

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Oct. 16- Nov. 6, 2017, Year 24, Issue 20
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

Special Edition!
Regatta and More
Pages 8 and 9



The Fishermen Sail Again

Els Kroon Photo

Note: This edition was prepared ahead of the regular Reporter schedule to bring you timely Regatta News.



The Dutch formation party leaders meet with chief negotiator Gerrit Zalm. Photo: Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal

As part of the coalition Dutch Government agreements signed earlier this month The Netherlands will invest in roads, infrastructure and poverty alleviation on the three BES Islands over the next four years. But there is a catch: The Hague requires that the islands must have their "management and their financial management in order." What "in order" means and how much money eventually goes to Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius was not specified. The Minister of Kingdom Affairs will get the job to implement.

The new Dutch government will be made up of 16 ministers – some of whom will share departments – and eight junior ministers, Prime Minister Mark Rutte has confirmed. Rutte is PM for the third time. The three other parties in the cabinet will also appoint one of 'their' ministers as deputy prime ministers.

The VVD will have six ministers; D66 and the CDA, four; and ChristenUnie, 2. Three of junior functions – who are not members of the cabinet – will go to the VVD, the CDA and D66 will each have two and ChristenUnie one.

The new team is likely to be presented to the public on October 26, Rutte said.

► **InselAir was true to form when the certification flight of the repaired MD-**



► **On Saturday, October 7, Dive Friends Bonaire hosted another Quarterly Clean Up Dive, this time at the South Pier.** As usual a wide assortment of trashy items were removed from the bottom. At 6pm the items were counted and logged for the PADI Project AWARE Dive Against Debris. A BBQ at the Dive Friends Hamlet Oasis location followed the dive.

If you are interested in helping with another clean-up project for the eastern coastline, please visit www.debrisfreebonaire.com for more information.

80 jet was delayed last week. The plane finally passed, a day late. For the last months InselAir has been operating between the ABC islands and Sint Maarten (SXM) with a Fokker 50 propeller aircraft. The MD, with 145 seats, operates daily flights on the route Curacao – St Maarten. The flight leaves Curacao at 09:15 and arrives in St Maarten at 10:45. The return flight leaves Sint Maarten at 11:45 and arrives in Curacao at 13:15. At least those are the scheduled times.

WinAir also is flying the route with a jet.

► **Aruba Airlines starts flying AUA-CUR on October 23,** with flights running from 7am to 7 pm. **There is still no BONAIRE-AUA non-stop service.** It appears to be an unfilled niche in inter-island air travel.

► **Travelers who travel to/from Amsterdam with TUI Air now get a free meal,** a free snack and soft drinks that previously cost extra. Plus there is free access to the Inflight Entertainment System (via main-screen or personal) on all flights. TUI fly-tested the new concept on flights from Amsterdam to Zanzibar at the end of 2016. Arjan Kers, General Manager TUI Netherlands, said, "The results of the pilot were extremely positive."

► **The Tax Man does have a heart.** The BES Island Tax Office said it will exercise leniency for both businesses and individu-

als when it comes to assessment and objection procedures and the collection of taxes from tax payers affected by the hurricanes on Saba and St. Eustatius. It will be handled on a case-by-case basis, since not everyone is affected to the same extent.

Tax payers who believe that they are eligible for an individual arrangement can visit the tax office building on Saba or St. Eustatius



► **Want to learn the ins and outs of video production, graphic design or social media marketing?** The InFamous workshops are back. In just five weeks you learn all the ins and outs of video production, graphic design or social media marketing. Sign up now for one of the workshops. Mail to cursussen@infamousproductions.com. Workshop social media marketing starts October 24; the graphic design starts November 7; and media basics starts November 20. See their Facebook page for more info. ■ *G.D./L.D. Apologies for the incorrect date on the cover and footer of the last edition.*

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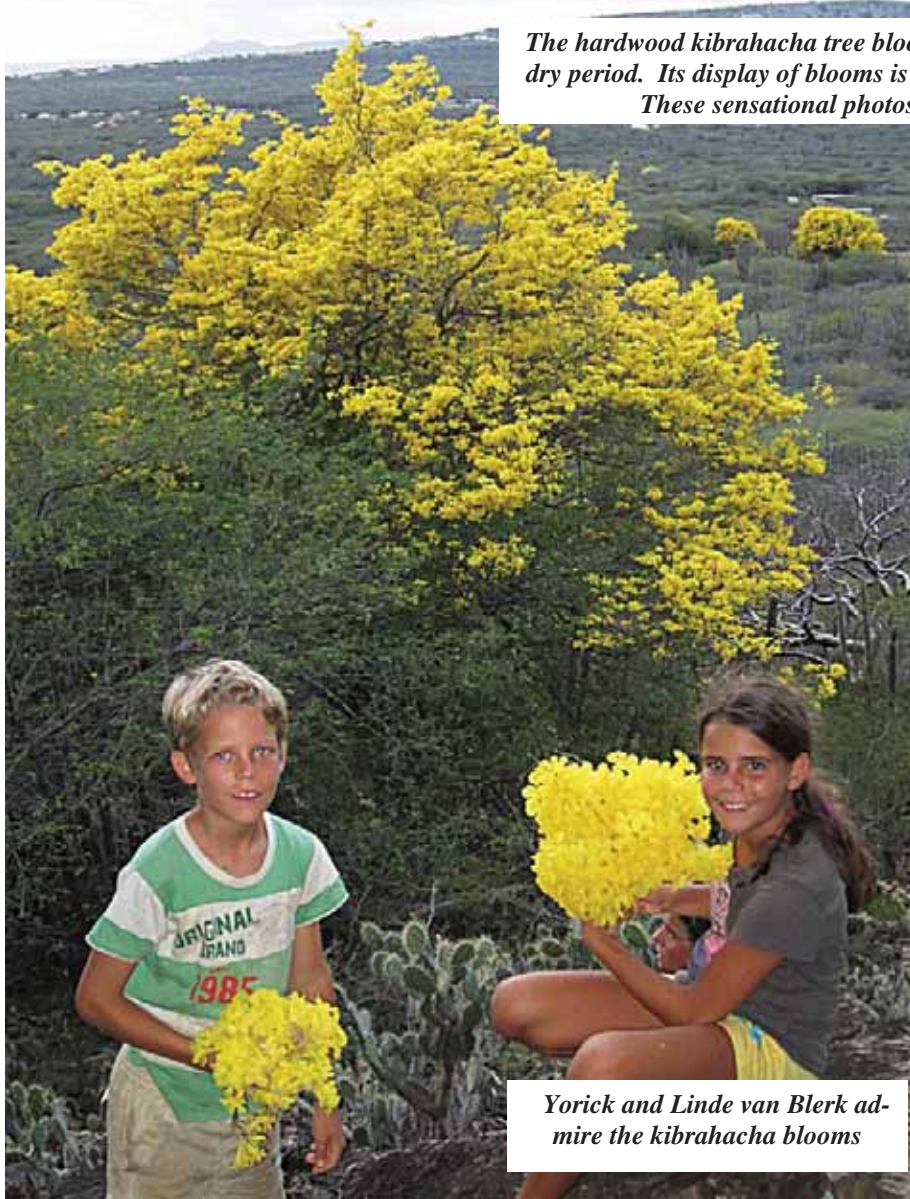
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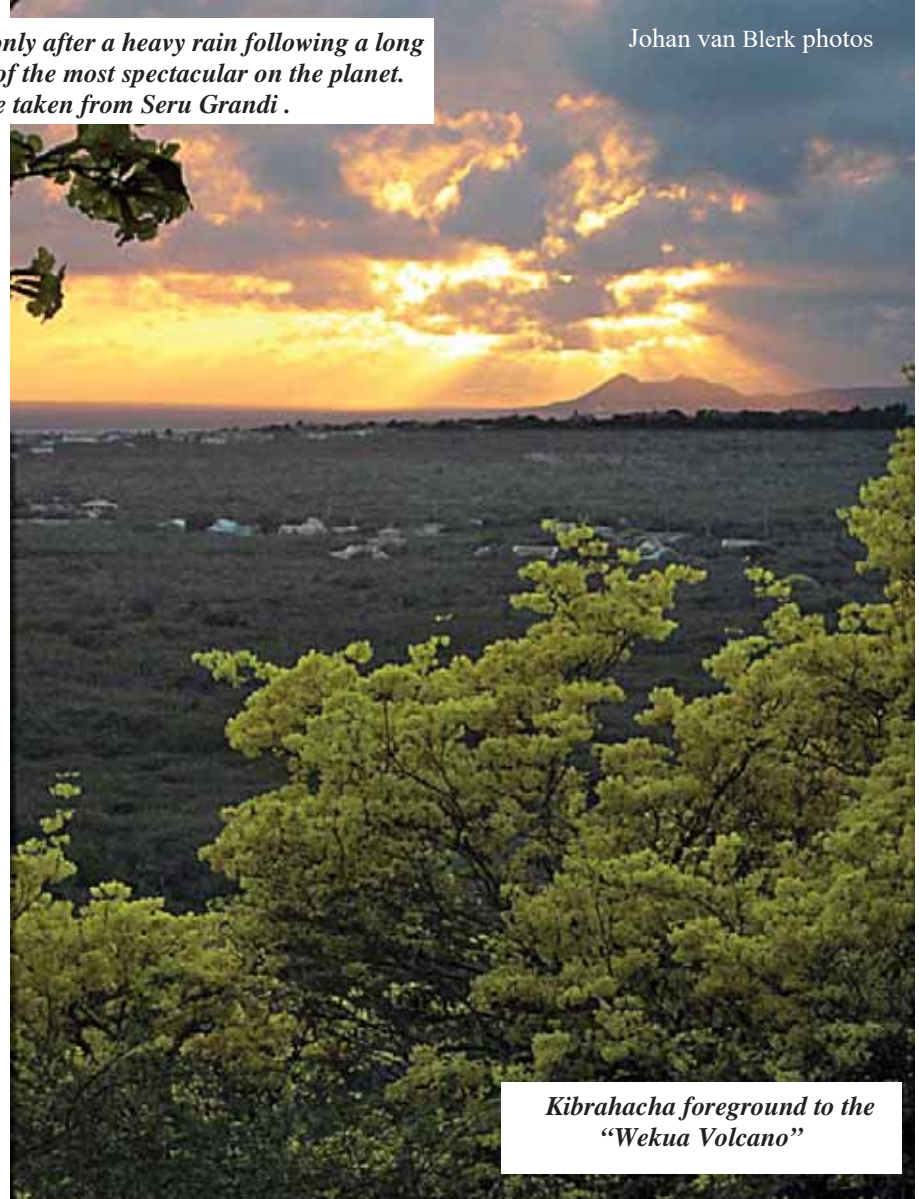


The Unique Beauty of Bonaire



The hardwood kibrachacha tree blooms only after a heavy rain following a long dry period. Its display of blooms is one of the most spectacular on the planet. These sensational photos were taken from Seru Grandi .

Yorick and Linde van Blerk admire the kibrachacha blooms



Johan van Blerk photos

Kibrachacha foreground to the "Wekua Volcano"

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BOPEC Fire Aftermath



Internet photo

On Thursday, September 9, 2010, lightning was suspected to have ignited a fire in a naphtha storage tank at Bonaire Petroleum Company's tank farm on Bonaire's northwest coast.

The fire burned for three days. It was only brought under control 55 hours after the blaze started.

The wind was almost calm which helped contain the blaze but allowed the smoke clouds to concentrate and drift eastward over Bonaire's Washington National Park and adjacent green areas. The environmental damage was monitored for five years.

The Dutch Investigation Council for Safety reviewed details of the disaster on request of then Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé. He deems the action justified in view of the impact of the fire. "I decided to call in the council, as it is independent and operates according to procedures determined in advance. It is crucial that nobody can meddle with the findings of the investigation."

The investigation determined the cause of the fire was a lightning strike as presumed. The absence of sufficient fire-fighting products and equipment resulted in further extensive damage and danger to people and property.

It is hard to see the effects of the fire today. After an absence of three years flamingoes have returned to the Goto lake. Vegetation and animal life appear as before. The traces of soot and nasty fire-fighting chemicals are undetectable. And there is better fire-fighting capability at BOPEC. ■ G.D.

Back In 2013

Downwind from the BOPEC Fire

Special to the Bonaire Reporter by Don M. Ricks

"Standing only 500 meters directly uphill from the BOPEC fire, I was witnessing perhaps the most spectacular sight of my life. And I had left home without my camera.

At that time the fire had been burning for 12 hours and was still roaring like a blast furnace, despite a futile stream of water arching through the air and disappearing into the blaze. Later there would be speculation about bringing in foam and helicopters and other fire fighting equipment. But one thing would have been obvious to anyone standing where I was at that time. This fire had to burn itself out. Nothing would be able to get near enough, with sufficient impact, to extinguish it.

Rain was coming down steadily, a fact far more important to the island than it seemed at the time. A day later, after the skies cleared and we watched the heavy plume of smoke rise high in the air, everyone was relieved to see it drift off to the west to disperse elsewhere. But that first night and the next day the rain poured, driving down an oily soot with it. I've heard that soot has shown up at many sites on Bonaire. Where we live near Playa Frans, directly downwind from BOPEC, it coated everything.

What seemed to be the short term impact on the environment? Well, the local donkeys turned from sort of white to distinctly grey. Now the iguanas that skitter across the road near the BOPEC gate are black. Pools of dark water still span the road immediately above BOPEC. A person touching any vegetation—when pulling weeds for instance—ends up with smudged hands. The rainwater that streamed over the cliff into the sea was coal black, with who knows what effect on the marine environment.

On the other hand, we've observed no



The fire still flamed 36 hours later

signs of death. The birds are still signing. The native trees, shrubs and weeds, responding to the heavy recent rains, are thriving. Mushrooms of various shapes, sizes and colors are colonizing the bush. Whatever the longer term effects may be, none are presently apparent to us laypersons.

Regarding our "personal environment," we're still living with results of the smoke. We can now pet our cats without having to wash our hands afterward, but the floor under our feet stills feels gritty, even after repeated cleanings. A light coat of soot still coats the bottom of the cistern, despite two drainings and scrubbing. Streaks run down the walls of the buildings where the dirty water drained off the roof. A washer load of clothes that was hanging on the line at the time is of no further use except for one dress. It was black when Barbara bought it. ■

Don M. Ricks

What Bonaire Doesn't Have and Doesn't Want

On Feb. 9, 1996, Port

Call (previous name of Bonaire Reporter), asked its readers to list "What Bonaire Doesn't Have and Doesn't Want" Contest – Many of the entries had a message: The relatively unspoiled Bonaire environment must be preserved, protected and improved. Several focused on the negative impact of the automobile on the island Here are some: How many of these do we HAVE today? Would we be better off without them?

- 24 hour Convenience Stores,
- Six lanes of Anything,
- Advertising From Planes,
- Bridge To Klein Bonaire,
- Commuter Traffic,
- Gun Shops,
- Hurricanes,
- Iguana Farm,
- Jetski Rentals,
- Marineland,
- McDonalds,
- Parking Meters,
- Parasailing,
- Refineries,
- Separate Sales Tax,
- Segregation,
- Spearfishing, lionfish eradication OK
- Steel Mill,
- Stoplights,
- Subways,
- The Marlboro Man,
- Topless Bars,
- Traffic Lights,
- and Turtle Soup.

What are you ideas for more of the things we DON'T want on Bonaire? Let us start with a few:

- A spaceport
- A Megapier ;;;

And how about things we DO want?

- Ideas like:
- Smooth roads
- Harbor Cargo Crane ...
- Send in your ideas. We'll publish and award a delicious Pasa Bon pizza to the best entries.. ■ G.D.

Email entries to George@bonairenews.com



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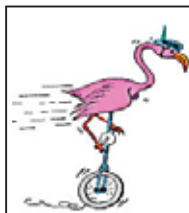
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On the Island Since... 2015 – Tsidi Morobe

“I was found in a basket in Lesotho, South Africa, by the nurses of a nearby hospital, who were on lunch break. They took me to the hospital and when I was three months old I was adopted.

My parents came from Holland, but my adoptive father is from the same region in South Africa as where I was found. My adoptive mother is Dutch. She’s a gynecologist. They were vacationing in South Africa when my mom heard about me through a colleague who worked at the hospital where I was. So they made the decision, extended their vacation, adopted me and took me to Holland. I have one sister, who is three years older.

My father was so tough on us that by the age of seven I didn’t want to live with him anymore, but I had no choice. When I was 13, puberty hit hard and it became difficult at home. I moved in with a girlfriend of mine and her parents. At 14 I was a drug dealer. That same year I was placed in a home where it went from bad to worse. About a year and a half later I could leave, with the proviso that I moved in with my parents again. They had to take me back and forth to school, otherwise I would disappear. I used a lot of drugs and alcohol and lived in a haze, but I finished school and obtained my diploma. For two years I worked as a cook in a two-star restaurant, but speed, ecstasy, weed and alcohol were always there.

Then I went to Cologne, Germany, where I got a job as a bartender. I ended up in a downward spiral. I started using ‘Special-K’, ketamine, an anesthetic used for elephants, which says enough. I got into a relationship with someone who was on heroin and then, one day, I asked my partner to make a choice: heroin or me - and the heroin won. I was ravaged, packed my stuff and left for Holland.

Because of my past in the drug scene, I didn’t feel safe in Holland so I decided to go to Berlin, Germany. Berlin was another category; crystal meth was the norm. I worked in discotheques which would open Friday night at 11 through Sunday evening at 7. There I had my first psychotic experience. I got into a relationship, but in the end my partner told me to go and start working



Tsidi Morobe

on myself. So, after five years in Berlin, I left for Holland, alone again.

For a year I lived and worked in Amsterdam until I decided it was time to go back to school and I moved to The Hague. I wanted to study tourism, but in the end it was high school all over again, except from the fact that by that time I was 27. I realized I’d never been clean or sober at school. And that it was always somebody else’s fault. It all started with my father being so extremely hard on us that it was practically unbearable for me as a child, but now I realize that he himself had had a terrible childhood.

Eventually my parents divorced and my father went back to Johannesburg, South Africa. Now he’s back in Amsterdam, but when I met him three years ago, for the very first time after not having spoken to him in 14 years, I saw the deep lines in his face and my anger disappeared and all I felt was compassion.

Well, my tourist education wasn’t successful, but I found a steady job in a music eatery where I worked for nine years. Working late nights in the hospitality industry equals cocaine. I got deep into debt. I didn’t pay my bills anymore. Bailiffs knocked on my door and I became a shadow. I was still living in the luxurious apartment that I owned in a fancy part of The Hague, but I had no idea how long I could keep it. I attempted suicide and ended up at the hospital. When I came out of the hospital I talked to psychologists, but there wasn’t a real follow-up to it. Three months later I was back at the intensive care after my second suicide attempt.

Then a friend of mine, who was also using and who had been going for two months to AA/CA meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous/Cocaine Anonymous), invited me to come to a meeting with her. I’d moved in with my mom and her girlfriend because I

couldn’t be alone. So, my friend, my mom and her girlfriend and I went together to my first CA meeting. And then and there I found out what addiction is about, because, to be honest, I didn’t have a clue.

I thought an addict was a person lying under a bridge with a couple of needles in his arm, but there they were, all these people together, telling stories in which I could find myself completely. And I heard about clinics and I knew I had to be there. I knew I had to be ripped from my environment to be able to reprogram myself. I was admitted to the clinic and I stayed for nine weeks, but I was allowed to go out to AA/CA meetings three to four times a week. I kept my job because I was on sick leave. After those nine weeks I went to live with my mom again while I started cleaning the mess in my apartment. Also, I was re-socializing myself which was hard because I worked in an eatery/music café and the first thing you learn at the clinic and the meetings is total abstinence of all drugs, other narcotics and alcohol.

But I wouldn’t be me if I couldn’t continue working in the restaurant business – it’s what I am good at and what I like! Slowly but surely I built up my job again and twice a week I went to a meeting. Little by little my life was coming together. I was in a voluntary financial man-

“To admit that you’re an addict and that you need help is often still a taboo on the island”

agement plan, living on 50 euros per week, while I was paying off my debts. The meetings kept me going, because it was only there where I could share with people who went - or were still going - through the same experiences. I did not have to do it alone.

All that time I told myself ‘when I’ve paid off my debts I’m gone,’ and when the time came I left for Bonaire, which I’d heard of through friends. I was 34.

I felt very much at home. Although I’d lived in cities all my life, I found out that the tranquility of a small town does it for me. Everything fell into place. But... there were no meetings held here. Luckily I saw a message on FB from a lady who was looking for people who needed an AA/CA meeting. The first meeting we were five people. From then on we continued once a week on Wednesdays from 7 to



Tsidi Morobe shows the 12 steps

8:30pm at Bonaire Basics on Kaya Korona #47, next to the Krusada day care center. The number of participants varies because we also have tourists and people who live here part-time.

though every day is still a struggle, by not drinking or doing drugs I choose for life, not for death. However, nobody can do it for you.

You have to make the choice. The first step is to admit you are an addict and that your life has become unmanageable. If you can find yourself in that, then it would be a good idea to attend a meeting. To me, the people who come to the meeting every week are the winners. They choose for life, every day again, one day at the time.

I wanted to share my story because it’s a message of hope, and we say ‘To keep what you’ve got, you must give it away.’ That’s why this interview.

And then there is Bonaire: nature, tranquility, a gorgeous sunset, precious people and freedom – life.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



For more info: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

Also see page 12, column 2, bottom in *What’s Happening*

Smelly Business

During the turtle nesting season, which is from May till December on Bonaire, female turtles come ashore at night to find a suitable spot for their eggs. What I do is monitor the beaches in the morning to try and find signs of nesting activity, such as crawls and body pits.

Since we nest watchers do not search for eggs right away, we are not able to tell if these crawls resulted in a nest. That's why we excavate the nesting attempts after sufficient time has passed for the eggs, if any, to hatch. The fun part of this job is to try and find these attempts back after two months to see if any signs of hatching. Dead hatchlings near crab holes, eggshells at the surface and hatchling tracks easily reveal the presence of a turtle nest.

I decided to excavate a suspected nest. The position of this nest was revealed by hatchling tracks that I saw two weeks ago. This part of the job can be heartbreaking, joyful and usually pretty smelly... It started out very enthusiastically: I started digging with a giant smile on my face! When you start excavating you always hope for a good nest. A good nest means a nest with a lot of hatched shells and very little non-hatched shells (closed eggs). Unfortunately this time we had to deal with a very unlucky nest. In total, 70 non-hatched eggs and 77 hatched shells were dug up. Usually I always enjoy excavations a lot, but not this time. The non-hatched shells were covered with crawling larvae of an unidentified insect species. Most of the non-hatched eggs were also brown and sometimes pink on the outside. When I looked into the hole I saw nothing



but larvae swarming in the sand. All of a sudden every part of my body started to itch. I wonder why? I was strong, tried to ignore all that swarming underneath me and finally excavated all the remnants of the nest.

But now the best part began: opening all the non-hatched eggs. After a while these eggs do not smell that nice anymore either. But hey, I am a real STCB researcher, so, no problem at all. Some eggs are easily opened but some contain pressure. As result, the contents of the egg sprays around and if you are unlucky it will end up right in the middle of your face. I was sweating, getting disgusted with the smell of the contents of the eggs, crawling little insects underneath me, itching everywhere. It's always a guess why some nests are so unlucky. In this case I suspect that plant roots present in the egg chamber contained some type of bacteria. As a result of that the entire nest could have become infected. This infection probably caused the death of the embryos in a very early stage of their development. You'll never guess what I did straight after this excavation. Yes, I jumped in the cool sea. ■

By Saskia Renshoff, a student who worked for the STCB in the early days when the techniques and procedures now commonplace were being developed.

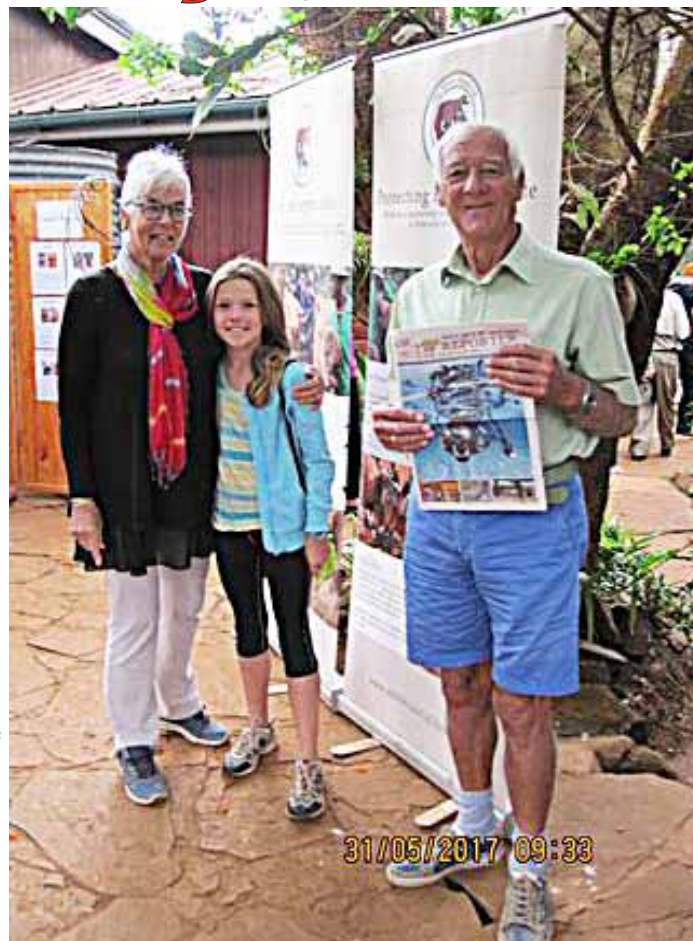
Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Kenya, Africa

Hans and Gea van der Veen,

who are well known and have worked in many jobs on Bonaire after the years, decided to visit Kenya.

They sent us this photo of themselves and their granddaughter, **Ameya.**

The photo was taken at a shelter for baby elephants. The shelter is needed because the elephant's mothers were killed to obtain ivory. ■



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THE POWER OF PILATES

Pilates is a physical fitness program that was developed in the early 20th century by Joseph Pilates. Pilates was formed by Joseph during the First World War with the intention of improving the rehabilitation program for casualties. During this period, Pilates was designed to aid injured soldiers in regaining their health by strengthening, stretching, and stabilizing key muscles.

Joseph preferred fewer, more precise movements, requiring control and technique over increased repetition. He believed that mental and physical health were essential to each other, creating what is a method of total body conditioning. Pilates uses correct alignment, centering, concentration, control, precision, breathing, and flowing movement (the Pilates principles) to establish a perfect working body from the inside out.

Pilates classes build strength, flexibility and lean muscle tone with an emphasis on lengthening the body and aligning the spine, rather than on bulking and shortening the muscles.

Pilates has a focus on the core which can basically be thought of as the 'powerhouse' of your body. Your core is the area between your shoulders and your pelvis (without your arms and legs) and accounts for all the muscles within this

area. The essential intrinsic core muscles are your Transversus Abdominus, Pelvic Floor and Multifidus muscles which we learn to train as part of the Pilates method.

Because of its core focus, Pilates is popular not only in the field of fitness, but also in rehabilitation. It can be used to progress individuals through movements that represent their day-to-day activities. The focus on strengthening the core and improving postural awareness are especially well indicated for the alleviation and prevention of back, neck and joint pain.

What are the benefits?

The benefits that Pilates will provide you are endless. Here are some of the broader benefits for you to get excited about.

During Pilates movements, the focus on strengthening and lengthening the muscles at the same time produces long, lean, strong overall muscle tone that doesn't create bulk. These results are unlike any other type of exercise. So if you feel like you have already tried everything to get the body you want without success, our Pilates will astound you.

You can expect overall slimming, greatly improved flexibility and increased mobility, even in just a short space of time. Alignment and postural correction will have you holding yourself differently,



standing taller, sitting straighter and moving with better balance and coordination.

You will feel an inner strength and heightened body awareness as you become in tune with the subtleties of your individual needs. This newfound enlightenment will empower you to be able to train yourself with the best possible efficiency, using your time most effectively.

It's a time out just for you and a fantastic stress relief. The mind and body connection that you will maintain during your Pilates practice will nudge out all external stresses and the time always flies by.

Pilates isn't the type of workout where you leave feeling tired and disheveled. Instead you will leave with increased energy levels, a clear, focused mindset and a body that feels strong and in control, having been through a challenging workout.

Pilates gives you positive systemic effects on all of your body systems, stimulating and eliminating toxins and waste. You will find improvement to your diges-

tion system including an increased metabolic rate as well as a constant booster to your immune system.

Pilates also provides many more specific benefits for differing populations including improvement to pelvic floor function, bone density improvement and lung capacity/breathing technique improvement amongst many others. ■

Lucinda van der Wardt runs the Food and Vitality Dietitian practice at Bona Bida Health Center.



Feel free to try a Pilates class anytime at: the Bon Bida health centre
Bulevar Gob. N Debrot 74
Wednesday and Friday
from 8-9.00 AM



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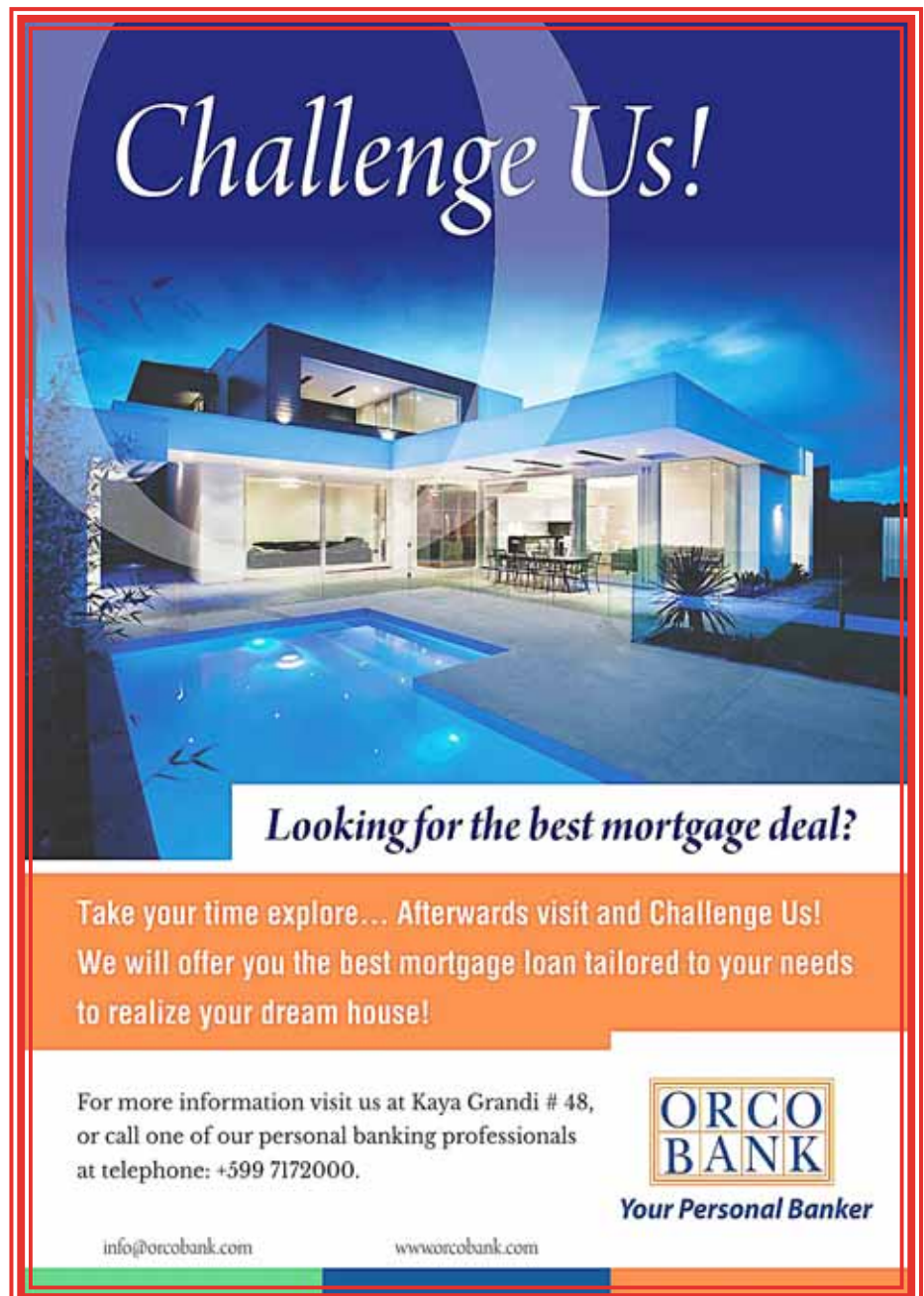
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50th Annual Regatta - Sailing and Entertainment

Light winds at the start followed by good sailing winds, no wind and a few gusts

marked the conditions for this 50th edition of The Bonaire Regatta.

Ashore were countless food stands, small kiosks, kiddie rides, parades, and fabulous evening entertainment. Hype Productions, assisted by sailing specialists, did a fine job keeping everything flowing smoothly. Companion events like a Walk, Swim, Sports Events, Dominos and more are all part of Regatta Week too.

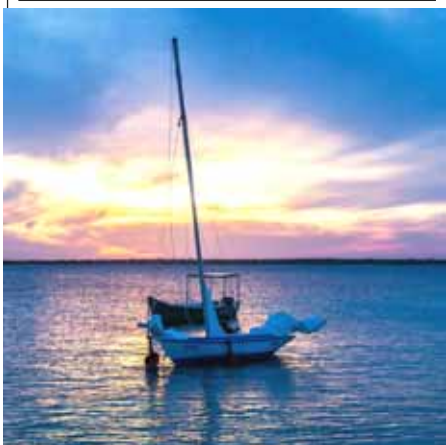
Some of the first Regattas, during the 70s were run out of the Flamingo Beach Resort, then moved the Bonaire Beach (a.k.a. Sunset Beach) Hotel, then to Plaza in 95, 96, 97. Then in 1998 it moved back to Sunset Beach, However, that didn't last long as Sunset Beach Hotel was failing. At last it found a home at Regatta House with the festivities spread out along the Kralendijk waterfront all the way to Wilhelmina Plaza., the HQ for the entertainment.

For the sailors one highlight of the 50th Regatta was the return to competition of the sail fishing boats. Perhaps because of the expense of maintaining these boats they had not sailed for over five years and were rotting away in gardens around the island. Pam Tietel of Budget Marine, Lara Chirino and several others believed these boats should sail in this Anniversary Regatta. About six weeks ago the search began and six hulks were trucked to *Kas di Regatta* (Regatta House) to be rebuilt. After an incredible volunteer effort four boats, *Papagayo*, *Unico*, *Arantsa* and *Brisa* were made fit to sail. The competition was fierce. ■ Text & photos by Els Kroon, L.D. /G. D.

Repair of the traditional sail fishing boats is still underway the Kas di Regatta.

The passion for reviving the fishing boats is not over yet. *Barabas* waits patiently for her restoration. The Class A, big, boat, *Troubadour*, is almost ready and the already restored *Laurita* will hopefully join in for the End of Year Regatta, the first of a continuing series, that it's hoped will keep the class alive

Pam at Budget Marine has advanced money to boatowners for many repairs that she hopes will be covered by donors. Make the donation to the Bonaire Sailing Association- BSSA, MCB Bonaire account number 10626809 earmarked for sailboat restoration.



50th Annual Regatta - Sailing and Entertainment



The 50th edition of the Bonaire International Bonaire Regatta was notable for the return of the traditional sail fishing boats, an increase of sailing participants and exciting evening shows. Fourteen yachts participated in four classes along with a single beach catamaran, 27 optimists, 16 sunfishes, six windsurfers, four fishing boats and three kite surfers. Together with the group of 44 microboats, it brought the **official number of participating boats to 112**, short of a record but more than in recent years. The Sailing Regatta and the Festival ran from Wednesday

through Saturday, instead of the week-long races of the past, but schoolchildren still had the whole week off. Because the original regatta week has been shortened to three days, there was a lot of activity on the water at the same time. Children aboard the Optimist prams tacked back and forth along the promenade. The yachts with billowing spinnakers dueling between Playa and Klein Bonaire. The Sunfish and windsurfers, filled the gaps. The microboats were racing in the shoal water just 100 meters away from Regatta House, in their own world, carefully tended

by their builders. Landlubbers and cruise tourists from the ships in port lined the shore from Wilhelmina Park to Bluewater Apartments. The Regatta program officially began following the All Nations Parade, a block-long march of a number of the island's foreign-born residents. People from more than 55 countries call Bonaire home. And many marched bearing the flags of their home countries. Organizer Hype Events, who are coordinating Regatta for the third time, puts the focus on the festival and leaves the sailing

events to the experts. They put on the great shows in the evenings and well into the wee hours of the morning. The entertainment was in downtown Wilhelmina Park, and featured a colossal stage with state-of-the-art lighting and sound. On opening night the group Kassav from Guadeloupe used the stage to its utmost during their performance that wowed the large audience. ■

Text and all photos by Els Kroon



Looking Back 20 Years

With the anniversary of Regatta making us nostalgic we've looked back 20 years in our pages. Some say that things change slowly on Bonaire. Judge for yourself **(Current situation in boldface type)**

-Web lowers rates early in 1996 for hotels- only: NAF 22.7 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity and NAF 8.1 per cubic meter of water. **Rates have only gone up since. More expensive and pay in dollars.**



-Six luxury cruise lines will make their initial call, in 1997 thanks to Bonaire Cruise Association (shipping agents, businessmen, TCB, BONHATA, Kralendijk Port Services & Bonaire Tours). Bonaire Shipping Manager Gustowski has two ships a week as his goal. **Perhaps next year as many as 10 much larger ships a week are expected**

- Sales tax is in the works, the room tax is set to rise, surcharges on parcels arriving by sea or air. Prices at gas stations are slightly higher. **Tax still 6% for services but 8% for material.**

-Gas pump shock: prices rose about 10% . Per liter - Unleaded- NAF 1.173; Regular- NAF 1.148; Diesel-NAF 0.453 . **Numbers about the same today... but payable in dollars.**

-Bonaire rated #1 Diving from shore in the world says *Rodales Scuba Diving Magazine*. **Bonaire still #1.**



-The **International Fishing Tournament** will mark Bonaire's first Tag and Release tournament – only required for billfish under 200 lbs. **Still going on and expanded T & R.**

- **The Bonaire Windsurfing Place** opens that year – a partnership of Patun Sarogosa, Elvis "Piskichi" Martinus and Roger's Windsurfing of Aruba. **Thriving along with other operations and kite surfing.**

-Late season cold front causes swells, mild wind reversals and heavy rain, causing beach erosion, smashed private piers in Belnem area and damaged corals on the west side of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. **Keep aware. Whether patterns the same this year.**

-Another English language weekly, *Arco*, by Michiel Bijkerk, begins. **Discontinued after a good run.**



-The big fishing boat *Eagle* to be rebuilt as the first project of the Bonaire Maritime Museum. Construction will begin as soon as the necessary seed money for the project is donated. **The Eagle project never flew. But another bird-named boat, Stormvogel had reconstruction well underway**

-A -Bonaire's new and only movie theatre opens and will show first run movies. **But closed a few years later, We have an nice open air theater/ restaurant now.**

-Internet on Bonaire is very expensive because voice line toll charges apply: because you have to dial-up off island to get an internet connection at \$24 per hour! **Now you can get service for around \$24 per month and it's 1000x faster.**

-Permission was given to dredge and clean out Lagoen. **It never happened.**

-TCB petitions American Airlines to fly to Bonaire. **Popular American Eagle did for several years. Discontinued during a reorganization of the airline.**

-MCB bank introduces free touch-tone baking and bill paying by phone (Telebanking). **An App with lots more than bill pay was introduced last week by MCB,**

-New doctors – resident surgeon Dr. Bender, visiting surgeon from Curacao, Dr. van der Veen, and Dr. Trieste, resident anesthetist. **The hospital has several resident surgeons and performs operations routinely these days.**

- **"Impending Reef Crisis"** position paper by Captain Don Stewart "Bonaire is to reef conservation what Greenwich is to time." But the "fecal leach" from the houses, guesthouses and hotels are affecting our reefs. **It took a while but Bonaire's coastal zone now has a sanitary sewer that sends wastewater off to be treated and used in agriculture.**

-**Tene Bonaire Limpi** President Diana Gevers presents bottle law petition to Lt. Governor Fritz Goedgedrag in front of a



-AKZO-Nobel of Arnhem, the Netherlands, sells its salt operations to US company, Cargill. Cargill still owns it and produces salt while sheltering the flamingoes.

dumpster full of empty bottles October 11, 1996. **Still no ban non-returnable bottle law... but they are being collected for recycling.**

-Buddy Dive opens the island's first drive-through dive tank fill station. **Now days several shops offer drive throughs.**

-Animal Shelter may be shut down due to lack of money. Massive fund raising:

BBQ, Hollywood's Batman appears and boosts the Shelter at party at Club Nautico. **Today there are three animal rescue organizations and the original one is larger and productive.**

-Ferry boat service for Bonaire under discussion. **There was for a while. But sea conditions proved too severe for the boat chosen. No replacement has been found. ■ G.D.**

Penny Lane Exchange

The Fashion Revolution



Penny Lane is on the **second floor** of La Terraza, downtown Kralendijk

Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio's Ice Cream,
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A Garden? Just Do It

PLANTS AND PURSLANE

In a few articles I mentioned the veggy Postelein (Dutch) or Purslane (English). And once again I'd like to talk about it, because I'm really amazed about this plant. It's a vegetable from the old days but it ends up, last in line because of the wide assortment of modern veggies on the market.

A while ago I got one plant from a neighbor. I remembered this plant in our yard in Surinam from when I was a child. There were a lot of them, always with tiny purple flowers. My mom used to pick the leaves and wok them together with spinach. So when I saw this plant at my neighbor's it brought me back to my childhood, so I asked if I could have one.

Soon after that I got some little baby plants from this plant. I let them grow and now the whole yard is full of them. This goes so fast. I'm amazed at how many seeds these little purple flowers contain and how easily they grow in Bonairean soil. Later I found out that the flowers come in yellow, pink and salmon colors.

I don't mind that my yard is covered with this plant. It's a very strong plant, a healthy vegetable, a nightshade, sister of spinach, full of magnesium and used a lot in the old days. Magnesium is one of the most important minerals for our bones, so I eat my own natural grown postelein at least once a week. Good to know that iguanas do not eat it, doesn't need much water and it can stand the hot sun. But now there are too many so I share with others. I give postelein plants and I get other things like fruit, goat manure and other plants. That's one of the nice things about gardening. Give and get. Now I not only have a garden full of postelein but also a garden full of friends and always garden talks where I learn a lot.

Oh, once I got a very special gift from my friend Stephanie. We used to share a lot of ideas about gardening. Not long ago we met on the street and of course started talking about plants. She told me that she makes a repellent like deet against mosquitoes from neem leaves and it works perfectly. No chemical in it, just pure nature. She is selling this insect repellent. She gave me one to try out. I did, and you know what, it's a blessing. No more mosquitoes, limbe-limbe and mimpiri on my body. Thanks, Stephanie.

It's happened many times that when I plant certain seeds in pots and cups that they don't come up. So once a while I collect all the dirt from those cups and pots and re-use them again. Then suddenly I see all kinds of plants growing from which I thought the seeds were gone. Then I'm amazed about nature's strength and wonders. Certain seeds can wait for a long time until the perfect condition to start growing. I noticed that often when I turn the soil, add new dirt, or something like that, old seeds start growing.

So you should know what you plant and where. I do that with used plastic spoons. I just write the name on the back of the spoon and put it in the cup. Plastic spoons



Purslane / Postelein growing in pots



Purslane close-up. Once you plant it in your yard it may spread like a weed. Indeed some gardeners consider it a weed.



Plastic spoons as plant markers

are the best for this.

Once I forgot what I had in a pot. And for a long time nothing was growing there. One day I was collecting tajeblad (Surinam vegetable), and in that pot was now one leaf like a tajeblad. So I cut a piece to add to my cooking. But when I ate it my mouth started itching. I was wondering what that was but I didn't have an answer. After a while I saw a new leaf in the pot. Then suddenly I remembered that it was not tajeblad I had there but a kind of a root with almost the same leaf as a tajeblad. In this case the root is the edible part, but the leaf is poisonous.

So I learned another lesson. Always label the plants. It can prevent some serious problems! Just do it. ■ Angliet, Nature Lover



DID YOU KNOW?



Leatherback at sea photo: www.miamidiscounttours.com

That leatherback sea turtles visit Bonaire? Leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) are the largest of the sea turtles species and are found throughout the world's oceans. They are threatened with extinction and live and hunt in the open ocean. Although rarely seen near land, the females must come to land to nest. For most people, that is the best chance to see them.

Very rarely, one comes to nest in Bonaire. STINAPA is currently helping Wageningen University with their Dutch Caribbean shark research as part of the 'Save Our Sharks' project, funded by the Nationale Postcode Lotterij and coordinated by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance.

Last week, while hoping to see sharks and rays on the east coast, we filmed a rare visitor - a leatherback turtle - right on the reef! These beautiful turtles reach an average of 1.5 meters in length and 384 kg in weight. They don't have a hard shell like most turtles. Instead their skin is leathery and flexible. This flexibility allows them to dive very deep in search of food - deeper than 1000m! What's hard to believe is that the largest sea turtle species mainly feeds on jellyfish, which are made up of 95% water! How is

that possible? They eat LOTS of jellyfish! Twice their body weight each day!

Leatherbacks sometimes mistake drifting plastic bags with jellyfish and eat them. This is thought to be one of the reasons leatherbacks are threatened with extinction. This is a great reason for us to use reusable bags and to make sure our trash ends up in the trash can or is recycled.

- The largest sea turtles eat jellyfish.
- The largest fish, whale sharks, eat small fish and plankton.
- The largest whales, blue whales, feed mainly on small fish and plankton.
- The largest land mammals, elephants, eat plants.
- The largest organisms eat the smallest ones!

Funny how that works!

■ Written by Caren Eckrich



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What's Happening

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

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA,**

Cruise Ship

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	ARR/DEP	CAP
Mon	23-Oct	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	RCCL
Tues	24-Oct	Monarch	0700-1800	2224	
Sat	28-Oct	Vision of the Sea	0700-1800	3114	RCCL
Tue	31-Oct	Monarch	0700-2200	2224	NCL
Monday	30-Oct	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	RCCL
Monday	30-Oct	Norwegian Jade	0800-1700	3114	NCL
Tuesday	1-Nov	Equinox	0700-1700	2850	CEL'
Wednesday	2-Nov	Regal Princess	0700-1700	3600	Princess
Thursday	3-Nov	Koningsdam	0700-1800	2650	HAL
Monday	6-Nov	Seabourn Odyssey	1000-2000	450	Seabourn

CoDa etc.))

•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 Cochran-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**—Kaya Amsterdam 23, next to KVK. now through October 31. Hours are 9 am-2 pm, 4-8 pm.

Close In Events

Saturdays, Nov. 4 and 18—**Tree Planting by Echo.** Volunteers needed. Story on page 18. See Echo's Facebook page or contact Quirijn Coolen: info@echobonaire.org or 770-4129

November — **Some big cruise ships are heading for Bonaire next month** because their normal ports of call are not available because of hurricane damage: **Carnival Vista – November 4:** Departing Miami on an 8-day cruise to Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. **Carnival Ecstasy – November 5:** Departing Charleston on a 10-day cruise to Aruba, Bonaire, Grand Turk and Princess Cays.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 23	06:12 0.41 ft	09:17 0.39 ft	15:44 0.88 ft			6:26	18:13
Tue 24		00:28 -0.07 ft	06:50 0.42 ft	10:04 0.40 ft	16:22 0.88 ft	6:26	18:12
Wed 25		01:01 -0.08 ft	07:17 0.44 ft	10:52 0.39 ft	16:59 0.88 ft	6:26	18:12
Thu 26		01:32 -0.08 ft	07:40 0.45 ft	11:39 0.38 ft	17:36 0.87 ft	6:27	18:11
Fri 27		02:01 -0.07 ft	08:01 0.47 ft	12:27 0.37 ft	18:13 0.85 ft	6:27	18:11
Sat 28		02:29 -0.05 ft	08:24 0.50 ft	13:18 0.36 ft	18:51 0.81 ft	6:27	18:11
Sun 29		02:56 -0.02 ft	08:49 0.54 ft	14:13 0.34 ft	19:30 0.75 ft	6:27	18:10
Mon 30		03:21 0.01 ft	09:17 0.60 ft	15:15 0.32 ft	20:14 0.67 ft	6:28	18:10
Tue 31		03:46 0.04 ft	09:49 0.67 ft	16:26 0.29 ft	21:02 0.58 ft	6:28	18:10
Wed 01		04:11 0.08 ft	10:25 0.76 ft	17:44 0.24 ft	22:02 0.47 ft	6:28	18:09
Thu 02		04:37 0.11 ft	11:07 0.85 ft	19:05 0.17 ft	23:18 0.37 ft	6:28	18:09
Fri 03		05:08 0.14 ft	11:53 0.94 ft	20:20 0.07 ft		6:29	18:09
Sat 04	00:50 0.31 ft	05:45 0.18 ft	12:42 1.03 ft	21:25 -0.04 ft	Full Moon	6:29	18:09
Sun 05	02:27 0.28 ft	06:33 0.21 ft	13:35 1.10 ft	22:21 -0.13 ft		6:29	18:08
Mon 06	03:49 0.30 ft	07:36 0.24 ft	14:29 1.15 ft	23:12 -0.21 ft		6:30	18:08



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ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

SUCCESS STORIES



Uma, previous long-term resident of the Shelter

While every adoption is cause for celebration at Animal Shelter Bonaire, the adoption of a long term resident is even more gratifying and special. In the past few weeks, three of our long term residents finally found their "fur-ever" homes. Here are their stories.

UMA

Sweet Uma had been living at the Shelter for about two years, having arrived as a pup at the age of four months. Because she was a very shy and sensitive dog, she remained living in the "puppy kennel" with the younger dogs during those two years, waiting for her knight in shining armor. One day her hero arrived, in the

form of Aart....a dedicated volunteer whose regular task is cleaning and caring for the puppy kennel. Over many weeks Aart and Uma bonded and Aart realized how special Uma was. He and his wife Cobi decided that Uma was meant to share their home. Thank you, Aart and Cobi for making a wonderful life for Uma!

KATIE

Katie and her sister arrived as puppies well over a year ago, both playful and full of energy. Katie's sister was quickly adopted and Katie eventually "graduated" from the puppy kennel to one of the adult



Katie with the friendly smile

kennels. She remained a loving and energetic dog, affectionate and very appreciative of human interaction. Katie patiently waited for her turn to find her special human family. Ilse and Martin came to the Shelter looking for that special dog to share their home and easily mingle with the guests at their tourist accommodations. Katie's big smile and friendly demeanor was finally noticed and appreciated and she now enjoys the "good life." Thank you Ilse and Martin for opening your hearts to Katie!

ROXY



Roxy - Ex Pet of the Week

Beautiful Roxy arrived at the Shelter two and a half years ago with her mom Rachel, brother Rambo and sister Ruby. The kittens were barely 3 weeks old at that time. Over the years, Rachel, Ruby and Rambo eventually achieved the dream of a "fur-ever" home but Roxy remained at the Shelter. Roxy is sweet and affectionate and extremely photogenic, always "posing" for photos. She was Pet of the Week on more than one occasion but it seems it took some time for her to find her human "soulmate." Just a few weeks ago Asha and Roxy met and the search was over. Roxy is now perpetually posing and playing in her own loving home. Thank you, Asha, for giving Roxy the life she deserves. ■

Story by Jane Madden Disko—
Photos:: Cobi and Aart, Ilse and Martin, Asha

Pet Of The Week



Mik

MISS PURR-SONALITY PLUS

Meet little Helena....a kitten who has it all...looks and personality! Helena is about 10 to 12 weeks old and is one of the most beloved of the kittens currently residing at Animal Shelter Bonaire. Her calico/tabby markings are unusual and distinctive....including an adorable spotted belly. Adding to her great looks, Helena's personality is something really special.

She is full of life and always ready for a new adventure. "Attacking the broom" is one of her favorite sports and she does so on her hind legs swatting at the broom like a seasoned pugilist. Although one of the smallest kittens in residence, she has no fear and takes on her larger roommates in their daily rounds of "play-fighting."

Helena also takes the time in her "busy" day to enjoy lap-sitting and affection rewarding her human with a purr as big as her personality. She is healthy, vaccinated and will be sterilized as part of her adoption process when she is old enough. If you are looking for a feline companion to fill your day with laughter and joy, please come and meet Helena...Miss Purr-sonality Plus! Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26 is open Tuesday through Friday, 9am to noon and 3 to 5 pm. Saturdays 8 am to 3 pm nonstop. [717-4989/701/4989](tel:717-4989701). ■ Story by Jane Madden Disko, photo Luvinia Rodriguez

Plant A Tree- Save A Parrot



Echo is planting our native trees to rehabilitate the natural ecosystem of Bonaire and to help the local Lora (Yellow-Shouldered Amazon parrot) get more food and a better habitat. We are planting native trees in fenced-in areas spread out across Bonaire. This is a project funded by Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, the Island Government.

The goal of this project is to establish 10 one-hectare (2.5 acres) fenced areas

with a total of around 20,000 trees. Echo has fenced off seven of these areas already and will be planting more trees in the coming months. We need your help to plan these. The first tree planting was on October 21. **The next tree planting days will be on November 4 and 18 . More information on Echo's Facebook page. Email or call Quirijn Coolen info@echobonaire.org, 770-4129.. ■ Press release**

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How to Look Back in Time Over Two Million Years Ago

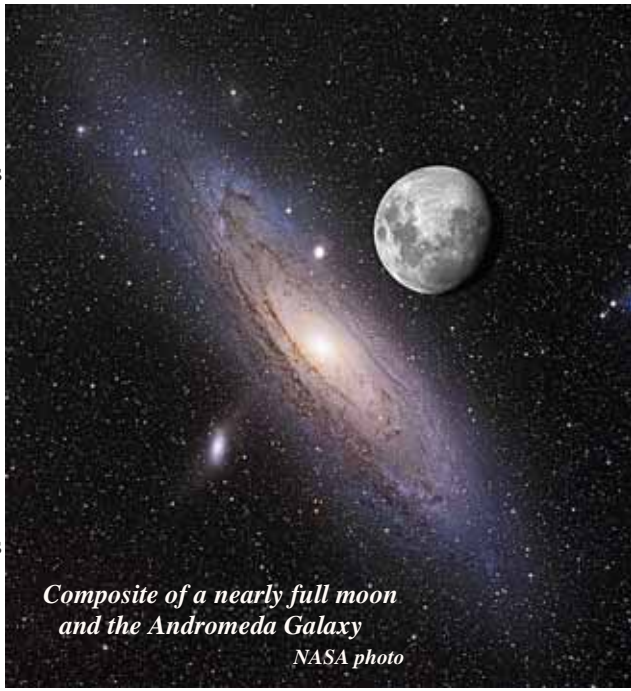
Greetings, greetings fellow star gazers. You know, everyone is fascinated with the concept of time travel, and although actually going back in time is just a thing of science fiction, you actually can look back in time and see things as they existed long ago.

Go out on any moonless night in the Sky Park between 8 and 10 pm, which means that this week and next week are very good because there'll

be no moonlight in early evening. And make sure you're some place where it's really dark out, away from Kralendijk lights. First look almost overhead and you'll see four stars which if you could connect with lines trace out a square. It's called the **Great Square of Pegasus, the winged horse**, and marks the main part of his body. Next look north for five bright stars which if you connect with lines will look like a squashed out letter "M." This is the constellation, **Cassiopeia the Queen**. Finally take the brightest star in Cassiopeia and draw a line straight up to the brightest star of Pegasus' square. Then if you look about two thirds of the way up that line from Cassiopeia you will see a tiny faint cloud which through a pair of binoculars will look even more cloudlike but which isn't a cloud at all.

In fact it is the most distant object we can see in the universe with the naked eye, so far away that we have to measure its distance in terms of the **speed of light**. Now we all know that light is the fastest moving thing in the universe and that it travels at the speed of **186,000 miles per second**. Since our **Moon** is about 250,000 miles away it takes its light about 1 1/3 seconds to reach us. So in reality we always see the Moon not as it exists now but as it existed 1 1/3 seconds ago. Our **Sun** on the other hand is 93 million miles away, so far away that it takes its light 8 1/3 minutes to reach us, which means that we never see the Sun as it exists right now but as it existed 8 1/3 minutes ago. The great **Andromeda** galaxy, however, is something else. Indeed it is so incredibly far away that it takes its light more than 2 1/2 million years to reach us. So when we look at the Andromeda galaxy we actually see it not as it exists now but as it existed 2 and 1/2 million years ago.

Think of it. When you look up at this dim cloud this week and next you are seeing something as it actually existed about the time **Australopithecus, the Lucy creature**, walked on this earth, long before the appearance of modern man, long before any creature on **Earth** learned how to use fire. And what's equally astonishing is if you take a time exposure photograph of this dim cloud through even a good amateur telescope you will see that it is a giant spiral pinwheel of billions of stars, a great galaxy very similar in shape to our own family of stars, the **Milky Way** galaxy, but over two times larger. Wow! So get out this week and travel back in time. It's easy, it's fun, it's science, it's real. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



Composite of a nearly full moon and the Andromeda Galaxy
NASA photo



THE STARS HAVE IT

Late October 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Outbursts of passion may cause arguments with your mate. Visit friends or relatives you don't get to see very often. A new you could help your attitude. You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Unexpected bills may set you back. Don't let siblings put pressure on you. Find ways to make extra cash. Start making things or reusing rather than buying ready made. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You should be able to tie up loose ends this month. Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be accident prone if you aren't careful this month. Don't press your luck with your loved ones. You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends or relatives if you wish to avoid any hassles. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information.

Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Your temper may erupt if you have allowed others to cost you too much money. Younger relatives may seek your advice. False information from someone trying to start problems is likely. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Concentrate on your job. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score. You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will get upset over trivial matters. Find a way to consolidate. So smile! Don't bang your head against a wall. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may find yourself mixed up in a triangle of sorts. Just be yourself. Uncertainties about your living arrangements may be unnerving. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. You can prosper if you invest in property or mutual funds. Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Residential moves will be in your best interest. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Put your energy into learning new skills or picking up valuable information. Past partners are likely to reappear. Think twice before you speak. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. □

Michael Thiessen



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