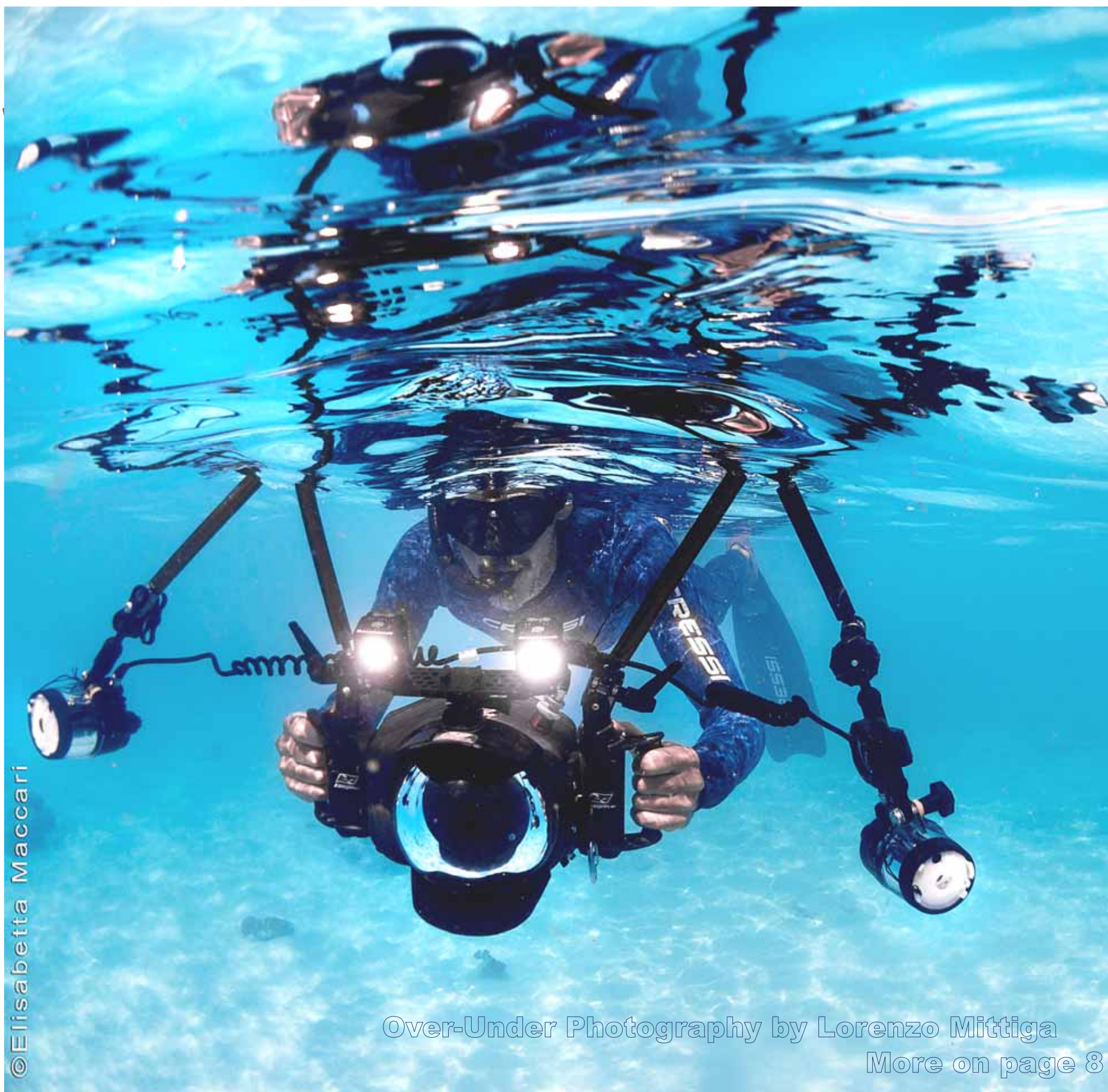


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**BONAIRE** *March 27- April 10, 2017, Year 24, Issue 6*  
**The REPORTER**  
*BES Island News Too*

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Over-Under Photography by Lorenzo Mittiga  
More on page 8



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In late March and early April, investigators of the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands will pay a working visit to the Caribbean Netherlands. They will hold open office hours on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius to deal with **complaints about the government**, like the Tax Department, the Public Prosecution Service, the Police, the Public Bodies and the National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands (Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland-RCN). Residents can file their complaints via the website, by telephone and in person.

• **Playa**  
Kaya Industria 15a  
(tegenover benzinstation Bonaco)  
Maandag 3 april, 18:00 - 20:00

• **Antriol, Plasa Francisco Chiku Goeloe**  
Dinsdag 4 april, 09:30 - 12:00  
Donderdag 6 april, 11:30 - 14:00

• **Rincon, Sentro di Bario**  
Dinsdag 4 april, 18:00 - 19:00

► HGTV (Home and Garden TV) is a popular American basic cable and satellite TV channel. The channel reaches approximately 95,628,000 American households. A broadcast episode that was filmed in July, 2016, that recently aired, featured a family from Austin, TX, looking to find their dream home in Bonaire. The exposure this show gives to our island is huge,

HGTV's popular show, **Caribbean Life**, will be airing new segments filmed in Bonaire in 2016. The episodes are currently in production process and are slated to air this summer. Once the air dates are announced, we will provide the schedule.

► The latest blow to InselAir's business was the **advice by the IATA (International Air Travel Association) agencies to no longer conduct business with InselAir, because of non-payment.**

On a positive note there was an announcement that **InselAir and Synergy Aerospace plan to reach an agreement within two weeks**, leading to a final accord about a far-reaching partnership within four to six weeks. **Synergy Aerospace** is Latin America's leading com-



mercial aviation corporation. It's also the main shareholder of **Avianca Holdings** of Colombia. This is the first good news for InselAir in a long time. According to Curacao's Minister of Economic Development, Eugene Rugenaath, an agreement with Avianca is important for InselAir's long term survival.

► **InselAir is flying a very limited flight schedule**, making use of two Fokker 50 propeller aircraft. It is back to basics which means flying only among the ABC Islands and maybe St. Maarten. According to the company's new interim CEO, Gilles Filiatreault, said this is their core business. The second might be to fly to and from Suriname and Miami. Venezuela, which used to be the "pot of gold" for InselAir, is not part of the plans

**For 2016 InselAir had a \$12 million loss.** About 250 employees were laid off as a result of the downsizing. According to the management, they are trying to keep the layoffs to a minimum by allowing sharing of work hours which will allow more people to stay at the company. Filiatreault is convinced that by May or June the company will be able to start paying its creditors again.

► The TCB's Maurice Adriaens and Angelo Domacasse, as appreciation for their work, **gave all the Bonaire of InselAir employees a box with something to eat and drink**, so that they can get more energy to continue with their jobs. It was the tourist board's recognition of the employees' perseverance during the tough times that Insel Air is going through and their commitment to assist the passengers.

► At the recent cruise ship industry's **Seatrade Convention** in Ft. Lauderdale, Bonaire was represented by **Xenah Cicilia**, Cruise Operations Coordinator for TCB, **Gabriele Tixi**, Cruise Relations for TCB and **Gunther Flanegi**, Harbor-

master. The delegation met with cruise executives to discuss the product "Bonaire." These meetings were very productive and were mostly positive.

According to a press release from the TCB, **"while Bonaire may have won the prize of being the Number One Southern Caribbean destination**, now we have to work at maintaining this title. We do have some aspects we should pay attention to: like updating our piers, on-island activities and most cruise lines have mentioned that they want more water based activities for their customers."

► **The Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio will host some Zazen meditations sessions at the studio in April** with one Buddhist monk and one Buddhist nun. It will provide an interesting chance for people who want to experience meditation. This is not a "course" or a "workshop."

There will be sessions of Zazen Meditation in April: Every Saturday 8:30-10am, and every Wednesday, 7:15-8:30pm (starting Wednesday April 5th, finishing Saturday April 29th). There is a fee of \$10 for a single session and all eight sessions (whole month) are \$40.

► **Yogarriba is proud to announce that the Ruiz brothers, members of the family that brought you the best-selling book, The Four Agreements, will be in Bonaire the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2017.** Yogarriba will offer a night lecture with the Ruiz brothers, in Spanish, on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Yogarriba Earthship amphitheater from 7:15 - 9 pm.

**On Wednesday, May 3, there will be an intimate Day Retreat** with the Ruiz brothers from 9am to 5:30 pm again at the Yogarriba Earthship. The day retreat will start the day with some yoga and meditation, followed by the lectures and teaching of the Toltec Tradition by Jose and Miguel Ruiz Jr. All will lunch together and the day will close with a Happy Hour, sharing some time with the Ruiz brothers going with the flow.

Cost: Tuesday - Night Lecture: \$30.  
Wednesday - Day Retreat: \$95

Please make your reservation by send-

(Continued on page 3)

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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) ing payment to the following account and by confirming this email.

Bank info: YOGARRIBA EZ, MCB - Current Account # 40931305, Kaya Statius van Eps #14, Kralendijk, Bonaire. Reference: night lecture and/or day retreat

► Erfpacht, or Long Lease Land, is a traditional way of obtaining land to build a house. **Now 101 island residents who applied for lease land in the past are now eligible to begin the final process of getting their own land.** The local government put special emphasis on this project which had been dragging. So if you received a letter stating that you be sure to follow the instructions so that everything goes well.

► An informative video done by inFamous Productions was debuted last Thursday at police HQ that shows what the team's work involves. Especially interesting was the demonstration of the team making an arrest. This video is available on social media. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9igJzByNx04>

The Dutch Caribbean (KPCN) Bike Team was first set up in 2009 to improve the flexibility of the police, giving them the ability to react more quickly at pedestrian locations and other places difficult to reach by police cars. Since 2014 the team has been putting more



**Bike Police Officers**

focus on tourist protection, especially during cruise ship season. The team consists of 11 officer-bikers.

► Come and be spoiled at the new **Namaste Spa at Capt. Don's Habitat.** Owner Nancy Hart opened Namaste in the Republiek neighborhood in 2010, offering restorative and healing services. Now you may enjoy them at the newly renovated Spa at Habitat and give yourself the gift of relaxation. All of the highly skilled employees are well versed in client comfort, adjusting the service towards your personal comfort level and ensuring you are receiving the style of service that will bring the best results for you. Choose from a wide range of mas-

sages, luxury facials, manicures, pedicures and other specialized services.

**Namaste at Habitat will open on April 1** and will offer a special VIP Club. See their ad on page 14 for more details.

► **If you need something special when you are sick or disabled check out Best Care Bonaire.** They offer a myriad assortment of health care products and services for sale or rent. Everything from wheelchairs, crutches, electric patient lifts, nutrition. They offer occupational therapy, hearing tests, orthotics and prosthetics consults as well. Best Care coordinates with the island health insurance. See their ad on page 6 for details.

► *The Reporter* did not cover the Bon Doet events held on March 10 and 11 because of vacation schedules. **But we can say it was an overwhelming success** with over 1,500 participants performing over 80 tasks.

► *The Reporter* was also away for the 15th edition of the **Bonaire Special Olympics Walkathon.** The event raises money to sponsor our special athletes to competitions on island and overseas. HUNDREDS OF Bonaire residents and visitors walked from the slave huts to Rincon, the same route the salt slaves walked more than 150 years ago, Reports were that was a huge success once again. ■ *G.D. /L.D.*

## Ride For The Roses



**Tirza and John show the new T-shirts**

► **The next Ride For The Roses fundraisers will be in April.** The first is the **Uphill Challenge on April 8- an up-and downhill cycling event at Sabedeco West** where participants are sponsored per lap. It's a cycling event where participants are sponsored per lap. The more they go up and down the more money they collect.

The next is on **April 23. The Ride, Walk and Swim starts at Eden/Spice Beach with cycling, hiking and swimming** where each participant is presented with a red rose at the finish. The rose symbolizes a tomorrow for everyone. **The main sponsor for the events is Orco Bank.** Each participant will receive a t-shirt, a bag and a souvenir at the finish. Afterwards Ride for the Roses provides non-alcoholic beverages and fruits. **Tickets are \$15 for one event or \$20 for all. Available at Bon Bida, de Freewieler and the Airport.** Pick up entry pack on April 22 from 9 am to 3 pm at ORCO Bank on Kaya Grandi. ■

## FOR SALE Kaminda Lagoen Building lot 3404 and 3406



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**Lot 3404 listed for \$91,545 US Dollar**

**Lot 3406 listed for \$107,490 US Dollar**



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# On the Island Since... 1994 and 2011 - Kenny Martijn

“I was born on Aruba. My dad is from Aruba and my mom was also born there, but her family is from North di Saliña, here in Bonaire. When I was one year old, my mom and I moved to The Hague, the most beautiful city of Holland.

I had a good childhood. We travelled through Europe and I participated in many different sports; soccer was my all-time favorite. At 11 I was scouted by ADO Den Haag, a major league soccer club, but soon after I was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. The doctor told my mom to go back to Aruba because for growing children with juvenile arthritis there is nothing better than a warm climate.

Within a month we were back; there was no other option. I wasn't happy at all. I felt homesick for The Hague.

Nevertheless, I wanted to get better so I did a lot of physical therapy and went swimming as often as I could. After a period of time I was capable of participating in some sports again which made me really happy!

Around 1994 my mother renewed her friendship with a Bonairean friend of hers, and that same year we moved to Bonaire. Miraculously it felt like home. I was barely 14 and went to SGB. I went camping, I learned how to dive and to sail, I went fishing and swimming, I played basketball and I shot iguanas. My arthritis was no longer an issue because of the exercises and the warmth it didn't flare up anymore and I could do anything I wanted. I even played in the national basketball selection.

As a family we travelled extensively through the Caribbean which was fun, because when you visit the other islands you experience a totally different culture and way of life, another language and a lush nature which is unknown to the ABC islands. It was an eye-opener.

When I finished Havo high school I wasn't eager to leave Bonaire, but as my stepfather and I didn't get along, I decided to go my own way and I went to The Hague once again. I was 18. First I did Human Resource Management at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, then I switched to Social Work.

However, school wasn't my priority; I spent a lot of time on the streets, then I dropped out. It was a miserable time and it didn't get me anywhere. In 2000 I was at my wit's end, then I realized it wasn't the life for me. I called a cousin of mine and he came to get me and they took me in.

I became a jack-of-all-trades: I worked in a steel factory, at the garbage collection service, at a CD casing plant and I was a checker at an accountant's office. My



Kenny and his friend Dilla

cousin had his own brass and Soca band, and they took me everywhere they performed. It was great.

**“The issues here are huge. There is incest, violence, abuse and/or total mental and physical neglect. It might sound strange, but family reunification remains always the biggest aim. But what are you going to do when the child can't go back?”**

Then I got a job at a small internet service provider, Ziggo, where at that time about 20 people were working. Nowadays it's the largest cable operator in the Netherlands.

The job had a great impact on me, because I found out: ‘This is what I am good at!’ In those days nobody knew what to do with the Internet, but we were very creative and I could do the job the way I liked. At a certain point I was the one who arranged everything. They got me a house and paid my rent. However, after three years I went back to The Hague, and because I knew myself better by then, I didn't go back to my old friends and took a new route: Music.

I started working at T-Mobile and on the side I wrote reviews for hip hop and R&B, becoming well known on the scene. I got an online reputation for knowing where the best parties were going to take place! In 2003 a good friend of mine took me to a reggae festival where ‘Black Uhuru,’ a reggae band, was playing. It touched me so intensely – while I was a hardcore hip hopper – that after the show everything had changed. I didn't have time anymore for hip hop – which comes with quite a bit of macho behavior. It was reggae – love and

unity – what I needed right there and then. I wasn't a tough guy anymore; I wanted to make my life better, for myself and also for the people around me. So I decided to take reggae to the people. I became a DJ and with my friend who'd taken me to the festival and another friend we became a real DJ team with someone at the MC. It was huge! We performed all over the country at festivals and events and gave people a positive vibe and made them laugh and dance. It was tremendously motivating.

In 2004 I became a ‘buddy’ for Antillean youngsters in The Hague. It's an initiative of the municipality where you are a ‘big brother’ to someone and take your ‘little brother’ to other cities and museums (for which they paid a little money) and talk to his mentor at school like twice a week. In short, you must make sure the kid stays away from the streets.

I got the taste of caring and decided I wanted more. I wanted to be the social worker. So, I went back to The Hague University of Applied Sciences to study Social Work once more. It was hectic; being a DJ during the weekends, going to school and working the job at T-Mobile, but I graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor in Social Sciences, and my mother was the happiest person ever!

It was the aftermath of the recession, so for two years I looked for a job in my field while I kept on working at T-Mobile. Then, in 2011, I went on vacation to Bonaire and had interviews at Youth Care and the prison. When I went to visit one of the children's homes, I felt ‘This is it!’

Youth Care made me an offer I couldn't refuse, and one month later I started working at Kas Karko, the children's home for children ages 12 to 18. However, since Stichting Project/Forsa took over the management, Kas Karko now offers a home to children ages five to 12, while another home in town, where I'm working, takes in children from 12 to 18 years.

The issues here are huge. There is incest, violence, abuse and/or total mental and

Kenny and his mother, Lula Martijn



physical neglect. It might sound strange, but family reunification remains always the biggest aim. But, what are you going to do when the child can't go back? That's my biggest fear: where is the kid going to? He can't go home... now what? The options are Curacao or Holland or maybe a family member and this is the toughest part about my job. I really would like to see that children from Bonaire be able to stay on Bonaire - at a safe place.

For me it's hard to accept that we have a very long waiting list and relatively very few rooms available for our children, while there is enough money to build a brand new jail. That's sad. It's like totally ignoring the origin of the problems. Furthermore, there should be separate homes for children with psychiatric and psychological problems, because now they're all together, which doesn't make it easier for anyone who is involved.

Another wish of mine is that Bonairean professionals who are living abroad will return to the island, like I did, with their knowledge and experience to invest it here and create jobs for others as well. Foreigners are now in those positions, but it should be our own people.

This is not a job which makes me feel ‘I have to go to work today.’ I've been doing it for six years now, and we – a team of 10 ‘veteran’ rappers, producers and video makers - created Bon Irie, a Bonairean music movement which you can find on Facebook, SoundCloud and YouTube. We're making positive hip hop and reggae for youngsters. What Rastas always say is, ‘Teach the Youth the Truth.’ So I tell them over and over again how life works, and that it is tough, but also that they can achieve great accomplishments.

There is not much information on Bonaire for youngsters about what to do with their lives and what the possibilities are. Maybe the schools should pay more attention to it.

The government should also realize that there are certain jobs that will attract young people - after they've studied or learned a trade and gained life experience and different insights – to come back to Bonaire, to their families and their culture. Because this is their island and they have a right to their share of paradise.”■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





## New Home for "Salute to the Sailors"

Display at the Plaza Resort

On Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th, the Fundashon Patrimonio Maritimo Boneiru (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation) carefully transferred a collection of historic nautical photos from the Terramar Museum to the Plaza Beach Resort. Luck of the Irish was with them as all 15 pictures arrived safely.

Titled "Salute to the Sailors," it was the first temporary exhibition at the new Terramar Museum. But after seven months there, time was up to make way for other displays. A new home for the photos was accomplished with an agreement with the Plaza. "It is our pleasure to have the photo exhibition here at the resort," states Richard Bilderbeek, the Plaza's sales and marketing director. "We saw this quality exhibit as something that was attractive for our lobby and beneficial for our guests. But we also urge locals to come by and see these wonderful photos."

Most of the photographs are of Bonaire ships, sailors and boat builders from the grand age of sail, although Curacao and Aruba are also included. Nearly all are from the 20th century. The oldest is from 1917 and captures a launching in Curacao of the massive *Hollandia*, named in honor of the 18th century 32-gun, 700-ton ship of the Dutch East India Company. Two others are of men who were directly involved with *Stormvogel*, the last remaining sailing cargo ship from this region. The tough-looking seaman with a scowl on his face is Martin Felida, captain and owner of the cargo boat. Legend has it that Felida painted *Storm-*

*vogel* black in order to aid him in midnight rendezvous while smuggling alcohol and cigarettes from Curacao to Venezuela at night. The other portrait shows *Stormvogel's* shipwright Ellis 'Etchi' Craane in his later years proudly holding a document of knighthood from the Queen of the Netherlands. The prestigious award was given to the aging boat builder for his many years of service in the island's maritime industry. Special thanks to FuHiKuBo (Fundashon Histórikò Kultural Boneriano) for helping search for these historic photos.

"Salute to the Sailors" will be on display at the Plaza Beach Resort for an unspecified amount of time. The Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation urges the public to visit the resort's lobby and take a glimpse into the island's nautical past. Admission is free of charge and you can find the photos near the casino entrance. Bonaire was known as a leading boat building center in the southern Caribbean for decades and people from other islands and South America would commission Kralendijk boat builders to craft their vessels.

As one woman visiting the exhibit said, "Seeing these photos gives me goose bumps. I have a real feeling of pride for our island." "Salute to the Sailors" was made possible by a grant from the *Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Caribisch Gebied*.

Story & photo by Patrick Holian



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter in The Southern Tier, NY



Nuna and Bill MacDonald reading *The Bonaire Reporter* with snow on the ground wishing they were back on Bonaire

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

## Congratulations

After having been in a relationship for more than 10 years, last Valentine's Day Liset Wassenaar (DA drugstore) and Terence Bernabela (Dinner in a Box) tied the knot at Te Amo Beach in a romantic fairy tale wedding ceremony.

*The Reporter* wishes them and their little daughter Kailani a beautiful and very happy life together! ■ Greta Kooistra



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From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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# Sea Ferry To Begin April First

Exclusive to *The Bonaire Reporter*

A few weeks ago *The Bonaire Reporter* received an email that invited a journalist to a secret meeting point where an envelope 'containing top-secret government-files' would be handed over. This isn't uncommon. At our headquarters we receive a lot of similar mails, most of which turn out to be written by crackpots. But because this mail contained the words 'Insel Air' and 'solution' we decided to accept the invitation.

Under the cloak of darkness we drove to an unlit street corner, and waited with open windows, as instructed. Nothing happened for an hour. And another hour. Our coffee got stale and my editor ran out of sailor stories to tell. Just when he threatened to open a can of Brooklyn stories, a scooter hissed by, dangerously close, and behind us we heard a thump: something heavy was thrown in the back seat. An envelope, marked X, and filled with an extensive dossier, over 1,000 pages long.

It took us a few days to read and interpret the technical files, but once we saw the whole picture, we actually opened a bottle of champagne at *The Reporter Tower*: our informant wasn't lying. This is the most important story we ever stumbled upon, real Pulitzer-prize material.

As many of our readers know and have sadly experienced, it has become more and more difficult to get reliable flights to the neighboring islands. Apparently the incessant delays and cancellations have not gone unnoticed by government officials. Since the beginning of the 'Cancel Air' drama, politicians of both the BES islands and Aruba and Curaçao have set up a confidential task force to solve the threat of isolation. That is, of course, what politicians do: anticipate problems and work seamlessly together to come up with solutions, all to serve their rulers, the public.

The idea is spectacular, but genius in its simplicity. The five islands will be interconnected with a ferry service, but not as you know it. No specially-built ships, but modified shipping containers, will be used to move you. With a simple call you will be able to order a 'container-taxi'. A few minutes later a truck will appear at your house, the back doors will open and you can drive your car into the container. Other smaller, luxuriously appointed containers will accommodate travelers on foot. These containers will be brought to the harbor and rolled aboard one of our reliable RO/RO ships like the *Don Andreas*. Once you reach your destination, the doors will open and you can simply drive or walk off. Not fast, but reliable.

The idea isn't new: those of you who visited Europe will probably know the Eurotunnel that applies the same principal, connecting Europe and Britain with an underground railroad, except that digging a tunnel between all the islands would take decades. This revolutionary transport-system on the other hand will go in effect on Saturday, April 1.

Sounds boring, spending a few hours in a metal container? Not really. Every transport unit will be mounted with in-container entertainment (simply called 'ICE' in the files), airco and a bar where your personal bartender will serve drinks and light refreshments. This actually beats every cruise line in luxury.

And now for the best part: this service will be free. The task force convinced the Dutch Transport Ministry that providing decent public transportation is simply one of the responsibilities of every self-respecting government. Insight came that connecting people and businesses in the Caribbean could not be left to the private market whose only interest is making a profit at the behest of the shareholders.

I hear you thinking: there is no such thing as a free lunch. Due to the enormous expense, the government will have to raise taxes tenfold, right?

No. Each island came up with an original way of making this container-cruise-line affordable. Bonaire for one will tap into its main source of income: diving. Don't worry, dive tags will not cost \$1,000 in April. That's because the task force will use the reefs as an advertisement area. Not by putting up billboards between the corals - that would simply be pollution - but by training the fish to form logos of advertisers. For instance: when you pass a shoal of yellow parrotfish, they will do a choreography that represents the Amstel Bright logo. Or pufferfish will swim in layered circles, depicting the famous Michelin Man, urging you to buy decent tires for your SUV.

Can fish actually do this? Again, yes, and the dossier contains the aquatic research to back it up. "Nowadays fish are very frustrated," an academic says, "They look calm and happy, but they are actually extremely bored, missing a purpose in life. As with humans, being unemployed causes serious depression and randomly swimming around, constantly avoiding accidents, produces high stress levels in the brains of fish. They yearn for a goal in life, a daytime job for instance, that would give them the satisfaction of being a valid and productive part of society. Fishes are extremely smart and research shows that they would gladly provide this promotional service for free - no extra food would be required to stimulate them. We have seen that a small percentage of fish is already active in the acting trade and have become Hollywood-stars. Nemo, Dolly and Jaws for instance made a fortune and serve as a perfect role model for the billions of other starstruck fish who would jump at the opportunity to sing and dance in front of an audience."

This is what experts call a win-win-situation. Big corporations will pay generous amounts of money for this fishmeritment that only Bonaire can provide. It will also mean an increase in tourism as people from all over the globe will want to see this underwater choreography. In the meanwhile we islanders can travel freely to our neighboring countries to visit family and friends or conduct business.

Obviously *The Bonaire Reporter* too comes out on top. We would like to thank the anonymous Deep Throat that delivered us this groundbreaking information. We will think of him or her every time we polish our gold Pulitzer Prize-medal.

The first trials of the ferry system will begin on Saturday, April 1, at the Kralendijk Stadium, beginning at 0900. Free rides will be offered and refreshments will be served. ■

Roderik Six



One of the car-carrying containers gets loaded at the waterfront before its windows are installed



The luxurious passengers-only cabins are based on 20-ft. containers. The special windows offer a panoramic view to the traveler.



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# Bonaire Votes National

## ELECTIONS FOR THE DUTCH SECOND CHAMBER HELD ON BONAIRE (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

Five ladies await me in the otherwise empty *Sentro di Bario* (Neighborhood Center). The first points out the directions, the second takes my voting pass, the third takes my *sedula* (ID Card) and speaks my name out loud. The role of the fourth is totally unclear to me, but the fifth gives me a smile and then hands out a huge paper with all candidates' names on it. I turn to one of the specially equipped black cubicles to unfold the white map listing an innumerable amount of names, and mark one little dot bright red. On my way out I feel good. I used my vote.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March around 3,500 persons on the BES islands used their vote. In total, there are almost 15,000 eligible voters on the Dutch Caribbean islands entitled to influence the composition of members of the House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer*). Whereas 81.9% of the total voting population showed up in the polling stations throughout the Dutch Kingdom, in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands only 23.46% made use of their right to vote, a little less than in the 2012 elections. Because Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are special municipalities of the Netherlands since 2010, residents of the islands are entitled to vote for the Dutch House of Representatives every four years.

### Campaigning Misses the Mark

In the weeks before the 15<sup>th</sup> of March in the European part of the Netherlands you couldn't turn on your television without seeing political leaders debate. You couldn't walk around downtown without meeting over-enthusiastic party members handing out flyers, and you couldn't see a bus shelter that does not show the face of one of the party leaders. It's not only because of a lack of bus shelters on Bonaire that the elections are less vividly present. Many of the themes discussed don't capture the island's imagination.

The parties' manifestos are written, taking in mind the European part of the Netherlands. The online choosing assistances are helpful for those having an opinion about Dutch integration in the European Union, about how to cope with refugees, or about deductibles in healthcare. But no questions are asked about the degree of integration of the BES islands, about the local minimum wage, or about the amount of tourists the Caribbean islands want to host. It's like asking people in the Netherlands to vote in the Belgian elections. You kind of have an opinion about which direction they should take, and if you're into politics, you might know the most prominent parties' main positions. But most people wouldn't know what to choose or wouldn't care to be involved.

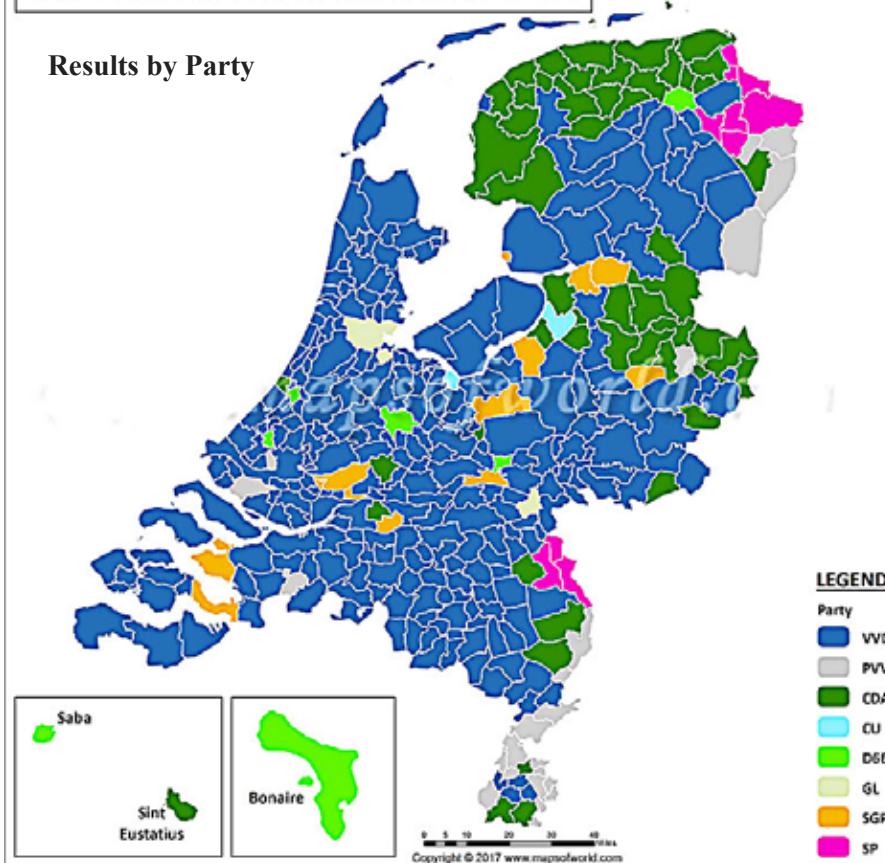
*Editor's note— Bonaireans were actively encouraged NOT to vote, or cast blank ballots, to reflect the opinions of those who oppose the Openbaar Lichaam (Public Entity) status defined in 2010 by*



Voting in Rincon What is the first thing you notice about the photo?

## DUTCH GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS MAP 2017

### Results by Party



the Dutch Government following a Dutch Antilles-wide referendum.

### True Impact

But while the Belgian elections don't have much influence on the political situation in the Netherlands, the European Netherlands do have lots of impact on the BES islands. Issues that truly affect the population of the islands are influenced by the Dutch House of Representatives. Since there is interest on the islands for issues like the amount of allowances, state pensions, study financing and healthcare, it's a pity that not more residents were interested in the elections that might influence these issues. And sure, probably we are not going to make the difference. It's like saying that voting in the small village where my parents live in the Netherlands is not going to make the difference. But if being small makes us stay home at election time, we reject the basis of democracy. Every single resident, whether rich or poor, educated or not, living in Amsterdam or Saba has exactly the same influence on the outcome of the elections.

### Outcome

D66 turned out to be the most popular party in the Dutch Caribbean. 26% of the voters chose the democrat liberalist party that favors further integration of the BES islands in the Kingdom. The Christian

Democrat CDA, ended second with 24% of the votes. The VVD, the country's largest party, won 12% of the Caribbean votes. The liberal center-right parties' leader, Premier Mark Rutte, declared earlier that the BES islands will not integrate any further in the Kingdom according to the parties' political visions. The green left-wing GroenLinks took 9% of the Caribbean votes. Geert Wilders' extreme right-wing PVV, the second largest in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. Wilders, who regularly visits Bonaire for holidays, declared that he wants to cut all ties with the Dutch Caribbean as soon as possible. The only party that showed its face in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands during the campaigning period, the Labor Party PvdA, got 7% of the Caribbean votes.

### Formation of Coalitions

The government formation process is currently going on. Possible coalitions of political parties are being explored, and party leaders are debating to see whether they can cooperate and form a viable new cabinet. All parties declared they don't want to govern with Geert Wilders' PVV. The biggest party, VVD, wants to work together with number three and four- D66 and CDA- but they need another party to form a viable cabinet. GroenLinks is the next biggest party, but the green and left-wing ideals of this party oppose in many ways the conservative VVD. The VVD is not very eager to make concessions on their left, after governing for four years with the left labor party PvdA. And GroenLinks' frontman, Jesse Klaver, is not very eager to rule with conservative parties that don't share his ideals concerning climate change and refugees.

The winner in the BES islands, D66's front man Alexander Pechtold, is the motor behind the possible formation of this delicate coalition between VVD, CDA, D66 and GroenLinks, which is already called the **Rainbow Coalition**. It is unsure how long the formation process will continue and which colors of the rainbow will rule the European and Caribbean Netherlands. ■

Gerjanne Voortman



Gerjanne Voortman is a graduate Anthropologist living in Bonaire



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# Gold Medal Photo



The winning over-under shot. A green iguana takes a breath after an underwater excursion in a semi-submerged cave on the island of Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Green Iguanas are everywhere on the island. They are part of every home's garden and even swimming pools.

Winning (or even just being placed) is Underwater Photography's most coveted accolade because it says you succeeded in the most competitive environment there is, against the top talent of the moment.



- Natural Category
- ◆ National Geographic 2013-2014-2015 Picture of the month
  - ◆ UW photoguide photo contest 2013: Winner wide angle category



Lorenzo Mittiga at work

Every year a panel of judges select the best images entered in the online photo contest from the previous year. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for the top three from each category in order of merit.

The judges are comprised of industry professionals, previous year's World Champions, our site moderators - anyone we can rope in! They are unpaid, non-affiliated, and (of course) cannot vote for themselves.

This year the gold was awarded to Italian-born Bonaire photographer Lorenzo Mittiga.

Lorenzo is no stranger to photographic competitions. Honors include

- ◆ Oasis International Photo Contest 2014 :
- ◆ Honorable Mention UW Smithsonian 12th Photo Contest 2014: Winner of

Born in Rome in 1969, Lorenzo became interested in photography at an early age. He had a career with Italian TV and commercial photography before coming to Bonaire five years ago. He is a Marine Biologist with a degree from La Sapienza University in Rome. He has been snapping underwater photos since 1988 mostly ocean related to whatever is underwater or topside. He tries to depict the natural world with all its beauty. His latest photographs are now on display at Terramar Museum. ■ G.D.



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## "Nos Zjilea" and Traditional Games at Mangazina di Rei

This week on Saturday April 1, is the next edition of the Cultural Event, 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei.

The group of the Foundation 'Kanta Orkidia' will give presentations of different traditional games which have been played through the years on the island. The foundation is a social cultural and educational group which has been in existence for almost 45 years. Its purpose is to promote, sustain and safeguard social cultural and religious development of its members and the general population of the island of Bonaire through the preservation of the folklore and the Bonairean culture.

There will be "Live" entertainment from the local steel band 'Silver Bullet' and the local band 'Sason Boneriano'.

Do not miss out on learning how to make a cactus fence.

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

The Cultural Market cannot be missed with its local fresh products such as syrup of the local gourd, natural local 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 enjoy different delicious traditional local dishes. There will be a tasty grill dish where you can lick your fingers and beg for more.

'Nos Zjilea' is an ideal opportunity to enjoy with your family and friends. There's also the opportunity to take photos of people in folkloric clothing. Entrance is only \$1, to help us safeguard and promote the lovely Culture of Bonaire.

For more information visit the Facebook Fanpage of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. Come and enjoy of 'Nos Zjilea' with the usual Cultural Market as part of it this week, Saturday April 1 from 8am to 2pm. ■

Story & photo by Izain J. Mercera



## Nochi Is Back

Nochi Coffie, one of Bonaire's best known artists, is exhibiting again after a long hiatus. His works are now on display at the Bistro de Paris restaurant.

He's adopted a new style but retained some of the techniques, especially his incredible clouds which make him a favorite among Bonaire art collectors. His art is centered on the beauties of nature and the emphasis they give to Bonaire folklore and culture. ■ G.D.



The paintings are for sale. To learn more call Nochi at 785-6388 or via mail, [zudyarno@g-mail.com](mailto:zudyarno@g-mail.com)



Juan "Nochi" Coffie



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# A Garden? Just Do It

## GOOD HEALTH FROM YOUR GARDEN

Sometimes it's funny how people react to my garden.

In the first place they're always excited. That was the case for example when a group of Spanish speaking women came to my garden to pick up a certain plant. But then they saw the big wild bitter melon bush. It's a vegetable that's very popular in Surinam. I plant it in my garden and eat a lot of it. These women then started to scream and went wild and started to grab the leaves and flowers and the small "fruit" from the bush.

In the middle of it I yelled, "Noooo, stop, don't touch, don't kill my plant!"

Finally they calmed down and asked if I had small plants from this bush and whether I was willing to pick some (more) leaves for them. They explained to me that this plant has a popular medicinal history in Santo Domingo as well as in Jamaica and Surinam. That's why I have it. I also see it in many places against fences on Bonaire, but unfortunately its specialty is unknown here. It's very, very bitter, but I don't mind. I use it once a week as a healthy tea and I use the small fruits as a veggie mix with dried shrimps. One of the photos shows the fruit. Ripe and green, I use it all. Bitter or not, it's a very good thing.

Healthy herbs, spices and wild veggies often have very strong tastes. But once you are used to those dominant bitter or sour or sharp tastes, you might like them even more.

Ginger has one of the sharp tastes, tamarind can be very sour, bembé has a wild veggie sour taste, and bitter melon is real bitter. But it's all good stuff and for many healthy reasons even better for your body.

Another good thing is that often they grow by themselves: no special attention, no watering, almost year round in your yard.

Carried by birds, bugs, the wind and running (rain) water the seeds spread out and grow by themselves in your yard. Just for you. Tea from the leaves is very good as a cleaner for the liver. I know that from my grandma. I guess that's why it means so much to those who know.

Talking about wild stuff for the body, **It's Cleaning Time!** Remember, Carnaval is over and now it's time to take care of your body's condition that goes along with a cleaning inside and body scrubs, body masks and peace in your mind. Do you need to go on a diet? Look for one of which you've already had good experience with. Try to use products from the island such as fresh juices from unsprayed fruits like papaya, mango, mispel, lemon and/or smoothies made from your own spinach and parsley (that have a lot of magnesium and iron which is good for the bones), local small cucumbers and your own Bloody Mary (tomatoes) with salt and pepper. Think of a breakfast with a nice good morning



*Bitter Melon, the small wild type in my garden.*



*Goma wiri. This wild veggie grows everywhere on the kunuku and also in your yard.*

yerba hole-lemon grass tea and some blended pieces of coco mixed with honey, raisins and walnuts. Coco is a very healthy protein with oil that brings high cholesterol down, stops hunger and you can find them all over the place. I take them home and open them myself.

Do you want a blood cleaning? Tamarind, ginger, birambi do a good job. For stomach and belly cleaning, body, face and hair mask our Aloe Vera juice and jelly is without a doubt the best and it can come straight from your yard I guess, but for sure from Bonaire.

I've heard that for a good diet to break down fat one has to start with two glasses of water from the faucet with fresh lemon juice. Drink this every morning on an empty stomach. It's also a great cleaner for the stomach and blood and provides Vitamin C which you need a lot during dieting.

Most of above mentioned plants grow naturally in my garden and their pure taste makes me really enjoy my food. And I find it a safe idea that no chemicals are there, only the best manure and pure compost.

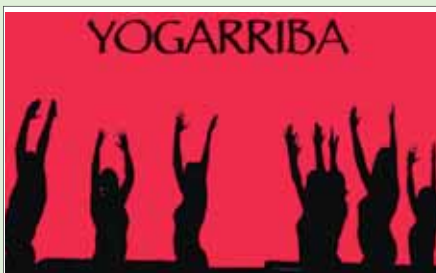
By the way, sometimes there are different types of grass seeds in the manure and compost that you don't want to have in your yard. One of them, popular because of its special way to hook onto your clothes, is called by the locals as "Pegasaya." If you have it in your yard pull it out immediately before it gets seeds. These seeds stick everywhere on your clothes, shoes, bags and they hurt. They also have brought many troubles to

relationships. Many times they have betrayed where he or she has been and where he or she should not have been. Ha! Ha! Can you imagine in the middle of the night when pots and pans and bags with clothes fly out of the window. Wow!

By the way, since I can see the bitter melon plant from my kitchen I enjoy cooking more. And you know why? Because the bush and its ripe fruits attract a lot of little birds. They love the small sweet red seeds and they also like to make their nests there. I'm amazed how perfectly these nests are made and how dedicated both male and female work together to get their nests done.

Their little "peep-peep" sounds so sweet in my ear. I really do enjoy their busy but peaceful presence in that bush, different from those yelling ladies there grabbing in the wild. Ha!Ha! It's just for fun.. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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	00:08	06:42	12:06	19:14	<b>New Moon</b>		
<b>Mon 27</b>	0.40 ft	0.06 ft	0.45 ft	-0.01 ft		6:35	18:46
	01:01	08:13	13:20	19:55			
<b>Tue 28</b>	0.50 ft	0.02 ft	0.37 ft	0.01 ft		6:34	18:46
	01:55	09:36	14:39	20:40			
<b>Wed 29</b>	0.60 ft	-0.06 ft	0.31 ft	0.02 ft		6:34	18:46
	02:48	10:47	15:54	21:29			
<b>Thu 30</b>	0.71 ft	-0.15 ft	0.28 ft	0.02 ft		6:33	18:46
	03:41	11:47	17:00	22:21			
<b>Fri 31</b>	0.81 ft	-0.24 ft	0.27 ft	0.02 ft		6:32	18:46
<b>April</b>	04:32	12:42	17:58	23:15			
<b>Sat 01</b>	0.89 ft	-0.31 ft	0.28 ft	0.01 ft		6:32	18:47
	05:24	13:32	18:51				
<b>Sun 02</b>	0.94 ft	-0.35 ft	0.30 ft			6:31	18:47
		<b>First Quarter</b>	00:10	06:15	14:20	19:40	
<b>Mon 03</b>		-0.00 ft	0.95 ft	-0.36 ft	0.32 ft	6:30	18:47
		01:06	07:06	15:07	20:29		
<b>Tue 04</b>		-0.00 ft	0.93 ft	-0.34 ft	0.35 ft	6:30	18:47
		02:03	07:57	15:52	21:18		
<b>Wed 05</b>		0.00 ft	0.86 ft	-0.29 ft	0.38 ft	6:29	18:47
		03:03	08:49	16:37	22:07		
<b>Thu 06</b>		0.02 ft	0.77 ft	-0.23 ft	0.41 ft	6:28	18:47
		04:08	09:43	17:20	22:57		
<b>Fri 07</b>		0.04 ft	0.65 ft	-0.15 ft	0.45 ft	6:28	18:47
		05:20	10:42	18:01	23:48		
<b>Sat 08</b>		0.05 ft	0.53 ft	-0.07 ft	0.49 ft	6:27	18:47
		06:40	11:49	18:41			
<b>Sun 09</b>		0.05 ft	0.41 ft	0.00 ft		6:27	18:47
	00:37	08:06	13:09	19:19			
<b>Mon 10</b>	0.53 ft	0.02 ft	0.32 ft	0.07 ft		6:26	18:47



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# What's Happening

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park**  
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- Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.
- Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park)** Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.
- Nature Organization, STINAPA**, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2016: [stinapabonaire.org/events](http://stinapabonaire.org/events)
- Saturdays**
- **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**—Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, across from Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products. .
  - **Tera Kora Ranch Market—2nd & last Saturdays**- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items
  - **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—Usually the last Saturday of the month**, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance
  - **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989
  - **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket
  - **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.
  - **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150
- Sundays**
- **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.
- Mondays**
- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am**. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes tea. Kids \$5.** 786-6950- Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.
  - **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**. The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: *Island Adrift*, *Shangri-la*, *Sea Trauma* and the newest book, *Reef*

Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

## Wednesdays

- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information.
- **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **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](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com) or [12stappenbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stappenbonaire@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/ person with 2 person minimum.

## Fridays

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

## BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

- **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon**. See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Monday-Friday. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101
- **Chichi i Tan Museum**. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.
- **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center**. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. **Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**
- **Bonaire Museum**-on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free
- **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free
- **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum**. Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

- **Lions Club** meets every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya

## Cruise Ship

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAP	C.LINE
Wed	29-Mar	Club Med 2	0800-1700	368	
Fri	31-Mar	Royal Clipper	0900-1500	227	Clipper CL
Fri	31-Mar	Star Pride	0700-2100	208	Windstar
Mon	3-Apr	Serenade of the Seas	1300-2000	2500	RCCL
Mon	3-Apr	Mein Schiff 5	0730-2000	2500	TUI
Tue	4-Apr	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	RCCL
Wed	5-Apr	Eclipse	0800-1700	2858	CEL
Thu	6-Apr	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114	RCCL

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 Crutita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** --Kaya Sabena 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701- 9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

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

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

Contact: [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month** (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochran-Herrera at

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

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

### Exhibitions

-Photographs of Lorenzo Mittiga, Terramar Museum, see page 8

-Paintings of Nochi Coffie, Bistro de Paris Restaurant, page 9

- "Salute to the Sailors" - photographs of Bonaire's maritime past, Plaza Resort, page 5

Now—Registration for Kitemanera, May 27-28. [www.kitemanera.com](http://www.kitemanera.com), 717-4476

**Thursday, March 30**—Free lecture, "Magnificent Sea Anemones," by Maddie Emms. CIEE Research Station, Kaya Gob. Debrot #26, 7pm

**Saturday, April 1-Krusada Open House**, 10am-3pm. see pg. 8

**April 5-29**—Zazen Meditation, Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio, Plaza Hotel. More on page 2

**Saturday, April 8** —Dive Friends Underwater Cleanup. More info: 780-2572, [info@divefriendsbonaire.com](mailto:info@divefriendsbonaire.com)

—Dama Kultural sponsored by Kosecha di Diamante, Centro di Bario Rincon. 1800 to 1200. Adults \$5, kids \$3. More on page 10

**Tuesday, April 11**—Info talk about Bonaire Marine Park and Washington Slagbaai Park, presented by Stinapa, 7-8pm, CIEE, Kaya Gob. DeBrot #26, free

**Friday, April 14**-Good Friday, legal holiday

**Sunday, April 16**—Easter Sunday

**Monday, April 17** —Easter Monday-legal holiday —Simidan Festival, Rincon. More info: TCB

**Friday, April 21**—Lionfish Derby, 8am-7:30pm. More info: Stinapa, 717-8444

**Saturday, April 22**— Birdwatching . 4:30-6pm at LVV. Reservations: Stinapa 717-8444



# THE STARS HAVE IT

April 2017

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. Put your energy into moneymaking ventures. Focus on your domestic scene. Get together with friends or relatives. Don't jump as quickly as you usually do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand. Do not blow situations out of proportion. You will be drawn to individuals who can provide you with both intellectual conversation and physical passion. It will be important that you have your priorities straight. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Sit tight. Things aren't as bad as they appear. Romance will unfold through business trips. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. Relationships will be emotional this month. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Property purchases should be on your mind. You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love. Your lover may disappoint you in such a way that estrangement will follow. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You can make professional changes and direct your energy into making all the right moves. Go after your goals. You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Don't be too eager to give a piece of your mind or even your opinion this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your intellectual charm will entice mates who have common interests. Get out and about. Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. You

may be able to impart knowledge that's innovative to those searching for a new angle. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Stick to your work and avoid emotional confrontations. Social events should be the highlight of your day. Be discreet about any information you uncover. Don't tell others of your plans. Don't be too eager to spend what's left over; more unexpected expenses are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. Unexpected bills may set you back. Don't give them the use of your credit card. Dinner, theater, or a comedy club may be just the place. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will want to complain about the injustice that is going on. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. One-sided relationships are likely. You can expect to feel confused about your personal prospects. You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign land, philosophies, or cultures. You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. Residential moves will also be advantageous for all concerned. This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. ■ *SunSigns Horoscope*



## BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

### Royal Opposition

If your favorite planet is **Jupiter**, have we got a show for you. Jupiter is in such a great location for viewing right now, we've devoted this column to the largest planet in our solar system. Plus, on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, you'll get to see **Jupiter at its biggest and brightest**.

Around 10 pm, any night this week look toward the east, you'll see Jupiter among the stars of **Virgo the Maiden**. To be sure you've found Virgo, simply look to the northeast and you'll find the four stars that mark the bowl of the **Big Dipper** and the three stars that mark its handle. By tracing an arc with the stars in the handle, you'll run smack dab into the **star Arcturus**.

If you continue drawing a straight line away from Arcturus toward the south, you'll run into **Spica**, the brightest star in **Virgo**. Jupiter is the bright, non-twinkling light just up and to the left of Spica.

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

In July 1994, fragments of **comet Shoemaker-Levy 9** collided with Jupiter, providing the first direct observation of a collision between two solar system objects.

Babylonian astronomers have records of Jupiter dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. In his book, "The Almagest," **Greek astronomer Claudius Ptolemy** used Jupiter's motion with respect to the **Earth** to refine his Earth-centered model of the solar system.

By doing this, Ptolemy showed that Jupiter took almost 12 years to make a complete circuit of the sky, which we now know as the amount of time it takes Jupiter to orbit the Sun. In 1610, **Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei** studied Jupiter using a telescope and is credited with discovering the four largest moons of Jupiter: **Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto**. The motions of these moons around Jupiter provided Galileo with an example supporting **Nicholas**



Planet Jupiter showing the Red Spot

**Copernicus'** view of a Sun-centered solar system, because if you look at Jupiter and its moons, they do look like a miniature version of our solar system.

**Astronomers Giovanni Cassini and Robert Hooke** both noticed a large red spot on Jupiter during their telescopic observations in the 1660s. This spot, affectionately called "the great red spot," is so large that you could fit two Earths inside it.

Speaking of size, as planets go Jupiter is enormous. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit over 1,000 Earths inside it, and it has over 120 times the surface area of the Earth. In more down-to-earth terms, if Jupiter were the size of a basketball, Earth would be about the size of a small marble.

Jupiter also spins very fast. Of all the planets in the solar system, Jupiter has the shortest day, lasting only 9.8 hours. Which means that when Jupiter rises at sunset during the winter months (when the sky is dark for more than 12 hours), in the course of only one night, you can actually see the entire surface of the planet.

This rapid spinning has caused Jupiter to take on an M & M shape and because Jupiter is not a solid body, Jupiter's atmosphere actually spins faster at the equator than it does at the poles, making the clouds form the stripes we've come to know and love. And lastly, of all the planets, Jupiter has the strongest and largest magnetic field. The solar wind causes this field to extend away from Jupiter to almost the orbit of Saturn! So, get outside and gaze upon the king of the planets. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



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## DID YOU KNOW?



That almost nobody walks over with bare feet? Most of us would get burned! So how do lizards do this? The Bonaire whiptail lizard, or *blau-blau* (*Cnemidophorus murinus*), is often seen sitting on the asphalt showing off its bright blue tail. It's also not capable of keeping its feet on the scorching ground. This lizard has found a way to avoid burning its feet by simply waving them. Wait, did you say wave...?

Yes I did, but it does this with the intention of keeping its feet from burning. You might wonder why the lizard wouldn't just avoid the road instead of going to sit on it. Well, everything has a good reason in the animal kingdom.

The blau-blau is a cold-blooded reptile, meaning it does not control its own body temperature as we mammals do, but needs the sun to get warm. This is one of the reasons you see them sitting on the road so often. Many roads on Bonaire are made of black asphalt and absorb heat from the sun – heat that the blau-blau benefits from. To use this convenient heat source, the blau-blau stands on the road, letting its feet absorb the soaring heat of the asphalt. However, the road is so hot that, in order to avoid burning itself, the blau-blau has to take turns lifting its feet, two opposite feet at a time (so it does not topple over). It keeps its feet in the air for just a second or so, which allows them to cool just enough to avoid burn-

ing them.

The blau-blau also 'waves' when danger is nearby. In the more remote parts of Bonaire, where the blau-blau doesn't come in contact with humans that often, it may show this behavior to you if it considers you a threat. For reptiles, spending energy needs to result in getting more energy in return, otherwise taking action is not worth the effort. By waving to the predator first, the blau-blau demonstrates its ability to flee quickly and is hoping to convince the predator that it is not worth the effort to attack him. By waving, the blau-blau is trying to avoid spending energy on running away if it's not necessary.

You might think it's lazy, but remember - food is scarce in this hot climate and animals need to save their energy. So remember, if a blau-blau gives you a wave, it is not a friendly gesture but more of a signal that it is feeling threatened, so be sure to give it some space. ■

*Thijs van Wuijckhuijse, STINAPA Assistant Biologist Connecting people with nature. .*



## TCB Staff Additions

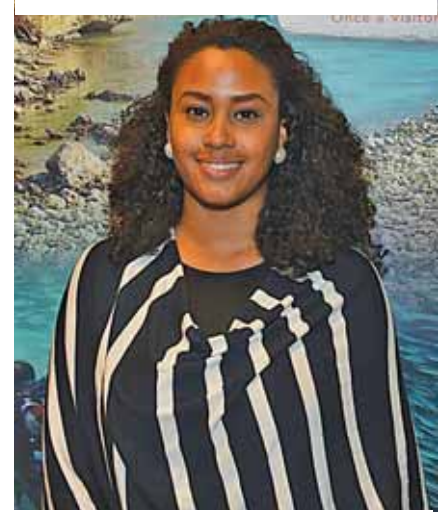
Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Xenah Cicilia, Emilayla Coffi, and Marjolein Oleana** to its staff.

**Emilayla Coffi is a Marketing Assistant.** She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Ms. Coffi completed her Master's Degree at Monroe College in New York, specializing in Executive Hospitality in Leadership and Sustainable Tourism. Born and raised on Curacao, Ms. Coffi has enjoyed her relocation to Bonaire. She is fluent in English, Spanish, Papiamentu and Dutch.



Emilayla Coffi

**Marjolein Oleana** is the organization's most recent addition working in the positions of Office Manager and Marketing Assistant. Born in the Netherlands and raised on Bonaire, she continued her studies for nine years in Rotterdam, completing Bachelor's Degrees in both Hotel Management and Office Management. Ms. Oleana is now happy to have returned to her home. Ms. Oleana can assist visitors in English, Papiamentu and Dutch. She speaks some Spanish and German, and is looking forward to adding French to her language skills.



Marjolein Oleana

Not pictured: **Xenah Cicilia** working as Cruise Operations & Product Development Coordinator. ■ *G.D./TCB Photos*



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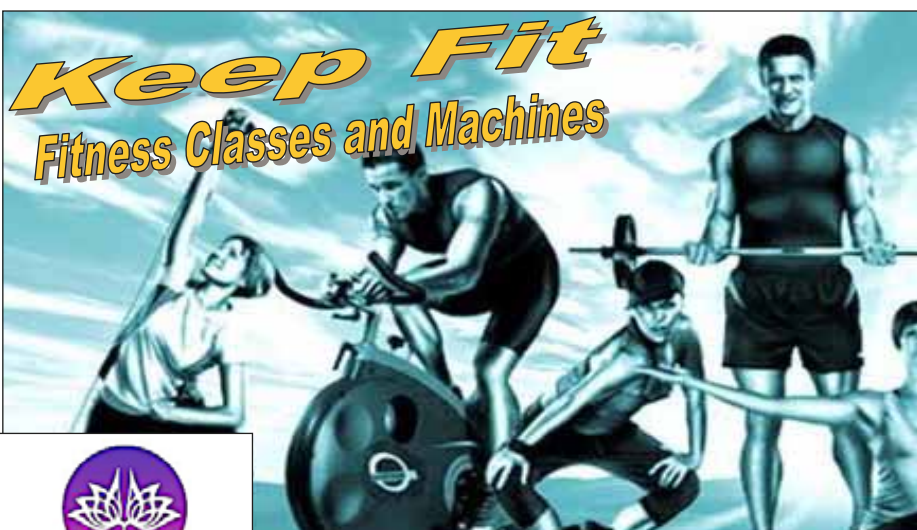
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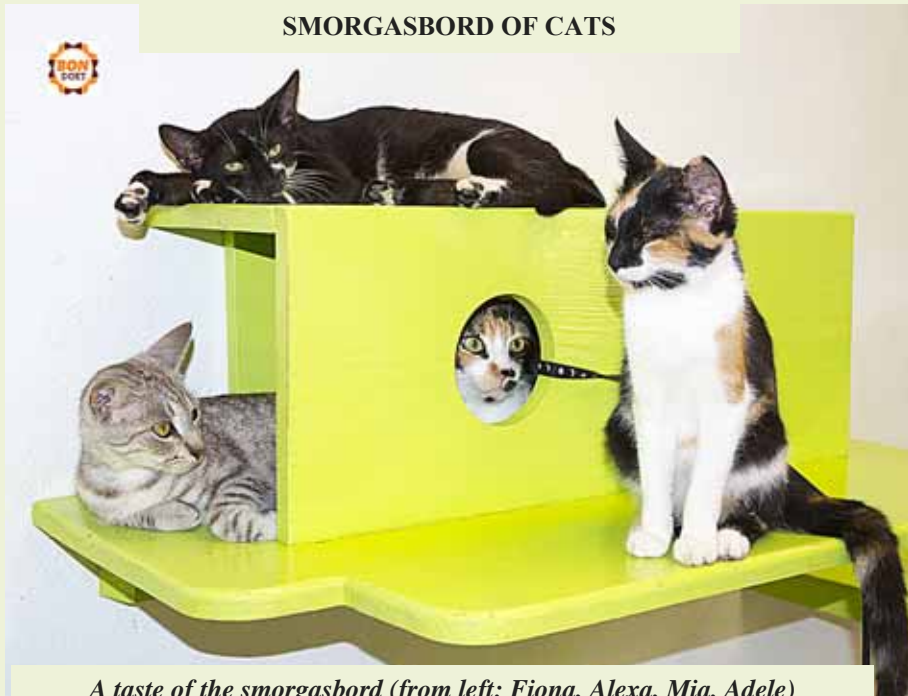
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# Pets Of The Week

## SMORGASBORD OF CATS



A taste of the smorgasbord (from left: Fiona, Alexa, Mia, Adele)

**S** smorgasbord: noun: a wide range of something; a variety. If you've been thinking about adopting a cat/cats or kitten/kittens now is the time!

The Animal Shelter Bonaire has a veritable smorgasbord of cats and kittens! You name it, they've got it! Long hair, short hair; small, tall; young, old; calico, tortoise, solids, stripes and spots; grey, orange, black, black and white, orange, white, white and black and every color combination in between.

The cat "palace" is full of cats and

kittens ranging from 5 weeks to 5 years and all are loving, social and healthy. Whatever your preference in color, temperament, size, age or look, you will surely find your feline favorite. If a kitten is what you are looking for, and you don't have other cats, you should consider adopting two kittens or a kitten and an adult cat. Young kittens need a lot of attention and activity to help them develop into a good companion, both physically and psychologically. Having a playmate or role model keeps them

occupied and entertained. If you are not at home for most of the day, a single new kitten or cat will become lonely and bored which leads to mischievous activity like shredded curtains and furniture. In addition, just as it often happens with humans, lonely, isolated cats tend to become shy and reclusive and don't make for particularly good companions.

If you have your heart set on a single cat, there are several adult cats at the Shelter that prefer the company of humans to other cats. Just ask the Shelter staff for a suggestion as to which cats would enjoy a single cat home. If there's a certain cat or kitten you are looking for, now is the time to visit the Shelter and browse the "cat smorgasbord."

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Tuesday-Friday 9 am-12 noon and 3-5 pm; Saturdays 8 am-3 pm. Email address: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com).



A special thank you to "vacation volunteer" Lee Scruggs from all the cats and kittens at the Animal Shelter Bonaire Cat Palace. Lee was kind enough to spend several hours every week during her three months on Bonaire helping to clean, care for and give lots of love to the Shelter's feline family. Thank you, Lee! Hope to see you again next year! We'll miss you until then!

■ Story by Jane Madden-Disko. Photos by Nathalie Peterson



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## Santa Barbara, Kaya Safiro 6

### Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom detached house
- covered front and back porch
- nice views over island and Caribbean Sea
- up the hill at Santa Barbara/Republiek
- low maintenance garden
- off street parking
- storage closet with connection for washing machine
- freehold land (registered 4-A-1839)
- total lot size: 7,672 sq.ft / 713 m<sup>2</sup>
- living area: 1,463 sq.ft / 136m<sup>2</sup>

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 245,000**

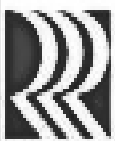
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