

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Sept. 11-25, 2017, Year 24, Issue 17
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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Cultural Activities
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Brass and Drums



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The Famous Maskarada



Bonaire celebrated 'Dia di Boneiru' on September 6 with a heavy heart. As Bonaire revealed our sister islands to the north were being battered by enormous powerful hurricane Irma. The Dutch army commander stationed there says 70% of the island's infrastructure is destroyed. Fortunately, Bonaire has not experienced that strong a storm in recorded history. That should make us even more aware of our responsibility to help the people of St Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba as best we can. It is our responsibility as countrymen and human beings.

We can begin by supporting corporate, political and government activities aimed at aiding the islands. We are obliged to help with what we can afford whether it is financial, supplies, materials, food or clothes. There are even suggestions Bonairean residents should care for the "vulnerable" people of those islands- children, elderly, handicapped- on Bonaire while the able-bodied residents rebuild.

Relief efforts have already begun in St Maarten/ St Martin, as well as nearby islands of Saba and Statia.

Want to donate? Check website www.rebuildsxn.com. It will give you ideas. Or contribute to Red Cross Aruba Hurricane Irma Aruba Bank 038.401.0390 or Red Cross - Giro 5125

Watch *The Reporter* Facebook page and website to find out additional ways you can help.



Due to the passage of "Irma", Flamingo International Airport N.V. offered

refuge to aircraft from San Juan, Puerto Rico. A total of 16 aircraft of different types including SAAB 340s, Twin Otters and Short 330s parked on the aprons of our airport plus two Twin Otter float planes tied in the bay.



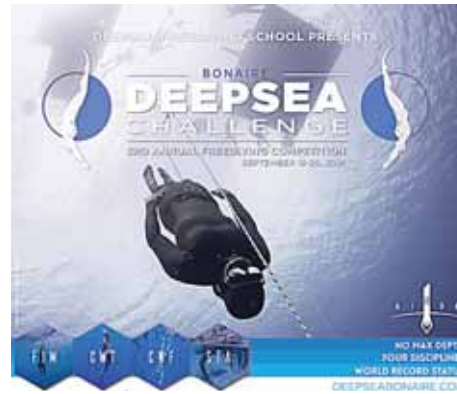
Bonaire press corps MCB photo

On September 1 several organizations commemorated the International Day of the Press with recognition events. MCB-Bonaire hosted a social evening at the Red Palm Inn. The RCN conducted a seminar and Kingdom Representative (*Rjksvertegenwoordiger*) Gilbert Isabella launched the iLanders project crafted to motivate locally born young people and professionals to live and work on Bonaire, St. Eustatius or Saba to fight against the so-called 'brain drain' on the Islands.

Part of iLanders offers students of the islands outside the Caribbean Netherlands, internships within RCN. Intermediate Vocational students are welcome to use this internship to get to know the labor market on the Islands and build a professional network. Apart from an allowance, these iLander-trainees get a roundtrip ticket to the islands. Interested parties can contact us through info@rijksdienstcn.com, check out www.ilanderscn.com or follow iLanders via [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#).

Fuel Prices for September	
Gasoline 95 octane	\$1.04 per liter.
Kerosene	.51 per liter.
Diesel	.65 per liter.
LPG 100LBS	\$33.37 per cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	\$8.51 per cylinder

An international freediving competition, replete with World Record attempts and an Ocean Mermaid Parade, is taking place this week in Bonaire. The third edition of the Bonaire Deepsea Challenge will include competitions in four disciplines with no maximum depth: Static (STA), Constant Weight (CWT), Constant No Fins (CNF) and Free Immersion (FIM). Athletes



from Japan, Ukraine, Venezuela, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Brazil are scheduled to attend. The competition will be recognized by AIDA judges Christian Foetinger from Austria and Dr. Gabriela Contreras from Venezuela.

The event begins Friday September 15 with Registration and Press Conference at the Courtyard Marriot Bonaire, officially opening the next day with competition beginning Sunday, September 17, through Wednesday September 23 with a closing ceremony including an "Ocean Parade" featuring the athletes and organizations. The participants will be able to express themselves by making their own creative art and outfit to celebrate the conservation of ocean life and the mysterious mythology about mermaids.

The familiar pink control tower at the Flamingo International Airport was demolished last week. It no longer was able to the Safety Standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It is sad to see this historic and iconic building go, which for many people in and outside of Bonaire has great emotional and sentimental value. The Tower served the Island of Bonaire for 42 years. The new Airport Traffic Control Tower is already functioning.



The tower is gone

Oranje Fonds (Orange Fund) is seeking young enterprising people to try for their annual prize.

The theme of this year is 'Young and so- (Continued on page 3)

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg. 2)

cially entrepreneurial'. The Fund is looking for social projects initiated by people under the age of 35 who commit themselves to connecting and engaging with the more vulnerable people in our society to ensure they can again participate in society. Register until 29 September at www.oranjefonds.nl/appeltjes. In May, Queen Máxima will award the prize a bronze apple and a \$15,000 cash prize at Noordeinde Palace in The Hague.

The Orange Fund supports social projects in the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom. Each year, with around 30 million euros, thousands of initiatives support people to meet, to be less lonely, to get an understanding of each other and to commit themselves to one another. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima have been the protector of the Orange Fund since its inception. This year the Orange Fund is 15 years-old



► **B-onair (Be on air!)** Bonaire's newest broadcasting station debuted last week. It is a media platform made for, and by, the people of Bonaire (and soon the rest of the Caribbean and European Netherlands), con-

necting and engaging cultures and languages. Its mission is to inform, entertain, engage and connect. It shares the stories behind the news, goes more in depth and shows subjects that matter to the islands. Its goal to create more jobs in the media field.

On Tuesday, August 29, at El Mundo Restaurant, the B-onair crew celebrated the completion of the first season of the talk show *Mantené Bo Man Tené*. The reviews were great and the shows are available on line and soon will start broadcasting on Telbo channel 61, stay tuned,

You can be on air too! How? Go to them with your ideas and plans! You can create, make and invent TV content with them. At B-onair, creative spirits thrive and collaborate. So, if it's your dream to make your own TV show or program, now is your chance! Check [their website](#) for more info or drop by their office.

If there something remarkable you would like to share you can upload your content easily and simply. B-onair is ready to help

Contact Address: Kaya L.D. Gerharts #10, unit 5B, Kralendijk, Bonaire Phone: +599-788 79 60 (Fialka Groenendaal) or +599- 795 11 40 (Martijn Hisschemöller) email: info@b-onair.com and website: www.b-onair.com

► **Bonaire Clean-up Day is the one day a year that volunteers can personally experience the effort it takes to keep our island clean.** On Saturday September 16th, Bonaire residents personally work to clean up their neighborhoods. It's not just about cleaning up but also giving back to the community and accomplishing a shared goal by working together. See the poster on page 12 for details.

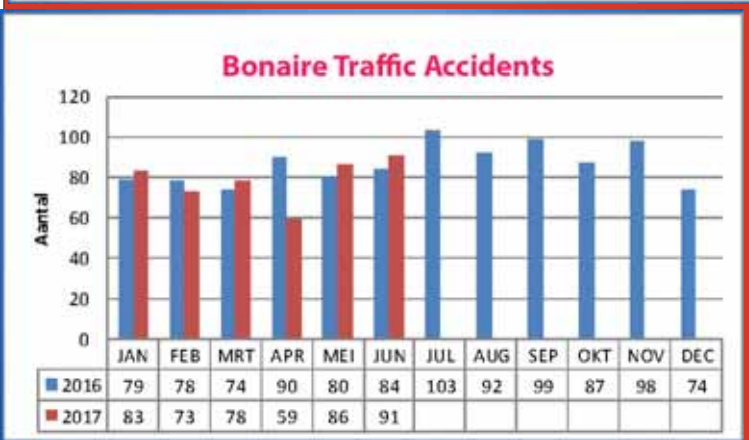
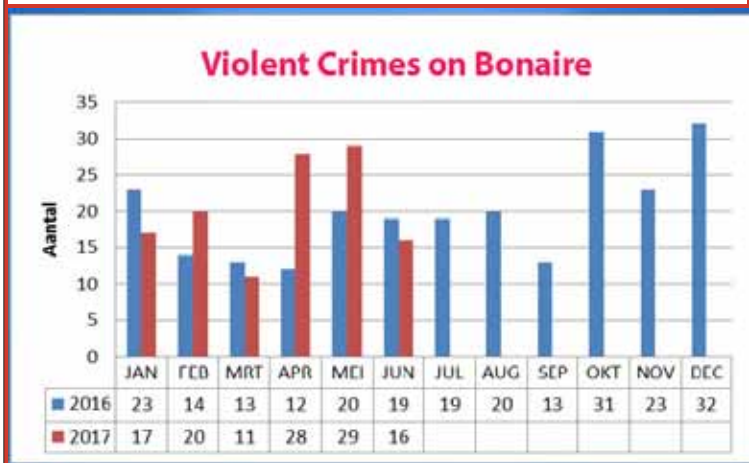
Selibon has been organizing this clean up event for the past five years, together with partner organizations, such as Boneiru Duradero and the broad support of local companies.

It seems that the need for a clean-up, especially in residential areas, increases each year. The number of residents on Bonaire has grown significantly over the past ten years and unfortunately so has the number of illegal dumps. The worst of it is that these illegal dumps keep 're-appearing' and are also expanding all across the island. Even when Selibon has a special crew dedicated to cleaning illegal dumpsites on Bonaire.

Sign up for Bonaire Clean-up Day on September 16, 2017 via the Selibon Facebook page or at the Selibon office at Plasa Medio Ambiente, next to Warehouse.

► **The Rotary Club of Bonaire (RCB) held its annual membership meeting and change of its governing board recently.** The

► A recent presentation by Bonaire police showed a consistent rise in violent crime as well as traffic accidents in the first six months of this year. And the busy months are ahead.



outgoing chairman, **Jan Okhuijsen** reflected on the past year and thanked everyone who helped to make it a success. After the speech of Mr. Okhuijsen, gave this chairmanship over to **Eric v / d Keuken**, who in turn installed his

board for the year 2017-2018, being: **Aniek Schouten**, Treasurer, **Larry Gerharts**, Secretary, **Gregory Obersi** as incoming president for next year and Jan Okhuijsen as Sergeant at Arms.

(Continued on page 7)

FOR SALE Sabadeco Crown Ridge 15 Oceanfront Villa



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Born on Bonaire... April 30, 1987 – Zulay Nahr

A Bonaire Reporter regular feature since 2001



Zulay Nahr

Greta Kooistra photo

“I was born here and lived in Playa Pabou in the same house my whole life. My dad is from Curacao and my mom is American. I spend most of my childhood at my dad’s dive shop; it was my second home. My mom was working at TCB – the tourist office – and later on at the bank. I went to crèche in Amboina and then to Papa Cornes elementary school. When I was 10, my dad took me for my first dive, but it wasn’t really my thing – then. I was an only child but I had a lot of friends and I was lucky to travel a lot with my parents for dive shows. I saw a great deal of the world when I was young and that’s probably the reason that I stayed away from the island so long after I finished high school; I was having fun exploring the world!

I feel like the nineties were the funnest; everybody was so free, no worries about stealing or break-ins – it was real island life. Then I went to Havo high school and partied maybe a little bit too much, but it was fun! After my graduation I went to Holland where I lived for seven years right in the center of Amsterdam with my best friend Maddy, who is from Aruba and whom I met in the 6th grade when she came to live on Bonaire. She moved to Amsterdam first and then I joined her. It was the best time.

I didn’t know what it was that I wanted and so in Amsterdam I studied everything creative. I did interior design, photography, hair and make-up and styling for photo shoots, but in the end make-up was my favorite. I got to do make-up for Amsterdam Fashion Week and I got published in magazines. But when you grew up on Bonaire you want to be in the sun all year around and you need to see colors. In Holland it was too cold and too grey.

So I came for vacation to Bonaire one summer where I did a photo shoot with a photographer from Miami and he said ‘If you ever come to Miami, I’ll introduce you to my network’ and after I got back to Amsterdam, I decided to leave and two months later I went to Miami. For five years I worked at Mac Pro on Miami Beach, selling and applying make-up and also teaching make-up classes. I freelanced on the side, doing make-up for photo shoots and weddings and also for Miami Swim Week. But then I started getting the urge to come here, because Bonaire is

magic – there is nothing like this place – and I feel everyone is coming back for that same reason. I just feel at home here.

When I was abroad, I also missed my best friend Sonia who had her baby here and I wanted to be part of it and share my life with the friends I grew up with; we have a special bond. Of course there are people I miss in Amsterdam and Miami, but it’s different... here it’s like family.

Last year I re-met my boyfriend Julian Richards here on Bonaire. His parents and my parents are friends since before we were born. And so we’ve known each other from when we were very little, but he lived in Curacao. Last year on Bonaire I saw him and he became one of the reasons to come back here. I had not seen him for at least 10 years and we had both become different persons; it was like meeting someone I never knew. He’s a dive instructor on Bonaire.

“For me happiness is being able to do what I love and have the people that I love around me.”

I flew to Bonaire on July 4th, but due to Insel Air’s problems, I didn’t arrive until the next day. Now Julian and I are fixing the house I grew up in and it’s a fun project; most of the time I’m full of paint and dust. Next to that I am doing make-up classes and I work occasionally at The Touch at Divi Flamingo, doing facials, waxing and eyebrows. But I am also doing make-up and hair – getting the model ready for the photographer – for photo shoots and weddings. I feel like it all happened as it should have – it’s like the right time.

I haven’t been living on Bonaire for 12 years. Now I see a lot of European influences; a lot of Dutch people. It’s not, per se, a bad thing, but it makes the Bonairean culture get lost a little bit. I see fewer familiar faces in the street and it’s sometimes like a whole new island people-wise and so much has been built. But still, it feels like home. Everyone that you know is like your family and you know where everything is and it doesn’t take long to get to places and of course my favorite thing: There is noth-



Zulay with boyfriend Julian Richards FB photo

ing like the ocean on Bonaire!

It is good to leave and come back because you have to get experience somewhere else, then you can do a lot of good for the island. Everyone who comes back looks for that community feeling; it’s something that you don’t have in Holland or the States because everything is so spread out. But first I couldn’t come back, because I couldn’t do what I love here. However, now there is more opportunity on Bonaire and a bigger market and so I can keep on doing what I like best.

One thing I do love about Bonaire is that the animal shelter and other (mostly Dutch) animal welfare organizations are doing so much to improve the life of the animals on Bonaire. I feel on other islands

painter - an artist. My dad, who lives here, is also an amazing painter; he never took the time, but he is so good! When I was younger, my dad and I would go to the beach and paint together, so I got my artistic talent from both sides. I really love my parents.

In the future I would love to open my own spa, using all natural products and ways to clean the skin and I want to incorporate that in my business. Using fresh products like fruits and vegetables and spices instead of mass produced bottled products. ‘Cause you can make cleansers, masks and scrubs all from natural products. I love to transform people and make them feel more beautiful and I like to let my creativity out, so not just beauty make-up, but also theatrical and editorial make-up, and although there isn’t a real market for the latter on Bonaire (yet), I do it for fun! A year before I decided to come here, I had to figure out what I could do on Bonaire and so I went back to school in Miami and I got my aesthetician license, so I could work in a spa. That’s when I fell in love with the idea to only use natural ingredients and one day when I will have creative freedom, I’ll start using my own products.

We’re busy with the house now and we’re diving together and I love it. We go on adventures and do new things together. We’re both outdoor people and there is so much to do. My goal is just to be happy’ she smiles ‘it is easy. For me happiness is being able to do what I love and have the people that I love around me. I know what I want, but it is still in motion. I’m figuring out how to incorporate my passion here on Bonaire. But for now I feel very lucky to live in the house I grew up in and to be able to grab my towel and go to the beach!’■

Story by Greta Kooistra



it’s way worse. I love dogs and back in the days it didn’t exist that people stood up for animals and actually intervened if needed. So, I am really happy with it. My dog, Papa Bear, loves it here too. And we’re going to get another one from the shelter! And another thing I love – I am a vegetarian – is that I can get all meat-replacement products at the supermarket and there are restaurants where I can get vegetarian food like Mezze, which is one of my favorite and Go Green – I love Tina’s food!

I am a vegetarian because I don’t think I need to make another living being suffer because I need to eat, that’s it basically. I love animals. My boyfriend is also vegan/vegetarian and we cook together and experiment with recipes; we make the best vegan brownies – they are so good! I know it’s not easy to find a vegan/vegetarian boyfriend on the island, but I think it had to be.

One thing I miss - being here - is my mom, who is my best friend. She lives in the States and she’s doing amazing; she’s a yoga instructor, a Reiki healer and a



This is the 147th of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* articles by J@n (always wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "On Wheels". Up to at least 150 articles!



Mister Tong and his enlightened all English MG Midget

Playa/Bonaire –
It must have been much more than a year ago that I spotted a red-sprayed MG Midget on the island of Bonaire. As far as I knew this was the only MG Midget on the island. Way back in the eighties, a friend of mine and I had taken a little plane from Curacao to Bonaire to chase an MG TD or an MG F; the ones with the separate chassis, the floors made of wood and the separate mudguards. It took us all day to drive around the island of Bonaire on that very hot Sunday. Those days Bonaire was more than dead calm, especially on a lazy Sunday. All windows and doors were closed. Not a single living creature visible. The building in Rincon with "Pension" painted on the roof was in a deep sleep, all of Rincon was asleep. Luckily we found a lady who had homemade ice cream for sale...

Decades later I found the MG with the separate fenders. It appeared to be a fiberglass one. A resin top, mounted on the chassis of a Volkswagen Beetle... There had never been an MG TD or MG TF on the island... Around 2010, I found an MGB-GT on the island. Black, B-engine, wire wheels, parked for years, luckily under a roof, waiting for restoration.

And then this red Midget popped up! I saw the car several times in the area of the Kaya Korona. Then it disappeared again... Just recently it showed up again. The proud owner was driving his vehicle around without a hood over the engine. (This is what I did on Curacao with my white MGB-GT. It is fun to drive without a hood. That way you can hear and see the engine better. You can hear and enjoy the carburetors doing their aspiration...)

So, on Wednesday, September 5th, I saw the Midget again, parked along the Kaya Grandi in Kralendijk. The owner was sitting

in the shade with his grandson. I introduced myself, I informed him about my MG A's, MG B and MGB GT and about the Midget I once owned. Mister Tong was in for an interview and an article in the newspaper.

He imported his MG Midget from Curacao to Bonaire. He is the happy owner of this pur sang English sports wagon for some three years now. His Midget is made in 1964. Mister Tong is a mechanic and just recently he changed the engine of his little two seater. Now the engine measures 1275 cc. Pistons and camshaft are a little bit hotter and there are two carburetors. Mister Tong knows a lot about MGs. He knows a few MGs and their owners on Curacao. He knows about cars with wooden floors and he also has a modern MG F, built in 2000.

This MG is something completely different. Being built in 1964, it is very difficult to find plastic parts on this all metal sports wagon. A full metal body, chrome full metal bumpers, chrome all over the car, wire wheels, a full metal dash board, no upholstery or plastic at all. A nice steering wheel, made of aluminum and wood. A speedometer, a revolution counter, an oil pressure gauge. All made by Lucas, the king of darkness...

"Led there be light!" One modern modification Mister Tong added are the headlamps. Mister Tong converted the conventional beams into led lights: effective, funny and a little bit weird and surprising. Also during daylight the car is driven around with its lights on. Exclusive green circles of light! A red eye catcher with metal spokes and green eyes!

Then Mister Tong and his grandson hop in the tiny two seater. He starts the engine and puts the gearbox in reverse. Some slight mechanical sounds. Then he politely revs the engine and shifts from neutral to first gear. Off you go. A happy islander driving living foreign culture." ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Aloe Forever

The Impressive Onima Aloe Plantation

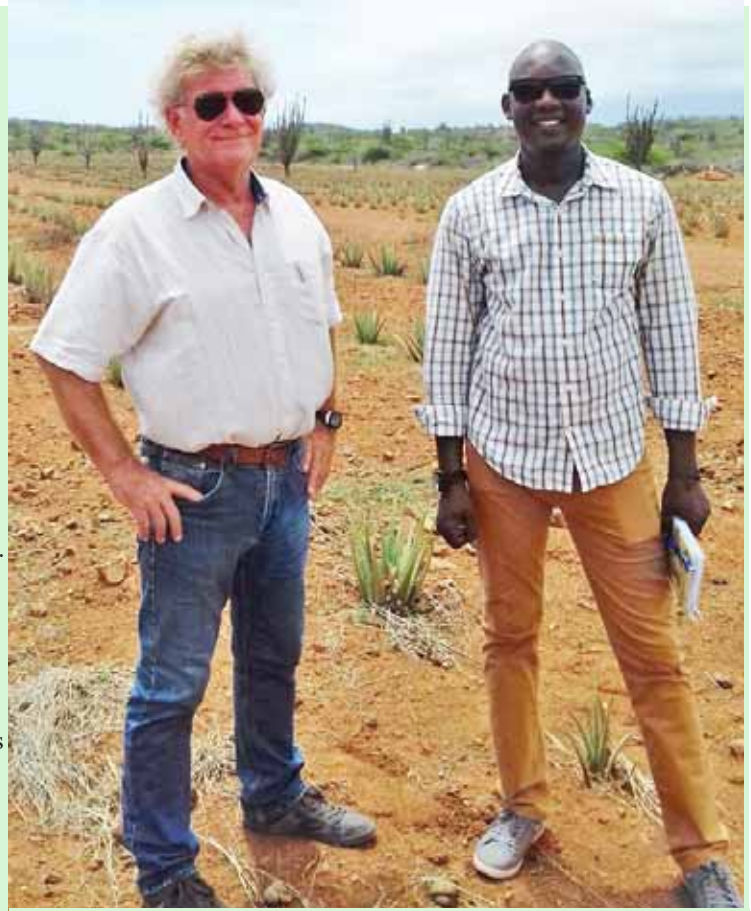
Bonaire/Lagoen –

It is Monday, August 21st, 10 o'clock. The sun is already burning, she does not know about the eclipse yet, and I drive my reliable Land-Rover over one of the most beautiful paved new brick roads of the island. This road leads to the brand new prison of Bonaire. This road also brings me to the huge "Onima Aloe Plantation", located on an impressive terrain of five hectares, north of the jail. There my dog and I have an appointment with **Raoul Ahamadou**, the manager of the plantation.

Raoul welcomes me. He opens the gate and we park the Land-Rover inside the fence. He closes the gate to keep out the goats. Raoul introduces himself. He appears to be from Cameroon, Africa. He informs me about his family name, a real African name. Raoul fluently speaks French, English and Dutch. He is working on Spanish and Papiamentu as he realizes he has to speak the language of the land or island where he lives. And then there is his loyal and hard working employee: Lucas Vasquez, from Peru, so speaking Spanish is a must also. Then Jaap Ensing arrives. He's owned the plantation since 2002, some 15 years.

Raoul is very enthusiastic. He is proud of the plantation and he explains me about the fertility of the *tera kora* (red soil/jb), about the hard work in the sun, the digging of man-made holes and the planting of the young aloes. Raoul: "In history, Bonaire was famous for its aloe plantations and aloe products. Aloe is not a native plant on the island of Bonaire. Where ever you notice aloe plants in the *mondi* (the outback/jb) you know there must have been a plantation in history. Washington, Colombia, Bolivia. You name it. Most of the time the walls and the buildings of the old plantations are nothing more than ruins now but the aloe plants are still there! Silent witnesses of the past. "Onima" is also a perfect example of an old plantation. There are still remnants of old pebble paved roads and tracks on the huge terrain. This is a historical place."

Then Raoul, Jaap, my dog and I take a long walk over the plantation. It takes an aloe plant some five years to grow up. The mother plants needs just a little bit of water to stay alive and a little bit more water to grow and to create baby plants. Raoul



Jaap and Raoul on the farm

continues: "Here the maintenance begins. We want the mother plant to grow and we have to remove the small babies. The mother plant has to grow to produce thick leaves. If we do not remove the babies, the mother will die..."

Then, after five years, the harvesting can have a start. It takes a lot of knowledge and experience to select the best five or six leaves from the plant. The aloe has a rosette shaped way of growing and we have to decide which leaves are the very best. The thickness is not always crucial as we need the right leaves with the right structure and the right concentration. Thick young leaves contain too much water and have less structure. Then the next step is the pressing of the leaves. This is a so called "cold pressing". The result is 100 percent pure stabilized aloe vera gel made from our *aloe barbadensis*. We are the only ones on this planet doing the cold pressing. Other producers heat the aloe, make powder of it, add water and other additives. By heating and making concentrate or powder almost all healing ingredients of the aloe get lost. We produce one hundred percent biological and one hundred percent ecological aloe. This is slow growing aloe. We do not add nutrition. Just the healthy natural soil and a little bit of water."

When we walk over the plantation I notice all aloes are planted in straight and diagonal rows. They are standing in the field like peaceful green soldiers, waiting to serve the people. A huge part of the planta-

tion has a drip system. Jaap Ensing, the owner, just ordered a water container which is able to hold fifty cubic meters of water. Jaap: "We need to have that huge amount of water in stock to create a reliable and sturdy growth. In history you never knew. Sometimes there were six years in a row without a single drop of water. By controlling the water supply we are able to plan better than in the early days. Then we are able to transport the fresh gel to the factory where we press the leaves to be able to produce all kinds of gels and creams."

The "Onima Aloe Plantation" produces aloe products for the local market. They also export the gels and creams to Europe. Jaap, Raoul and Lucas are very proud of their plantation and their products. They are expanding activity and production but quality remains the most important part of their product. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



For more information about this quality product you can visit the website: onima-aloe.info or send an email: onima.aloe@gmail.com

Cover Story

Culture for the Young and Old



Balia di Antes with dance teacher Frank Carolina and his dance partner of Villa Antonia. Dancing is part of the H'ofi's activities

Hofi Kultural, located in Antriol, is the idea of Fundashon Plataforma Kultural (Cultural Platform Foundation) and provides cultural activities for young and old

Beginning September 18th Fundashon Plataforma Kultural is continuing its program on:

Monday -11.00-12.00 am Balia di Antes – Dances of Yesteryear (for the elderly)

Tuesday- 11.00-12.00 am Guitar lessons for the elderly

-13.30-14.30 pm A backpack full of talent, where youngsters are introduced to art and culture in many different forms.

Wednesday -10.30-12.00am Kuarta lessons for the elderly

Thursday -11.00-12.00 am Story telling for the elderly. Where photos from **Boi Antoin's** archives are showed and elderly people will comment on the pictures.

The foundation is looking for volunteers who speak Papiamentu to guide the conversation. Information that is provided during these conversations will be added to historian Antoin's archives.

Friday -3.00-5.00 pm there will be an open house where people can sign up or the activities, play a musical instrument and have a coffee or tea.

Saturday— 9.30-11.00 am Music Playground for children.

After the Regatta vacation Fundashon Plataforma Kultural, together with Bon

Irie, will organize rap lessons and music writing for youngsters in the ages from 12-18 years. They will make their own raps, do their own choreography and record their own video clip and of course the result will be shown in a performance!

Additionally, **Magali Sumter** is going to work on the Maskarade performance with elementary school children. Magali is hugely motivated to teach the children about the tradition, so they will continue it in the future.

These are typical activities. H'ofi Kultural is a place for everybody where you can just watch or join!

On December 15th the grand opening of H'ofi Kultural will take and several activities will be introduced to the public. It's going to be an exciting day but more about it will be published in November.

For more info, call 700-5304 or mail info@plataformakultural.com or www.plataformakultural.com or go to Fundashon Plataforma Kultural on Facebook. ■ *Greta Kooistra*.



Greta Kooistra photo

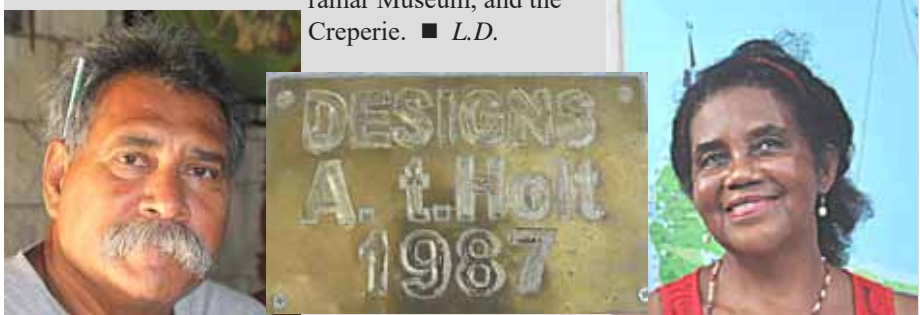
The Antriol building is still under construction.

Artist Asyla Honored



Asyla (in red) and artist Guno Gerling with Adi Figaroa's students who will have an exhibition at the Venezuelan Consulate. left to right: Guno Gerling, Asyla Ten Holt, Marsia (Lala) Janga, MyD Martijn, Misorgia van Langveld, Marjolein Wilson

In 1987, well known local artist, **Asyla ten Holt**, created 21 flamingo designs in coral on the sidewalks of Kaya Grandi in 1987. Many people have seen them but few knew who the artist was. Through the years, all the upheavals in the street have damaged some of these art works. But now, Asyla says, "there has been some protection for outdoor art." And to give credit to the artist, an engraved sign (see photo) with Asyla's name was crafted by artist **Adi Figaroa** and placed in the sidewalk in front of the TCB office. To commemorate, there was an art show of Holt's work as well as that of **Adi Figaroa** and **Guno Gerling** at the TCB office, Ter-ramar Museum, and the Creperie. ■ *L.D.*



Adi Figaroa

Asyla ten Holt

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Cartagena, Colombia



Lost, mad, expiring from heat, hunger, and exhaustion, frequent Bonaire visitors **Louis Petrich** and his daughter **Abigail** take a moment with *The Bonaire Reporter* in the labyrinthine tunnels of the truly impregnable Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas (circa 1657) in Cartagena, Colombia.

Louis and Abigail's last words, scrawled on the cover, were these: "Many

are the places that *The Reporter* has visited in this wide and wicked world, but never yet has it accompanied man and woman into the bowels of the fortified earth, the untaken country, from whose bourne no intrepid traveler returns." ■

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Impressive Sculpture To Rise at Roundabout



Fundashon Bunita Boneiru - Marco Vermeulen, Debby Rauwers, Damaly Linkers, and Carolyn Caporusso at the roundabout, not pictured: Sharon Bol

For over 20 years, hotelier Debby Rauwers of Sand Dollar and Den Laman Resorts have been despairing about the unattractive roundabout (traffic circle) located at the start of "resort row" in Hato. When tourists arrive on Bonaire, this is one of the first things that they see, and it doesn't make a very good impression.

Two years ago, an innovative and exciting plan was launched after many evenings of brainstorming with a very interesting guest that Debby and her husband Marco Vermeulen were hosting at La Pura Vista. Mark Ansier, from Austin, Texas, is a metal artist and avid diver. Their plan was simple – to clean up the island, recycle unwanted waste metal and beautify the roundabout.

They approached the Govern-

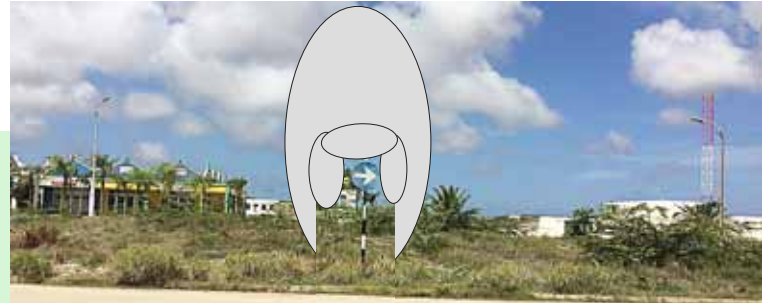
ment to see if it was possible to "adopt" the roundabout and improve it. Shortly after the project began, John Soliano (at that time the director of Bonaire Holding) had just been discussing the roundabouts within the IVA (Young Professionals), so the timing was perfect. The initiating and main sponsors of the project are Sand Dollar Condominiums, Den Laman Condominiums and Dive Friends Bonaire in cooperation with Boneiru Nos Orguyo.

Debby started a committee and invited Carolyn Caporusso, Damaly Linkers and Carol Winklar (both from the IVA) and Sharol Bol to join. In August 2016, they presented their idea to Commissioner Hellburg-Makaai and other government officials. The officials were enthusiastic and requested a detailed plan. In April 2017, they

met with ROB and started work on an agreement to adopt the roundabout. Fundashon Bonita Boneiru was formed to manage the project. In June, the contract was sent to the government and it was approved and signed last week. Now there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

Work is expected to begin before the end of October and be completed before Christmas.

What is going to happen at the Hato Roundabout? Artist/ Sculptor Mark J. Ansier has designed and will be building a monument sculpture of a whole underwater scene and diver, completely out of metals reclaimed from Bonaire. The metal will be recycled and sculpted into a coral garden, turtles, sting rays, tropical fish, topped by one or two dives. Reclaimed metal includes steel



The roundabout today - Imagine the sculpture in the center



Artist Mark Ansier in his workshop (IronWaves.com)

which is naturally rusted, coming from cars and buildings, stainless steel and other metals from appliances. "In their natural state these metals challenge with puzzle pieces," Mark says. Helping Mark will be local people, welders and those willing to learn the trade. Selibon will also help by storing old car wrecks and other metal from around Bonaire that has to be cleaned up. Surrounding the art work will be a garden specifically planted with "donkey and goat proof" plants in the colors of the Bonairean flag.

About the artist - Artist Mark Ansier owner of Iron-Waves Custom Iron Art grew up sketching always. Mark learned to love metals while helping his older brother in his steel business as a kid. But unable to ignore his desire to create, Mark would pick up pieces of the discarded metal debris and put them together to make something recognizable. After acceptance into the School of The Art Institute of Chicago he ignored art for a while, going into business of recycling and

recovery. However, the art gene won out, Mark is back creating sculpture worldwide and has an art gallery and studio in Austin, Texas, where there are lots of large sculptures on display.

Mark and his wife Jen have been SCUBA diving all over the world but they immediately felt a special connection to Bonaire and have kept coming back. As Mark says, "This is the time for art. Collect steel and make a fish!" Why not clean up the island and create something beautiful and meaningful on that ugly piece of land? This sculpture will also serve as a personal memorial to the artist's son and dive buddy, Matt, who was tragically lost in 2007. ■

Debby Rauwers / Laura DeSalvo



Flotsam and jetsam (Cont. from page 3)

► Governor Edison Rijna, cut the ribbon for the new lookout tower in Washington Park. "Bonaire is an island that depends on tourism and the construction of this tower is definitely important as a venue for our visitors," said the Governor as he congratulated Stinapa, Cargill and especially the Dutch soldiers who did a great job building the beautiful tower to look at our flamingos and the many other birds that can be found in the Washington Park. The lookout tower is just past the Slagbaai buildings and overlooks the Saliña and the highest point of Bonaire, Mount Brandaris. Take binoculars on your next



visit to the park because the Slagbaai Saliña is full of birds. There are information boards placed on

the tower to help identify the different birds.



► The Ride for the Roses Bonaire Foundation and the event's main sponsor Orco Bank, presented representatives of the Princess Wilhelmina Cancer Fund a check for \$40,000 last week.

The money was raised by the first Uphill (bike) Challenge on April 8, 2017, when over 25 cyclists challenged the steep hills of

Sabadeco, and some repeated this climb more than 60 times, earning sponsorship money for each climb.

More came in from the second Ride, Swim and Walk on April 23, 2017 with nearly 800 participants who cycled, walked or swam providing solidarity with cancer patients, their relatives and friends. About 25 sponsors also supported the fight against cancer, and together with the more than 40 volunteers of this event, made it a big success.

► Remember to remind shop owners that they can advertise in *The Reporter* very reasonably. It's their support that keeps us "Still Free." ■ G./L.D.



Please contribute so that our Bonaire saxophone group called "Saxomania" can buy instruments to teach children who would like to learn but can't afford the instruments? Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/saxomanias>

WINFRED DANIA Retrospective Art Exhibition



The Governor opened the show



Peter van Mosselaar spoke



Winfred's daughter and grandchildren Stephanie Marchena-Dania and children Gianely and Gilangelo on opening day

Winfred Dania is acknowledged as one of Bonaire's most famous contemporary artists. An exhibition featuring his work, titled Winfred Dania, The van Gogh of Bonaire, opened last week. Winfred passed away at the age of 61 on January 11, 2012, following a year-long struggle with cancer.



A favorite work includes a self portrait

His many paintings reflect the ever changing, intriguing, provocative and mystical dimensions of the

man. He said, "I want to be painting something deep from within myself, but I will remain painting mythology as part of what I create."

In addition to his numerous inventive paintings, following his first snorkel trip to Klein Bonaire in 1996 he produced the Save Klein Bonaire poster design which raised funds by its sale and was a key in getting the recognition needed to get the small island protected from development.

Winfred was born deaf in Aruba. His father was a Bonairean customs worker and his mother was from Aruba. At the age of 4 he went to St Michael's School for the Deaf in The Netherlands. There he learned to read, write, and lip-read.

He began the laborious task of learning to speak – which he mastered after years of effort. Winfred trained to become a graphic designer. His first job was the soli-

tary work of a typesetter for a local newspaper. The work was too lonely so he next tried working for a zoo, taking care of feeding the animals.

At 17, Winfred came back to Bonaire after a short stay in Aruba. He took over his father's family home in Antriol and went to work for Capt. Don's Habitat where he worked and learned to love gardening. He was a friendly, humorous man who was most humble about his artistic gift.

Winfred Dania's paintings hang in museums in the Antilles and in

The Netherlands. His artwork is owned by collectors throughout the world. The largest collection of his work is held by **Peter van Mosselaar** whose collection forms the majority of the art on display in the show at Kaya Amsterdam 23, the building east of Akkermans auto dealership. The exhibition, organized by **Liliane de Geus** has over 180 works by Dania and will run from now through October 31. Hours are 9 am-2 p, and 4 pm-8 pm. **You must see this show!** Admission is free. □

G.D./Maggie Booi

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Regatta 50

There is a lot of activity around Regatta House these days as we all get ready for the Golden Anniversary of the Bonaire Regatta. In the weeks leading up to the event, set for October 11-14, *The Reporter* will be reviewing the history and highlights of what some argue is the oldest organized regatta in the Caribbean.



from the US, Europe, Colombia and Venezuela. The October school vacations on the ABC islands were synchronized with the regatta dates to enable families to attend.

In 1971, the organization of the regatta was handed over by the Lions Club to the Bonaire Tourist Office, which appointed a coordinator, **Niki Tromp**, as the new director of the BTO.

In 1972, the name was officially changed into 'Bonaire International Sailing Regatta' and that year the Regatta had 100 + boats. As the Regatta grew steadily during its first years of existence, participants from Curaçao became involved, not only in the races, but in the organization as well. Race supervisor was **Henk Dreijer** from Club Asiento, and he maintained this position until 1978. His successor was **Cees Siebesma** who was a member of the Curaçao sailing club, Jan Sofat. There were also regular participants from Aruba who played a role in organizing the participation from that island: the late **Ernie Kervel** for the Sunfish Class and the late **Mike Hagendoorn** for the yachts. The registration for the Bonairean traditional fishing boats was organized at his home by **Doei Diaz**.

Several sailors who are still active nowadays were already involved in the early years: **Ivo van Dooren**, **Jan Ackermans**, **Karel van Haren**, **Jos Schoonen**, **Hans van der Straaten**, just to name a few.



Valdemar Marcha, ALM CEO at the time, Niki's son, Byron Tromp and Niki Tromp

In 1970 Bonaire Regatta became an international regatta with the participation of 82 boats including those



Currently Budget Marine is spearheading an effort to gather all the traditional sail fishing boats still floatable. Many are in need of major repair. If you know of a boat or can help in the repair **contact Pam at Budget Marine +599 717 3710 or email pam.teitel@budgetmarine.com**

Those years were characterized by substantial participation of sailors from Venezuela, particularly in the classes of yachts and beach cats, which gave the Bonaire Regatta its international character. The arrival on the island of the Venezuelan ferry, **Almirante Luis Brion**, loaded with visitors and participants bringing along their small boats, was a yearly recurring highlight at the start of each regatta week. The Venezuelan navy also contributed by bringing over the smaller boats.

There were lean years as well, unfortunately. The unreliable ferry connections and time-consuming hassles with customs authorities on Curaçao caused

a decline in registrations in 1976, '77 and '78: no more than 70. In 1979 however, when the organisation decided not to use the ferry anymore, the number of participating boats was restored to its previous level: over 100, with new categories of beachcats and windsurfers added. ■ **Evert Bongers**

Evert Bongers lives in Aruba where he works at Colegio Arubano School. He knows Bonaire well where he has been Regatta MC and race announcer since 1995.





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Parrot Murder Mystery

This year Echo has been conducting a nest-monitoring project for the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots (Loras) on Bonaire. By surveying and observing nest sites, we can determine the how successful multiple pairs of parrots have been in their breeding attempts. By keeping tabs on so many different pairs, we have had the opportunity to witness the lives of many of their chicks unfold, all with their own stories to tell.

The first of these stories came to an unhappy and premature ending. It began with an inspection of a nest situated in the hollow of a Palu Di Sia tree and a photograph of parrot chicks that would reveal a murder mystery. One chick was alive and two of its siblings lay dead beside it. All three were feathered and about 4-6 weeks from being ready to fledge. The dead bodies were fresh; whatever had killed them had done so recently.

The dead chicks were removed from the nest for closer inspection. The two bodies suffered severe wounds; most likely caused by the beak of a bird, what species of bird was a question we could not yet answer – although we had our hunches. Another thing we noticed about the dead chicks was that they appeared to be malnourished despite being roughly at the same stage of development as the surviving chick. The drama that began to unravel before us was puzzling and bizarre. Why weren't all the chicks killed and why were the dead chicks starving?

We set up motion sensor cameras with the assumption that the culprit would be back. We had two main suspects that we believed were most likely to have killed the chicks. One was the Pearly Eyed Thrasher, known to kill chicks to reduce interspecific competition for nest-holes. The second was the Yellow-shouldered Amazons themselves. Often aggressive towards each other and highly territorial during the breeding season, it is not uncommon for adult parrots to kill other parrots' offspring. This behavior is known as infanticide and is done for the same reasons as the Thrasher.

A few weeks went by and the surviving chick was growing quickly. The cameras had not caught anything suspicious, just hundreds of images of the parents coming to feed the chick.

Then one day while checking on the chick and going through all the camera images, one picture stood out. Eureka! There was an image of two Pearly Eyed Thrashers, one inside the nest and one outside perched on a tree (see photo).

Based on the evidence we have, we cannot conclusively say that it was a Pearly Eyed Thrasher that killed the chicks. However, the Thrasher was the only other bird species recorded inside the nest and we know that they do kill chicks and destroy eggs, because of the competition between them and parrots for suitable nesting cavities. Therefore, it is most likely that the Thrasher was responsible for the death of the two chicks and perhaps the parents came back in time to stop it from killing the third. Why the chicks



Nestcam: Mom feeding the baby parrot



The silhouette of a Pearly Eyed Thrasher in the foreground in the nest

looked malnourished remains a mystery.

Despite the reoccurrence of the Thrasher, it appears they were just eating ants, as the lone chick was not attacked and continued to grow. We kept the camera in position and monitored the chick to see if it fledged. After all it had been through, a rainstorm turned the nest into a mucky swamp in which the chick was at risk of getting trapped in. This chick was a survivor and it was not going to let a rainstorm stop it from fledging. It spent about a week at the top of the cavity, avoiding the muck, stretching its wings and hanging out the cavity entrance trying to find the courage to join the big wide world, until eventually it took the leap and left the hole in the Palu Di Sia.

The story of this family of parrots illustrates the hardships breeding pairs face when raising their offspring on Bonaire. Yet, along with natural competition with Thrashers, the endangered Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrots must also deal with the direct threats of cat predation and poaching as well as the effects that habitat degradation and intensive grazing by herbivores have on limiting the number of available nest sites. All of which are making it harder and harder and more and more competitive for Loras to successfully rear their young. Recent assessments of the parrot population on Bonaire have concluded that - perhaps surprising for some - there are still too few breeding pairs of parrots, despite the apparent growth in numbers of parrots, for the population on Bonaire to be considered viable. That is to say parrots of Bonaire still face the risk of local extinction (having no more parrots here), if a significant threat or threats were to impact their numbers in such a way that they could not bounce back.

Echo's nest monitoring efforts were generously funded by *Vogelbescherming* through our partner organization the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and are one example of how we are working to safeguard the future of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrots. ■

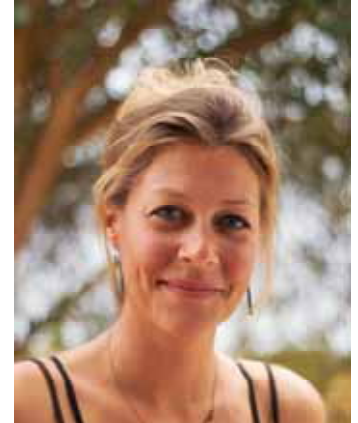
Echo Press release

Maritime Heritage Foundation



Ludwig 'Luti' Frans

Two new board members have recently joined the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation. Replacing Boi Antoin as president is Ludwig 'Luti' Frans who is currently the owner of ABC Marine. "My roots to the sea are strong starting with my father, Balentine, who was a member of the



Alex Kent

original crew of *Stormvogel* back in the 1950s. I have a strong desire to preserve the history of Bonaire, especially the maritime history. Joining the foundation is a perfect opportunity to achieve that goal." Also, Alex Kent replaces Eric van de Keuken as treasurer. Born and raised in the UK, Alex has been on the island since 2013 and has been a long-time supporter of Project Stormvogel.

In other foundation news, Governor Edison Rijna

(right) pinned Xiomara Frans (at left in the photo) with the Bonaire Coat of Arms for her efforts as educational coordinator of Zeilen Op School. This educational outreach project brings the islands' maritime history to over 2,225 students in 56 schools on Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao. The pinning ceremony took place on September 4, 2017 at the governor's office. Zeilen Op School was made possible from funding from *Fonds Voor Cultuurparticipatie, Samen Werkende Fondsen* and *Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds* for the Caribbean Region. ■



Story and photos by Patrick Holian for BMHF

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A Garden? Just Do It

GARDENING ACCIDENTS

While gardening accidents can happen. Many times I've cut in my fingers, hit my toes terribly with the *chapi* (hoe), got scratches on my arms, got bitten by bugs and so on. So maybe you can learn from my experiences so they will not happen to you.



Yatu cactus thorns

Two weeks ago I was cutting leaves from the palm trees close to the yatu cactus fence in front of my yard. One leaf I could not cut well, I had no space for my arm, so I tried to pull the leaf down. I put so much force to pull the leaf that it suddenly came off and I flew straight in the yatu fence. My whole right side, from legs to hips and shoulders to head was perforated by yatu thorns. My hand palm and right arm was covered with the thorns. That was hurting me like crazy. I ran immediately to one of my neighbors. (I told you, be good with your neighbors, they are your best first aid.) She sat me down, took pinchers and alcohol and one by one pulled out thorns as many as possible. But still I do have some in my skin. I think now I'll have to live with them.



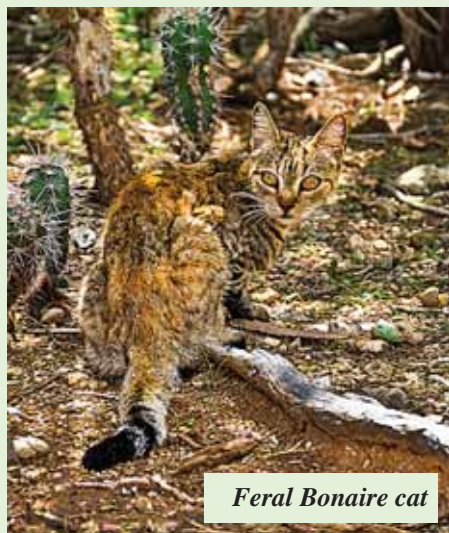
Agave barbs are hard to remove

What did I learn from this? Be careful with gardening or cleaning the yard when you are close to cactus. Wear clothes that covers you totally. Grass can itch, there are more plants with thorns like *tuturu* and *bouganvilla*. There can be bees and wasps nests hiding and you can get stung by these bugs. Some plants have sharp "teeth" on the leaves, and it hurts for days when you get hit by these plants. And some people get really sick and get big wounds from these thorns. So the more you protect your body, the safer you are.

Another experience. I was in a hurry to leave and just wanted to take my bike in the yard when I saw one of the wild cats hunting for the birds in the appeldam tree. I thought right than, Oh no, you are not going to kill another sweet bird in my yard.

So I put the bike away, took the garden hose and started spraying water into the tree on the cat which it didn't don't like at all. And yes, the cat now started jumping and climbing away from me higher in the tree while I kept on spraying. Suddenly, he jumped out of the tree and came down just

in front of me, and because it went so fast, the hose flew out of my hand and got me totally wet. My good clothes, my hair and make-up, all was gone. How angry I was. Would the cat now laugh at me?? Ha ha.



Feral Bonaire cat

Anybody have a good solution to rid the island of wild cats humanely? They kill all the sweet birds in my yard.



Scorpion stinging

Finally, when gardening, don't put your hands in a hole in the soil or a tree, or whatever. A while ago I was cutting grass and saw a strange hole in the soil. I thought maybe, it's mouse hole, and I put my hand in the hole to see if mice would come out. But then something sharp pricked my finger and when I pulled out my hand, there was a scorpion on the finger. So stupid, why didn't I expect that. So don't do what I did, or you'll end up with a painful experience.

Did you ever hear of people with "goat hands?" I translate this the way we use to say it in Surinam. Boko=boko anoe.

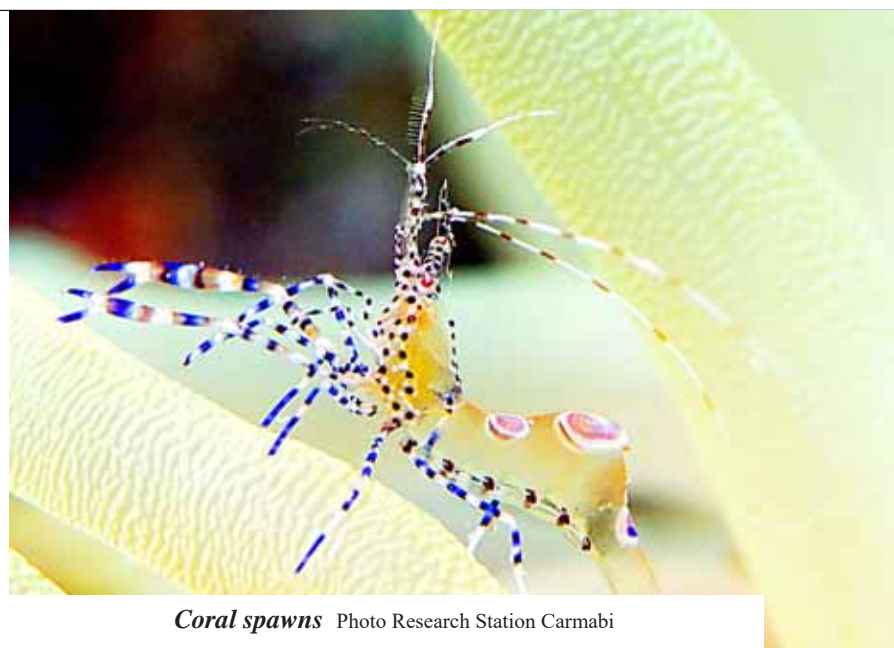
When people tell you not to touch their plants, it might be because of this. It's said that are people that have a bad energy for plants. When they touch the plants the plants start losing their energy immediately and, in the worst case, die. I hadn't this experience until one day a good friend came to visit me and she was impressed by all that green in my yard. So we walked around and she was touching and smelling almost every plant. But after a short while, it really happened that most of the plants start drooping, looking sick. First I was wondering why, but then suddenly it came to me that it must be that the plants were suffering of the "boko-boko" hands of my friend. So later I walked through the yard again, touched them all, talked to them and they recovered.

A strange experience. Now I don't let people touch my plants. You never know who has "boko-boko anoe." ■

Story by Angliet, Nature Lover



DID YOU KNOW?



Coral spawns Photo Research Station Carmabi

That the **Spotted Cleaner Shrimp** (*Periclimenes yucatanicus*) lives among poisonous sea anemone tentacles and gets stung by it every single day? It uses a clever trick to be able to stay unharmed most of the time. But first, allow me to describe this gorgeous shrimp.

The Spotted Cleaner Shrimp is a tiny and colorful shrimp that is commonly found in the waters of Bonaire. The shrimp grows to a length of about 2.5 cm (or 1 inch), has a transparent body with white and brown saddle-shaped markings on its back. Its legs and pincers are striped in red, purple, and white, and on top of its head sit two antennae that are banded in black. The Spotted Cleaner Shrimp feeds on dead tissue, algae, and parasites and gets most of its food from cleaning fish. It sways its body and waves its antennae to invite nearby fish like parrotfish to pass by so it can hop onto the fish and remove any dead tissue, algae, and parasites from the fish's body. The fish allows this since it needs to get rid of these things to be healthy. This interaction, where both partners benefit, is a type of symbiosis called mutualism.

The Spotted Cleaner Shrimp lives among the tentacles of sea anemones. Anemone tentacles have poisonous stinging cells (thus making it a great refuge from predators). However, the shrimp is not immune to the stinging cells, but it has developed a way to become temporarily immune to the stings. First, the shrimp must acclimate to

its host anemone. It does this by cautiously touching one of the tentacles and enduring the sting. Researchers have two different theories of how the shrimp becomes immune. One theory is that when the shrimp touches the tentacle, it collects the mucus from the anemone's tentacle and gradually covers itself with it and the mucus acts as a sort of protective cover. The other theory is that the shrimp builds up chemicals in its body that stops the anemone's stinging cells from firing. Either way, it takes one to five hours for the shrimp to become completely immune to the anemone's sting. The downside to having an anemone as a hiding spot is that the shrimp's protection is short-lived and it must re-acclimate to the same host every 24 hours. ■

Thijs van Wuijckhuijse, STINAPA Assistant Biologist

This is the last DYK story from Thijs. He is leaving the island and continuing with his studies and career. We extend our thanks and appreciation for his high quality, professional contributions to *The Reporter*.



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Tue	12-Sep	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL
Tue	19-Sep	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL
Wed	20-Sep	Equinox	0700-1600	2850	CEL
Tue	26-Sep	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

- **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
- **Bonaire Museum**—on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free
- **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
- **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.

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 Koeke 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. Entry fee based on income level.
- **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 2017: 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

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.
- **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

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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.
- **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc,) NO MEETINGS on September 13 and 20. (Vacations)**
- Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

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 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 Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Exhibitions

- **Coral Restoration Exhibit**-Terramar Museum
- **Stormvogel Salute to the Sailors** maritime photo exhibit, Plaza Resort, sponsored by Bonaire Marine Heritage Foundation and the Prins Bernard Cultural Funds.
- **Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoen Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002
- **Winfred Dania Exhibit**— see for story on pg. 8

Close In Events

- Tuesday, 12 September** —Susy Weber Memorial at Te Amo Beach, Susy Weber passed away on July 23rd. All friends of Susy invited. Time 17.30-18.30
- Sept. 13 & Oct. 12** —The best nights to view coral spawning while diving.
- 15-23 September – Bonaire Deepsea Challenge 2017** Freediving event Entry fee \$700 <http://deepseabonaire.com/bonaire-deepsea-challenge-2017/> See pg. 2 for more.
- Saturday, September 16,**— Selibon will lead a clean-up of the island/ It's the fifth edition of the Bonaire Clean Up. See page 13
- 23 -25 September Bonaire Mermaid Festival**— see pg 2
- Sunday, September 24, -- International Monument Day**— Presentation and tour at Plaza Francisco Chicu Goeloe in Antriol. After the lecture, historian Arthur Sealy will lead a walk through Antriol. Participation is free. Sign up at Museum Bonaire at the Kaya J.E. Craane 34 or by phone 717 - 8868. The latest registration date is September 22, 2017.
- Sunday, October 8** —Swim to Klein Bonaire at 9 AM, be there at 8:30 AM
- Wednesday-Saturday, October 11 -14 -Bonaire Regatta #50.** More on page 9

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 11		00:32 0.01 ft	05:24 0.40 ft	11:11 0.09 ft	17:26 0.95 ft	6:25	18:39
Tue 12		01:26 -0.07 ft	06:18 0.38 ft	11:54 0.07 ft	18:13 1.04 ft	6:25	18:38
Wed 13	Last Quarter	02:16 -0.12 ft	07:09 0.37 ft	12:40 0.06 ft	19:00 1.08 ft	6:25	18:37
Thu 14		03:05 -0.14 ft	07:59 0.37 ft	13:30 0.05 ft	19:49 1.09 ft	6:25	18:37
Fri 15		03:53 -0.14 ft	08:50 0.39 ft	14:23 0.06 ft	20:40 1.06 ft	6:25	18:36
Sat 16		04:41 -0.12 ft	09:42 0.41 ft	15:20 0.08 ft	21:32 0.99 ft	6:24	18:35
Sun 17		05:29 -0.08 ft	10:38 0.44 ft	16:24 0.12 ft	22:27 0.90 ft	6:24	18:34
Mon 18		06:18 -0.03 ft	11:36 0.49 ft	17:37 0.15 ft	23:27 0.78 ft	6:24	18:34
Tue 19		07:07 0.03 ft	12:35 0.54 ft	18:59 0.17 ft		6:24	18:33
Wed 20		00:34 0.67 ft	07:55 0.09 ft	13:34 0.61 ft	20:28 0.16 ft	New Moon	6:24
Thu 21		01:48 0.57 ft	08:41 0.14 ft	14:29 0.67 ft	21:51 0.12 ft		6:24
Fri 22		03:06 0.50 ft	09:26 0.18 ft	15:18 0.73 ft	23:02 0.07 ft		6:24
Sat 23		04:18 0.46 ft	10:08 0.22 ft	16:03 0.77 ft			6:24
Sun 24		00:00 0.03 ft	05:21 0.44 ft	10:47 0.24 ft	16:44 0.81 ft		6:24
Mon 25		00:48 -0.01 ft	06:13 0.43 ft	11:23 0.25 ft	17:22 0.84 ft		6:24

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bij Jeroen Seegers

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SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 - 12:00

Sign up on the Facebook page of Selibon or at the Selibon Office.

Meeting place is at Plasa Medio Ambiente.

Kaya Industria #20 at 7:30.

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP: 12 September 2017

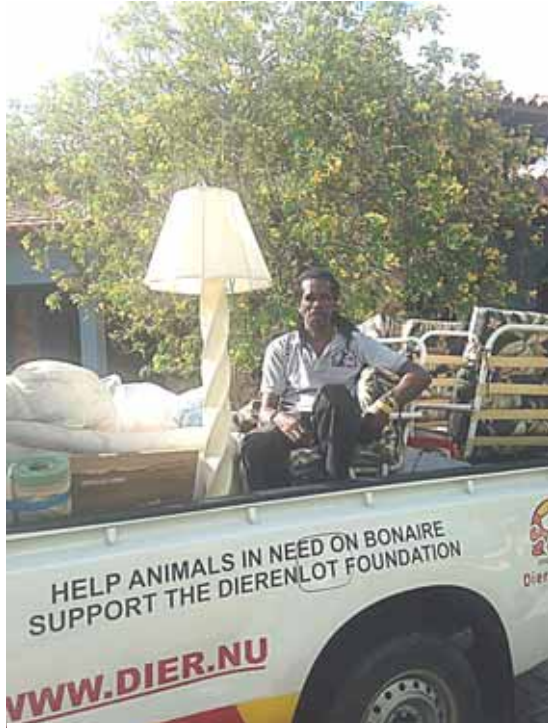
ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

SOMETHING OLD AND/OR SOMETHING OLDER

The Bonaire Animal Shelter has a thrift shop, Pakus di Pruga, that is open every Saturday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. It's located on Kaya Liberador Simon Bolivar across the street from Brandaris Café – look for our tents set up in the parking lot in front of our building. Staffed by volunteers, it sells pots, pans, glasses, appliances, furniture, clothing, books and anything else you might need.

However, in order to have these items we depend on residents and visitors to donate anything – and we really mean ANYTHING – that isn't wanted. The profit benefits the Animal Shelter and our inexpensive prices benefits Bonaire shoppers.

We are an expensive island so being able to buy everything from toys to you name it for just a few dollars spreads the benefits all the way around. Nothing is too old or too used. Even some items that need a little repair are welcome. For your convenience we are happy to pick up any donations and we also deliver large/heavy items to our customers. A full service operation! Please call



Volunteer Gibby working on the truck

Dabney Lassiter at 717-3949 and she will be glad to schedule a pick up at your convenience.

RESORTS AND RENTALS

PLEASE NOTE: When you replace mattresses, sheets, furniture, etc. please REMEMBER THE ANIMAL SHELTER'S PAKUS DI PRUGA! ■ Dabney Lassiter, Photo credit: Shelter Collection

Pet Of The Week



KREMA, A DOG FOR KIDS

If you are looking for a small size dog that loves children and you don't have cats, then Krema is your girl! She is one of those wonderful Bonairean "mixes"....a little bit of this and a little bit of that.

Krema has ridge down her back, a curly Akita-style tail and a pale Husky mask... and adorable short little legs! She is about two and a half years old, so her personality as well as her looks are well defined. She is a calm and gentle dog that absolutely loves children. (She only gets

"fired up" when she sees cats....Krema does NOT like cats!) So if you have children AND cats, best to choose one of our many other great dogs who get along with both. Krema is sterilized and vaccinated and just waiting for a forever home that hopefully has children she can play with.

Please pass by Animal Shelter Bonaire and visit with Krema and all our shelter residents if you are interested in adopting a dog or cat. Kaminda Lagun 26, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. 717-4989 or 701-4989. ■

Story by Jane Madden Disko.
Photo by Luvinia Rodriguez



From: Bandit
To: Mom and Dad

I'm sorry that I left you and wish I could have stayed longer. Nineteen years just wasn't enough. I want you and Dad to know that I loved my life!

I just didn't understand, for awhile, that my real mom was gone; and you and Randy were going to take such wonderful care of me, that I could relax and not be frightened of you.

It was so different to wake up on board a boat. It didn't take me too long to explore the whole thing and find some special places to be with you, or by myself. Some of our days were so exciting - crashing waves, water spray until I needed a dreaded bath. But wow, when we all watched the stars together and I put my paws up on the side of the boat to see creatures like whales, dolphin, sea lions, fish - I was so interested! That was really fun! It was confusing, too, so then I took a nap.

Other times we watched birds, I mean really big ones, scary ones to me but you kept me safe. They were dive bombing all round the sailboat but they never got me! I had fun playing with the flying fish and I sure had a cat's meow diet!

Then somehow all of us were on dirt a lot more. I liked staying still on the dirt. You built me a fantastic cat house with lots of cubby holes and even creatures that would walk around over my head. Of the big green ones (iguanas) I was a little shy.



But the little ones (geckos) did like to play.

I loved to sit outside at night and see the stars with you and Dad and really explore every inch of my new porch. I

liked to drink out of the big bowl of water (swimming pool) you put out for me; but really, when you and Dad got in my big blue bowl I just had to laugh with you!

Then you would shake a stick with a feather on it in my face. I never understood that! All that ever did was make me bat at it and roll around the floor! Lately it got lonely around here. No Dad calling my name; but I loved sitting on your lap and you stroking me everyday. The brush, I learned, was safe too, but I just wanted to be out there and near you, or on your lap after you fed me the best cat food ever. Anyway, "thank you" for the extra exciting and wonderful life I had with you. I loved you always, as much as a cat could, and I feel better now that I told you. Bye for now. Take care of yourself, please.

Meow, Meow. ■ L.K.



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THE STARS HAVE IT

End of September 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Keep your ears open, especially to those who care about you. Your boss won't be too thrilled if you leave things unfinished. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can make or break your personal relationship this month. Stop those bad habits. Romance may be better than you ever thought possible. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Your lucky day will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Finish overdue paperwork and catch up on letter writing and reading. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you. Use discretion, especially if involved with someone from work. Try not to allow others to burden you with additional responsibilities. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Problems with colleagues are likely. Romantic opportunities may not be as they appear. A better diet, exercise, or a change to a relaxed atmosphere could be ways to soothe your nerves. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone close to you will get upset easily if you are insensitive to their needs. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Make plans to do the things you enjoy. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Avoid getting trapped in internal disputes. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. Don't count on others to cover up for your shortcomings. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need an energetic outlet that will help you dissipate your anxiety. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work. Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be able to close any deals successfully. Try not to skirt issues if you think you'll hurt some one's feelings. Don't be too confident that coworkers are on your side. Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Children or friends may try to talk you into lending them money. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. Look into real estate. Focus your efforts on your work. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Travel should open doors that lead to exciting new adventures. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Satisfy your passionate mood. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are best to be discreet. Do not sign your life away. Have a heart-to-heart talk with family and find out what the problems are. You will be entertained and intrigued by the logic foreigners possess. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday. ■

SunSigns Horoscope



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Measuring The Stars In The Summer Triangle

The brightest stars of the season are almost high overhead in the Bonaire Sky Park these weeks.

There you'll find a triangle of three celestial dazzlers - the stars of the summer triangle named Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

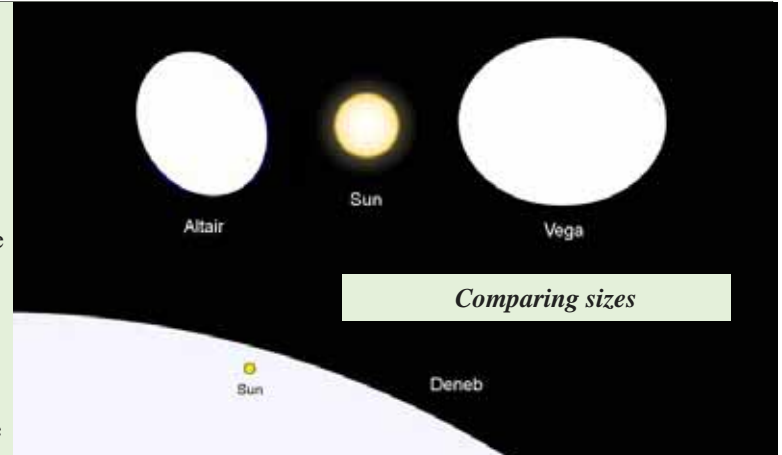
After sunset any night this week face east. The summer triangle is really, really high in the sky.

You should be able to find three stars distinctly standing apart in the sky. When you connect them with lines they form a huge triangle over 30 degrees long and 20 degrees high.

Remember the easy way to measure degrees in the sky? Your fist at arms length is about 10 degrees. See if the summer triangle is two fists high and three fists long. The brightest star of the three, and the one closest to the zenith just after sunset is called Vega.

Vega is a blue-white giant star and this tells us its temperature. Blue is hotter than white which is hotter than yellow. Vega is well over 16,000 degrees Fahrenheit on its surface. Much hotter than our 10,000 degree yellow sun. The second brightest star in the triangle, and the one off to the right, is Altair. Altair is stark white in color with a temperature of over 13,000 Degrees Fahrenheit. And the faintest of the three, over to the left is called Deneb. Deneb is blueish-white - not as blue as Vega, but hotter than Altair. It scorches space with a surface temperature of almost 15,000 degrees.

Each bright star in the summer triangle is part of its own constellation. Vega is part of the constellation Lyra the Harp. The stars make a tiny parallelogram hanging off Vega. In some pictures of Lyra



there's a bird around the harp - since people also called this a vulture.

Altair is the eagle eye of the constellation Aquila the eagle. If you can't see an eagle in those stars, you're not alone. But at least you know where the eye is.

And Deneb is the tail-star of the stellar swan - the constellation Cygnus, an easy one to picture with his body and long, stretched out neck. Cygnus forms a cross shape and is also called the northern cross.

Now let's talk distances. Vega is the brightest of the three stars but is not the closest. That honor goes to Altair who is only 17 light years away from us. With professional telescopes we can actually see that Altair is Spinning rapidly. It spins so fast that it has squished its shape to resemble a blue-white egg.

Vega is the second closest at about 25 light years away. That means the light that you see left Vega 25 years ago. Deneb is not only the farthest of the three, it is perhaps the farthest star you can see with the naked eye. At a whopping 3000 light years away, we can still see it as a bright star. That means Deneb must be humongous. Here is a Side-by-side-by-side comparison of the three summer triangle stars...Deneb dwarfs the other two.

Kick back and relax this week. Enjoy the summer nights and look for the summer triangle. Vega, Altair and Deneb shining high in the Sky Park of Bonaire. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

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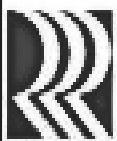
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