

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE April 24-May 8, 2017, Year 24, Issue 8
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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Ride For The Roses

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*Volunteers were vital:
Sherliane and Rudina*

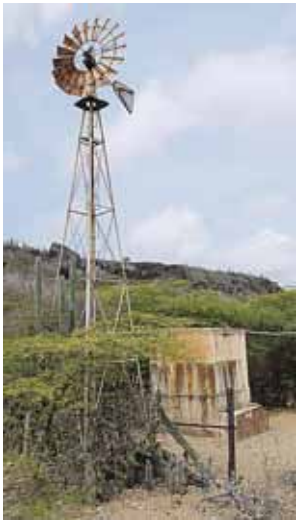


First Runner finisher Peter Dirgen



Entire families did the ride

The Government of Bonaire plans to upgrade the water wells and wind-driven pumps at Pos Bara di Karta, Pos Kavula, Pos Ricon and Pos Fontein (photo) starting this month.



Those used most by local farmers and having a low salt content will be done first. In addition the holding tanks of Fontein and Bara di Karta are being expanded to increase capacity. Work on the four wells may render them temporarily unavailable. In June the wells Pos Mexico, Pos Angola, Pos Shon Pinpina and Pos Bentura will follow. Pos Flor di Cuba was repaired earlier.

► **Kralendijk pier renovation will begin around November of this year and take about 12 months to complete.** Last month, the Cooperation Agreement between *Rijkswaterstaat*, the Public Body Bonaire and Harbor Amsterdam International was signed. The current poor state of the Kralendijk piers is due to aging, use and weather conditions. Emergency repairs have been necessary to ensure safety. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment is making about €9 million available for this work.

► **There hasn't been significant inflation on Bonaire.** In the first part of 2017 prices of goods and services rose only marginally more than in the same period of 2016 (0.1%). Prices for cooking gas, men's and women's wear and food products pulled inflation down. Products like fresh vegetables and cheese became cheaper. But over the past year gasoline price rose by more than 6% in this quarter, which had an upward effect on inflation.

► **Washington Slagbaai National Park was closed last week because the roads were damaged by heavy rain.**

► **Camping on the beach during Easter is a tradition with Bonairean people.** This year some of the most elaborate sites could be found at what many people call Donkey Beach adjacent to the airport. One group even had a pool at their site.



Work to repair the roads was completed two days earlier than expected and the **Park is Now Open!** For more information Call +599 788-9015 or go to the page www.facebook.com/Bonaire.STINAPA.

► **The number of official cases of euthanasia in The Netherlands rose 10% last year to 6,091 and euthanasia now accounts for 4% of total deaths,** the regional monitoring boards said on Wednesday. No figures were available for the BES Islands which have the same rules as The Netherlands.

► **The Island Government announced that it will start collection of lease land overdue payments in cooperation with the BES Island Tax Office.** If titleholders of the leasehold land fail to meet their obligations, the lands could be seized and auctioned off to cover monies owed to the government.

Special focus will be on lands containing some form of construction to suggest that building is taking place, when in reality, there is no construction going on. Many holders of leasehold lands put some sort of construction on the property to put the leasehold land up for sale, which is not allowed under the conditions of the leasehold agreement. The government says it wants to stop speculation with leasehold lands.

But the Bonaire Consumers Association is skeptical of the government's motives, suspecting the crackdown is a ploy to get people to pay a controversial increase in the leasehold rent which had previously reversed.

In 2011, land rent was increased significantly for most of the tenants. In many cases, this increase was legally unjustified, and after action by Unkobon

this increase was reversed by the government. Many of the tenants who are victims of the increases, on advice from Unkobon and lawyers, have not paid the disputed increase and have continued to pay the old lease payments. This is a correct procedure pending a solution to such a dispute which has dragged on for years.



► **The Kontest di Fli (kite flying contest) was more low key this year as the "spark plug" and organizer behind it, Iris Semeleer of Flamingo Book Store, was ill during that time.** But Iris is back and displayed in the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi is the amazing all around winning kite (see photo above), built by Surrandal Statia and the Sky Warriors. As the kite flies even the pedals rotate. One of the most ingenious we've ever seen. Congratulations!

► **House prices in The Netherlands soared 7.3% in March** compared with

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Cruise Ship News

⊕ **Bonaire is moving into the big ship league and will have a cruise ship summer season this year for the first time.** According to the TCB, Bonaire cruise ship traffic jumped some 40,000 passengers this season, to 400,000, and a similar leap is expected in 2017-2018. "It's very positive," said Maurice Adriaens, Director of Tourism. "We are at a crossroads of development, not only for infrastructure but as an island."

Immediate plans call for upgraded bollards and the lengthening of one of the island's two piers, with the \$10 million investment set to begin later this year. "We have to start looking at how we further the development of the island. We are focusing on the summer season, we have space then," Adriaens told Cruise Industry News. This summer, Bonaire expects three cruise ship company summer-callers, including Pullmantur, which is re-introducing its summer program after a pullout in 2016.

Adriaens says he is working closely with neighbor islands, Aruba and Curacao, to coordinate dock space to ensure that no ships heading south are turned away. Passenger increases are coming in the form of bigger ships, and as the industry grows larger, local people have to be mindful of multiple-ship days.



Expect Bonaire to try to pair multiple ship days in the future – capping passengers with a large ship and a small vessel. "If it's too busy you lose the (unique Bonaire ed.) experience and people start to complain. It's very important to offer a good experience while looking to the future and keeping that up," said Adriaens.

⊕ On February 1, 2018, the **Disney cruise line will make its first call to Bonaire, with the Disney Wonder.** The *Disney Wonder* has 11 public decks and can accommodate 2,400 passengers in 875 staterooms, and has a crew of approximately 950. Disney's Port Adventures Researcher & Development Manager, Jacob Gouws, recently visited Bonaire to visit with the different tour operators, get an island tour, boat trip, visit Klein Bonaire, tour the piers. He had a chance to snorkel and dive, which he enjoyed very much. "It was a very pleasant trip, and I cannot wait to visit again when we make our first call to Bonaire," said Gouws. ■

InselAir Antics... continue

→ If all goes well InselAir says they might begin flying a third 50-passenger Fokker 50 prop-jet this week. The company hoped that they will have a Fokker70 jet and one of the MD82 aircraft flying again before June this year. In the past InselAir had six Fokker 50s in its fleet of 18 aircraft.



→ **The Dutch Caribbean will need the planes if an economic crisis for Bonaire is to be averted.** With just two planes to serve Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao, the past month has been frustrating with Bonaire travelers sometimes arriving between 01:30 and 04:30 in the morning from Curacao, instead of early evening. Delays of six to seven hours are common— for a short 20-minute flight. Curacao and Aruba have daily flights to/from the US. Bonaire, whose primary visitors are from the USA, has only a couple of weekend flights.

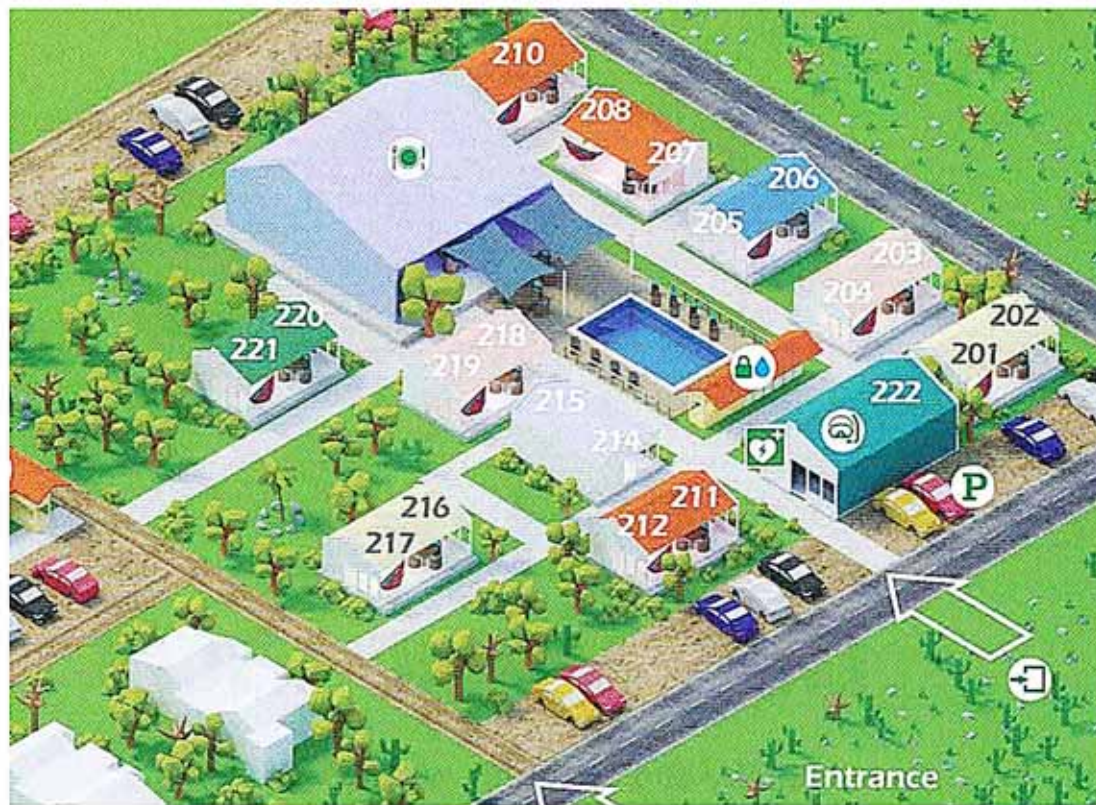
→ InselAir normally transported an average of **225 passengers a day** between the BON and CUR islands in past times. **That number is now much smaller. Although theoretically four round trips a day with the Fokker 50 are scheduled, in practice often no more than two to three really occur.** Not only is the situation inconvenient for passengers who must travel for their work between the island and tourists trapped for a day in Curacao it is expensive and devastating for those who miss their connection to a neighboring island, the Americas or Europe.

→ **Curacao is injecting money** to keep InselAir flying. Neither Bonaire nor the Dutch Government are taking definitive steps to make sure Bonaire isn't cut off from nearby destinations. The Health Insurance Office, which arranged for patients and its own staff to charter EZ-Air planes, and Divi Divi Air, which can only handle half a dozen on each flight, remain the only other local links. Unkobon, the Bonaire Consumer advocacy group, **thinks it makes sense for the Dutch Central Government to take the responsibility to ensure reliable transportation between different municipalities of the BES islands,** as does a provincial government in The Netherlands. Bonaire is not part of any Dutch a province but directly under the national government.

→ **Avianca, the airline that is currently in talks with InselAir, is doing well.** Last year it transported 2,558,531 passengers in March 2017, up 6.5%, and load factor up 2.6 points to 79.8%.

→ Bonaire Business And Employers Association expressed their frustration with the local and national governments in their attempts to arrive at a solution to the local airlift problem for Bonaire. **The BBE highlighted the blow to tourism, business and personal travel that the InselAir debacle is causing.** ■

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On the Island Since... the mid-60s- Tica Nicolaas

“At a young age my father left for Aruba to work at Lago refinery. Then my mom followed, together with the eldest children. The youngest ones, and I was one of them, were born on Aruba. As long as he lived on Aruba my dad was determined to come back to his island of birth. By the time they started building a house here, I was one of the few children who was still living with my parents, whom I was very attached to. I decided to go to Bonaire and attend high school here while living with an aunt, waiting until our house was ready and my parents to move. The whole family thought it strange for me to go and live on Bonaire because on Aruba I was known as the ‘rock girl,’ a real party animal. But Bonaire has something special and once you live here it works like a magnet.



Tica Nicolas

After I finished high school I got a scholarship to become a doctor’s assistant in the operating room.” She laughs. “I have no idea how it crossed my mind, because I can’t bear to see any wounds, let alone blood! Well, I didn’t go to Holland, because I felt I would be too far from my parents and so I went to a training class on Aruba. After a year I got another scholarship, this time to become a craft teacher, but again I turned the offer down because I was afraid of getting terribly homesick.

Then I got a call from a very dear friend of mine – who sadly passed away recently – Erica Antoin. She was like a sister to me and I was like a daughter to her parents. She wanted me to come back to Bonaire. She told me that Hugo Gerharts had started a tour operation at Hotel Bonaire and he was looking for a dynamic person who was fluent in languages. Erica said, ‘It’s just something for you! And then we can be together again!’ So I came back to Bonaire and started working at Bonaire Sightseeing Tours/Bonaire Trading.

With the casino at Hotel Bonaire they’d started charter flights for gamblers, junket flights, non-stop from the States to Bonaire. They’d also fly bands in. I feel that at the time Bonaire had a much more intense nightlife. We had a discotheque, E Wowo, one of the most modern discos in all the Caribbean. We had Limelight Disco and all the bands that were playing at Hotel Bonaire. Of course I was partying every Saturday! The men had to be well-dressed (no T-shirts, no flip-flops, no caps) and the women would dress up chic and fashionable, and although our hot-pants were not as short as they wear them now, they certainly were hot!

After some time Hugo decided I should work at Bonaire Travel Bureau/Bonaire Trading and I became a travel planner. I sold tickets, I took care of the lists of the box-office revenues and I was also a ground stewardess at the airport, wearing the same uniform as KLM personnel. In the meantime I was invited a couple of times to participate in the Miss Bonaire competition, representing Bonaire Trading. I’d turned the offer down several

times, but in the end I agreed, participated and won and I was elected Miss Bonaire. I flew to Miami where I took part in the Miss Universe Competition. What an experience! It was huge!

In 1973 I was approached by Mr. van Lieshout – Marga’s dad – to work at Flamingo Beach Club. On the 1st of January 1974, I started there. I did the administration and was the assistant to the manager. It was still the old wooden building with the bar. The hotel was practically always full. Once guests arrived with a voucher, but there wasn’t one bed free with us or at any other hotel in town. So I took them home and they slept in our guestroom. The next morning the chef had gotten sick, so, together with the assistant cook I made breakfast for all the guests at the hotel. It was improvising, but that’s how you learned to work and to solve problems. I stayed with them for about three years. Then came the transition from Flamingo Beach to Divi Flamingo.

I was asked by Paul Dammerman –

“Bonaire has something special and once you live here it works like a magnet.”

who had the Philips dealership on the island and who was also the owner of Samson Bookstore and Bontec - to do the administration of his three companies. While working there I was loaned out to S.E.L. Maduro & Sons Shipping and Travel Agency to do their administration. I had a really good time working with Robby Croes until he started Rocargo and I went to work for him.

In 1982 my son Francis was born. By the time he went to kindergarten I quit my job to be there for him when he came home from school. But... in the long run I didn’t like sitting at home and I went back working in administration.

In the 90s I was offered a job at the Chamber of Commerce and up till recently I worked there at the trade registrar.

Then Nancy Hart, who is my best friend – we’ve shared joys and sorrows – told me the time had come for us to do something together. The Chamber asked me to hang on and so I did, but then Nancy told me to hurry up because she was planning on opening Namaste Spa Habitat Bonaire on the 1st of April – no kidding! So now I



Tica Nicolas at Namaste Spa

am in a partnership with Nancy. I am the Spa director and I mainly do the energy work here as I am a Reiki and Access Bars Practitioner. To me it’s like a calling but also a gift, because from when I was very young I’ve been interested in healing. You’re helping people with problems they’ve been dealing with for a lifetime. And it’s beautiful to be able to offer help and to see them leave in better shape, feeling relieved. Also, I’m doing the administration and reservations and I’m interested in following the various massages and treatments Nancy and other certified persons are giving the clients.

Working with people gives a lot of satisfaction. Sometimes you don’t even notice you’re tired until you get home. This work is all about total respect for the client and total confidentiality about their problems.

up against it and believe that the good will prevail. On September 11, 2001, I wrote this poem and it’s still applies up to now.

‘Stand up
A bright blue sky anticipated a splendorous day
The sun was just being welcomed.
Hasty workers were moving to their daily tasks.
All of a sudden fireballs crossed the air.
What a dreadful sight!
Two fingers pointing into the air in sign of peace
Crashed down to Mother Earth
Bringing down whole bodies turned into ashes
Destruction, anger, grief is all that’s been left behind.
Hands made to cherish, to sculpture pieces of art,
The same hands used to execute a horrendous act.
Innocent blood was shattered everywhere.
Why so much envy, why so much hate?
The enemy can destroy buildings, mutilate human beings,
But never our untouchable souls, we are immortal.
Why are we ignoring the signs of this age?
Wake up, stand up!
Let’s be united.
Let’s walk up to the mountain and when on top,
Allow ourselves to visualize the valley.
Visualize his peaceful inviting green meadow.
Stand up for our rights!’ ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



For more info: phone or WhatsApp +599 780 6272 or spa@habitatbonaire.com

Massive Turnout For Immigrant Information



Immigrant Information Session in Tera Cora

"While the number of immigrants increases in Bonaire, we know very little about the situation of immigrants who often are living for years on the island," said cultural anthropologist Gerjanne Voortman. She recently presented the key results of her 2016 investigation into the situation of Bonaire immigrants on behalf of the Integrated Neighborhood Approach Project (an island government initiative) to a formidable 160-person audience in Tera Cora. The presentation was in Spanish. Around a quarter of Bonaire's population was not born in the Dutch Kingdom

The largest non-Dutch-born communities within this population are Dominicans, Colombians, Venezuelans and Peruvians. Around 1,000 temporary work permits are granted each year to immigrants. Most immigrants on Bonaire work in the hospitality industry, in housekeeping or in retail. A different work ethic, greater motivation, or lower wage demands make these foreigners more attractive than local employees for some sectors. A particularly high proportion of immigrants become entrepreneurs.

Few work in government and service

jobs. This is due largely to the language barriers, Voortman believes.

Based on her surveys and interviews the main issues that face immigrants are: ignorance about rights and obligations, language barriers and exploitation in the workplace.

"Because immigrants in general are not aware of their rights and duties, they are vulnerable in the workplace. Because they do not speak Dutch or Papiamentu they are not aware of, or understand, important information and do not inquire about questionable situations. It is very important that people know their rights as workers, but also their rights as citizens and what their own responsibilities are."

Voortman's investigation also revealed that immigrants generally are not poorer than locals, but they tend to be more vulnerable in case of personal financial crises. There are often fewer family members around to rely on, and in some cases, there is no or minimal governmental support. However, half of the immigrants on Bonaire remain positive about government assistance. About a quarter of all immigrants encounter misunderstanding or discrimination when they need support.

The investigation report observes that while there is no large influx of undocu-



Max Suart and Gerjanne Voortman

mented immigrants on Bonaire currently, the island has residents who don't have, or never had, a residence permit. Additionally there is a lack of perspective about undocumented immigrants as well as ambiguity within some welfare providers about how to deal with undocumented residents.

After the presentation there was a lively discussion led by Project Integrated Neighborhood Approach team leader Max Suart. While the audience wanted to know how the problems could be solved, answers were largely lacking.

The report from the RCN-unit Social Affairs can be found on www.rijksdienstcn.com/publicaties. The report of the OLB can be found at www.bonairegov.com under downloads.

Immigrants who have questions about their rights and obligations or advice on contacting the proper authority can contact the specialized district Worker Project Integrated Neighborhood Approach, Raul Perez Gomez, 717-1714 or email raul.perezgomez@bonairegov.com. For insight into the investigation of the situation of immigrants in Bonaire, please contact Max Suart (tel. 717-1714 or e-mail Max.suart@bonairegov.com)

■ G.D./Press releases

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) the year-earlier period, the biggest monthly rise in 15 years, according to new land registry figures. Bonaire house prices don't necessarily track in the same way, but Dutch prices are a benchmark some buyers use.

House prices in The Netherlands have been rising steadily since 2013, after plunging in the wake of the financial crisis. House prices are still, on average, 8.6% down from their August 2008 peak but have outstripped this in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Rotterdam.

In The Hague, house prices are now almost back at their pre-crisis level, the national statistics agency figures show. House prices in The Hague fell 19% during the crisis but are now just 0.3% below the market peak.

► On Kings Day, April 27, starting at the top of the Karpata Hill and going down to Rincon, the **Kareda di Garoshi** (cart soapbox race) will begin at 10 am when the first cart starts. There are over 120 of them from the ABC islands, and they are wild and fantastic. It's a first on the island as far as we know and was conceived by "Always a New Idea Man," Farid Ayubi (photo above).



► This week is filled with fun events. Check them all out: King's Day for the Rotary Feria and the **Kareda di Garoshi** and on Sunday, April 30, the **Rincon Day** best party of the year. Too exciting for you? Then remember all **Bonaire's museums** will be open (see **Happenings page** for locations).
■ G.D./L.D.



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Rotary Fair Celebrating 35 Years of Service

Rotary Bonaire celebrates its 35th anniversary serving the community with the FERIA Rotaria on April 27 in Wilhelmina Park

Members of the Rotary Club Bonaire are again busy with the preparations of the popular FERIA Rotaria that this year will be held on April 27, Kings Day, in Wilhelmina Park. The FERIA begins at 9 am, and just like last year, a large crowd is expected at the opening. There are several booths where visitors can buy all sorts of items at attractive prices.

There is a section for residential articles, home and office furniture.

There will also be a section with computers, computer supplies, electronic products and hardware. And of course, a book, CD and plant stand. Also this year the very popular corner for children with various activities such as a surprise box, fishing game and old time games. Or test your luck at the "Wheel of Fortune" where you can win great prizes.

For everyone there will be something fun to do at the FERIA. Rotary members and volunteers are waiting to entertain you that day.

The bar and kitchen will be well equipped.

Feria Rotaria lasts until 6 pm. During the day there are several performances and a grand auction in the afternoon at 5 pm where among others a boat will be auctioned.

Feria Rotaria on April 27 will be to raise money so that the Bonaire Rotary Club can continue to support various charities, can continue to help existing projects and develop new ones that are important to our community.

Rotary Club Bonaire celebrates 35 years of service to the community and thanks everyone for all the help to make this a great and fun event again. If you are a private person or a company interested in contributing products that can be sold, or assisting in any other way, this is very welcome.

We invite you, all the Bonaire community and visitors to our island, to visit the FERIA Rotaria Thursday, April 27, Kings Day, to enjoy some fun family time and contribute to a good cause.

For details go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/feriarotaria
<https://www.facebook.com/search/str/rotary+club+bonaire+events/>
keywords top ■ Press release

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the San Diego Zoo in California



Joan and Alan Zale continue to crisscross the United States, and the world, proudly displaying the January 18 to February 1, 2016, issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* naming them the 2015 winners of The Picture Yourself Contest. Their celebration tour has taken them to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the Grand Canyon, Sicily and Rome. The latest stop on their celebration tour took them to visit the flamingos, Bonaire's favorite bird, at the San Diego Zoo in California. The San Diego Zoo is one of the most famous zoos in the world, and celebrated its 100th birthday in 2016. It is obvious that Joan and Alan, who have appeared in the Picture Yourself feature more than a dozen times, never go anywhere without a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* when they are back home. They own a condo at Sand Dollar and are regular visitors to Bonaire with more than 40 visits to the island. ■

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Walking the Walk To Save the Coral

This morning I participated in a surprisingly uplifting event.

First, some background: what is now the Cargill Salt Company – and its picturesque mini-mountains of salt and its pink salt ponds, and its flamingoes – has been a part of Bonaire since the 1960s. Bonaire's sea salt is available around the world, from salt for water softeners to salt for gourmet cooking. The salt gets from Bonaire to the rest of the world via ship, and the ships dock at the Salt Pier. The Salt Pier is functional above the water and beautiful underwater; Cargill, who runs the salt operation, has been extremely cooperative in allowing divers to dive their pier except when ships are in port.

Part of the system keeping ships safe at this pier are two buoys, attached to huge heavy chains lying along the bottom. Having been underwater for more than 40 years, the chains were showing signs of wear and Cargill decided to replace them, at which time the BNMP became involved. Because the existing chains were covered with stony corals, gorgonians, sea fans, and other reef creatures, it was decided to leave them in place. The new chains will be placed alongside the old ones.

Wait, alongside the old ones? Surely if there's coral and other living things growing on the chain they're also all over the bottom where the new chain is going, right? What about all that coral? Would it be sacrificed?

The answer to that question made my day: no sacrifice necessary, the BNMP decided to move the corals. The smaller colonies could be carried by divers to their new locations, the largest ones would be moved with divers and a lift bag.

Actually carrying the corals was likely to be less damaging to them than slinging them under a lift bag, and, luckily, quite a few of the coral colonies were a size and weight that a very strong, very dedicated person could carry if he were to walk along the bottom rather than try to swim. So four very strong, very dedicated men – BNMP Rangers **Leonel Martijn, Luigi Eybrecht, Chief Ranger Edwin (Din) Domacasse**, and BNMP Manager **Wijnand de Wolf** – carefully carried dozens of coral colonies (coral heads) from their homes in the path of the new chain, to safety a few meters away. The new locations were chosen by BNMP Nature Coordinator **Caren Eckrich**, in similar depths and environments as their previous habitats, in areas with as little coral competition as possible.

Just being able to watch this process was a privilege. Trying to scurry ahead of the walking divers to get photos was more of a challenge than I had expected.

Eventually I noticed that all these coral



Walking barefoot to save coral



Heavy corals were moved by lift bags

movers were barefoot. Not simply without fins, but also without boots, socks, or anything at all on their feet. Later I asked, "Wouldn't it be easier if you wore boots?"

They replied, "When we're barefoot it's easier to make sure we don't hurt the coral we're walking over."

Not only does the Bonaire National Marine Park talk the talk of marine protection and conservation, they also – literally – walk the walk.

Of course, one day's diving couldn't complete this Coral Relocation project (though I was impressed at how much coral was relocated). The project was begun in late March and will continue into mid-April. Bonaire's Coral Restoration Foundation is not only involved in the planning, but also contributed trained volunteers to the project. Bonaire's Junior Rangers, BNMP volunteers, and other volunteers also helped within the limits of their training and abilities.

The Salt Pier will be undergoing other, above-water renovations for the next few months, and will be closed to diving for safety reasons until the renovations are complete. ■ Story by *Dee Scarr*, photos by *STINAPA*



Thanks to the Coral Restoration Foundation, Great Adventures Bonaire, Buddy Dive, Touch the Sea, GOODive, STINAPA, the Junior Rangers and volunteers for their work.

Exquisite New Art Exhibition Yana's Art Museum



Section of the exhibit hall at the museum

Fine arts have a new home in Bonaire. It's Yana's Art Museum, dedicated to the works of American visual artist, Yana Filkovsky-Saito.

Yana passed away in 2015. She loved Bonaire, above and below the water. It was her second home; she visited here often and stayed for prolonged periods.

A selected collection of Yana's works presented in the museum includes recent drawings, traditional printmaking art, and digital art of a unique style that Yana has named Vertipology. The latter are photo-collages that depict subjective experiences of the artist in a variety of locations, settings, seasons and moods.

The initiative of setting up Yana's Art Museum was undertaken by Yana's father, Genady Filkovsky, and step-mother, **Florence Ditlow**, long time Bonaire residents. Yana's husband, **Zen Saito** has selected the artwork, personally framed and shipped it to Bonaire to be housed in the museum. **Yana's Art Museum in Bonaire is located at Lagoen Hill 19.** The exhibit is free to the public starting April 10th, tours by appointment at 599 785-5002. ■ Story & photo by *Florence Ditlow*

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



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Water Polo- Bonaire in the Bahamas



Travelling Water Polo Team

On Tuesday, 4th of April 2017, the chosen Bonairean water polo team left for the Bahamas to compete in the International Championships -Carifta 2017. Carifta is an aquatic championship in the Caribbean where athletes are divided in age groups. These championships are organized annually under the auspices of the CANOC, the “Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees,” taking place this year in the Bahamas. The competing countries were: Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Jamaica and Trinidad. Bonaire has competed in the age groups under 16 (U16) and under 19 (U19). In total 17 boys and girls traveled to the Bahamas together with their coaches to compete internationally.

We are very proud of our participation in the Carifta Waterpolo Championships. Water polo is a very young sport on Bonaire and we only started playing five years ago. A few of our players selected have been playing for only a year or so. The Bonairean teams were the only coed teams, meaning the teams consisted of both boys and girls. Our ladies have held up well against their men opponents in both the U16 as well as the U19 category. Also Bonaire does not have many players to choose from and some of our players played on both the U16 and the U19 teams. For those this double tournament was a very hefty weekend.

Therefore Bonaire did not make it to the top three, however we did show that we are a formidable opponent with a lot of competence. For example **Knut Pedersen** received a prize for the best defender of the tournament. **Chaz Sweers** was praised by a FINA Official (International Swimming Federation) as an example for the water polo sport. Bonaire team competence grew immensely during the tournament. The players themselves said that they learned more in this one tournament than in a whole year of training.

For Bonaire, participation this year is a part of the preparation for the Carifta Water polo Championships of 2018. We hope to be able to play for the prizes with teams that have grown in the coming year. We would like to thank our sponsor for the opportunity given to our youth; Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, Fundashon Wega di Number, the parents and of course the players who worked hard with organizing sponsor events.

If you would like to know more about water polo or swimming on Bonaire, please come and join us at the swim and water polo training. Information can be found on: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireBarracudas> or <http://bonairebarracudas.org/> email: barracudasbonaire@gmail.com ■ *Press release*



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Cultural Market At Mangazina di Rei



Elmer "Toyan" Frans

On Bonaire we love to eat goat meat. In the past there were no freezers or refrigerators to preserve meat, but there was always plenty of sun and salt. A boy grew up on a local farm with his father. Through the years he gained a lot of knowledge of the Nature and Culture of the island. Nowadays he has more than 35 years of experience in salting goat meat. He is a well-known local butcher.

This coming Saturday, 29th of April, Mr. Elmer "Toyan" Frans will give a live demonstration of salting goat meat during the Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. Come and learn about the preservation of goat meat.

During the cultural event 'Nos Zjilea' there will also be other very interesting presentations about different traditional local dishes and much more. There will be "LIVE" presentations of the local bands: 'Kara Kòra', 'Grupo Watapana' and 'Foyan Boyz'.

There will also be the program 'Kunuku Lifestyle Challenge' for youngsters from eight to 14 years 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 o'clock in the morning. Come enjoy a nice cup of goat soup. At midday you may enjoy different delicious traditional local dishes. Furthermore there will be a tasty grill to lick on 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 opportunity to take photos in folkloric clothing.

Entrance is only \$1, which helps us safeguard and promote the lovely Culture of Bonaire. If you wish more information you can always 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 29th. ■

Story & photo by Izain J. Mercera



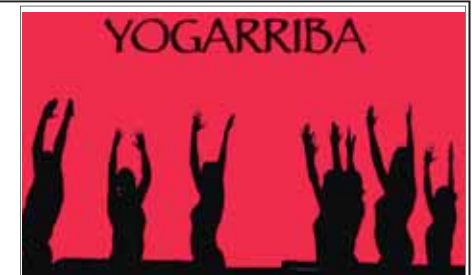
ARE THERE ANY ENGLISH-SPEAKING FREEMASONS ON BONAIRE ?



Freemasonry or Masonry consists of fraternal organizations that trace their origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which in Europe from the end of the 14th century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Members of these organizations are known as Freemasons or Masons.

The basic, local organizational unit of Freemasonry is the Lodge. The Lodges are usually supervised and governed at the regional level by a Grand Lodge. There is no international, worldwide Grand Lodge that supervises all of Freemasonry.

There are several lodges in Curaçao and Aruba. Most of these work under the jurisdiction of the Dutch Grand Lodge. At present there is no lodge on Bonaire. But from 1877 through 1884 there was one, known as Lodge 'Harmonie', working under the Dutch Grand Lodge. →→→→→→→→→



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There might be enough Masons on Bonaire to form a Lodge. **We are trying to find out. Anybody who is a Mason or is interested in Masonry, please contact br. Michiel Bijkerk, tel. 796- 2650.**

Paul Wichers Steps Down

Marlies Tiepel: "I've never met a person with so much energy. Yes, he was Chairman of the Board, that was just a small part of his job at the Shelter. He did so much more. The Pakus, the booth at the cruise market, flea market, building activities, etc. etc. And above all, he's a great friend, funny, honest and great guy to be around. And...he loves cats!"



Annemiek de Vries: "A hard working guy, full of enthusiasm, good humored and always in a great mood. That's the way I would describe Paul."

Jane Disko-Madden: "I have worked with Paul for 14 years and he is truly an inspiration. I have never met a board member or volunteer of any organization who works as hard as he does with no expectation of reward or acknowledgement. The animal shelter has become the internationally respected operation that it is because of his dedication."

Although **Paul Wichers** is retiring as Chairman of the Board of the Bonaire Animal Shelter, he will continue to work with the Cruise Ship Market and the Pakus di Pruga. **Trudy Bijsterbosch** will replace him as Chairman.

It all started back in December 1999 when the Animal Shelter Bonaire needed a new cat kennel. Of course, they should ask a professional architect to design one! That was Paul Wichers, and that was only the beginning. He asked questions they hadn't thought about: where was it to be located, how many cats, details, etc., things he'd ask any paying client. One thing led to another. "I'm a hands-on guy," Paul says. So, to fill a needed gap he became Secretary of the Shelter Board in January 2000, setting up their agenda. By 2001, filling another gap he took on the job of Chairman of the Board as well. "We had our ups and downs," Paul says, "and we needed to get organized and fund raise. So volunteers came up with new ideas. **Annemarie Dalhuisen** set up the Indonesian dinners. **Inneke Lambek** thought of having the art auctions. We gradually improved our fund raising for the Shelter." With this input from volunteers working together the Shelter grew with better facilities, a better financial situation, a better image and exposure.

"The NGO Platform helped us to improve our organization," Paul says, "what should be done with the Shelter day to day, budgeting, policy, how to ask for funds. The Shelter is now an example to other NGOs."

"Throughout the years the different managers of the Shelter—**Yuri, Marlies, Nathalie**—have worked with the Dutch funding organizations for animal protection like Dierenlot – for financial help. The first contact is always with the Shelter manager, and the board has to provide financial information. **Yolanda**, board treasurer, has done a fantastic job, being focused on the financial plan."

As years went on, new ideas came up. There was the neutering program where



five veterinarians came for two weeks to the island to do free sterilizations. But a program is needed on a continuous basis so now our two local vets, **Fulco** and **Jan**, perform the operations. To raise funds the Super Dog campaign started with publicity at Regatta and Dia di Rincon. Today the free sterilization program is supported by funds from the *Pakus di Pruga* and the Cruise Ship Market (begun in 2007) sales as well as individual contributions. Paul adds, "We get comments from visitors from the cruise ships saying there are no stray dogs in town, no bad situations. They say it's a lot better than in other islands they visited."

"The Pakus di Pruga (flea market) started up in January 2011. Before that we would set up tables on Saturdays at the playground behind the hospital (now *Parke di Libertat*) and at Regatta and Dia di Rincon. Thanks to **Larry Gerharts** we are able to use part of the old KLM Bonaire Holding Company's building. It took about a year for **Marlies, Annemike** and me to empty it out, clean it up and fix the leaks." Now the Pakus is an institution on the island, providing new and used donated goods to people on lower incomes, artists, book lovers, nearly everyone! "Thanks to volunteers, **Dabney, Shirley, Giby** and other people who keep it open every Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm."

"At a certain moment, Marlies Tiepel, who was Shelter manager at the time, suggested a new image for the Shelter: stop bringing out negative stories, showing mistreated animals. Let's have a positive organization. People, like volunteers, respond better to a happy, healthy, nice atmosphere and feel they are working on something good. We should involve the volunteers, make them feel part of the organization, motivate more people to be involved. It's been so successful and visitors to the island on vacation even spend time working a few days at the Shelter." **What does Paul hope for the future?**

"I would like to see the number of animals leaving the Shelter, through adoption, to equal the number of animals coming in. I hope more people will sterilize their animals and take better care of them.

We can use some more volunteers to help set up the Cruise Ship market stand and the Pakus and pick up donated items.

It would be nice if all the animal organizations respect each other and just do what they think they need to do.

I had a really great time. I'm so proud of what the people have done and having done my share. I hope the Shelter keeps growing and keeps getting better. We're all different kinds of people. It goes the way it goes." ■

Story & photo by **Laura DeSalvo**



Dog Detectives Show Off



All four dogs and their handlers at the Customs Pier

The crowd on the Customs pier last Thursday, April 20th, was anxious, obviously waiting for something important to happen. Then the security gate opened and four identical white Kia compact SUVs swooped in and parked in a row. From each vehicle a man in black and a spirited dog emerged. It was the public debut of Bonaire's new canine squad.

Following a brief introduction each of the men and their dog demonstrated what their jobs were: detecting contraband, drugs, firearms and, uniquely for Bonaire, coral, shells and protected sea turtle products. In the past, Bonaire Customs dogs have been trained to detect drugs and money, but for wildlife this use is new, and according to Customs, a worldwide first.

The four service dogs *Caprice, Silke, Jacky* and *Destiny*, along with their handlers demonstrated their skills in speedily detecting firearms, drugs and other contraband.

Jacky, a charming black Springer Spaniel, is the one specialized in finding hidden coral, conch shells and sea turtles.

To protect the island's environment it is forbidden to remove any natural product or animal from the island without express permission. As Customs director Nichalin Martina said in her address to the assembled group: "Bonaire is a beautiful island and we want everyone to enjoy the beautiful nature now but also in the future. With the use of this flora and fauna dog we can contribute to the protection of Bonaire's environment." Conservation NGOs STINAPA and STCB were on hand to observe and cooperated in the demonstration.

Law enforcement will be improved with the addition of the dog squad. These dogs can be used not only for Customs, but also by other agencies and the prison. ■ G.D./ Press release



After a short search dog *Destiny* discovered a recently fired gun in the box



Dog *Jacky* sniffed out this tiny bit of coral hidden among several suitcases.

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BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.



BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too. Find them on Facebook.

BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

FITNESS

Bon Bida— Complete Physiotherapy, Fitness and Beauty facilities under one roof. Class, exercise machines and Bonaire's only spinning studio.

Yoga Terrace at Eden Beach— Offers yoga classes M-F 8-9am, Monday 5:30pm, Saturday 9am

HEALTH CARE

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ON and IN the WATER

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

OPTICIAN

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

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RESTAURANTS

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

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

Go Green Restaurant — Features Indian and Vegetarian Food served in a garden atmosphere. Plus Personal Training, Ayurvedic Massage and Pilates

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

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes, Dushi Style & 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.



SECURITY

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SPA

Namaste Spa Bonaire's latest and perhaps most "new age" spa featuring not only massage and other relaxing therapies but also Healing Arts. At Captain Don's Habitat resort.

STORAGE

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DID YOU KNOW?



Kibrahacha tree (Yellow Pou, Tabebuia billbergii; Handroanthus billbergii)

Hheavy rains bring extreme beauty in Bonaire? After a period of drought, heavy rains sometimes trigger one of Bonaire's most spectacular trees to bloom. Bonaire's Kibrahacha trees (Yellow Pou, *Tabebuia billbergii* also *Handroanthus billbergii*) splash the hill-sides with color. Kibrahacha, meaning "breaks ax" in Papiamentu, refers to how very hard the wood is from this tree. So hard that it would break your ax. The vibrant color of the Kibrahacha blooms is a beacon to bees, hummingbirds, bananaquits and many other critters that feast on the nectar produced by their blooms. The color, enticing aroma and juicy nectar of the blooms are all evidence of the tree's successful evolutionary past: these characteristics ensure that the flowers will be pollinated, seeds will be produced, and the effort and energy the tree invested in reproduction wasn't wasted. However, Pigeons, doves and other wildlife aren't satisfied with just the nectar, they gobble up entire flowers! Food is scarce during the dry periods in Bonaire and wildlife must take advantage of every

opportunity to drink and eat. This vibrant display only lasts a few days and the delicate, yellow flowers soon fall to the ground.

Last week, we were once again blessed with rains and the splendor of the Kibrahacha. On an island where many people appreciate Bonaire's underwater beauty, it never ceases to bring joy to my spirit when I hear people admiring Bonaire's above-water beauty and exclaiming to their friends that, once again, the Kibrahacha are blooming! The next time this happens, try to spend some time near a tree in full bloom. You'll be amazed at how busy it is with bees, bugs and birds. ■ *Written by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting people with nature. Photo: Diana Sint Jago*



A Garden? Just Do It

FLOWER TIME

Flowers, flowers, time to talk about flowers.

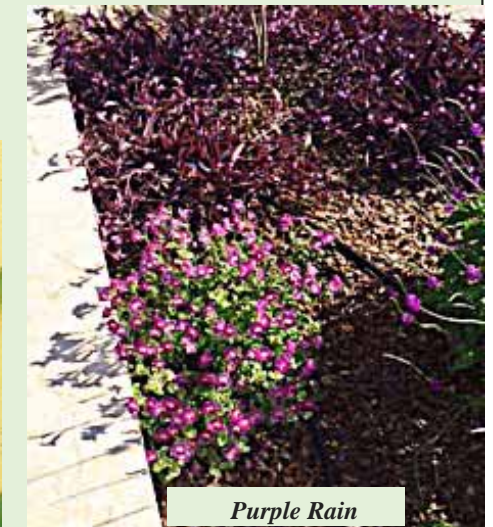
Some people like fruit trees and veggies, some like rock plants and potted plants and some like just flowers.

And you know what? During the rain, a lot of seeds washed away from many dried parts of plants in my yard and started to grow. I let them all grow wild and when they are big enough, I dig them up and plant them in places I wanted to have them where the soil was in better condition for them to grow. Also plants like the Heliconia, of which I have different types, became a big bush and I had to separate the plant into smaller parts and replant them. With all that rain and the soft soil the different Heliconias start flowering like crazy. I've never had so many Heliconia flowers before and I really enjoyed my yard with so many flowers from the beginning of this year until now.

Heliconias grow in tropical and subtropical climates. There are many types of them in different sizes, different colors and flowers. But you can always recog-



Cat Tail



Purple Rain



Heliconia

nize them because they have a lot in common, for example the leaves and roots.

I brought my different Heliconias from Surinam and Colombia to Bonaire. They are 100% shade plants, out of the wind, and they need a lot of water. Normally you find them in jungles where they grow under big trees where less sunlight comes through. But I wanted to try them in my yard, so I planted them behind my house in full shade, out of the wind, in soft black dirt, with a lot of rain water. Look at the photo—how beautiful my Heliconia plant and flowers are. Many people who fell in love with my Heliconia got plants from me. They also were successful with beautiful Heliconia flowers. The flowers last long, like five to six weeks before they get bad, but even when they are dry, they are still nice as a dried bouquet. The flower shops love them to make special bouquets. Just a few mixed with some other flowers makes the bouquet so exotic and rare. So try it yourself too and make somebody happy with your own creative bouquet.

The Cat Tails are nice and funny to see. The plant grows very easily from seeds and once you have one plant in your yard, after a while you see a lot more. I brought one plant from Surinam and almost all my friends have at least one in their yard. And you know what? The green-red leaves are good to eat and very nice in a salad. You have to eat them uncooked, so just add them fresh in your salad or soup. Because of the red color you can use them as a decoration, for example in an egg salad. I do it all the time. Peruvians like to eat these leaves mixed in their salad. By the way, when you chop off the top of the plant when it's about a half meter, it will get a lot more stems and the plant becomes nicer to see with more white-pink tails (flowers) and green-red leaves.

Last but not least, look at my purple rain garden. So nice, the different colors of purple in the different ground cover plants. These plants grow so easily, no matter what kind of climate. Just a few stems in any kind of soil, and soon you have a carpet of 50 shades of purple. And with the many other flowers, like the dark pink desert rose and the always flowering pink *faja lobi*, I'm very happy with my yard. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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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, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

• **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month.** Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon

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

Cruise Ships

| DAY | DATE | NAME | ARR/DEP | CAP | C.LINE |
|-----|--------|------------------------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Tue | 2-May | <i>Adventure of the Seas</i> | 0800-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |
| Sat | 6-May | <i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i> | 0700-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |
| Mon | 8-May | <i>Adventure of the Seas</i> | 0800-1700 | 3114 | RCCL |
| Tue | 9-May | <i>Zenith</i> | 0700-1800 | 1828 | CEL |
| Wed | 10-May | <i>Carnival Sunshine</i> | 0800-1600 | 2974 | Carnival CL |
| Thu | 11-May | <i>Equinox</i> | 0700-1600 | 2850 | CEL |
| Tue | 16-May | <i>Zenith</i> | 0700-1800 | 1828 | CEL |

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Exhibitions

-Photographs of Lorenzo Mitiga, Terramar Museum

-*Stormvogel* Salute to the Sailors at the Plaza Resort.

Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoen Hill 19- call for appointment: 599 785-5002

Events

Thursday, April 27—

Kings Day, legal holiday in honor of King Willem Alexander
Rotary Club Feria Flea Market Fair in Wilhelmina Park 9 am-6 pm. More on page 6.

Soap Box Car Race, Kareda di Garoshi — from the top of the Karpata Hill facing down to Rincon. 10 am.



Sunday, April 30 — Rincon Day, Bonaire's best party, all day and night

Monday, May 1— Labor Day, Legal Holiday

May 1—7—Bonaire Restaurant Week. 20 restaurants offering 3-course menus for \$25. restaurant-week@bonaireblond.com

Wednesday, May 3

— CIEE Student Presentations at CIEE

— **Bonaire Culinary Team 2nd Fundraiser Dinner at Breezes 'n Bites**, 6pm, \$60. 701-0102, 786-1508. Support our team!

Sundays, May 14 & 21— Bonaire Culinary Team Fundraising Dinners. More in the next edition

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

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Shelter News

Pet Of The Week

A wonderful adoption follow-up: The story of Tia and Jim

Jim:

Almost two and a half years ago Jim was found in the middle of the night on the road near the airport. He was in a lot of pain and had bad injuries. He couldn't move or walk but luckily Jim was discovered by a friendly and concerned lady and was brought to the Animal Shelter vet. He was in very bad condition, two of his legs were broken and he was covered with ticks and fleas. Due to his pain he showed behavioral problems which made it very difficult to handle him in the beginning. He started gaining a lot of trust in one of his caretakers and with a lot of medical care, TLC, patience and training Jim recovered and found a new home! He had an amazing time and was treated very well, but due to circumstances Jim couldn't stay and was returned to the Shelter....



Jim Before



Tia Before



Jim and Tia now

Tia:

Almost one year ago this special young lady was found in front of the Shelter in very bad physical and mental shape. She was very scared, dehydrated and very skinny and parasites were eating away at her skin (Demodectic mange). Tia had tick disease and due to neglect her ears got so infected that she was nearly deaf. With a lot of medical care, TLC and patience she started gaining her trust back in humans and made a lot of progress in her recovery. She loved to take care of all the new puppies at the Shelter and that's why we called her Tia (Aunt)....

Jim and Tia

When Jim and Tia met at the Shelter it was love at first sight! What a beautiful couple they are. They look alike, they like each other and the best thing is they were adopted together last Christmas!

When Jim and Tia's new owners came to visit the Animal Shelter in the hope of finding a new best furry friend, they instantly fell in love with Jim and adopted him. Jim had to stay in our boarding place for a while, waiting until the house of his new family was finished. In the meanwhile his new owners came to pick him up many times a week to bond and he went on long walks and swims, what he so loves to do. During this time his owners also wanted Jim to

have a girlfriend and when they met Tia it was not only for them love at first sight but also for Jim! Jim was ready and fully recovered but Tia not. Luckily her new lovely owners wanted to give her all the care she needed.

Last Christmas Jim and Tia went to their new wonderful loving home together, and now, almost a half year later, we visited them and saw one happy and amazing family. Thank you so much for giving love, taking care and giving these amazing animals a new chance in life! ■

Story & photos by Nathalie Peterson



GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY

Sweet little Molly looks like an abstract artist's creation! Take a black kitten and add artistic slashes, swirls, and highlights in white....voila! A marbled Molly! She arrived at the Shelter in September of 2016 with her calico mom and calico sister Mimi. Molly's distinctive markings were noticeable even at eight weeks old. She is very calm and sweet and still a kitten, about nine months old. Molly will be a small cat....a forever kitten!



Sweet Molly

The photo shows Molly enjoying a leisurely scratch on a piece of *kui*, our local mesquite tree. It is recommended that when you adopt a cat or kitten you always provide them a place for stretching and scratching, a sisal/carpet covered scratching post or piece of non-splintering wood. This not only saves your furniture but allows your cat the necessary grooming ritual to keep its claws clean, short and less sharp.

Molly is healthy, vaccinated and ready for a happy fur-ever home. You can visit her and all her sheltermates at Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Find them at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Tuesday-Friday 9 am-12 noon and 3-5 pm; Saturdays 8 am-3 pm. Tel. 717-4989. On Facebook too.

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



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THE STARS HAVE IT

April 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Love could develop at social events that are work relate. You can look around for the right place and enlist some of your friends to help you move. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You have a real need to be vocal. You may have to take a short trip to visit someone who hasn't been well. You may be emotional and quick to judge others. You can enjoy short trips. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try to keep ahead of the game. Don't reveal any personal details. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Be cautious who you deal with financially. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you. New romantic partners may attend a function that puts you in the limelight. Get involved in physical activities that will stimulate you. This could be a difficult day to deal with coworkers. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. Don't be too quick to sign documents. You'll have amazing ideas, but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing them. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job. Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Be innovative. You can look around for the right place and enlist some of your friends to help you move. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Taking on too much won't help the situation. Favors will be offered readily. A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may be frazzled this month. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Find out more, if you want to start your own business. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. You have your own family to consider as well. Go after your professional goals. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds. Don't believe everything you hear. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) This will not be the day to have minor surgery. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. Gambling will be a waste of time and money. Do your job and don't ask for favors. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't exaggerate. Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. You may be out of sorts if you have been extravagant or have let children or friends take advantage of you financially. To avoid any minor health problems, don't get too stressed. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Don't be too quick to spend money. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday. ■ *SunSigns Horoscope*

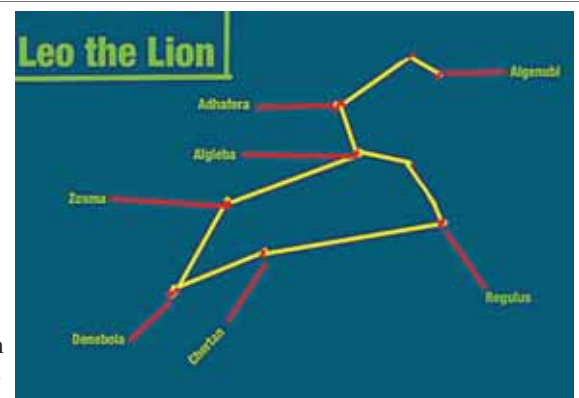


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

"Leaping Leo!"

The constellation of **Leo the Lion** is riding high in the evening sky right now and he has some interesting stars with some creative names. About an hour after sunset, face southeast. High above the horizon you'll see Leo casually reclining just as the ancient Egyptians depicted him in a regal sphinx-like position. His head and forequarters are formed by a backward question mark with the bright blue white star **Regulus** marking his heart. His rear is marked by a triangle of stars with Leo's second brightest star, **Denebola**, marking his tail.



The stars in the head of Leo also form an **asterism** called the sickle. All the stars are visible to the naked eye even though they are quite far from us. The names of the stars, starting at the top of the backwards question. Mark and working our way down are: **Epsilon Leonis, Rasalas, Adhafera, Algjeba, Eta Leonis** and of course **Regulus**.

As far as the triangular shape of stars marking the tail, you already know about **Denebola**, however, the other two stars are **Zosma** (to the northwest of Denebola) and **Chertan** (to the south of Zosma).

Within the official boundary of Leo, there are over 90 stars! Five of those stars are less than 33 light years from **Earth** and at least 13 of those stars have planets circling around them. The brightest stars of Leo are an excellent example of Persian star naming. If you've read this column over the years, you may have noticed that a lot of the stars have Arabic names. That's because many of the stars were named by Persian astronomers thousands of years ago. The star patterns they saw way back then are similar to what we still call them today. And they often named the stars after the body-part that the star represented within the constellation. For example, the prefix "**deneb**" means tail. And "**ras**" means head. Several stars in the sky have either deneb or ras as part of their names. **Rasalas** (also known as **Mu Leonis**) is the star at the top of Leo's head. It is 133 light years from Earth and its name is short for **Al Ras Al Asad Al Shamali**. When translated it means the

northern star of the lions head. Wow, that's awfully specific!

And on the other end of the lion, **Denebola** is a blue-white star and its 36 light years from Earth. Its name means the lions tail.

Regulus is a blue-white main sequence star with a dimmer secondary star. Both stars are a little over 77 light years from Earth. And the name **Regulus** means little king.

Algjeba is a binary star system 126 light years from Earth and its name means "the forehead."

Adhafera is a white giant star 260 light years from Earth and its name means "the braid," which is in reference to the lion's mane. In 2014, it was announced the **Rasalas** has a planetary companion more than twice the mass of Jupiter, with a year 358 days long.

The last two stars are near the tail of Leo. Their names are **Zosma** and **Chertan**. **Zosma** is a white star over twice the diameter of our **Sun**. In ancient Greek, its name means "girdle" and this star is 58 light years from Earth.

Chertan is a large star that is more than two and a half times the mass of our Sun and its name means "two small ribs." **Chertan** is 141 times brighter than the Sun and is 165 light years away. If **Chertan** were our Sun, we'd be pretty toasty.

So, get outside tonight and check out the brightest stars of Leo the Lion: **Rasalas, Adhafera, Algjeba, and Regulus** making parts of his head... and **Zosma, Chertan** and **Denebola** making his rear end and tail. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



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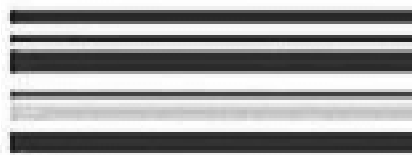
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