

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** April 23-May 7, 2018, Year 25, Issue 9  
**The REPORTER**

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**30th Rincon Day  
Monday, April 30!  
Page 7**

120 of these Rincon "Rs" will be put on the town's lamp posts

Rudolf Wout photo



The quandary of whether to make April 30, Rincon Day, an official holiday appears to have been resolved, at least for this year.



Following the replacement of the official Dutch holiday, Queen's (Juliana's) Birthday, with the King's Birthday, April 27, Bonaire's most celebrated holiday, Rincon Day, was no longer an automatic day off. When combined with the May 1 Labor Day holiday it made for a good work break.

**Not having Rincon Day as a holiday could create a significant economic impact** because visitors flock to the island for the big celebration, meaning full occupancy of hotels, apartments and rental cars, and by a substantial increase in patrons of restaurants, supermarkets and collection of tourist tax.

The reasonable approach, which would not disrupt labor laws and employment contracts, is to exchange it for an existing official holiday. The Island Executive Council got tangled in the decision. And last week came up with a proposal that seems acceptable to most people; swap it for either the defunct Antilles Day (October 21) or Kingdom Day (December 15). The local government is awaiting a formal decision from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations... which will take lots of time.

Luckily, this year, Monday, April 30, is already not a scheduled school day. It's a fixed day off for public officials and it's an RCN holiday too. **All that remains is for island employers to give their workers the day off too so families are able to spend a long weekend together from April 27 to May 2.**

► **Fake news has infiltrated Bonaire.** On April 18 a photo was posted on Whatsapp and Facebook of a man supposedly wanted by the police for breaking into Bonairean homes and stealing. The police did not post the item and denied it was true. However, the next day they received a report of suspicious behavior of four men in downtown Kralendijk relating to the post. During questioning they produced valid IDs and were allowed to continue. No arrests have been made related to the hoax.

► **Now you can go to Aruba for cardiac problems, treatments, bypass or heart valve operations.** Patients from Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire no longer have to be flown



In the photo: Angelo Domacassé, Giorliana Veld, Supharmy Janga, Commissioner Martis, Carolina Coffie, Marionelis Serberie and Malinda Hassell

► The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) kicked off the first **Miss Tourism Bonaire pageant.** The winner will represent Bonaire abroad. The coordinator of the event, **Angelo Domacassé**, presented the four candidates who will participate in the finals on June 2, at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel.

The Commissioner for Tourism, **Hubert Martis**, first thanked the candidates who dared to participate in this Miss Tourism election and also the TCB team that comes up with new ideas and innovations. Deputy Martis installed the following four candidates: Giorliana Veld, Supharmy Janga, Carolina Coffie and Marionelis Serberie.

to Colombia. It is a collaboration between the *Onze Lieve Vrouwen Gasthuis* (Our Lady's Hospital) and AMC with the HOH hospital in Aruba. Cardiovascular diseases are the primary cause of death on the islands.

► **On Tuesday, April 24, Rincon's original movie theater from the 1960s, Sine Metro (Metro Cinema), will reopen.** It's on Kaya E.B. Sint Jago (near Dr. Castro's office). Beginning April 28 at 8:30pm old time images of past Rincon Days will be shown. Other activities are planned to coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rincon Day.

► **The names Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate have been removed** from the world's future hurricane-name list because they were especially devastating storms. This is reported by the hurricane committee of the world organization Meteorology, WMO. It is customary to delete the names of deadly hurricanes. The four names are now being replaced by Harold, Idalia, Margot and Nigel. In 2023 they will appear on the list for the first time.

► **On June 1, Bote ter Steege will become the acting Chief Prosecutor for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba** replacing the current Chief Prosecutor **Henri Hambeukers.** Hambeukers has recently been criticized in the local press and by Dutch politicians for supporting the shooting of troublesome dogs by

police. Ter Steege is currently a Senior Prosecutor at the Prosecutor's Office in Amsterdam. Current Chief Prosecutor Henri Hambeukers will be returning to the Netherlands.

► **Western Union (WU) is suspending its money transfer collaboration with its Bonaire agent, Tristar B.V.** WU said in a press release, "We have terminated our business relationship with Tristar with immediate effect, which means we have temporarily ceased to offer money transfer services in Bonaire."

We recognize the inconvenience caused by this service disruption and are working diligently to restore services as soon as practicable, in line with our commitment to provide customers with reliable and efficient ways to fulfill their money transfer needs in minutes."

**WU is now actively recruiting new Agents** to become part of its network. For information relating to Agent submissions, please contact [BecomeACaribAgent@westernunion.com](mailto:BecomeACaribAgent@westernunion.com). See the ad on page 8.

► **2017 was not a terrific year for tourism in the Caribbean Netherlands.** All three



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)



islands have encountered unexpected negative events which influenced tourism.

**On Bonaire, the number of tourists arriving by air dropped 5%,** most likely because fewer tourists arrived by InselAir. Tourist arrivals in St Eustatius and Saba dropped by 5% and 9% respectively as a result of Hurricane Irma.

►The Hague - State Secretary Raymond Knops of the Interior and Kingdom Relations blocked the appointment of the new Board of the Bonaire International Airport (BIA) because their nomination conflicts with the Articles of Association of BIA, the Bonaire Code of Corporate Governance and the profile for the composition of the Supervisory Board. It's a political "hot potato" since the highly qualified previous board appeared to have been unfairly pressured into resignation. The three candidates, while competent in their fields, lack the education, knowledge and experience mandated by the Articles of Association of BIA, the Code of Corporate Governance and the profile for the composition of the Supervisory Board. Those involved can appeal to the Court of First Instance on Bonaire within six weeks, but will first have to file a written objection with the State Secretary.

►Opening day for the new prison gets closer. Last week instructors from the

prison (JICN) and Transport and Support Service (*Dienst Vervoer en Ondersteuning-DV&O*) from Netherlands trained 12 JICN employees in Violence Control (*Primaire Opleiding Geweldsbeheersing*) This is specialized training for officers who passed various screenings. The "weapon carrier" training includes armed transport of detainees, shooting ability, arrest and self-defense skills

►The Hague – The Ministry of the Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK) has decided to transfer the Kingdom Relations responsibility to a separate Directorate. Henk Brons has been appointed as quartermaster for the new department which will focus entirely on matters relating to the cooperation of the Netherlands with the other countries of the Kingdom and the coordination of BES matters. Up to now, this was done by the Kingdom Relations Directorate. The establishment of a 'dedicated DG Kingdom Relations is a departure from the internal organization at the BZK. Previously, Brons served as the main spokesman for the Prime Minister.

►On Bonaire environmental protection is a way of life so it's easy to forget Earth Day, April 22. Earth Day is an annual event celebrated to mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Penny Lane Exchange (see ad on page 9) who recycles clothes, conserving resources and providing fashions at low prices, donated an assortment of clothing to the needy in Suriname. □G./L.D.

## Remembering Captain Don

When we meet an enthusiastic diving visitor to Bonaire we become sad when it turns out that they are unaware of Captain Don Stewart's contribution to the success of their SCUBA diving vacation.



Captain Don



↑ Captain Don's grave. His lower leg, injured in a salvage accident and decapitated, was buried several years earlier. The Captain used to joke, "I already have one foot in the grave." ↓

Under the supervision of Harvard's George Buckley and Janet Thibault, Moogienation and Wildconscience are donating time and effort to continue to honor Bonaire's pioneer in local coral reef conservation.

Captain Don Stewart, who passed away at age 88 on May 30, 2014, was one of the key people who established the Bonaire National Marine Park, stopping anchoring, and turning Bonaire into a world class SCUBA diving destination while preserving its reefs and much more.

Besides refurbishing his grave in the Protestant Cemetery, which gets visited by tourists and locals, there is a drive to have a street on Bonaire named after him.

Hash tags #honoringpioneers #captaindon #captaindonsteward #divershalloffame #ridderindeordevanoranjenassau #marineconservation #bonairemarinepark #protectingthereef



#environmentalawareness #moogienation #wildconscience @ Bonaire. □ Story & photos by Moogienation/G.D.

## FOR SALE "Villa Turtuga" Oceanview Villa with Pool



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The vegan diet has become very popular. Increasingly more people have decided to go vegan for ethical, environmental or health reasons. Nevertheless, a diet based exclusively on plant foods may, in some cases, increase the risk of nutrient deficiencies. A vegan diet includes grains, vegetables, fruit, legumes (dried beans, peas and lentils), seeds and nuts. It excludes meat, fish, poultry, dairy and eggs and products containing these foods.

A healthy vegan diet has many health benefits including lower rates of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer.

It may take planning to get enough protein, iron, zinc, calcium, vitamins D and B12 and omega-3 fats from foods or supplements.

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

##### Protein

Protein is important for building and keeping muscles and red blood cells healthy. It supports growth all through the life cycle. Sources of protein include: soy and soy products like tofu, tempeh and fortified soy beverages  
 meat alternatives like textured vegetable protein (TVP) and veggie burgers  
 dried beans (kidney, black and white beans), peas (chickpeas and black-eyed peas) and lentils (red, brown and green lentils)  
 grains (quinoa, brown rice, bulgur and oatmeal)  
 nuts, nut butters (hazelnuts and almond butter) and seeds (sesame and sunflower)  
 peanuts and peanut butter.

##### Iron

Iron helps carry oxygen to different parts of the body. Vegans need about twice as much dietary iron as non-vegetarians because the iron from plant foods (non-heme iron) isn't as well absorbed as the iron from animal foods (heme iron). To meet these needs, vegans should choose iron-rich foods daily. Good sources of non-heme iron include:  
 soy and soy products like firm or extra firm tofu, tempeh and fortified soy beverages  
 meat alternatives like textured vegetable protein (TVP)

and veggie burgers  
 dried beans, peas and lentils like kidney, pinto and adzuki beans, chickpeas and black-eyed peas, and red, brown and green lentils  
 fortified grain products (breads, cereals, and pasta)  
 some nuts and seeds like cashews, almonds, pumpkin and sesame seeds  
 prune juice and dried apricots  
 vegetables like cooked spinach, kale and potatoes with their skins  
 black strap molasses.

Iron from vegetarian sources is better absorbed when eaten with vitamin-C rich foods. Examples of vitamin C-rich foods include oranges and grapefruit and their juices, lemons, limes, kiwis, mangos, cantaloupe, potatoes, sweet peppers, broccoli, snow peas and some green leafy vegetables.

##### Vitamin B12

Vitamin B12 is important for making red blood cells and helping the body use fats. Good sources of vitamin B12 include:  
 Nutritional yeast  
 fortified soy beverages and other fortified non-dairy beverages like rice and almond beverage  
 fortified meat alternatives like veggie burgers and meatless chicken, fish and meatballs.

##### Vitamin D

Vitamin D helps the body to absorb and use calcium and phosphorus for strong bones and teeth. Good sources of vitamin D include:  
 fortified soy beverages and other fortified non-dairy beverages like rice and almond beverage  
 non-hydrogenated margarines.

##### Calcium

Calcium helps bones to grow and stay healthy. It also helps muscles to contract, including making the heart beat. Good sources of calcium include:  
 soy yogurt, fortified soy beverages and other fortified non-dairy beverages like rice and almond beverage  
 soybeans, navy beans, white beans and tofu prepared with calcium sulfate  
 almonds  
 Sesame butter (tahini)



blackstrap molasses  
 some vegetables, such as bok choy, okra, collard greens and turnip greens  
 some fruit, like figs and fortified orange juice.

##### Zinc

Zinc is needed for growth and development. It also helps strengthen the immune system and heal wounds. Good sources of zinc include:  
 soy and soy products like tofu, tempeh and fortified soy beverages  
 dried beans, peas and lentils  
 some nuts like pecans and cashews and their butters like cashew butter  
 peanuts and peanut butter  
 pumpkin seeds and sesame seed butter (tahini)  
 whole grains and fortified cereals.

##### Linolenic acid (omega-3 fat)

Omega-3 fats are important for eye, nerve and brain development and are helpful in preventing heart disease. Good sources of omega-3 fats include:  
 oils like canola, flaxseed, walnut and soybean  
 Ground flaxseed  
 soybeans, tofu and walnuts.

##### Special Considerations

###### Pregnant and breastfeeding women

Pregnant (including those planning to become pregnant) and breastfeeding women should pay special attention to the nutrients above. If you are concerned that you are not getting enough of any nutrient, speak with your doctor or a dietitian.

(Continued on page 11)



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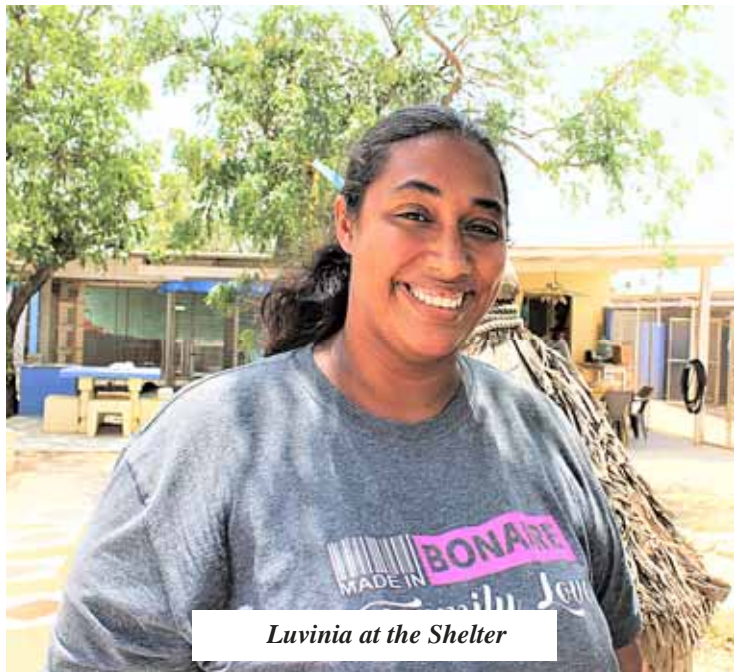
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# Born on Bonaire... September 11th, 1986 – Luvinia Rodriguez



Luvinia at the Shelter



Luvinia, her daughter Skye and her grandmother, Aida Janga, at her grandmother's house

“My dad is ‘Tico’ Rodri-guez and my mother is Lusina Janga. I grew up in Bonaire’s Sabana neighborhood with my grandparents and my big brother. My childhood was fun. We had lots of animals and my grandma, who still lives in the same house, still has sheep and a pig. When I was 14 I moved to Holland. My mom was already there and we lived in student housing in the city of Utrecht. My brother had left earlier and was living with my dad, who had also moved to Holland.

Holland was amazing. I got there during the summer and we did a lot of shopping, we went to the movies and we loved going to the markets. I went to high school and it was different because I was one of the three brown kids and I got a lot of attention, but not negative. It was a small school, about 200 kids, and most of them already knew each other from elementary school. For me it was a positive experience, also because of the fact that classes were much smaller than on Bonaire, and you got more attention from the teachers. To get to school I had to take two busses. On Bonaire I used to walk to school – so things were definitely different, but I liked it. Then winter came and it snowed and I loved it. I was never bothered by the cold. But my mom was and that’s why she eventually – I was already 21 by that time and not coming home for weekends anymore – decided to return to Bonaire.

After high school I went to Groenhorst College in Barneveld – now Aeres MBO Barneveld. It’s an intermediate vocational education with more than 2,000 animals and many practical facilities and it’s the leading trainer in animal care in the Netherlands. I wanted to learn how to take care of animals because I grew up with them and my love for animals has always been there. The school had separate classes, like one day per week practice and there were cattle, cats and dogs, fish and birds

and snakes that we had to learn how to take care of. Most of the internships – nine weeks per school year – were at pet shops and petting zoos. Of course we also had biology and math and chemistry classes. In the third year we worked at a sheep farm where we learned how to deliver the lambs; it was fun. I graduated after four years, then I spent a year working odd jobs. I worked for DHL and for Tempo Team, an employment agency. I worked in a nursing home, helping feed the people who couldn’t eat by themselves. I worked at the stadium behind the bar and I sorted mail at the post office in December during the holidays. My last job was at Lowlands, a big music festival, where I sold tacos and slept in a tent at the beginning of fall and THAT was cold. It was a lot of experience for one year.

After my mom had gone back to Bonaire, I stayed with friends for a few months, then I moved in with my boyfriend and his parents. In 2010 I moved back to Bonaire. I found it very hot and it stayed hot all the time! Bonaire had changed a lot; the big buildings along the shore struck me the most. When I was a kid we used to swim at Chachacha beach and there was nothing but an old dilapidated house. Now there’s a big apartment building, a dive shop and a restaurant. Also, the island had become extremely expensive, but it still felt familiar because all my family was here.

I started working at Divi Flamingo Resort as an activity clerk, making appointments for excursions with the guests. A year later I started working at account re-

ceivables, also at Divi. In between,” she laughs, “I had a daughter, Skye. She’s six years old now and she’s my little princess.

After a while I didn’t like my job anymore, so I spent eight months at home which was really nice as Skye was still young and so she didn’t have to go to day-care. We were living with my boyfriend who had followed me to Bonaire. Then I started working at Van der Tweel for a couple of years and it was really fun. That’s where Nathalie, the former animal shelter manager, scouted me. We talked about the school I went to and she asked me to mail my credentials, which I did, and one week later I was scooping poop at the shelter and I loved it.

I started at the shelter in July,

and so, the more love we give them, the better it is for them. My motivation is that animals are always there for you, no matter what. And that’s why I find it important to take good care of them. Here on Bonaire we should take better care of the animals, because it was your choice to take them, not theirs.

In December 2017 I became the manager of the animal shelter and now I practically live here. The only thing missing is a bed in my office, hahaha! Being the first Bonairean manager of the shelter makes it easier to communicate and to relate to people on their level. But there are also some hard decisions we have to make here and mostly it’s me doing it. It has its ups and downs. I also upgraded the software we used to work in

we can always use more. We have space for 60 dogs, but at the moment we have 75. There is room for 40 cats and we do have 40. It seems it never stops... and our power is limited, alas. Lately we have better contact with Kunuku Kakelvers, the Animal Rescue Foundation, and both of us are working on better cooperation, because in the end, it is all about the animals. We’re doing it for them.

Personally, I don’t have a lot of time anymore for my private life, because this is hard work which takes a lot of energy, and at the end of the day I am tired. But on the other hand, Skye is having fun here every afternoon, which is also a good thing, and the combination is perfect. You get to work and spend time with your daughter

Considering Bonaire, I intend to stay here. Not only because most of my family is here, but also because I don’t want to move around a lot with Skye. I got used to the climate, but during hurricane season it’s still too hot for me. I don’t go out much; I don’t like crowds, but we do go to the beach, or watch TV or visit family, especially my grandmother, Aida Janga, who lives two streets down. I have a good relationship with her and with my mother. For me the most important thing in life is to be happy and so far it’s going great.

My plan is to work here until I am 40 – a few more years to go, like eight, and then I will volunteer here... if they will take me,”

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“ Being the first Bonairean manager of the shelter makes it easier to communicate and to relate to people on their level.”

2015. My first contract was for 20 hours per week so I kept my job at Van der Tweel. We were planning on going on a vacation and the money was welcome. For six months I worked the two jobs and then I stopped at Van der Tweel and stayed at the shelter for 20 hours. That way I also got to spend more time with Skye. When they gave me more hours I asked them if it was okay to bring Skye with me to the shelter, because it was a lot for my grandma to take care of her. They agreed, and thus Skye came with me and she really, really loves it, especially the cats. Nowadays she’s here every afternoon, and planning on succeeding me when I retire... but I might retire before, hahaha!

Here at the shelter we’ve got animals who don’t have anybody

for a better program, which makes everything easier because it’s online and when the computer crashes you don’t lose anything.

Besides taking in dogs and cats and sometimes adopting them out, we work with an after school program to tell the kids what it is we are doing here. Some kids are positive about it and others just don’t care. We are also trying to get more animals sterilized by having the owners make an appointment and when they have no transport we pick the animal up, take it to the vet and then return it back home afterwards. If someone needs us, they can always call us at 717-4989 or 701-4989.

The whole atmosphere is very relaxed now. We have three – besides myself – paid employees and eight awesome volunteers, but



# Rotary Garage Sale

Ruim uw garage op

Voor een goed doel!

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name it, we can take it!  
proceeds go right back  
to the community!  
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Contact: Edwin: edwin@toyotabonaire.com - Larry: ldgerharts@gmail.com  
Aniek: aniek@bonairenotaris.com - Jan: jan@okhuijsen.com

This year again, there will be the usual FERIA Rotaria (garage sale) here on Bonaire on April 27th. The Rotary Club Bonaire is already busy with the preparations and is collecting stuff to make the FERIA great again. Although it is a tough task, because all members of the organization have their daily work, they still make time to pick up items that are offered to the Rotary for the FERIA. They often receive second-hand items that are in very good condition, but also receive new items. All emails and phone calls received by the commission to collect items are answered and checked to see whether everything is in saleable condition or that there are items that cannot be sold.

On the day itself, Friday, April 27th, all items that have been collected will be displayed in Wilhelmina Park in Playa for sale. In addition there will be the usual bouncer that day, games for children, the usual treats, etc. etc. There will also be tickets for sale for a nice BBQ on the 27th during the FERIA.

Many will wonder why a FERIA and why is the Rotary Club Bonaire raising funds? The Rotary Club Bonaire uses all collected funds and puts them back in the Bonairean community through sponsoring and donations to various foundations and organizations, but especially for the youth, because that fits exactly in the ideology of Rotary International.

The Rotary Club Bonaire is currently running two major projects: the "Breakfast in School" and the "Reading and Writing Foundation," which includes the popular Media Bus. These two projects require a lot of money and for that reason the Rotary Club Bonaire does various actions during the year, of which the FERIA Rotaria is the largest.

From early morning on April 27, members of the Rotary Club Bonaire will be present in the Wilhelmina park to set everything up so that the sale can start early and will continue until late in the afternoon.

Please have a look at home for items that you want to donate to the Rotary Club Bonaire for the FERIA. This way you also contribute with the Bonairean community.

You can contact the organization via the following email addresses: ldgerharts@gmail.com; edwin@akkermansbonaire.com; aniek@bonairenotaris.com; jan@okhuijsen.com

Finally, the Rotary Club Bonaire wants to invite everyone to come to the Wilhelmina Park on Friday, April 27th, to make it a great day and help again for a good cause. Be early, because there will be interesting things again and you know, "first come, first served." □ Press release

# A Community Project: Artists in the Making

Last December Delno Tromp was in New York when he read a story in *The Reporter* about Arjen van Dorsten, who had bought the museum in Sabana, now called Bonaire Museum. In the article Arjen mentioned he was open for suggestions considering the museum and so, when Delno came back to Bonaire, he contacted Arjen and they made an appointment. As Delno is the director of the famous Kura Hulanda Museum in Curacao, he had several ideas to share and discuss with Arjen. During their conversation Delno told Arjen he wanted to set up a children's painting program for local children and Arjen was enthusiastic about the idea.

"Then one thing led to another," Delno says. "We got in touch with Ella Janga who chose a number of children who didn't have the opportunity to express themselves with artwork. So from Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we started with three groups, in total 22 kids, eight through 16 years. Each group is taught and instructed by Nochie Coffie and Kamla Thomas every other week for two hours. I wanted a free program, which means: T-shirts, canvas, paint, brushes, cookies and lemonade, all to be provided for. Our intention is to create local artists taught by local artists. That's the idea behind the project! On December 15<sup>th</sup> there will be an exhibition where the paintings of the students will be shown and up for sale. All the proceeds will go back into the program which we would like to expand in 2019. I'm doing it because it's fun, and without art the world would be pretty boring! I just want it to be a fun experience for the kids and I hope it will bring something positive into their lives. However, the theme has to stay 'Bonaire and Bonaire's culture,' to create awareness to safeguard the culture of Bonaire, because the children have the future."

"I'm happy with the project," Arjen van Dorsten, the owner of the museum, says. "This is a whole different museum from the other ones we have here on Bonaire. But Bonaire's culture is certainly part of it and the building alone is a Bonairean monument. And because these activities take place here it becomes even more a local place. Everybody is always welcome – there's no entrance fee – and I'm open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am till 4 pm. While the classes are in full swing I'm busy doing my own things and I'm also making easels for the kids to use. I just love them all being here; it makes the place come alive!"



Arjen van Dorsten, Kamla Thomas and Delno Tromp (photo: Greta Kooistra)

"For me," Nochie Coffie says, "it is just perfect! After years and years looking for a



Artist Nochie Coffie working with one of the kids (photo: Arjen van Dorsten)

chance to start something like an art academy on Bonaire, this project came my way and I love it! Kamla Thomas and I go way back when we did a mural together at Antriol Catering, which is still there by the way. We became friends and she went to Holland where she graduated as an art teacher. Now she's working at Liseo Bonaireano. We're doing this project together and when Delno came with his request, for me it was the beginning of the realization of my lifelong dream to establish an art academy on Bonaire."

"This is actually the preliminary training," Kamla says. "Here the children get the technical base that every painter must know. Nochie is a real artist; I am more pedagogically/psychologically trained, but we support each other. Nochie is master; I learn from him every day and together we're creating the most beautiful piece of art because at the end of the year everybody will have the chance to meet our future artists!"

"One more thing," Delno says. "I want to express my eternal gratitude to all the people and friends who are making this possible: PB Car Rental, who are providing a van for us to pick up the children, then Kooyman and Krioyo Paint and Museum Bonaire and Tempo Bonaire, but also Ella Janga and Jermainy Diaz, Ilva St. Jago, Arjen's mom Betty, Nicole Pelliker, Tsamira Pieters, Rosa Diamond, Norma Cole, Michael Pietersz, Arlene Engelhardt and Gert Bogers. A million thanks to all of them. We couldn't have done it without them; they made this project a real community project!" □

Story by Greta Kooistra

Bon Bida Bonaire, Bul. N. Debrot 74, +599 717 7224, www.bonbida.com, body@bonbida.com, Bon Bida Body Gym



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Kas Rincon Vacation House



**M**aria Koeks, whom we sometimes refer to as “Rincon’s Godmother,” writes:

“The Nicolaas family came from Curacao and stayed in the Kas Rincon vacation house for their holidays

in March and April. They did enjoy Bonaire and especially the tranquility, the hospitable and friendly people and also the wonderful nice sea.

They brought *The Reporter* back with them to show to their friends.” □

**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.

## BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL

Nieuwe winkel voor  
BEST Care Zorgwinkel Foundation

Architect: Jorge Luisitano Bonaire  
Bouwaannemer: cts Constructora Tecnica Silvousa N.V. Bonaire  
Opdrachtgever: NR Caribbean Netherlands Realty BV Bonaire



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## Getting Ready For Rincon Day #30 **COVER STORY**



*FKPD, disabled day care, worked on decorating their stand.*



*Rincon residents are being encouraged to decorate their homes. The prize is a ticket to Holland*



*Several Rincon roads are being repaired in preparation for the big day. Other areas are being leveled to become parking lots. At least 10,000 people are expected.*



*A small piazza has been set aside to commemorate the aloe cutters of Rincon’s past*





## BOATING REGULATIONS

Dear Editor:

**Commercial boat operators on Bonaire have been hit with extreme measures that have been introduced by Holland.**

These are supposed to be the rules set forth by a code for boat operations in the Caribbean. When one looks at these it is obvious they are far more appropriate for large ships and not nearly so much for small boats operating close to shore - close to shore meaning 100 meters or so as do most of the small commercial boats here.

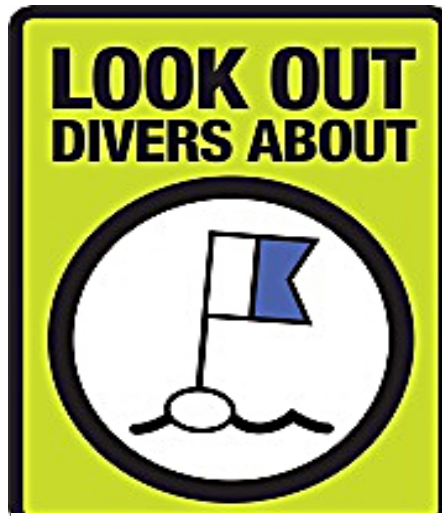
What is most frustrating is that these boats have been operating as they are for decades and have had an extremely safe record compared to many other areas. Why suddenly do all these regulations have to be put on the businesses who operate commercially? Why do non-commercial boats have to abide by no regulations?

One example is that commercial boats cannot have any oil in the bilges if these bilges are pumped overboard. This is understandable to a point, but Holland has said "not one drop of oil" can be pumped out. Bonaire is spending millions to increase the number of cruise ship visits. When these passengers get off the ship and slather themselves in suntan lotions, more oil is put on the water in one day than any dozen commercial boats can do in a month. These suntan lotions are known to be detrimental to our reefs, but no regulations are set forth.

Not only that but non-commercial boats can apparently pump out all the oil they want!

Here is a short list of these new requirements by Holland, which by the way, has had little or no experience here on Bonaire operating small boats.

- **Alpha Flag** – this is a blue and white flag that virtually no divers know. Commercial boat operators were told that this is the law and that "mariners" would not know the very well-known red with white stripe dive flag that all local boat operators do. One has to ask what mariners and why would they be that close to shore that the dive boats would be in jeopardy if there was no blue flag?
- **SOLAS Poster** – this is supposed to help all those on board if there is an emergency. If you read one of these it is absurd for any small boats where one would simply jump overboard if boat passengers were in serious danger. It shows, among other things, how to signal planes, how to give hand signals to shore and what color flares to fire.
- A notice of what to do in an **emergency**. – for most boats here on Bonaire that would simply read – Jump



Alpha "Dive" Flag

Overboard! Does someone really need to read that first before acting?

- Numerous types of **flares** – deemed illegal on Bonaire— but you must have them.
- **VHF radio** – even though cell phones are far more modern and far more people one can call, you need a VHF to try to call some place that will most likely will not respond since there is no one place monitoring the channel one is supposed to use.
- **Fire bucket** with a stout rope attached. Any small boat with a serious gasoline fire is not going to put out anything with a bucket of water.
- **Life buoy** with name of vessel and port with 100 feet of floating line. A person can not throw a life buoy 100 feet so why such a long rope? Once again, great for a 250-ton vessel but hardly appropriate or functional for a boat 25 or 30 feet long. How did we all survive this long without these on our little boats?
- **Life jackets** for each passenger on-board. Again, how did we all survive for so many years, especially the divers. BCDs are no longer allowed even though they work extremely well and are sized for each individual.
- **Fire extinguishers**. Understandable until you see the number and size required!
- **Flashlight** even though most don't take boats out at night.
- **Navigation lights** even though most don't take boats out at night.
- **Radar reflector** - I suppose this is so when one of the large oil tankers or cruise ships come within a few feet of shore they will see the boats tied to moorings.
- **Compass** – yes it is very hard to navigate along the shore line as all boats do on Bonaire.
- **Sea anchor** with 10 meters of rope. If you ask every single boat operator on Bonaire when they needed one, almost 100% will say never.

Holland has really put its thumb down on Bonaire again and with very little understanding or compassion of how people in the Caribbean have gone happily about life for a very long time. Maybe Holland just doesn't like happy people. Seems they are doing a good job of making Bonaire unhappy.

*Unhappy boat owner*

## Boating Regulations- Government Response



On Monday, April 16, the Public Body Bonaire (Island Government) presented their position on the boat regulations released earlier in the month. This information afternoon was for all commercial boat owners using boats shorter than 24 meters around Bonaire. There were about 40 owners present at the information afternoon. Most boat owners feel The Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels (SCV Code) is inappropriate and too strict for Bonaire.

A modification, Annex 6, was developed at the initiative of the inspectors. Most of the boat owners present felt the modifications presented in Annex were inadequate. After the information session, questions could be asked and feedback given. Agreements with the harbor master and appointments for a visit to the boats were also scheduled. The information afternoon went well and almost all those present now have a clear insight into the inspection. However, the insights only seemed to further the objections of the boat owners. □ *Press release/G.D.*



## Join the Bonaire Culinary Team's Fundraising Dinners and Send Them Off to the Taste of the Caribbean Competition in Miami June 22-26.

The next Dinner will be on **Sunday, May 6**, at It Rains Fishes at 6 pm. You will be served a sumptuous three-course dinner, welcome drink, cocktail tasting and wine. There are only 40 places for reserve email: [dekok@culivise.com](mailto:dekok@culivise.com) or phone +(599)787-4010 or +(599) 701-6820. Two more Dinners are scheduled for May 13, May 27, June 10. □ *L.D.*

# Invitation to express interest.

## Western Union® agent search.

The Western Union® Caribbean business would like to invite interested parties to submit an expression of interest in becoming a Western Union® agent within the Bonaire market.

Please email expressions of interest to:  
[BecomeACaribAgent@westernunion.com](mailto:BecomeACaribAgent@westernunion.com)

The following information should be included:

- Lead contact name, title, telephone number and email
- Trading name of business
- Industry of operation
- Number of locations

Please submit all expressions of interest no later than  
**Friday, May 4th 2018.**



moving money for better



# DID YOU KNOW?

## SPONGES

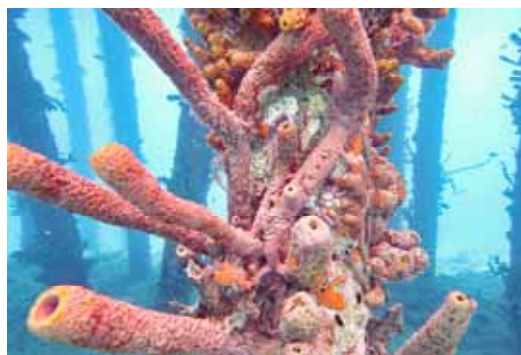
The Salt Pier, loved by divers for its rich diversity of marine life, is in need of maintenance. This September, the 150 plus pilings supporting the pier will be scraped to a depth of one meter below the water surface and reinforced with heavy-duty "sleeves." Attached to these enormous columns you see thriving colonies of beautifully colored sponges of different sizes and shapes. From yellow to purple, from small to big, these animals provide food and shelter to numerous reef fish, brittle stars and shrimp. So what's going to happen to them? Equipped with hammers and chisels, dive gear and a strong devotion to Nature, STINAPA and a group of volunteers will remove these sponges and re-attach them with fishing line a few meters down on the same pilings, thus ensuring their survival. These colorful organisms may be a great addition to your underwater photographs, but there's more to them than meets the eye. For example, did you know that over 100 species of animals were found living inside a single tubular reef sponge? Yes, they are VERY biodiverse and therefore important.

Everyday, sponges filter seawater, up to 50,000 times their own volume. As filter feeders, they eat microscopic organisms called plankton, organic debris, and they also collect bacteria. Nitrogen (N), present in many forms, both "good" and "bad," is a very important nutrient found in the water, but at high concentrations it becomes harm-

ful to the environment. Sponges and specific types of bacteria (**cyanobacteria**) share a positive relationship called **endosymbiosis** that benefits both partners. While receiving protection from the sponge, cyanobacteria convert nitrogen gas into a useful form of nitrogen which is then absorbed by the sponge. Thanks to this process, harmful levels of "bad" nitrogen are lowered, which is great for coral reefs.

Sponges are also known to be fierce competitors for space where coral reefs represent their "battlefields." When it comes to reef conservation, things like ocean acidification, rising seawater temperature and coral bleaching are hot topics. Sponges, too, may pose a threat. In their search for space, a group of sponges called boring (burrowing) sponges, attack corals by slowly creating deep grooves through them and robbing them of space and nutrients, eventually leading to the corals' demise. Fortunately though, many sponge species (non-burrowing) do quite the opposite. They help connect different coral colonies together both in shallow and deep waters, which strengthens the reef structure and reduces coral loss by wave action and other factors. No wonder some scientists consider using these sponges to aid in coral restoration projects!

So, with some hard work and a dedicated team of volunteers, life for these marine organisms will go on. Cargill will have its pier renovated and the sponges will con-



Beautiful Sponge Life

tinue to live and flourish just a few meters deeper. Sounds like a good compromise between Man and Nature, don't you think? **If you are a diver and would like to be a volunteer for this project, please send your contact details to: nature@stinapa.org.** Thank you!  Story by Alessandro Corubolo, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.

Alessandro Corubolo is an intern from Italy working in the Nature Unit. currently involved in numerous marine conservation projects including daily Sargassum monitoring, coral bleaching analysis, sponge transplantation and bird monitoring. In addition, he will also help with outreach and education.

He is a graduate in Marine Biology from the University of Aberdeen.



## Feeding Parrots



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 (Loras) 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 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. Planting trees for food for Bonaire's birds helps protect the island's agriculture.

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.

For more information:

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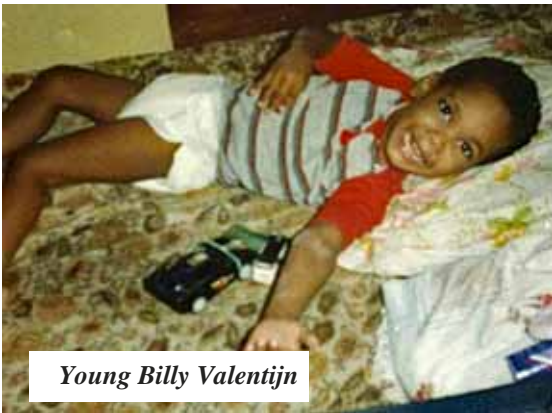
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# Bringing Billy Back



Young Billy Valentijn

Twenty years ago, thanks to help from friends and family, Bonairean Billy Valentijn, travelled to The Netherlands for special care. Born with cerebral palsy his condition had deteriorated to such an extent that Billy had to spend most of his time, day in and day out, lying in an adapted reclining chair, very needy and dependent on others. He hasn't been back since.

Today, despite his condition, Billy is optimistic, super cheerful and can paint wonderfully. Nevertheless, he misses Bonaire and his family and they miss him.

His friends and family are hoping they can make his dream of a visit to Bonaire come true and have started a campaign to finance the voyage. But it's expensive, €10,000. In order to be able to transport Billy to Bonaire in his recumbent wheelchair, nine seats will have to be removed from the aircraft for his reclining wheelchair. There are other costs involved as well. His

personal therapist from the Netherlands must accompany him. Once on Bonaire, Billy will receive shelter from a care institution on the island.

Fundraising is already underway in The Netherlands and Bonaire but still has a way to go to ensure the trip happens. As of today, 172 donations have raised € 3,845.00. This has been done through contributions and dance events like #dansvoorbilly. T-shirts have even been printed. There is a Facebook page <https://www.doneeractie.nl/help-billy-naar-zijn-familie/-27476> to enable donations from The Netherlands. In Bonaire send contributions to *The Reporter* care of MCB-Bonaire Account 27013302, name of G. & L. DeSalvo, please note "For Billy."

Please, *Reporter* readers, let's make sure the trip happens. Donate now. 100% of the donations go to Billy and his family.  Mayron & Manoushka / G.D.



Billy Valentijn, artist



#dansvoorbilly T-shirt



# Paving Bonaire

Who isn't sick of potholed roads, bumpy repair patches, or road collapse after every rain? Or muddy, rocky driveways and yards around your house? There is a solution... and it's pretty, elegant and traditional: pave the area with road bricks, known locally as "klinkers."

These oven-hardened bricks are three times thicker than a typical asphalt surface, more environmentally friendly, longer lasting, easier to repair and considerably more attractive. In the long-run they may even be less expensive.



A trench is dug to support the curbs that border the road. Watch out for buried pipes and wires.



Charlene, Simon and the crew

You can do-it-yourself or have experts like deJong, B.V. do it for you. Founded in 2010, they are experts in innovative landscaping, and stock the tiles, bricks and necessary additional materials. There is an art to laying the bricks. First the area is smoothed and leveled to ensure proper drainage. The base is then tamped firmly down, preferably by a heavy machine. Curbs are around the perimeter of the area. Then a layer of sand is spread to provide a stable base for the Dutch-produced bricks. The bricks are then placed in the desired pattern. Various colors are available. After the bricks are laid they are firmly pressed into the sand base. Finally a layer of fine sand is spread over the area and swept into the small spaces between the bricks. The area can be used immediately.

DeJong has the supplies, manpower, machinery and skill to do the job. They are a small company run "hands-on" by Simon and Charlene deJong, who along with their small team and lots of specialized tools and machines, complete the job quickly, efficiently and competently. You can see their work all around the island: Wilhelmina Park, the new prison, Sunbelt Realty, VIP Diving, private homes, Warehouse Bonaire and numerous other places. Simon said no job is too big or too small for them. Do-it-yourselfers can get the paving materials from DeJong too. Call them, visit their yard on Kaya Amsterdam and see the materials.

And wouldn't it be great if the resurfacing of ALL of Bonaire's decrepit roads was done with klinkers?  Story by G.D./Photos by L.D.



After the surface is prepared, the spread sand is compacted. The bricks are laid atop the sand



The curb is a critical element. There are straight or curved sections



Finally complete with multi-colored paving bricks. All that remains is rain to wash the sand away

**DE JONG B.V.**  
Innovative Landscaping Solutions  
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Simon or Charlene deJong  
deJong B.V.  
Kaya Amsterdam 29  
Phone or WhatsApp- 599 787- 0136  
Messenger- @dejongbvbonaire



# A Garden? Just Do It

## THE POMEGRANATE

While plants struggle these days with our drought, there are some which can stand this weather very well. One of them is the pomegranate. Once, when I saw a few trees with a lot of pomegranates in a garden on Bonaire I was impressed to see so much fruit on those little plants. So I asked for one fruit and planted the seeds.

Soon after that the young seeds popped up. Later, when they got bigger, I planted them everywhere in the yard. I was surprised at how well they did and how easily they could survive the drought. This is a very healthy fruit, which grows on a small tree of multiple spiny branches. (So be careful when picking fruit, not to get hurt).

Pomegranate fruit is in fact a berry that comes in different reddish colors: red-purple, orange-red, and the one we have here is an orange-red-yellow color. The fruit husk has two parts: an outer, hard **pericarp**, and an inner spongy **mesocarp**. In that soft part are the red seeds which is what we eat, a nice fresh taste of red seeds which I eat totally.

This fruit is a beloved fruit for the birds on Bonaire, also for lizards, ants and fruit flies. That's why you see the plant also growing along streets and in the mondi. Birds spread the seeds all over the place, so you may be surprised to see a pomegranate plant in your yard. To protect my pomegranate fruit I tie paper bags around them. (This you can do with other fruits like mango too).

The pomegranate needs less water and less space. And it can stand the hard Bonairean soil very well. Of course it is always good to support the plant with a mix of manure, compost and black soft dirt. Then your fruits will be even bigger and juicier. The plant will bear more fruit and produce more often— the whole year round. And when you have a few plants with a lot of fruit, you can make delicious juices and fruit punch with it.

Besides using it for juice it can be used as a sauce that's popular especially in the far east, where it originally came from in Iran and later spread out all over the world.

Dried whole seeds can often be obtained in South Asian markets and can be used in several culinary applications such as granola bars or as a topping for salads, yogurt or ice cream.

There is also a pomegranate syrup known as Grenadine syrup, mainly used in cocktail mixes like the Bonairean delicious fruit and rum punch cocktail.

Pomegranate has a high nutrition value such as Vitamins C, B, E and K and foliate and a bunch of minerals. The seeds are a rich source of dietary fiber. It's the perfect fruit if you have a heavy cold.

In traditional medicine in India's ancient Ayurveda system, the pomegranate



Bonaire pomegranates

is described as an ingredient in remedies. It's good for bringing down the results of Alzheimers. Its high antioxidant count is good for the immune system. It brings down blood pressure, helps against arthritis and is rich in polyfenols.

How to get the seeds out? Cut the fruit in two pieces and use a spoon to remove the seeds. The juice will make spots on your clothes so don't wear your gala costume while working with it.



Pomegranate bush/tree

One of my friends on Bonaire has a fence of pomegranate plants. It's very decorative with all the orange flowers and colored fruit and visiting birds, a smart idea to have your fruit and your fence in one. And by trimming it every six months you take the dead and old parts away and get new stems with a lot of fruit again. Try out this super fruit which goes perfect with Bonaire.

Just do it. □

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

## OUR WHEELCHAIR-CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, PART 9-WATER ACCESSIBILITY

Having to depend on a wheelchair is not easy at all. Because it is not only the fact that accessibility is a big issue, it is also the feeling that those who do not have a handicap do not understand. Others tend to act as if the person in the wheelchair is just a person sitting there who cannot do anything else anymore. As if they changed after getting their handicap, when really everything else is the same as always.

When you leave the house, you need a backpack full of items you may need along the way: a towel, a urinal, a thermos with a cold drink inside, a cup with a big straw, extra clothing, a thin blanket, a sunhat or cap, sunscreen, a phone, tissues, and so on.

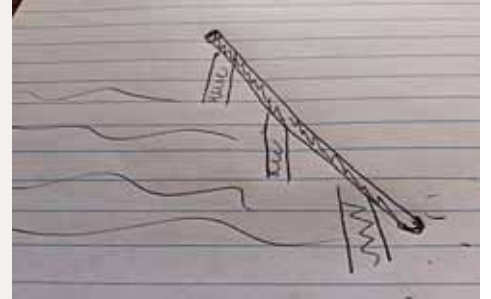
And when you have to be in that wheelchair, memories are the only things that are left. Because most things you were able to do or places you went to, you cannot do anymore or go to anymore. You cannot take a bus, go to the movies, go to the beach, fly anywhere when the "handicap-quota" is filled, go where it is too hot or too cold, visit friends at their houses, because their houses are not handicapped accessible, go somewhere where there are a lot of drunk people, because they all want to "help," go to events where there are a lot of people, go horseback-riding, go for a spontaneous swim, and so much more.

When you walk along the boulevard on Bonaire, anybody can just walk into the sea. How can you, being a person with a handicap, any kind of handicap, get into the sea in a safe way? Every morning at Chachacha-beach you can find a group of elderly people who swim together. Getting into the sea and getting out got to be a serious problem for them. They decided to approach DROB, and within a few days a long bar was installed along the pier. They can walk into and out of the sea while holding onto that bar. And they feel safe again.

There are more places along the boulevard where you can just walk into the beautiful blue sea. It would be so nice to have a few simple bars installed. It would make a large group of persons with a handicap and also elderly people very happy. And placing



A different kind of "beach bar"



Idea for a helpful bar in the sand

these bars would cost almost nothing.

Installing a bath-lift is also nice but very expensive because it needs a lot of maintenance. And a bath-lift you can only install at a pool and not along the beach.

I know for sure Billy Valentijn (See story on page 4) would like to at least see the beautiful sea of Bonaire again. Billy left Bonaire when he was 10 years old and has been living in Groningen, Holland, ever since. He is 30 years old now and his biggest wish is to come to Bonaire and spend a vacation with his loving family that he has not seen for a very, very long time. To be able to fly to Bonaire, Billy has to pay a lot of money to buy a ticket. Because Billy has cerebral palsy he is severely handicapped and uses a special bed instead of a wheelchair. So Billy does not need one seat. He needs to buy nine seats (because that is the size of his bed) and pay for someone to accompany him. Of course he doesn't have that amount of money in the bank. He needs help. On Billy's Facebook-page you can read all about Billy's project and needs. Help to make Bonaire, Billy's birthplace, accessible for him. □

Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



help meet these needs. □

Lucinda van der Wardt

Lucinda van der Wardt has been a registered dietitian and sports instructor for more than 20 years. After working for more than 10 years in a University hospital in Amsterdam and later in her private practice she is currently owner of Food and Vitality Dietitian practice located at Bon Bida health centre in Kralendijk. More info: [www.foodandvitality.info](http://www.foodandvitality.info) tel: 599-785-0170



## Food and Vitality (Continued from page 4)

All pregnant women should take a prenatal supplement that contains 400 micrograms (mcg) folate and 16-20 milligrams (mg) of iron. The supplement should also contain vitamin B12.

### Older adults

If you are over the age of 50, it is important to get enough vitamin D, vitamin B12 and calcium. As you get older, your body absorbs vitamin D and vitamin B12 less effectively. For this reason, you should take a vitamin D supplement of 400 IU each day. You should also get vitamin B12 from fortified foods (fortified soy products) or a supplement. Include three servings of milk alternatives each day to help meet your calcium needs. A daily multivitamin-mineral supplement will



# 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:** ( VPG B ), 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 ■

## Cruise Ships

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
25-Apr	<i>Royal Princess</i>	1200-1900	3600
27-Apr	<i>Regatta</i>	0600 - 1400	824
27-Apr	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1200-1900	3200
01-May	<i>Monarch</i>	0700-1800	2744
01-May	<i>Adventure of the Seas</i>	0700-1700	3114
02-May	<i>Navigator of the Seas</i>	0700-1700	3114

Cruise ship season winds down—12 days no ships— 2 ships on 2 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.**

—**Dominque 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

**Friday, April 27**

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

—**Rotary Club Bonaire Feria (Garage Sale) at Wilhelmina Park.** More on page 5

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

**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 (Let's Meet) Dia di Rincon**

—**Float Fest at Coco Beach** begins at noon. Fun in the sea for all



**Monday, April 30—Rincon Day** (Unofficial Holiday) Bonaire's best party. More on page 7

**Tuesday, May 1 (Holiday)**

—**Saka Raton Party and Bicycle Parade-10am-8pm**

—**Simadan Harvest Celebration, 3:30-8pm**

**Sunday, May 6—Animal Shelter Bonaire Book Market and Adoption Fair, Kaminda Lagoen 26, 10am-2pm.** More info on page 14.



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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 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
Tue 24		02:00 0.07 ft	07:40 0.81 ft	15:31 -0.31 ft	21:13 0.47 ft	6:19	18:48
Wed 25		03:10 0.06 ft	08:34 0.69 ft	16:10 -0.24 ft	21:59 0.54 ft	6:18	18:48
Thu 26		04:26 0.05 ft	09:32 0.55 ft	16:48 -0.16 ft	22:48 0.61 ft	6:18	18:48
Fri 27		05:49 0.03 ft	10:38 0.41 ft	17:25 -0.08 ft	23:36 0.67 ft	6:17	18:49
Sat 28		07:16 -0.02 ft	11:59 0.29 ft	18:01 0.00 ft		6:17	18:49
Sun 29	00:25 0.73 ft	08:39 -0.09 ft	13:37 0.21 ft	18:36 0.08 ft	Full Moon	6:16	18:49
Mon 30	01:13 0.76 ft	09:50 -0.16 ft	15:25 0.19 ft	19:10 0.14 ft		6:16	18:49
Tue 01	01:59 0.78 ft	10:48 -0.22 ft	17:03 0.21 ft	19:47 0.19 ft		6:16	18:49
Wed 02	02:43 0.79 ft	11:35 -0.26 ft	18:13 0.24 ft	20:34 0.23 ft		6:15	18:49
Thu 03	03:25 0.79 ft	12:16 -0.28 ft	18:54 0.26 ft	21:31 0.25 ft		6:15	18:50
Fri 04	04:05 0.78 ft	12:52 -0.29 ft	19:22 0.28 ft	22:27 0.25 ft		6:14	18:50
Sat 05	04:44 0.76 ft	13:23 -0.28 ft	19:44 0.30 ft	23:21 0.25 ft		6:14	18:50
Sun 06	05:21 0.74 ft	13:53 -0.26 ft	20:05 0.32 ft			6:14	18:50
Mon 07		00:13 0.24 ft	05:58 0.70 ft	14:20 -0.23 ft	20:26 0.35 ft	6:13	18:50

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# Coral Farms

The Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire (CRF Bonaire) installed a new, temporary coral tree nursery at Oil Slick Leap as part of a project funded through the European Union's BEST 2.0 Program.

The nursery has seven trees and will be home to 700 corals once full. The nursery was installed by CRF Bonaire staff and volunteers after carefully surveying the site at Oil Slick. CRF Bonaire staff have begun bringing broodstock corals to the nursery. Broodstock are the corals that will provide the initial stock from which all 700 corals will eventually be propagated.

The installation of the Coral Tree nursery is the first milestone in this innovative project. At its completion, this project will see 700 nursery-raised Elkhorn corals transplanted back to the reef at Oil Slick – a reef that was documented to historically have abundant populations, but today has only a few, isolated coral colonies remaining. All 700 corals will be grown and propagated at Oil Slick Leap, acclimatizing the corals to their soon-to-be home and simplifying the logistics for restoration divers, helping to maximize the efficiency of the restoration efforts.

Before and after transplanting, the restoration area will be monitored with a cutting-edge 3-D modeling technology to better assess and measure coral growth, abundance, and health. This easy-to-use, non-intrusive photogrammetry tool will save divers valuable underwater time and create snapshots in time of the corals to allow for researchers to re-analyze the models for years to come.

After transplanting all of the corals grown in the coral nursery, the trees will be removed, leaving no visible trace of what was once there. After the removal of the nursery trees, monitoring of the transplanted corals will continue in an effort to better understand how the Elkhorn corals are growing and surviving after transplantation.

Founded in 2012, the Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing affordable, effective strategies for restoring staghorn and elkhorn corals that act as critical habitats for marine wildlife. To learn more about how to get involved or lend support, visit [crfbonaire.org](http://crfbonaire.org) or email [info@crfbonaire.org](mailto:info@crfbonaire.org). □

Press release



# ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

## SPRING BOOK MARKET AND ADOPTION FAIR

It's been a beautiful spring so far, so why not take advantage of the nice weather and come to Animal Shelter Bonaire to buy books, share snacks and drinks with friends and maybe find the perfect companion animal you've been looking for!

Animal Shelter Bonaire presents a Book Market and Adoption Fair from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, May 6. As always, there will be hundreds of books for only \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00. All books will be organized by subject matter and language. Enjoy the ambience, meet your friends and neighbors, have a cold drink and load up your shopping bag with great books at a great price.

As a special event, during the Book Market the Shelter will also be having an Adoption Fair. You will be able to meet and mingle with all the Shelter residents and find that special companion animal you've been looking for. There will be special discounts on adoption fees for all puppies, kittens,

ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE BOOK MARKET AND ADOPTION FAIR  
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



dogs and cats. Shelter staff and volunteers will be there to serve as "guides" to help introduce you to the pet that fits your situation. You can choose your pet, complete the adoption process and make an appointment to pick up your new friend the following week at your convenience after he/she has been chipped and prepared for adoption.

Don't miss this event which will not only generate much needed funds for the Shelter but will hopefully also help place many of our residents in loving fur-ever homes. Mark the date: Sunday, May 6, 10am to 2pm, Kaminda Lagun 26. □ Story & illustration by Jane Madden- Disko

## Pet Of The Week



How about a dog the size of a small pony? This would be our young buddy Subaru. If you get to know him you'll love him. Believe it or not but this young man is only 11 months young. He is very playful, full of energy and sometimes way too excited.

Subaru is still considered a pup and needs a lot of attention. He is always happy to see and play with people. He is good with older kids and dogs. So if you're looking for a nice, active and playful buddy Subaru would be the perfect dog for you. As are all the pets up for adoption, he is healthy, castrated and vaccinated.

Are you interested in meeting Subaru or one of his friends? Please stop by at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3p.m. non-stop. 7174989/ 7014989. □

Story & photo by Luvi Rodriguez



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## TIME TRAVELING WITH THE BIG DIPPER

The Big Dipper is one of the easiest star patterns to find in the night sky. The Big Dipper is in a great location for viewing this month, and I always love finding it. It makes me think of the astronomically vast distances from Earth to stars. One of the greatest things about the Big Dipper is that the stars are at just the right distance from us that the light we see coming from them takes a lifetime to get here.

Just after sunset look toward the north and you'll see the seven bright stars that make up the Big Dipper. When you connect the four stars to make a spoon and the three other stars for a handle, you can easily imagine this giant spoon among the stars. The Big Dipper stars are so incredibly far away that we have to measure their distance with a special term, a measure of distance that we call a **light year**.

A light year is simply how far light travels in one year, which is a distance of approximately **six trillion miles**; which further means that if there was a star six trillion miles away from us, we would be looking at the star not as it exists now, but as it existed one year ago.

So when you look into space, you're also looking back in time. So when we see the stars of the Big Dipper we can do some time traveling.

Take the dimmest star in the Big Dipper, named **Megrez** for example. Megrez is 58 light years away; Which means that when we look at Megrez, we see it as it actually existed 58 years ago -In 1960.

**Alioth**, the first star in the handle of the Big Dipper and **Phecda**, a star at the base of the spoon are both about 83 light years away. So when we look at Alioth and Phecda tonight, we see the light that left those stars in 1935.

**Mizar**, the star at the bend of the Big



Dipper's handle, is 78 light years away; which means that when we look at Mizar, we see it as it actually existed 78 years ago, in 1940.

Indeed, and that's not all. The last star in the handle, **Alkaid** is so far away, that the light that left it began its journey 104 years ago in 1914, the same year the Panama Canal opened.

The last two stars are the pointer stars, **Merak** and **Dubhe**. If you connect a line from Merak to Dubhe and keep going, it will point you to the **North Star**. Merak is 80 light years from Earth, but Dubhe, the one closer to the North Star is a whopping 123 light years from us. The light you see from Dubhe left it in 1895.

So, next time you look up at the Big Dipper remind yourself, if you're still young, that some day you will see these stars as they actually existed when you first appeared on this planet.

And if you're not so young, delight in the thought that you are looking back at some of the few things that appear exactly as they were in those sunlit days and star-filled nights of youth. Happy star gazing... And... happy time traveling. □

Bruce McClure & Deborah Byrd



# THE STARS HAVE IT

## End of April 2018

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Use your creative flair. Let them know what your intentions are. Get on with your life. Don't let your stubborn nature get the better of you. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. You may make someone else look bad. You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. It's a favorable time for real estate, investments, and moneymaking opportunities to be successful. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. Either way, you're up for a passionate encounter with someone special. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will find that you are able to clear up a number of small but important details. Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try not to donate to organizations if you can hardly afford to take care of yourself. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Be discreet about your feelings, and hold back until you find out a little more about the person who's coming on to you. Family get-togethers will be interesting. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your communication skills may win you points. Not everything you hear will be legitimate. Adventure will result in added knowledge. Look after financial transactions this month. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Invite friends over rather than spending money on lavish entertainment. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Ferret out information that will hold them responsible. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Empty promises could be likely where work is concerned. Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Financial gains can be made through wise investments. You may experience financial loss if you don't use good judgment. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will meet potential new mates through friends or relatives. You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Self-deception about relationships is a problem. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. You can't do everything on your own. You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing. Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday. □

Michael Thiessen

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## Nawati, Kaya Kobalt 17

### Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- wide covered porch
- roof terrace
- nice family home
- carport
- separate storage/washing area
- quiet residential area
- long lease land (registered 4-A-1460)
- total lot size: 10,032 sq.ft / 932 m<sup>2</sup>
- living area: 1,485 sq.ft / 138 m<sup>2</sup>

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 237,000**

Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Sunbelt  Realty

717 6560 info@sunbeltbonaire.com  
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