

It's Still
FREE

BONAIRE

February 12-26, 2018, Year 25, Issue 4

Valentine Edition

The REPORTER

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 777-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Reminder
UPHILL CHALLENGE
an official ride for the roses event
to fight cancer

Datum: Zondag
18 Februari 2018
Time: 16:00 - 20:00
Location: Sabadeco West
uphillchallenge@ridefortheroses.org

Karnaval 2018

Page 8



KARNIVAL QUEEN

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



InselAir is in zombie mode. It's a dead airline flying. Its lone jet is grounded pending a million dollar maintenance C-check and its two prop-jet Fokker 50s are near the end of their service unless they also get major C-check. The chief operation officer, **Giles Filatriault**, brought in to rescue the airline a year ago, has packed his bags. While there have been layoffs, the airline still has 175 employees— more employees than seats on its two remaining planes combined. Nevertheless, MCB Curaçao Bank and some pension funds are considering injecting \$3-\$5 million to keep the airline flying, at least among the ABC Islands.

Several weeks ago, when all InselAir's aircraft were down for repairs, Divi Divi airlines flew four return flights with their new 19-seat **Twin Otter aircraft** between BON and CUR to rescue stranded passengers.

Fortunately, InselAir has been flying more reliably these past two weeks. Keep it up!

► **From now through September the piers in the harbor of Kralendijk will be extensively renovated.** After an extensive tendering procedure, bids from six Dutch and Caribbean contractors were received; the firm **Knol Weg en Waterbouw** from The Netherlands was commissioned to carry out the work. This contractor has extensive experience. The work must be completed by the end of September.

The renovation of the piers will be carried out in stages beginning with the middle. The quay height will be dropped to make it more suited for the handling of (Ro-Ro) cargo ships. When this is finished the repairs to the South Pier will begin. The concrete will be mended and two mooring dolphins primarily for large cruise ships added.

According to **Harbormaster Gunther Flanegin**, the current mooring facilities are far from ideal for large ships, and several shipping companies have urged improvement.

The project was realized in close consultation between the Island Government and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. This Ministry is the financier of the project. The project management of the activities is carried out by Port of Amsterdam

International, which also works in other port affairs with the Harbor Master and the Public Body Bonaire.

► **Why is the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management just focusing on the "water" part of its mission and not our road infrastructure?**

► In the case of the murder of cruise ship employee **Adriana Morales de Florencio**, 44-year old Bonairean **Raysley Sambo (initials R.E.G.S)**, was sentenced on January 31 to a prison sentence of 17 years for manslaughter.

The Public Prosecutor's Office demand in this case was for a total of 22 years imprisonment. The Public Prosecutor had asked that the suspect be convicted of murder, but the judge found premeditated murder not proven in this case.

The judge stated that the suspect killed Morales with three knife stabs in the neck. He also tried to conceal his crime by burying the victim. "The loss of life is irreversible and now leads to enormous grief and loss of life to the victims' relatives," said the judge in her verdict.

The Morales Family was also awarded **financial compensation** of \$1,107.70 in damages. The claim for of \$20,880 in immaterial damages was not granted.

The abduction, intended rape and murder of Morales severely shocked the community, which is not accustomed to violent crime.

► There appears to be a resurgence of interest in downtown Kralendijk (better known as Playa to locals). The building behind Exito is being renovated into several two-bedroom apartments and the two-story building next to Porchia's Restaurant on Kaya L.D.Gerharts transformed into a 18-room downtown hotel. Now when will the old Ford Garage become the promised parking garage?

► **Do you speak Dungleish?** Are the Dutch now considered native speakers of English, and is Dutch-English a distinctive thing? Leiden University's linguistics expert **Alison Edwards** said, "If you can assume that you can walk down the street and that the hairdresser will be able to speak to you in English, and the bus driver, and the taxi driver, then functionally it's a second language not a foreign language." This pretty much holds true in Bonaire.

To learn more go to :

http://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2018/01/english-is-no-longer-a-foreign-language-in-the-netherlands-but-it-has-a-unique-character-here/?utm_source=newsletter

► **The Echo Foundation was able to exceed its fundraising goal of \$12,000** this year. Echo reported that its annual Yellow-shouldered Amazon single-day roost count, which took place on January 27th recorded 1,021 birds. Thanks to the donors, Echo will be able to continue on with work in the coming year which includes:

- Monitoring wild nests and preventing illegal poaching during the critical breeding season,
- Restoring and protecting the dry forest where the parrots live,
- Rescuing injured wild parrots,
- Providing food and enrichment for the aviary birds remaining in Echo's care,
- Inspiring appreciation for parrots and nature through community outreach and eco-tourism, ...and so much more! — *Lauren Schmalz, Echo Director*

► **Bonaire's turtles can help your company while you help them.** In 2017, a grand total of 38 sea turtle nests was adopted by companies and individuals on Bonaire and further afield. Saved were 3,987 baby turtles. You can make Adopt-A-Nest your contribution to Bonaire's natural environment and economy, and increase your business' visibility at the same time. Send an email to Communication's Officer **Kaj Schut** at cepa@bonaireturtles.org.

► **Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond** thanked **Evelina Betancourt - Anthony** on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor Rijna**, on 31 January for her work as Acting Lieutenant Governor of the Bonaire public body. Ms. Betancourt-Anthony has spent the past two years with great energy and enthusiasm in the interests of Bonaire. She frequently substituted for Governor Rijna in a professional manner during his absence.



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How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"

The Publisher: George DeSalvo
George@bonairenews.com
Phone 777-6125

The Editor: Laura DeSalvo
Laura@bonairenews.com
Phone 786-6518
Box 407, Bonaire,
Caribbean Netherlands

Story, tip, question or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
Phone 777-6125

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► **Another reason to love Bonaire.** The San Francisco Mariadal Hospital offers free internet. It eases the pain of waiting for your appointment or your prescriptions. Free Internet is also available at many businesses as well as Wilhelmina Park.

► **Trans World Radio (TWR), made history on January 30 when it increased its transmitter power** and began broadcasting from its new tower on Bonaire. The new Nautel NX400 is a 450kW, 800kW, three-pattern transmission system that will extend the range of Shine 800 AM to more countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

TWR has been broadcasting Christian programming from Bonaire since 1964. January 30's first broadcast from the new transmitter marked the culmination of five years of work.

► **Last week the Echo Foundation team helped to plant native trees on Pink Beach,** a beautiful but windswept beach in the south of Bonaire. The area is managed by Cargill Bonaire, who initiated and funded this project.

The aim is to create natural shade and protection for visitors of the beach. One of the planted species included the rare Sabal palm (*Sabal antillensis*), the only native palm on Bonaire. Let's hope most of the trees will survive the strong wind so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of these planted trees in the future.

► **Happy Valentine's Day to all our readers. We do love you!**

A great way to celebrate would be with a

romantic dinner at one of our great local restaurants. We can suggest two for an extraordinary experience—Porchia's Restaurant, newly opened downtown (see ad on page 7) and BonAroma, super romantic near the Marina (see ad on page 15).

► **You must pay your road tax by mid-February or face a fine** if you get caught without payment proof. Since annual license plate stickers are no longer issue be sure to hold on to your payment receipt to show if you are stopped.



► **A high quality Celestron Astromaster 130 telescope** was recently donated for use by Bonaire's Junior Rangers.

STINAPA would like to have sessions that could use the telescope to teach a bit about astronomy, outer space, earth satellites or other objects in the "Bonaire Sky Park." If you can help contact Desiree Croes, nme@stinapa.org, tel +599 795 1915



(Continued on page 6)

Storm Over Statia



Last week the Dutch central government disqualified the St. Eustatius elected government and put two outsiders it appointed in their place. This seemingly dictatorial action was motivated by a review of the social, economic and judicial situation of the island by a "Committee of Wise Men"—a common method that has experienced, respected individuals assess a difficult situation when normal approaches fail to get results. The Committee reported 'gross neglect of duty' by the island commissioners and the Island Council coupled with an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

This behavior has had a harmful effect on the island's population. Businesses and residents are suffering from inequality before the law, intimidation and powerlessness in the face of arbitrary rule. The report said that their politicians and administrators buy public support with promises and jobs, and blame everything on the Netherlands. The resulting physical and socioeconomic deprivation has a direct impact on islanders' daily lives. Delays in improving the island's roads, water supply, housing and waste processing have had a negative impact on islanders' lives as well. Compared to the other BES Islands, St. Eustatius, "Statia," has stagnated. In the interests of the islanders, the Dutch lawmakers decided to no longer tolerate this.

The Committee concluded that the power on Statia is in the hands of one man, **Clyde van Putten**, leader of the Progressive Labor Party. A few days after hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean the Dutch government offered help. At that time Van Putten said of the Dutch soldier relief workers, "We will kill them and burn them in the streets of Statia." Clearly, the island is led "with the classic forms of a dictatorship," said the Committee.

The Committee also found that The Netherlands has also acted reprehensibly in recent years. Since the 10-10-10 restructuring poverty has further increased. The "Wise Men" found deep dissatisfaction with the Netherlands on the island. The residents reckoned that 'The Hague' would increase social welfare benefits. They are still waiting. The Netherlands has neglected St. Eustatius in recent years, according to the Committee. 'The Hague' showed little interest in building the young municipality. They added, "With her long-suffering, uninterested and distant attitude, the Netherlands created a picture of a forgotten island." And under those circumstances a small group of Statians could get the island in their grip.

Dutch State Secretary **Knops** appointed **Marcolino (Mike) Franco** as government commissioner to lead Statia. Franco is a Curaçao physical therapist with over 20 years of experience in political and administrative functions on that island. The intervention is indefinite, but a two year plus duration is realistic before new elections can be held.

The indignant reactions by groups favoring BES autonomy ignored the reality of the non-democratic situation on Statia when accusing the Dutch of Colonialism. Think about it. What do the Dutch gain, besides grief, in intervening on St Eustatius? □ G.D.

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More Than Scuba

One Breath Yoga

If you are at least at an intermediate level of both yoga and free diving and committed to advance your skills you should consider attending the Yoga & Freedive Friendship event on **February 18th at the Eden Beach Resort**. It is a most unique opportunity to train and learn from each other's experience at an incredibly low cost, \$15.



Participants will receive a Yoga and two Freedive classes for all levels. For every participant there will be fruit infused water, an attractive goodie bag from Nature's Discount with great products, and at the end there will be a healthy lunch. Some of the sponsored raffle prizes are exclusive gifts from Nature's Discount, Cressi, Bon Bida, and Simply Yoga and big discounts for follow up classes.

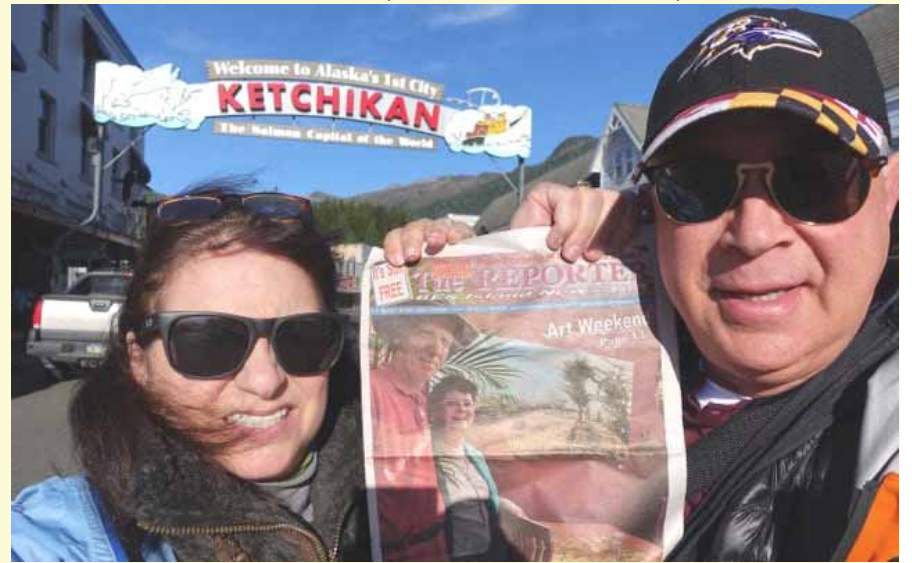
Register by paying the \$15 registration fee at **Bon Bida Spa** between **Tuesday, February 13th and February 15th**. At registration you will receive more information about what to wear/bring and you can choose your lunch option. (Vegan and/or gluten-free options are available.) Since spaces are limited register as soon as possible. All registrations are final, there are no refunds.

Here's a preview:

Start at 09:00 am

- Gather on the rooftop of Eden Beach Resort restaurant
- Yoga class (Focus on Stretching & Pranayama)
- Breath-up (Relaxation phase towards breath holding)
- Freedive Apnea-Static class in the pool (All levels)
- Freedive Open-water training (Depths for all levels)
- Healthy lunch (Seated on the rooftop of the restaurant) □ Press release

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Ketchikan, Alaska, USA



Diane and Phillip Potts are here on their 9th or 10th visit to Bonaire, they've lost the exact count. Their first visit was in 2006 to dive. But they barely explored the island. On their next visit they rented a car and went everywhere. And were smitten.

Diane, a confirmed non-diver, developed an affection for the island, especially the nature of the people and the calm and tranquil vibe on the island. Their friends in Baltimore are amazed

that even a non-diver enjoys Bonaire trips. Kitty Decker at Sunbelt always finds them a great place to stay.

Several years ago after getting off the plane they were hot, tired and exhausted and walked up to Bobbejan's restaurant. The large gated doors were closed. An employee said the place wouldn't open up for another 30 minutes. Seeing how thirsty they were, the employee passed two Polar beers through the gates, trusting them to pay later. □

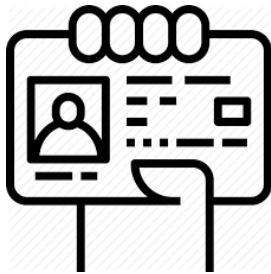
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BONAIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE

Dear Editor:

When Bonaire was part of the Dutch Antilles we could get an international drivers license on Bonaire using our Bonaire issued license. It was an internationally acknowledged license. On September 10, 2010, Bonaire became a municipality of the Netherlands. After that it became impossible to get an international drivers license on Bonaire. That means: with a Bonairean drivers license



you cannot always rent a car in the United States but also in some European countries.

If they let you rent a car, there will NO guarantee that you are insured. There was a situation in Europe that people (from Bonaire ed.) on their holiday caused a car accident but didn't get any payment from the insurance of the rental car.

My daughter, who lives in the States, asked her insurance company if we, her parents, could drive her car. Yes, providing we have an international drivers license. But on Bonaire we are unable to get one.

Even Americans with a Bonairean drivers license are at risk that, if something happens, they are not insured

RCN was informed of this situation a year ago, and has acknowledged this situation but as not taken any action.

--Lida Dortmund-Stürm

PROACTIVE POLICING WANTED

Dear Editor,

Explanation wanted – and a good one not some excuse! Having had to go to the police station (photo right) to report a theft, there was no place to park. The lot was full of private cars, not police cars. When asked where should I park the answer was a very curt, "I don't know!"

Why is the police parking lot packed with cars in the daytime when very few crimes are happening and at night when almost all crime takes place the parking lot is empty? Is it that the police need more personnel to fill out all the paperwork from the night before instead of having police out at night, everywhere,



to stop crime from happening?

It is called proactive policing and it works.

When will it end?

-Questioning

Scheduled Water Taxi TO KLEIN BONAIRE

From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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On the Island Since... February 1st, 2013 - Mieke de Louw



Mieke de Louw Greta Kooistra photo

“Ever since I was four years old I knew I wanted to be a dancer. So, from when I was four till I was 14 I did classical ballet. Then I was sort of done with it, but I wanted to continue dancing. I went to a special Havo high school where regular classes were combined with classical ballet classes, modern and jazz dance classes on a professional level, to prepare children for the academy. The school wasn't near, so I got on the bus at 7am and came back home at 7:30 pm. It was never a problem for me. I was raised on a farm and you see your parents working very hard throughout the years and you get the same mentality: never give up, move on!

After Havo, I knew I was more interested in show and I applied and was accepted at Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts in Amsterdam where I studied singing, dancing and drama, all three disciplines. Afterwards I started working as a dancer, dance teacher and coordinator for a company that was selling workshops. They sold musicals and dance workshops, but also soccer workshops – only for children. I worked with a lot of different people—dancers, circus artists and sports people—all teachers in their field.

Well, at a certain moment, someone told me they'd read somewhere that someone was looking for a dance teacher on Bonaire. I'd always liked the idea of working abroad and getting to know other people and cultures, so, on the last day, I sent a job application. The very next day I got an answer: they wanted to Skype with me, which we did immediately. It was Dance Sensation Dance School who'd put in the ad. A couple days later I had a second interview with them. Then they asked for my references, and one day later – on my mom's birthday - I was hired! All within a week! One month later I arrived.

I didn't know anything about Bonaire. I'd just been too busy arranging and wrapping up things in Holland. It was already dark when I arrived and I wondered who would come to fetch me and if my bike had made it in one piece. I hadn't been thinking too much about the island. We went to the Lisa Convenience Store where I didn't see anything to my liking, because I was really into health food at the time. Then they took me to my apartment. It was very exciting - the whole situation –being in a place I didn't know a thing about; I didn't worry at all! I only knew one person here and that person introduced me to many others; it was so easy – I felt very welcome!

At work I learned a lot. In the beginning the children thought I was very strict, which I am not, but I am clear. However, after a while it all went well; we had so much fun! I did a lot of organizing like the dance com-



At the Dance and More school (private photo)

petition 'Dance Star Bonaire.' I also started up a select class and every year we gave a presentation at the end. I worked with Dance Sensation Dance School for two years and it was a good time. After one and a half years, I started giving Zumba classes in June 2014 at Health and Fitness Center (HFC) gym Bonaire and I did so until the end of January this year – almost four years. I can't believe it! At a certain moment I was teaching eight classes per week— Zumba and body shape— and I

entrepreneur makes me really happy; it gives me a lot of pleasure and I like to share that feeling. It makes me happy to make people happy. It's the essence of my company; it feels good to share your passion! I never knew my passion was so profound; I only found out when I was older.

Since April 2016 I've done a lot of workshops for children at HFC Bonaire and it was very cool of Ron, the owner, to give me the opportunity. We've always worked very well together. But when I felt I had to

“All the things I've done in my life have to do with dancing and I never doubted the feeling. It comes naturally – dancing is my passion and it has always been my way to express myself. It saved me many times.”

really think I gave the 'Zumba Industry' on Bonaire a big boost!

In October of 2014 I launched 'Industry of Activity,' my own business. The name stands for all different kinds of activities; it's very diverse. I gave dance workshops, Zumba workshops, organized children's parties and did teambuilding for RCN – first all of RCN – and later on for all different departments. I'm still doing it, through activities like car puzzle tours and games, all with the intention of making the team stronger, by getting to know and understand each other better.

Working with children is something else; it's fun. I never thought I would like it so much but I find myself completely into it because children are clear and transparent. You immediately see whether they like it or not and if they understand it or not, so I can react instantly. Children are very sincere and especially with the young ones it's lovely to be able to be playful.

All the things I've done in my life has to do with dancing and I never doubted the feeling. It comes naturally – dancing is my passion and it has always been my way to express myself. It saved me many times. When I was young I never thought about it, I just did what I liked doing best, but when I look back on my childhood and puberty, I see how often it saved me in certain situations. Dancing and everything that comes with it like choreographing and being an

take the next step, I opened my own studio in January 2017, next to Budget Marine. For the time being I put the name 'Dance & More' on the window as I am dance and it all started with dancing. Also, I want more than just dance. That's why the name. In the meantime 'Dance & More' has become well-known. We also have a show group of children in the ages of six to 15, managed by the gymnastic teacher and myself. The name of the group is 'Dance & More Show group.' Friday two weeks ago we performed at the Taste of Bonaire Carnaval Edition with 40 children. It was crazy, totally awesome. We had a half hour program, but people didn't want to leave. The whole atmosphere was mind-blowing and the kids were having a blast, they couldn't stop laughing.

I've always been a hard worker and I want a lot and lots of things are fun to do. I love challenges and I really got to know myself so much better along the way. I don't need a lot; I am not a big spender. I am sweet and I am a perfectionist and I love to stay in control. I taught myself that everything happens for you to learn from, so you will grow and make better choices, at least...I hope, ha! ha! I have a lot of patience and I can be quiet and I like it here so much better than in Holland where I lose track sometimes because there are so many incentives. I like the tranquility of Bonaire and as I'm always pushing myself to the



Mieke leads the march private photo

max, it's good to live in a place where society lets you be yourself. I always feel welcome and people are happy to see me. The light and the warmth also works positive for me and it gives me energy.

I work a lot. As well as everything I already mentioned I also teach body shape and stretch classes, ballet and Zumba, 50Fit, street dance for crèches, musical classes and classical and modern dance classes, art class and kids workout, MiniFit and Aqua Zumba. Working hard is great; it gives me satisfaction, but then I'm also the perfectionist who worries too much about one little thing I didn't do right. That I consider my learning process. Sometimes I have to let go. I can be very inspired by people who accomplished a great deal and who talk passionately about it. I was so lucky to know what it was I wanted since I was very young: dancing. And it still is the only thing I really want, but I'm not there yet. I have a long way to go but I feel I can do it! I will make it!

It's a lesson I learned years ago. We were in the car in the busiest part of Amsterdam and my driver drove into the street where the café was where we had an appointment. I asked him 'Where are you going to park?' And he answered, 'If you think there will be a place, there will always be a place.' And then, right in front of the café was a place. It has become my motto; truly believe and trust your feeling, just know it's going to be alright." ■

Greta Kooistra



Divi Divi Air Upscales



The new Divi Divi Twin Otter receives the traditional baptism after landing at BIA (Flamingo Field)



The extravagant cake (by Luisa Marciano Bravo "Luisa Cake") is cut by Divi Divi co-owner Germaine Richie. Lt. Governor Rijna and TCB's Melinda Hassel look on..



Copilot Caeser Dijkman and Co-Owner and Pilot Reginald Richie

There was a warm feeling as well as a rainbow spray of water when Divi Divi Airlines landed their new 19-passenger Twin Otter at Flamingo Field on Monday, January 29. Island officials and well-wishers gathered for a grand welcome party in the airport restaurant. In addition, a light sprinkling of rain added to the baptism.

The new planes will allow Divi Divi to return Aruba flights to its schedule. For example, you can fly on Saturday, leaving Bonaire at 8:45am and landing in Aruba 45 non-stop minutes later (fare \$169 one way). A return flight leaving Aruba at 5pm lands in Bonaire 50 minutes later (fare \$175 one way).

Bonaire-Curacao flights will continue with night flights as well as during daylight.

Reliable air service between Bonaire and Aruba can be a game-changer for Bonaire US visitors because of Aruba's frequent flights between that island and numerous US cities. Additionally USA-AUA flights are significantly less expensive than USA-BON flights which easily offset the cost of the Divi Divi connection. Aruba also offers pre-clearance by US Customs and Homeland Security, easing the travel process for American travelers. At press time the flydivi.com website was incomplete, but you can book flights by phone to 5999 563-1913. □ G.D./Press release



Refurbished Twin Otters are among the most reliable aircraft of their class flying today. In the 1960s and 70s and 80s they flew the BON-CUR route.

Porchia's RESTAURANT

Valentine's Day Menu

LET'S FIRE IT UP

Smoked Salmon Goat Cheese Pearls forever together with Seared Sea Scallops & Lemon sauce
Smoked Salmon encircled by Marinated Goat Cheese with Seared Sea Scallops and Creamy Lemon Sauce

Or

Mixed Green Salad & Warmed Duck in a Perfect Union with Orange Marmalade Toast
Fresh Mixed Salad Greens in our Red Wine Dressing served with Warmed Duck on an Orange Marmalade Baguette Toast

♥

BURNING PASSION

Grilled Beef Tenderloin Rossini in Harmony with Mushroom Risotto and Cognac Sauce
Beef Tenderloin topped with Duck Liver, Mushroom Rosemary Risotto and Cognac Sauce

Or

Caribbean Lobster Thermidor Passionate with Chef's Mashed Potatoes
Famous Lobster Thermidor with a Caribbean twist and Mashed Potatoes

♥

CONSUMING LOVE \$47- p/p

Porchia's Sweet Surprise

Bonaire's hottest restaurant!
Newly Opened (At the former Wil's Grill Location)
Kaya L.D. Gerharts 9, Kralendijk (Across side street from Exito)
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Karnaval Grand Parade

COVER STORY



Scenes from the 2018 Karnaval Grand Parade Alan Zale photos



Happy Birthday
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Cleaning Bonaire's Reefs

Front Porch Reef, the dive site in front of Coco Beach, is a little cleaner today.

More than 100 divers went searching for trash and fishing lines during Dive Friends Bonaire's first quarterly clean up of the year on Saturday, January 27, 2018. One team of divers even recovered a fresh truck tire weighing approximately 50 kilos.

This clean up dive had one of the best turnouts in recent memory, according to its organizers. They have been sponsoring this event for more than 10 years. Dive Friends Bonaire supplies each diver with a free tank of air.

Before divers even entered the water, they were given a thorough pre-dive briefing by Caitlin Hale of Dive Friends. Caitlin, unofficially known as the Clean Up Captain, instructed divers to be mindful of the sloping reef structure and to watch their depth. A major emphasis of her briefing was to caution divers to inspect each piece of debris before picking it up to make sure it does not have any living growth on it.

As the divers returned from the dive they were greeted at the shoreline by Dive Friends Crew Members who assisted them out of the water and took their collection bags. Each bag was inspected and its contents were logged in by volunteers.

On this clean up dive, divers removed 1,171 items from the reef. Forty six percent of these items were plastic, but other debris recovered included rubber and cloth fragments, 196 cigarette filters, 20 balloons, and 31 shoes/flip flops along with straw stirrers.

The largest piece of trash was the fresh (meaning free of coral growth) 50-kilo truck tire recovered by Patrick van Hooijdonk, a PADI Staff Instructor, and his dive instructor student, Richard Wilting.

Patrick was leading a dive trip from the Herman Lieven Dive Shop in s'Hertogenbosch, Holland. Patrick, also known as Elvis, worked for Dive Friends from 2010-2014.



Dive team filling their trash bag

Together, they were picking up small pieces of trash and putting them into their collection bag when they found the tire below them at about 78 feet. This is when Patrick took control of the dive and the lift. Using the communication devices in their full-face masks, he coordinated how the recovery would be handled.

The first thing Patrick did, before even moving the tire, was to check it inside and out for any living creatures and any coral growth. Once removed from the sand, he did a second check inside the tire for living creatures.



A diver displays his collection bag

The next step was making sure the tire was neutrally buoyant and preparing the tire for its ascent to the surface. Working with Richard, using 1500 PSI of air, and constantly monitoring the ascent rate to prevent the tire from popping to the surface, they were able to bring it to the surface in about 20 minutes.

Once at the surface, but still in the water, a third inspection for living creatures was made by a Dive Friends Crew mem-



Big turnout for the cleanup

Dive Friends Photo



Patrick van Hooijdonk and Richard Wilting work to bring the tire to the surface



Divers enter the water to start the dive.

ber. This inspection revealed a small crab that was removed and released back into the water.

A fourth, and final, inspection was done after the tire was removed from the water prior to being tossed into the dumpster.

When asked what he thought was the most important thing to keep in mind when doing a reef clean up Patrick said, "If you even think it has a living creature in it, leave it."

The event continued that evening at

Dive Friends Bonaire Hamlet Oasis location, where they hosted a buffet potluck BBQ dinner for all the volunteers. Photos & story by Alan Zale with Joan Zale ↓





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DID YOU KNOW?



The largest fish in the world sometimes swims through our waters? Just last week, a whale shark was seen right next to shore in Curacao...perhaps by the time of this printing it will have visited Bonaire as well. Whale sharks are the largest fish on Earth, reaching a length of up to 12.6 meters (41 feet), but just like the largest mammal (the Blue Whale), these gentle giants feed on some of the smallest animals. They search for concentrated patches of plankton (juvenile crabs and fish, eggs, etc.) or small fish or squid and use their very wide mouths and 'filter pads' to filter the water either by swimming through the water or by sucking the water in and flushing through their gills. Either way, a juvenile whale shark consumes about 21 kg (46 pounds) of plankton per day! I wonder how much the adults eat, especially a reproducing female! Females may have up to 300 pups developing inside them, and each pup is about 2 feet long when it's born!

Whale sharks don't like cold water and are rarely found in waters below

21 °C (70 °F). That's a lot like most of us in Bonaire! Their spots are unique and, like the dorsal fins of dolphins, the pattern of their spots can help researchers identify individuals. Research is important, especially for animals that migrate the open seas and are difficult to study. We still know very little about whale shark populations. However, rapid declines in their CPUE (catch per unit effort) are alarming and whale sharks are listed as endangered on the IUCN red list. Overfishing, bycatch losses and vessel strikes are thought to be the main threats. Whale sharks grow slowly and take about 30 years to reach maturity which makes them even more at risk. Because our government recognizes the important role sharks and rays have for the health of our coral reefs, all sharks and rays are protected in Bonaire. □

Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. - Connecting people with nature



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| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Friday | 6-10 PM |
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For our Bonaire facility, Cargill Salt Bonaire B.V., we are seeking:

JOB TITLE: MAINTENANCE SHOP SUPERVISOR

POSITION OVERVIEW

Cargill Salt Bonaire has an exciting opportunity for a Maintenance Supervisor, who will provide both proactive and reactive support on repair and maintenance of heavy/plant equipment. This role will report to the maintenance & reliability superintendent and will be a key member of the location leadership team. The individual will be involved in several processes within the maintenance technology including troubleshooting, diagnostics, planning, purchasing, scheduling, instructing, coaching, budgeting regular, expense, and capital projects. This position will supervise a team of 15 employees and is responsible to ensure that work is done in a safe, efficient and effective manner.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Performance Management:** Provides feedback and coaching to employees on their performance
- Work Management:** Uses a Computerized Maintenance Management System to record work-orders information and to input/access other information and maintains accurate history of work records.
- Team work:** Participates, instructs and motivate mechanics and technician in the assembling, reconditioning and repair of automobiles, trucks, tractors, graders, loaders, other standard/specialized heavy duty machinery and production equipment.
- Reliability:** Perform inspections of completed repairs to ensure thoroughness and quality of repair and suitability of equipment for return to service.
- Improvements:** Demonstrates continuous effort to improve operations, decrease turnaround times, streamline work processes, and collaborate within teams to provide high quality and seamless customer service.

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

- A HTS, HBO werktuigbouwkunde, bachelor mechanical engineer or equivalent.
- Five to seven years of experience in maintaining heavy/plant equipment and machinery.
- Three years of experience in supervising and leading a maintenance team.
- Advanced computer skills with MS office, Auto Cad/Visio and strong aptitude to learn new systems.
- Superior communication skills, written and oral. Able to communicate in Papiamentu, English, Dutch and Spanish to all levels of the organization.
- Strong leadership and collaboration skills, ability to prioritize and work effectively within a team

CHARACTER AND TALENTS

- High integrity, strong conviction and courage to implement maintenance culture change.
- Hold self/others accountable and demonstrate ability to engage in constructive conflict to address unsafe acts and conditions in ambiguous situations

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TO APPLY

Send your application letter together with your C.V. to: Cargill Salt Bonaire BV, EEG Blvd 117, P.O. Box 155, Bonaire

Application closing date: March 2, 2018

A Garden? Just Do It

EASY GROWING FLOWERS EVERYWHERE

Certain plants and flowers always take me back to my childhood playing in Grandma's yard. They were always there because they grew so easily. Seeds and cuttings spread around and soon the whole yard was full of these plants. As a kid, I used to pick flowers and make decorations for my hair. When I arrived on Bonaire and saw these flowers in different yards, I felt immediately at home.

The weather on Bonaire will soon change from rainy to dry and that is what these plants love so much. So I thought, let me bring these plants into the picture. Nowadays there are different varieties on Bonaire.



Cathranthus roseus (above) is commonly known as the **Madagascar periwinkle** or **rose periwinkle**. In Surinam it's called **kotomisie** ("dressed lady") or in Dutch, **magdaleentjes**. It's native to Madagascar but grown elsewhere as an ornamental and medicinal plant. It's a source of the drugs vincristine and vinblastine which are used to treat cancer, Hodgkin's disease and menstrual problems.

The "wild pink" variation grows everywhere on Bonaire. Just look for young plants under the older plants or the black seeds or take some cuttings. Sow seeds in your garden or grow some cuttings and in about a month you will have flowers. As an ornamental plant it is appreciated for its hardiness in dry and nutritionally deficient conditions. It's noted for its long flowering period, throughout the year. Full sun and well drained soil are the best. They come in various colors: white, mauve, peach, scarlet and reddish-purple. Notable cultivars include: Albus (white flowers), Grape cooler (rose-pink), the Ocellatus group of various colors and Peppermint cooler (white with red center). I plant them all the time. They are easy growing and now they pop up everywhere in my yard and in pots. It's so nice to see the yard so full of flowers all the time.



Another great easy growing plant is **Comphrena globosa** (above) or **globe amaranth** and in Surinam known as **stamvaste**.

It's a small bushy plant which bears purple flowers year round. It's fairly drought and heat tolerant and can stand most any

well-drained soil of moderate fertility, but it appreciates regular moisture and full sun.

You get plants from seeds and once you have them in your yard you might get a "purple rain decoration" after awhile. They attract butterflies and are good for cuttings and drying. Make dry bouquets, very nice, also as a gift. Problems are gray mold and fungal leaf spots, but you can use neem tree leaf tea to spray to get rid of them. The edible plant has been used in herbal medicine. In the Caribbean the flowers are boiled to make a tea which is used for baby gripe, cough, diabetes, to relieve prostate and reproductive problems and several respiratory inflammation condition such as asthma and bronchitis. Roots are good for digestive and respiratory tract issues and can act as a stimulant. People from Santo Domingo pass by my place all the time to ask for plants. Later I understood that they knew how good this plant is, while I didn't.



Last but not least : **Portulaca grandiflora** (above). This plant is popular worldwide these days. I see it in every country I visit and in the gardens of many houses on Bonaire. So it's time to know more about this plant also called **portulak**. It's native to South America, but has spread out worldwide because of its easy growing, always blooming character.

Portulaca is the name of a group of sun loving plants in different colors. It lasts for just about a year. Then you take new cuttings and plant it again. It's easy to care for and drought tolerant. Only problem is with fungal leaf spots, but use the neem tree tea and spray the plant every two weeks.

Among the fat green leaves are the different colored flowers that open as soon as the sun shines and close when it gets dark. It can be used in different ways: as a ground-cover, in rock gardens, in pots on your porch, in hanging baskets, on the table in a small vase in water (renew water all the time because of dengue mosquito), on the pillars of your fence or as a gift.

Do you know that **purslane** (**postelein**) and the **Bonairean Bimbe** which I've written about a few times are family of this plant? So that means one can consume the portulaca fresh in salads just like purslane and bimbe. Good for our health.

So here we have some beautiful, easy growing, always flowering, healthy plants to start with in the new season.

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



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 3.



Pedestrians and wheelchairs are forced to mix with traffic

Yesterday I received an excellent post on Facebook :

"I do not suffer from limitations, because I am in a wheelchair. I suffer from limitation because my surroundings are not completely wheelchair-accessible."

Now this is how things are on Bonaire. Maybe also in the rest of the world, but here on Bonaire the environment is not completely accessible to handicapped people

Things have been done, like indicating handicapped parking-spots. But if you want to park there, you may find the parking-spot occupied by someone who is absolutely not impaired. And when you talk to these persons, they may get very angry with you and still stay parked at that same spot.

There are a few of these parking-spots and at the supermarket van der Tweel these spots have been painted blue. Also a sign has been posted that asks to please consider the impaired and please do not park there. People still do! And why, you may ask. The parking lot there is huge and there is ample space to comfortably park anywhere you want. But these two spots are nice and comfy, close to the supermarket-entrance. And "we won't be long anyway".....

Downtown is in need of more parking-spots. The parking lot at the hospital was originally built for employees of the tax

office. They were even offered transportation to and fro. But nobody wanted to park there. Now everybody is parking just downtown and high curbs or not, not enough parking-space or not...pedestrians or not ... **almost everybody parks their car on the sidewalks.**

In Holland (and the USA) a special big window-sticker is used for special parking. When you are impaired, you can apply for this sticker, prove that you are impaired and the sticker will be sent to you. Every time you want to park somewhere, anywhere, you put that sticker in your car-window where everybody can see it and you are all set. Why a simple thing like this sticker is not been implemented on Bonaire? We have no idea. Will legislation have to be changed? Please do so. We hope that it will be possible here very, very soon.



So when you need to be downtown in your wheelchair, there is no chance that you can safely use the sidewalks. No place there for you. We decided to always walk on the road, cars, traffic or not. That is the only way we can get around. And people seem to understand and tolerate this. Every now and then somebody gets angry and yells at us. I always try to talk to them and explain, because that is the only way to get

I once asked the Island Governor if he knew why you rarely see persons in wheelchairs. He did not know. So I explained to him that all of the above force people with disabilities to prefer to stay at home, where they feel safe, where they do not have to fear for their life. Even if the home is not adapted to their needs.

Accessibility is a human right! And we want to claim that right! □ To be continued.... By Ria Evers-Dokter

For 2018 *The Bonaire Reporter* plans to work with MiVaBo, Bonaire's Foundation for the Handicapped, to make the island's streets and airport more accessible for handicapped persons.



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What's Happening

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

•**Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free, 717-0423, 780-4327

•**Museo Bonaire** 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.

•**Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Sunday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance

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 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.

•**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

•**Chess Club** meets to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

• **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed.

For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

Fridays

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at

| Day | Date | Cruise ship | Time | Pier | Cap |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------|------|
| Monday | 12-Feb-18 | Eclipse | 0800-1800 | S.pier | 2858 |
| Tuesday | 13-Feb-18 | Costa Magica | 0700-1400 | S.pier | 3470 |
| Tuesday | 13-Feb-18 | Monarch | 0700-1800 | N.pier | 2744 |
| Thursday | 15-Feb-18 | Crown Princess | 0700-1700 | N.pier | 3150 |
| Monday | 19-Feb-18 | Britania | 0600-1800 | S.pier | 3600 |
| Monday | 19-Feb-18 | Aurora | 0700-1700 | N.pier | 1950 |
| Tuesday | 20-Feb-18 | Mein Schiff 3 | 0700-1900 | N.pier | 2500 |
| Wednesday | 21-Feb-18 | Aida Diva | 0700-1900 | N.pier | 2194 |
| Thursday | 22-Feb-18 | TUI Discovery | 0700-1500 | N.pier | 2076 |
| Friday | 23-Feb-18 | Norwegian Jade | 0700-1500 | N.pier | 2338 |
| Saturday | 24-Feb-18 | Royal Princess | 0700-1400 | S.pier | 3600 |
| Sunday | 25-Feb-18 | Costa Magica | 0700-1400 | N.pier | 3470 |
| Monday | 26-Feb-18 | Eclipse | 0700-1500 | S.pier | 2858 |

No Cruise ships on Feb. 14, 16, 17, 18. Two days have two ships

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at

ellenherreracochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

EXHIBITIONS

— “Salute to the Sailors”— old maritime photos from the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, Museo Bonaire, Kaya Kachi Craane #34, free.

—Coral Restoration Exhibit-Terramar Museum

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

Now until March 31.— **Bistro de Paris Restaurant**, Photo Works on Canvas by underwater photographer Catherine Salisbury. Open every day except Sunday.

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Tuesday, February 13—

Karnaval Parade Despedida (Farewell) Grandi / Adults' Farewell Parade

Saturday, February 17—**Great Backyard Bird Count** 4:30-6 pm at LVV - please call 717-8444 to RSVP.

Sunday, February 18

—**Yoga & Freedive Friendship** event at Eden Beach. See story on page 4

—**UpHill Challenge Fundraiser** Ride for the Roses—\$20 to ride more details on the first page.

Saturday, February 24— **Mangazina di Rei open house** and festival, 8am –2pm . On the road to Rincon. More on page 14

Sunday, March 4 —**Special Olympics Walkathon**— Walk from slave huts to Rincon. Details to follow in the next edition. Start training now!

March 9-10—**Bon Doet** — Bonaire's Volunteer Extraganza



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| Day | High | Low | High | Low | High | Sunrise | Sunset |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Mon 12 | | 03:01 0.04 ft | 10:28 0.84 ft | 19:34 -0.10 ft | | 6:58 | 18:41 |
| Tue 13 | 00:19 0.07 ft | 03:06 0.06 ft | 11:05 0.81 ft | 20:26 -0.10 ft | | 6:58 | 18:41 |
| Wed 14 | 11:44 0.77 ft | 21:12 -0.09 ft | | | | 6:57 | 18:42 |
| Thu 15 | 12:26 0.71 ft | 21:48 -0.08 ft | | | New Moon | 6:57 | 18:42 |
| Fri 16 | 13:11 0.65 ft | 22:14 -0.07 ft | | | | 6:56 | 18:42 |
| Sat 17 | 04:40 0.23 ft | 07:08 0.22 ft | 14:01 0.58 ft | 22:34 -0.05 ft | | 6:56 | 18:42 |
| Sun 18 | 04:34 0.31 ft | 09:26 0.22 ft | 14:55 0.50 ft | 22:51 -0.04 ft | | 6:56 | 18:43 |
| Mon 19 | 04:49 0.42 ft | 11:03 0.17 ft | 15:51 0.43 ft | 23:08 -0.03 ft | | 6:55 | 18:43 |
| Tue 20 | 05:14 0.54 ft | 12:18 0.10 ft | 16:48 0.35 ft | 23:29 -0.04 ft | | 6:55 | 18:43 |
| Wed 21 | 05:44 0.67 ft | 13:20 0.01 ft | 17:42 0.29 ft | 23:56 -0.07 ft | | 6:54 | 18:43 |
| Thu 22 | 06:21 0.80 ft | 14:14 -0.07 ft | 18:35 0.23 ft | | | 6:54 | 18:43 |
| Fri 23 | First Quarter | 00:29 -0.09 ft | 07:01 0.90 ft | 15:06 -0.14 ft | 19:27 0.19 ft | 6:54 | 18:44 |
| Sat 24 | | 01:07 -0.11 ft | 07:45 0.98 ft | 15:57 -0.18 ft | 20:19 0.17 ft | 6:53 | 18:44 |
| Sun 25 | | 01:51 -0.13 ft | 08:32 1.02 ft | 16:48 -0.21 ft | 21:14 0.16 ft | 6:53 | 18:44 |
| Mon 26 | | 02:39 -0.12 ft | 09:21 1.03 ft | 17:39 -0.22 ft | 22:14 0.16 ft | 6:52 | 18:44 |

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ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

HONORING DECADES OF SERVICE

On January 28, Animal Shelter Bonaire hosted an “appreciation” happy hour for all our volunteers and to especially honor three outstanding volunteers and one employee who have a combined total of over 85 years of service to the Shelter! Shelter Board Chairman Jane Madden-Disko presented the awards.



WANDA BODEMAN

HELMA SCHREUDER volunteered for the shelter for over 25 years and recently “retired” from her job of collecting the money from all our “money houses” that are spread around the island. It’s been estimated that she has collected at least \$100,000, a definite and positive impact on the ability of the shelter to continue to provide care for all our cats and dogs. Her faithful service with little recognition is an example that it is how much we DO for others that counts, not how many people know about it. Helma was not able to make it to the ceremony.



BARBARA VAN OLPHEN

BARBARA VAN OLPHEN has been a loyal shelter volunteer for 22 years, was honored as our Queen of Happy Hours: selling T-shirts and collecting donations twice a week at Buddy Dive and Captain Don’s happy hours selling our t-shirts, taking donations and raising awareness among tourists and locals about the important work we do at the shelter. Barbara’s journey with the shelter began back in 1995-96 when the shelter was at a low point in funding. She personally worked tirelessly to raise enough money to keep the shelter going and served as board chairman. Her work has helped save countless animals.



KENNETH PIAR

WANDA BODEMAN has been a dedicated and reliable volunteer for more than 18 years, cleaning and caring for the cats at the shelter and however else she is able to help. Wanda is one of those volunteers who you can always count on to be there when she says she will, do the tasks that need to be done and more than willing to help in any additional way. We honored her years of service with the Golden Poop Scoop award!

KENNETH PIAR has been employed by the shelter for somewhere between 20 and 25 years! Seems no records remain as to exactly when he began with us. He has been at the shelter Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., for over half of

his adult life, cleaning kennels, watering bowls, food bowls...and of course everybody’s favorite task... scooping poop on the entire property. Can’t imagine how many tons of dog poop he has scooped. We honored a caring and loving man who is adored by all the animals he loves to be with, play with and hold...and loved by all the people that have met him and worked with him over the years. We thank him for all his devotion to the shelter and for the love he shares with us all. He is NUMBER ONE in our hearts and minds.

A huge thank you to these dedicated people and to all the volunteers that allow Animal Shelter Bonaire to survive and thrive!

□ Story by Jane Madden-Disko

Pets Of The Week

BEST BUDDIES

Elvis and Yaro may look like brothers...but they are actually just best buddies! It’s funny how two kittens that look almost exactly alike would bond with each other even though they have siblings around. Both kittens are about four months old with very similar markings and color. Yaro is actually a bit darker ginger color than Elvis, who is a little more pale ginger.

Both are extremely affectionate and calm kittens, who spend a lot of time napping together after their morning romp around the Cat Palace. They love to be held and stroked and are excellent with children. These two boys would be a great pair for a family or even an adult household as they love human companionship and can entertain themselves when the human guardians are not at home.

They are healthy, vaccinated, chipped and they will be sterilized as part of their adoption fee when they are of age. Since Yaro and Elvis are such great friends, it is preferable that they be adopted together. Ask about our discount for multiple adoptions. You can visit these two lovely kittens and all their shelter buddies at the



Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagoen 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. -12 p.m., 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3p.m. nonstop. You can make an appointment by calling 717-4989 or 701-4989.

□ Story by Jane Madden Disko; Shelter photo by Laurie Smith



Sample Real Bonaire

Folkloric Dances and Traditional Festivities at “Nos Zjilea”

The way we move describes who we are. Through the years our island has known different dances. These dances are the local dances with the local names such as: the mazurka, dansa, wals, kuadria. But there are also other type of styles as called by the locals: “baile di sinta” and “baile di krag and matros”. Also we have different traditional festivities which we celebrate throughout the year such as Maskarada (New Year’s Festivity), Simadam (Harvest Festivity), Baptism and First Communion but even to Doll Baptism. All these festivities form part of our culture.

Saturday 24th of February, from 8am to 2pm, there will be the next edition of our cultural event, “Nos Zjilea,” with the theme: “Folkloric Dances and Traditional Festivities.” To share more about our folkloric dances we have invited Mrs. Gwendeline “Gwen” Concepcion, a known dance teacher but also a ballerina, who will give a presentation about our different folkloric dances and where they originated. Donny and Monique Winklaar, our famous dance couple will show these different styles. But if you want to you are always free to join in.

Also as part of the program we want to bring back a very old traditional dance called by the locals “baile di kragènmatros.” You may enjoy nice show of our folkloric dances and also see a few of our traditional festivities which you may not have heard of.

Mrs. Engracia “Gacha” Coffie will give an explanation about our tradition of doll baptism.

Another spokesperson on this day will be Juni Gils who is going to share his experiences with us as a soccer coach and reveal his different secrets on how to maintain



your body in good shape.

Come and enjoy a nice ambiance with a live musical presentation from the local group, “Nikimix,” which is back in town.

The Cultural Market cannot be missed with its local fresh products such as syrup of the local gourd, natural local juice “Made in Rincon,” local art and much more. The kitchen opens at 10am with the opportunity to try out different delicious local dishes during lunch.

“NosZjilea” is an ideal opportunity for a time out to enjoy with your family and friends.

For more information you can always visit the Facebook Fanpage of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. Come and enjoy “Nos Zjilea” with the usual Cultural Market as part of it on Saturday 24th of February from 8 o’clock in the morning till 2 o’clock in the afternoon at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei.

Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road at the south east entrance to Rincon. □ Izain Mercera





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

SPOT THE 'THIN MOON' AND MORE



Looking west-southwest 30 minutes after sunset on Feb 16. Locate Venus and it leads the way to a very thin waxing crescent Moon (size and brightness of the Moon exaggerated for clarity)

This month the Moon is new and lined up with the Sun on the 15th. The early months of the year favor views of the evening waxing crescent Moon which appear just after the new phase. This is because the Moon's path in the sky tilts steeply against the western horizon after sunset during the spring.

There is a theoretical threshold known as the Danjon Limit which states that the centre of the Moon's disc needs to be more than 7 degrees from the center of the Sun for the emerging thin lunar crescent to be seen. The Moon's surface is rugged, covered in craters, valleys and mountains, and the Danjon Limit takes this into account.

The challenge of seeing a very thin lunar crescent can become addictive, but it's important to wait for the Sun to have set properly before looking. Failure to do so could lead to eye damage. In order to spot a "Thin Moon," you need to know where to look and to make sure that the horizon in that direction is unobstructed. The weather also needs to be clear.

The sky around midnight marks a transition from winter in the Sky Park. The bold constellations surrounding Orion now appear west of south, chased from the east by more subtle patterns of spring. Distinctive Leo the Lion domi-



Leo is easily recognized by the backward question mark pattern known as The Sickle

notes the view east of south, easily identified thanks to its backward question-mark pattern known as the Sickle.

The brightest star in Leo is Regulus, located at the base of the Sickle. The lion faces west towards Gemini the Twins, highlighted by the two twin stars, Castor and Pollux. Lying mid-way between Regulus and the twin stars is the inverted Y-shaped constellation of Cancer the Crab.

Cancer isn't particularly bright and is easily overlooked. A small pattern of four stars in its center frame a lovely open cluster known as M44, the Beehive Cluster, or Praesepe, meaning 'manger'. The ancient Chinese describe the cluster as the 'exhalation of piled-up corpses', a reference to the belief that the cluster marked a gateway for departing souls transitioning from this world to the next. The Beehive appears as a misty patch from a dark sky location and looks wonderful through binoculars.

A fainter open cluster known as M67 sits west of Cancer's alpha star, Acubens. This cluster requires binoculars or a telescope to see and is an interesting object believed to have formed at the same time as the Sun. □ Dean Regas & James Albury

Knowledgeable about astronomy? You can help the Junior Rangers. See page 3, first column for more info.



THE STARS HAVE IT

February 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will get great satisfaction from your efforts. Escapist tendencies will result in a poor reputation and a lack of confidence. Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Money can be made if you are willing to take a chance. Pursue outdoor activities or any physical exertion. Get domestic chores out of the way early. Relatives will want to get together. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Try not to upset others with your plans. Family talks may get a little combative. You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your future. Be careful; you may say something you'll regret later. Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You don't want to give anyone fuel for the fire. Someone you live with will be quite unreasonable this month. Don't let friends or relatives rule your life. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will have to control the way you feel. You can expect to have problems with your mate if you've been spending too much time away from home. Your questions will help you ferret out secret information. Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than

you imagined. You must look into your options. Compromise may be necessary. Someone you live with is ready to play emotional games. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make sure that you make reservations early. Avoid any over indulgences. Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. You should be able to make major career gains if you plan your intentions carefully. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You will be well looked upon due to your compassionate and giving nature. Use your head and do things to your liking. You may have difficulties with in-laws or family members. You need to make your environment a better place, with more comforts and a better entertainment center. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Use your creative abilities to come up with new ideas and directions. You have two choices: Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. You can easily wrap up overdue personal legal matters that have caused problems for you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Avoid purchasing expensive items. Take care of any dealings with government agencies. Compromising could be on the agenda this month. Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you. A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.. □

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