989. They're on Facebook too.

■ *Story by Alenka Wels, Animal Shelter Intern; photo by Nathalie Peterson*

Animal Shelter News

STERILIZATION AND ADOPTION SUCCESS

This year has just started and it is already a great success at the Animal Shelter Bonaire. There have been more adoptions and sterilizations in this short period than any year before. January hasn't even passed and we already have done over **50 free sterilizations and castrations**. Our free sterilization program started in 2004, 13 years ago, and never have we had so many sterilizations in such a short period. It is great news that so many people take their dogs and cats to the vet to neuter them. It is important to prevent new pups and kittens from being born because there are still so many dogs and cats waiting for an owner at the Animal Shelter.

The adoptions have also been a great success this month. So far this year there's been a **total of 18 adoptions; 13 dogs and 5 cats** have found a great new loving family and home.

Would you like to provide a nice loving



home as well? Or do you have any dogs and cats that still need to be sterilized? Come visit us at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26, Tues – Fri. 9 am – 12 Noon, 3 – 5 pm, and Saturdays 8 am – 3 pm non-stop, or call us at 717-4989 or 701-4989. <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/?fref=ts>

■ *Alenka Wels, Animal Shelter Intern*

Fishing Tournament (Continued from page 9)

Cash prizes of \$13,000 were split between the top three boats for their Bill-Fish catch, plus first catch for each day. There were awards for various challenges throughout the day.

Local boats were also welcome to participate in this competition in a special class for food fish.

The organizers took great care of the fisherman and their friends having a great buffet dinner and festival events on each of three nights, Breakfast in the morning and even a take away lunch and beer for each boat daily.

The organization respects efforts in marine conservation and promotes catch and release fishing and circle hooks. *Press release/ G.D.*



Sabadeco, Crown Court 21

Highlights:

- spacious 3 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms villa
- U-shaped villa with all rooms accessing pool deck area
- secluded pool with wide covered porches
- huge covered roof terrace with panoramic views
- chef's kitchen (large pantry) with breakfast bar
- spacious garage with off street parking
- freehold land (registered 4-A-963)
- total lot size: 19,723 sq.ft / 1.833 m²
- living area approx: 3,389 sq.ft / 315 m²

Asking price

US\$ 642,500

Buyers cost



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