

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** April 9-23, 2018, Year 25, Issue 8  
**The REPORTER**

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**"Nos Zjilea" at Mangazina di Rei  
Page 6**

Izain Mercera photo



**T**ourism officials in Aruba took notice when cruise ship traffic dipped in 2015, but then they spotted something remarkable: total tourism revenue was up. Maybe it wasn't a coincidence.

The cruise lines want local governments to welcome them with open arms (and often build them new cruise terminals). And to do that they need to demonstrate a huge economic benefit... one that more than compensates for all those passengers creating unpleasant queues at attractions, generating traffic jams, and annoying the higher-paying overnight visitors.

#### So is the financial benefit there?

**Professor Ross Klein** at Memorial University of Newfoundland doesn't think so. The professor thinks the supposed economic benefits are based on self-serving surveys performed by the cruise lines themselves. In upcoming issues of *The Reporter* we will analyze the methodology used to justify cruise ship port calls.

► **In 2017, there were nearly 21,000 aircraft movements to and from the Caribbean Netherlands**, a 5% increase from the previous year. On Bonaire and St Eustatius, the number of movements rose by over 7% respectively. Although air traffic increased in the Caribbean Netherlands, the volume of air traffic passengers dropped by over 6% in 2017. Flamingo Airport in Bonaire recorded 323,100 passengers, over 5% fewer than in 2016.

► **The CN Express flights** between Bonaire and St. Eustatius with onward connections between St. Maarten and Saba, already popular with government and business travelers, are being used by tourists who want to dive our sister islands. Although the connection was made possible through a partnership between Winair and the Kingdom of the Netherlands it's open to all. The flights oper-

ate Mondays and Fridays connecting St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Bonaire directly. The first flights used a French registered Air Caribe aircraft. They provide a MUCH more convenient way to visit the other BES Islands. The flight takes about three hours and costs around \$500.

► **Under the name 'Caribsky' three air carriers want to provide better connections to travelers** across the English, Dutch and French-speaking Caribbean. The Chief Executive Officers of the three carriers working on the project, **Michael Cleaver** of WINAIR, **Serge Tsygalnitzky** of AIRANTILLES and **Julie Reifer-Jones** of LIAT, will be providing more details about the projects in a joint press conference to be held on April 17, 2018 in Gosier, Guadeloupe.

► **Last Friday Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen lifted the flying ban imposed on Dutch civil servants in February 2017 to fly with InselAir.** The minister follows the advice of the Dutch Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) who conducted inspections of the airline's operations.

► **InselAir has been flying** between the ABC islands on a sometimes erratic schedule using turbo prop planes over the past two weeks.



**Commissioner Ibi Martis, Irene Dingjan (BONHATA), Frank Comito (CHTA), Governor Rijna and Commissioner Cecilia at the Bestuurskantoor**

► **Last Month, BONHATA** (Bonaire's hotel and tourism association) hosted **CEO / Director General Frank Comito** of the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA). BONHATA reported it was a fruitful visit and thanked Mr. Comito for sharing his valuable knowledge and experience.

He visited several properties, got acquainted with our island and had several meetings with local government, national government and the TCB. In an interview with *The Reporter* he said that he thought that, **while Bonaire's Strategic Tourism Plan had many good aspects, he was uncomfortable with the Plan's assumptions about the number of jobs that are tourism related (25%) and contribution to the economy (20%)** if compared to other Caribbean islands, which are several times higher.



**Miss Bonaire finalists**

► **The Miss Bonaire Foundation announced the new ambassadors of Bonaire.** Miss Bonaire World **Rutgainy Frans** stands 5'10 / 175 cm and is 24 years old. Miss Intercontinental Bonaire, **Vera Ghazouli**, 22 years old, stands 1,83cm/ 6'1. Miss Bonaire runner-up, **Nayeli Lugo**, 17 years old, stands 5'6/ 165cm.

Remember these Bonairean ladies when you are in need of models to endorse products, advertisement ladies, promos, brand ambassadors or any type of marketing related jobs since they are the face and the official ambassador of Bonaire for 2018/2019. MBF president Roderick Beaumont says for more information or ideas contact [Missbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:Missbonaire@gmail.com) or phone +599 700-5705 or 795-4729.

► **Did you realize that the breeding season** of Bonaire's endangered parrot, the Yellow-shouldered Amazon, is about to start? These parrots are "secondary cavity nesters," birds that use natural cavities or those built by other species. On Bonaire, they nest in tree and rock cavities.

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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*

This also means that for Echo the nest monitoring will start soon, where they actively check nests to prevent illegal poaching of young chicks and check fledging success

► **You will get another chance to climb to the highest point of Bonaire.** Due to the high demand, STINAPA presents another opportunity to climb Mount Brandaris at sunrise on Sunday, April 15th. Be at the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park no later than 5am. Secure your spot and register by calling 717-8444 during the week between 8am and 4pm. Registration is required for participation. Participants must arrange their own transport to and within the park. Admission is \$10 for everyone who has pre-registered for this hike.

Good physical condition is important and children 10 years and up may participate only if accompanied by an adult. Put on hiking shoes and bring your own water and a snack and don't forget to bring a flashlight. Plan to be back at the park entrance around 8:30 am.



► On Thursday, April 5, the Police, in cooperation with SELIBON, transported and crushed various confiscated bicycles, scooters and engines at the landfill.

Included were 35 scooters / motorbikes and 10 bicycles.



► **Camping is a big Bonaire pastime, especially during the Easter holiday.** And what better place than along the seaside. This year there was a great variety of tents – some new ones, an army tent as well as the “traditional style” built of recycled shipping pallets. Camping out didn't stop the cooks who dished up traditional fare under relatively primitive conditions.

► **Ride for the Roses Bonaire event was held on Sunday, April 8,** with three categories: cycling (13-25KM), walking (6.5-7.4 KM) and swimming (1.2 KM). Participants were raising money for the Prinses Wilhelminafonds Cancer Foundation. The start was at Eden Beach at 7 am. Prime sponsor was ORCO Bank. Final results were not available at press time and will be reported in our next edition.

► **The Reporter** office will be closed for vacation from April 8-15. The next edition will be on April 23.



► **The prices for electricity on Bonaire are not going to increase for the time being.** The island's water and power company, WEB, was ordered to postpone the planned increase for one month by order of the Executive Council following a week of protests and petitions against the new prices system, which would have begun on Apr. 1.

The Executive Council, which was supported by 5,000 citizen signatures, prefers a return to the old situation, with the less affluent households paying a lower rate.

Electric power and water on Bonaire is subsidized. WEB receives an annual \$2.34 million subsidy from The Hague, but that is insufficient to make rates affordable.

The new rate system is to replace the old system of progressive prices - pay more if you consume more - with a system where every user pays a flat rate and plus \$0.25 per kilowatt hour. WEB offered an on-line calculator so its customers could estimate their future bills. Go to <https://www.webbonaire.com/rekentool-nieuwetaarieven-elektriciteit-en-drinkwater/>

► **A large fire broke out at the landfill on Monday, April 2.** SELIBON said: “We're doing our best to put out the fire but experience teaches us that it is not easy to control and extinguish such a fire. For security rea-



sons the landfill will be closed Tuesday, April 3 and Wednesday, April 4.”

By Thursday, April 5, the fire was put out. As of press time the cause of the fire had not been reported.

► **Mystery of the Month: On Sunday, August 20 of last year, some bones, thought to be human, were delivered to the police station.** The



bones were found near the Willemstoren lighthouse. They were sent to the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) for further investigation. The forensic anthropologist at the NFI studied the bones for fractures and damage and recently released his findings. It appears that the bone damage was caused by a boat propeller. DNA analysis determined that one of the bones was male. **But whose bones they are remains a mystery.** A worldwide DNA database search of missing persons did not result in a match. The police consider the case closed unless more information points to a crime. □G./L.D.

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## HEALTH CARE

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## ON and IN the WATER

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## OPTICIAN

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## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

**RE/MAX Paradise Homes** is your one-stop-shop for Selling and Buying real estate; Purchasing an existing business; Commercial or residential development; Holiday rentals and Long term rentals. See page 3.



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## RESTAURANTS

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## RETAIL

**Dushi Shoes, Dushi Style, Reef & Dive Friends Shops** — featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs — as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

**The Tung Fong Store** is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 2.

**Penny Lane** is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



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## More Roads

Dear Editor:

I've been visiting & working on the islands for 30+ years. Some advice - Bonaire better hire some civil engineers & come up with a master plan, (i.e. think Manhattan) for the island and lay-out some road right-of-ways or the place is going to end up the traffic rat's nest that is Aruba. Talk to anyone who lives there and the conversation quickly moves to the traffic congestion and how awful it is.

Shelia Jenkins



Aruba Traffic

## Bonaire Reporter Firsts

- Bonaire's first free weekly newspaper to endure... in any language
  - First paper in the Caribbean to be produced directly from computer to press.
  - First newspaper on Bonaire to have color covers and have 100% color editions.
  - First newspaper to feature photos of its readers in exotic places-. Mt. Everest to the bottom of the sea in the Picture Yourself feature
  - First Bonaire newspaper to be on-line
  - First Bonaire newspaper to be archived online
  - First free classified ads
  - First environmental advocate newspaper: Sea Turtle campaign, Save Klein Bonaire, Stop Karpata Development, Sewage treatment, flamingo deaths, donkey abuse, spear fishing, soil mining, illegal development and more.
- Often imitated, never duplicated. It has Bonaire's most loyal readership. If you are a business consider advertising. Enjoy the dedicated readers and widest coverage with both Internet and print editions for one low price.



# On the Island Since... September 2017 - Arjen de Wolff



Arjen de Wolff at STINAPA

“There was a vacancy and I applied and then they hired me and I became the Executive Director of STINAPA. I guess everybody has defining experiences in their life, and in my case it led to the fact that I started thinking where in my life did I feel the best balance between being able to find some personal tranquility and the ability to contribute to the community around me and... that brought me here because I’d lived on Curacao from the end of the 90s till 2004. I spent time serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, and coming from a situation of conflict and post conflict, it almost forces you to evaluate your life.

As a youngster I went to Latin School where you take Greek and Latin. Then I went to Amsterdam where I studied law with an emphasis on philosophy and theology, but I never planned to be a lawyer; I was more interested in the principles and morals behind the law. After that my life has been a bit of a mix: politics, the military and little stints of radio work here and there. And because I had more of an international focus I ended up spending the better part of my professional life in places like the Middle East, South America, Africa and the US.

I didn’t have a background in nature conservation, but I was very much interested in the reality on Bonaire that this is a society that has an immediate relationship with the nature that surrounds it. Nature and good management of nature is what provides the people of this island directly or indirectly with an economic basis. The effects of climate change, if we do not act in time, are going to impact Bonaire severely, and at the same time Bonaire’s nature under and above water is astoundingly beautiful. Those challenges I would think, are an honor for everybody who gets the opportunity to work with it. There are a few effects that are already apparent, like rising sea levels, ocean acidification, ero-

sion and changing weather patterns. Even the events of sargassum impacts that are becoming more severe are all effects that we can already see, and if left unchecked those effects of climate change will ultimately endanger our economic basis and thus our way of life.

For 50 years STINAPA has been managing the protected parks on Bonaire on behalf of the Bonairean people, so that opportunity has offered us a lot of experience. I’d like to think that STINAPA has influence, authority and expertise to offer to the Bonairean community and that we can find solutions through which economy and ecology do not have to be in conflict with each other. There are things that you can do locally – per island – and there are things that you need regional cooperation for and we do that for instance through DCNA, which combines the six islands that make up the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Both STINAPA and DCNA in turn have regional mechanisms for information and cooperation throughout the Caribbean. Not just Bonaire, but also Curacao and other Caribbean islands are now experiencing the negative effects of large sargassum events. However, bear in mind the topography and geography of the Caribbean: we are basically a very big sea with a whole lot of small islands scattered across it and the logistics require that some preparatory and preventive measures and equipment need to be organized for every island separately. Right now we do not have sufficient capacity in place to combat this type of events effectively and...

make no mistake, these events will return to Bonaire.

I’ve been here since September 2017 and we’ve had two major oil spills incidents and at least three medium or high impact Sargassum events, each and every one of them potentially capable of knocking out part of our economic system and causing ecological damage of which the long term effects might very well also influence the basis of our economy, which is our nature. So, what you could say is what we are seeing increasingly is that climate, ecology are becoming prime sources of economic, security and stability issues and Bonaire is very vulnerable because nature is so important to our existence. If we live with and of nature, if our economy is a green and blue economy, it means together we have to make certain strategy choices. For instance for tourism;



Arjen de Wolff snapped this selfie during the sargassum clean-up, with the hard working volunteers from Stichting Project FORSA

here I’ve found the optimum between the beauty of the island and its people and the professional challenges and... simply life. I’ve always been much at-

perhaps I have done things that sometimes make you question your optimism. And finding hope and purpose is I think the only real way forward. It is not a question of forgetting things, burying them, denying them. The only thing you can really influence is how your experiences serve to help build a better future, which has always been my intention certainly. But you try and you fail and you doubt and you adapt.

However, I am an eternal optimist. If you compare by any objective measure or indicator the progress that humankind has made over the last 50, 100 or 200 years, even the cynic will have to conclude that we are as a whole – as mankind – healthier, that we live longer, that we have fewer wars, less oppression, more opportunities to develop. So optimism is not a belief; it’s a fact-based conclusion. Does that mean that human progress is always a straight linear line upward? No, sometimes it’s one step up and two steps back, but the long term, undeniable truth is, progress exists.

And, I’ve lived here before and I speak the language and I knew what I was getting into. This is a small community where relationships are built on trust and I find that the people of Bonaire are very self-assured and they appreciate their island very much and at the same time understand that Bonaire is part of a larger whole – which you don’t often find in island societies, which tend to be very internally focused.” ■

Story by Greta Kooistra



“...the reality on Bonaire that this is a society that has an immediate relationship with the nature that surrounds it.”

do we want high volumes of people who bring small amounts of money or do we want small volumes of people who bring large amounts of money? And if we build, do we build sustainably and how far from the shoreline and how is our water treatment and our waste management? If we see increasing pressure of visitors on very vulnerable areas like Klein Bonaire and Lac and certain dive sites, at what point are we going to decide it is time to put on certain limitations? All of that requires an integral approach that puts nature and sustainable development front and center. And of course, STINAPA is only one actor in that dialogue.

I didn’t know Bonaire very well before I came here, but I am glad I made this choice because it’s a good combination between living in a peaceful, friendly and beautiful environment, while at the same time being able to sometimes go abroad, to larger and more urban places. And the work is extremely satisfying. I have the advantage in a way that I’ve always been able to live a somewhat migratory life; I have no partner, no children and no mortgage – nothing that ties me to a specific location and my professional experience, which is a diverse one, has also made me more versatile. But let me be clear; I’ve come to Bonaire to stay – main reason being that

tracted to the combination of the sea and green ‘mountains.’ Walking on the north side of the island through the Park, where it’s more hilly and green and quiet, especially near the bays, with its absence of artificial lights and noise, I find the relatively unspoiled surroundings extremely impressive. And the same goes for scuba diving, which is a form of meditation in itself.

I think, at some point, certainly after Iraq, I’d lost a level of “being grounded” and perhaps a sense of purpose and I think coming back to the Antilles helped me get that back. When I am free I read a lot, I listen to classical music, I like company but not big crowds. I go to restaurants and friend’s houses, but I am not a party animal. Having lived the life I lived, I have changed. I have tried not to let it influence my outlook on life and people and I am still trying. But it did change my course.

If you grow up in a more or less peaceful and affluent society, you tend to believe that peace and stability are the normal state. When you have lived and worked in other circumstances and when you come out of them, it takes some time before you can really believe again that war, atrocities, the things that people are capable of doing to each other, are not and should not be the standard. I’ve seen people do things and

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Montreal, Canada



**G**eorge Hargrave writes, "My wife, Janice, and I are avid readers of your fine paper. We spend so much time in Bonaire that we recently bought a cottage on the island to spend even more time there.

We got back from our latest trip to much cold and snow in Montreal where

we live. Brrr. Looking forward to getting back to Bonaire already.

We've been to Bonaire about a dozen times so far. Our three most favorite things are the Empire Cinema, the fresh orange juice machine at van den Tweel and of course the diving. □

**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.

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# Old Bonaire Ways **COVER STORY**

GAMES, MUSIC, DANCING

Last week at the Mangazina di Rei monthly festival visitors got a glimpse at life in Bonaire's "olden days."

In the past the island's elders needed to be very creative to entertain themselves. They did not have a lot of playthings so they would invent their own toys. Local traditional games involving a lot of movement would include sack races, playing with worn-out tires or driving a wooden cart. During the games different songs were sung.

On Saturday, March 31, the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cultural Event "Nos Zjilea" at the Mangazina di Rei Cultural Park featured some of these local traditional games which were passed on from generation to generation. The Foundation *Kanta Orkidia*, a social/cultural/educational group, established over 45 years ago, has as its main goal promoting, sustaining and safeguarding community and religious growth of Bonaire by preservation of local folklore and culture. As part of the program the children of the cultural activity, *Chikitin Krioyo* got involved. Also the young ladies participating in the annual cultural event, *Damanan Kultural* introduced themselves. Both these activities have to do with the island events in April which is Bonaire Cultural Month.

Attendees also enjoyed live presentation by the local band *Nelisu Grupo Krioyo*. The popular folk dancing duo, **Donny and Monique Winklaar**, entertained with their graceful dances.

Besides the entertainment there were



numerous local fresh products such as syrup made from local gourds, natural juices, "Made in Rincon" art and much more. The kitchen opened at 10 in the morning and visitors got the opportunity to sample several different delicious local dishes for lunch.

'Nos Zjilea' is held every month and is an ideal opportunity to take time out to enjoy the island with your family and friends. If you wish for more information you can visit the Facebook Fan Page of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. □

Story & photos by *Izain Mercera*



### Bobbejan's

Certificate of Excellence

2013 WINNER

"Great food, great value!!"  
Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

"Hopi dushi mes."  
Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"  
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**WEEKENDS ONLY...**

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

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# Sargassum Incursions - What Are The Issues?

In March STINAPA and the Island Government, assisted by hundreds of volunteers, island workers, tourists, organized a successful clean up of mass quantities of seaweed originating in the Atlantic's Sargassum Sea that washed up on Bonaire's east side. (See the March 26, 2018, *Bonaire Reporter*)

Based on satellite imagery and first-hand reports future invasions of this ecologically-damaging sargassum weed can be expected to escalate. Seaweed from the Sargasso Sea has washed up on Caribbean shores for centuries. Up until now, the 2015 season was the heaviest sargassum inundation on record, followed by a downturn in 2016 and 2017.

Conservationists are planning measures to minimize future impacts with new online tracking systems, improvements on clean-up of affected beaches, detection of the hydrogen sulfide gas given off by the decomposing weed and preparing warnings on possible health effects.

This year major infestations of sargassum were reported by Barbados, the Grenadines and Bonaire as early as February, and islands to their north, including St. Lucia and Martinique, are seeing more mats and patches of the weed. **If the weed is not removed promptly affected shorelines will fill with rotting material off-gassing unhealthy and smelly hydrogen sulfide.**

In 2015, taking the risk seriously, the Government of Martinique established an online website with updates on weed volumes and hydrogen sulfide levels, an excellent example for other islands. Two parts of hydrogen sulfide per million can cause spontaneous abortion in pregnant woman; 100 PPM is deadly, according to Martinique's website, [www.anses.fr/en/content/exposure-emissions-sargassum-seaweed-washed-shore](http://www.anses.fr/en/content/exposure-emissions-sargassum-seaweed-washed-shore).

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration states that prolonged exposure to three to five parts of hydrogen sulfide per million may cause effects such as nausea, tearing of the eyes, headaches and loss of sleep. Asthma sufferers may experience airway problems. Full details are at [www.osha.gov/SLTC/hydrogensulfide/hazards.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hydrogensulfide/hazards.html).

Tarnishing of metals and discoloration of paint have also been reported in areas affected by a sargassum influx and the subsequent release of hydrogen sulfide. One 2015 report cited "(silver tarnishing in days not months) as an illustration of how concentrated the gas is, even away from the beaches.... over \$10,000 of electronic equipment solely through hydrogen sulfide dam-

age," was reported Another commented about the "appalling, nauseating smell, the damage to health, electronics, metals, and paint that occurred last time there was an inundation of this magnitude."

**The gases in water can destroy reverse osmosis desalination systems' membranes and filters as well.** Virgin Gorda lost its desalination system in Spanish Town, in the 2015-2016 sargassum season.

Tourism has major problems when shorelines get fouled with the weed, which can sometimes smell strong enough to sicken beach-goers. Environmentalists find turtle nesting beaches covered with thick strands of weed trapping hatchlings and adult turtles alike, and preventing female turtles from getting onto the sand to lay their eggs. Off-shore, the weed is friendlier, and fish and sea life travel and thrive in its strands.

However, yachting and shipping interests recognize the problems **this weed causes offshore with propeller fouling, raw-water intake blockage and loss of steerage.** Boaters should also be aware that mats of sargassum accumulate debris, such as floating nylon ropes, nets and other trash. To report sargassum sightings visit [www.usm.edu/gcrl/sargassum/](http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/sargassum/)

Another concern is the potential for this seaweed to **accumulate heavy metals or other toxic materials.** New testing, currently in progress with the University of South Florida, is obtaining samples and processing for this type of contamination. However, as samples are just now being provided, it will take time to analyze and determine what, if any, issues there are.

The excessive growth of sargassum experienced this year is grim. Researchers from the University of South Florida and NASA said, "The past months of January and February 2018 showed the largest bloom in the central West Atlantic, as compared to the same months in history." USF researcher **Dr. Chuanmin Hu** warned of the likelihood of "major beaching events this year which has become a reality." (by *Donald Johnson*)

## What We Can Do When Sargassum Invades

If there is a major influx of sargassum? Areas in the impact zones should monitor the situation daily, track hydrogen sulfide levels, and use best practices for cleaning target beach areas. Reports to researchers should be made as part of an overall approach to protect citizens, visitors, wildlife and environments affected by an onslaught of weed.



Sargassum in the Grenadines... en route to Bonaire -Sailing photo

Because of the dangers of hydrogen sulfide gas coming from the sargassum as it rots, governments, employers and individuals could use **personal gas monitors** to chart gas levels. These monitors cost about \$100 and are available online. For example, see BW Technologies BW Clip-BWC2-H-Single-Gas H2S Monitor ([www.amazon.com/BW-Technologies-SingleMonitor-Detector/dp/B00V828MZO](http://www.amazon.com/BW-Technologies-SingleMonitor-Detector/dp/B00V828MZO)) or [www.pksafety.com/bw-clip-2-year-single-gas-detector.html](http://www.pksafety.com/bw-clip-2-year-single-gas-detector.html).

Improve practices for keeping beaches clear of large volumes of sargassum. Clearing beach areas takes an organized approach to clear the weed and dispose of it safely as was done early last month here in Bonaire. In several places, businesses can also attempt to keep harbors and beaches free of weed, using a daily pickup approach. An information paper by **Emma Doyle and Jim Franks** (2015, Sargassum Fact Sheet, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute) describes the best ways to clear beaches, with monitoring for sea life; care for turtle and bird nesting areas, and without use of heavy machinery. Most of the key provisions in the paper were employed in the Bonaire cleanup and include:

- **Beach cleaning should be done only in the presence of monitors** who check for wildlife prior to any cleaning, and operators must respect no-go areas such as sea turtle or bird nests;
- **Patience is required**, and be aware that it's not necessarily desirable to clean beaches that are already facing a precarious erosion situation, that are essential habitat for sea turtle nesting, or where grooming will increase wind-blown sand and worsen erosion;
- **Removal of sargassum should be from and to agreed areas only**, and equipment

should use the same route onto and off the beach to prevent harming dunes, destroying dune vegetation and turtle or bird nests;

• **There is a difference between achieving a naturally clean beach and an over-sanitized beach** — constant grooming of the beach for regular maintenance or for aesthetic purposes is discouraged due to very real risks of worsened beach erosion from physical damage of machinery and unintended removal of sand;

• **Least intrusive practices are preferred** — hand raking is preferable to machinery, beach-raking equipment with a perforated conveyor belt is preferable to heavy construction equipment, and heavy tracked equipment like road graders are prohibited. Front loaders must utilize a bucket-level control indicator/float mechanism to prevent gouging of the beach;

• When exceptional amounts occur (i.e. in excess of three feet deep) then removal of **just the upper layers** of sargassum first with a front loader, without touching sand, can be followed by mechanized beach raking in order to reduce sand loss;

• Cleaning should always occur at low tide and **heavy equipment should stay on wet sand in the tidal zone.** Adjust cleaning schedules to when wind and storms are less likely to immediately bring new influxes;

• **Consider public safety** and avoid mechanical beach cleaning in the presence of fishermen or beach-goers;

• To meet the challenge of sargassum, **good communications** between agencies and the private sector, with the press, and with locals and visitors is essential. Make sure everyone knows where clean beaches can be found. □ *Donald Johnson/ Joan Conover/G.D.*



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# New High School Gym

Bonaire schools continue to improve. Friday, March 30, was the official opening of a new gymnasium at *Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB) High School.

RCN-OCW department head **Oleana**, Commissioner **Cecilia** and SGB director **Van Efferink** were on hand for the event.

While the gym was completed and put into use by the secondary education school community on October 20th, 2017, this marked its formal dedication. With this project, the first step has been taken towards improving housing of the SGB High School.

Three more related projects are ready to go, including the expansion of the *Liseo* on Kaya Amsterdam, for the MAVO, HAVO and VWO study tracks for the academic year 2018-2019. The new MBO complex will be put into operation during the 2021/2022 school year and that of the VMBO and *Speciale Leerplaatsen* mid-2022.

The new master plan for SGB provides separation of target groups. Each target group has its own building.

These four projects for SGB are part of the educational housing plan for Bonaire, which is jointly financed by the Public Entity Bonaire and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science OCW. On behalf of OCW, The Central Government Real Estate Agency coordinates the implementation of the various projects that are part of this plan.

The gym was designed by Streefkerk Architects & Consultants, in collaboration with DMV Architecten. VOF Haafkes Bonaire built them. The architect of *Liseo* and MBO is Jacobs Architecten in collaboration with atelier PRO. VOF Haafkes Bonaire is building the new *Liseo* structure. **Press release**



The new gym even has a climbing wall

# Liseo Boneriano Visits Sand Dollar



On Friday, March 23, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort welcomed a group of 20 students from the *Liseo Boneriano* High School. Their aim was to get to better know the hospitality industry.

The day began at **Breeze 'n Bites restaurant**, where the students were greeted with a welcome drink. In the following few hours:

At Housekeeping they learned how to shape different animals with towels.

At the front office, the students did role play, to experience handling complaints in a proper way.

In **Dick Bos'** restaurant, Breeze 'n Bites, they made their own snacks for their break and they learned how to set the table.

At Dive Friends they learned what equipment you need to be able to dive and ended the activity with a quiz.

The Sand Dollar Team was very happy with the number of students who were interested in the hospitality industry. They hope they made the students enthusiastic about this industry, so that in the future they will become part of their team as well. **□**

Story & photos by Isabelle Thenu, Sand Dollar Intern

## 10<sup>th</sup> Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike

For the 10th Funwalk & Bike Jong Bonaire challenges you and your colleagues, friends and/ or family to participate and support Jong Bonaire to continue developing after school activity's for our Bonairian youth, to develop there social, physical & mental skills for later in life. Same as the Swim to Klein Bonaire the Fun Walk and Bike is a good Sportive and Social way to support our youth.

Challenge your self and lets have Fun



Date: 15th of April 2018  
Distance: 20 Km & 37 Km  
Starting time: 6:00 am  
Start : Jong Bonaire  
Finish: Jong Bonaire  
Price: \$12,-  
\$6,- Kids under 12yrs

Includes: T-shirt, Water bottle, drinks, lunch & fruit.

Tickets available at: Jong Bonaire

Route: Start: Jong Bonaire, Kaya Simon Bolivar, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid, Kaminda Sorobon, Kaya Randolph Statius Van Eps, Kaya International, Kaya Betico Croes, Abraham boulevard, Kaya Simon Bolivar, Finish: Jong Bonaire 20 Km Bikers follow the long southern route at Sorobon, and join at Bachelor beach Total: 37 Km



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# DID YOU KNOW?



Southern stingray

**S**outhern Stingrays, also called whip stingrays, are as docile and curious towards humans as they are formidable hunters. Unlike us, these animals do not require technology to locate their prey, even at great distances. Equipped with “radar-like” sensing organs called **Ampullae of Lorenzini**, easily visible on the surface skin of its mouth as small pores, a stingray is able to detect weak electric currents emitted by its prey. Whether it is swimming or buried in the sand, these stingrays easily locate their food without the use of smell or sight. If this is not enough, their jaws are so powerful they can easily crush bivalve shells (clams, oysters and such). Whether southern stingrays use sophisticated organs or raw power to find food, they will never cease to amaze you.

Although they are found in coastal and estuarine waters of Central and South-America and as far north as New Jersey (US), they are difficult to find. So if you spot a stingray while snorkeling or scuba diving, you’re in for a real treat. Despite their intimidating and powerful tail, which is lined with poisonous barbs, stingrays rarely attack humans and are often so friendly and curious that they might literally “come to you” and give you the experience of a lifetime. As with all wild animals, we must respect them and, of course, take certain precautions. Don’t swim right above or in front of them as you’ll be blocking their escape path and risk getting stung. Whether you live in Bonaire or are here as a tourist, you have a better chance of seeing one of these cartilaginous fishes if you search for them in shallow, sandy areas near coral reefs and sea grass beds.

The oldest recorded female found in the

wild was 13 years old, outliving the only recorded male by one year. Wild southern stingrays reach a body width (tail excluded) of up to 2m and weigh up to 97 kg. Because of their slow growth and low reproductive rate, they are particularly vulnerable to overfishing and being caught as by-catch. Fortunately, here in Bonaire all **elasmobranchs (rays, skates and sharks)** are protected by law. Since the summer of 2015, Bonaire and the other islands of the Dutch Caribbean have been active in the “Save our Sharks” Program, which is funded by the Nationale Postcode Lotterij. Bonaire and Saba are also part of the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary, which gives added protection to our sharks and rays against commercial fishing by foreign fishing fleets specializing in shark finning that have been quickly wiping out these important apex predators from our oceans.

However, we still have a long way to go in educating the public and enforcing legislation. Ensuring full protection of such vast areas of water is extremely challenging. On March 27th the killing of a southern stingray was reported near the Dive Friends Yellow Sub dive center, but the perpetrator has not been found. Despite this isolated incident, the future of these animals here looks bright thanks to continuous monitoring and public engagement. So what are you waiting for? Grab your mask, snorkel and underwater camera if you have one and try to find a shark or ray in its natural habitat. □ *Story by Alessandro Corubolo, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.*





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**The Bike Professionals**

# Grow Lettuce On Bonaire



Sherwin Pourier of POP Bonaire; Yoeri de Vries, policy advisor agricultural and fishery at RCN; Jaap van der Wel; and his successor Ronald Hoyer.

**F**or five years, **Jaap van der Wel** successfully marketed vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs and lettuce. In the last two years Jaap has concentrated on the production of lettuce. Because Jaap is going to leave our island, he makes his knowledge and experience available to all local vegetable growers within the POP Bonaire project.

Lettuce is difficult to grow in our climate. Jaap has tested various cultivation methods and lettuce varieties. Eventually he found a strong variety that can be grown well with hydroponics (drinking water with

nutrients). Jaap has developed a system whereby he sows daily and harvests daily. The average yield is 800 heads of lettuce per week. The supermarkets want to buy vegetables from local growers, but they have to be able to deliver the whole year. That is the big challenge.

Growing vegetables requires a lot of attention, says Jaap. “It is important to look at the crop every day; there are always surprises.” Also on Sunday morning he goes to the greenhouse for two hours.


Jaap and his wife **Anneke** will go back to the Nether-

lands to spend more time with their family. Jaap worked together with Kru-sada which has taken over the four greenhouses. In recent months, his successor **Ronald Hoyer** has been learning the tricks of the trade. He will continue the work with clients of Kru-sada.

Within the POP Bonaire project, Jaap’s knowledge and experience are documented on paper and film. This information will soon be available to all local growers via Facebook / POP Bonaire and [bibadinaturalesa.com](http://bibadinaturalesa.com). □ *Press release*

## Penny Lane Exchange

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Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio’s Ice Cream,

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## Swimming Success In Jamaica



Coach Anita Smits, Chenice Bergman, Agnieszka and Marcel Spruit

**C**henice Bergman and Marcel Spruit, swimmers of Bonaire Barracudas Swimming Club, represented Bonaire in the 2018 Carifta Swimming Championships in Kingston, Jamaica. They made Bonaire visible in the international arena and held up very well against top swimmers from 25 Caribbean nations.

Marcel participated in a large number of events including the 50 m, 100 m and 200 m Breaststroke and 200 m and 400 m Freestyle. He achieved personal records on all distances and performed exceptionally well on 400 m Freestyle, shaving off 8.5 seconds from his best time.

Chenice Bergman swam her favorite Breaststroke on 50 m, 100m and 200 m. She also swam 50 m Butterfly. Chenice, being a sprinter, did very well on her 50 m and 100 m Breaststroke, achieving two new personal records.

Both swimmers have been with the Barracudas for many years now and trained extensively over the last months,

sometimes as much as five to six times a week. They both did amazingly considering Bonaire as of yet does not have proper training facilities. Bonaire doesn't have any 25 or 50 meter pools to train for times. We don't have diving boards to practice starts or turning points. We try to train before the competitions in private pools, but they are small and too shallow to safely train for the competitions. The only times our swimmers can familiarize themselves with a proper competition pool is when they participate at the local events on Curacao and Aruba.

Despite their adverse training conditions our swimmers made Bonaire proud! We know Bonaire has terrific swimmers... if only they could train in facilities similar to those on our neighboring islands. We are really excited, looking into the future of Bonaire Aquatic sports.

Many thanks to **Fundashon Wega di Number** and **Indebon** for their financial support and all family and friends for following the team via the livestream. □

Anita Smits

## Virtuoso Piano Concert

*The aim of the Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) is to promote, organize and develop classical concerts on Bonaire for islanders, students and tourists. The focus will be on classical music from the Antilles, Europe and the Americas brought by small ensembles and individual performers. Special attention is given to local talents*



Lestari Scholtes and Gwylim Janssens on the Piano Grandi

*to perform on the concert stage. The CMBB has close connections for cooperation with similar organizations on other islands in the Caribbean and abroad.*

**O**n Friday, March 9, the renowned Scholtes & Janssens piano duo made their debut in the Dutch Caribbean, giving a swirling performance to a full house at the Plaza Beach Resort.

**Lestari Scholtes** and **Gwylim Janssens** played four-handedly on the Piano Grandi and presented a varied program. Ravel's "Bolero" was an exciting start of the evening and was followed by Mendelssohn's "Lieder ohne Worte," a piece from the romanticism era.

The first act of "Petroesjka" by Stravinsky and the introduction to the piece by pianist Lestari Scholtes left the audience curious to discover the other acts of the composition. Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an exhibition" was introduced by Gwylim Janssens, making the music even more lively and pictorial.

Later on this year Scholtes & Janssens will release their new CD with a recording of this piece.

After a well deserved and lengthy ap-

plause, the duo performed their encore and treated the audience to a composition by the Antillean poet musician **Joseph Sickman Corsen**. The piece was selected by the piano duo specifically for this concert on Bonaire and related perfectly to the atmosphere of the evening- bustling and invigorating- a festive closure of an exceptional concert.

The pianists' passions continue off the stage, and the natural way they share and play the piano is magical. Their enchanting sound and the intense and energetic performance of the perfectly attuned pianists made it a very special evening.

Apart from the evening concert, Scholtes and Janssens performed a concert for Bonairean school children, featuring Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." Their extensive explanation made the music understandable and vivid. It was an interactive session which was appreciated by the enthusiastic students, making the concert amusing and fun as well as instructive.

For more information on the musical couple go to:

<http://www.scholtesjanssens.com>. □

Story by Irene Vrooland, CMBB



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# A Garden? Just Do It

## GARDEN MAINTENANCE

With the recent strong winds a lot of small and/or young trees started to lean to one side, in the direction of the wind. One small tree which was growing close to the house was now totally hanging on one side on a window. So I used a thin old part of a tree which I'd cut off a while ago to support the tree to grow straight up again. I save thick old branches for these kind of things. But I don't always have the right size so a 2 X 4 beam is a

good solution too. For smaller plants I use pieces of steel mats or make small supports with small pieces of wood like a cross. ▶▶

Strong winds and no rain make it very tough for plants these days so I have to water a lot.

Because I stored a lot of rainwater in my water tanks I still have enough for my plants. I mix this rainwater with WEB water in buckets and water most of the plants with a can. The can is necessary to measure the water and to give it straight to the plant so no drop is lost. Every third day all plants get watered, but in between I give some weak and young plants extra water and attention. Once a week trees get a half bucket of water too. Their roots should look for water by growing deep into the soil, but I still support them too to survive the drought. Rainwater has all the minerals a plant needs which are not in WEB water, so to be economical with rainwater during the drought, I mix it 50-50 with WEB water.

Of course this is a big job and it takes time too, all that watering by hand. But I don't feel it's a heavy duty. I love to see my plants nice and healthy and I love to eat my own planted vegetables and fruit so I do as much as possible to keep them alive. When I don't have water or enough time, I just spray water from the hose. This is also good for the plants because by spraying, dust and salt come off and the leaves survive better and don't dry up.

I'm aware of the price of WEB water so to bring this down I collect all used water from laundry, airco, mop water and water used in the kitchen. I collect it all in buckets and in the evening I water the plants. I separate the chemical and non-chemical water. Don't give water with chemicals like laundry water to your veggies. Remember that you will eat these plants and get these chemicals in your body. So water with chemicals can go on flowering plants. Air conditioner condensate water can go on veggies.

Evening or early in the morning are the best times to water. It does not evaporate

that fast and penetrates deeper to the roots.

Saved chemical-free water should be used as soon as possible because mosquitoes breed in clean water, not in the used water with chemicals.

To keep water around the plant so it doesn't run off, dig around the stem, pulling some soil away and add some dry leaves, saw dust or tea bags.



*Don't be afraid to prune your plants now. They will recover.*

To give plants the best chance to survive, keep them small. Remove everything that is a burden for the plant: old or dead stems, rotten roots, old fruits like in tamarin trees or any dying parts. The bigger the plant with unhealthy parts the less chance it has to survive because these parts take all the energy of the plant to stay alive. You can even chop down the whole tree if it is sick and leave only a part of the trunk. After a while a healthy tree will grow.



*Support fragile plants*

# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

## OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 7-TRANSPORT

Every time we get a ride in this awesome wheelchair bus, I keep wondering how people with limitations got transported before this service was being offered. I remember a few organizations that had a bus with a wheelchair lift, but these vehicles were very expensive to buy and to maintain.

Now you just call or send an email, you get the ride confirmed and all you have to do is wait for them to come and pick you up and take where you need to go. If you need the wheelchair-taxi to go see a doctor, therapist or for other medical reasons, the cost will be covered by the local medical insurance. Of course, if you need a ride for social or other reasons, you are also very welcome and you pay a normal taxi fee.

This means that, although you suffer from a limitation, you can go wherever you want, you can participate in normal life and activities. You don't have to feel excluded.

Every now and then you see persons driving a scooter-mobile. This is a very clever form of transportation. You just sit in the chair, operate the mobile just like a bicycle, and if the battery is charged, you press the "go" button and off you go. Of course you need to stick to all traffic rules. These scooter mobiles you must buy if you need or want one. This is not covered by the insurance. But it makes you more mobile, you can go wherever you want to, you don't have to depend on anybody, which is very good.

If you are 60+ and suffer from limitations, there is also the possibility of getting help from MIVA60+. This is an organization sponsored by the government. This organization offers help to go shopping, take you to the *botika*, doctor or physiotherapist. And the best part is... It is for free. You can apply for this service at the FKBO, tel. 717-5765.

We make use of the wheelchair taxi when we go to the physiotherapist. It gets you there on time and you get picked up as soon as you are done. Sometimes you have to

wait a while, but that is OK. You can enjoy the company of all the people in the gym who work out to get their bodies very fit. And there is even great coffee for free.

The getting in and out of the taxi is another thing. There is a designated parking-spot for at least three cars. These parking-spots are indicated by a very visible sign. And yet this sign is probably hard to see or easy to ignore, because almost every time we get to the physiotherapy there are one or two cars standing in the way. And most of the time, the owners of those cars have no handicaps. At least... not a visible one. Now the wheelchair taxi is a big bus and needs a lot of space to park and lower the wheelchair-ramp. When cars are parked on this very spot, they also tend to be parked all crooked, so it makes it very hard to get in or out the wheelchair-taxi.

So, not only do we need the AVIRAMP. We also need this window sticker very, very badly.. □  
Story by Ria Evers-Dokter

For most young plants or plants that have just sprouted this hot sun is too much. They should be in shade, under trees, on the porch, out of the wind. Some people have a green house so they store them there. But some plants need some sunlight and in the green house they become fragile and tiny. It means they need more sun and air, so move these plants to a spot with a little bit of sunlight and out of the wind. Maybe behind the house is a good place.

I found out a good way to protect my young plants. I cut off the nearly dead banana leaves (which are a burden for the banana tree) and put them over the pots with the young plants and containers and old wheel barrels where I have some seeds planted. I do this when the sunlight is very

strong, from 10am to 5pm. Then I remove them again. So the plant does not dry up and still gets fresh air from the torn up leaves. That can also be done with palm and coco leaves.

Last but not least, be nice to your plants, care for them, give them attention and love. Don't let them suffer; they have a life too!

That's what grandma told me and she was always right. Ha ha. Start now. Just do it now. □  
Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



*The RoRo Wheelchair buses in action ↓↑*



# 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 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 Cruscita 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 Antrio**- 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 ■

Date	Ship	Time		
9-Apr-18	Eclipse	0800-1800	S.pier	2858
9-Apr-18	Norwegian Pearl	0700-1500	N.pier	2338
10-Apr-18	Monarch	0700-1800	N.pier	2744
10-Apr-18	Celebrity Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858
12-Apr-18	EQUINOX	0700-1600	S.pier	2850
17-Apr-18	Monarch	0700-1800	N.pier	2744
18-Apr-18	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	S.pier	3114
18-Apr-18	Carnival Sunshine	0800-1600	N.pier	2974
19-Apr-18	Thomson Discovery	0700-1500	Safe berth	2076
24-Apr-18	Monarch	0700-1800	N.pier	2744

Cruise ship season winds down—12 days no ships— 2 ships on 3 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- Teramar Museum**

—**Nochi Coffie exhibit at TCB.**

—**Dominique Serafini exhibit at Bistro de Paris**

## 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

**Sunday, April 15**

—**Climb Mount Brandaris at sunrise.** Details on page 2-3 (Flotsam)

—**10th Jong Bonaire Fun Walk and Bike.** See poster on page 8.

**Sunday, April 22** —**Lyrid Meteor Shower.** More on page 15

**Friday, April 27**

—**King's Birthday, local holiday.** Events and celebrations in Playa.

— “**Flirtilicious**” 2nd Edition **Kings & Queens.** 9:30pm, Kunuku Arawak



**Monday, April 30**—**Rincon Day** Bonaire's best party, but there are a number of events building up to April 30 and two take place the following day:

**Saturday, April 14**—**Festival di Dama Krioyo, 8-11:30 pm**

**Saturday, April 28**—**Nos Zjilea Cultural Event at Mangazina di Rei** **Marshe di Rincon at the Plasa Commerce, 12-6 pm**

**Sunday, April 29**—**Ban Topa Dia di Rincon**

**Tuesday, May 1 (Holiday)**

—**Saka Raton Party and Bicycle Parade-10am-8pm**  
—**Simadan Harvest Celebration, 3:30-8pm**

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

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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 09		01:33 0.13 ft	07:32 0.70 ft	15:41 -0.17 ft	21:11 0.28 ft	6:27	18:47
Tue 10		02:14 0.13 ft	08:09 0.66 ft	16:14 -0.13 ft	21:43 0.30 ft	6:26	18:47
Wed 11		03:01 0.13 ft	08:48 0.60 ft	16:45 -0.09 ft	22:18 0.33 ft	6:26	18:47
Thu 12		03:57 0.13 ft	09:31 0.53 ft	17:14 -0.04 ft	22:54 0.38 ft	6:25	18:47
Fri 13		05:06 0.13 ft	10:20 0.44 ft	17:40 0.00 ft	23:32 0.44 ft	6:24	18:47
Sat 14		06:29 0.11 ft	11:22 0.35 ft	18:06 0.04 ft		6:24	18:47
Sun 15	00:14 0.52 ft	07:57 0.05 ft	12:41 0.26 ft	18:33 0.08 ft	New Moon	6:23	18:47
Mon 16	00:59 0.61 ft	09:17 -0.04 ft	14:13 0.20 ft	19:06 0.10 ft		6:23	18:47
Tue 17	01:46 0.71 ft	10:21 -0.14 ft	15:39 0.18 ft	19:48 0.11 ft		6:22	18:47
Wed 18	02:34 0.80 ft	11:14 -0.23 ft	16:46 0.18 ft	20:43 0.12 ft		6:22	18:48
Thu 19	03:24 0.87 ft	12:02 -0.31 ft	17:37 0.20 ft	21:44 0.11 ft		6:21	18:48
Fri 20	04:15 0.93 ft	12:46 -0.36 ft	18:21 0.23 ft	22:47 0.10 ft		6:21	18:48
Sat 21	05:05 0.96 ft	13:29 -0.38 ft	19:03 0.27 ft	23:50 0.08 ft		6:20	18:48
Sun 22	05:56 0.95 ft	14:10 -0.38 ft	19:45 0.33 ft		First Quarter	6:20	18:48
Mon 23		00:55 0.07 ft	06:48 0.90 ft	14:51 -0.36 ft	20:28 0.40 ft	6:19	18:48



**For Sale- 1994 Ford Ranger Pickup**, extended cab. 2.3L 5-speed manual. \$3,800. Recent tune up with new plugs, ignition module, starter, fuel pump, flywheel, etc. Runs great! Call 717-6862 and leave message.

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## Trees Are For The Birds



On behalf of the Bonaire local government, the Echo foundation will soon start reforesting an area in Morotin, not far from the wind turbines opposite the Rincon waste dump.

It's one of the 10 one-hectare (2.5 acres) areas where trees are being re-planted to provide food for Bonaire's growing population of parrots and minimize their impact on local agriculture. Each area is fenced to keep goats, donkeys and pigs out. This is the first and two other areas will follow this year. As the rainy season is over Echo has only made preparations for reforestation. The actual planting of indigenous trees will take place in the coming rainy season. The project is financed with funds earmarked for nature.

When choosing the locations, Echo takes note of the specific characteristics of the area. On limestone soil, for example, other trees and plants grow on volcanic soil. We also look at the vegetation that used to be there and the use of the area. The goal is to eventually plant 20,000 new indigenous trees in the various areas.

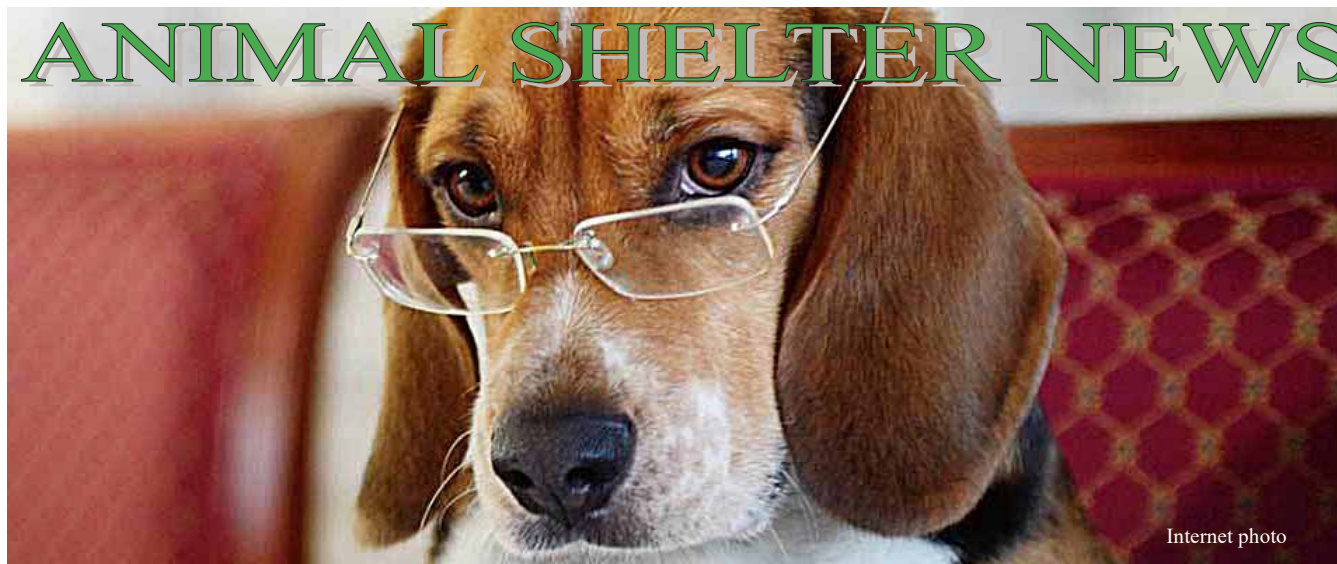
Because Bonaire is warm, dry and rocky, the natural development of plants is often slow. Reforestation projects can help nature. More trees means that the roots can hold the soil better in case of heavy rain showers. Through leaf waste a fertile soil is built up and the soil can absorb more water so that the trees grow better. Trees also extract dust from the air. Furthermore, trees are important because they offer us shade. In addition, trees offer shelter and food to animals. The area will be provided with hiking trails and opened to the public for recreation. □ Echo Press release

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/Nos-ta-biba-di-naturalesa-539435279585019/?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org/>

## ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS



Internet photo

### Are you aware that....

- Our animal shelters on Bonaire are overpopulated?
- We have a high number of pet abandonment on our island?
- The Animal Shelter offers free sterilization of cats and dogs?
- Overpopulation of dogs and cats is terrible and that we can all participate in counteracting this important issue?

Is there really an overpopulation of cats and dogs in the shelters on Bonaire?

The answer is "yes"! By "overpopulation," we mean the number of cats and dogs living in the shelters on Bonaire exceed the number of families willing to give them a home.

This situation has a tremendous downside, resulting in an increased number of stray and shelter dogs and precarious living conditions for many animals. Also, animal overpopulation has a snowball effect because a large population inevitably means a higher risk of reproduction and a higher risk of diseases.

We are taking this opportunity to make you aware of the importance of the sterilization of our pets and to let you know about our free sterilization program. This minor surgery is carried out by a veterinarian.

#### Here are some good reasons to have your pet sterilized:

- Eliminates unwanted litters, thus reducing the overpopulation and the number of abandoned animals.
- Decreases marking, aggressiveness, fights and injuries related to territorial combats, especially in males.
- Sterilization is less expensive than caring for injuries due to fights or illnesses, not to mention the costs associated with numerous litters.
- It also reduces anxiety and makes the animals more sociable with their peers.
- It limits the animal's desire to leave home in search of a partner.

The decision to sterilize or castrate our pets indicates that we take great interest in them and that we feel responsible for them. For more information on the Shelter's sterilization program please contact us at 717-4989/701-4989. □ Story by Luvi Rodriguez



## Pet Of The Week

### MEET BRAVE LITTLE BASH

**B**ash arrived at the Shelter in November 2017 as an unusually small five-week-old kitten. He is now about four and a half months old and still very small but very, very brave! Normally it is the staff who decides when our Shelter kittens can "graduate" from the "Kitty Kresh" (nursery) into the big room of the Cat Palace. But brave little Bash decided last week that he



was ready and ran out the door of the kresh to take control of the big playroom! He has always thought that he is much bigger than he is and seems to be able to convince all the other cats of the same. Nobody picks on Bash!

Because he is so small, he has had lots of attention since his arrival both from staff and visitors....who all want to just cuddle him...particularly our young visitors. As a result, he is very affectionate and loves to be held and played with. Bash would be a perfect fit in a fur-ever home with children or even just adults who are looking for a "hands on" feline friend.

Bash is healthy, vaccinated and will be sterilized as part of the adoption fee when he is "of age." You can meet Bash and all his feline friends at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. □ Story & photo by Jane Madden- Disko

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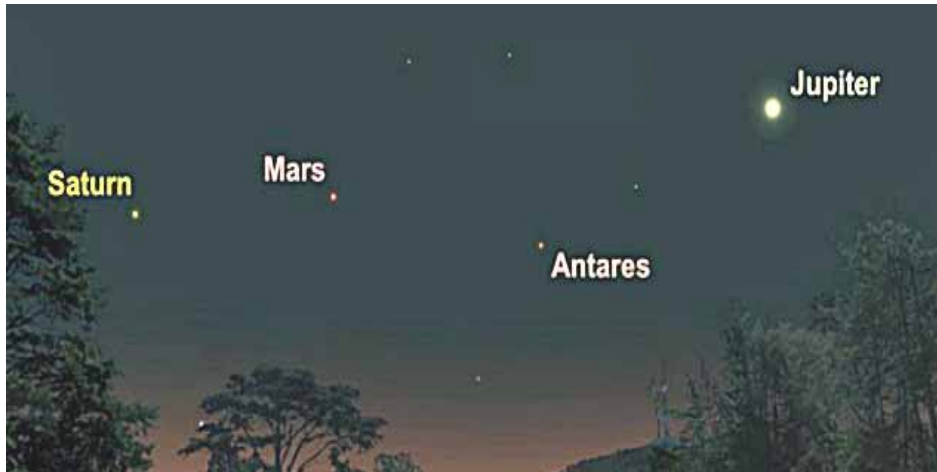
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## PLANETS ON PARADE



Most of us prefer the convenience of doing our sky gazing in the evening. We can enjoy the night sky and still get to bed at a civilized hour. These days you can enjoy **Venus** in the western sky after dark. Venus is now 15 degrees high as evening twilight deepens. It is brilliant but far from the maximum dazzle that it will attain at summer's end. The **Crescent Moon** passes to Venus's right on the 17th. It glides just to the left of the famous **Pleiades** star cluster from April 24th to the 27th—a fine sight in binoculars.

Sometimes, however, you simply **MUST** get up early in the morning to see the best astronomical sights. So it is in April when three bright planets are on display before dawn. You'll need to venture outside around 5 am to catch the show.

The Moon began April just past full, directly above the bright star **Spica** in the constellation, **Virgo the Virgin**. Through the first 10 days of April, the Moon first passed near the planet **Jupiter** on April 3 and 4, and reached **Mars** and **Saturn** on April 8, when it was half illuminated. By the morning of April 10, the Moon will be a handsome crescent just above the horizon.

Of the three planets in the Park sky, Jupiter appears by far the brightest. Other than the Moon, Jupiter is the brightest object except for Venus. What makes one planet brighter than another? There are

three factors: size, distance, and reflectivity (formally known as **albedo**). Mars is a small rocky planet that is not very reflective. Compare that to Saturn and Jupiter, which are both "gas giants," huge globes wreathed in bright, highly reflective clouds. On the other hand, Mars is much, **MUCH** closer than the two larger planets. So, little Mars is currently brighter than gigantic Saturn. Jupiter is larger and closer than Saturn, and it's just as reflective. Thus, at the current time, Jupiter is the brightest planet, outshining Mars by virtue of being larger and more reflective and outshining Saturn because Saturn is much farther away.

Saturn and Jupiter are far enough from **Earth** that their positions barely change all month long. Mars, on the other hand, moves steadily. If you rise early and view the planets several days in a row, you'll notice Mars' location changing every day.

On **April 22** you might be able to spot some meteors. **The Lyrid Meteor Shower** will peak that day. After the Moon has set, and so with no moonlight to hinder the view and from a dark Bonaire location, if clear, we have a chance of observing the peak of the Lyrid meteor shower with up to 10 meteors visible each hour. As you might expect, the shower's radiant is close to **Vega** in **Lyra**. You might also spot a few on the 21st and 23rd. □

Bruce McClure & Deborah Byrd



# THE STARS HAVE IT

April 2018

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Make sure any presentation you have is ready. Anger may cause you grief; control your temper and try to sit back and calm down. Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. You can't live your life for others. Don't avoid your true feelings. Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your mate may not have been honest with you. Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. Be prepared to counteract the damage that adversaries are about to create. Club memberships or donations could be expensive and prove unnecessary. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) One-sided relationships are likely. You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Take on positions that offer on-the-job training or pay for courses related to the business. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Look at your options before making commitments that could jeopardize your financial position. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. New partnerships will develop if you join investment groups. Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Travel could include delays and other minor problems. Renovations to your domestic scene will pay high rewards. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Problems with your

boss could lead to unemployment. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. You may be overreacting to personal problems. Old friends may not like your choices. Your social skills with people may be more than just helpful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to spend some time getting to know this person all over again. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. You are best to put your efforts into re-decorating or inviting friends over. Legal matters that have been pending may be alleviated through compromise. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't get involved in other people's problems. Your ability to work with detail will bring recognition. Secret information will be eye opening. You need some help this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. Don't let your emotions take over. You'll have great insight. Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Focus your efforts on your work. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. Opportunities to make financial gains through investments look promising. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Stick to doing things that will make you a better person both physically and mentally. Don't push your luck with your boss. Your fickle nature may cause jealousy. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. □

Michael Thiessen

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## Nikiboko, Kaya Kitara 53

### Highlights:

- spacious semi-detached house
- great family home or vacation home
- quiet residential area of Nikiboko
- close to stores and schools
- rental possibilities
- freehold land (registered 4-G-3432)
- lot size: 4,381 sq.ft / 465 m2
- living area: 1,399 sq.ft / 407 m2
- Available per June 1<sup>st</sup>

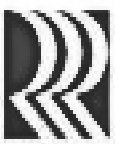
**Fixed price**  
**US\$ 220,000 each**  
Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

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