

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** Dec. 18- Jan. 1, 2018, Year 24, Issue 24  
**The REPORTER**



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**35 Years of Service  
Rocargo  
Page 7**

**Rocargo's Marisela and Robbie Croes (center) with sons,  
Jonathan and Robbie Jr.**





**As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Curvin George will be the acting island governor of Bonaire, for one year.** During the absence of the island governor, the acting island governor will mainly focus on the progress and continuity of decision-making processes within the Executive Council and the Island Council.

Curvin George has extensive managerial and administrative experience in the Caribbean Netherlands. As director of the Guardianship Council of the Caribbean Netherlands, Mr. George contributed to the developments in the field of care for the youth and organizational development. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Mr. George will also be Director of Youth Care and Family Supervision of the Caribbean Netherlands. He will fulfill the position of acting island governor in addition to his regular duties.

**Want to get some facts about Bonaire?** The Central Bureau of Statistics "Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2017" is out. Some of the items inside:

- ◆ "On 1st of January 2017, there were 24,439 people living in the Caribbean Netherlands." "Bonaire's population was around 19,200 people."
- ◆ "Since January 2011, the population has increased by more than 22% or 3,500 people."
- ◆ "About 39% of the residents were born on Bonaire, while 18% were born on Curaçao; Just 3% were born on Aruba; 14% came from the European part of the Netherlands and 20% were natives of South or Central America. The remaining 6% came from a variety of countries."

This and a wide range of useful statistics on local society, economy and more are included in the new CBS publication that was published last week. The publication

is electronically available through this link:

<https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/publication/2017/50/trends-in-the-caribbean-netherlands-2017>. Free paper copies will soon be available at the CBS office on Bonaire. For questions go to Facebook (statistiekCBS.cn) or e-mail: caribischnederland@cbs.nl

► **A group of former employees is angry with Insel Air** because it still has not paid their severance pay. According to the morning newspaper *Extra*, the airline does not have any money in cash. Insel Air had pledged to pay the compensation before December 31st. Meanwhile Insel Air has been serving the Bonaire – Curacao route with good reliability.



► **Divi Divi Air is getting closer to serving Bonaire with its DHC-6 Twin-Otter aircraft.** Ground crew at Flamingo Airport received training last week and the aircraft registered as PJ-DVD has received the air-worthiness certificate from the Civil Aviation Authority of Curaçao. The airline is popular with local people because of its punctuality and reliability.

The 19-passenger Twin-Otter will augment the current 8-passenger Norman Islander planes. Additionally Divi Divi plans to resume regular flights to Aruba.

► **Vidanova Pension Fund announced the signing of a definitive agreement to buy the assets and business of the ENNIA branch in Bonaire.** Vidanova is a tax exempt private and open, multi-employer collective pension fund foundation based in Curacao.

The purchase, which represents 3% of the total assets of ENNIA, include Banco di Caribe, ENNIA Leven NV and ENNIA Schade NV in Bonaire. The transaction requires the approval of regulators, and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2018.



► **Last Wednesday at Jong Bonaire, the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) together with Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) organized the 8th "Christmas Holiday Gift Project."** The captain and his crew members from the cruise ship *Royal Princess* brought 200 gifts that were given to 200 kids here on the island. The selection of the kids was made in the schools together with RCN/OCW.

Tony Angila, from Panchito, and Santa Claus came with the crew members and gave out the gifts to the kids. Maurice Adriaens, Director of TCB, welcomed all the kids and thanked each and everyone who helped in this project. A special thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors: Jong Bonaire, RCN/OCW, Tony Angila, Rent-o-Fun and TCB.

► **On Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, around 11:30 am, there was a loud blast at the waterfront Wilhelmina Park.** It's speculated that a large firecracker was probably thrown from the nearby cruise ship into the crowd of tourists at the Cruise Market. An Indian couple was injured, and a European woman received a severely injured hand. The woman was taken by the ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment. The investigation is under way. People who know or have seen something of this event are asked to contact the police via 717-8000, 715-8000 or via the anonymous tip line 717-7251.

► **The selection process has begun for the Bonaire team which will participate in the "Taste of the Caribbean 2018"** to be held in Miami, June 22-26, 2018. Last Saturday island chefs and bartenders attended an orientation meeting hosted by Team Manager Floris van Loo at Rum Runners restaurant. Going for the Gold!

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# MULTISHOP

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► **The billboard at the entrance to the neighborhood of North Salinja is advertising alcoholic beverages again.** Last month community leaders spoke out against this type of advertising as detrimental to the health of its people. It was removed... for a while, but now it's back pushing another brand of booze. If you agree complain and boycott any products advertised.

► An alleged crackdown on graft in Venezuela, seen by critics as an effort by President Nicolas Maduro to consolidate power, has sown panic across the country's energy industry and all but paralyzed state-run Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA. The ongoing purge, in which prosecutors have arrested at least 67 executives, now threatens to further harm operations for the OPEC country, which is already producing at near 30-year-lows. See story on next page.

► **Forget on-line shopping. You can find great Christmas gifts on Bonaire.** Many Reporter advertisers offer gift certificates, not only for "things" but also for services like **Bon Bida Spa** memberships and water taxi rides. Boaters will find almost anything from **Budget Marine** desirable and the budget-minded can get top fashion brands at **Penny Lane** at a fraction of their original



cost. A unique children's gift would be a series of dance lessons at the **Industry of Activity** (photo above).

► **Bonaire land line phones still cannot be accessed from the USA.** The problem did not appear to be at the Telbo end. AT&T is unable to pinpoint the cause. Meanwhile businesses with the 717/715 exchange code are having to call their clients in the USA since they cannot receive calls.

► Be sure to enjoy **Bonaire's Christmas lights** especially on the homes along Niki-boko South.

► **The Classical Music Board Bonaire writes: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Christmas concert of the Classical Music Board Bonaire cannot take place this year.** We regret this very much. Instead, a New Year's concert will be organized on Friday, January 26, 2018.

This concert is a bridge between classical music and Bonairean island culture. It is a special evening for the enthusiast and for the curious novice classic listener. We hope that this special concert will be visited by many." ■ G./L. D

# The Future of Our Tourism?

**B**onaire's recently published 106-page (plus addendum) Strategic Plan For Tourism presents a 10-year strategy to increase "stay-over" tourist arrivals from a current level of 140,000 visitors by 60,000 to 200,000 by 2027. That's based on an anticipated 5% annual growth, as experienced in recent years. Cruise tourism is considered as both a driver to increase future stay over visits (55% of cruise ship visitors say they may return) and as source of revenue, for example increasing the head tax from \$5 to \$20 if the number of cruise ship visitors exceed 300,000 annually.

The 60,000 new arrivals, mostly from existing American and European sources, should, according to the experts of the University of Central Florida who helped create the plan, have the potential to convert Bonaire to a high-end destination. That means that at least a third of the new arrivals should be accommodated in 600 "boutique" four-star class lodgings. Presently Bonaire has no four-star hotels.

Along with a \$150 million capital investment more flights from America and Europe are needed to meet this goal to get these additional tourists. To make that happen, according to the Plan, more return on tourism investment must be generated, more flight routes developed, subsidies provided and revenues and marketing support guaranteed.

The Strategic Plan document has far more details, including a critique of the current tourism operations, impact of

**2017-2027**   
**Tourism: Synergizing people & nature for a better tomorrow**  
  
**The Caribbean's 1st Blue Destination**

tourism growth on Bonaire's population and environment.

Several reviewers of the plan take issue with the data the planners used to come up with the Plan, particularly with the fallacy of 140,000 current stay-over visitors and the fractional contribution of tourism to the island's overall income. Did the listed eight PhD authors of the plan take a too academic approach?

Additionally the Plan does not address the ability of the island's port, road and utilities infrastructure, which is barely capable today, to support the predicted growth.

To get the complete Plan download <http://www.tourismbonaire.com/strategic-tourism-plan.pdf>. ■ G.D.

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# MCB Honors

As is traditional during the holiday season MCB-Bonaire honored several island NGOs with contributions. This year the awards, presented by managing Director Leonard Domacassé and Cherethy Kirindongo, went to the Villa Antonia Adult Day Care Center (*Pasadia Villa Antonia*), the Bonaire Youth Football Commission

(*Komishon Futbòl Hubenil Boneriano*) and the Red Cross (*Krus Kòrà*). The ceremony was held at the newly opened Islander Restaurant on the waterfront boulevard and was the culmination of the observance of MCB's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. ■ *Press release/L.D.*



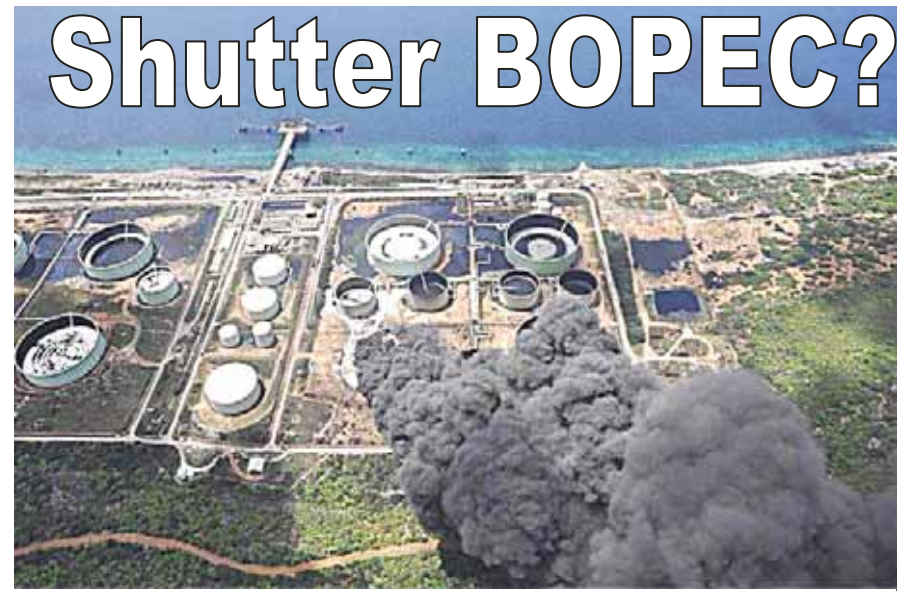
Antonia Adult Day Care Center (*Pasadia Villa Antonia*).



Bonaire Youth Football Commission (*Komishon Futbòl Hubenil Boneriano*)



Red Cross (*Krus Kòrà*),



BOPEC burning (2010)



When the BOPEC piers were built they were among the longest in the world

If the Bonaire Petroleum Corporation N.V. (BOPEC) cannot prove that they can deal with the serious deficiencies at its Bonaire oil terminal by January 5th, 2018, it will be shut down.

BOPEC is the oil storage terminal at Bonaire's northwest corner owned by Venezuela's PDVSA oil company. It was first built in 1974-1975. Now, almost 40 years old, the facility is in urgent need of large-scale renovation.

The rundown sections are extensive and include the entire terminal: the piers, control room, pipelines, electrical systems and the tanks. Leakages of fuel from the pipelines and additional incidents have occurred on several occasions. There was a major fire at BOPEC in 2010 that polluted the countryside for miles around and whose effects are still visible.

The company has had an environmental permit since 2014. The Dutch Environment and Transport Inspectorate, *Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport* (ILT), and *Rijkswaterstaat* (RWS) have carried out inspections and listed deficiencies over the last few years.

However, in order to correct these deficiencies and guarantee safe business operations for both personnel and the environment, significant financial investment is required. But due to the poor financial situation in Venezuela, PDVSA is unable to make any funds available at the moment.

The ILT has given BOPEC until January 5th, 2018, to show that it has sufficient money to implement its own recovery plans. If it cannot, the company will have to empty fuel tanks and pipelines by the end of that month.

If there is no prospect of improve-

ment, the RWS will forbid BOPEC to load or unload fuel from ships beginning May 2018. The situation at BOPEC has no direct consequences for petrol and diesel delivery or for the fuel at the airport. "Closure would also directly affect 350 employees," says BOPEC Director Ethward Manuel: 110 at BOPEC and 240 from subcontractors." He continued, "BOPEC needs \$20 million for repairs now. The total recovery plan costs 140 million dollars. Actually, a whole new terminal has to be built..."

The main problems at BOPEC are caused by the many worn out tanks, rusty product pipelines and dangerous electrical installations. Additional systems urgently require major maintenance as well. A number of large spills and near-accidents have already happened.

The closure of BOPEC would require a different method to supply fuel to Bonaire's Contour Global power plant. In addition to the storage and transshipment of fuel for PDVSA, BOPEC stores the fuel piped to Contour Global for the production of electricity, which is then delivered to the customers by WEB. At the initiative of the Secretariat for Infrastructure and Water Management, a Task Force been working with the Island Governor of Bonaire since November 2017 to anticipate problems and seek short and long term solutions.

The BOPEC terminal and surrounding area is already an environmental disaster area. Environmentalists are concerned that if the site is abandoned a huge amount of money will be required to clean up the pollution and restore the ecosystem. ■ *Press releases/G.D.*

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From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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# On the Island Since... 1985 and 2011 - Omaira Nicolaas



Omaira at work



Welcome to the clinic



The team of the urgent care clinic: left to right: Ana Maciel, Lysienne Piekeur, Omaira Nicolaas and Rein Kuindersma

“I was born on Aruba; my mom is Aruban and my dad is from Bonaire. He’d left Bonaire when he was 13 to get an intern education at Lago, the oil refinery on Aruba, which was very common in those days. He became a technician. At a relatively young age he was sent to Holland for work where he also participated in a special project of the European space shuttle together with the Dutch physicist and astronaut, **Wubbo Ockels**.

My mom went first to Holland with four of my siblings. My dad and one brother and I stayed behind while she was setting up our life there. I went to Holland when I was seven. It was very exciting. My mom came to fetch us and I was delighted to see her and to be together again as a family. We lived in Rotterdam – that house is still there and every time I go to Holland, I pass by – so many memories, so much nostalgia.

After high school I studied to become a beautician and pedicurist – just like my sister **Alda Dirksz** (The Touch Spa) and I also did the Dutch NGS-training in sports massage, a very difficult and comprehensive education.

When I was 22 I moved to Bonaire. Harbor Village had just been finished and they were looking for staff for the spa. Alda was hired as pedicure/manicurist and I was the head masseuse, working together with **Anita** (Fysio di Bario). It was a luxurious spa which was frequented by Bonaire’s high society; great fun! We worked hard, then I got an appraisal interview and subsequently a salary increase of 25 cents. I thought ‘okay, the tips will make up for it’ until I found out that my American colleagues got \$2.50! I got so furious that I resigned on the spot! I talked to **Desiree** (now Seaver) who was the hairdresser at Harbor Village and to Alda and I said, ‘I don’t know what you’re doing, but I’m off!’

We found a location at Kaya Korsou, where I did the massage, Alda the pedicure and manicure and Desiree was the hairdresser. It worked out very well, but I missed Holland and my social contacts tremendously, and because I was hyper and Bonaire was too small for me, I left for Holland after having been here for three years.

In Holland I found a job with the elderly which turned out to be the most beautiful job of my life. I worked in a psychiatric ward with people with dementia and Alzheimer’s. Those people are so dependent on you, they no longer have the power to do anything and I wanted to

give them whatever it was I could give them and I wanted to help them. It’s not a job you do for the money; it’s a job you do for love. I did their nails, bought them nail polish, put hair rollers in their hair and made them beautiful. Also I would play music and dance with them. Then it was like they would come alive, because in reality they were sitting there waiting for our dear Lord to come and get them. Somehow I was capable of making a connection, which made it so beautiful to be with them.

I wasn’t trained as a nurse, but I found it interesting to walk along the beds with the doctor of the nursing home, so I decided to become a doctor’s assistant. I followed the training and graduated and kept on working in a nursing home. However, at a certain moment I wanted to gain more experience and I went to work at a GP’s practice. Then a colleague of mine advised me to work at an urgent care clinic. It’s an extension of the general

“I would love to see local people getting a chance, because the island is growing fast and we need more and more professionals.”

practice center, for complaints which cannot wait until the following day. At the urgent care clinic I became a ‘triagist,’ which is a doctor’s assistant who acts as a ‘gatekeeper’ at the emergency department of the general practice center. His or her task is to assess the nature and urgency of the complaints of the patients: how fast a person needs to be assisted, do we have to send an ambulance right away, does the doctor have to see the patient within an hour, or within three hours or can the patient wait to see their own GP the following day, or is there another way we can be of any help? It’s about the degree of urgency and you must assess it yourself, which is not easy because in Holland everybody has to call first and so, every decision you make during that first incoming call can be of vital importance. A doctor will also authorize the call to make sure you did a good job. I gained a lot of experience there and I loved my job.

When Bonaire became a special municipality of the Netherlands on 10-10-10, the demand came from the Netherlands to set up an urgent care clinic through ZVK on Bonaire. The request was made to **Dr. Van der Vaart**. In the meantime I’d been planning on coming back to Bonaire,

because I was getting older and was questioning myself ‘where is it I belong?’ It was very difficult; I felt Dutch but at the same time Antillean/Bonairean/Aruban. As my children had grown up and didn’t need me that much anymore, the urge to go back to Bonaire became stronger and stronger. I wanted to be with my mom and my sister Alda, so I started with a training to become a chef, with the aim of opening a restaurant on Bonaire. I’d already bought all the pots and pans, tables and chairs when friends of mine told me

getting a chance, because the island is growing fast and we need more and more professionals.

Well, nowadays I am the head doctor’s assistant and office manager of the urgent care clinic and my colleague, **Erik Dalm**, has become financial manager. Dr. Hermelijn opened his own practice. Dr. **Heleen Jelsma** has become the medical director of the clinic, and everyone is satisfied because she knows the culture, the language and the people as she has a long history on the island. It’s working well but we have to keep on upgrading ourselves to keep up with the developments.

The urgent care clinic is for everybody who lives on Bonaire, but also for tourists. We are located across from the hospital at the Centro Medico Central.

Personally I know where I belong now. I am Bonairean. I play the kuarta and every Tuesday I go to Villa Antonia where I support the elderly in making music and you should see them play. It is so much fun! Now and then I work at Alda’s spa, The Touch, at Divi Flamingo. I also do permanent make-up, for which I took the training in New York with **Lydia Jung** many years ago.

My three children and four grandchildren who used to live in Holland followed me to Bonaire, so I feel lucky! I love to cook and dance in the kunuku where I live, or sit with friends along the sea with our music and some drinks.

Then we have the best of times because next to work to pay the bills so you’ll have a roof over your head and food on the table, you also have to celebrate life and I love it!

My philosophy is to be kind to each another, because only then can you receive more and give more.”

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra







“Twenty years ago you proposed to me during our first dive on Bonaire. A few days later we were married on this beautiful island. Today, we bring our family here so they can see where it all began.

It's been a great 20 years Dan!  
Thank you for sharing your life with me!

I love you,  
Kristen”

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Estonia



Marcel Damen and Peter Berveling, who, since 2003, have been frequent visitors to their holiday homes on Bonaire sent this in.

Here they are pictured in Estonia during the 3000 km., five-day car rally, called “The Garbage Run,” from the Netherlands to the Baltic States with 500 other cars—all worth less than €500. They traveled in their decorated “Bonaire” car accompanied by their “flamingo” and as you see, *The Bonaire Reporter*. What fun! ■

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# Rocargo 35-What a Voyage!



Enthusiastic well wishers

“December 8 1982, 35 years ago today Rocargo Services N.V. was established,” said Rocargo Managing Director Marisela Croes at the sensational party celebrating the anniversary. The parking lot in front of the Rocargo building was turned into a fairyland with white tents, tables, lights, continuous live musical entertainment by the performers/waiters of “Pasta e Basta,” any beverage you wanted to drink along with a Bonairean dinner to die for. There was also a sushi bar, an antipasto table and to top it off, a fresh ice cream cart. Among the guests were well known old timers, new arrivals, customers and friends.

Marisela continued, “Somewhere in 1982 we were asked if we would be interested in handling consolidated (consignment from multiple shippers) containers from the USA. At that time this was a completely new concept for Bonaire. All cargo arrived in Bonaire as full container loads or loose as bulk. And in the beginning we had a (consolidated) container just once a month or even every five or six weeks.

Something else new was the ‘Total Service’ concept, where our service started from the moment an order was placed abroad until the delivery to the businesses in Bonaire.

A few years later we also started

receiving consolidated containers from Holland. The fact that the containers could go to Bonaire without unloading on Curacao saved time and costs, but also limited the risk of damage.

In 1995 Robby’s and my dream came true with the inauguration of this building with our own warehouse.

We were the first company in Bonaire to obtain an ISO 9001 certificate, an island milestone.

I would like to thank our principals King Ocean Services (Luzette), Spliethoff (John Pauwel), Amcar Lamprecht

(Mercy), IFC and Ccs (Robert & Daphne Van Vliet) for their trust



Pasta e Basta performers



Robby and Marisela dance

and confidence in us.

Thank you also, YOU, our customers and friends. And last but not least, very important, thank you to all our employees.

With your support we are today celebrating our 35th anniversary thanks to Huub and his team and It Rains Fishes for all the preparation/setup/sound and decoration, Gerald Ellis of Hitec for the light decoration, and the organizing committee at Rocargo: Itishmira, Mariella, Ludsilla and Jian.

Coordination was in hands of my daughter-in-law Itishmira, Mariella, Jian and Ludsilla.

It was great and we enjoyed so much having so many customers and friends! Thank you, up to the next 35 five years!”

L.D. / Photos by Rudolf Wout

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## Firework Protection



Florence and family

Happy New Year's celebration is coming. We'll be ringing in the year with fireworks. Our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period unfortunately sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. However, help is available in an inexpensive, non-toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy".

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people, in 1935. Since then, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets. Yes- safe for people as well as pets!

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year, thanks



# The Fences of Bonaire



Book cover *Fences of Bonaire*

According to Bonaire law, every property owner is required to fence off his or her land in an effort to clearly define boundaries. That is just one of many surprises found in Ria Heitkönig's brilliant photo book, *Fences of Bonaire*. The author, in attempting to bring order to the hundreds of photographs between the covers, smartly divides them into categories. One is materials—wire, stone and cactus, wood, steel and cinderblock. Another focuses on shapes—squares, circles, ovals, rectangles and hearts—incorporated into the fence designs. One of the more interesting groupings is animals. Photos reveal how Bonaireans decorate their fences with eagles, lions, dogs, ducks and dolphins. While this is basically a photo book, supporting text can be read in Papiamentu, Dutch and English, making it fully accessible to everyone.

But the fences on Bonaire do much more than separate property. They often serve as palettes for personal, artistic expression. Flipping through the pages, one is taken back by the vast array of color. No, you won't find the monochromatic monstrosities of gray, black or white in this book.

to The Pet Project and Gitta Nijman.

Follow simple instructions on the label. You've helped calm your pet and benefit the work of Bonaire Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the

Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen.

Just 4 Pet also has it for the shelter's benefit of \$4. Look for the shop on Kaya Industria, across from Rocargo, open 9am-6pm.



Some of the fences from the book

Rather, the true colors of our Caribbean island are on display. Bright oranges, yellows and greens are found on many. Combinations of purple and pink and yellow and blue adorn others. Some owners incorporate eye-catching objects into their designs. Wheels, beer bottles, traditional ship air vents, horseshoes, stars and ornate pillars can be found in the fence designs. What is clearly obvious is that Bonaireans have endless creativity when it comes to building a fence. It is a unique signature of our island.

Who better to create a photo book like this than Ria Heitkönig. She grew up on Bonaire during the 1950s and 60s. Her father, Jules, was a professional photographer who made countless black and white photos during that period. Ria published a book a few years ago in homage to her dad, *Bonaire Through the Eyes of Heit*. But it was her mother, Rose Heitkönig-Rigaud,

who inspired Ria to make *Fences of Bonaire*. "My mother used to take color slides of the buildings and fences around our neighborhood in Playa. Those images are what motivated me to make this book."

*Fences of Bonaire* can be purchased at Addo's Bookstore, Kaya Industria 17 or at the *Extra* newspaper office on Kaya Irlanda. This book makes an ideal gift for the holiday season and offers a unique way of viewing Bonaire. For those on island, you can tour the neighborhoods of Playa, Nikiboko, Hato, Noord Saliña, Antriol and Sabadeco using the book as a guide to see the fences of Bonaire up close. Hats off to Ria Heitkönig for offering us a unique perspective in viewing the island. □

Patrick Holian



If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email [fhummingbird@yahoo.com](mailto:fhummingbird@yahoo.com). □ Florence Ditlow Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse, an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies



## Advertise in The Reporter Just because it gets results

2018 BUDGET ITEM #1-  
ADVERTISING IN THE  
BONAIRE REPORTER

For many businesses, newspaper advertising is the most effective way of finding customers. -Forbes Agency Council

Newspaper advertising has been around longer than any other form of advertising we see today and is still the first kind of advertising that businesses should think about doing. They're a good way to reach a large number of people on Bonaire especially visitors who tend to read *The Reporter* for local information.

For businesses new to advertising, buying a print ad is a more low-key decision than trying to decide how to produce a complicated, expensive TV commercial.

Many people feel that certain forms of advertising such as commercials and website pop-up ads are intrusive and annoying. In a local newspaper, ads are often expected by readers, and their placement is often near content similar to the ad content

Reporter advertising is a cost-effective, no-frills approach to boosting your sales, even black-and-white images can put green into your cash register.

*The Reporter* Doubles Down your advertising dollar because your ad price covers both print and Internet and Facebook editions.

To start advertising call Laura at 786-6518 Email: [Laura@bonairenews.com](mailto:Laura@bonairenews.com)



## Adi Figaroa's Nativity Masterpiece



Lionel Anthony, a shepherd, Adi Figaroa and visitor Isa Saragoza

Helped by his neighbor **Lionel Anthony**, artist **Adi Figaroa** constructed a life-sized nativity scene next to his house at Kaya Piedra Presioso #7 (the road which leads up to Republik). The two men worked day and night for three weeks using wood, paper, tarps, foam, paint, fabric, pallets and plastic, creating a truly wonderful and peaceful scene with a real waterfall. The hay on the floor tops it off by giving the whole scene the lovely smell of a clean stable. The nativity scene was officially opened by the Acting Lieutenant Governor Evelina Betancourt -Anthony and Deputy Hubert Martis. Adi got his inspiration from Mrs. Jenny Rijna who has created a great number of life-sized dolls on Bonaire.

In the meantime groups of school children and elderly people have already visited the nativity scene which is open from 9am until 10pm. Entrance is free, and according to Lionel Anthony, the magic of the scene is at its best when its dark! Don't miss it! Go and see this masterpiece which was created with little money, but with lots of love and creativity!  Greta Kooistra

## Reef Life Sculpture Taking Shape

It's nearing sundown on Friday night and the brilliant welding flare is winking out. Metal artist Mark Ansier and his right-hand-man Aaron are putting the finishing touches on first phase of the sculpture at the Hato roundabout, or rotunda as the locals say. They will return in March, after the wedding of Mark's daughter, to finish the sculptures. But already they are impressive. Scores of steel fish, turtles, sponges, hard and soft coral sprout from "islands" of concrete to form a 20-meter-diameter circle near the center of the roundabout. A manta with his long tail in a loop stands tall. You have to get close to see the results of hours of painstaking work with grinder, welder and torch it takes to turn scrap metal into artwork. Those tools are the "brushes" of choice for this artist.



Hoteliers Debby Rauwers and Marco Vermeulen sparked the idea of beautifying the weedy roundabout; Mark Ansier wanted to create a memorial to his lost son and diver friend. A non-profit foundation was formed, *Fundashon Bunita Boneiru*, The Beautify Bonaire Foundation, to make it happen. And after months of planning, permits and perseverance the physical work began a few weeks ago. Asdrubal Marcano's APA Construction poured the foundations and the metal work began— first in the adjacent Trans World Radio parking lot, and then in the roundabout itself. The steel for the sculpture is carved from scrap metal scrounged from the island and SELIBON.

The main sponsors of the project are Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Den Laman Condominiums, Dive Friends Bonaire and Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) in collaboration with IVA / *Boneiru Nos Orguyo*. But more financial support is necessary. The expenses for the artist are covered by the main sponsors. However, there are many more costs to build and maintain the project. The progress of the project can be followed on the *Bunita Boneiru* Facebook page. Donations can be made directly to the *Bunita Boneiru Foundation*, MCB bank account 413683 07, Reference: 'HATO roundabout.'  G.D.

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**Christmas Concert**  
 organised by  
 Fundashon Saxomania

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017  
 7.00 – 8.30 pm  
 door open from 6.45 pm  
 San Bernardo Church

A beautiful evening full of Christmas music to get you into the festive spirit.

The concert is organised by the saxophone group Fundashon Saxomania. Other musicians from Bonaire will also join the 8 saxophonists.

Ticket Sales:  
 Call or WhatsApp: +599-510 7998  
 Email: [saxdel@bmail.com](mailto:saxdel@bmail.com)  
 16th December 9pm-11pm @ Van den Tweel Supermarket

**TICKETS: \$10,-**



# Guidance To Find Inner Peace

ISAAC GARUDA'S GUIDANCE ON FINDING INNER PEACE

"I am in the world to serve people who want more love and inner peace in their life, no matter what religion they believe in.

What I've discovered in my 73 years of living is that we all have the capacity to enjoy life. And one of the things that stops us from enjoying life is believing that we are a victim of our circumstances. Because of our cultural conditioning we develop a pattern of breathing, thinking and behavior which limits our capacity to feel and express love to one another. And love and happiness go hand in hand.

So it's like we had the wool pulled over our eyes and we don't see clearly a better way to live. But there is a way to remove the negative effects of our cultural conditioning. So the question is 'How do we do that?' A good starting place is making the effort to expand our breathing. Shallow breathing is neither natural nor healthy. This takes discipline.

We are here to experience life, not to analyze it or understand it, and the more deeply we breathe, the more connected we are to the experience of each present moment. Every experience we have, whether pleasant or unpleasant, is a gift from the universe. We have to stop judging; judging ourselves, judging others and judging life. The way to end our unhappiness is to appreciate all of life; we cannot have the wrong experience – it is all good.

We've learned to think of certain experiences as negative. Emotions like sadness, anger and fear are not something to be avoided but to be embraced. All negativity comes from the way we think; there are no negative feelings. We are all beautiful, powerful, loving creatures. It doesn't matter what has happened in the past; there is hope for a better future – there is a way.

It is important to ask ourselves if we are happy with life and be honest with ourselves. If we are not happy with our life, it does not work to think about changing our outer circumstances. If we want to change



Isaac David Garuda

our life we have to first look inside – not outside. Some people call the process of looking inside meditation. It is by feeling our life rather than thinking about our life that we find the way to happiness.

Meditation is a way of life, not something you do sitting on a cushion with your eyes closed. What we all are looking for is inner peace and contentment. Pleasure and pain come and go, but inner peace can last forever.

It's all about relaxing and being more natural, being who we are. Our nature is light and we are out of touch with nature; our own nature and the natural world. Peace in the world won't come until all of us are at peace with ourselves and the people in our lives.

So, everybody can come and talk to me, or they can come and pick me up, because I don't drive. I don't charge anything; I just want to guide people on finding inner peace. That's what I am here for and that's why I wanted to do this interview.

The best way to contact me is to send me an email [ldgaruda@gmail.com](mailto:ldgaruda@gmail.com)."

□ Greta Kooistra

Isaac David Garuda is a 73-year-old world traveler from the US. He has a PhD in clinical psychology and he wrote books like 'The Tao and Wow!', 'The Pat Poems' and 'Most People Are Nuts/Casitodoelmundo está Chiflado'. Isaac will be staying on Bonaire for three months and he's available – free of charge – for everyone who wants to know more.

## Pasa Bon Pizza Moved

After 18 years in their old location near the Marina, Pasa Bon Pizza has moved to Playa, between the MCB Bank and Exito Bakery. It's a very classy place these days, air conditioned with the same scrumptious food—pizzas and lasagnas, and salads. And the same great ovens! The hand crafted bar is inviting, well stocked and gorgeous. There's a special heated area for takeout items so the food stays warm. Parking is no problem as Pasa Bon opens at 5 and the "day workers" have left parking spots.

The restaurant also serves as an art gallery. Currently showing underwater photography of Ellen Muller and others.

Pasa Bon is open Wednesday through



Joe, Julienne, Lisa and Arno

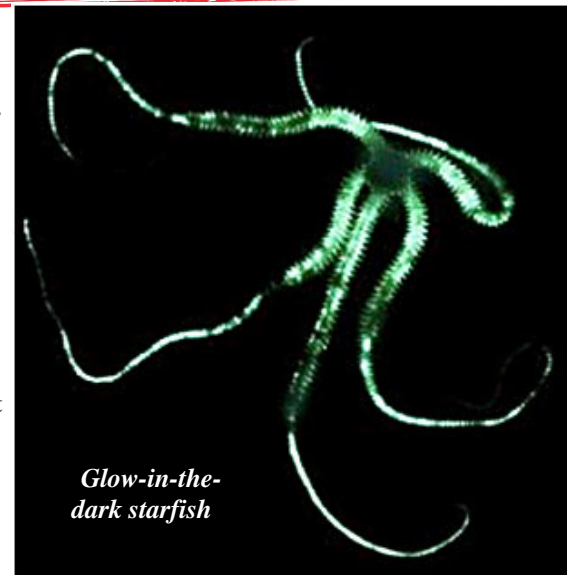
Sunday from 5 to 11pm. You may eat in or take away. Call ahead to order 780-1111.

It's still "Bonaire's Best!" □ L.D.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That stars twinkle in the sky AND on the reef? Shooting stars, star tree-toppers and the star of Bethlehem got me thinking about some of my favorite sea creatures...**Brittle Stars**. One night dive, about 20 years ago, I was diving near Westpunt, Curacao, when my dive buddy, a Dutch teacher, showed me one of the coolest things I had seen on the coral reef (apart from bioluminescent ostracods – that's in a previous Did You Know). He made me turn my dive light off and then pointed to some brittle star arms that were sticking out of some rubble. He hid his light, waved some water, and the arms GLOWED! I was floored...not just because it was so amazing, but because a language teacher had showed this to me, and I was the marine biologist who was supposed to show him things!

My respect for my friend, who most certainly had not found his true calling, grew as I happily terrified every brittle star I could find. Now, if you have never seen these brilliant critters, here's the trick: Look for pale, sinuous, spiny, skinny brittle star arms sticking out of some rubble or a crack in a rock (the center part of the brittle star, the central disk, is hidden). If you trust your dive skills to keep you up and off the reef, approach the brittle star, point your dive light to the side or put it against your belly and wave some



Glow-in-the-dark starfish

water towards it. Rapid bioluminescence will race up and down the arms. Brittle stars are nocturnal and they most likely bioluminesce to frighten predators away when they are attacked. It seems like brittle stars would be too crunchy, but Spanish Hogfish that uncover them in the daytime seem to love them! They gobble them up like potato chips!

Anyhow, I hope your holiday is filled with joy and, if you enjoy diving or snorkeling, that you get lucky finding Christmas tree worms, sea stars, glowing brittle stars and such! □ Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting people with nature



## Penny Lane Exchange

The Fashion Revolution

Skip AMAZON & COME take a look at Penny Lane

Tons of name brands and designers items!



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,  
**Shopping Hours:** Tues: 10am to 5:30; Weds & Thurs: 10:30 to 5:30  
 Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.  
**Phone 599-795-9332 email- [Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com](mailto:Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com)**



# A Garden? Just Do It

## ALMOST CHRISTMAS

Almost Christmas, the season for joy and happiness. A time to be with families and friends, to bring people together to share sweet memories. A time to remind ourselves of our blessings.

We enjoy this wonderful season with all the goodies of life like our best cooking, nice clothes and wonderful decorations.

One of the "must" decorations is the Christmas tree. Christmas and the Christmas tree—they go together. But it's not always possible to have a Christmas tree. Maybe you don't have enough space or you don't like all the needles dropping or you want to have a nature friendly and safe tree. So you are looking for an alternative. I started thinking like you and gathered some ideas to give your home a Christmassy look.



Christmas plate

**5-Decorate a plant** like a sensevira from your garden in a pot .

**6-Decorate trees and plants in your yard** with Christmas lights and red ribbons.

**7- A Christmas tree made from your Christmas cards** on your wall. Stick them up with an easy glue in a Christmas tree shape. You also can cut a Christmas tree shape from a big carton box, paint it green and/or gold and add your Christmas cards to it. Or take a long piece of robe or ribbon or wire thread. Hook it on the wall from the ceiling to the floor. Hook on your cards and other decorations. You can also glue the ribbon in a shape of a Christmas tree and add the cards and ornaments.

**8-Coral stone tree.** Glue coral stones in a Christmas tree shape on a piece of hard board. Glue some red decorations in between or spray it with gold paint. Hang it on the porch.

**9-Button or fabric tree.** Glue different buttons or pieces of cloth on to a Christmas tree shape cut from cardboard or hard board to make a funny and original Christmas tree. Paint the board a nice color as a background.

**10-Wire tree.** Make a frame of iron wire in a Christmas tree shape and hook all kinds of Christmas decorations and angels on it. Nice on an office table or on a book shelf.

**11-Christmas tree "skirt."** Make a "skirt" to go around the tree from colored cardboard or cardboard that you color in green, white or red. Hook on Christmas cards, Christmas decorations or small gifts.

All these Christmas ideas are great creative things to do with children and nice to get the whole family into the Christmas mood.

By writing this story I got in a total Christmas mood and I wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH PEACE AND LOVE AROUND YOU AND YOUR BELOVED ONES.

Just do it!  Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Driftwood Christmas tree

**1- Driftwood tree.** One of the nicest and creative things to do is to make a unique Christmas tree with driftwood. Bonaire beaches have a lot of driftwood to make different Christmas ornaments as well.

The tree can be made flat (to go against a wall), 2-dimensional, or 3-dimensional which means you can walk around it.

You can leave it simple or decorate it with just lights and/or with other stuff. Hello Christmas, there you go.

**2-A big branch of a tree** -Another Christmas tree could be a big branch of a tree like the shimaruku (cherry) tree. Such a Christmas decorated branch with lights and white satin stuff is beautiful, hanging on the ceiling in a corner of the living room. You also can use a big jatu cactus in a pot in a corner on the porch as a Christmas tree. Any cactus is good too. Decorate it with red ribbon and Christmas lights around it.

**3-Dry or green branches in a vase** on the table decorated in Christmas red or white, golden or silver balls and ribbons.

**4-Small Bouquets**—Make bouquets from small green branches and put in a low bowl with water or on a flat plate. This is meant for just a few days before Christmas. Drop some flowers in between with a few decorations in gold or silver as finishing touch.

# Native Trees of Bonaire

Tropical dry forests are among the least-researched and conserved habitats. And yet, they account for about half of the world's forested area. To give Bonaire's tropical dry forest some well deserved attention Echo will be writing a biweekly article about the trees of Bonaire. In these articles we will share with you some of the wonderful and unique features that make Bonaire's trees so special for both the parrots and people. As you follow the series, we hope that you will discover a tree that becomes your favourite, or if you already have a favourite in mind, please share it with us by writing to [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)

WAYAKA  
(*GUAIAECUM OFFICINALE*)



WAYAKA OR IRONWOOD

Bonaire's wayaka (*Guaiacum officinale*) is listed by the IUCN as endangered. This is the favorite tree of the writer of these articles because it's a tall tree, with beautiful dark green leaves and an interesting looking bark. This tree is more endangered than the parrots on Bonaire due to the historic demand for its heavy, dense wood. Besides its heavy and dense wood, the Wayaka's tree trunk is also self-lubricating. This makes this tree perfect for sleeve bearings and cutlass bearings on ships and windmills.

While the Wayaka is prized for its timber it is also very popular for medicinal use. It has been used to treat inflammation, as an energy restorative and as a treatment for syphilis. It's also used as a cure for high blood pressure. Local people cook it and drink it, as Aurora Janga, an elder lady from Rincon, told me. Another elder local lady, Carmita Coffie, used the Wayaka as soap for clothes or for cleaning the house.

The leaves of the Wayaka are round and very shiny. Because the Wayaka is an evergreen it has very strong leaves. These leaves need to survive in the dry season and that's why they are quite thick. The bark is smooth but looks flaky and spotted. The tree has a generally large crown and can be filled with beautiful purple flowers. And that's why it's Roos' favorite tree! It produces orange seeds which are inedible for people but can be eaten by parrots.

Now that the rainy season has started, it's time to plant trees. Echo is organizing bi-monthly Tree Planting Days. The first tree planting days have already been a success



Seeds (above) Flowers (below)



with over 4,000 trees being planted in four reforestation areas. But we can still use your help! **The next tree-planting day will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. If you are interested in joining us for a Tree Planting event, sign up on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org>). You can also call 770-4129 or email [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org) for more information.**

Roos van Rijen for Echo



## Breaking News: Echo Opens Its Doors for Native Plant Sales

Are you interested in plants? Would you like to plant trees? Please come and visit us for the **Grand Opening of our Tree Sales Nursery on the 22nd of December from 10am - 12pm. Food and drinks will be provided.**

The nursery has been created so that everyone on the island can make a difference in reforesting Bonaire. Twenty species of trees are available for purchase. Some of the trees are even on a special sale for the grand opening! All have been raised from seed and lovingly cared for by the Echo team.

In making a purchase of a native tree, you will not only have a plant in your garden that can withstand drought, provide nourishment for the native wildlife and shade for you to enjoy, but you will also contribute to the island-wide effort to restore Bonaire's tropical dry forest. Proceeds from sales of native trees will go to sustaining Echo's work

Echo is planting native trees to rehabilitate and restore the dry forest ecosystem of Bonaire and to help the native birds and animals, like the Lora (the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot), to have more food and a better place to live. The trees are being planted in fenced areas across Bonaire. To date, seven areas have been protected and over 7,500 trees have been planted. This is a project funded by the island government (Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire).  Press release



# 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, 717-0423, 780-4327

•**Bonaire Museum**—on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. 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.

•**Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoon Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002. 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](http://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 Sat-

urday 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](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

## Fridays

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

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

# Cruise Ships

Day	Date	Name	Time
Tuesday	Dec. 19	Monarch	0700-1800
Wednesday	Dec. 20	Summit	0700-1700
Thursday	Dec. 21	Norwegian Dawn	0700-1400
Sunday	Dec. 24	Seven Seas Explorer	0700-1800
Monday	Dec. 25	Mein Schiff 3	0700-1900
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>	<b>Britania</b>	<b>0600-1800</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>	<b>Aida Diva</b>	<b>0800-2200</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>Navigator of the Seas</b>	<b>0700-1700</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>Breamar</b>	<b>0800-1800</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>TUI Discovery I</b>	<b>0700-2000</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>Sliver Wind</b>	<b>0600-1200</b>
Friday	Dec. 29	Sliver Muse	1300-2300

**No Cruise ships on the following days: Dec. 18, 22, 23, 30, 31**  
Enjoy our island!!

**Two Cruise Ships on days in bold & highlighted**

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.)**

•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](mailto:12stepbonaire@gmail.com)

## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

**International Bible Church,** Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@gmail.com](mailto:bonaireibc@gmail.com). **Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

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

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

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

[ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800

## 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 Lagoon Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002

— **Winfred Dania Exhibit**— Kaya Amsterdam 23, next to KVK. Hours Wed.-Sunday 9am-2pm, 4-8 pm. Free. Closes 31 December.

## CLOSE IN EVENTS

**Friday, Dec. 22- Saxomania**— saxophones, drums, guitar and paiano San Bernardo Church, main church in Playa, 7pm. \$10 More on page 9

**Saturday, Dec. 23—Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei.** Local arts and crafts, plants, vegetables, educational presentations, local musicians, 7pm to 11pm. At the entrance to Rincon.

**Monday, Dec 25- Christmas Day** Holiday

**Tuesday, Dec 26- Boxing Day** Holiday

**Sunday, Dec. 31— Mountain bike Fun Race** starts at Te Amo beach at 1530. Cost \$10. More info at Freeweiler Bike Shop on Kaya Grandi.

**Saturday, Jan. 13—Tree Planting Day with ECHO.** [Info@echobonaire.org](mailto:Info@echobonaire.org) or call 770-4129. More on page 12

**Friday, Jan. 26— Classical Music Concert Holiday Show**— See page 3.



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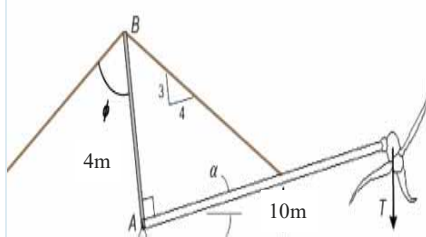
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**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 18	12:55 0.94 ft	22:39 -0.14 ft			New Moon	6:50	18:14
Tue 19	13:31 0.92 ft	23:14 -0.15 ft				6:50	18:15
Wed 20	14:08 0.89 ft	23:43 -0.16 ft				6:51	18:15
Thu 21	14:45 0.86 ft					6:51	18:16
Fri 22		00:06 -0.15 ft	15:23 0.82 ft			6:52	18:16
Sat 23		00:26 -0.14 ft	07:43 0.43 ft	09:59 0.42 ft	16:03 0.76 ft	6:52	18:17
Sun 24		00:44 -0.13 ft	07:22 0.49 ft	11:48 0.41 ft	16:44 0.68 ft	6:53	18:17
Mon 25		01:01 -0.12 ft	07:28 0.59 ft	13:11 0.37 ft	17:28 0.59 ft	6:53	18:18
Tue 26		01:18 -0.11 ft	07:47 0.70 ft	14:25 0.30 ft	18:16 0.49 ft	6:54	18:19
Wed 27		01:38 -0.11 ft	08:14 0.82 ft	15:36 0.22 ft	19:08 0.39 ft	6:54	18:19
Thu 28		02:02 -0.11 ft	08:47 0.94 ft	16:43 0.12 ft	20:08 0.28 ft	6:55	18:20
Fri 29		02:30 -0.10 ft	09:26 1.05 ft	17:48 0.03 ft	21:16 0.19 ft	6:55	18:20
Sat 30		03:03 -0.09 ft	10:10 1.14 ft	18:50 -0.07 ft	22:34 0.13 ft	6:55	18:21
Sun 31		03:42 -0.06 ft	10:58 1.19 ft	20:02 -0.16 ft		6:56	18:21
Mon 01	00:09 0.09 ft	04:23 -0.01 ft	11:49 1.22 ft	20:47 -0.24 ft	Full Moon	6:56	18:22



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## Animal Shelter Bonaire Names New General Manager

The Board of Directors of Animal Shelter Bonaire (*Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire*) is pleased to announce that **Luvia "Luvi" Rodriguez** has been named General Manager of the Shelter as of 6 December 2017. Ms. Rodriguez is the Shelter's first general manager to have formal education in animal care and is the first Bonairean to hold the position. Luvi has an MBO from Groenhorst College Barneveld and VMBO from Groenhorst College Maartensdijk.

Luvi has worked at Animal Shelter Bonaire since August 2015, first as Animal Care Worker, and more recently also as Administration and Public Relations Manager. Over the last two years she has proven herself to be a positive and creative influence in the organization and, most importantly, compassionate and proficient in her care for the Shelter's animals. In addition to already modernizing some Shelter operations, Luvi looks forward to making the Shelter a family-friendly and community oriented place where everyone is welcome for help, information and advice.

Luvinia, 31, lives in Playa with her partner, Christiaan Versnel, their five-year-old daughter, Skye, and their cats. She is the daughter of Lusina Janga, Bonaire, and Alberto Rodriguez, Bonaire, now living in Maarssen, Netherlands. **Press release**



Felicia Schütte Portrait  
**Luvia "Luvi"  
Rodriguez and Eppy**

## Pet Of The Week

This beautiful girl arrived at the Shelter about five months ago. She was very shy and rarely ventured near people. In the last two months, **Minouche** has blossomed into a loving and responsive cat, seeking attention and affection whenever she can. Her luxurious coat and fluffy tail are notable...but it's her almost teal blue eyes that are her most striking feature! Minouche is about three and a half years old, sterilized and in good health. She is calm and relaxed, yet loves to pounce on a toy or two when she's in the mood. Minouche would make a wonderful companion if you are looking for a quiet, attentive feline companion to share your lap, your sofa, your home and your heart. You can visit Minouche and her Sheltermates at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. nonstop. Visit their website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com/> to donate or watch the live cat cams. **Q**



**Madame Minouche**

## The Further Adventures of Bakaboe

*Hey y'all. My name is Blake the bull, also known as "BakaBoe" on Bonaire. I am a rescue animal and I was fostered by my human mom and rescue dog brothers and sisters. I survived. Yeaah and I am now living on a farm with my new cow- girlfriend and many more farm animals. Let me tell you my life story and new adventures.....*

**W**as it a dream? Was it real what my new sister Nena told me? I am not in cow heaven. Oh, My God, no I am really awake and alive and kicking. Moeeebooeeee, I am so happy, yet still confused and afraid. Luckily my old and very wise brother Rocco came up to me to advise me. "Dear Blakie boy," he said, "don't worry my son. We all started out the same way as you did. We were all saved by our human mom, like you. We have the same story. Mom also found me when I was only a few days old, feeling sick and lonely, just the way you felt. She bottle fed and took care of me the same way as you and look at me now. I am almost nine years old and very happy. I saw many youngsters in this household being fostered like you and I and they all got the love and care they needed and found happy homes. So don't be afraid my boy. Be happy! It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, where you've been, or where you're headed, you will always get the love you deserve!"

This was the best news of great joy, the best Christmas gift I could wish for and I can't wait for what the New Year will bring! After the long talk with Rocco and all the exciting news I got so tired. It was time to take a long power nap.....

### MY COW-ISTMAS DREAM

I dreamed about Christmas, when all through the house  
not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
The stockings were hung by Mom with care,  
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.



**Blake the Reindeer**

We were nestled all snug in our beds,  
While visions of COOKIES danced in my head.  
And Mom laying next to me, with me in her lap,  
Had just settled our brains for a nice long nap.  
When out in the yard arose such a clatter,  
I sprang up in my stable from my bed, to see what was the matter.  
Away at the gate I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the gate and threw up the sash.  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!  
"Now, Blake! Now, Jesse! Now, Bruno and JoJo!  
On, Nena! On, Roosje! On, KC and Rocco!  
To the top of the stable! To the top of the wall!

## ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

### PET TIPS FOR "FIREWORKS SEASON"

It's that time of year again on Bonaire, New Year's fireworks season. While humans delight in the dazzling displays, many animals are lost, seriously injured, even killed, during this time of year so here are some tips to keep your pets safe.

- It is best to keep your pets inside when fireworks are being set off
- Walk your dogs during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks
- Put on some music or tv to mask the firework sounds
- Prepare a quiet space or hiding place for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Ensure your pet is wearing some form of easily readable identification – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, meow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out – it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behavior. It's OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if



it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead

- Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.
- Pets are likely to drink more when they are worried, so fill their water bowl up to the brim. **BEST TIP:** Include Florence Ditlow's Rescue Remedy in their water bowl.
- Never take your dog to a fireworks display.
- Do not throw or set off fireworks when your pet or other pets are in the vicinity. Dogs that may not be afraid of the noise of fireworks may likely chase what you throw or be curious. This is how many dogs on the island have been seriously injured or killed. **Q** Story by

Jane Madden -Disko



Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"  
As dry leaves that before a storm fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Cookies and more Cookies, and St Nicholas too.

I was so happy my first Christmas together with my new family by my side

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all, and a very good-night!" **Q**  
Story & Photo by  
Nathalie Petersen







# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

“MOON OVER ORION”

It's almost the end of 2017. Did you have an astronomically great year in the Bonaire Sky Park? Yes! We had so many planetary conjunctions and of course the total solar eclipse back in August.

And for our last week of 2017 we'll take a look at the **Constellation Orion** and a special visitor he will be having on New Year's Eve.

Our closest neighbor in space, the **Moon**, will pass just over Orion's head. He better duck!

On Friday, December 29th at 7:30pm face east--southeast.

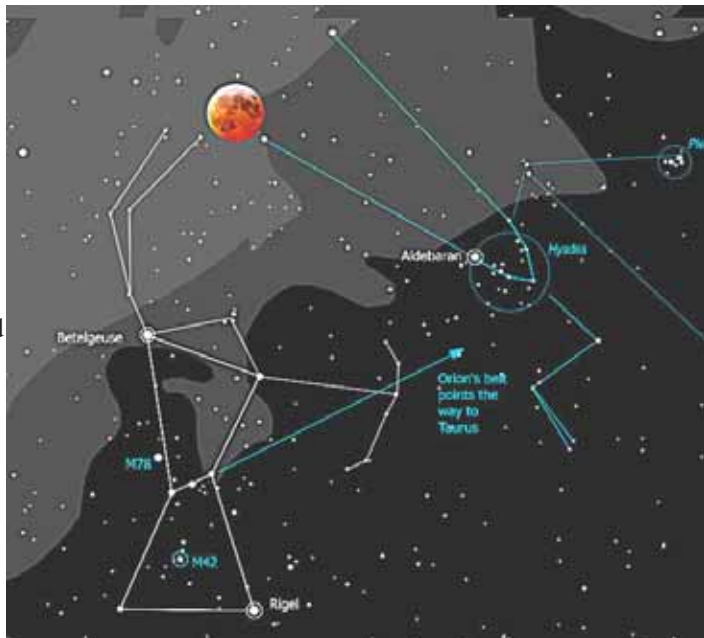
There you'll find the belted one, Orion the hunter, tipped over just above the tree-tops. You can always recognize Orion by his three stars in a row that make his belt. But look for the four stars at the corners of this star pattern.

The brightest star in Orion is blue **Rigel**, which stands in for his left leg. His right leg-star is fainter and closer to the horizon. Its name is **Saiph**. Then his left shoulder-star is a deep blue color and goes by the name **Bellatrix**, while the big red star marking Orion's armpit is the infamous **Betelgeuse**. Look for his head now. The star marking Orion's head is named **Meissa** and is not very bright.

Orion was known for his brawn - and not so much for his brains. And his head star really shows that.

On December 29th, the Moon is way above Orion - and is hanging out in the **constellation Taurus the Bull**.

Consider that the Moon revolves around the **Earth** once every 27.3 days. That's called a **synodic month**. Should we call it a month? Like a month, but for the



Moon. Anyway, over the course of a month, the Earth is rotating once every day. That means we spin way faster than the Moon. So after every day that we spin once and come back to see the stars again, the Moon has moved a little bit around us. It appears that it has slightly shifted in our sky. So each night the Moon will be near a different group of stars and can even wander near Orion's head - over the course of a month...

On the night of the 30th, the Moon has continued on its path around the Earth and appears right next to the bright orange star called **Aldebaran** that marks **Taurus the bull's eye**. That night you'll see Aldebaran is less than half-of-a-degree from the Moon. That's super close.

So you'll have to just get outside and see for yourself how close the Moon passes. On Sunday December 31, New Year's Eve, the nearly-full-Moon will hang just above Orion's head.

The Moon can appear to come close to Orion's head but can never quite cover over his head-star, Meissa, or bonk him on the head.

So check out how the Moon moves closer to Orion all week. □ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



## THE STARS HAVE IT

End December 2017

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't let others know about your private affairs. You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems. You can have a working relationship with children if you exercise patience and understanding of the dilemmas they face. Be careful while traveling. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Take time to deal with authority figures or government agencies. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. You can make money if you work on personal investments. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You may have difficulty trying to get your mate to understand your position. You're on the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. Debates will stifle passion and result in estrangement. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You need an outlet that will not only stimulate you but also challenge your intelligence as well. It will do you some good. Plan to visit friends or relatives. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvement. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Romance could be exciting if you are spontaneous. You are best to deal with those outside your family. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Don't be too eager to dismiss someone who works under you. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. You should be putting in some overtime. Secret affairs may be tempting. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. Do your best, but don't make too many promises or you

may exhaust yourself. You may be over-reacting to personal problems. Your creative ideas will be put to good use if you dig in and do things around the house that will make your family happy. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about possible romance. Any capricious behavior will confuse loved ones and your mood swings will result in loneliness. Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. . Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Emotional upset at work will set you back. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Be careful while traveling. Your boss may not be in the best of moods this month. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Don't volunteer private information about yourself unless you're prepared to be talked about behind your back. Be diplomatic and honest, and that person will only be made to look bad. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try to enlist the help of those you trust in order to fulfill the demands being made of you. Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. Luck is with you, regardless of the financial venture. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Such over indulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Friends from your past may come back into your life. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday. □

*Michael Thiessen*

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- living area: 2,045 sq.ft / 190 m<sup>2</sup>

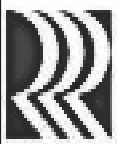
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