

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE January 1-15, 2018, Year 25, Issue 1
The REPORTER

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Unwelcome Christmas Gift
Page 8



Monalisa Domacassé Photo



Lots of updates about air transport to Bonaire to report:

► **Insel Air has only a few more days to pay its debts.** The Surinamese Minister of Transport said InselAir must pay the Surinam Airline SLM and Fly All Ways together \$350,000 for flights they have carried out when the company defaulted in March of this year. The Association of Travel Agents in Surinam also says that it still is owed \$400,000. Insel resumed flights to Surinam under those conditions. For information: Fare from Bonaire to Paramaribo is \$439, from Paramaribo to Bonaire \$463.

► **Disappointing news: Synergy, the parent company of Avianca, and the Curacao Transportation Ministry announced that plans for the takeover of InselAir have been abandoned.** Agreement could not be reached on terms and conditions.

► **American Airlines will start operating flights between Miami and Bonaire.** As of June next year, American Airlines will fly this route every Saturday. The three-hour flight will be flown by an Airbus A319 with 128 seats. American is the third American airline at Flamingo International Airport. Delta Air Lines already flies from Atlanta and United Airlines serves Bonaire via Houston and New York. The Bonaire fare has come under scrutiny as being excessive. For example it costs \$460 for MIA to CUR, The fare MIA to BON is now \$514, down from the original \$916.

► **It's about time the BES Islands were directly connected by air.** A new airline, CN express, plans flights between Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. The Dutch Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Infrastructure and Water Management and the Rijksoverheid Caribisch Nederland (RCN) joined to motivate a temporary air connection between the islands using Winair planes to start at the beginning of January, called "CN Express."



After hurricanes Irma and Maria damaged Sint Maarten airports the need for air service became apparent.

Return flights from Bonaire to St. Eustatius are set for four times a week. On St. Eustatius a direct connection will be made to Saba.

► **Last week's blackout at Atlanta airport affected vacationers returning home when the BON-ATL flight had to return to Bonaire** because Atlanta Hartsfield Airport (KATL) was closed. The passengers had to enjoy an additional day on the island at Delta's expense. Delta said it lost \$50 million because of the power failure.

► **The first group charter Sunwing Airlines flight to Bonaire from Toronto Pearson International Airport landed with great fanfare at Flamingo Airport.** A decade ago charter flights from Canada were an important part of Bonaire's tourism. A commemorative photo booth was set up for passengers to receive a special memento, along with other souvenirs, before departure. The Sunwing plane received a water cannon salute before both the passengers and crew disembarked to an extremely warm welcome.

► **A second Divi Divi Twin Otter aircraft was ferried to Bonaire last week,** providing the reliable airline an additional plane. Look for Divi flights from BON to AUA and CUR to hopefully begin this month.



► **The very impressive sailing yacht at the dock this week is named M5.** It's a 246-foot (77.6 meter) luxury sail mega yacht with

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Some people feel that the quality and quantity of a country or city's Christmas decoration is a measure of its economic health. If so, Bonaire has never seen better days. The home lighting displays especially along Nikiboko South, are outstanding. (Photos above by Ann Phelan).

► It's also Rainbow Season in Bonaire.

The light morning and afternoon rains provide the ideal conditions for rainbows. Look in the direction opposite to the rising or setting sun to spot them easily.





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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) a 295-foot (90 meters) tall mast built in 2004. At an estimated cost of over \$50 million she is the largest single masted yacht ever built. She was designed by Irish-based, New Zealand-born yacht designer **Ron Holland**. She was previously named *Mirabella V* and was built as part of a fleet of large sailing charter yachts owned by former Chairman and CEO of the Avis car rental company, **Joseph Vittoria**. In 2012-2014 she had a refit where three meters were added to her stern to accommodate a private Carbon Cub sea plane on her stern. She now belongs to **Pedro Abdalla**.

►On Friday, January 5, The Foundation to Help Children -*Stichting Kinderhulp* Bonaire will hold its first fundraising event for teaching Bonaire children how to swim.

The benefit dinner at Red Palm Village will be provided by **Chef Danny Klein** and his team. It will be a culinary four-course dinner with a surprising wine arrangement, the wine provided by the Caribbean Coffee Company

In between courses, our guests of honor **Sanne Hans**, well known as jury member of the Voice, and her mother **Dorothee Spijker** will provide a stylish mini concert. The entrance tickets are for sale for \$150. The entire profit will be used for the children. There is room for up to 60 people. Do not wait too long and support the children on Bonaire who need your help. Starts 7 pm. You can sign up via email to info@redpalmvillage.com or call 00 599 700 3978.

►WEB will set new rates for electricity and drinking water on 1 April. Saba and Statia got new rates on 1 January and they

are generally up. The Bonaire Consumers group, UNKABON, warns of a 24% increase because of delays and sketchy commitments for subsidies. WEB announced a delay of three months to continue consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate.

The new rates are required by law so WEB has the income to maintain its network and make investments but may not charge more than what it needs. Current WEB prices for electricity and drinking water don't measure up to that standard, so expect rates to rise.



►On the 18th of December a "High Flying Park" was inaugurated at the entrance to the Washington Slagbaai National Park. This Park is a special space where visitors in groups or with family can sit and relax, enjoying the view under the shade of trees. High Flying Park is a name given to popular spaces made by community members who live in the same area or neighborhoods. The idea was to re-use material to build the High Flying Park. The youth and older people come together to socialize, playing chess or dominos. Park management intends to create additional parks in different areas of the Park. The first

(Continued on page 4)



BOPEC deepwater docks

Venezuela's PDVSA could lose its license to operate an oil storage terminal that it owns on Bonaire if it does not soon fulfill maintenance demands by regulators, a government spokeswoman said last week. As a consequence several hundred Bonairean workers will face unemployment.

The terminal is a key part of PDVSA's logistics in the Caribbean, and its closing could hurt shipments to customers in Asia at a time when the OPEC-member country is desperate for export revenue.

Cash-strapped PDVSA, which provides the bulk of Venezuela's export revenue, has struggled this year to retain contracts for storage tanks and docks in the Caribbean due to past payment delays and disagreements with US firms, Buckeye Partners and NuStar Energy, which operate terminals in the Bahamas and St. Eustatius.

In Bonaire, where PDVSA the Bonaire Petroleum Corp (BOPEC) terminal with

a 10-million barrel storage capacity and deep water docks that can load large vessels, the firm recently received a warning from the Dutch government.

"We've given them an ultimatum to come up with a solid plan to ensure ... more secure and safe" operations by January 5, Danielle Rebel, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in the Netherlands, said on Tuesday.

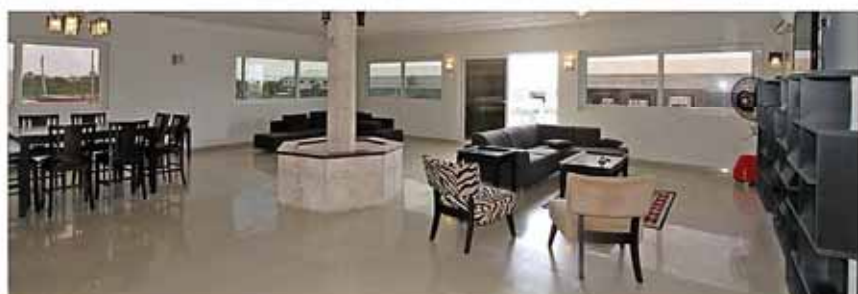
BOPEC has a backlog of items needed to achieve international standards, she said. If it does not deliver the plan requested by Bonaire's Living Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT), it will have to start emptying the terminal in early February, she said, and cease operations. Its operating license could ultimately be withdrawn, she added. PDVSA did not respond to a request for comment.

(Continued on page 4)

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PDVSA-BOPEC (Continued from page 3)

The dispute between Bonaire and PDVSA started a year ago when a rebuild plan for the terminal, including improvements to tanks, pipelines, piers and electrical equipment, was demanded by the government amid an accumulation of environmental liabilities, according to two sources close to PDVSA.

After an inspection in April, the company agreed to a \$25-million investment plan with a first \$5-million installment that has not been paid. PDVSA requested a portion of the money be delivered by its Isla refinery unit in Curacao, but it has not been received, one of the sources added.

In July, PDVSA's Vice President of Trade and Supply, **Ysmel Serrano**, also visited BOPEC - acquired by the company in 1989 - with a team that inspected the marine terminal and made a list of the tasks needed to meet quality standards and reliability, the firm said at that time in a press release.

In the following months, the Bonaire government has been shutting BOPEC tanks that are no longer safe to operate. By

the end of November, only 5 of 21 tanks were in operation, making it difficult for PDVSA to ship fuel oil from the terminal, according to the sources.

"PDVSA has invested nothing in those facilities for years, so the logistics to blend fuel oil has become a mess. They are selling the fuel oil directly from the pits at Amuay refinery," one of the sources said.

State-run PDVSA typically ships fuel oil produced in Venezuela and Curacao to Bonaire, where it can be mixed at the right temperature and loaded into very large oil tankers. Its main customer is the Petro-China Company.

The closure of tanks in Bonaire and the very low operation of PDVSA's Amuay and Cardon refineries in Venezuela have contributed to problems in shipping ship fuel oil, one of the South American country's main products for exports. ■

Reporting by Marianna Parraga and Gary McWilliams in Houston, with additional reporting by John van Kerkhof in St. Maarten; editing by Tom Brown, Diane Craft and Cynthia Osterman



BEING A "BONAIRE AMBASSADOR"

Dear Editor:

It's a shame that (it appears) you need a hotel manager's recommendation for this program. I have been on Bonaire for seven weeks so far over four trips (2011-2 weeks, 2013 - 2 weeks, 2016 - 2 weeks, 2017 - 1 week). I started in 2016 to return once a year at least (I would like to come twice each year). I have stayed at multiple locations and next time will stay at a different accommodation than I have previously used. None of them are hotels. I always rent an apartment because I can't afford the single supplement at resorts and I cook many meals for myself, so an apartment fits my needs. Even though I have visited multiple times I won't be eligible for the Bonaire Ambassador program because I don't stay at resorts/hotels and don't stay at the same establishment every time. I do use Dive Friends every trip but that does me no good. But even though I will not get Bonaire Ambassa-



dor recognition I will still return as often as possible. It is a most wonderful place for a diver like me.

Larry M. Litwin

Helen Thode from TCB replied:

What this man is writing is not correct. Everybody who visits Bonaire on a consecutive yearly basis is eligible to become a Bonaire Ambassador. If they are staying at a hotel or apartment they can send us an email or visit the office to fill in their application form and we will recognize them as one. The program runs like this: from 10-14 years Bronze medal, 15-19 Silver, 20-29 Gold and 30-up Platinum award.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) park was named after 'Mo Lonsi', who was the last supervisor of the first Washington plantation. Plans in 2018 are to install a snack shop.

► **Welcome, Dr. Sandoval, Bonaire's new resident ophthalmologist.** Dr. Sandoval is from Panama, had her medical training in Holland, is multi lingual, including Spanish, Dutch and English, and will be seeing patients beginning in January. She will be consulting with the other ophthalmologists from Curacao and will begin doing surgery (cataracts, laser, etc.) in June. Wonderful news!

► **Who is responsible when cruise ship vacationers are killed or injured on shore excursions?** Bonaire tour operators might pay attention to the advice of US attorneys, **Bob Kelley** and **John Uustal**, who say "It depends."

On the surface, cruise ship companies typically claim no responsibility for on-shore excursion killings, injuries, or deaths claiming excursionists "agreed" to the fine print on booking holding the cruise lines harmless.

However, cruise lines, as well as the tour operator, may be considered responsible depending on the situation:

- Did passengers book the on-shore trips through the cruise lines? (typically yes)
- Does the cruise line share in the revenue with the excursion company? (often yes)
- Do these payments from the excursion company create a duty on the part of the cruise lines to properly vet the excursion company, their insurance, their equipment, their drivers, their training and more?
- Do vacationers presume some level of background check of the excursion companies when the tours are offered through the cruise lines?

► **"The scarcity in Venezuela is due to the smuggling of goods to Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao."** Nicolas Maduro recently said that on the state television of Venezuela. There had been plans to break all trade with Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao as well as all business, air and maritime traffic, which were never carried out. Maduro doesn't say why he didn't follow up. Remember when Maduro's predecessor, Hugo Chavez, wanted to annex the ABC Islands, saying they belonged to Venezuela since they were within its 200 mile Economic Zone?

► **A big thank you to those companies who offer seating to their customers**

who must wait to be served. At WEB, San Francisco Hospital (Mariadal) and Telbo, customers take a number, then can be comfortably seated while waiting their turn. And, to make the wait seem shorter, Telbo and WEB offer free coffee. Don't we wish that some banks and **Digicel** could do the same. Standing in long lines are bad enough for young people, but hell for the handicapped and older people.



► **MCB Bank**, which transferred its retail banking to a new building in the center of Kralendijk this year, **has decided to close the branch in Rincon.** The number of MCB banks has been cut from four to two. MCB said it was a difficult decision.

Rincon residents circulated a petition for MCB to rescind the decision which was rejected but resulted in MCB expanding its plans to help residents transition to the use of ATMs and on-line banking.

MCB will hold sessions on January 5 and 6 to assist clients with the necessary registration for pin cards and on-line accounts.

► **STINAPA and the local government are carrying out restoration activities as part of the "Ecological Restoration Lac and Southern Coastal Zone" project.**

From Monday, December 11, the area near Lac was deepened in a number of locations, improving the connection with the open bay. This benefits the salinity of the water, which is good for the fish and the mangroves. Due to erosion many land sediments have arrived in Lac that create shallow places with high salinity. All precautionary measures will be taken to prevent the mud from flowing into Lac.

► **Beware of pickpockets!** We've received at least two reports that wallets were missing after a visit downtown when cruise ship tourists were flooding the streets.

► **Wishing all our readers a happy, healthy 2018, our 25th year of continuous publishing.** ■ G./L. D

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On the Island Since... 2014 – Arjen van Dorsten

“Since kindergarten I’ve been friends with Johan van Blerk who has been living on Bonaire for about 15 years. When we were young we used to tour through Holland to look for artifacts like clay pipes. When we got older we went to France, Germany, Belgium and Poland looking for fossils. When Johan moved to Bonaire he went to live across from the old *Museo Boneriano* in Sabana. So, one day when I was here on vacation, we just knocked on the door. Winfred Dania opened it and showed us around. That was the moment I thought ‘If ever this place comes up for sale...’ Well,” he laughs. “I wasn’t very serious about it because I thought it belonged to the government and that a place like this would never be sold. I was so taken by the atmosphere of the building and the exhibited items! I thought, ‘If only I could have a job like that!’”

In Holland I graduated in environmental science, but by coincidence I ended up in telemarketing where I was a project manager. The last thing I did in Holland was working for a travel magazine called *Columbus*, where I managed the website and everything that had to do with the Internet.

All my life I’ve been a collector; fossils, LP records, Dutch porcelain – my biggest collection – and everything in the field of photography, from cameras to dark room equipment, but also certain children’s books. However, my collection mostly involved art and antiques, collectable items and books about culture. I also had – and still have – a number of websites about collections and antique auctions associated with 15 auction houses. In addition to the museum I am still working on those sites.

When I was here on vacation for the sixth time, spending time with Johan and his family, I heard *Fundashon Kas Boneriano* was selling ‘The Museum’ as we called it – but it was the building. Within five minutes I decided to buy it, and after a week it was official! That was in the beginning of January, almost four years ago. I went back to Holland where I sold part of my collection. In the summer of that year I moved to Bonaire where I started immediately with the renovation of the building. The roof was done by a contractor but everything else I’ve done pretty much by myself. I made window frames, poured concrete, replaced wood pieces and toilets and did a lot of painting and I removed the air conditioning because I want to keep the building in the original state as much as possible. Not only because it’s a monument but also because it is my wish to bring back the authentic details and let the building breathe the past so that when you’re sitting here in the shade of the Wayaka, listening to the birds, feeling the cool breeze, it could also be a hundred years ago – no modern distractions. The house is beautiful in its old age and I want to keep it pure, and I really don’t want to add anything to the original atmosphere of the past.

The house is just precious. It’s fantastic to live in it and Bonaire. I’m biking and driving around the island frequently, together with Johan but also alone. People



Arjen in front of his museum

are welcoming and friendly and ready for a chat and they always salute you when you pass by. It’s a beautiful and peaceful island where you can submerge yourself in nature by diving, snorkeling, biking, photographing, walking or hiking and by attending lectures of for instance CIEE. I also participated in CIEE and Smithsonian.

jellyfish research. In short, considering my hobbies and interests, there is a lot to do on Bonaire.

From the moment I bought the house it has always been my intention to turn it



Inside the museum

nity that used to live there. What’s on display now comes from two spots, one in the vicinity of Lac and the other one around Gotomeer.

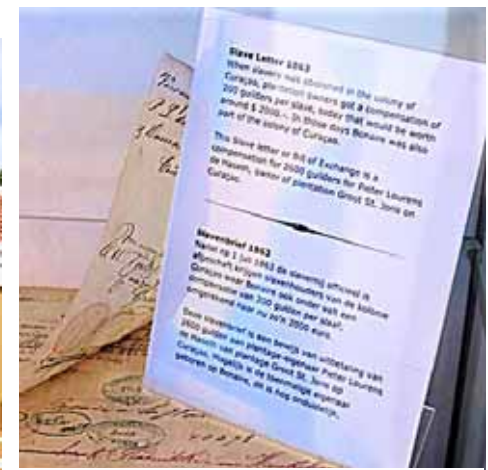
“I want to give an impression of all the beautiful things people might encounter when they are out there.”

into a museum again. At that time there was no museum in Playa. Terramar didn’t exist yet and the stuff from the old museum was stored at SKAL. My idea was to go for culture and archeology – like SKAL – and because they didn’t have any plans to do something with their things at the time, there was a possibility that I could display part of their collection. However, the plan changed when SKAL moved into their new place on the boulevard in the old Kas di Arte. Then the Terramar museum opened and I was still renovating! So then I thought to introduce more nature related items here. You can say Terramar has archeology and history, while SKAL has more cultural objects. Here it’s a mix of everything plus nature! I have a collection of shells and fauna, photographs of birds, literature on the subjects, stuffed insects, old utensils but also beachcomber’s findings like toys from Venezuela, driftwood and drift seeds. Then everything that was found in one particular spot which used to be an Indian settlement: all kinds of pottery, utensils and shells they ate, fish teeth, grinding stones and little jewels. That’s something I really love, because all together it creates a story about the commu-

I have a lot of different bottles and also rocks like the old lava and crystal conglomerates – where pebbles are compressed under pressure – in fact all the beautiful and special stones I find. Geology... I still have to find an expert on that subject. If there’s anybody out there who can give some advice: welcome, very welcome, just like everybody else!

There are skulls of a donkey, of a goat and a pig but also one of a rat and a cat and there are masses of lobsters and crabs. I’m happy with every little skeleton, also from fishes, birds and iguanas.

My doors are open to everyone. People don’t have to pay an entry fee, but I’m planning to open a little souvenir shop in the near future where I can sell local art, like wood carvings from **Gibi Bomba**. But if other local artists are interested in showing or selling their work here, then I will use the buildings in the back as an exhibition space for any form of local art that appeals to me. Also, everyone who finds something in the garden or in the *mondi* can come to show it to me, so we can talk about it and try to find out more by asking other people. I am definitely interested in collections or items people have, like rocks, utensils, skeletons, arti-



A slave letter from 1863 when slavery was abolished on display

facts or old furniture. If they don’t have space anymore or when they are leaving the island, I am interested. All the things I have here – especially shells, corals and sponges – come from old collections and are solely used for educational purposes. As it is prohibited to take anything from the sea – something which is extremely important to me – I prefer to show people other things without damaging nature. A collection doesn’t have to be complete and animals and plants are not numbers you cross off. I want to give an impression of all the beautiful things people might encounter when they are out there.

I opened my doors while I’m still in the middle of the growth process, something that will still be the case in the next 10 years, Ha! Ha! I really enjoy sharing what I have with others and to chat with everyone who’s interested. Of course a lot has to be done. It’s far from perfect. But it’s a process and I’ve been thinking about having everything done and then be ready or – what I preferred - doing everything myself and not missing out on the pleasure of the whole undertaking. You see, something starts with a thought and from there it can take any direction.

I love what I’m doing and it goes very well together with the management of the websites. Nowadays people are coming in chatting about anything and everything and that’s the way I want it to grow, quietly but steadily. Of course I want them to like it and I love to see them enjoying it as sharing makes it so much more fun!

Everyone is welcome, old and young, foreigners and locals and school groups and I don’t charge. I’m no longer free as a bird because my doors are open **Wednesday through Sunday** - and when the cruise ships are in – **from 10 am till 4 pm**. However, when I’m closed I take my bike and go around Gotomeer, Echo and Rincon, my favorite ride.

I feel good; this island’s nature is the most important thing to me. You have to have an eye for detail, but then it is very diverse and there is a lot to discover!”

For more info: Facebook Arjen van Dorsten or go to the museum at Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7. ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Bonaire Artist In MIA



Lorenzo Mittiga in his show booth

The Show was "Spectrum Miami 2017" (SMIA2017) during the famous "Art Basel Week" from December 6-10 in the heart of Miami's Arts and Entertainment District, showcasing an international slate of artists and galleries. **Bonaire resident artist Lorenzo Mittiga** says, "I exhibited at Spectrum in the 'Foto Solo' section with six images of Bonaire printed in Fine Art, paper and face mounted in acrylic. Lot of success!" Every first week of December, throngs of art lovers and industry insiders flock to Miami Art Week in search of cutting-edge contemporary art from galleries and artists worldwide. Hosting around 30,000 avid art enthusiasts annually, Spectrum Miami is a highlight of the renowned, always-eclectic Miami Art Week. ■ L.D./Press release



Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Machu Pichu, Peru



Laura Evans writes, "We (Laura and Vann Evans) are Sand Dollar owners. We hiked the Inca Trail from KM82 near **Ollataytambo, Peru**, to the Sun Gate at Machu Picchu (about 50 miles in the Andes ranging from 8,000 feet to more than 15,000 feet) with four dear friends, as well as porters, cooks and a licensed guide employed by our outfitter. It was the trip of a lifetime and we were happy to have *The Bonaire Reporter* with us for such a journey." ■

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BEST Care Zorgwinkel Foundation

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DO-ABLE TIPS FOR ACTUALLY LOSING WEIGHT THIS YEAR

The problem is that most people want to overhaul too much at once, especially at the start of a new year.

They're too focused on the outcome (losing 50 pounds) instead of the process (what, specifically, does it actually take to get there?).

Plus, all change isn't necessarily good change. For example, completely cutting out all carbs may work for two weeks, but can you do that for a lifetime? The goal is to focus on changes that are actually sustainable.

With thoughtful planning, you can set incremental *process* goals that will help you achieve your *overall* weight loss goal. As a professional who spends all day every day helping clients lose weight, I see time and again that the difference between a successful weight loss effort and an unsuccessful one is actual legit behavior change. You have to focus on those behaviors that promote weight loss, and drop the habits that prevent it.

Come up with a few process goals that you actually know how to achieve.

A process goal is something that's going to help you achieve that overall goal. These goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and tied to a specific time frame (i.e. "I'll do this for one month, two weeks, for the month of January," etc.). The thing that makes sustainable process goals so successful is that they help you break things *all the way down*, and focus on one achievable thing at a time.

Here are examples of two different kinds of goals:

Goal A: "I wanna start kickboxing this year and burn a load of calories doing it."

Goal B: I will go to the 7 am kickboxing class at [insert kickboxing studio] on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for two weeks, starting Monday, January 2nd.

See the difference? Goal B is specific, measurable, and achievable; while Goal A is vague, nonspecific, and probably too ambitious.

(The technical term for goal B, btw, is a S.M.A.R.T. goal, which stands for specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely.)

Pick just one or two of those goals to start. Remember that when it comes to behavior change, less is more. Focusing on one or two things means you have a higher chance of success.

Here are some more examples of specific process goals:

- I will eat two cups of vegetables with dinner five days per week (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for two weeks.
- I will walk for 15 minutes after dinner on weeknights for two weeks.
- I will eat breakfast everyday for one week before leaving for work in the morning. I will rotate between a smoothie, overnight oats, and eggs.

Ask yourself: On a scale from 1–10, how likely is it that I will achieve this goal?

One being a "not likely" and 10 being "100% achievable". People who pick a 7 or above are a LOT more likely to stick with their goal because they feel confident that they can actually do it.

If you pick less than 7, that's okay, but ask yourself: What made you pick a 6 and not an 8, for example, and what would it take to get you to an 8?

When you reach the end of a goal's time frame, evaluate and adjust as needed.

You might find that the goal was too ambitious (it happens!) and that you need set this goal again but scale back to two days per week of kickboxing, because that's just more realistic. Or maybe you nailed it, and want to add an additional day or two of kickboxing.

As you work toward these goals, try not to let a slip become a fall.

Okay, so maybe you had a week where you just couldn't or didn't take that walk or have those vegetables. Figure out why that happened and resolve to start fresh the next week. Relapse is part of the process. It happens to everyone, and it's okay. What's important is that you realize when you've fallen off and you get back on. ■ Lucinda van der Wardt

Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 20 years. After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk.

More info: www.foodandvitality.info
tel: 599-785-0170
lucinda@foodandvitality.info



Fleurtje, Ava and Laura with some of the great kids from Forsa

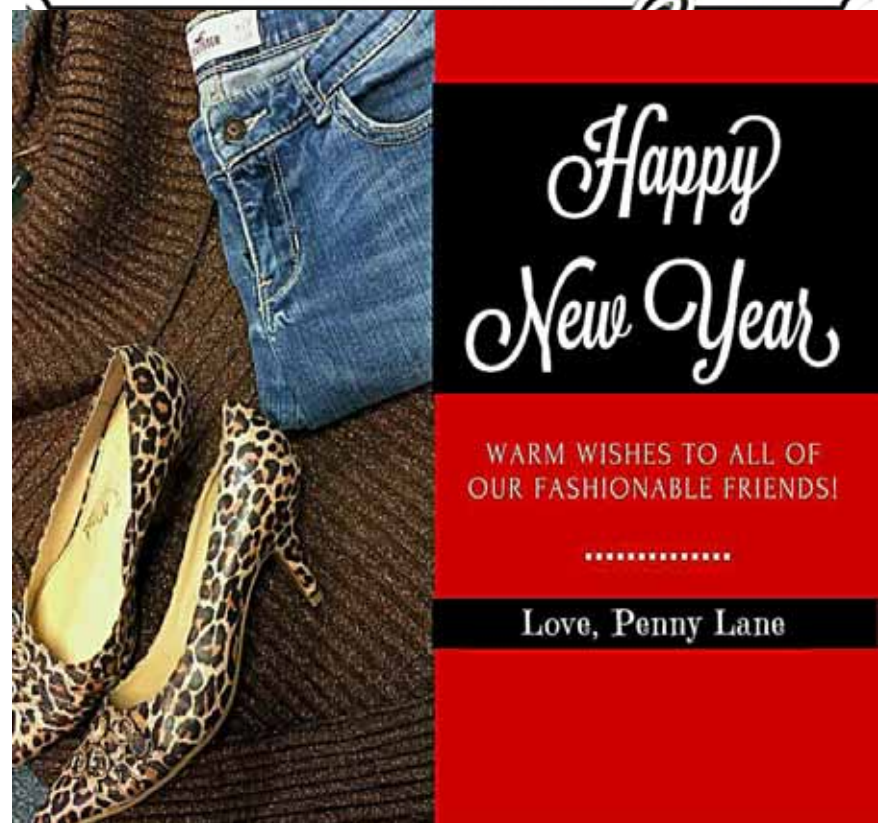
In the week before Christmas 25 children received a Christmas present proudly sponsored by *The Bonaire Reporter*.

With guidance from FleurtjeVeldkamp from Yuma Coaching & Cooking and Ava Wuys (8) who picked out the gifts, one by one for 26 kids, the gesture was a huge success! The kids were very pleased and could not wait to get to playing. Yuma Coaching & Cooking is a new company that focuses on youngsters and their parents offering personal coaching, workshops and cooking classes.

For more information contact Fleurtje at 7001855 or visit Facebook page Yuma-coaching. ■ Press release

Penny Lane Exchange

The Fashion Revolution



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New Year

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OUR FASHIONABLE FRIENDS!

Love, Penny Lane

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Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio's Ice Cream,
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Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.
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DID YOU KNOW?

Recently, Bonaire experienced yet another influx of the brown seaweed, Sargassum, which motivated STINAPA and many volunteers to head out to Lagun several mornings last week to remove it from sensitive beach and mangrove areas. *Sargassum fluitans* and *Sargassum natans* are the two species of brown algae that make up these floating mats, which are also the main species in the Sargasso Sea, affectionately called “The Golden Floating Rainforest.”

In the open ocean, these floating mats are extremely diverse, providing important habitat for over 250 species of fish and invertebrates, many of which are not found anywhere else. As a kid exploring the Texas beaches after storms, I was (and still am) fascinated by the many cool animals that I found associated with Sargassum washed onto the shore, many of which had the exact coloration of the algae (as camouflage): frogfish, crabs, pipefish, nudibranchs, shrimps, etc. As you may know, young sea turtles often spend their tender years finding refuge and a plentiful food supply in these floating seaweed mats. Unfortunately for us, climate change has brought warmer temperatures (which increases algal growth rates) and possibly stronger currents/shifting currents which, combined with more and more land-based nutrients flowing into our oceans, are thought to be the reason why we are seeing more and more massive “strandings” of these floating seaweed mats. Once the algae hits the shore, it either washes up, or accumulates, sinks and rots. When it rots, all of



the oxygen gets used up and hydrogen sulfide forms, both of which cause massive die-offs of marine life. We saw dead baby turtles, lobsters and fish, among other sealife, presumably victims to the decay of the seaweed.

Something of interest about this Sargassum is that it is believed to be formed, not in the Sargasso Sea in the northern Atlantic, but in the equatorial regions of the Atlantic (the North Equatorial Recirculation Region). The next time we have large quantities of algae on our shores and you feel like lending a hand, please check the STINAPA Facebook page for information on volunteer activities.

STINAPA would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out last week – the creatures living in the bay at Lagun have a much better chance at surviving this. **□ Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist.** Connecting people with nature



Cleaning Up Sargassum

Cover Story



The sea gave Bonaire an unwelcome Christmas gift: large quantities of Sargassum (a type of seaweed; the Sargasso Sea was named after it) have drifted ashore into Lagoen and some other places on the windward side of Bonaire. If left unchecked, after a few days, the Sargassum will start to decompose, killing all life underneath and spreading a horrible smell across the area. Islands in the Eastern Caribbean were afflicted by the drifting weed several weeks ago.

Locals and vacationers helped the STINAPA Bonaire staff, Junior Rangers, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and many others to put in a great effort to begin the cleanup. On the first day the crews began raking Sargassum and the next day removed a new batch from the water. Once on the beach a front-loader provided by Damascus took away the raked weeds.

The Sargassum was already decomposing and fish, lobsters, and other sea creatures died. This is because decomposing Sargassum depletes available oxygen which fish and other sea creatures need to live. The removal of the Sargassum from the water during the past few days has prevented more casualties. Thanks to all volunteers for their time and effort! A great job is done. STINAPA will keep monitoring the area. For more information see the Do You Know column at left. **□ Press release/G.D.**

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Phone: 717-9181

Why Cruisers Love Bonaire

Bonaire, We came for the diving and will be staying because of the people

We motored our sailboat, *UnoMas*, straight into the wind, past Klein Bonaire. We were greeted with a spectacular sunrise over Kralendijk, and had no idea that three months later, we would be purchasing our only land-based property, on Bonaire!

Luckily, the rumors of a full mooring field and full marinas were not true, allowing us to grab one of two open moorings. After unloading our tender, we tied up to the dinghy dock for clearing-in at Customs and Immigration. The people there were (as reported on sailing websites) pleasant, courteous and efficient. We continued on to Harbor Village Marina, to pay our mooring fees, and to top up our diesel and gasoline, in jerry cans. Here too, we experienced friendly and knowledgeable service.

Van Den Tweel offers a free cruisers' shuttle that we took advantage of numerous times. This service is in high demand. The driver, **Teresa**, frequently makes two round trips to accommodate all of the people, even though she is only paid for one. After restocking our fridge and freezer, we finally started settling in and started enjoying the happy hours at Karel's Bar, Hillside, Canti Awa, and Zazu, as well as the monthly wine tastings at the Antillean Wine Company!

Like many, we came here to dive. Bonaire has always been what we compared our worldwide diving experiences to. We have been visiting Bonaire since 1999. It has been eight years since our last trip, and we were quite concerned that Bonaire's reefs had suffered the overfishing, bleaching and algae growth experienced in our current sailing journey. Unfortunately, we do see algae, coral sanding, and lion fish on every dive. We are not seeing mature groupers and snappers that are needed to help keep the reef eco-system in balance. Thankfully, it is not as bad as most places we have recently visited, that had 75-100% of the reef dead or covered in algae and with very few coral maintaining fish. Bonaire is, hands down, still our favorite underwater experience. However, we are concerned at what state the reefs will be in upon our return in four years, since so much has changed in the last eight.

So, why would we fall in love with Bonaire enough to purchase property? We posed a question to ourselves, "If we could no longer dive, would Bonaire still be a place where we would want to live?" The answer was, "Yes." Since our last visit, Bonaire has evolved in providing numerous grocery stores, hardware stores, specialty stores (Budget Marine, Your Scuba Store, and Yellow Submarine to name a few we frequented), medical facilities (We utilized



Catamaran Uno Mas

both the Dive Doctor as well as the hospital and had our teeth cleaned with Rachel), and government services uncommon to some of the other remote islands.

Nature conservation is also very important for us. Like most semi-retired cruisers, we enjoy staying active and volunteering. We look forward to sharing our time with STINAPA, the Animal Shelter, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, and to also help with the coral reclamation, upon our return.

We were concerned that all of the cruise ships coming to Bonaire would ruin its authenticity. We were thankful that Bonaire has not yet turned into another Aruba. It is a pleasure walking through the market booths

while the cruise ships are in town and seeing all of the local products made by the people of Bonaire.

Unfortunately, the crime against divers is still happening at the remote dive sites. We heard of one boater couple suffering an armed robbery and two boat robberies while moored, within the last two years (as reported on the yacht Caribbean Safety and Security Net). Despite these instances, we still feel safe when compared to other islands, while walking or traveling around town, during the day as well as at night (Well, except for all of the potholes in the roads).

Lastly, and most importantly, the people of Bonaire have been incredibly welcoming, especially those who have tolerated our numerous questions, tolerated our try at learning Papiamentu, and graced us with a sense of acceptance.

We wish to thank all of our new island friends for making this trip to Bonaire a life changing experience for us. We look forward to coming back and meeting again!



Mark and Angie

The Reporter would like more visiting cruisers to tell their stories to us. Email reporter@bonairenews.com



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Want We Want & Don't Want

Over the years we asked our readers what they wanted, as well as didn't want on Bonaire in the form of a contest. We received dozens of entries and published them in past editions. The winning idea for the 2017 What Bonaire Doesn't Have Contest was submitted by George Crerar :

“Safer and more dignified means of getting disabled passengers on and off aircraft.”

Flamingo airport is not equipped with a “jetway.” Air travelers to Bonaire are faced with steep stairs when they enter or disembark from an airliner. If you are in good shape it's not a problem. But if you are even a bit disabled it's a challenge. There are alternative, lower cost, solutions like these:



Or



The Reporter is making Bonaire more accessible for the handicapped its 2018 goal. We will publish an “accessibility column” on a regular basis.

We observed that most of the entries submitted this year were, as the winning entry was, focused on what Bonaire needs to make it even better. They included:

- All major roads to be pothole free
- All government services (Tax, Customs, Immigration, ZVK, etc) in one location away from Playa with tons of parking spaces!
- Telbo to provide 24/7 repair services
- More parking downtown
- More staghorn and elkhorn corals in the shallow waters,



For the 15th consecutive year a Holiday Senior Dinner was held for over 200 of Bonaire's 60 plussers. They came from Tera Cora Nikiboko Antriol, North Sa-linja, and Rincon. It was sponsored by 21 businesses and individuals. ■ *Press release*

- Reduced usage of harmful suntan lotions and
- Free roaming donkeys in the back country.
- RV Parks
- Feral cats eating native birds

Readers also expressed what they don't want -

- Bike lanes everywhere- (island is too small and too busy)
- Government offices spread out all over with no parking
- Pot holes (again)
- Big commercial signs
- The loss of a culture
- A new Bonaire with harsh Dutch regulations
- Golf Carts restricted to 40 kph areas, not main roads
- Only used cars available for sale for a 3-year period
- Ban on Island Council members changing parties in mid-stream
- Cruise ship tourists to pay a higher head tax
- More bicycle lanes
- One day per year for duty free/tax free imports for citizens (we choose our day)
- A Mexican restaurant
- An MRI machine
- An airport parking payment machine that takes bills larger than \$1.00
- A ban on golf carts on the road
- A ban on bicycle riders riding 2 or 3 abreast
- Drivers to use turn signals at roundabouts
- Cheaper inter-island plane tickets
- Fiber optic cable in all neighborhoods
- Lower WEB bills
- Sidewalks and bike paths
- One car per person only

Below are some of the “wants and don't wants” received ;

- Cruise ships furnishing bikes and other equipment to passengers
- To be the most expensive island in the Caribbean
- More fast food chains
- BOPEC fires
- Rude tourists
- Crowded sidewalks
- More cars and trucks
- Uncovered truck loads of dirt blowing
- Brighter streetlights dimming the stars

And then there are things that Bonaire doesn't have and doesn't want: contributed over the years:

- ♦ 24 hour convenience stores,
- ♦ 6 lanes of anything,
- ♦ advertising from planes,
- ♦ bridge to Klein Bonaire,
- ♦ commuter traffic,
- ♦ gun shop,
- ♦ hurricanes,
- ♦ iguana farm,
- ♦ jetski rentals,
- ♦ Marineland,
- ♦ McDonalds,
- ♦ parking meters,
- ♦ parasailing,
- ♦ refineries,
- ♦ add on sales tax,
- ♦ segregation,
- ♦ spearfishing (except for lionfish)
- ♦ steel mill,
- ♦ subways,
- ♦ The Marlboro Man,
- ♦ topless bars,
- ♦ traffic lights,
- ♦ and turtle soup.

What are your ideas for more of the things we WANT and DON'T WANT on Bonaire? ■ *G.D.*



L.DeSalvo photo

Yes, Bonaire can be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Senior Dinner

Bonaire Island Photography photo



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A Garden? Just Do It

BREAKING THE CODE FOR THE NEW YEAR

It's hard to believe that 2018 is here. Was it not just yesterday that we celebrated 2016 Old Years Eve? I feel sometimes that I have to run after time otherwise I lose hold of it, while in my teen years it felt like time was going too slow and it could not go fast enough for me to become a free, independent person.

So recently everyone was preparing the final things to celebrate a great old year's evening and to welcome in the new year. With all the Bonairean cultural dinners like the different *stobas*, the special grandma snacks and bolos like *bolo kas-joe pete* (tart with a cream of cashew nuts as topping) and delicious home made drinks like *pina colada* and *ponche creme* we needed to do a lot of shopping.

But while shopping I notice (maybe you do too) a lot of new words on labels on food bottles and cans on the shelves in the markets. It's a new thing, a trend, of food producing companies to use these words on labels, like eyes, to make you feel "safe" with the product.

Words like: Raw Food, Organic, Biologisch, Extra, Eco, Fairtrade, Vital, Energy, Pure, Genetic Modification.

What do all these words mean? And does this new trend on food labels have any impact on you?

I thought, maybe it's a good idea to explain these words in a simple way so you are more aware of the type of food you buy. Words like **Raw Food, Pure, Basic**, mean that during processing the product stayed close to its original form.

Like Raw Cane Sugar means it is all 100% pure cane sugar.

Organic means that only living things like parts of plants and/or animals have been used in the product. So no chemical stuff in it.

Biologisch (a Dutch term) means that the product -the plant or animal- has not undergone any chemical treatment during its growing. And also that the soil where it grows is chemical free and nature-friendly soil.

Extra can mean a higher concentration of the product per amount. Like Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Eco comes from the word Ecosystem. This means that all living things in a certain area live in balance and harmony with each other. They need each other to make life possible. It's pure nature friendly. Because of that the quality of these products have a high nutrition value and are kind to your body.

Fair Trade means that farmers in developing countries get a fair deal for their products. That means honest business for these people so that they can build up a good future for their families.

Vital and Energy means that supposedly your body will feel stronger and more powerful when you use these products.

Genetic Modification is a technology where the genetic structures are modified to result in higher production and enables the plant to cope better with sick-



nesses. So the plant becomes stronger and produces more food.

These days people are more aware of the relationship between food and health. When we feed our body with healthy food it leads to a healthy, strong body and better life. There are a lot of people who are looking for healthy, fair trade, nature friendly, honest, pure food. Food companies are aware of this new trend and offer their products appropriately. That is a very good thing. We have a choice now in how healthy we want to eat and live. And these words on food labels tell us what we are looking for. A very good step forward.

But be careful too! These words can be very manipulating. So read the small print on the labels as well. You may be surprised with the difference between the small print while the big words gives you another idea of the product.

Now you might think that shopping with all this on your mind must be a heavy job. Ha. Ha. But no, its not. This awareness is automatically on your mind when shopping. It goes by itself.

And when you want to be sure of healthy food, start in your garden. It might be a good intension for the new year to plant your own vegetables and have your own fruit trees. The most healthy food is when you pick it fresh from your garden and have it the next hour as your dinner. Then you know the plants have no chemical additives, are grown in healthy soil, watered by mineral rich rain water, with care and love. It does not mean that you need to have a lot in your yard. Like everything a little bit is enough. 2 tomato plants, some wild cucumber, 2 bean plants, eggplants, *tajerblad*, sweet potato and 2 yucca plants. Some *bacoba* trees, a *shimaruku* tree and of course a pomegranate.

All are small plants and trees, use less space and don't take much time.

And so at the end of 2017 I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Blessed 2018.

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



Native Trees of Bonaire

NOW YOU CAN PLANT THEM IN YOUR GARDEN



ECHO Screen House Sales Office

ECHO OPENS ITS DOORS FOR NATIVE PLANT SALES

Echo officially opened their sales nursery recently. This nursery was created so that everyone on the island can make a difference in reforesting Bonaire. Over 20 species of trees are available for purchase. Species vary from the **Kabana**, the only native palm tree of Bonaire, or the well-known **Kenepa** and the parrot's favorite fruit tree, the **Kalbas**, to a tree listed on the IUCN as threatened, the **Wayaka**. All have been raised from seed and lovingly cared for by the Echo team. The sales nursery will be opened every Wednesday from 5 to 6pm. The trees will cost around \$10 to \$20 and you will get some planting advice for free.

When buying native trees, 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; you will also contribute to the island-wide effort to restore Bonaire's tropical dry forest. Revenue from sales of native trees will go to sustaining the work that Echo began in 2016 to protect



Open gates beckon

and reforest parts of Bonaire.

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 local government, the Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire -OLB. □
Roos van Rijen for Echo



Bobbejan's

BBQ

"Great food, great value!!!"

Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

"Hopi dushi mes."

Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"

Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

Friday	6-10 PM
Saturday	6-10 PM
Sunday	12-2 & 6-10 PM



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 Lagoen Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002. Free entry.

•**Museo Boneriano in Sabana.**—Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Monday through Sunday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance (see story on page 5)

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

Cruise Ship Schedule

	DATE	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAP
Tuesday	2-Jan-18	Monarch	0700-1800	N.pier	2744
Wednesday	3-Jan-18	Regal Princess	1200-1900	S.pier	3600
Thursday	4-Jan-18	Crown Princess	0700-1700	N.pier	3150
Friday	5-Jan-18	Royal Princess	1200-1900	S.pier	3600
Saturday	6-Jan-18	Amadea	0800-1800	N.pier	624
Monday	January 8, 2018	Insignia	0800-1900	N.pier	824
Monday	8-Jan-18	Mein Schiff 3	0700-1900	S.pier	2500
Tuesday	9-Jan-18	Club Med 2	0800-1800	N.pier	390
Tuesday	9-Jan-18	Adventure of the Seas	0700-1700	S.pier	3114
Wednesday	January 10, 2018	Aida Diva	0700-1800	N.pier	2194
Wednesday	10-Jan-18	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	S.pier	3114
Monday	15-Jan-18	Eclipse	0800-1800	S.pier	2858

No Cruise ships on the following days: Jan. 1, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14

Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every **two weeks.** For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)**

•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 Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701- 9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi

EXHIBITIONS

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit-** Terramar Museum

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

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Friday, January 5,—Benefit dinner for Stichting Kinderhulp Bonaire concert, Red Palm Village. Entertainment by Dutch TV stars, 7 pm. \$150 donation. Sign up via email to info@redpalmvillage.com or call 599 700-3978. More page 3

Sunday, January 7—Three Kings Day, Maskarada Troupe performs. Info 700-5853

Sunday, January 14—Kadimo Survival Trail for Kids, Washington-Slagbaai Park, 6am-12pm, \$15. Info 717-8444.

Tuesday, January 16—Connecting People with Nature, presentation by Stinapa Biologist Caren Eckrich, 7-8pm, free. Info on location call 717-8444

Friday, January 26—New Years Concert presented by Classical Music Board Bonaire. A bridge between classical music and Bonaire Island Culture. More in next edition

every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

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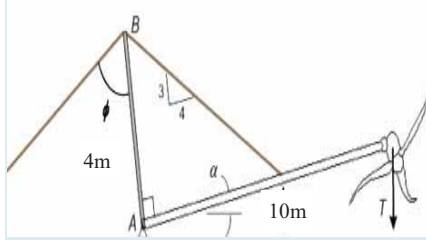
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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 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
Tue 02	01:42 0.11 ft	05:19 0.05 ft	12:44 1.21 ft	21:38 -0.30 ft		6:57	18:22
Wed 03	03:06 0.18 ft	06:33 0.13 ft	13:40 1.16 ft	22:26 -0.33 ft		6:57	18:23
Thu 04	04:12 0.28 ft	08:04 0.20 ft	14:37 1.08 ft	23:10 -0.34 ft		6:57	18:23
Fri 05	05:06 0.40 ft	09:41 0.24 ft	15:35 0.97 ft	23:52 -0.33 ft		6:58	18:24
Sat 06	05:53 0.52 ft	11:14 0.25 ft	16:32 0.84 ft			6:58	18:25
Sun 07		00:30 -0.30 ft	06:38 0.65 ft	12:40 0.23 ft	17:30 0.70 ft	6:58	18:25
Mon 08		Last Quarter 01:07 -0.26 ft	07:20 0.75 ft	14:00 0.18 ft	18:27 0.56 ft	6:59	18:26
Tue 09		01:40 -0.20 ft	08:01 0.84 ft	15:15 0.12 ft	19:25 0.42 ft	6:59	18:26
Wed 10		02:10 -0.13 ft	08:40 0.90 ft	16:25 0.06 ft	20:24 0.31 ft	6:59	18:27
Thu 11		02:36 -0.07 ft	09:18 0.94 ft	17:33 0.01 ft	21:27 0.21 ft	6:59	18:27
Fri 12		02:57 -0.01 ft	09:55 0.96 ft	18:38 -0.04 ft	22:38 0.13 ft	7:00	18:28
Sat 13		03:09 0.04 ft	10:31 0.95 ft	19:40 -0.08 ft		7:00	18:28
Sun 14	00:13 0.09 ft	03:01 0.07 ft	11:07 0.94 ft	20:38 -0.11 ft		7:00	18:29
Mon 15	11:44 0.92 ft	21:30 -0.13 ft				7:00	18:30



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Pets Of The Week

MEET KIRA AND KENIA

These sweet shepherd-mix sisters are hoping to find a loving home in the New Year! Originally from St. Maarten, Kira and Kenia came to Bonaire and eventually to the Shelter when their owner could no longer care for them. The sisters are very happy dogs. They love to play...with each other and with people and children. The only thing: Kira and Kenia are not too "happy" about cats...so best that they go to a "cat-free" home! Both dogs are good on leashes and love to take walks.



Kira and Kenia

If you are looking for good-sized, sweet and loving dogs, Kira and Kenia could be your match. The girls are four years old, sterilized, chipped and ready for their next adventure! You can visit Kira

and Kenia and all their Sheltermates at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday through Friday 9am to noon and 3 to 5pm, Saturdays 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. nonstop. Visit their website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com/> to donate or watch the live cat cams. Story by Jane Madden -Disko

ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS



WHY TAKE THE RISK? GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED

MICROCHIP MISCONCEPTIONS

This is the time of the year on Bonaire (fireworks season) when the most pets go missing. Animal Shelter Bonaire and both Bonaire's veterinarians recommend that all pets be microchipped as an aid to reunite with their owners if they become lost. The Shelter has been microchipping all adoptees for the last several years. However, even if your pet is microchipped it does not guarantee a quick reunion. The biggest misconception about microchips is that once implanted, your pet is protected, but there's one more key step...a step you as the owner must take: REGISTER YOUR CHIP NUMBER! Too often, lost animals are taken to the Shelter or the vet, scanned for microchips, and the ID number leads nowhere because the microchip was never registered at the Shelter or with the veterinarians.

Many people mistakenly believe that the microchip itself is linked directly to their name and contact information because their pet was microchipped at adoption from the Shelter or at their veterinarian. This is incorrect. The scanners used by shelters or veterinarians to "read" the chip DO NOT PROVIDE OWNER INFORMATION. It doesn't even identify where the chip is registered. It merely reads out a number. That number must be registered in the database of whomever is using the scanner in order to locate the owner's information.

Unfortunately there is no singular "universal" or "international" registry, there are dozens of registries in hundreds of countries. Animal Shelter Bonaire protocol consists of scanning every "found" animal that is brought in. If the animal is chipped

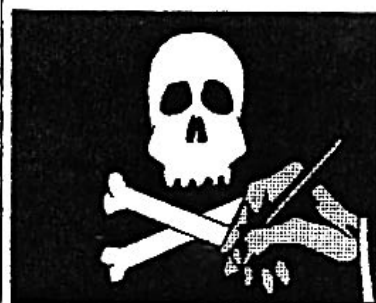
and the number is not in the Shelter database, then the Shelter contacts both veterinarians to see if the number is in their databases with contact information. If your pet was chipped off island, the number also needs to be registered here. No matter where your pet was chipped, your best insurance for being reunited with your pet on Bonaire is to be sure to register the microchip ID number and contact information with Animal Shelter Bonaire and with both veterinarians.

If you travel with your pet off island, you should also register your chip number and contact information with the local registries, shelters or veterinarians in the area you are living or visiting. You can register any brand of microchip with any registry, and you can register the same microchip number in multiple registries. Check on line for the various registries that exist. Some services charge a fee upon registration, annually, or each time you update information. There is no fee for recording your chip numbers with the Shelter or the local veterinarians. Make sure you do it and keep your contact information up to date. Insure the opportunity to be reunited with your pet...it's up to you!

Story by Jane Madden -Disko



Microchip Next to Grain of Rice



THE PIRATE'S PEN

by Jack Chalk

We thought it fitting to reprint the 1995 little tale on behalf of our sea critters by Jack Chalk (R.I.P.) to start the new year.

Imagine yourself kicking back on your patio on a Saturday afternoon. The breeze is blowing, you're drinking your favorite beer, munching on some pretzels, all the time thinking to yourself how good life really is.

Then all of a sudden a 747 airliner swoops in on top of you and just hovers 2 feet from your face and begins to rapidly flash its landing lights right in your eyes. Before you know it, there are 2, 3, 4, even 5 more 747s doing the same thing.

Now one 747 extends its landing gear, that conveniently has claws instead of wheels, and picks you up out of your comfortable, laid-back position and begins to play catch with you, repeatedly pitching you right in front of one of the landing lights.

This story may sound a little far fetched and frightening at the same time, but this is pretty similar to what seahorses and frogfish go through every day when divers are around. So the next time you are out there diving and begging your divemaster to find you a seahorse or a frogfish, think about the story I just told you before you reach in to grab the seahorse or frogfish and try to move it for a better picture. If you can't get that perfect shot, remember that just seeing one of these beautiful and fragile animals in the wild is something that very few people in the world will ever have the chance to see.

Let's have a little bit more courtesy toward the animals we so dearly love to see, for without being courteous toward them, we might just some day not have any around to be courteous to.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

LIFE AND DEATH OF TYCHO BRAHE

In case you were thinking that all astronomers are dull, in this issue we're going to take a closer look at the most interesting man in the world - well at least for the late 1500s.

We're talking about **Tycho Brahe** - the best naked-eye astronomer who ever lived and a fellow who had a rather colorful life.

Some of Brahe's accomplishments include: getting his nose cut off in a duel, having a pet elk, a clairvoyant jester named Jepp and... how he died...

Let's take you to Denmark in November 11, 1572.

Our soon-to-be-astronomer Tycho Brahe was coming home when he looked up, as he often did, and noticed an extra star in the familiar constellation of **Cassiopeia the Queen**.

This new star, or nova, was hard to miss! Brahe watched it for weeks and he could even see it during the daytime - it was that bright. He wrote a book on his observations and became one of the most famous astronomers in Europe.

We call Brahe's nova the **Supernova of 1572**. It was the result of a massive star exploding suddenly. We haven't had a supernova like that since 1604.

Now let's give you the dirt on Tycho Brahe. When he was a child, his uncle kidnapped him, but his parents didn't seem to mind. They were like, "fine by us. You raise him."

Tycho then inherited a ton of money and developed a reputation for being a tad eccentric. Beyond the long mustache and the fancy clothes, he also wore a metal prosthetic nose. This was not a fashion trend. Tycho had the tip of his nose cut off in a duel. Apparently he had been having a long-standing mathematical argument. They finally decided to settle it with swords. Brahe survived, but his nose did not.

Brahe built a state-of-the-art observatory/castle on the island of Hven which he ran as a petty dictator. Every night for 20 years he observed the sky. Now this was before the invention of the telescope so he made his measurements with the naked eye and some quadrants of his own design. He



amassed mounds of data and created the best catalog of astronomical knowledge. It led him to an interesting conclusion. The planets did not go around the **Sun**, like **Copernicus** said. But they didn't all just go around the **Earth** either. He created a hybrid system where the Earth stayed still while the **Moon** and Sun orbited it. Then the other planets known at the time, **Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn** orbited the Sun - which then orbited the Earth.

It seemed crazy, and was wrong, but the **Tychonic system** seemed to work. Brahe threw elaborate parties at the castle and paraded around his pet elk and one night the elk got drunk, fell down the steps and died. Later he was kicked off his island and the residents destroyed the castle. In 1600 he employed the brilliant mathematician **Johannes Kepler** as an assistant.

Brahe was suspicious of Kepler and wouldn't give him all of his data right away. Kepler became increasingly frustrated and suddenly Brahe died.

Would Kepler have killed Brahe just for some info? Some historians considered that as a possibility. Kepler said that Brahe died of stomach problems, but can you trust him? So in 2010, they dug Brahe up and examined the body and found he died of... a burst bladder. Yes, he held his peepee too long and it burst. Gross. And too weird!

So that is the interesting life and bizarre death of the strangest astronomer to walk the Earth: Tycho. □ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

January 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) A series of misunderstandings may be at fault. Travel could include delays and other minor problems. So smile! Empty promises will cause confusion. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can certainly gain popularity; however, don't do it by paying for everyone else. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. You can open up to your mate and let them know what you expect out of this relationship. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Take a close look at contracts and agreements that have been offered to you. Rest and relaxation will be more favorable than you think. You may win favors if you present your ideas and include your family. Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. You have the stamina and determination to succeed. You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. You may be fortunate while traveling. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. You don't like confrontations at the best of times; however, you may find them difficult to avoid. Listen to the complaints of others. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Limitations will set in if you haven't followed the rules. Don't get involved in joint ventures. Don't forget to read the fine print. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You are best to work behind the scenes on pro-

jects that require detail or precision. Your depressed mood has been hard to shake. You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable. Get out and experience the spice of life. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Stand up and propose your ideas, and you'll be surprised how many people will follow you. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Channel your energy into decorating or household chores. Be confident in your endeavors and others will believe in your efforts. Trouble could be brewing at home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an Issue. Real estate investments will payoff. You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. Work diligently and you will get ahead this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. Don't let your emotional upset interfere with your professional objectives. You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Unexpected romantic connections can be made if you go out with friends or take a pleasure trip. The information that you gain can be used in every aspect of your life. Don't press your luck with your loved ones. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. □ *Michael Thiessen*

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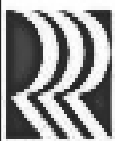
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