

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Feb. 27- Mar. 27, 2017- Year 24, Issue 5
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

Karnaval Time
More on pages 12, 13



Children's Karnaval Grand Parade

Donna Wuyts-DeSalvo Penny Lane Photo

The KvK got tough. In response to increasing complaints to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bonaire (the KvK) from businessmen on delays in granting of residence permits by the Island Government of Bonaire (OLB) the KvK conducted a study that showed that the OLB was remiss in its duties, sometimes in violation of the law.

There were 429 new enterprise registration applications in the period from October 2015 - October 2016. In 58% of cases the Chamber of Commerce was not asked for advice for the authorization. However, in accordance with Article 8 of the Law of Establishment BES the Chamber must assess all applications (100%). Complicating things, the government has eight weeks to act on an application for authorization, but on average, the government took 15 weeks.

► **WILLEMSTAD—Curaçao had a tough year for tourism in 2016**, according to the latest numbers from the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). The island reported 441,226 stay-over visitors, 5.8% fewer than the year before. The decline was driven in large part by a drop in guests from Latin America, with arrivals from the US, Canada and Europe down 17.5%.

► **2016 BES Income Tax Returns** are due on May 15, 2017. Taxpayers on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba can submit their income tax return for 2016 online. The director of the Belastingdienst (Tax Service BES)/CN, Nichalin Martina, filed the first online form today. He said, "I hope that many taxpayers will choose to file their tax returns online. If you choose this option, the return can be processed more quickly by the Tax office. This is also more pleasant for our customers, who will find out sooner whether they get a refund or have to pay." The deadline for submission is the same for either online or paper.

► **The Terramar Museum is planning a special "night at the museum" event on Wednesday, March 8.** Highlighted will be the newest display with donated artifacts. The



resident archaeologist will explain all about these artifacts in a lecture on this very special part of Bonairean history including an archaeological artifact workshop. Save the date. Entrance fee is \$20 per person but free entrance for Friends of the Museum. Please come to the museum to sign up and reserve your spot. The event will start at 7pm and will last about two hours.

► **What does the report mean that Bonaire's imports rose by 3.5% in 2016 to just over \$200 million?** Most of the increase, \$9 million of that, was for manufactured goods, heavy construction machinery, and transport, including cars and trucks. It indicates a population increase, more affluence, and a step up of construction. Bonaire's mini boom is fueled by these imports.

► **AMSTERDAM - The Dutch economy grew by 2.1% in 2016**, the strongest growth since 2007, according to preliminary figures released by the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) last week.

► **Tour operator Corendon, in cooperation with KLM, has started offering trips to Bonaire.** A nine-day vacation to Bonaire including return flights and transfers can be booked from € 699. Corendon is a strong competitor to the biggest European tour operator, TUI, which serves the Caribbean with its own ships and aircraft.



Corendon CEO Steven van der Heijden said Bonaire was easier to include in their offering than previously, although only recently so. "A few years ago we could not even find enough beds on Bonaire."

► **The 303 ft. megayacht Tatoosh, a familiar sight at the town pier last month, rescued three people from a sinking boat** about 15 miles west of the entrance to Bimini, Bahama Islands. The *Tatoosh* was about 17 miles away and steamed at speed to the sinking 40-foot boat. The survivors were taken aboard.

► **Special Olympics Bonaire is registering all participants for the upcoming Walkathon on March 12** in order to know how many participants there are and at the end to see if every participants finishes. Sign up on FB. You can download the

registration form, fill it in and bring it on Friday, March 10, from 5 to 7pm pm at El Mundo on Kaya Grandi, or Saturday of March 11, from 10am to 4pm at El Mundo when you come to get your t-shirt and goodie bag.

► **Governor Edison Rijna and Island Secretary Nerry Gonzalez held a special session for top island administrative officials focusing on improving communications on January 26.** Poor communication between Bonaire and Dutch people and officials has been cited as one cause of friction following the 10/10/10 reorganization of the government. The program was presented by Renée Ockeloen (in the photo), for more than 25 years a Bonaire long term visitor) and her business partner Rik Kiene of the Ockeloen & Kiene organizational consultancy in Amsterdam. They did not charge for the session. All participants showed commitment and enthusiasm to explore how to obtain mutual understanding and establish a constructive dialogue.



► **Be Advised: There is a plankton bloom surrounding the waters of Bonaire.** Massive amounts of jellies, most of them non-stinging, have been washing up on shore, but some can give painful stings. During the 10 days after the full moon when dangerous box jellies spawned they came close to shore during the evening hours. Use caution when entering the water. Blooms such as these are rare but often short-lived. See story on page 15 for more.

► **A record 12.9 million people will be eligible to vote in the March 15 Dutch general election, up 300,000 on the last country-wide vote in 2012.** On Thursday, February 16th, the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN) launched an information campaign about the Second Chamber elections. The campaign will run for four weeks. The campaign has two phases. The

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InselAir's Meltdown Continues

Canadian aircraft expert Bryce Fisher says, "The problem with InselAir is maintenance planning. They have put themselves in a corner, because most all aircraft were due almost simultaneously for major service." Fisher was hired to make enforcement programs for the Curaçao Aviation Authority CCAA.

→ **Insel-founder Heerenveen says, "There are strange things going on."** He still stands squarely behind its maintenance department. Heerenveen also said he is working with a strategic partner to put the company back on its feet.

→ **KLM is not thinking about operating flights in the Caribbean region.** "That does not fit our strategy," says KLM CEO Pieter Elbers in an interview with Luchtvaartnieuws.nl. Parent company Air France is indeed operating with its own aircraft between French overseas territories such as Guadeloupe and Martinique, but Elbers does not see KLM operating Boeing 737's between the ABC-islands. That includes City Hopper.

→ **KLM until recently had close cooperation with InselAir, but suspended them** on the ongoing problems in the troubled Curaçao carrier.

→ **Insel Air (Aruba) was forced to halt services to Guyana** as the Guyanese aviation authority raised concerns over safety.

→ Remember DAE (Dutch Antilles Express)? **Last week former director Nelson Ramiz announced he is interested in re-launching the defunct airline under a new corporation and brand.**

→ Curaçao's caretaker Minister of Economic Development Eugene Rhugenaath says a **strategic alliance between local carrier InselAir and Avianca of Colombia is not something that can take place immediately** factors to consider.

→ **Meanwhile, Aruba's Tax Department has seized the bank account of InselAir Aruba due to arrears in payment.** This could also present a problem for releasing the carrier's jet planes registered there and grounded by that country's Civil Aviation Authority, even though the technical and administrative issues have reportedly been resolved.

→ **Insel Air's fixed assets on Aruba, that don't include the aircraft, were set to be auctioned last week** to settle Aruba's Tax Department claim of fiscal arrears totaling 2.2 million Aruban florins.

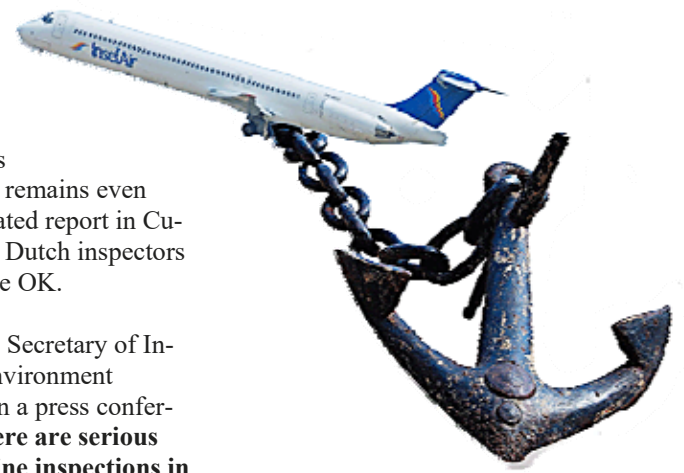
→ **InselAir's operational troubles meanwhile are continuing.** The leased Boeing 737 of Venezuela's Estelar Airlines suffered technical issues shortly after taking off from St. Maarten on Sunday, and the pilots had to return to Princess Juliana International Airport SXM. The plane had already been grounded Saturday due to a problem that was being fixed. Passengers spent an extra night on the island. It happened again the next day.

→ **THE HAGUE--The ban for Dutch civil servants to fly on Insel Air will remain in effect** until the safety at the airline has been secured. The ban remains even though an unsubstantiated report in Curaçao newspapers said Dutch inspectors said Insel Aircraft were OK.

→ **ARUBA--Dutch State Secretary of Infrastructure and the Environment Sharon Dijksma said in a press conference on Aruba that there are serious deficiencies with airline inspections in both Curaçao and Aruba.** Dijksma said that while there were some issues in Aruba, mostly with the grounded InselAir planes, the situation in Curaçao really is the worrying one. According to Dijksma the situation is of such magnitude that immediate intervention is needed by Dutch aviation inspectors.

→ **"The Dutch government realizes that flights between the islands can be considered a form of public transportation,"** said Dijksma. She explained that while her ministry is more than willing to extend help to the two islands (Aruba and Curaçao), the Dutch Government under no circumstances would be prepared to provide a financial injection.

→ **There are three return flights BONAIRE normally every day.** Divi-Divi Air is booked well ahead. Late operation is normal.



→ **InselAir's Chief Maintenance Officer Ivo Oduber was replaced.**

→ **Recall that Curaçao air operations were downgraded to category two** by the US Federal Aviation Administration in 2012 for the lack of regulatory personnel and organization. In five years the problems still remain.

→ **A recent report by Dutch air inspectors also noted that they were not able to get sufficient insight into the agreements that were made for the "wet-lease" of other aircraft that are currently transporting passengers for the airline.** This situation is under review.

→ According to published statements the Bonaire Tourist Corporation is attempting to convince American Airlines to add a non-stop flight to Bonaire. ■ G.D/ Press releases

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On the Island Since... 2012 - Roxsen Schwengle



Roxsen Schwengle

Romy Ger-

“Thanks to my family I overcame the bad side effects of my parents’ divorce. I was born in Aruba in 1984. I have one brother and a sister on my father’s side. My mom is from Venezuela but grew up on Aruba, and my dad is Aruban, from a well-known family, the Schwengle’s of Savaneta. My parents divorced when I was 11. From then on we spent more time with my mom’s extended family. Every Sunday we would have breakfast together.

After I’d finished high school at 16 I went to secondary technical school because ever since I was little I’d wanted to become an architect. I started with Legos – it was my all-time favorite birthday present— and I designed and built at different levels all types of houses and whole towns including the landscaping. I studied for four years, did a six-month transition class, which I needed for my connecting studies in Holland, and for another six months I worked at an architectural firm. When I was 21 I went to Holland. I was ready.

I lived and studied in Utrecht, a city in the center of the Netherlands. It was a real big change but a positive one. I felt independent although I lived with my eldest cousin which was fun! As I had more cousins spread all over the country, we decided to keep the tradition going and had Sunday breakfasts every other week, after which we would spend the day together. My studies at the HU (University of Applied Sciences Utrecht) went well although I had some problems in the beginning as the Dutch we’d learned on Aruba wasn’t exactly the same as what was used in Holland. Then there was the culture and a different way of thinking. I am a Caribbean girl and I think we are warm-hearted; our ways are just different from the northern European ways where people can give you the impression that they’re too direct, but after I got to know them better, we got along fine.

In general my study was a very technical one, but I also did a Minor of six months in Interior Architecture at the University of the Arts in Utrecht. It was an amazing six months, all about creativity and so many different subjects. My co-students were open-minded, artistic, with a different way of thinking. The projects were always challenging and forced you to think out of the box. It was a mind-opener and it was freeing. I learned how to paint and I discovered I loved it and that I was talented. I still paint; it’s like meditating and when I retire I think I will become a full-time painter.

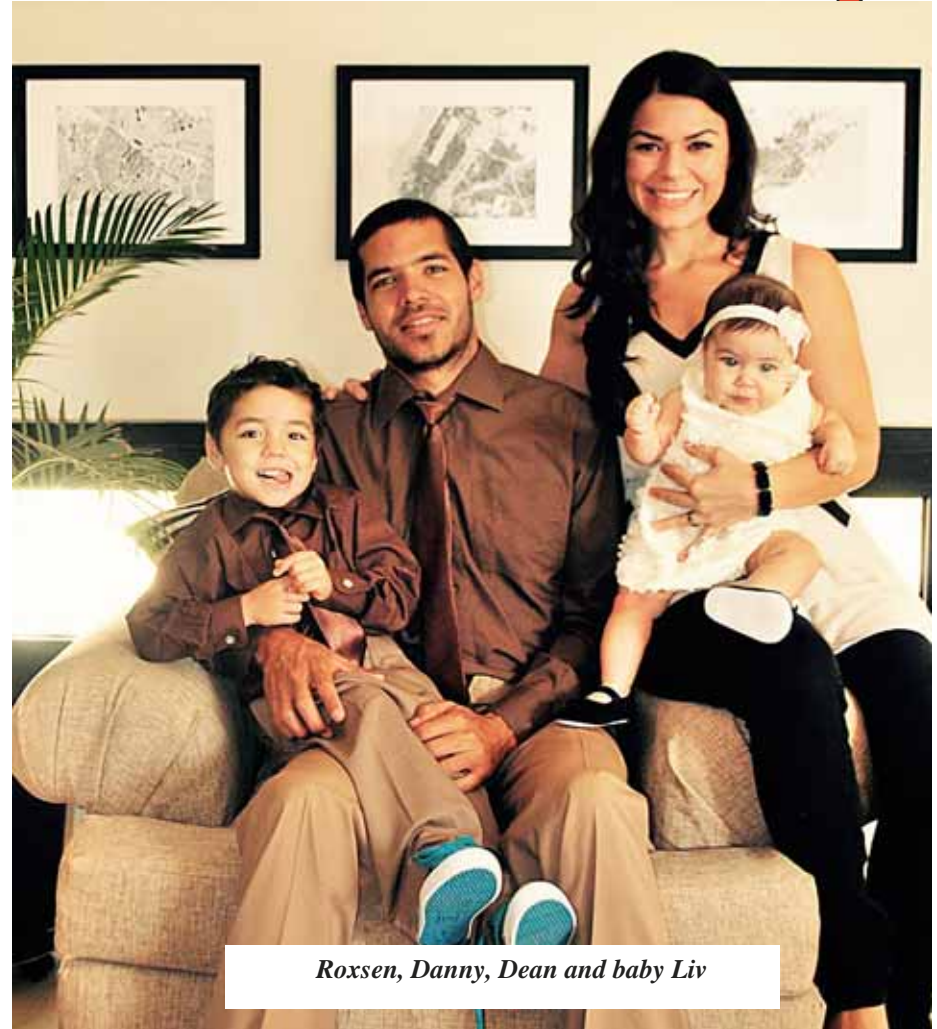
I graduated in 2009 and became a Bachelor of Built Environment, specialized in Sustainable Building. Then I went to Delft University of Technology to study Architec-

ture. I moved to Rotterdam, to a really nice apartment, overlooking the Maas River. First I had to do a pre-Master and when I got through I started with my Master’s in Architecture Urbanism and Building Sciences.

When you live and study in the Netherlands all of Europe is at your disposal, something I

really miss here, especially with such poor airline services. In Holland I took advantage of the situation and I travelled extensively and frequently. The Master’s was challenging but also rewarding and very different from the Bachelor’s. It’s like conceptual thinking and trying to present your ideas in a very short time. Every semester you can choose your own program and that’s what I liked about it. I chose Dwelling, Interiors, Public Building and Public Realm. Those were the specializations and I graduated in Public Building in 2012.

In 2009 I’d met Danny at a wedding on Aruba where we were introduced by his sister. We danced all night long. There was an instant connection. At the time both of us were living in Holland, but Danny had a girlfriend, so nothing happened. However, a year later, when he and his girlfriend broke up, he contacted me and asked me out on a date. We’ve been together ever since like two peas in a pod, inseparable. After my graduation in 2012 we moved in together. Danny had bought a house in the country-



Roxsen, Danny, Dean and baby Liv

Romy

endijk, Bonaire!’ Well, Danny is really open-minded and when he got notice that his contract wouldn’t be renewed because of government cuts and I found out – to my surprise – that I was pregnant, everything fell into place.

I came here first. Before I signed the contract I told my boss I was pregnant and he said, ‘Congratulations!’ which was nice of

learn to live with a minimum of stuff. Then, last year, our daughter, Liv, was born. She’s the most beautiful baby I have ever seen. We are so lucky. Having two young children is another motivation to stay on Bonaire as we have found a great circle of friends, which makes life wonderful. They all have kids and the kids grow up together and they are like cousins to each other and it’s like our friends have become our family.

While presently Danny is working at WEB, I’m still working at Streefkerk Architects and Consultants. In September it will be five years. My work is designing, developing and detailing projects, acquisition, contact with the clients and contractors and all work necessary for a complete project delivery. I also contribute to various private and public projects like home building, commercial buildings and public buildings. At the office I am the architect and I work together with three engineers. We strive for aesthetically attractive, high-quality functional buildings, especially designed for the island. I love my job.

Next to it I’m busy with a project for myself: product design and development. I have my own company, registered at the Chamber of Commerce: SML Concepts. It’s something extra because I have so many ideas and it’s impossible for me to do nothing, I can’t sit still.

Bonaire is a special place and I think most of us living here can agree to that. I feel we didn’t choose Bonaire, Bonaire has chosen us. Life is easy and mellow. It takes me six minutes to get to the daycare and after a day’s work I still have plenty of time to spend with my family. Really, that’s what it’s all about. ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“I feel we didn’t choose Bonaire, Bonaire has chosen us.”

side and it was really pretty.

Having studied to become an aircraft technician, he was working with the Royal Dutch Air Force with the Chinooks, a twin-engine, tandem rotor, heavy-lift helicopter, and he had been in Afghanistan twice. So every day he went to work in his army suit, looking sharp, while I stayed at home looking for a job.

I was a recently graduated architect in the economic crisis in Holland and I became a fulltime job applicant. Once, at one of the architectural firms, I heard from an inside source that 300 applicants had showed up for a position as a junior architect, so you can imagine how difficult it was. In the meantime I’d started my own company, VOF SML Company, in a partnership with a fellow graduate and we got, maybe, two projects, which was a start. Then I got a response on one of my emails saying an architectural firm was interested in having an interview with me. As I was planning on going by train, I looked at the address and it said Kralendijk. I didn’t have the slightest idea where that was until I went to the website and saw it was on Bonaire. First thing I did was call Danny. I said, ‘Dushi, it’s Kral-

him, and then I was hired. I flew back to Holland to pack and on August 28th 2012, I arrived on Bonaire. Four days later I started working.

Luigi and Els Posner from Bonaire Marine Center – they are the closest family we have on Bonaire because Luigi is the cousin of my uncle, who is married to my mother’s sister-- have been of great help in getting organized here. And after he’d sold the house in Holland, Danny came in October and we rented a house in Nikiboko with a garden for Funchi, our dog, whom we brought with us. Because I was pregnant I tried not to think too much and let life take its course.” *She laughs:* “Usually I am very organized and like to plan ahead for about five years, so this was a different me who came here. And then our son Dean was born in December 2012. It was the most wonderful year!

In April 2014 there was a night with a lot of mixed emotions because I missed my family, especially my mother who is my rock, but on that same night we made the decision to stay and build our house here. For 10 months we lived in a 20-foot container to save on rent and it was fun. You

Migraine - And How To Cure It

I WOULD LOVE TO REMOVE MY HEAD



“Two spoons of sea salt,” I read. I am too tired to go after the actual spoon so I just turn the saltcellar upside down above a cup. I squeeze a lime, mix it with water and swallow. I go back to bed to let the magic happen. I’m not surprised it doesn’t work. Thirsty, and still feeling like a knife is circling around behind my left eye, I do my best to fall back into sleep.

I have suffered from migraine for as long as I can remember. I’m not the only one. One out of every seven adults has to deal with this neurovascular disease. Some get it a couple times per year, others several times per month. Unfortunately I belong to this latter group.

Every time the subject comes up, people give me advice about how to cure my migraine: Magic mixes of Himalayan salt and lemon juice, hennep oil under my tongue, piercings in certain pressure points in my ears, magnets round my wrists, a balance pendant round my neck, alcohol-caffeine-sugar-tomato-diary-citrus-chocolate-cheese-and-nut-free diets, loads of ‘superfoods’, acupuncture, or podiatry. To name a few.

And I tried most of the above. If someone would tell me that standing on my head while singing the Dutch anthem backwards three times a day worked really well for a friend of his, I’d probably try it out next time I have a migraine. Because pain makes one desperate. ‘*Baat het niet dan schaad het niet*’, is a saying in Dutch. Meaning as much as... It might not help

you, but it won’t harm you either. Well... Actually it does. Every time I put my money, time and hope in a new ‘solution’ that worked great for your colleague-of-a-friend or your niece-of-the-neighbor, to find out it doesn’t work for me, my confidence and hope get damaged a little more.

What actually works pretty well for me most of the time, are pills; Triptanes. They narrow the blood vessels in the head and suppress the symptoms (read: the pain). But somehow it seems to be very unpopular to feel better because of ‘regular’ medicine. People want to see me cured by fresh ginger tea and Reiki, and mostly look anxious when I say I feel better thanks to the medicine I took. I don’t like to take medicine either. But I like even less to spend a quarter of my days in bed with my head squeezed between two pillows to avoid any light or noise from reaching my senses. I am actually very happy these pills exist and are available to me.

Another thing I hear often, is “Why do you have it?” Sometimes I wonder whether people who suffer from other chronic diseases get the same question. “Why do you have epilepsy/diabetes/asthma?” Sounds weird, doesn’t it? But somehow migraine has this stacy and affected women image. Something I am supposed to have because I worry too much, because I can’t handle my job, or because I drink too much wine. Well, I’ve had migraine all my life, and I can’t remember my mom feeding me Pinot Grigio as a kid (and of course I have tried not drinking in my adult life, but it did not help.) And despite regular work-outs, yoga and meditation, I am not a stress-free person, but neither do I think I encounter more stress than any of you do.

While I know that people just really want to help me, while I believe a solution-oriented mindset, and while I keep wishing for a true solution to make the attacks at least less frequent, one of the best reactions I get is “Migraine? That sucks!” ■ *Gerjanne Voortman*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Lower Saranac Lake, NY



Ray and Karen Peter from Schenectady, NY, sent us this photo back in August. They made their fourth visit to Bonaire in November 6th. They fell in love with Bonaire on their first visit three years ago and have been coming ever since. ■

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Out of the Cold, Into the Heat



“Tine, can I have your medical opinion on, euhm, a somewhat weird matter?”

We are enjoying our afternoon coffee when Kaat, one of our Belgian friends who are here for a holiday, asks the most hilarious question ever. Being a nurse, Tine gets a lot of weird questions; people always want free medical advice on funny looking skin spots, swollen ankles, lab results they don't understand or, the worst ones: gross things they looked up on the internet. In the company of Tine, everyone becomes a hypochondriac. But she is a professional, so she takes every request seriously. Except this time.

“A donkey spat in my mouth. Do you think I might have contracted some disease like donkey-rabies?”

We all laugh. How on earth do you get donkey-slobber in your mouth? Did she stop by the road and kiss a donkey as if it was a frog, hoping it would turn into a prince? No, they went to the donkey sanctuary, bought a bag of carrots and drove through the park - with open windows. As we cunningly advised them to do. We know what happens when you enter the park: instantly you are besieged by dozens of donkeys who stick

their heads into the car, licking and drooling all over the interior and your face.

Visiting the donkey sanctuary with guests is a classic. Actually, although the sanctuary is a fabulous place, we only visit it with guests. Everybody who resides on Bonaire knows how it goes: you get tangled up in work and everyday life so you tend to lose sight on how beautiful and versatile Bonaire actually is. Having friends here, refreshes your eyes: to them it's all new and amazing and through their enthusiasm, you too rediscover the beauty of Bonaire.

Kaat and Wouter were the perfect guests. Not only because they came bearing gifts: gin and mustard from Ghent, and a perfect present for Tine: a coffee grinder.

Kaat and Wouter were over-prepared: they must have read every book on the Bonaire fauna and flora before embarking on the plane. Wouter even tested his flippers in the bathtub just to make sure he bought the right ones.

Also a classic at the airport: welcoming guests with a couple of Bright Beers. And then the classic remarks: my god, you guys are tanned. Yes, and you two look like you belong to the cast of the Adams Family.

In the car the excitement begins: look at how blue the sea is! Wow, a cactus! Can you stop? I want to take a picture of this gigantic cactus. During their visit Kaat must have taken a thousand pictures of cacti. To me, they all look the same, I don't notice them anymore. But Kaat pointed out different species and I learned that you can create musical rainpipes from the dried out, hollow tubes. After not even a mile, we have to stop the car again: flamingoes! The shutter snaps a million times. And once

again I learn something new: flamingoes - or chogogos as they are locally called - are born white, after that they turn grayish, and once they have eaten enough crustaceans and brine shrimp, they obtain their famous pink color.

During the week of their stay, we discover new spots on Bonaire. Although we live nearby, we never visited the lagoon where you see a lot of sea turtles, their funny heads bobbing out of the water. Sadly, lot of waste washes on the shores from the Caribbean sea. Also in the neighborhood: someone built a house that looks like a medieval castle. Seeing is believing.

The best thing we did, was kayaking through the mangroves. It was Ryanne who



Kaat and Wouter

recommended us this trip. You might remember Ryanne: she was the one who persuaded me to swim to Klein Bonaire and also the person who got us into diving. Ryanne has a patent on good ideas - most of which sprout from a bucket of Bright - so we booked a trip with Hans from **Outdoor Bonaire**.

Despite the fact that you have to be there at the crack of dawn, it's quite an experience. Hans starts his tour with an

extensive explanation about the mangroves; how valuable they are to the ecosystem, what kind of trees grow there, how they reproduce, why the mangroves are a hiding place for small fish and why you should never ever eat shrimp again. And then we're off, gliding quietly through the tunnels, watching birds doze on branches and a myriad of small fishes swimming below the water surface.

Once and awhile, Hans halts to tell us about the unique ecosystem. He obviously cares a lot about the mangroves and he is worried: for a long time people thought mangroves had no real function and they were destroyed to make way for beach resorts and shrimp sanctuaries that poison the water with antibiotics.

Due to the delicacy of the mangroves, Hans prefers to take only a few visitors at a time through the canals - small groups are

(Continued on page 17)

Flotsam and Jetsam *(Continued from page 2)* first phase concentrates on the tasks of the Second Chamber. The second phase starts after about two weeks and illustrates the voting process itself. The central theme of this phase are the documents needed to vote, the locations where people can vote, the times when polling stations are open. The RCN will use posters, radio spots, TV commercials, newspaper advertisements, flyers, digital billboards, banners, a website and a Facebook page.

► **THE HAGUE--All ballots in the Netherlands' election next month will be counted by hand** in order to preserve confidence in the electoral system after reports suggested its automated counting systems may be vulnerable to hacking, the government said. Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk told broadcaster RTL that possible external influencers included Russia.

However, the regional and national collation of vote tallies are done electronically. Dutch media have reported that the software used may not be secure.

► Last week Curgas in Curacao announced that the filling stations for small LPG gas cylinders on that island were **closed because production of cooking gas at the refinery had stopped**. Although this shortage was not expected to be long, in the light of past shortages Bonaire consumers would be wise to



get full tanks as soon as possible.

► **Fuel prices rose slightly.** The costs in March are:

Mogas 95	103.70	USDct/ liter.
Kerosene	49.10	USDct /liter.
Diesel	62.40	USDct/ liter.
LPG 100LBS	33.29	USD cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	8.33	USD cylinder.

► When an eight-year-old boy got a cast on his ankle last Saturday he was told he'd have to wait until Tuesday, after the Karnaval holidays, to get crutches. But a post on Facebook alerted people at **BEST Care Logistics, the island's convalescent care provider, who opened the shop to get the boy crutches to fit.**

► Global Weather Oscillations (GWO]) says the **2017 Atlantic hurricane season will be stronger than last year** - with the potential for six named storms making US landfalls. It will also be the most dangerous since the 2005 season that saw five hurricane landfalls and two tropical storms. Bonaire has not experienced a hit by a hurricane in living memory.

GWO has issued the most accurate pre-season predictions of any organization the past eight years, including last years' prediction that the "Atlantic Basin" (which includes the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico) would enter a Climate Pulse Hurricane Enhancement Cycle in 2016, whatever that means.

► Dive operations are to be inspected

starting this month to ensure they comply with safety, wages and labor regulations. Hazardous conditions are present in the dive shop environment with air under high pressure, heavy lifting and dive duties that affect health. On Thursday, March 2nd, the Labour Inspectorate is hosting an information meeting at Divi Flamingo in the Peter Hughes conference room beginning at 6:30. The evening is meant to inform employers about the upcoming inspections in the second quarter.



► One of the best things to do on Bonaire is to spend time on the beach with friends and family **enjoying great food. A new service on Bonaire, Monique's Basket, can make it very easy.** For a very reasonable price she will prepare an amazing, home made, restaurant quality beach picnic for

you which she will bring to the beach and pick up again after you have finished eating. It's delicious and eco friendly. Monique is an advisor for multiple Michelin star restaurants in The Netherlands and an overall great comfort food cook.

Some examples: Cold lunch for two, \$25 including sandwiches and drinks. Or a warm lunch for two, \$35, including homemade hamburgers or pizza together with a salad and some chicken wings, iced water, non-alcoholic beverages and homemade, freshly baked bread. Or an after-dive special basket. After 4pm from \$25 you can order a selection of tapas and lots of tasty comfort food. Pour some wine, have a beer and enjoy what the island has to offer together with your friends. Check out www.flamingodiving.com/moniques-kitchen to place your order.

► **Welcome to our new advertisers Go Green, BEST Care Logistics and Yoga Arriba.** We've personally sampled their services and can recommend them.

► **Also new in this issue is a restaurant review column by The Phantom Gourmet.** The Phantom dines incognito in the restaurant and then provides the review. The Phantom, a frequent diner in Bonaire's restaurants, never identifies himself, pays for his own dinner to provide a totally non-biased rating of the restaurant.

► **The Bonaire Reporter** will "skip" an issue in March to allow some vacation time. Look for the next edition around March 27.

■ G.D. /L.D.

**Wife of Governor Edison Rijna
Loses Her Battle
Against Cancer**



Freeke Rijna-Kunts passed away in Holland early this month after a long, tenacious battle against cancer. The governor traveled to The Netherlands to be with her before she passed away.

She was not well known to many on Bonaire because for many years, before her husband became governor, she suffered health problems due to cancer. Sadly, Freeke Rijna was unable to enjoy much of her position as first lady of Bonaire as the spouse of the Governor. From the time her husband was first selected as interim governor in March of 2014, and then later as governor, she continued facing serious health issues and did not get much opportunity to stand beside her husband. Due to her illness, she had to stay in Holland for an extended time. For years she fought against cancer and did everything possible to recuperate. She lost the fight on February 12, although it was a cerebral hemorrhage that actually caused her death.

Freeke was a lawyer specializing in maritime law in Curacao. She worked most recently for VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne and was known as an excellent lawyer and mentor. She was also an artist, painting and sculpting. She organized different expositions in Curacao and overseas. Condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace. ■ *Extra newspaper translated by Jane Madden-Disko*

Nesting Season Ends Inspiring Kids



Newly hatched sea turtles march to the sea

On February 21st sea turtle nest #K079 hatched on Klein Bonaire, and the 2016 nesting season has come to an end. It has was Bonaire's highest nesting season ever, with 114 confirmed nests. However, with the storm surges from tropical storm/hurricane Matthew, there were a lot of challenges to try to overcome this year for the nest protection team. The nesting data will be analyzed and presented in the 2016 year report which will be available towards the end of April.

You too can contribute towards keeping Bonaire's sea turtles safe. STCB invites companies and individuals to adopt an endangered sea turtle nest, linking your name and/or company to the protection of Bonaire's widely loved and endangered sea turtles. For more information, please contact our Communications Officer at cepa@bonaireturtles.org.

Sadly, we have to report that "Nolly," the Olive Ridley sea turtle that stranded on Bonaire recently, died suddenly. Thanks to your amazing support, STCB staff and volunteers were able to do everything possible to give her a chance of survival, but "Nolly" didn't make it back to the sea.



Unfortunately, in quite a large percentage of the time, a stranded sea turtle cannot be saved, even with much more specialized services than STCB can offer. As Bonaire is a small island and fortunately strandings are rare, there are no permanent rehabilitation facilities.

Thank you for all the messages of support and the fabulous response to our "Good Golly, Save Nolly" crowd-funding campaign. The STCB raised an incredible \$1,605. Approximately 55% of the money raised was used to care for "Nolly." Your donations were spent on veterinary costs, medication, the assessment tank, nutrition and manpower.

With the remaining donations, STCB will design an exhibit at its office so that visitors can learn more about sea turtle strandings on Bonaire, so it can continue to share the story of stranded sea turtles using "Nolly" as an example. ■ *Press releases STCB*



Heleen Christiaan-Quartel, education manager of Cultural Park Manzagina di Rei, and Parisina Malatesta, director of Friends of Nature Foundation (FNF), worked together again to stimulate art activity with the children of Rincon from the afterschool program Tra' i merdia.

This was possible thanks to the important collaboration and love of the artist Rosa Diamond and caring volunteer Elizabeth Wigny. After lunch everyone toured the grounds of Mangazina di Rei, observing nature.

Then, inspired by the vibrant Bonairean world, the children began to paint on paper with water-based paints under Rosa's guidance.

FNF will keep these paintings until the month of April when the contest will be held to select the three best. The best one will be published in next year's Bonaire Nature Agenda. ■ *Story & photo by Parisina Malatesta.*

Happenings (Continued from page 16)
General Election, pages 2 & 6

Sunday, March 19—Mountain Bike fun race sponsored by De Freeweiler. Call 599 717 8545 for info.

Saturday, March 25—Birdwatching with STINAPA, see pg 9. 717-8444.

Sunday, 26 March —Jong Bonaire Bike and Run of 37/20 km. Start at Jong Bonaire at 6 am. Tickets at Jong Bonaire \$19

Monday, March 27 —Bonaire Reporter back from vacation.

Bonaire's Recycling Center

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Open : Tues-Fri: 9-6
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NGO Platform: The Organizer Of Bon Doet Does More!

The NGO Platform is housed in a modest office at Kaya Princes Marie. Upon entering I am welcomed by Annemarie Klone. Her colleague, Jolene Nicolaas, is on vacation, so I do the interview with her alone.

NGO Platform History

The NGO Platform was established on Bonaire in 2004, initially on all Antillean islands with AMFO financing. AMFO no longer exists as a financing fund so the funding was transferred to the Bonaire island government budget. Annemarie has been working almost 10 years for the NGO Platform.

The NGO Platform has organized Bon Doet (doet is the Dutch word for does) for the last seven years and has become well-known. The concept is known under different names in several countries: "Make a difference" (US), "NLDoet" (Netherlands) and on Bonaire as "Bon Doet."

It all began on Bonaire when NGO Platform contacted NL Doet in the Netherlands by sending an email: "Dear NL Doet, Bonaire would gladly do it as well!" This was enough for the organization in the Netherlands to take action and to make funds and a lot of information about the process available. NGO Platform has adapted this to the situation on Bonaire. Subsequently, the other islands, except for Saba, got involved. Now we could almost say actually the "Kingdom-Doet."

What does NGO Platform do?

Anyone who has a plan to pursue a charitable or non-profit goal can come for advice. Many foundations and associations come, for example, to ask how they can get support for activities that help other people. The NGO Platform helps with everything that is involved in a project to create a good plan: , making a proposal to raise funds, creating a budget, designing promotional items, finding volunteers and when and how to contact a solicitor if they want to get an official status. The NGO Platform doesn't take over the responsibility; the organization makes its own choices. Sometimes people who come in with a plan would like to give away responsibility. They expect the Platform to arrange it for them. It is understandable, because it costs a lot of effort setting up and controlling a project and many people do it besides their full-time job. NGO Platform has many regular customers who have good ideas and then pass by to hear how and whether they can apply for funds, subsidies or sponsors. NGO Plat-

form leads the way and has the knowledge of all the possibilities. Often enthusiastic people want immediately to get to work with their ideas. However, raising funds often takes a long time. You can count on four to six months before it is clear whether you get what you need, so some patience is often needed. It is also difficult for many people to grasp their dreams, to turn their ideas into words, and then also to formulate all that in a way to fit into the criteria of sponsors, funds and subsidies. They have to express their dream in a businesslike manner. Also, they should consider whether they choose sponsorship, subsidy or fundraising. To help them make a good choice NGO Platform offers assistance, because for most people this decision is very difficult.

NGO Platform also has a volunteer center. Many foundations and associations work with volunteers and regularly seek people with their hearts in the right place to help them. NGO Platform brings together supply and demand. Bonaire has a lot of organizations created for a good purpose, so there is something for anyone who is interested in rolling up their sleeves.

Finally, we come to the project that is usually associated with NGO Platform: Bon Doet. Bon Doet is intended to promote all non-profit organizations on Bonaire. For two days a massive amount of volunteers do their utmost to help organizations accomplish extra targets. This year's event is organized on March 10 and 11. It has become an event to which many people come, year after year, and who are strongly committed. Often colleagues come as a group and they have fun doing things together. **At present, already 1,400 participants have registered, and that's pretty much 8% of the population. More than 40 companies are supporting the event with sponsorship and there are around 80 jobs from 58 organizations.** The jobs vary enormously, from practical things like painting or cleaning up to guiding outings or conducting a motivational interview with young people. **Everyone who lives here or is visiting, is welcome to help and make a nice day out of it.** Bon Doet gives participating foundations formal recognition. The voluntary support indicates that they are admired for their efforts. So ... if



Volunteers at work clearing brush



Bon Doet Volunteers at Villa Antonia (2012)

you're reading this and you have not registered yet, go to the website of Bon Doet: www.bondoet.com and sign up. The website is in Dutch and Papiamentu. If you do not understand these languages, you can pass by the office of NGO Platform at Kaya Princes Marie. Everyone is welcome! ■ Story by Justine Verschoor



Choose from 80 'jobs' on www.bondoet.com and sign up to volunteer! Do good & feel good!



10 & 11 march 2017



Cultural Community Center



Gibi baptizing the highest point of the structure with a beer



Lara Chirino, Violeta Rosario, Marieke Knol and her mom, Tanja Staring (Forma), Annemarie Klöne (NGO Platform), Marlies Vels (Plataforma Kultural) and Javier Boezem. Sitting: Gilbert 'Gibi' Coffie (builder), Mimoun Himmit and Edward Mercelina (builder)

Celebrating The Highest Point at Hòfi Kultural

Hòfi Kultural is a cultural community center, an initiative of Fundashon Plataforma Kultural.

Artists like dancers, sculptors, painters, actors, writers and musicians will be invited to live and work on the premises for a while and give free workshops and classes that are entirely subsidized so that adults and children can become acquainted with all different forms of art.

Fundashon Plataforma Kultural was founded by Mimoun Himmit, Marieke Knol and Javier Boezem and is being assisted by the Dutch Foundation Stichting Doen with the support of many local entrepreneurs and private persons.

The aim of the founders of Hòfi Kultural is that the artists themselves will decide which form of art they prefer, then the foundation will support them in accomplishing it.

On February 16th the celebration of reaching the highest point in the construction of the gazebo of Hòfi Kultural took place at Kaya Skandelchi in Antriol. The

gazebo, which is in the shape of a tipi, is nine meters high and made of eucalyptus trees which were brought in by boat from Venezuela. The wood contains natural oils which prevent pests from consuming it. The construction will be covered with leaves from the Sabal Palm and the Washingtonia palm. (Note: If people want to make a contribution from their own trees, they can cut the leaves while they are still green with a stalk of at least 45 centimeters and take them to the construction site at Kaya Skandelchi.) According to Javier Boezem, who designed the buildings, the foundation wants to build in a durable and non-toxic way.

Next to the gazebo two houses with steel roof frames are also under construction. One will host the artist in residence as well as have a kitchen and restrooms. The other will be used as an office and storage for musical instruments. If all goes according to plan, Hòfi Kultural will be starting their activities around September this year.

For more info 700-5304 or email info@plataformakultural.com ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Parasite

A common Bonairean fish, the Creole Wrasse (*Paranthias furcifer*), is often seen with a parasite called an isopod (*Anilocra myripristis*) which have attached themselves to the gills or other openings of the head of this type of fish. They suck its blood. They can grow up to 2 – 5 cm. They grow, reproduce and age all while attached to the fish. When they become old and die algae grows on their body, but the new generation has already been born.



Isopods attached to a wrasse's gills

There are over 10,000 species of isopod worldwide, with around 4,500 species found in marine environments, mostly on the seabed. Most isopods are small, less than 1/2 in. (1.27 cm) long, but *Bathynomus gigantea*, a deep-sea species, may be over 1 ft (30 cm) long. Some are parasitic, living on other crustaceans or in the mouths or on the gills of fishes as the ones in Bonaire. Parasitism is the relationship between two animals or plants in which one benefits at the expense of the other, but normally without killing the host. ■ Story & photos by Roland & Renate Kraft info@photo-kraft.de



Isopod — close up

Bonaire - A Birding Paradise

Why can we say Bonaire is a birding paradise? It is on the migratory flyway path but also because Bonaire has many wetlands. We even owe our island's nickname, "Flamingo Island," to wetlands. Without wetlands flamingos will not breed and find food here.

The island has five wetlands protected under the Ramsar Convention. This is an international agreement aimed at the preservation of wetlands of international importance. **Our Ramsar areas are: the salinas Slagbaai, Goto Meer, Lake, Salt Lake and Klein Bonaire with the surrounding sea.** Many wetlands are located on the border of land and sea. They have an important function as a buffer zone for the collection of rainwater and as a filter for the coral reefs because they capture nutrients and soil particles.

But we still have more wetlands, not formally protected but also vital. Think salinas Wayaka, Funchi, Bartol, Matijs, Grandi, Kangreu, di Diligence Tam, French and Laagun, the salt pans in the south, plus the rainwater buffers along the Kaya Internashonal, An impressive list.

BIRD-WATCHING ON BONAIRE

Recently Bonaire participated in the worldwide Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). STINAPA organized three different activities for this event. There was a lecture explaining about the Great Backyard Bird Count, a demonstration bird count in the backyard of the Cadushi Distillery and a bird tour at LVV/Sewage Works. In the garden of The Cadushi Distillery 14 different species of birds were spotted. The visitors took a lot of photos of the Yellow-shouldered Amazons and the Yellow Orioles. A total of 25 people attended the tour at LVV/Sewage water plant. Participants saw the Pied Water Tyrant, a small black-and-white bird that doesn't sit still and is very rare in the Caribbean.

At the SGB (high school) on a recent Monday during a biology class a bird count was done as well.

In the US, bird watching / birding is the fastest growing hobby. STINAPA noticed a growth in interests and enthusiasm for birding as well among residents and tourists on Bonaire. From a tourism perspective, it would be a good idea to promote Bonaire broadly as a natural island, where you can scuba dive and snorkel, but also where you can see many birds. STINAPA wants to help to develop this policy. ■ G.D./ STINAPA Press releases



Flamingo in flight



Bare-eyed pigeons and Loras were spotted

The PHANTOM GOURMET



Lovely ladies of Bon Aroma: Owner Karen van Dijk and Maître d' Karalijn

Bon Aroma Restaurant

I ncognito and (in my mind's eye) decked out in a top hat, cocked rakishly over my right eye, we materialized into *Bon Aroma*, one of Bonaire's newest restaurants, on the very night of their mid-February celebration of St. Valentine. My clandestine mission: To investigate the rumors of savory, epicurean delights, graciously served in an intimate courtyard setting at The Yacht Club (54 Kaya Gob. De-brot, Kralendijk. Tel. +599 795-9009)

Top hat, well, maybe not – kind of fancy for we spooks on Bonaire. And, yes, we did have reservations -- so much for a genuine haunting, Ghostbusters-style. Oh well. But as for the savory, epicurean delights and gracious service in an intimate setting – no doubt about those whatsoever.

We were warmly greeted on arrival by owner Karen van Dijk and Maître d' Karalijn, both frocked in splendid, fire-red outfits to match the festive Valentine's Day décor of garlanded scarlet hearts strung above the cozy courtyard. *Bon Aroma's* five tables were all taken for the occasion. But we were not here for the holiday festivities. (Well, maybe a little.) So we waved away the truly tempting, all-inclusive special dinner menu of the evening. Nay, we were here for a full sampling – well, as full as possible for two reasonably hungry patrons -- of *Bon Aroma's* highly touted fusion menu (French, Italian and Caribbean). And sample it, we did!



Entrées: Duck Leg Confit and Lamb Rack

After an amuse of special rolls with seasoned butter and an offering of olives that were piquant and new to us, my Valentine started with Coquille St. Jacques, the traditional mélange of scallops, shrimps and mushrooms in a creamy white sauce. I tasted. Delicious! I went for the Tuna Carpaccio, with the freshest thin slices of tuna covering the platter, and seasoned with hints of lime, basil, shavings of fresh parmesan cheese and more. In our experience, Bonaire's best restaurants serve the tastiest tuna appetizers anywhere, and this was no exception, ranking with the very best.

For the entrees, Chef Christiaan offers possibilities ranging from Caribbean Lobster or Jumbo Shrimps to Beef Tenderloin or Duck Breast and more. Sweet Valentine went for the Confit Duck Leg Gratinée, reporting that it was "crispy" on the outside but tender and succulent on the inside. I chose the Lamb Rack (a tough call, given the choices) and found it positively delicious. My request for "medium rare" was honored to a turn. I'd definitely go for it again on another occasion, but then, I would surely like to sample the Caribbean Court Bouillon next visit.

The accompanying wines for the evening

were an Italian Prosecco, which we've come to regard as the "best of the bubbly" locally available, and a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon that was perfect for the lamb. I've taken careful note for the future.

Then came my Valentine's "main course" -- dessert! Here was a two-person medley of desserts – tarts, a homemade ice cream, chocolate mousse and fruit – all too tempt-

ing, even for this non-dessert eater. Not a speck went begging.

Owning and operating a "fine dining" restaurant has been Karen van Dijk's long-time dream, dating from her teenage years. Born in Aruba, Karen was only six when her parents moved back to the Netherlands. Eight years later she would make a visit to Bonaire with them, which would forever capture her imagination. After her return to the Netherlands, Karen began working in restaurants to fund her return to the island. But then a chance weekend trip with her mother to Paris, and in particular around the Centre Pompidou, showed her how *restauranting* in "an artistic atmosphere" is really done. The feeling was instant, overwhelming and lasting: "This is what I'll do too."

Now it's 36 years later and Karen is living her dream with the support of the strong team she's put together at *Bon Aroma*. Her dream for the future is that, "We continue to take further steps higher up the ladder of 'fine dining' and that we continue to change and improve." The objective, Karen says, is to spend "still more time and energy on special creations, always with exquisite, pure ingredients and to find the perfect wines to accompany them. We hope to be so positive and creative that we surprise our guests while providing them with the service they deserve."

Well, they have pleased this these "spook", and I'll be back. ■ *Story & photos by the Phantom Gourmet*



BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL

The island's health care foundation offering products and services for sale and rent: hearing aids, special food products, diapers, diabetics, disability aids, impaired vision devices, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, electric scooters, patients beds and more. Cooperating with Bonaire's health care insurance



Baby food



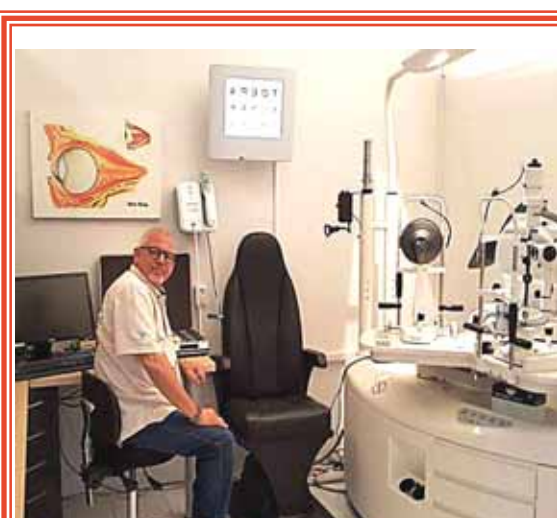
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A Garden? Just Do It

Yard Jobs Now

It's hard to believe, but it's true, all the Loras and Prikichis are back in my fruit trees. Also young iguanas, just out of the egg, which will stay here as it looks like they have chosen my yard as their kunuku for this coming dry season. Even "piespies" (white flies) are all over the place. They are on my guava trees which are losing their leaves because of them. They are on my pepper plants full of peppers, so now the plants are weak. I didn't notice these white flies at the beginning because they live under the leaves. I was wondering why the plants were suddenly looking so bad. Then I saw the first white fly on a neighbor of the pepper plant, and soon after I saw all that white stuff on the back of the leaves. Then I understood why the plants were looking so bad.

How is it possible that so soon after the rainy season (which in fact hasn't completely stopped yet) all these little "enemies" of the drought are back so soon. Nature is tough.

With garden work I never get a chance for a break. Just like now, the fast growing grass and weeds have stopped, but another job already waits: the protection of the plants and fruit against the above mentioned little "enemies." Every day I find half ripe guavas on the ground, half eaten by the birds. Also my sweet carambolas (star fruit) are good targets. They look nice on the trees and when you think, hmm yummy yummy and you pick it, right there is the big disappointment. It's hollow and full of small bugs, already eaten by the birds. HRRRR! Now I pick them a little bit green and let them ripen in a little plastic container or in a brown paper bag.

Also mispel fruits, mangos and papaya are easy to ripen in containers. Or just tie a paper bag around the stem with the fruit in the bag and let it ripen this way. So you can save some of your fruit for your breakfast or juice.

To protect your plants against the white fly make a tea from Neem tree leaves. Just pour hot water in a can with fresh leaves and let it cool down. Spray this tea over the plants. Of course you have to repeat this at least every two weeks. But this is a natural protection which is good for your health too since you are going to eat these veggys and fruits. And it's cheap because Neem trees are all over the place. If you don't know them ask somebody to show you. For sure there is one growing close by.

I have gotten questions from some people who want to know if they can eat the tamarind already. No, you can't. Tamarind fruit needs a lot of sunlight and dryness to get ripe and



Bembe, a wild growing plant among grass, but the older locals know it as a nice vegetable



Trimmed palm tree at \$1 a branch!

sweet. The fruits are still young, green inside, terribly sour and some are even bitter. And the skin is hard to remove. So you can't do anything with it. Some look older and ripe, but those are the old ones from last year. They are full of bugs and taste moldy. Those ones aren't good anymore. Just wait until about May, when the drought is back again. Then the first tamarind gets ripe and soon you can collect bags full of them.

I guess, because of so much rain, we can expect a good harvest of tamarind. I see all the tamarind trees full of young fruits and I cannot wait to pick them and make juices, jams and jellies, sweet tamarind, syrups chutney and vegetarian "daal" and to cook with them. I hope the answer on the tamarind question is clear. Just have some patience and you can enjoy them.

By the way, I got another price for the palm branch cutting job from a gardener who cut the big branches of my tall palm trees last week. He goes by the lbranch: each one cost me \$1. So I paid him \$10 for 10 branches, and he was nice enough to cut two more for that price! Because that was all I wanted him to do, I was happy with the price. A small hour's job for \$10 was not bad. I thought I have to share this with you. If you only have some palm branches to be cut, make the price by the branch! Yes, yard jobs, and the price is always a surprise. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Discover "Nos Zjilea"

This week on Saturday, March 4, is the next edition of the Cultural Event "Nos Zjilea" at Mangazina di Rei.

Mrs. Gwendeline "Gwèn" Concepcion, dancer and master in dancing, will give a presentation of different folkloric dance styles of Bonaire. The married dance couple, Donny and Monique Winklaar, will give a demonstration of these different dance styles. There will be "Live" entertainment from the local bands, "Grupo Kariño" and "Crème de la Crème." Don't miss out on how to make a cactus fence.

There will also be the program, "Kunuku Lifestyle Challenge," for youngsters from 8 to 14 years who are interested in learning more about the culture, planting, healthy eating, exercise and entrepreneurship.

The Cultural Market cannot be missed for its home grown fresh products as our folks are accustomed to. You can find local products such as syrup of the Bonaire gourd, natural juice "Made in Rincon," local art and much more. The kitchen opens at 10 in the morning. Come and enjoy a nice cup of goat soup. During the midday you may try different delicious traditional dishes. There will also be a tasty BBQ. You will lick your fingers and beg for more.

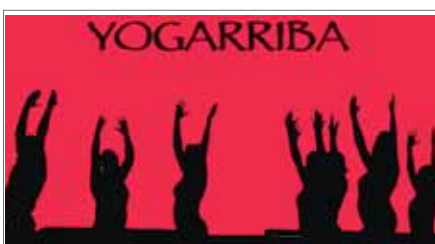
"Nos Zjilea" is an ideal opportunity for a time out to enjoy with your family and friends. There's also the chance to take photos of those in folkloric clothing. Entrance is only \$1, to help us safeguard and promote the lovely Culture of Bonaire. If you'd like more information you can always visit the Facebook Fan page of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei.

Come and enjoy of "Nos Zjilea" with the usual Cultural Market, Saturday, March 4, from 8am to 2pm at the Mangazina di Rei Cultural Park, on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon.


■ Izain J. Mercera



'Nos Zjilea' dancers at Mangazina di Rei Cultural Park.



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Teeners also had their own Grand March



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Photos by Rudolf Wout and G.D.

Karnaval

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The Fashion Revolution



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Drones at Karnaval above even the roof riders

Karnaval



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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.

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

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RETAIL

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

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many things we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 2.

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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Propeller - Federal Equipose
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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 27	02:13 0.26 ft	07:24 0.14 ft	13:26 0.58 ft	21:22 -0.05 ft		6:52	18:44
Tue 28	03:01 0.37 ft	09:07 0.12 ft	14:29 0.50 ft	21:54 -0.05 ft		6:51	18:44
Wed 01	03:45 0.50 ft	10:37 0.06 ft	15:35 0.42 ft	22:28 -0.06 ft		6:51	18:45
Thu 02	04:29 0.64 ft	11:51 -0.03 ft	16:40 0.36 ft	23:05 -0.07 ft		6:50	18:45
Fri 03	05:13 0.76 ft	12:54 -0.11 ft	17:40 0.31 ft	23:44 -0.09 ft		6:49	18:45
Sat 04	05:59 0.87 ft	13:52 -0.18 ft	18:38 0.28 ft			6:49	18:45
Sun 05	First Quarter	00:27 -0.10 ft	06:46 0.94 ft	14:45 -0.23 ft	19:32 0.25 ft	6:48	18:45
Mon 06		01:12 -0.10 ft	07:34 0.98 ft	15:37 -0.25 ft	20:26 0.24 ft	6:48	18:45
Tue 07		02:00 -0.10 ft	08:23 0.98 ft	16:29 -0.25 ft	21:20 0.23 ft	6:47	18:45
Wed 08		02:51 -0.07 ft	09:13 0.94 ft	17:20 -0.23 ft	22:16 0.24 ft	6:47	18:45
Thu 09		03:45 -0.04 ft	10:05 0.86 ft	18:12 -0.19 ft	23:15 0.26 ft	6:46	18:45
Fri 10		04:46 0.01 ft	11:00 0.77 ft	19:02 -0.14 ft		6:45	18:46
Sat 11	00:16 0.30 ft	05:58 0.05 ft	11:59 0.66 ft	19:52 -0.09 ft		6:45	18:46
Sun 12	01:19 0.35 ft	07:20 0.08 ft	13:03 0.55 ft	20:40 -0.05 ft	Full Moon	6:44	18:46
Mon 13	02:17 0.41 ft	08:50 0.08 ft	14:13 0.45 ft	21:23 -0.00 ft		6:44	18:46
Tue 14	03:08 0.47 ft	10:13 0.04 ft	15:24 0.38 ft	22:03 0.03 ft		6:43	18:46
Wed 15	03:53 0.53 ft	11:22 -0.00 ft	16:30 0.33 ft	22:38 0.06 ft		6:42	18:46
Thu 16	04:33 0.58 ft	12:18 -0.05 ft	17:27 0.30 ft	23:10 0.08 ft		6:42	18:46
Fri 17	05:09 0.63 ft	13:05 -0.09 ft	18:15 0.27 ft	23:40 0.08 ft		6:41	18:46
Sat 18	05:43 0.67 ft	13:46 -0.12 ft	18:56 0.26 ft			6:40	18:46
Sun 19		00:09 0.08 ft	06:17 0.70 ft	14:24 -0.13 ft	19:32 0.24 ft	6:40	18:46
Mon 20	Last Quarter	00:38 0.07 ft	06:52 0.73 ft	15:01 -0.14 ft	20:05 0.22 ft	6:39	18:46
Tue 21		01:09 0.06 ft	07:27 0.74 ft	15:38 -0.14 ft	20:38 0.22 ft	6:38	18:46
Wed 22		01:43 0.05 ft	08:03 0.74 ft	16:15 -0.13 ft	21:12 0.22 ft	6:38	18:46
Thu 23		02:21 0.05 ft	08:42 0.72 ft	16:51 -0.11 ft	21:49 0.23 ft	6:37	18:46
Fri 24		03:07 0.05 ft	09:23 0.68 ft	17:26 -0.08 ft	22:31 0.26 ft	6:37	18:46
Sat 25		04:04 0.06 ft	10:10 0.62 ft	18:01 -0.05 ft	23:17 0.32 ft	6:36	18:46
Sun 26		05:16 0.07 ft	11:03 0.54 ft	18:37 -0.03 ft		6:35	18:46
Mon 27	00:08 0.40 ft	06:42 0.06 ft	12:06 0.45 ft	19:14 -0.01 ft	New Moon	6:35	18:46



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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 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 **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

CRUISES

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAP	C.LINE
Tue	28-Feb	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	RCCL
Thu	2-Mar	Caribbean Princess	0700-1700	3200	Princess Cruises
Mon	6-Mar	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600	Princess Cruises
Mon	6-Mar	Carnival Pride	1200-1900	2124	CCL
Tue	7-Mar	Costa Magica	0700-1400	3470	Costa
Tue	7-Mar	Mein Schiff 5	0730-2000	2500	TUI
Wed	8-Mar	Eclipse	0800-1700	2858	CEL
Wed	8-Mar	Aida Diva	0700-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Thu	9-Mar	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114	RCCL
Mon	13-Mar	Serenade of the Seas	1300-2000	2500	RCCL
Mon	13-Mar	Sliver Spirit	1300-2300	540	SSCruises
Wed	15-Mar	Carnival Vista	1300-2200	4000	CCL
Thu	16-Mar	Thomson Discovery	0700-1400	2076	Columbia Cruises
Thu	16-Mar	Caribbean Princess	0700-1700	3200	Princess Cruises
Fri	17-Mar	Koningdam	0800-1800	2650	HAL
Fri	17-Mar	Star Pride	0700-2100	208	Seven Seas
Sun	19-Mar	Star Pride	0700-2100	208	Windstar Cruises
Mon	20-Mar	Carnival Pride	0800-1800	2124	CCL
Tue	21-Mar	Mein Schiff 5	0730-2000	2500	TUI
Tue	21-Mar	Costa Magica	0700-1400	3470	Costa
Wed	22-Mar	Eclipse	0800-1700	2858	CEL
Wed	22-Mar	Aida Diva	0700-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Thu	23-Mar	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114	RCCL
Sat	25-Mar	Westerdam	0800-1800	1916	HAL
Sun	26-Mar	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600	Princess Cruises

right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call 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/

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, March 4— Mangazina Di Rei Cultural Market Day. See page 9.

Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 27— Reef Fish ID. See pg. 17

Wednesday, March 8—The Terramar Museum special "night at the museum" event. See page 2

Friday, Saturday, March 10, 11 -Bon Doet. Annual volunteer event, sponsored by Oranje Fonds and NGO Platforma Bonaire. www.bondoet.com. See page 6



Sunday, March 12

—The 15th edition of the **Special Olympics Walk-a-thon**. Fund-raiser \$15 donation. Walk from the slave huts to Rincon. See page 2 for details on signup.

— **Washington Park Full Moon Hike**, sponsored by Stinapa, 717-8444

— **Full moon "Lunarriba" at Earthship**. [Yogarriba](http://Yogarriba.com), 701-2302

Wednesday, March 15—Dutch

(Continued on page 7)

Chez Nous School Restaurant

Wows the Press with Its Culinary Skills and Service



Students of the hospitality sector at MBO together with their instructors, Eveline Klop (in black) and Isidor van Riemsdijk (at left).

“WOW! LEKKER! This onion soup (with locally produced *Funchi* -- baked sorghum flour) is the best I ever had!” So exclaimed these two hungry reporters, among others, on tasting the second course (of a four-course dinner) presented by *Chez Nous Restaurant* of the MBO (Bonaire Vocational Academy) Hospitality Sector on Wednesday evening, February 22, at the modern kitchen and dining facility at Bonaire’s secondary school (SGB).

Local press members and other invited guests were the beneficiaries of the MBO

Hospitality Program’s showcase of the demonstrated results of its food preparation and hospitality education of adult students preparing for careers in Bonaire’s HORECA (Food and Beverage) sector. The event was sponsored by local brewery, Bonaire Blond.

After a brief introduction to MBO’s hospitality program by SGB Principal Frans van Efferink, the dinner began with, not surprisingly, small drams of Bonaire Blond beer and tasty fish-based croquets accompanied by freshly baked bread with savory butter flavored with hops (a critical ingredient of Bonaire Blond).

Out of the Cold... (Continued from page 6) less likely to cause damage or disturb the silence. This commendable attitude makes sure nature-lovers can enjoy the mangroves in a responsible way.

The rest of the week was packed with activities. We took a day-trip through The National Park where we enjoyed the crashing waves and the amazing rock formations, Kaat and Wouter, both archeologists, visited the Terramar Museum which should be mandatory for every Bonairean resident

During a dinner with the Ryanne’s parents, we discovered that Dutch and Belgian people have a different approach to barbecuing. Belgians grill all the meat at once and then divided it into pieces and serve it like tapas. In that way, you get to taste a bit of everything. Dutch people on the other hand, grill their own meat separately. This results in endless discussions about what ribs are theirs and who is entitled to the sirloin steak because the other guy brought chicken-kebab. The parents of Ryanne were very impressed with our communistic approach and were

keen on introducing the Belgian BBQ-way in Holland. This will undoubtedly lead to fierce ideological discussions and rows on their next camping-trip for which we take no responsibility whatsoever.

As always, our guests left way too soon. We will miss them dearly, but without envy: good luck with the cold and the dreary weather. Good luck with the traffic jams and the hectic workload. But maybe you can introduce a few Bonairian expressions like *poco poco* and *dushi*, because the stressed out Belgian society can use a mellow hand that caresses out the harshness.

Oh, and for the record: donkey-saliva is safe. Kaat reported no effects like an unexplainable craving for carrots, nightly braying or mohawk-shaped hair on the back of her neck. At least: for the time being. ■

Story & photos by Roderik Six



The three-course dinner was served in a cozy six-table hall.

The “Wow!” onion soup was followed by an entrée of delicious baked dorado (dolphin fish) with a medley of freshly steamed vegetables, accompanied by a side of rice with shrimp. This was topped by yet another “Wow!” in a peach-apple and vanilla-cream dessert, which was, as they say, “to die for.”

Service of the full restaurant by the student-trainees – to match the food – was flowing and flawless throughout the evening. Our particular servers, Lisa and Darian, would do credit to any of the finest restaurants on Bonaire. And as to the trainee-cooks who appeared fleetingly from the kitchen, well, their results spoke for them.

Now here’s the best news, saved for last: This fine-dining experience is open to the public most Wednesday evenings (6 pm to 9 pm) at School Restaurant *Chez Nous*, SGB, Kaya Korona 4, Kralendijk, Bonaire.

See: www.facebook.com/pg/cheznousbonaire. You too (residents and visitors alike) can receive the benefits of this “training” exercise with a full-3/4-course meal at the very modest price of \$15 per person, excluding drinks. Call: 780-7717 for details and reservations. ■

Story & photos by Bob & Karen Gilmour

HAVE YOU SEEN ME? DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



FREE SEMINARS ON REEF FISH ID and BEHAVIOR

Monday evenings March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at C.I.E.E.

6:30-7:00 pm

Introduction to REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation), basic fish id techniques, tools and terminology

7:00- 8:30 pm

- March 6 First 50 fish (novice level 2)
- March 13 Second 50 fish (novice level 3, part 1)
- March 20 Third 50 fish (novice level 3, part 2)
- March 27 Special Bonaire fish

That’s a lot of fish (FREE)! Sessions are led by visiting REEF expert fish id’er Kim White, and are for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling, or anyone who just wants to look at some nice underwater pictures and video clips. Attend any or all sessions to learn what’s really going on underwater; it will enrich your diving experience.

Everyone is Welcome



THE STARS HAVE IT

April 2017

ARIES (March 20 – April 19) Your ability to take the lead and push through obstacles is thwarted this month by numerous responsibilities. This can cause frustration and irritability. For you, the month begins with one foot on the brake and one foot on the gas pedal. By the Spring Equinox, all stops are resolved and you can exuberantly express your passion to manifest a new reality. However, be aware of communications taking place three days around the Full Moon.

TAURUS (April 19 – May 20) You like to be comfortable, and this dynamic trend of transformation may unsettle your senses. Cultivate present moment awareness, and you can be a strong anchor in the winds of change. There is a focus on career this month. New projects may be in the visionary stages. You are given the blueprint, the big picture, for long term projects. Your talent to build, stabilize and beautify will be called upon.

GEMINI (May 20 – June 21) Finances may be an area of delay and frustration, but you are in a position to resolve these issues as the month unfolds. Your easy-going and personable style can go a long way in career developments. Exciting possibilities in this area can be tapped through your strong communication skills. Slowing down to connect with another person's perspective brings out new direction for both of you.

CANCER (June 21 – July 22) You are in the home stretch of a two year challenge. Don't quit! Assess your direction, implement decisions and find solace in contemplation. Especially curb frustration March 6-9. Release what is not worth keeping. Yes, the Sun will come out from behind that dark cloud by the mid-Summer. Use the New Moon on March 10 to activate your strong intuitive skills, and plant new seeds of creation.

LEO (July 22 – August 22) Your relationships are up for healing this month Leo. Your ability to take charge is hampered by hidden motives. Valuable insight comes as a result of looking beneath the surface of things. You are in a better position to determine the truth. Remember, "All that glitters is not gold." Listen, truly listen, to the heart of another, and your lion-hearted nature will light the way for others to be more of who they are.

VIRGO (August 22 – September 22) Your no nonsense approach to life is thrown for a loop. People come out of nowhere, requesting your services, and diverting attention to their needs. Although this month is a balancing act for you, there is much to learn and receive in the reflection of another's life. There is a tendency to over-commit, and work may stand in the way of social engagements.

LIBRA (September 22 – October 23) You are running in different directions this month trying to keep your world in balance. If you only focus on keeping other's happy, you may miss the gifts of personal growth. This year brings benefit in new contacts and alliances. Your natural social grace is enhanced in work and play. Developments in the work arena are new and exciting. It is important to know where you really stand. Honesty begins with self. Give yourself a break, and fuel heartfelt dreams.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 22) Your home brings great comfort this month. Creative juices are flowing. Children benefit from your deep sensitivity and intuition. This is the month to dream, play and explore your capacity for intimacy. Holding onto resentment does not get you where you want to go. Stagnation gives way to movement and relief. Important communications take place.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 21) Your gypsy days are over, at least until Spring Equinox. Problems revealed November – January are finally resolving. Reflexing back into repetitive and habitual behavior leads nowhere. The powerful trend of transformation is re-making you.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 21) Everyone deserves a break now and then. The only problem, Capricorn, is you may continue to run the treadmill. If so, you can miss the opportunity for sweet reflection that leads to a new view of your life path. Avoid the temptation to be negative during the first ten days of March. Know there is a deep river of creativity within you. Ideas flow like water, and nourish the seeds of new projects.

AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 18) You are on a roll Aquarius. Despite conservative trends, you are in the right place at the right time. Trust your vision for

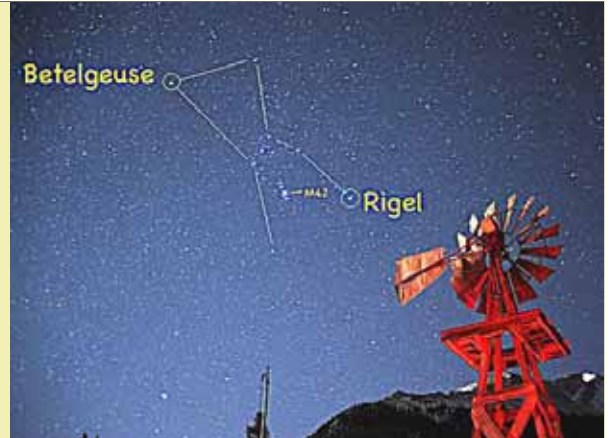


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Corner Stars Of Orion

Almost everyone knows that the most famous star pattern of our fading winter Sky Park sky is **Orion the Hunter**. And although everyone loves his red shoulder star **Betelgeuse**, Orion's other three bright stars are also quite wonderful too. On any clear night this month at around 8pm look southwest. You'll see Orion in all his glory. The dead giveaway is the three stars, equally spaced in a row, which mark his belt.



Above the belt are the two bright stars, which mark his shoulders and below are the two bright stars which mark his foot and knee. These four stars make a large rectangle and the first corner-star we'll look at is Betelgeuse.

The name Betelgeuse may come from an Arabic word which means "armpit of the central one" and is correctly pronounced bet-el-jooz. But most people pronounce it beetle juice so they can remember it because if you stepped on a beetle you'd get red beetle juice.

At any rate Betelgeuse is a gigantic red variable star. When it contracts to its smallest size it is 550 times as wide as our million-mile-wide Sun, but when it expands to its largest size it is almost 1200 times as wide. And its red color indicates that it is a much cooler star than our yellow Sun.

Orion's other shoulder star is named **Bellatrix**. And although it is much smaller than Betelgeuse it's still seven times as wide as our Sun. And it is a deep blue star, which means that it is many, many times hotter than both red Betelgeuse and our yellow Sun.

Orion's left foot is a blue-white super-

giant star named **Rigel**. And it is much larger than Bellatrix, 92 times as wide as our Sun. His other foot-star, named **Saiph**, is blue in color. And although it's a lot smaller than Rigel, Saiph is likewise a super giant with a diameter 21 times that of our Sun.

Astronomers are constantly refining the distance to the stars but Orion's big four are all hundreds of light years away, which means that when we look at them we see them not as they exist now but as they existed some time in the past depending on how far away they are.

For instance when we look at Bellatrix we see it as it existed 243 years ago because it is 243 light years away and it takes that long for its light to reach us. We see Betelgeuse as it existed 642 years ago because it is 642 light years away. But as far away as his shoulder stars are his leg stars are much, much farther. Rigel is 773 light years away and Saiph is 650 light years away.

So there you have it: the shoulder and knee stars of Orion the Hunter. Each one much larger than our own Sun and all hundreds of light years away. Look for Betelgeuse, Bellatrix, Rigel, and Saiph in the Sky Park heavens. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

a humane future. While the area of financial improvement is strong, you can benefit from a second opinion. Please be sure to run ideas by someone that is grounded in practical affairs.

PISCES (February 19 – March 20) Happy Birthday Pisces! With Uranus in your Sun Sign for the next seven years, creative juices are flowing. This is the

month to recognize your dreams and let them unfold in new directions. This is the month to illuminate ideals, hold them to your heart, and don't let present reality get you down. Everyday, remember that complaining will get you nowhere. There is a new world ready to be born through your vision! Pisces, this is your month. ■

SunSigns Horoscope



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Pet Of The Week Animal Shelter News

Tips On Food Donations to the Shelter

Hi, my name is **Rocky**. I was brought to the Animal Shelter Bonaire about a month ago. For a long time my owner couldn't take care of me and I was left alone in the house where we lived when my family moved. Now I am back to great health and love to play with other dogs and kids. I also enjoy going on walks and I am very ready for a forever home.

Are you looking for a long life friend who is easy going and always happy, come over and meet handsome Rocky at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717- 4989. E-mail to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

Story & Photo by Nathalie Peterson



DID YOU KNOW?

That not all jellies sting?

Last week, Bonaire was swarming with jellyfish, or "sea jellies," as biologist like to call them (since they aren't fish at all). After speaking with Bud Gillan, sea jelly expert and long-time friend to Bonaire, we found out that jelly explosions aren't just happening in Bonaire, but throughout the Caribbean, Bahamas and Florida. The good news is that most of the jellies seen were not stinging jellies, but rather "comb jellies." Comb jellies (*Ctenophora*) are in a completely different phylum than stinging jellies (*Cnidaria*) because they don't have stinging cells.

They are called comb jellies because they have rows of cilia (called comb rows) which they beat in order to move through the water. If you see one and the light is just right, you may see their beautiful, iridescent cilia (if you get



Photo credit: Tom Linder

close enough. Remember, these don't sting!) There are many different species of comb jellies, but the spot-winged comb jelly is one of my favorites because it's big, easy to spot AND it glows in the dark (is bioluminescent) when disturbed! If you're in the water at night and you see one of these spot-winged comb jellies, turn off your light (if you are using one), disturb the water next to it and watch it light up!

There are many theories why organisms bioluminescence and I imagine this one is doing it to scare its predator (let's say a sea turtle) just as it is about

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is always grateful when tourists and residents stop by to visit and bring donations of food. With close to 100 residents at the Shelter, food constitutes a large part of the costs of maintaining the Shelter. Many people prefer to bring food in lieu of monetary donations, and these donations are very welcome. However, there are a few things to keep in mind if you want to donate food.

Scientists consider cats to be strict carnivores and dogs are considered to be omnivores. The cat cannot sustain its life unless it consumes meat in some form. Dogs, however, are able to survive on plant material alone; they do not have to consume meat. But always keep in mind that dogs do best and by nature are primarily meat-eaters. Just because they are omnivores (can digest and utilize plant and animal food sources) does not mean that plant material alone makes a good source of nutrition for the dog. Many dogs are undernourished due to cheap grain-based dog foods. And grain-based cat foods are even worse!

In addition, the average dog's digestive system is not as sensitive as a cat's and they can easily adjust to changes in diet. Whereas with cats, a sudden change in the brand of food can cause diarrhea, vomiting and other gastrointestinal health issues. For this reason, the Animal Shelter's cats and kittens are on a strict diet of ONLY dry food and ONLY a certain brand to maintain their gastrointestinal health with a stable diet. If you would like to donate food for our adult Shelter cats, please purchase **PERFECTO CAT PREMIUM ADULT FOOD** available

at **BonDiGro** supermarket. The bags are very affordable at only \$2.29 per 750 gram bag. Currently we use three bags per day. All kittens are fed a high quality kitten food **Perfect Fit Junior** available at **van den Tweel** for \$6.49 per bag.



The Shelter is able to feed the dogs all food that is donated (including all the donated cat food that is not Perfecto). However, the dogs' main diet is **PERFECTO DOG FOOD (Croquettes or Lamb and Rice)** which is also available at **BonDiGro** at a very affordable price, \$17.53 for 15 kg.

Thanks to all of you who choose to support the Shelter animals with donations of food. Hopefully these tips will help make your decisions easier as to what to purchase. ■ Story by Jane Madden Disko.

to be eaten. As you may have noticed, the jellies came to shore during a wind-reversal. Jellies are considered planktonic since they are not usually able to swim against ocean currents. Therefore, when there is a wind reversal, the surface currents bring the jellies. Remember, lots of plankton also brings lots of plankton-eaters – like turtles, mantas

and even whale sharks! ■ Story by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting people with nature.



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