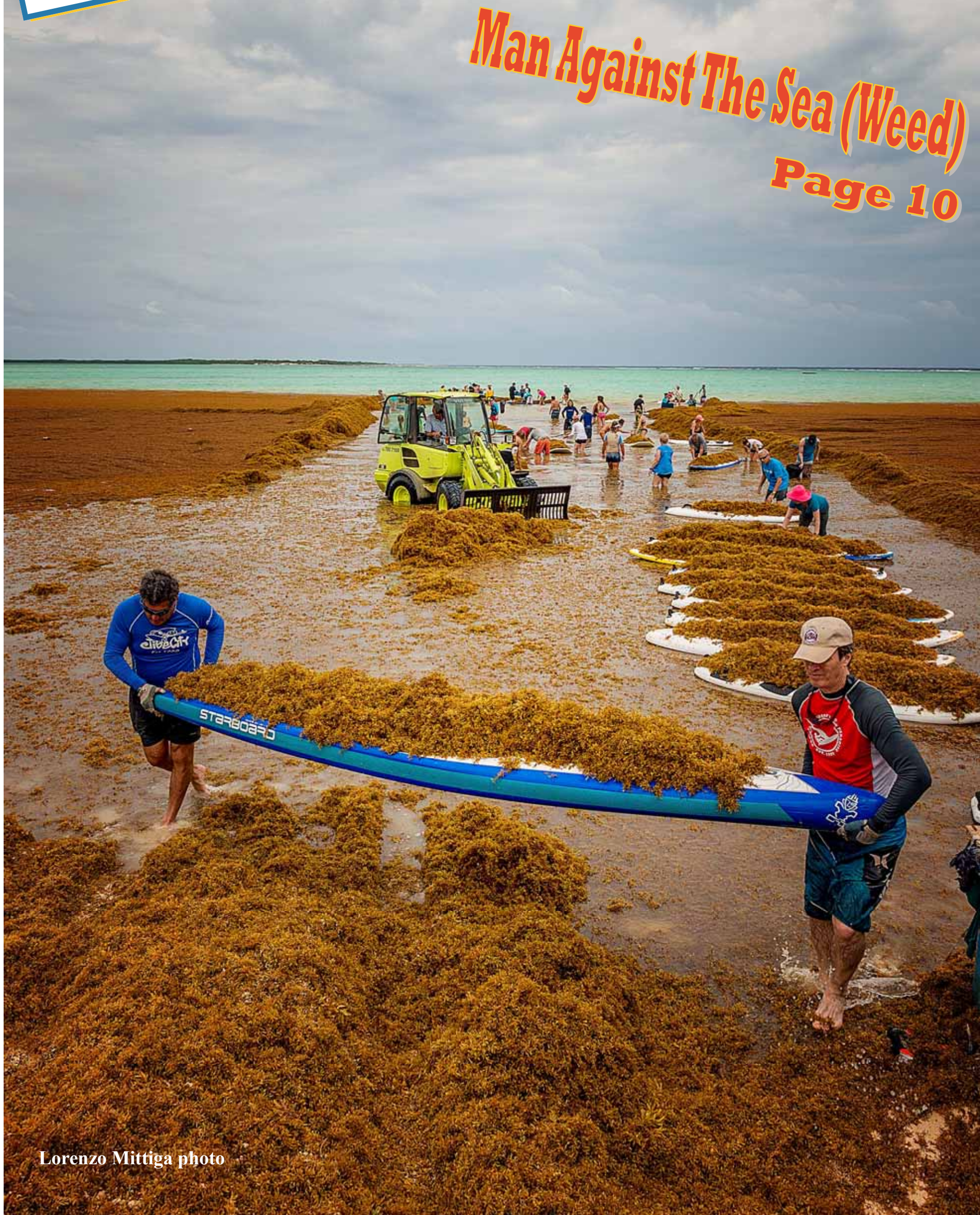


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**BONAIRE** March 12-26, 2018, Year 25, Issue 6  
**The REPORTER**

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**Man Against The Sea (Weed)**  
**Page 10**



Lorenzo Mittiga photo



**The first parliamentary committee for Kingdom Relations wants to strengthen the powers of Governors on the BES islands.** The function of Kingdom Representative can be abolished if the Governors have wider powers. This proposal was motivated by the current administrative crisis on St. Eustatius.

► **ORANJESTAD, Stata – A petition to suspend the seating of the Netherlands in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** was sent to all members of the UNSC by 'Island Council Member and Leader of the Coalition of St. Eustatius' Clyde van Putten. Tensions between the Netherlands and St. Eustatius have been ongoing for some time now and reached a high point after the Dutch government took over the administration of the island in February, after being fed up with the irresponsible governing, lack of progress and financial mismanagement.

► **The TCB plans to organize a Miss Tourism Bonaire pageant** where participants can learn a lot about Bonaire's tourism and get an unforgettable experience. The winner will receive prizes and represent Bonaire, participating in social activities, workshops, training, runway events, photo shoots and much more.

Sign up until March 19. Forms are available at the tourism office located at Kaya Grandi 2. Ladies between the age of 17 and 25 years old with a lot of motivation, energy, charisma and a positive attitude are invited to participate. The climax of the Miss Tourism Bonaire contest will be on June 2nd, 2018 with an amazing glamour show, "Bonaire Blue Destination Paradise."

For more information contact Angelo Domacasse Marketing Assistant & Event Coordinator at TCB via 717-8322 or 782-6666 or angelodomacasse@tourismbonaire.com



► **On Thursday, March 1, drilling started for soil samples for the foundations**

**of the new south pier using diamond core drills and water jets.** As a result, drilling water that contains grit (lime dust) is being released. The sea will become cloudy at times. The lime dust supposedly poses no danger to the water around this area. Swimmers, divers and fishing boats are not allowed to be in the pier area during drilling

Last week several STINAPA staff members carefully removed corals from the pillars of the South Pier which are under reconstruction, transported and re-attached them to the substrate at the Something Special dive site.

► **Fuel prices at the pump will not change in March.** They remain the same as in February. The local government adjusts the price of motor fuel monthly in response to market forces.

► **In St. Eustatius the newly appointed Government Commissioner Mike Franco said he will tackle the problem of stray cattle.** Stata politicians did not dare to buck the cattle owners of the island. Bonaire politicians are reluctant as well, when it comes to goats. The old adage is "one goat, one vote."

► **THE HAGUE - A large majority in the Dutch Second Chamber has rejected the motion to introduce the same strict rules on the treatment of animal abuse on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba as in the European Netherlands.** For the most part animals on Bonaire are treated humanely and kindly. But there have been notorious situations of animals being starved and otherwise mistreated. Local laws are not as strong as those in the European Netherlands.



► **Mother Nature has been unruly.** The month of February was cool and wet with many days of rain but no great accumulation. The cause was an intense high pressure area in the Atlantic Ocean. That brings relatively cold air to our islands. For March more than average rain is forecast. And a huge low pressure area created high waves at sea which broke with great force on the northern facing coasts of Caribbean islands. Vast rafts of

Sargassum weed, driven south from the Sargasso Sea, blew ashore and not only threatened shore sea life but rotted, creating a nasty smell. And now the March winds are blowing around 25 mph. See photos and story on page 10.



► **Tax Office (Belastingdienst Caribbean Netherlands -B/CN) continues the option of submitting your income tax return online.** This year marks the third year that you can submit your tax return online. You have the choice to submit your tax return online or on paper. In most cases, those who submit their tax return online can soon see after filling how much money they will get back or will have to pay. Online tax returns are processed more quickly by the Belastingdienst and people will receive their refund faster.

The program for submitting your tax return and the explanatory notes are available in Dutch and English. Computers with scanners have been installed in the tax office buildings in St. Eustatius, Saba and Bonaire. Residents of these islands can use them to file their income tax return.

There is also a special phone help desk available, where residents of Bonaire can get help with the tax return online login procedure via the telephone numbers +599 715-8522 and + 599 715-8527 and +599 715 - 8529. Available on Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 am to noon and from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. On Fridays from 08:00 am to noon.

► **On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland officially launched its new website.** You can search or access it online for relevant information about the services and departments of RCN. You will also find the latest news, vacancies and more information about working at the government using the eight theme blocks. These offer topics such as social care, immigration, education and safety.

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Available on-line at:  
[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line every day, 24/7  
Next edition printing on  
**Monday, March 26, 2018**  
Deadline: **Friday, March 23**





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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*

The texts and forms have been updated and information is available in three languages accessible via desktop, mobile phone or tablet in a modern, Caribbean style. The new website was created in collaboration with *Platform Rijksoverheid Online (PRO)* You can find the website at: <https://rijksdienstcn.com> (Dutch); <https://english.rijksdienstcn.com> (English); <https://papiamentu.rijksdienstcn.com> (Papiamentu)

► **Data from Bonaire International Airport confirms that tourism growth from Europe in 2017 grew significantly spurred by additional KLM and TUI flights**, KLM grew by 27.2%, TUI by 10.8%. North America traffic grew a comparatively disappointing 3.8% with Delta up 8.2%. United Airlines dropped its fall flight from Newark but resumed in the winter. The United Houston flight had a 9% growth.

This year more seats on KLM and TUI, plus the addition of the American Airlines flight from Miami should continue the growth. Domestically Insel Air, was down 31.5%.

► Recently, Insel Air's ABC Island service has been reliable. But, **the airline needs working capital. On paper, it has a fleet of five aircraft, Fokker F-50s and F-70s.** In actual fact, only two F-50s are operational. If there are any maintenance problems then there are no back-ups and its plans would be thrown into disarray. The airline is putting together a financial bailout package and has approached several banks.

► **There are NO flights between the ABC Islands and Venezuela these days.** The aviation authorities in Caracas have forbidden it. President Maduro set up a border blockade on 5 January 2018, which now has been extended to air travel. Those who want to go to Venezuela from the ABC islands must travel via Panama or Colombia.

► **Additional employees of Bonaire's new prison, the JICN, successfully completed basic training** for the warder/complex security guard, bringing the new facility one step closer to opening. The trainers were from the Training Institute of the Custodial Institutions Agency from Europe



► **On the night of 7 November 2017, a one-car accident occurred at the White Slave huts (Kabayé).** The driver rammed a rental car head-on against one of the slave huts. The damage to the slave house was enormous. A claim procedure can take a long time because it is a protected monument. This issue will have to be further investigated. As a result, the Island Government has not yet begun restoration.

► **WEB (Water and Energy Company Bonaire N.V.) released its rates for water last week and there's good news and bad news.** Beginning in April if you use a lot of water you will pay less; if you use less you will pay more.

**All the rates get a 85% subsidy, but the subsidy is applied differently from the present subsidy used by WEB which favors low volume users.**

The subsidy is meant to reduce water rate shock mandated by the BES Electricity and Drinking Water Act of July 2016. The first subsidy is for the fixed base rate for desalinated water (from \$45.87 down to \$6.88) for typical consumers for this year.

The current progressive water rate will disappear, as will the old subsidies, and all consumers will pay the same price per cubic meter (\$3.76). A complete description of the new rate structure and rationale is described in a 28-page Dutch language document at [https://www.webbonaire.com/.../ACM\\_Distributietarievenbeschik](https://www.webbonaire.com/.../ACM_Distributietarievenbeschik)

For customers who receive drinking water by WEB water truck, the fixed fee is factored in with a variable usage rate via a variable cubic meter (m<sup>3</sup>) rate with a 75% discount per m<sup>3</sup> (264 gallons) applied as well.



In general households that use less than 13 m<sup>3</sup> (3,000 gal./month) will pay more, often more than double their old rate.

Another subsidy is expected to be applied to April electricity rates but these are not yet available. It was announced that longer term affordability of electricity and drinking water are under review with at least three government agencies and WEB to limit future negative effects of the new fee structure.

For comparison, piped in water can cost approximately .05 US cents per liter in Bonaire. The same amount costs .005 US cents in San Diego, California.

Questions consumers might ask are how long might the subsidy last and are the costs for sewage treatment factored into the current rates?

The business community has shown interest in restoring the slave hut free of charge. In particular, a contractor who has carried out (and continues to carry out) various projects on Bonaire, would like to give something back to the Bonairean community. The restoration can start as soon as the Executive Council has agreed to this proposal.

But donations are accepted so we can find the best local writers and photographers to fill our pages. Go to <http://bonairereporter.com/suscrib.htm> to make a pledge via Pay Pal.

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# Letters to the Editor

## ALL ABOUT OUR ROADS

#1

To whom this concerns,

I mean the people who are driving cars from the government and do not have to pay for damages, accidents, flat tires, broken scooters and hospital visits.

Since I first came to this island, the change in regular maintenance, the attitude to protect, the regulations for building structures, the taxes, specific on government land for long lease have changed in a way, there is no name for it. The thing that stands out the most of all this, what was called in the past, The Streets, we also called them sometimes Roads. In Europe you recognize a drunk person driving by the perfect slalom which is performed. In Bonaire it is so much more complicated.

Any non-drunk driver has to do precision slalom driving to not end up in a pothole, in the ditch on in the rear of another car which had to hit the brakes because a bicycle driver had to drive in the middle of the road because the side of the, you cannot call it road anymore, let's call it dirt road, was missing. Is it the fault of the bicycle driver? NO! Is it the fault of the driver with his brand new Toyota (not so new and "untouched" anymore)? NO! The fisherman who was behind them and hit the Toyota? NO!! Circumstances change situations— a normal drive to the store here in Bonaire is now an asphalt expedition with a 50/50 chance to make it home in one piece.

The tire shops are booming everywhere. You have to make an appointment a week in advance to have your tire fixed, say, "next week Wednesday 10.45, take it or leave it!!"

What would happen if a scooter driver or let's say a scooter with two tourists on their way back to the hotel from dinner— it is dark, it just rained and the drive slow for Bonaire— let's say only 50kmh— and then they find a water puddle and drive thru, not knowing it is a foot deep. Both will end up in the hospital, and who is to blame?

There are an estimated 10,000 + cars on this island and a large number of diesel trucks and diesel personal cars. The amount of taxes per year goes in the multimillion \$\$\$ income for the government, and it was once explained to me, from the Bonaire Government and the BMW, that this money goes for the cost to have the roads always in good condition.

Can anybody explain to me and everybody



else on this island who wants to have normal driving situations back, where all this "income" is going to be used? I mean a real statistic of the last three years —the income from all taxes against the existing amount in the bank against the costs of maintenance and salary!

It would be nice to understand "how this works." One of my employees had three flat tires the last two weeks. Three times late to work, three times tire repair, three times unnecessary Stress for a 59-year young lady.

We, Budget Marin, are paying her salary, and she wasn't working for five hours. Now who is paying for the time when she was busy having her tire changed and repaired?

And I have a feeling that this situation has happened and will many, many times more everywhere. What if next time she has an accident because of the street situation and she ends up in the hospital for a week, then after the hospital is three weeks at home? What then? Who is paying for that? One less person at work. Who is doing her work? Another person needed to be hired to fill in? Because of one hole in the street!

Just fix the streets. Don't do it with asphalt, there are better and easier methods to do it with. And they are available on the island.

Yes, it will cost you more money, but it will be done!

I go now to my car and try not to find a hole on my way home!

This has nothing with concerned Citizen to do, it is just very, very SAD.

Peter Werdath, Director, Budget Marine Bonaire

## ALL ABOUT OUR ROADS POTHOLE CONTEST

#2

Dear Editor:

I want to suggest a contest for *The Reporter's* Facebook page: "Name Your Pothole." I have one by my house that I call "The Tire Slayer."

Considering the current state of our roads the government should be ashamed of charging a road tax, they should charge a *buraco* tax (pothole tax).

The potholes in Bonaire are so many and so big that I believe we will soon see them advertised as waterfront land lots in the realtors' magazines.

The potholes are dangerous. Your car can be damaged and the people in your car injured. There is also a great risk of hitting another car or a person by swerving to avoid the potholes.

I'm sure some engineer in the government would go "we need to wait for the rain season to be over," but the opposite is true. If they had fixed the potholes before the rains, the potholes would not be as bad now. The rain has indeed aggravated the problem.

How is it that the same country that was capable of building the biggest port of Europe is unable to fix the roads of tiny Bonaire?

Charging a road tax and threatening fines if not paid in time is shameful. It really feels as if by paying the road tax I'm just throwing money in a (pot)hole.

Fernando

## PRAISE FOR WEB

Dear Editor:

During a recent project where WEB had to move a meter and breaker box, I have to say that everyone from the very beginning was extremely helpful and timely. I was told that it would be up to 10 days after filing the initial paperwork and within 2 days a WEB inspector showed up to explain what needed to be done. All my emails to WEB's office were also answered quickly. I was told the final moving of the meter and cables would also be up to 10 days after filing the final papers and that was also done within 2 days.

Thank you everyone at WEB for very nice and friendly work.

Bruce Bowker



Brad Swanson photo

The Milky Way above the slave huts

## BOOST FOR THE BONAIRE SKY PARK

There has been considerable interest in our story, "Less Light Please," that appeared in the last *Bonaire Reporter*

Dear Editor:

In January, there were about a dozen college students from a school near Pittsburg, PA, here on Bonaire for a week to do volunteer work with Trans World Radio. We went out to Red Slave one evening. The skies were pretty cloudy, downright murky even. But the students still enjoyed themselves. And Dr. Sherman, one of the leaders, said that most of the students had never seen a night sky as nice as what they were seeing on that pretty crummy evening.

The Sky Park idea probably has more potential than those of us who live here and take it somewhat for granted might realize.

Brad

The information below appeared in the March/April 2018 edition of the *Sierra Club Magazine* titled "Dark Matters."

- First recorded use of street lamps: Fourth-century-A.D., Antioch, in what was then Syria. "For here at least, sleep is no lord of mankind," wrote the Greek academic Libanius.
- Annual increase in brightness of Earth's cities at night from 2012 to 2016 -2.2%
- Percentage increase in car collisions and crime after cities in England and Wales began dimming their streetlights to save money- 0%
- Percentage of invertebrates threatened by outdoor lighting -60%
- Countries with the most pristine night skies- Chad, Central African Republic, Madagascar
- Countries with the greatest levels of light pollution- Kuwait, Singapore, Qatar
- Percentage of people in Europe and the U.S. who experience some form of light pollution- 99%
- Percentage of North Americans who can't see the Milky Way from where they live - 80%



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# On the Island Since... March 2017 – Sarah Wilner



Left to right: Queen Latifa, Brody, Sarah and Chi-chi

“I am from very high northern California, inland, far away from the ocean. I have a Master’s degree in experimental psychology which fits very well with yoga, mindfulness practices and how we can use them to increase our well-being. A few years back I started diving, came here on a vacation, fell in love with the island and I decided to come back. You see, diving, mindfulness and the inner life feeling are very similar. So I thought to do my dive master internship here. I went back home, got my things together and came to Bonaire where I saw a lot of opportunities in the health and wellness industry.

It would have been much easier to move to an American island, but the easiest is not always the best or the most fulfilling. There’s no challenge and you grow from challenge. It forces you to see what you are capable of. Helen Keller said ‘Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all.’ That’s how I see it! And Paulo Coelho said, ‘Monotony is as good as death.’ I want to fill my life, I want to feel and be all those things. I have always been like that. When I moved here I didn’t know anybody on the island, but right away I met wonderful people.

Then I got the idea to write a specialty for PADI, because I saw that overlap between mindfulness and scuba diving. As you have to be an instructor to write a specialty, I did the IDC (Instructor Development Course). Then I looked around to see what I could do here as entrepreneur, how to take my professional, academic and personal experience and create something on the island. So, I wrote a specialty; it’s called ‘Mindful Diver.’ In it I use research on mindfulness skills and research on the water – how being in or around water is good for us, psychologically and physiologically. Then, from these lines of research, I created a program – it’s beautiful – it teaches mindfulness skills on land and underwater. I just finished developing the program and we are in the final stages of approval with PADI. Once I have my final stamp of approval from PADI people can get certified as a mindful diver.

This is not a yoga specialty, it is new. Mindfulness skills aren’t new, but this program is. So, that’s number one. A specialty of mine is program development,

specifically in the health and wellness area. I’ll be developing that more and more. I am also working on other projects, bringing these mindfulness skills into the freediving community as well, and that will be much more advanced which is much more exciting. I am partnering with **Theo Knevel** who is a representative of Cressi (professional scuba diving equipment) and also with **Carlos Costa**, the

world famous free diver. They are awesome. We are doing these events called ‘One Breath Yoga,’ to unite the freediving and yoga communities. We just had our first event on February 18<sup>th</sup>. It was very successful; we had 21 participants. We exceeded our goal. It was wonderful and I feel great about that. We’re getting a lot of support from Cressi and PADI – big names, big support. But also we have support from local businesses like Nature’s Discount – huge supporters of us – and Bon Bida and Eden Beach, who let us use their space and they provided the lunch.

I think in July we’ll have another event here on the island. Then, after summer, we’re going to take it to Curacao as well. So, that’s Mindful Diver and One Breath Yoga, my main endeavors right now.

However, my ambition is to bring mindfulness practices to islands; like bringing these programs that are meant for people who have resources, who have money. We can bring some of that to local people on islands, especially young people. With the programs that I developed, percentages I make will go towards funding communities like Bonaire. This is my big picture. It is like collecting here and then distributing it and giving access to the same type of skill training, the same type of experiences, to those without resources. It is actually development of the inner self which is neglected in our world right now.

So when we learn to pay attention to our inner self we often find we have everything we need and that knowledge brings a lot of peace. Mindfulness is a two-part concept: part one is being present – paying attention – and part two is not judging yourself, not criticizing, you are simply observing yourself. Mindfulness skills or practices teach people how to do this and what we know is that this concept has life-changing effects for the person and... when we feel good, we act good. We do have the ability to make ourselves feel good and mindfulness training unlocks that knowledge; that’s essentially it. It’s thousands and thousands of years old and now science studies it deeply.

I teach yoga as well, privately and publically on the island Yoga is a mindfulness practice. I teach publically at Bon Bida and privately with individuals and small groups at people’s homes or spaces they have, and I teach classes at small boutique resorts like Treasure by the Sea. Also I teach private diving, so, I do a lot of things.

I love Bonaire; I love how wild and free it is. I love the diving, how you can do what you want on the island, having the opportunity to be yourself, to be free. And there is definitely a lot of opportunity for entrepreneurs.

**“For the island I wish it will stay free and wild and simple, because so much tourism creates grasping for what you don’t have and think is good.”**

I am very happy that my 12-year-old son Brody decided to come and stay with me. He’s going to SGB and he’s adjusting. Learning Dutch is all that’s all he’s doing right now. His class is at Jong Bonaire, a special class for children who don’t know Dutch yet. He likes it; he’s just starting to make friends. When I came here it took me a while to get settled so Brody came three months ago. He already knows Spanish, which is an advantage, and he plays soccer with Juventus. I think it was very brave of him to join me; I am very impressed with him. So,” she laughs, “I am really planning on staying!”

Brody says, “I came from California and I speak Spanish and English. I’d been here before, visiting my mom, then I came three months ago. I still talk to my friends back home online, but it was my choice to come here – with the dogs – and yes, it’s cool. And although I don’t know German, Dutch sounds like German, but it has similar English words too, like ‘hand’ and ‘arm’ and ‘water’ and ‘wind’ are the same in Dutch. It’s not too hard.” Sara comments, “He’s easy and mellow and he has great self-control and emotional control, so he forces me to be my best self.” Sarah smiles.

“My goal is to live a full, adventurous life. Social reality is what we are taught how we should live – like own a home,



Sarah looking at the sea from a different perspective Private photo

buy a car, get married, work until you are 70 and retire, then go on a cruise and tour islands like it’s a zoo. Ha, ha! It’s funny, but it is also sad. Unfortunately I was born with a gene that refuses to let me live by social norms. It’s not the easiest way, but it makes a good story.

We live in this external world, so for many people the belief is that the external is what matters, and I find that’s not true. What sees? Do your eyes see? No, your brain sees, your brain is feeling, is tasting. Victimhood is a choice of life, a way of interacting with the world, so then there is the opposite of that, which is to be a creator. That’s also a way of interacting with the world. You cannot be both – a victim and a creator – at the same time. At some point I think we are all faced with the choice: Am I a victim or a creator and then, if you choose creator, you see creating happening inside. So, if creation happens inside, it actually makes the inside much more important than the outside. When you opt for the creator model there’s no one to blame but you. And the consequence of this is you can sit and wallow in self-pity about your own shitty behavior – or you change it.

For the island I wish it will stay free and wild and simple, because so much tourism creates grasping for what you don’t have and think is good. It ruins people, like TV does. I see local people sitting by the sea, drinking a beer and fishing. And we are fighting our whole life to accomplish that lifestyle in retirement that is... if we make it. It’s a confused world.” ■ Greta Kooistra

For more info see Facebook: One Breath Yoga or Simple Yogi





# Picture Yourself With The Reporter at The Headwaters of the Mississippi

**J**im and Rae Zandlo from Saint Paul MN at Mississippi River in Itasca State Park, MN October 7, 2017.

In a search for the best snorkeling Rae and Jim first stayed at Black Durgon in 2007. They have returned nine times since, now having settled into all-February stays at Sand Dollar. On quiet wind days they explore harder to enter spots including southern beach entries and even Boca Onima. Visits to Washington-Slagbaai Park have included a scramble to the top of Branderis as well as snorkeling.

Many photos and videos from their past trips can be seen at <http://sundogzzz/bonaire> or search Youtube for 'bonaire zandlo'. Jim free dives to 50'+ for the underwater shots.



Rae and Jim have just been named as Bonaire ambassadors. □

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands (CN). E-mail to: [picture@bonairereporter.com](mailto:picture@bonairereporter.com). All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.

# Inspiration Dose

Welcome to Inspiration Dose, a new monthly Bonaire Reporter column powered by *Cápsulas Gerenciales* (Management Pills). This column and its radio show have one central goal, to share ideas and tools to help you succeed in business and life.

At some point we all face hardship. In those moments I find it helpful to read stories of people who not only overcame challenges but achieved monumental success in the process.

**T**oday I want to write about actor and comedian Jim Carrey. Jim Carrey (at right) was born in Toronto in 1962, the youngest of four siblings. Comedy was his obvious calling since his childhood. As a 10-year old kid he sent his resume to the Carol Burnett Show, a famous comedy show then.



He also was restless in school, to the point that some teachers made an agreement with him: if he behaved and stayed quiet during class they would give him the last 10 minutes of the class-hours to do his show.

When Carrey was 14 years old, his father lost his job, and his family hit rough times. They moved into a VW van on a relative's lawn and Carrey took an eight-hour-per-day factory job after school to help his family make ends meet.



At 15 Carrey performed his comedy routine onstage for the first time. It was a failure but he kept on working on it, and by age 16 he quit school to focus on comedy full time. He moved to Los Angeles shortly after, where he took any job he could in the industry, paid or not.

For months he had nothing but his beat-up car, but he kept on pushing, and he started practicing visualizations. He would park on Mulholland Drive every night and visualize his success. He would imagine how actors and directors praised his work, or what his financial success would look like.

In 1992, during one of those nights he wrote himself a check for \$10,000,000 for "Acting Services Rendered," which he dated, Thanksgiving 1995, three years in the future. He kept this check with him and whenever he felt discouraged he would take it out and stare at it, as a reminder of his goal.

In 1995, a little before Thanksgiving, he secured a role in the movie, "Dumb and Dumber," for which he was paid over

(Continued on page 14)

## BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL

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Architect: Jorge Luisitano Bonaire  
Bouwaannemer: cts Constructora Tecnica Silvousa N.V. Bonaire  
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Soon in our new home

The island's health care foundation offering products and services for sale and rent: hearing aids, special food products, diapers, diabetics, disability aids, impaired vision devices, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, electric scooters, patients beds and more. Cooperating with Bonaire's health care insurance

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# Bonaire Youth Chess Club - 30 Years

“When you think with logic you do better in all subjects” is how **Serapio Pop**, trainer/coach and founder of the Bonaire Youth Chess Club, describes the value of playing chess.

Mr. Pop founded the club in 1988, and on May 18<sup>th</sup> it will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He started the club because he found, as a math teacher, that “kids couldn’t use logic needed for math” and that chess would help them with math, science and other subjects as well.

The club meets every Friday night from 5 to 7 pm at *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB) during the school year from August to June. It is open to children of all ages. There is \$10 initial fee and then a monthly \$5 fee, if they can pay. No child is turned away. Currently there are 15 children enrolled and the club has seen as many as 40 students at one time.

There are three levels in the club, Pawn, for beginners, followed by Rook and then King. There is an exam after the first level. Besides Mr. Pop’s instruction, the pupils teach each other.



**Emanuel Lont, six time chess champion of Bonaire**

the All Star/Open Youth Tournament. One year they won six out of the nine categories. They occasionally also compete in a November tournament in Aruba.

**Pieter Jan Simonis**, whose son **Frédéric Simonis**, age 10, is the current youth champion of Bonaire, and will be competing in Surinam at the end of March, says, “It’s important for kids to compete in other places so they have a reason to play.”

“Chess helps you think,” according to Mr. Pop who has been in education since 1981. Currently he is a math and science teacher at SGB. During his 37 years in education he has also been a Principal, Inspector of Education and a Superintendent.

Looking around the room at a recent meeting we saw there were more than a half dozen games going on at different levels.

**Rocqui Martis**, age 8, and who has been playing for two years, was teaching his sister, **Quary Martis**, age 5, who was attending for her first time. Their games went quickly. Rocqui said, “It helps you think, I just love it. Chess is very fun.”



**Frédéric Simonis, the current youth champion of Bonaire**

Since the club’s inception, more than 1000 children have participated and many have become very successful in the community, says Mr. Pop, with great pride.

Another source of Mr. Pop’s pride is the club’s performance in competitions outside the island. Almost every April they travel to Curacao to participate in



**Rocqui Martis teaches his sister, Quary Martis**



**The Bonaire Youth Chess Club members with coach Serapio Pop**

The longest game of the evening was between **Frédéric Simonis** and **Emanuel Lont**, age 15, and six-time Bonaire Youth Champion, who has been playing for seven years. By 7 pm, after playing for an hour and 45 minutes, their match was still not finished. They picked up their chess pieces, remembering their positions on the board, and packed them away to continue at a future time.

Emanuel, when talking about chess, says, “It’s good for the mind, and for the future.”

Many people may ask why, at age 62, does Mr. Pop continues to run the club 30 years later? He has a simple answer, “It keeps me young in mind.” □

Photos by Alan Zale for The Bonaire Reporter,  
Story by Alan Zale and re-reporting by Joan Zale.



Contact information: Serapio Pop, Bonaire Chess Club (599)796-9660, serapiopop@gmail.com

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# Special Olympics Bonaire Walk-a-thon



The organizers pose at Karpata. Great Job!



SD/Alan Zale photo

Sand Dollar Condominiums residents got their tickets from Balbino Benjamin Anthony, Maintenance Supervisor (seated center), the perennial seller of tickets for The Special Olympics Walkathon.

Bonaire's 16th annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon, established by Elizabeth Wigny 16 years ago as a fundraiser for Bonaire's Special Olympics team, was an unqualified success. There were 850 tickets sold, 661 picked up T-shirts. Bikers, walkers, runners all participated. Funds will be used to help to send the team to Abu Dhabi in March 2019. The next Walk-a-Thon will be in January 2019.

Final results were not available by press time, but we can say the **Fastest Biker was Virgilio Batista**, 1 hour, 34 minutes, and the **Fastest Walker was Archuendro Finies**.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved. □  
Story & photos by L.D.



Very speedy running-walking Dutch girls: 4 hours, 2 minutes. Mary Tielman and Inge van Bergen



We all got completion certificates!



At Hilltop, Delno Tromp and company stop for a drink, fruit and photo



Nazario Alberto, at right, the North Salinja Road Runner man on Bonaire, arrives at FKPD, after having taken the long way around Goto Lake.

## Scheduled Water Taxi TO KLEIN BONAIRE

From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

### HOTEL PICKUP SERVICE

Daily trips via resorts 10 am, 12, 2

THE ONLY WALKON / WALKOFF

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# BonDoet's Eighth Wonderful Year

Since 2011  
It's Bonaire's biggest volunteer event, held last Friday and Saturday, March 9



Volunteers from ADRA were set up at Bondigro. They collect used clothing, make repairs and donate it to the less fortunate. They are looking for more people to help with sewing and repairs.



At Bonaire Youth Outreach volunteer employees from the Bestuurcollege (Bonaire Government) got to create inspiring artwork for the walls. (They expected to have to do painting or cleaning and dressed accordingly, so this was a nice surprise!)



BonDoet opening at Kas di Kuido was complete with confetti and bangers. The Bonaire Reporter posted a Facebook video of the opening



Regular volunteers at Pasku di Pruga came in especially for Bon Doet to organize clothes and other items despite strong winds blowing clothes racks over and causing havoc.



Volunteers build shelves at the Animal Shelter's flea market, Paskus di Pruga.

and 10.. Island-wide it completed 75 jobs carried out at 61 different foundations and other social organizations with the help of some 1,400 people.

Volunteers were individuals, companies, government departments, the Police, WEB, Telbo, restaurants, yachts in port, hotels, and even tourists... a cross section of those who live or visit Bonaire

In addition to the previous schedule, volunteers were asked to assist with the Sargassum cleanup at Kontiki with students from Fundashon Forma and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Bon Doet- A Win-Win for everyone. Thanks NGO Platform for your brilliant organizing.   
L./G.D.

## 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...**

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# Man Against The Sea (Weed)

**COVER STORY**

Lorenzo Mittiga photo

You could have spent your whole vacation on Bonaire last week along the idyllic west coast diving, sailing, sunning etc... and never known a war was being fought 10 kilometers to the east. A battle to clean seaweed blown from offshore from fouling the shoreline.

It was being fought by hundreds of volunteer tourists and residents. Workers were given time off to help with the cleanup. Children were let off early from school to join in. Coordinated by STINAPA, nature organizations like the Junior Rangers, DCNA, Echo and STCB mobilized their members. Fund raising began to defray the cost of the needed equipment. Using the least environmentally damaging way to get rid of it is by manual removal with rakes and wheelbarrows, and in the case of wind-surf-minded Lac Bay-even windsurf boards. The Bon Doet volunteer effort contributed manpower as well.

The dense mats of Sargassum seaweed were washing ashore and covering the surface of protected bays, threatening aquatic life including turtles, lobster and baby fish. Several baby turtles were saved over the weekend. Sargassum plays an important role in our planet's ecosystem. It is a spawning site for threatened and endangered eels, as well as white marlin, porbeagle shark, and dorado. The really cool thing about Sargassum is that each clump can be a teeming ecosystem by itself. Several varieties of fish (e.g. Sargassum fish and flying fish), crabs, and nudibranchs live in close association with the weed, says biologist Eric Lindstrom

## Caused the Changing Climate?

Scientists and policymakers at a fisheries conference in Cayman last week speculated this could be the "new normal" for the Caribbean. Unprecedented in the region before 2011, if such incursions become commonplace, they advised, governments must have management plans in place to react quickly. And Bonaire was reacting quickly and with force.

According to **Hazel Oxenford**, professor



Ariel view of Sorobon Tino dePalm photo

of marine ecology and fisheries at the University of West Indies and one of the speakers at the conference at Grand Cayman last week, a little Sargassum is a good thing for coastal ecosystems. Too much, however, can be disastrous.

"When it starts coming ashore in massive quantities and when it gets stuck in the near shore area and starts to give off that rotten egg smell, it becomes a real problem for tourism as well as the environment." She said such large Sargassum blooms, typically seen in the Sargasso Sea around Bermuda, were new in the Equatorial region, potentially a product of warming ocean temperatures. (Source: Cayman Compass)

**Bas Tol**, who suffered an apparent allergic reaction from prolonged exposure during the cleanup, said, "Cleaned up a whole lot of Sargassum Weed today. It's hard work and slow progress. I figured it could go easier and made a large weed catcher that we could pull by rope with a truck. But could not use the truck as it was too crowded. It was too tough to pull by hand. So started to load surfboard and kayaks, lots of them! Looking at how much work we did and how much is still there, it's very depressing. My body is sore, my legs are burning (something's in that shxt!) but feeling satisfied."



Seaweed mats are heavy and cumbersome. Strength and perseverance are needed



Porchia's Restaurant closed for the day and staff members helped STINAPA clear out the seaweed from the coast. photo: Chef Juan Carlos De Sousa, Arjen de-Wolffe (STINAPA head), owner Porchia Duncan, bartender Mackenzie Clippard

**Bart Snelder** observed, "It is incredible that the authorities have not enacted some sort of disaster management, instead leaving it to Stinapa, a nature foundation with no more than 30 employees, where hundreds upon hundreds of people are needed....At the same time it is also true that the west coast, where just about all tourists stay and almost all dive, snorkel and other water

activities take place, remain completely unaffected. Almost impossible to even imagine that there is something seriously wrong on the other side of the island. The same goes for Klein Bonaire, it is just as beautiful as ever."

Your donation will equip volunteers, procure rakes, gloves, boots, wheelbarrows and other materials, provide food and drinks to all the volunteers working hard in the hot sun. It will also help to cover costs of transportation, gas, and all the type of expected and unexpected costs that surface during crises like these. (see "learn more" box). **G.D.**

## Want to learn more:

Donate: STINAPA Bonaire's bank account is: MCB Bonaire 86842000. Please mention "sargassum donation".

Alternatively, you can donate online. Please visit the website [dcnanature.org/donate](http://dcnanature.org/donate) and select/click STINAPA Bonaire

#Bonaire Clean Up, #Sargassum, #STINAPA, #STCB, #Echo #BonDoet <https://www.facebook.com/Bonaire.STINAPA/s/2138082529542305/>



# Advertise in The Reporter

## Just because it gets results



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

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

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

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

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

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# A Garden? Just Do It

BANNNAAAASSSS.....



Banana tree in a sheltered spot

Since the fruit boats from Venezuela don't come anymore we now know how much we depend on fresh fruit and vegetables shipped in. What a headache. No plantains to make our fried banana, no bacoba in the house. But this shouldn't be a problem if we grow our own bananas in our yards. Nothing grows so easily on Bonaire like the banana family. So pay attention to this family which can be divided into "bananas" and "plantains" based on their intended use as food. Plantains are more starchy and less sweet; they are eaten cooked rather than raw. They have thicker skin and can be used at any stage of ripeness. So we have "dessert" bananas and "cooking" bananas.

Another division is the wild and cultivated banana. The most popular cultivated banana is Cavendish cultivars which is the classic yellow dessert banana, and saba cultivars, used mainly for cooking. Growing on Bonaire are the cooking bananas and those bananas round as fingers to eat as dessert. There is also another type which you can eat uncooked when ripe and cooked when it's green.

While the original wild bananas contained large seeds, there are cultivars with tiny seeds. Cultivated bananas are parthenocarpic, which means the flesh of the fruit swells and ripens without seeds being fertilized and developing.

The banana plant is the largest herbaceous flowering plant. All the above-ground parts of the plant grow from a structure usually called a "corm." The plants are often mistaken for trees, but what appears to be a trunk is actually a false stem. The plant grows in a wide variety of soils, as long as the soil is at least 60 cm deep, has good drainage, and is not compacted. On Bonaire we plant the banana close to the cistern or the kitchen-bathroom-laundry or airco outlet where the soil is always moist. On the kunukus there are always "bacoba" plants used as dessert. The juicy leaves are good for livestock or to cook a certain dish.

When the plant is mature, the corm stops producing new leaves and begins to form a flower spike or inflorescence. A stem develops which grows up inside the pseudostem, carrying the immature inflo-



Such a variety of bananas



Plantains

rescence until eventually it emerges at the top. Each pseudostem normally produces a single inflorescence, also known as the "banana heart." After fruiting, the pseudostem dies, but offshoots will normally have developed from the base so that the plant in the whole is perennial. The offshoots have to be separated from each other and planted again. The mother plant can be cut down since she will not produce fruit anymore. Kunukeros chop these juicy trunks into pieces to feed to their animals.

During the ripening process, the bananas produce the gas ethylene, which acts as a plant hormone and indirectly affects the flavor. Ethylene is the enzyme that breaks down starch into sugar, influencing the taste of bananas. The fruits are eaten deep fried, baked, steamed, in pancakes and bread puddings, in jams, as chips, in juices and liqueurs. Dried bananas are also ground to make flour for porridge. Plantains are used in stews and curries or cooked, baked, fried or mashed in much the same way as potatoes. Flower hearts are used as a vegetable cooked in soups, curries and fried food. The leaves are good to steam food packages or to boil in water or grill to serve food in.

On Bonaire locals make the popular "ajaca" at Christmas. This is a special Christmas dish made from funchi (corn meal) with meat and other additions. Then it goes into banana leaves, tied up as a

# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

## OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 5.

It was very busy downtown. Two gigantic cruise ships were dominating our horizon and the streets were crowded with people. So great to hear all those foreign languages and, even better, if you understand them and maybe be able to help the tourists with their questions and give them directions.

Because that is what many of them do or need. Especially On Wednesday or Thursday. On those days you see many persons in wheelchairs, riding scooters, using walkers. And every time they need to cross our streets they have problems with those high curbs.

And when I see all those people, I often wonder how accessible those cruise ships are.

On the other hand... if they had flown in, they would have had to cross another bridge. Because getting to and from airplanes at Bonaire's airport is not easily accessible for those who "are in the shadow of life."

First, you need a letter or a statement from your GP to prove what your diagnosis is and that you need special help to get on and off an airplane.

When you land in Bonaire, and you have complied with the rules, two or three sturdy men come and get you, put you on a very narrow seat, tie you down and carry you down the very high boarding stairs. Once on the ground, you are released and you may sit in a more regular wheelchair. They wheel you off the tarmac and leave you outside the building.

And when you fly home, you get to sit in that narrow chair again, safely tied down, and two or three persons carry you onto the plane and get you to your seat.

A very humiliating procedure.

That is why the task force for disabilities has been working very hard since 2011 to get an "AVIRAMP." This is a device that enables you to simply get on and off the plane by yourself, amongst all the other passengers.

package and steamed. Yummy!

On Bonaire with this strong wind nowadays some banana plants are in trouble. They just fall down, especially when they have a heavy bunch of bananas. You can support the plant by propping them up with a post or beam. Ask a nice local neighbor how to do this. They know. The strong wind and dry air is also a problem for the leaves which might break and get dry. Cut these leaves off because they are a burden to the tree and use too much energy. And when you see the plants totally dried out, chop them down, leaving a little piece of the trunk. Water it a lot and your plant will grow nice and healthy again. It might have been suffering from a disease

Now, rumor has it that this AVIRAMP is on its way, because the budget has been adapted in 2017. Another rumor has it that it should not take very long anymore for the AVIRAMP to come to Bonaire.

We cannot wait, because last year we had to leave for Curacao for a sad occasion and had forgotten our statement from the GP. We were flatly refused by Insel Air.

I stated that we would not move from the spot until we got decent service and stayed put. After 20 minutes we were finally told that they would assist my husband and get him on the plane, but we would have to pay! When we said we would, the lady asked for assistance. But... only one person came. He asked me to help him get my husband on the plane. I told him I was very sorry and that I would not. Finally this poor man had to get the job done all by himself. And I did not get to sit beside my husband. It felt like we were being punished.

So, let us hope and pray that this AVIRAMP will get to Bonaire as soon as possible. That way everybody with a handicap who comes to and leaves from Bonaire will be able to get on and off the plane in a dignified way.

And after that is done, let's get wonderful accessible streets and sidewalks.

Now..... that would be another dream come true. □ 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.

or lack of water. But it can revive.

Don't forget, you can make locals with livestock happy with your banana plant waste, especially now since there is no food for animals either coming from Venezuela. Just tell a *kunukero* (your neighbor might know some) and they'll come to pick it up. And when you have donkeys in your neighborhood, you can feed the leaves and trunks to them. They will be thankful for it.

So don't complain about lack of bananas on Bonaire anymore. Grow them yourself. Just do it now.. □  
Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover





# What's Happening

## 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](http://stinapabonaire.org/events)

## Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**- Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

•**Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month.** Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon

•**Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last 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

•**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.

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

## Fridays

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

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday**, 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.

## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at [ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Day	Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
Monday	12-Mar-18	Eclipse	0800-1800	2858
Tuesday	13-Mar-18	Costa Magica	0700-1400	3470
Tuesday	13-Mar-18	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
Friday	16-Mar-18	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600
Monday	19-Mar-18	Crown Princess	0700-1700	3150
Monday	19-Mar-18	Mein Schiff 3	0700-1900	2500
Tuesday	20-Mar-18	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
Wednesday	21-Mar-18	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	3114
Wednesday	21-Mar-18	Aida Diva	0700-1900	2194
Thursday	22-Mar-18	TUI Discovery	0700-1500	2076
Friday	23-Mar-18	Koningsdam	0800-1800	2650
Monday	26-Mar-18	Eclipse	0800-1800	2858

No cruise ships on Mar. 14, 15, 17, 18,24, 26-- two ships on three days

## 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

—**Nochi Coffie exhibit at TCB.**

—**Photo Works on Canvas** by underwater photographer Catherine Salisbury. Bistro de Paris Restaurant, until March 31

## 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 Thursday through Saturday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance ■

## CLOSE IN EVENTS

**Saturday, March 17**—**Stinapa Lionfish Derby** at Klein Bonaire, 5pm. Start and finish at Harbour Village Marina. Space for 20 people. Prizes. Info: [bnmpassistant@stinapa.org](mailto:bnmpassistant@stinapa.org)

**Saturday/Sunday, March 24/25** **Bon Bida Beach Tennis Tournament** at Coco Beach Info at [www.beachtennisbonaire.com](http://www.beachtennisbonaire.com)

**Saturday, March 31** —**Nos Zjilea Cultural Market at Mangazina de Rei.** Local arts and crafts, plants, vegetables, educational presentations, local music. 8am-2pm. Mangazina di Rei is at the eastern entrance to Rincon

— “C'est La Vie” band (formerly “Back on Track”) performs at Foodies, 8pm. More info next edition.

**Sunday, April 1**—**Easter Sunday**

**Monday, April 2**—**Easter Monday, Simadan (Harvest) Festival, Rincon** Public Holiday

**Friday, April 6**—**Taste of Bonaire, Ban Wapa Edition.** Enjoy signature dishes of well known restaurants at special prices, music, local culture, handicrafts, Wilhelmina Park, 6pm

**Sunday, April 8**— **Ride For The Roses: Ride, Swim and Walk 2018.** More in upcoming editions.

**Friday, April 27**—**King's Birthday, local holiday.** Events and celebrations in Playa. More in upcoming editions



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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;  
Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

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**Distribution:** Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Air-line, Ava Rose Wuyts (Assistant)

**Housekeeping:** JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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

*Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time*

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 12		02:30 0.05 ft	09:03 0.75 ft	17:26 -0.10 ft	22:16 0.17 ft	6:44	18:46
Tue 13		03:01 0.06 ft	09:41 0.72 ft	18:09 -0.08 ft	23:00 0.17 ft	6:44	18:46
Wed 14		03:36 0.08 ft	10:21 0.67 ft	18:51 -0.05 ft	23:49 0.18 ft	6:43	18:46
Thu 15		04:24 0.11 ft	11:05 0.61 ft	19:30 -0.02 ft		6:43	18:46
Fri 16	00:40 0.22 ft	05:32 0.13 ft	11:54 0.53 ft	20:04 0.01 ft		6:42	18:46
Sat 17	01:27 0.28 ft	07:04 0.14 ft	12:53 0.45 ft	20:33 0.04 ft	<b>New Moon</b>	6:41	18:46
Sun 18	02:09 0.36 ft	08:45 0.12 ft	14:01 0.38 ft	20:59 0.06 ft		6:41	18:46
Mon 19	02:49 0.46 ft	10:12 0.05 ft	15:12 0.31 ft	21:26 0.07 ft		6:40	18:46
Tue 20	03:29 0.57 ft	11:20 -0.04 ft	16:19 0.27 ft	21:58 0.06 ft		6:39	18:46
Wed 21	04:11 0.69 ft	12:17 -0.12 ft	17:17 0.24 ft	22:35 0.04 ft		6:39	18:46
Thu 22	04:55 0.79 ft	13:06 -0.20 ft	18:08 0.22 ft	23:18 0.01 ft		6:38	18:46
Fri 23	05:40 0.88 ft	13:53 -0.25 ft	18:55 0.22 ft			6:37	18:46
Sat 24		00:05 -0.01 ft	06:27 0.94 ft	14:39 -0.29 ft	19:40 0.23 ft	6:37	18:46
Sun 25		00:55 -0.03 ft	07:15 0.96 ft	15:24 -0.29 ft	20:27 0.25 ft	6:36	18:46
Mon 26		01:50 -0.04 ft	08:05 0.93 ft	16:09 -0.28 ft	21:15 0.28 ft	6:35	18:46



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# Pet Of The Week

GLORIA

Meet Gloria, a lovely grey tabby cat with big round eyes that are looking for love! Gloria is about a year old and a small-sized cat with a big heart. She would be a perfect cat for a working family as she is content to snooze and watch the world go by when left on her own, but is very affectionate and loving when she is the focus of your attention.



Adopting a mature cat has plenty of advantages over choosing those hard-to-resist adorable kittens. Adult cats have so much love to give and also they have an established personality, so you already know what they're going to be like, rather than it being guesswork. Their full grown temperament is evident, and you can tell if they're going to be a good fit in your home.

Gloria is healthy, sterilized and vaccinated and just waiting for that "perfect fit" in her fur-ever home. If you are thinking of adopting a cat, please pass by the shelter and give Gloria a chance. Animal Shelter Bonaire is located at Kaminda

Lagun 26, open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 3 -5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. Visit our website at <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com/> and catch a glimpse of Gloria on our "catcams."  Story & photo by Jane Madden- Disko

# ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS



Finished mural with Emily, Colin, and "assistant manager" Skye Rodriguez

# STYROFOAM SURVEY



A few weeks ago, Boneiru Duradero (Sustainable Bonaire) started a survey about the use of Styrofoam food containers on Bonaire. Public opinion has proven to be very important to bring about change in many social issues, so Boneiru Duradero is interested to know what inhabitants and visitors of Bonaire think.

So far, 400 people have filled out the online survey about Styrofoam, and 99% of respondents, or 398 people, agree with the point of view that we should stop using Styrofoam food containers on Bonaire.

Boneiru Duradero is aware that sustainable alternatives are often more expensive than environmentally unfriendly products such as Styrofoam. The higher price of sustainable food containers is the main reason for many restaurants to keep using cheap packaging materials that are bad for our environment. That is why Boneiru Duradero also wants to know if consumers are prepared to pay more for a take-out meal in a sustainable food container. The 400 respondents answered as follows:

- 50.6 %, or 204 people, are prepared to pay USD\$ 1.- extra
  - 7.5 %, or 30 people, are prepared to pay USD\$.75 cents extra
  - 27.9 %, or 112, people are prepared to pay USD \$.50 cents extra
  - 10.7%, or 43 people, are prepared to pay USD\$ .25 cents extra
  - \*Only 3.3%, or 11 people, do not want to pay extra.
  - 49.5% of the respondents who participated in Boneiru Duradero's online survey live on Bonaire, and 50.5% are tourists.
- The average additional cost that people are willing to pay for a take-out meal in a sustainable food container is USD\$ .75 cents.** The survey would like to reach at least 500 completed surveys. Please fill in the survey on Boneiru Duradero Portal, it will only take a minute. Go directly to <http://www.boneiruduradero.nl/category/say-no-to-styrofoam/>  [Press release](#)

## "START SPREADIN' THE NEWS..."

Animal Shelter Bonaire is ever grateful to the *Bonaire Reporter* for its continuous support over so many years....and now there's another reason to be grateful....their widespread readership! Last issue the shelter was asking for volunteers to help renovate and paint our quarantine during the Bon Doet volunteer weekend. Two people who read that article were **Emily Gorski and Colin Travers**, frequent Bonaire visitors and muralists from Brooklyn, New York. If their names don't sound familiar....their work on Bonaire is. They are the two young muralists who have "energized" the unfinished ruins of Esmeralda Beach Hotel at the south end of the island. (See the March 9, 2015 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*). Their work also adorns numerous sites all over Brooklyn.

Emily and Colin contacted the shelter and offered to do one of their enchanting murals for the quarantine renovation. While the quarantine area does not have sufficient wall space suitable for a mural....we have plenty of walls on the property that do! Last week Emily and Colin painted a de-



lightful mural on the wall of the Cat Palace facing the shelter's parking lot. The cats and dogs enjoying Bonaire's sun and sea will surely bring a smile to every shelter visitor. Thank you Colin and Emily....and thank you *Bonaire Reporter* for "getting the news out"!  Story by Jane Madden -Disko. Photos by Laurie Smith



## Inspiration Dose (Continued from page 6)

\$7,000,000, and his career took off. Since then he has spoken about the power of visualization often, but always reminding us that visualization must be accompanied by action, or as he puts it in an interview, "I would visualize things coming to me. It would just make me feel better. Visualization works if you work hard. That's the thing. You can't just visualize and go eat a sandwich."

I hope this story helps you visualize and work toward your success. See you

next month in *The Reporter*. Until then remember: Your success is built on actions, not illusions.  *Fernando Nava Bravo*



Please let us know your opinions and ideas for Inspiration Dose: email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## FINDING THE NORTH STAR

If someone asked you right now to name the brightest star we can see in the Sky Park what would you say? If you said the Sun you'd be correct... technically.

But... what about the brightest star you can see in the nighttime sky?

If you're thinking of Sirius out there folks, you're right. But if you said the North Star... you're not so right. But don't feel bad if you said the North Star, because most people believe that the North Star is the brightest star, when in fact there are about 50 other stars visible to the naked eye which are brighter. So why do so many people think the North Star is the brightest star?

Well, one reason might be that so many people have heard so much about the North Star that they assume it must be the brightest, when in fact it is really the most important star, at least for sailing the seas, flying a plane or traveling from place to place.

Face due north any night this week around 9:30 pm, where you should easily be able to find the Big Dipper. Those four stars that make its cup and the three stars that make its handle are so distinct in the sky

And if you want to find the North Star for yourself, all you have to do is use the two stars at the end of the cup, which are appropriately called, the pointer stars. When you shoot an imaginary arrow through them and continue that line down and to the left the pointer stars will always point you to the North Star. And because you are in Bonaire, you have to travel a long way... almost to the horizon.

Now once you've found it, you'll notice the North Star is about the same brightness as the pointer stars. So since the North Star doesn't stand out, why is it so important?

Well I'll give you a clue: the North Star is also called Polaris because it is the closest bright star to the north celestial pole.

So what? (you may be asking). Well, this simply means that if we could stand at the north pole, the North Star, Polaris, would be directly overhead, which further means that it is directly above the Earth's axis of rotation.

Now if you think of the Earth's axis as a huge nail we could insert it at the south pole and it would go all the way through the



Earth and come out the north pole and extend out into space. That nail, the Earth's axis, would point to the North Star.

So what? (you may be asking). This also means that as the Earth turns on its axis, all the stars in the heavens would seem to move... except one... The star directly above the Earth's axis, Polaris the North Star. That's why Polaris, the North Star is so important.

You see, Polaris is the only star which remains stationary in the heavens while all the other stars slowly circle around it. It is always due north, so before the invention of the compass, this star was extremely important to navigators and explorers to determine direction. That is, until they got below the equator where Polaris can't be seen at all. Unfortunately for navigators, there is no southern hemisphere pole star. The south celestial pole lacks a bright star like Polaris to mark its position. At present, the naked-eye star nearest to the celestial south pole is the faint Sigma Octantis, sometimes called the South Star.

In fact, if you're lost at night in the Northern Hemisphere and don't know which direction you're headed, simply find the Big Dipper, then use the pointer stars to find the North Star and for as long as you live, the North Star will always be due north. And if it's not, you're either on a different planet, like Mars... whose North Star is Deneb, the tail of Cygnus the Swan....

The Earth's axis slowly wobbles in a motion we call precession. This slow wobble takes about 26,000 years to complete, moving 1 degree every 72 years. So, 3000 years ago, Polaris wasn't considered the pole star. And in 14,000 years, the bright star Vega, in Lyra the Harp, will be our north pole star. □ Dean Regas & James Albury



# THE STARS HAVE US

March 2018

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You can't live your life for others. Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Be sure to use your charm and diplomacy when dealing with potential new clients. Don't blame others for your own stubbornness. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your ability to visualize will help you convince others of the possibilities. Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. Try to iron out any friction over money with your mate or conflicts could prevail. Be careful when dealing with investments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You must be sure not to be frivolous, because as the saying goes, easy come, easy go. Jealous coworkers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead. Real estate ventures will be to your advantage. Travel, although enticing, will cost more than you expect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Spend time getting to know each other. Your main concern will be to spend as little as possible of your own cash in the process. Pay attention to small but important details. Try to be understanding. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to get every one involved; it will help bring you closer together. Use your creative flair. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Partnerships could be tense. Don't push your luck. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Recognition will be yours if you meet your deadline. Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension. You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. Don't even bother trying to get their approval on the things you want to do. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Hidden matters are likely to surface. Resist any idle chatter. Enjoy the company of relatives this month. Set your goals and stick to your guns. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Romance is quite possible if you are willing to approach someone who interests you. Talk to people who can give you important knowledge. You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work. Get together with those you find mentally stimulating. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Get busy on projects that improve your own image; you'll have the discipline to succeed. You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Spend some quality time with your lover. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday □

Michael Thiessen

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## Belnem, Kaya Libra 3

### Highlights:

- Residential house
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Spacious lot
- Separate storage closet
- Separate container
- Living area: 1,103 / 105 sq.ft./m2
- Lot size: 12,045 / 1.119 sq.ft./m2
- Freehold land: registered 4-H-343

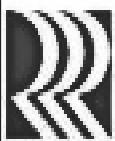
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