

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** June 4-18, 2018, Year 25, Issue 12  
**The REPORTER**

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 796-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)



**S-O-S-**  
Save Our Sponges  
Page 7

Dee Scarr photo



Spanish-speaking passengers, will be calling all summer long. She needed a tug boat to help her berth last Tuesday because of strong winds.

**O**n May 28, Island Commissioner Hubert Martis announced that as of June 1, 2018, the new higher electricity usage tariffs would come into force after delays. Despite a subsidy (\$2,334 million) electricity will cost more for all but the largest users. The old method of calculation was purely based on usage. The new rate applies a fixed base cost, determined by the capacity of the electric service serving the premises, plus usage.

For example, based on a usage of around 180 kWh (relatively low) the new cost will be \$75. Last month (May, 2018) the cost was \$68. In 2017 the same amount of electricity cost \$55.

To figure your electric bill go to <https://www.webbonaire.com/en/private/rates-and-conditions/>

► **The Island Council adjusted the prices of petroleum products** for the month of June. There will be a price reduction for large cooking-gas tanks and small gas tanks but a price increase for gasoline, kerosene and diesel.

The price reduction for large LPG gas tanks (100 lbs) \$1.57 and small gas bottles (20 lbs) \$0.22. Gasoline increases by \$0.037, for kerosene \$0.047 and diesel remains almost the same as the month of May. The next adjustment of fuel prices is in July 2018.

**Prices at the pump:**  
Gasoline 95- 116.50 cts per liter.  
Kerosene- 60.4 cts per liter.  
Diesel- 81 cts per liter.  
LPG-100LBS \$32.82 per tank  
LPG-20LBS \$8.56 per tank.

► **Bonaire's cruise ship season never stops.** The newly painted and updated Pullmantur *Monarch*, which serves mostly

► **In 2017, approximately 128,500 tourists arrived on Bonaire by air, down 5% from 2016.** This may have been due to Insel Air's demise. The majority of foreign tourists were either Dutch or US nationals. On the other hand, **cruise tourism to Bonaire grew by as much as 88% to 407,000 passengers in 2017.** Bonaire has been very successful in attracting more cruise ships to the island. The number of cruise passengers in the Caribbean as a whole went up in 2017 too.



► **Saba will get a physio-therapist thanks to Bon Bida's Cure Division.** Its physiotherapists will serve that island on a rotation basis, working with the Saba Healthcare Foundation and the Benevolent Foundation Saba.

► **The dirt parking lot in the middle of downtown Kralendijk is closed. Under construction are shops and offices, not a multi-deck parking lot as many hoped.** There's no word on the date to convert the old Ford garage to a parking facility.

► According to a message from MIVABO, Bonaire's handicapped advocate association, **the two Aviramps® to be deployed at Flamingo Airport are in containers and ready for shipment from England to Bonaire.** The expectation is that they will arrive here in a few weeks. After arrival they will be put together and ground-support staff trained. Handicapped access for Bonaire



**DCNA Meeting:** Paul Stokkermans (Director, CARMABI), Binkie van Es (Board, Nature Foundation), Clarisse Buma (Director, STENAPA), Frensel Mercelina (Uniek Curaçao), Fleur Hermanides (EPIC), Ron Gomes Casseres (financial expert)

**Front row left to right:** Emeray Martha (DCNA Administrator), Leendert van Driel (DCNA Board Chair), Kai Wulf (Parks Director, Saba Conservation Foundation), Jaap Leeuwenburg (representative, Princess Beatrix), Ron van der Veer (Board Secretary), Arjen de Wolff (Director, STINAPA Bonaire)]

► **Kalli De Meyer has stepped down** as Executive Director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). The founding manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, De Meyer was hired in 2005 to set up a regional network of protected areas and over a decade of exemplary service has helped to establish DCNA as a shining example to the world of nature conservation.



The park management authorities and Board members of DCNA expressed their gratitude for her years of service and hope that her experience and expertise will continue to benefit the interests of nature conservation in the Dutch Caribbean.

According to an accompanying press release, the structure and governance of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance are currently undergoing a much-needed modernization. This process is quite fundamental and designed to improve DCNA's services to its members, the six-park management organizations in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands. DCNA is keen to ensure its readiness to jointly address growing conservation and climate change challenges in the region and to intensify cooperation with various actors and partners in the European Netherlands, Caribbean and elsewhere.

air travelers will be much easier. Aviramp is the world's only mobile jet bridge designed to provide access for all passengers to aircraft with gentle slopes of just 7.5 - 8° rather than using steep stairs.

► **A judge decided that Insel Air cannot fire its 11 MD-80 jet pilots.** Because InselAir no longer flies jets, the pilots should be trained for the Fokker turboprops it does fly, according to the

(Continued on page 3)

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The Bike Professionals

*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) pilot trade union. Whether that will happen is unclear.

► **The *Sterke Yerke* monument at Washikemba is currently being re-**

**restored.** In December 1979, the crew of the Friesian-Dutch raft, *Sterke Yerke III*, in an attempt to call attention to environmental issues, crossing from Europe bound for Curacao, founded on the iron coast of Bonaire. Last week Island Governor Rijna praised Captain Guus Schweigman, his brothers Chris and Frits Riemersma for their achievement and efforts to restore the monument first built in 1985. Nine members of the raft crews plus supporters were on hand on Bonaire to polish up the memory of *Sterke Yerke*, and to restore the monument.



► **The “Snack” bar/restaurant is an Antillean institution.** There are dozens on Bonaire, perhaps hundreds in the ABC Islands. They are usually neighborhood hangouts, serving beer, spirits, sundries and food. These days, most, but not all, are owned and/or operated by ethnic Chinese.

**Our favorite snack is the Yummy Yummy** near downtown Kralendijk at the start of Kaya Gubernador Debrot (see page 7). It’s a friendly meeting place for locals, fishermen and dive-shop workers... and good Chinese food run by a charming, hardworking young couple.



► **The fourth edition of the Dutch Caribbean Shark Week will take place from June 9-17. As part of the festivities six beautiful artworks will be auctioned during STINAPA’s Shark Night event at Jong Bonaire on Thursday the 14th of June, 7pm.** However, pre-bidding is possible online. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/Bonaire.STINAPA/> and make a bid as a comment underneath the photo of the ‘Shark Art’ you are interested in. Go to STINAPA’s Shark Night; fun, art and learning combined.



## Health Study Results

**W**as anyone surprised by the leading discovery from the 2017 Health Study done in the BES Islands that **six out of 10 residents are overweight, half of whom are obese?** Women and men are equally overweight, but in women it is often serious: 36% of women are seriously overweight (obese), 26% of men. This implies that health care costs will spiral higher as overweight is a major factor in diabetes, joint injuries and heart disease.

This major health study was conducted on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). The first results of the Study related to lifestyle: smoking, alcohol and drug use, exercise, overweight and obesity.

In addition to the weight results mentioned above, it was reported that half of the inhabitants don’t get enough exercise as well and that women smoke and drink much less than men.

Some details include:

On Bonaire 12% of the population are considered to be heavy drinkers

While women on Saba meet 58% of the Dutch Healthy Standard for amount of exercise, the women on Bonaire are only at 38%.

Results cannot be compared with the fig-



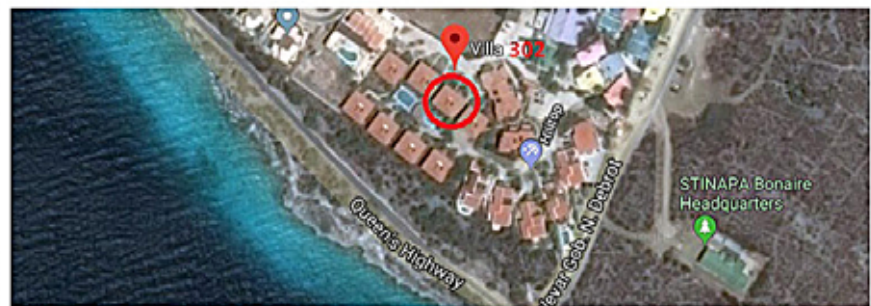
ures for the European Netherlands due to methodological differences. However, it can be concluded that relatively fewer people in the Caribbean Netherlands smoke. On the other hand, non-smokers receive smoke from others more often than in the European Netherlands (in children this percentage is even 4 times as high). In addition, serious obesity is much more common in the Caribbean Netherlands. The obesity percentage is at least twice as high in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Results are available on the website of Statistics Netherlands ( [www.cbs.nl/caribischneiderland](http://www.cbs.nl/caribischneiderland) ).

► **Island resident Ron Sewell has been collecting data on Bottlenose Dolphin sightings since 1999. He can use your help. Report a dolphin sighting on Bonaire to him via text or WhatsApp (+599 796 2458) or to [ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com](mailto:ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com).**

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# Traffic Circle Beautification

After a few months' pause, work on the Hato Rotunda art project is underway once again with a target finish date of July 2018. The busy rotunda is at the beginning of a long hotel strip and a place right in front of the biggest sponsors and initiators of this project. Stichting Bunita Boneiru adopted the rotunda with the intention of beautifying it with artist/sculptor **Mark J. Ansier's** sculptures of underwater scenes.



to evoke the sparkling waves of Bonaire. Yellow Bonaire Rocks from supporters will be integrated throughout.

He is using the collections from an island-wide clean-up initiated to reduce waste through the collection of discarded metals. These metals are recycled by being sculpted into coral gardens, turtles, sting rays and tropical fish. The surrounding garden has been specifically designed with "donkey and goat proof" plants as well as rocks so that wayward cars don't enter!

As can happen with many island projects, there were delaying challenges. The necessary tools did not arrive on Bonaire in time for the work to be completed before the busy high season for both the initiators and the artist. Then, someone in a car severely damaged most of the work in progress. It was a disappointing setback that unfortunately did not help with the appearance of the rotunda, but now work is back on track. □

The garden incorporates recycled crushed glass bottles

Press release/G.D.,L.D

# BES Island Prison Opening Soon

Warden, **Wilbo de Vries**, a 30-year veteran of the Dutch custodial system, of Bonaire's new prison looks the part as he eloquently explains the details of an inmate's life in Bonaire's new prison, the JICN (Justice Institution of The Caribbean Netherlands). His demeanor, and the words he uses, make it clear that a convict has little freedom when he is locked up. You don't want to have to do time here.

Despite efforts to make it not too depressing, it most certainly is intimidating. The landscaping inside is dismal. The usual Bonaire crushed stone (*steenslag*) ground cover is replaced by innumerable jagged rocks the size of bowling balls. There is electronic surveillance everywhere—it must have required a month's worth of production of an entire Asian country to provide. You'll find every door is locked; there are heavy screens, concrete, bars or steel walls everywhere and even above. No drones dropping goodies, drugs or phones for these inmates.

The place is huge, perhaps the largest complex of buildings on Bonaire... bigger than the SGB high school campus. **It cost \$40 million, and provides jobs for 145 people.** There are 62 cells – prisoners are two to a cell. There are 10 departments and five main buildings, including workshops and classrooms. Misbehaving prisoners can get to spend up to 14 days in additional solitary confinement cells with just a mattress on the floor and a stainless steel sink/toilet-combo. Food gets pushed through a door slot. The standard double cell is definitely an upgrade: it's open to fresh air with a semi-private toilet facility, a TV for each inmate, a fridge and a even a microwave oven.

Miss family and friends? Every other Saturday inmates may get visitors... for 45 minutes. Besides inmates from Bonaire, offenders from Saba and Statia are locked up there too. But they can get extra phone call time to home... but not video visits.



Wibo de Vries,

It's not all punishment. There's a mandatory training program for young inmates in cooperation with Bonaire's continuing education unit, FORMA, so an inmate can learn masonry, furniture construction, agricultural skills or car mechanics. Like in the prison movies, there are dumbbells, barbells and a well-equipped gym.

**Bonaire's penitentiary may be up to the most modern standards but it's still a serious jailhouse.**



Row of double cell accommodation, air cooled

# SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

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**Divi Divi Air-** Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

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## ON and IN the WATER

**Dive Friends** has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

## OPTICIAN

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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 things 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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Eating before you exercise is important to prevent fatigue. It also helps you to exercise longer, more intensely, and can make it feel easier.

Well-chosen and well-timed foods and drinks will keep your blood glucose (sugar) levels stable, keep you hydrated, and give you the energy you need to exercise so you can perform your best.

### Planning Your Pre-Exercise Meals and Snacks

What foods you choose and how much you eat before you exercise depends on when, how long, and how intense your exercise or event will be. With time and practice, you can find what works best for you. Here are some tips to consider:

Eat 1-4 hours before you exercise or compete.

The longer you have before you exercise, the bigger your meal or snack can be because you will have more time to digest it. The aim is to eat enough to feel satisfied but not full by the time you start your exercise or event. If your exercise is intense, a smaller meal may be better because it may keep you from getting an upset stomach. Listen to your body. You may be able to eat more than others before you exercise.

Include carbohydrate-rich foods in your meals and snacks. Carbohydrates provide the fuel you will need for your brain and working muscles. Good choices include:



- whole grain bread, pitas, bagels, wraps, and crackers
- rice, pasta, quinoa, couscous, barley, or other grains
- oatmeal or other whole grain cereal
- fruit like bananas, oranges, apples, pears, grapes, cantaloupe, and watermelon
- 100% fruit juice
- starchy vegetables like potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, winter squash, and corn.

Include protein-rich foods in your meals and snacks. Protein can help you to feel satisfied longer. Good choices include

- lean meats, poultry, fish, and seafood
- milk, yogurt, cheese, and cottage cheese
- eggs
- nuts and seeds and their butters

- beans, peas, and lentils
  - tofu, soy products
- Choose foods that are lower in fat and fibre.

Fat and fibre are digested slowly and foods high in fibre can produce gas or bloating, both of which could impact your ability to exercise and perform at your best. Choose skim or 1% milk rather than whole fat milk, plain cereal rather than a high-fibre wheat bran cereal or tuna and pasta rather than a hamburger with double cheese.

Drink enough fluids so that you can start your exercise or event well hydrated. Choose water most of the time, but 100% fruit juice, milk, tea, coffee, and sports drinks also count as fluid.

### Sample Pre-Exercise Meals

Here are examples of meals you can try 1 to 4 hours before you start to exercise. Choose portions that will satisfy your hunger.

- whole grain cereal or oatmeal with (soy) milk and mixed berries
- whole wheat toast or bagel with peanut butter and a banana
- whole wheat tortilla wrap with chicken or turkey, lettuce, tomato, green peppers, and cucumber
- stir-fry made with cooked brown rice or quinoa and tofu, lean beef, chicken, or shrimp, and a mix of your favorite vegetables
- baked sweet potato, grilled fish or chicken, and cooked vegetables.

### Pre-Exercise Snacks

Consider these healthy, carbohydrate-rich, easy-to-digest, pre-exercise snacks

when you have 2 hours or less before you exercise:

- whole wheat toast or English muffin with low fat cheese
- yogurt with fruit
- medium apple or banana with or without trail mix
- smoothie made with low-fat milk and fruit.

### Special Considerations

What if I don't feel like eating before I exercise in the morning?

Exercising on an empty stomach could hurt your performance. However, some people do not like the feeling of having food in their stomach when they exercise first thing in the morning. It can make them feel nauseous or sick. If you struggle with eating solids before you exercise, try a liquid meal like a smoothie or some low-fat milk, soy beverage, juice or a sports drink that digests quickly. Listen to your body. It's important to try different things and find what's right for you. □

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)  
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## First Open Day at FKK Animal Rescue



Patrice and Peter, founders of Kunuku Kakelvers with volunteer sisters Britt and Shana

It was a tremendous success. At least 200 people came on the Open Day at FKK Animal Rescue on May 19th. The foundation, also called **Kunuku Kakelvers**, is a shelter for neglected, abused, hurt and sick, hit by cars and left-behind dogs and cats. For almost 24 hours a day Peter and Patrice are on call to pick up these animals that are in urgent need of help and (medical) assistance. And although Patrice is working a fulltime job at FKPD (the center for the handicapped) she's also working fulltime at the shelter, just like her husband Peter.



Patrice tends to an old dog

In three years' time the couple transformed an overgrown piece of land far out in the *mondi*, full of car wrecks and with leaking water tanks and no electricity with just a little shed and a small house, into a safe and professional shelter with 20 kennels and a sick-bay which was arranged by **Twán Derksen**, Veterinary Center, from Doorn, The Netherlands, who's also sending medicines. Around 100 dogs and 20 cats are taken care of by the couple and their volunteers and veterinarian **Jan Laarakker**. Thanks to **Bonaire Break** (which is a sabbatical year for youngsters between 17 and 24, meant to discover what it is they want in life and which study fits them best) FKK Animal Rescue has four or five volunteers extra during the year, but it stops during the summer vacation. However, there are very faithful die-hards like **Renee van Nes**, who comes every weekend to help clean, as well as **Camille**, a Canadian lady, who's there three times a week to take care of the cats. Ever since she's been volunteering the cleanliness of the cat's facility is consistent due to the same routine every day and the supervision of food and medication. Also Camille is taking care of about 21 very small kittens.

The raffle at the Open Day was a great success as all the lottery tickets were sold out and the proceeds of \$2,000 were doubled by Dierenlot Foundation. The money will be used to build a new puppy kennel. There

were no adoptions at the Open Day as Peter and Patrice didn't want any impulse purchases of any dogs or cats. However, people were most welcome to adopt any animal the very next day. Almost everybody who came brought a gift like some money or a bag of dog or cat food, and the great attendance and support of all those people was the best heartwarming gift to Peter and Patrice as they realized they were not alone in this.



Volunteer Camille at 'her' cat kennel

The work is hard and dirty and sometimes very depressing, and as they're open every day including Sundays and as they're living on the premises as well, there's hardly any time to rest or take a break, especially as the couple is also cruising the streets to pick up animals in need. There is always a shortage of volunteers and that's why Peter and Patrice explicitly ask for volunteers to cuddle the animals, to wash them, to give them extra attention or to clean the kennels – and people can choose of course. They don't have to do it all!

**FKK Animal Rescue is a no-kill shelter**, but if life becomes suffering they will look for a solution in consultation with Jan, the vet. FKK Animal Rescue also works with Dierenhulp Foundation on Bonaire and after two members of the Animal Shelter board attended the Open Day, the first date has been set with the Animal Shelter Bonaire to see what it is they can do together to improve the situation on the island for the animals.

A great number of private sponsors helped make the Open Day a huge success by donating food and drinks for the guests. Peter and Patrice would like to thank them as well as their regular sponsors who are making it possible to keep on going.

For more information go to Facebook: Fundashon Kunuku Kakelvers or FKK Animal Rescue.

□ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

## Barracudas Swim in Medals

Thirteen swimmers from the "Barracudas," one of two Bonaire aquatics clubs, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Hesley Heerenveen Invitational on May 18-20, at the newly renovated 50-meter pool at the *Sentro Deportivo Korsou* (SDK). The Barracudas competed against five Curacao clubs that are tough competitors.



The winning Bonaire Barracuda team

After three days of swimming the swimmers of the Barracudas established 24 new Personal Records. Special attention goes to the six youngest swimmers, for whom this was their first swimming competition. They had a chance to practice their starts and turns and familiarize themselves with the pool a few hours before the event. (In Bonaire they train in the sea with no walls like a pool.) The Federation Aquatico Korsou kindly accommodated the Barracudas with an access to the SDK pool the morning of our arrival.

The Barracudas brought back quite a few medals: **Jonathan van Meerten** - 1 bronze (Jonathan's first competition!); **Melissa van Blek** - 1 silver; **Marcel Spruit** - 4 gold, 6 silver; **Patricia Vos** - 4 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze; **Anita Smits** - 4 gold.

**Sienna Wichhart, Melissa van Blek, Nicole Pedersen, and Valentina van den Berge** who placed 4th-8th were awarded ribbons.

**Ruben Volmuller, Matthijs Starrenburg, Quinn Divine, and Elora Wichhart**, our youngest swimmers, did an amazing job swimming their best and handling the pressure of the big swimming competition. For that fantastic attitude

they were all awarded participation medals.

**Basi Spruit**, who became a water polo player in the meantime, participated in this swimming competition and established new Personal Records on the distances he swam.

**Marcel Spruit** (Boys 11 – 12 years category) and **Patricia Vos** (Girls 18 years and older) additionally achieved second place in their respected age categories.

All swam their hearts out and had a great time during the weekend! The Barracuda coaches are very proud of the achievements and thank the swimmers for their hard work and commitment.

As we go to press the Barracuda water polo team is in Aruba swimming in the very first ABC Island water polo competition. In the first match they beat a tough Curacao team, 10-9.

Interested in aquatic sports (swimming or water polo)? Contact [barracudasbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:barracudasbonaire@gmail.com); check our website [www.bonairebarracudas.com](http://www.bonairebarracudas.com); or like us on FB- <https://www.facebook.com/bonairebarracudas>. □ Press release/G.D.



### ENERGETIC TOUCH CLASSES

## FREE Introduction

JUNE 18<sup>th</sup> -Yogarriba 6:00 -7:00 pm

Not sure where Yogarriba is? meet at Coromoto Church by 6:55pm

JUNE 21 -Bon Bida gym 5:30-6:30 (opposite Sand dollar)

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For Beginner and Experienced Energy Workers

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Full Day Classes will be held- June 23- Energetic touch 1 and June 30<sup>th</sup>- Energetic Touch 2  
Class fees- Half Price for Bonaire- \$159/class or \$300 for both - Take one or both

For more information and registration

Contact Susan Reed

Email: [Susandereed77@gmail.com](mailto:Susandereed77@gmail.com)

WhatsApp Phone#: 707-355-0959

Website: [www.healingtouchwithsusan.com](http://www.healingtouchwithsusan.com)

# SOS - Save Our Sponges

STINAPA AND CARGILL SALT PIER  
SPONGE RELOCATION PROJECT

Thursday evening, 17 May, more than 40 STINAPA volunteers gave up their evening to train to relocate sponges on the pilings of Bonaire's Salt Pier. The top underwater meter of each Salt Pier piling must be scraped of growth for renovation purposes. Even the top underwater meter is in the Bonaire National Marine Park, so the Park is making sure that as much marine life as possible will be saved.

Stony corals require especially knowledgeable handling, and to be cemented, not simply placed, onto hospitable spots on the bottom. For that reason, reef-building coral colonies on the pilings will be relocated by BNMP personnel.

The main growth capable of reattaching itself is almost exclusively sponges, so they are the main focus of the sponge relocation project. The sponge relocation training session began with a short presentation by STINAPA biologist Caren Eckrich, giving biological information about sponge colonies, and logistical information about moving them. Eckrich had set up several practice stations, each with a sledgehammer, chisel, and wire brush for the relocating team to allocate, and also with fishing line for tying up "sponges" of toy stuffed animals, plastic water bottles, and – oh yes! – kitchen sponges. Since Salt Pier pilings are 62" (157.5 cm) in circumference, too big for most people to reach around, training "pilings" were buckets as big around as the actual pilings.



Volunteers separated into teams of two to four divers, found a "piling," and worked on perfecting their knots and their procedures, and deciding which way was up on the surrogate sponges. □

Story & photos by Dee Scarr

## FIRST SALT PIER SPONGE RELOCATION DIVE COMPLETED

The first sponge relocation dive by volunteers beneath Bonaire's Salt Pier took place on Saturday, 26 May. Twenty-one Bonaire National Marine Park volunteers did 26 dives, removing much of the near-surface growth in one section of the Pier, and relocating the sponges and much



Carefully reattaching a sponge to a piling

of the other growth attached to them, lower down on the pilings.

Many of the pilings now look a little unusual, because the sponges which were removed from their tops have been tied onto deeper, emptier sections. Also, their positions are different: tube sponges and rope sponges, for example, are on the vertical pilings rather than those sticking out. And, these sponges are circled by tightly tied fishing line. The fishing line is necessary since it enables the relocated sponges to attach themselves securely: the more tightly a sponge is held to a piling, and the more of its surface is in contact with the piling, the sooner and better it will grow onto its new location.

So, five or 10 years from now we can dive

the Salt Pier and look at the living, growing Sponge Art that was created by STINAPA staff and volunteers.

Since Sponge Relocation volunteers have varying schedules, their next dive is set for the morning of Tuesday, 5 June. Certified divers, if you'd like to volunteer to save sponges, it's not too late. You will have to participate in a one-hour training session – it's well worth it for your increased efficiency – after which you're fully qualified and ready to move sponges.

If you would like to participate, and you are an experienced/competent diver who will be on Bonaire for the next few months, contact STINAPA via [nature@stinapa.org](mailto:nature@stinapa.org).

□ STINAPA press release



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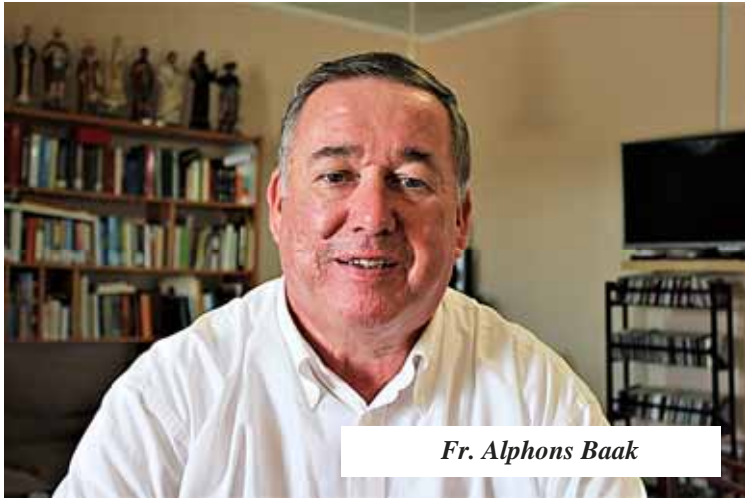


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# On the Island Since... March 2014 - Alphons Baak



Fr. Alphons Baak

"I am number nine of 10 children from a farmer's family. I grew up in the flower power era: pop music and disco-theques I enjoyed it to the fullest! When you are young you have to make decisions considering your future often too quickly and too early. I always tell the youngsters to take a break and not to move from one school to another and on to the next, because then you have no time for reflection. In my case the dean looked at my numbers and pushed me to become an accountant. I worked in accountancy for three and a half years, but at the office I missed the interaction with people. When I had a car accident and spent six months in rehab I came to my senses and decided to do something different.

At 23 I started studying again: two years of philosophy, four years of theology, then one year of internship. In 1988 I became a Catholic priest. Two weeks ago we celebrated my 30 years of priesthood, and my parish of Coromoto in Antril went out of their way organizing a wonderful reception. Afterwards I flew to Curacao where the Diocese celebrated a 60-year jubilee. It was a bit busy, yes, as I also visited someone at the hospital there. In the end I was just happy to fly back home again.

Once I became a priest, the bishop sent me to two different places in the south of Holland. Then I decided I wanted to see more of the world church. I had to ask permission. They weren't happy about it. I had to give a clear reason. If you can prove it will be beneficial for your spiritual growth, they cannot stop you. As I knew the then bishop of Curacao, Bishop Ellis, well, he asked me to come as he was in need of new priests.

I stayed in Curacao for 15 years. I started a daycare center for drug addicts in Otrabanda with the Santa Famia church. Nobody agreed with it, not the church, not the school board, not the bishop, but I continued, along with a nurse and a brother of the church, and the center still exists.

After Curacao I went to Surinam where I was invited by Monsignor Bekker to train religion teachers and deacons. Four years later I came to Bonaire.

For me, worshipping is to express your feelings and it should come from the heart. It shouldn't be tied to all the rules. For example, kids nowadays who are used to rap music shouldn't be forced to sing more traditional music because for them it's something from another planet. And people here are used to meringue, salsa and waltz, so I tell our choir to sing their own melodies with their own instruments.

I am an advocate of enculturation in church. In the old days the missionaries would just copy-paste; what was good for Holland could be used here too. However, a Dutch melody with Papiamentu lyrics doesn't make a good combination!

The way I see it, equivalency is the most important point. Not equality, because nobody is

equal; that's the biggest mistake one can make. Only from equivalency can you build up a society. If somebody thinks that he or she is worth more than another you will never come together. The church often uses the term brothers and sisters and you see, that's what we are, regardless of our origin, faith, culture and (sexual) orientation. I see every person as my fellow man. If you let go of that principle of dignity of a person, then you get abuse of power and just look at what Hitler has done.

To me 'love' is not a word that you easily use, like telling everybody all the time 'I love you.' To me love means: I give myself to you, I am there for you, I support you, I lift you up and I want your dignity to show. And then, sometimes, it also means sacrifice. When someone is terminally ill,



Father Baak in Coromoto church

there is nothing you can do for that person but to be there. And if people are isolated in a prison cell, they are still worth it. If you ignore someone being human, then there is no more love.

Coromoto church is a real neighborhood parish. We hold services in English and Papiamentu. Everybody knows everybody; it's like a family, very pleasant. Our parish clerk, Imelda, whom I always call 'Pastora,' knows everyone, and when I am not there they go to Imelda. Often our bishop asks me, 'How many workgroups do you have?' But I don't put anything on paper; I ask and it happens under the rules. It's not just formalized, it happens with crea-

coming to church to worship. When you have a parish you take care of the Liturgy celebration and of baptisms and burials and everything in between. You give trainings at school and at the parish, and when the government makes an appeal to you, you follow up on that as well. The social side, bringing people together, social cohesion, is what I like and what I am good at. We also have the pastoral of proximity, which means to be with the sick and the prisoners and to prepare people spiritually for marriage as well. Then there's counseling and social care. The church can help if someone needs a job, or when someone is confused or can't make ends meet. We also send medicine packages to Vene-

here belongs to the parish, and if for instance they send me to Statia tomorrow, I only take my suitcase and a few personal items. It gives you a lot of freedom, but on the other hand it can be difficult to start anew somewhere.

I would like to reach more people. I feel we have something to offer to many different kinds of people. But I don't have to evangelize to win souls, I am just here. For me 'being there' is often enough and from there on you go with the flow. I don't like to impose on people and it doesn't always have to come from me. It's not about telling people what they should do, or going after them, but people should know that we can offer them a home, a place to be with others. I don't keep office hours, people know where I live and they are always welcome. It's up to them. And it doesn't matter what you believe or not or how you feel or who you are. The Pope has said the church should be like the Good Samaritan: everyone is worth it, everyone.

Life is to be moving; you should not cling too much because you always have to let go. Dare to take the adventure, live life and enjoy what comes your way. To me death is just a transition, not frightening at all. You're embarking on a new adventure. Although I am a priest, what it is, I don't know. But a human being is something so beautiful that there's no end to it; your body will give up, but your being never ends."

■ Story & photos by

Greta Kooistra



**"To me love means: I give myself to you, I am there for you, I support you, I lift you up and I want your dignity to show."**

tivity! I come up with an idea and then the parish says, 'Oh! It's going to be alright!' And they start talking and calling each other and they work it out, spontaneously and creatively. And the outcome always surprises me. People really have a taste for it; it's wonderful.

On Palm Sunday we opened our religious gift shop. We're selling bibles and prayer books, children's bibles and coloring books, candles and rosaries and medals but also saint statues, crucifixes and icons, things you could never buy here. I am trying to look for pretty gift items. In three weeks' time I will go to Colombia for a week with an empty suitcase, but also to establish some contacts.

For me priesthood is not just the praying aspect or people

zuela, very concrete things. I am in close contact with the diocese in Curacao as well.

I think Bonaire is great. It's not too big, quite manageable and rather safe. I am planning on staying here because you have to root yourself to be able to execute your projects. One of our wishes is to formalize spiritual care at the hospital, Kas di Kuido and the prison, but it's quite a process.

Here at home, I have Diana who helps me, but I cook my own meals, do the laundry and iron my clothes. However, it's a fact that a woman sees more than a man! I am very good at living alone. There's time for reflection, meditation and prayers - which you need - and if you don't have your own family, you dedicate yourself to the large family of the parish. Also, all the stuff you see



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Manotick, Ontario, Canada



**S**teven and Patricia Shapiro – who were in Bonaire recently for the 6<sup>th</sup> time – staying at GOOD Resort in the Republik neighborhood write:

“We really enjoyed meeting your photographer Alan Zale on February 11 – the day of the Karnaval Parade – and seeing him in action! In this picture, we are seen in our nearby village of Manotick, Ontario, Canada – with our local “heritage” flour mill – called Watson’s Mill – still in use today and still grinding wheat into flour! Yes, that is snow falling! (March 7, 2018)

In one hand, Patricia is holding *The Bonaire Reporter*, and in the other hand, the *Manotick Messenger* – our local bi-weekly publication, very similar to *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in “Picture Yourself With *The Reporter*.” □

To catch up with the backlog of Picture Yourself submissions we are “Doubling-up” entries beginning in the next edition. Keep sending them in!

## Reporter Refurbish

**J**osan Construction just finished refurbishing *The Bonaire Reporter* office. After 12 years it needed cosmetic renovation: high power washing, sanding, scraping, varnishing, painting. The Sanchez brothers, company name Josan Bonaire NV, came back to spend a few weeks making the place perfect again.



Hubert and Jonathan are pictured here

working on the gate in their “protective clothing.”



Josan, one of the island’s most sought-after builders, is also responsible for the Piet Boom houses in Belnem, Delfins, Bonaire Beach Villas, a stylish house on Kaya Gobernador Debrot and many others. They are located at Kaya Industria Pariba #16, Terra Cora. Telephone: (+599) 717-7612. Find them on Facebook: Josan Bonaire N.V. email [josanbonairenv@hotmail.com](mailto:josanbonairenv@hotmail.com) □

G./L.D.



## BEST CARE ZORGWINKEL



### Our New Home

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

New Location

Opening Hours: 7:30-18:00 Non-Stop  
Kaya Industria Pariba. {Kaya Watt 4, near BFG}  
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Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio’s Ice Cream,  
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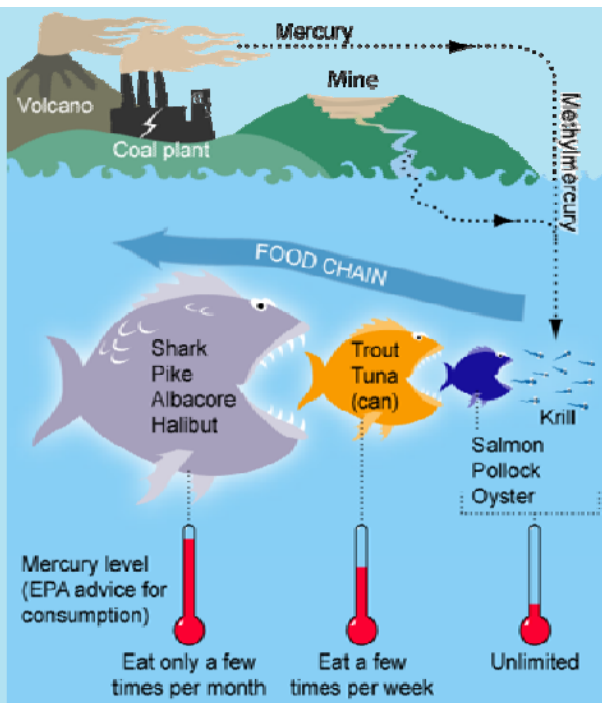
# DID YOU KNOW?

**E**ating shark meat may be bad for your health? Sharks are remarkable creatures. They are fast, agile, powerful, curious and intimidating. In the past, eating shark meat was a common practice. Nowadays, because of industrialization and pollution, many people try to stay away from shark meat or at least limit their consumption. During its lifetime, a shark accumulates highly toxic concentrations of heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury.

Metals are not all bad for you. Some are very important to keep us strong and healthy. Therefore, they are divided into essential, non-essential and toxic metals. Essential metals are necessary for our metabolism and include iron (Fe), copper (Cu), selenium (Se) and zinc (Zn). Non-essential metals are found in our body but give neither benefit nor harm. Finally, we have the toxic metals which are particularly dangerous to our health and include mercury (Hg), lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and arsenic (As).

The vast majority of fished sharks such as mako, hammerheads and blue sharks are highly migratory. Therefore, they travel great distances to find food and mate, but they're also exposed to different levels of polluted waters. Untreated sewage runoff and pollution from oil extraction and large rivers such as the Orinoco and the Amazon are major sources of pollution. Too much arsenic can cause vomiting, muscle weakness and cancer. Cadmium is another dangerous element as it may take decades to eliminate from the body. High concentrations of this metal causes severe problems to the heart, blood vessels, and bones and promotes the development of tumors and cancer. Mercury may be the most infamous of heavy metals as over 10% of it accumulates in the brain, killing neurons (brain cells), while the rest is transported to all muscle tissues! Along with the bacteria BMAA (a highly potent bacterial neurotoxin), they are known to cause Alzheimer's and reduce eyesight, hearing and coordination. It is advisable that pregnant women and young children should completely avoid shark meat to avoid these health issues.

As apex predators, sharks lie at the top of the food chain, probably sharing their place with killer whales. From crustaceans to tuna and marine mammals, sharks constantly ingest these toxins. This process is called "bioaccumulation." As you go up the food

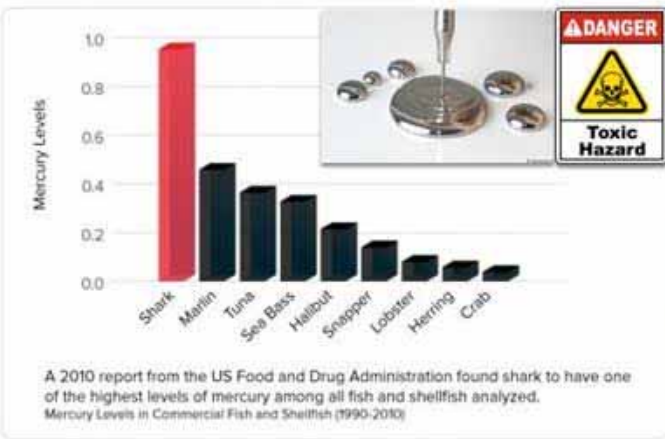


chain, the animals at each level eat the animals in the level below and ingest all of the toxins that those animals built up. So the larger the predator, the more toxins in their prey (biomagnification). Not surprisingly, studies on mako, blue and great white sharks have found high concentrations of toxins in their meat (especially in older individuals). Baby and juvenile sharks may have lower levels of mercury, but have still been found with dangerous quantities of arsenic due to the high quantities of crustaceans (shrimps, crabs, lobsters) in their diet.

Unfortunately, because of all the pollution we humans have created, eating seafood is no longer as safe as it used to be. **To avoid these unnecessary health issues, it is recommended by various health organizations that people limit their consumption of fish (especially of large, predatory fish such as sharks and tunas) to a few times per month or less.** Sharks play an important role in ocean ecosystems. However, their populations are declining worldwide at an alarming rate and this is yet another reason to not eat these important predators.

**Join us for STINAPA's Shark Night next week, June 14th at Jong Bonaire from 7-8:30pm. There will be a presentation about the Save Our Sharks project, movie clips, a Shark Art Auction and door prizes! All ages are welcome and entrance is free. □**

Story by Alessandro Corubolo, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.



# Growing Vegetables Locally

**F**or my quest to the origin of the local vegetables in the supermarkets on Bonaire, I came in contact with **Arie Boers**. He told me a lot about the different



Growing lettuce in soil



Growing lettuce hydroponically



Growing tomatoes

producers and referred me to, among others, Krusada. Arie Boers himself is working on growing micro vegetables. He mainly sells these to various restaurants on Bonaire. Sorobon, one of the resorts on Bonaire, is self-sustainable with their vegetables. They have a big green house at the resort and use these products in their restaurant.

Krusada, a local non-profit organization, produces the local vegetables that we can find in the supermarkets on Bonaire. Krusada was founded 20 years ago as an addiction care facility and now focuses mainly on preventive care. This care is intended for youngsters in the various risk groups here on Bonaire. They work together with companies and organizations in accomplishing this goal. Every week, there are 30 to 35 participants on the Krusada property. The organization is based on the Christian norms and values. There are regular prayers but everyone is allowed to do what he or she wants. "Nobody is brainwashed here," Krusada director **Junny Josephina** tells me, laughing. I meet him in his office where there is a big picture of his three beautiful children. In a relaxed way he tells about Krusada and his motivations in leading this organization. "I like to see people grow and be able to help them," Junny says. In addition, he gladly contributes to the development of the Antillean community.

The local vegetables from Krusada are produced by the participants together with a number of enthusiastic staff members. These vegetables are beans, spinach, mint, basil, lemongrass, tomatoes

and lettuce. The cultivation of these vegetables has not been without a struggle. They experimented a lot before they found the final method. For example the plants get water three times a day. In addition, all plants are in the greenhouse to protect them from the sun and the iguanas.

The lettuce is grown in a different way, on hydroponics. This is a method where the plants are grown only in water instead of soil. Since lettuce needs so much water, this is the easiest way to grow them here on Bonaire. Growing lettuce is quite complicated, one of the employees in the greenhouses told me. For example, this crop was germinated in a cold storage.

Since the supermarkets had trouble with stocking last week, Krusada was under extra pressure with their production. "We have produced almost double the amount last week," Junny explains, "and because of this we can't produce anything this week. That would not be good for the plants." The prices of the vegetables remain the same, even if there is a great demand. This is because Krusada is a non-profit organization. In addition, they want to help the people of Bonaire with this low, fixed price. When asked why people should buy this local vegetable, Junny answers, "because they help the community and keep it running. In addition, people know for sure that the vegetables are fresh and where they come from." People can always come and take a look at Krusada, to ask questions or if they want to know how the production of the vegetables goes. Krusada also owns a shop where they sell the vegetables, open daily from 8am to 4:30pm. □

Story & photos by Roos van Rijen



# A Garden? Just Do It

## GARDENING CHORES

As I said, there is a lot of work to do now in my garden: cleaning, preparing different parts of my yard where I have different plants like the vegetable section, herb corners, the trees around the yard, the flowers in front and around the house, the baby and special care places under the trees where they are protected against the dry wind and have shade, the hanging baskets in the trees and on the porch and plants in pots and cans all over the place. Each section needs special attention. More manure, more shade or more sunlight. Trim trees and branches, rake dead leaves from under the trees, watering, plant bislips to keep iguanas as much as possible out of the yard. Take care of plants that get *pies pies* (white fly, white spots under the leaves of the plants). The tea of the Neem tree leaves is the best to get rid of *pies pies*. No chemicals, just nature friendly. Make it like you make tea, easy and cheap and always there. Once every two weeks spray on the plants with this problem. If the *pies-pies* are too much, just cut off the leaves and parts of the plant that are sick and it will come up healthy again. But then keep an eye on it. As soon as you notice the *pies-pies* again, spray with the Neem tea. When it's so dry a lot of plants get attacked with these *pies-pie*, but not so in rainy season.

I also mix black and red soil or *diabaas* with goat or rabbit manure, dry leaves and charcoal in big buckets. I leave this for about two months to rest, then add this mix to other topsoil in my garden. When mixing, I pay extra attention to the quality of the different types of soil. There can be bad fungus and bugs there, so I clean the soil by putting it in the sun in a heap and keep turning it over. Fungus and bugs cannot stand the heat and will die or run away. After that I mix that soil with all other stuff I mentioned before. So be careful with dirt you have taken from another place on Bonaire. Clean it first.

It's important to know that certain plants have a certain time limit to live. So in the plant world there are two types of plants: herb plants and wood plants. Herb plants are one-year plants. Two-year plants are those that grow for years, roots and bulbs. Then you have wood plants: trees, climbing plants, conifers (like Christmas trees), cactuses and roses.

The one- and two-year plants are more short lived. They flower beautifully for a certain length of time. When it is an herb you can enjoy the good healthy power of it just for a while. Then it gets weak and you notice that whatever you do, it slowly dies.



Magdaleentje, a two-year flower



One year flower, Stanvaste, useful for diabetics.



White magdaleentje common on Bonaire

When you see that the plant is not strong anymore start with new plants with cuttings or seeds. By the time the old plant is dead you already have new plants. Of course with this weather nowadays it's hard to start new plants. Still I do. If only a few young plants stay alive, I'm still happy.

One- and two-year plants are for example *stanvaste* (see photo) *cats tail*, sunflowers, *yerbihole*, peppers, most vegetables. Bulbs are lilies, amaryllis, *union knoflook*. Roots are sweet potato, yuca, potato, *bacoba*. Wood plants are *tuturutu*, *trinitaria*, roses. Climbing plants are *Corona di Birgen*, bitter melon, pumpkin. Cactus and trees we

# Making Bonaire "Accessible"



## OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, #12- A "BUTT LEVEL" LIFE

Because that is what you do when you are sitting and moving around in a wheelchair. Nothing is located at your height. Absolutely nothing.

Even in your own house everything has to get modified: your table, your bed, your toilet, your shower, your doors and even sometimes your kitchen.

And if you leave the house, you always have to look up to people. And if you don't, they start talking to the person pushing your chair as if you are not there. At functions, festivals, etc. you cannot participate because nothing is adapted to your level there. And all you see all the time are people's butts. So, you always have to be prepared, think ahead, plan ahead, and know that maybe you can never again have a hobby!

My husband used to love to ride motorcycles. But after getting sick that was out of the question, impossible. Or so we thought. Our best friends wanted to surprise him for his birthday and went to talk to a paramedic who drives a motorcycle. He is a member of a biker club and they have tours all the time. So this paramedic was asked what was possible and what not. He even came to our house to observe my husband and talk to him. He then talked to his club-members and they came up with a plan.

We got a phone call to see whether we were at home and of course we were. Within half an hour we heard a thundering noise coming closer. My husband always lights up when he hears that specific noise. Now this noise was coming closer and closer and it was as if there were a lot more than just one bike! And there they were—at least 15 bikes, even with girls riding on the back. And they stopped at our house, came into the

yard and started to wheel his wheelchair out to the street. Here was a bike with a side-car waiting for him! He was lifted inside by a few strong guys and they told me they were taking him for a tour. I did not need to fear, they would take very good care of him and bring him back home later. Off they went. Of course I did not want to miss this so I got in a car with a friend and we followed the gang. What a ride, what a joy, what great fun! (photo above)

When they brought him back, he was promised another trip, this time to the other side of the island.

So, I mean to say that you can do great things. The only thing you need are people who help, who think ahead and who really care.



Now going for a swim also would be great or maybe even some horseback-riding—another thing my husband loves. While in rehab he rode horses at least twice a month. Now that would be an awesome thing—to be able to have that hobby again and do it. (see above photo)

The only problem is getting volunteers. People who want to help, who are willing to spend their time and who can do so on a regular basis. Because to get on and off that horse, it takes at least four persons. Now ... Is that a great challenge, or not? □

Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



all know.

So it's good to know something about the plant world so you can garden with better results and more pleasure.

As I told you before, I had to cut down my big *appledam* tree to give the mango tree more space to grow. And it's like a miracle. The mango tree is going like an arrow from a bow. It got a lot of new branches and even some new flowers. So maybe after awhile I will have some mangos. It makes me feel that I have done the right thing by cutting down the big *appledam* tree to give the mango tree space to grow.

I notice something strange too with mango trees these days. A few months ago a lot of them in my neighborhood got just

half a tree full of mangos. Then they all came off and the trees started very quickly blooming again, but now on the other half of the tree! Strange. Normally a whole tree blooms and gives fruit at one time, then has a rest. Now it's half the trees. I thought maybe it has to do with the way the sun is reaching the tree. Like with grapes. I don't know, it's only an idea.

Anyway, I must go into the yard now. It's sunset, the best time of the day to work in my garden. Also for you. Just do it. □

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



# What's Happening

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

**Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

**Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park)** Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Entry fee based on income level.

**Nature Organization, STINAPA**, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2018: [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 Lagoon 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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@gmail.com](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
05-Jun	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
12-Jun	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
19-Jun	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
26-Jun	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
03-July	Monarch	0700-1800	2744

## 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**

## 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 Lagoon 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

**June 9-16—Shark Week, events all week, see below**

**Saturday, June 9**

—**Lagun Beach Cleanup** with Jr. Rangers and Stinapa staff with Potluck Picnic The area is important for wildlife and has mangroves . Bring water, shoes and a hat. Bags provided, 9am-noon. [stinapabonaire.org/events](http://stinapabonaire.org/events), free.

—**Coralpalooza 2018**-info [www.crfbonaire.org/coralpalooza](http://www.crfbonaire.org/coralpalooza)

**June 11-15, 9am-12 noon-Shark Ambassador Primary School Program** at Washington Park

**Tuesday, June 12 — Shark Week Program at DCNA** with the Junior Rangers, 3-4 pm

**Thursday, June 14—Stinapa Shark Night**, Jong Bonaire, art auction, more -7pm. See pages 3 and 10

**Sunday, June 17—Brandaris Sunset Hike**, 4-8pm, sponsored by Stinapa \$10. Register 717-8444.

**Saturday, June 23—Energetic Touch I** — Class at YogaArriba, see page 6.

**June 25—July 2 - Body Awareness Week**, [www.gogreenayurveda.com](http://www.gogreenayurveda.com)

**Friday, June 29—Jr. Rangers Graduation 2018**, 6:30-9pm, call Stinapa at 717-8444

**Saturday, June 30**

—**Foundation Miss Bonaire** is organizing a “FUN WALK” to raise funds for the participation of Miss Bonaire in the Miss World 2018 competition.

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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 04	04:30 0.73 ft	13:16 -0.25 ft	20:00 0.36 ft	23:35 0.32 ft		6:09	18:58
Tue 05	05:07 0.67 ft	13:37 -0.23 ft	20:06 0.42 ft			6:10	18:58
Wed 06	Last Quarter	00:51 0.31 ft	05:46 0.60 ft	13:56 -0.20 ft	20:21 0.50 ft	6:10	18:58
Thu 07		02:05 0.28 ft	06:26 0.51 ft	14:14 -0.17 ft	20:42 0.59 ft	6:10	18:59
Fri 08		03:18 0.22 ft	07:11 0.41 ft	14:32 -0.15 ft	21:08 0.70 ft	6:10	18:59
Sat 09		04:33 0.15 ft	08:02 0.29 ft	14:52 -0.12 ft	21:40 0.81 ft	6:10	18:59
Sun 10		05:47 0.06 ft	09:04 0.18 ft	15:13 -0.10 ft	22:17 0.91 ft	6:10	18:59
Mon 11		06:56 -0.04 ft	10:22 0.09 ft	15:38 -0.08 ft	22:59 1.00 ft	6:10	19:00
Tue 12		07:59 -0.15 ft	11:58 0.03 ft	16:08 -0.05 ft	23:46 1.06 ft	6:10	19:00
Wed 13		08:54 -0.24 ft	13:44 0.02 ft	16:47 -0.01 ft	New Moon	6:10	19:00
Thu 14	00:37 1.10 ft	09:44 -0.32 ft	15:20 0.06 ft	17:45 0.05 ft		6:11	19:01
Fri 15	01:30 1.11 ft	10:30 -0.38 ft	16:24 0.14 ft	19:14 0.12 ft		6:11	19:01
Sat 16	02:25 1.09 ft	11:13 -0.42 ft	17:11 0.24 ft	20:52 0.17 ft		6:11	19:01
Sun 17	03:21 1.03 ft	11:54 -0.44 ft	17:54 0.36 ft	22:26 0.20 ft		6:11	19:01
Mon 18	04:17 0.94 ft	12:34 -0.43 ft	18:37 0.48 ft	23:55 0.20 ft		6:11	19:02

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# Wild Bird Rehab



Ely Albers with one of her young flamingoes

## A HOME FOR BONAIRE'S SICK AND WOUNDED BIRDS

On Friday, June 1, the Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, a foundation which aims to care for Bonaire's sick, wounded, and parentless wild birds, officially opened its doors. The foundation's goal is to enable these wild birds to survive on their own and then return them to their natural environment as soon as possible.

The organization was founded by Ely Albers, the owner of the Mangrove Center. Ely has a long history of caring for Bonaire's sick and needy animals, and she immediately jumped in when Stinapa needed help with the oil-covered birds during last year's oil spill. The birds that were treated, washed, and rehabilitated marked the beginning of what is now a fully-fledged professional rehab center.

"I have been inspired by Monique de Vrijer from Vogelklas Karel Schot in the Netherlands who does a phenomenal job saving and treating wild birds and animals. She is a walking bird encyclopedia and was flown in by Stichting Olie Vogels Nederland to help and train me with the birds from the oil spill. Seeing her work and learning from her encouraged me to establish Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab," says Ely. The rehab center has already seen all sorts of guests: ducklings, frigate birds, boobies, owls, parrots, herons, and *cara caras* to name just a few.

Sadly, the first huge challenge of the new center is already a fact, as hundreds of chicks and juveniles of Bonaire's national bird, the Caribbean flamingo, are leaving their sanctuary prematurely and walking around the island severely dehydrated and undernourished. The reasons are thus far unclear, but the rehab center has received well over 150 young flamingos in the last 10 weeks. A cry for help for cages and food was shared nearly 600 times on Facebook and led to a huge response from people around the world, eager to bring food or donate funds for much needed supplies. The rehab center's new status as an official foundation makes it much easier to receive and coordinate help.

Since the rehab center aims to keep all guests "wild," it is not possible to visit the center. But you can follow everything that goes on there on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Bonairewildbirdrehab/>) where Ely posts lots of pictures and videos. You can also help Ely and all her patients by donating money to the Mangrove Center, account 4101014 at the MCB Bank on Bonaire, stating 'rehab' as the reason.

Contact: Ely Albers Phone: +599 786 5161

E-Mail: [ely@mangrovecenter.com](mailto:ely@mangrovecenter.com)  Press release/ L.D.



Ely gets help for ribbon cutting

# ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS



## FREE DROP OFF CLARIFICATION

Recently Animal Shelter Bonaire received questions and has had to clarify the procedure for bringing animals to the shelter, either in person or via our "drop off" cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*). It is most important to know that **the shelter does not charge any fee for animals that are brought to the shelter.** Nor does the shelter charge any fee when under exceptional circumstances it is necessary for us to pick up an animal and bring it to the shelter. There is no cost involved. Obviously, there is also no charge when an animal is left in the drop off cage.

You can bring an animal that is found or that you want to surrender to the shelter during our open hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. non stop. You can also leave the animal in the *Kouchi pa Bestia* at any time of day or night. There is only one exception to this usual procedure. As explanation, when an animal arrives at the shelter, it is placed in our quarantine area where it stays for evaluation of health, behavior, etc. There are some days when the shelter quarantine facilities are totally full and we have no room to take in an animal. The staff member on duty will explain this and take the person's name and phone number and contact them as soon as space is available, usually within a day or two. On those days we are full, the drop off cage may also be locked because we have no space. In that event, the person trying to drop off an animal should call the shelter and make an appointment to bring the animal on another day or to find

out when the *kouchi* will be open again.

The drop off cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*) is just outside the rear entrance gate of the Animal Shelter Bonaire. The cage allows for found or stray dogs and cats to be put into a safe place at any time of the day or night. It also provides the opportunity to surrender animals rather than dump them in the *mondi* or by the side of the road. The *kouchi* has two separate compartments with water bowls and is fortified and secure so that all sizes of puppies, dogs, kittens and cats will be protected and safe. The drop off cage is checked throughout the day and is also checked first thing every morning for any animals that may have been brought in during the night.

For any questions or information contact the Animal Shelter Bonaire at 717-4989/701-4989 or at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com).

Jane Madden- Disko



# Pet Of The Week



## BANDITO AND TYSHA

Introducing our cutest couple, **Bandito** and **Tysha**. Bandito was brought in at the beginning of February. He had been left by his owner with an elderly lady who couldn't take care of him, and because of boredom he chewed his flanks and butt till they were bright pink. Once he was in the shelter we had to keep him separated from the other dogs as he was not castrated, so the chewing continued. After he was castrated we decided he needed a friend. Tysha had also entered the shelter around the same time as Bandito and was very shy. Because of this the other dogs picked on her. After she came out of quarantine we tried her with different dogs and it was not working out with any of them. Until she met Bandito! There was an instant click, and now she does not want to leave his side. They eat together and they play together.

Tysha is also getting along better with others now. She is still a little bit shy around people, but she is trying really hard. She is happier and more playful. Bandito is three years young and his girlfriend Tysha is one. They have both been neutered and spayed.

Are you interested in meeting this young couple or one of their other 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. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989.  Story & Photos by Luvi Rodriguez



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

As many of you may have noticed, our old friend **Venus** has returned to the early Sky Park. Of all the planets, Venus is one of the most beautiful, and its position in the sky has been painstakingly documented throughout recorded history. So much so that we devote this entire episode to our sister planet, named after the Roman goddess of beauty and love.

Anytime this week, shortly after sunset, face west. You can't miss the bright planet Venus among the stars of **Taurus the Bull**. Venus is often called our sister planet because it's almost the same size as **Earth**, about 7,500 miles in diameter. And the reason it shines so brightly is twofold. It's the closest planet to the Earth, and it has the highest 'albedo' of all the planets, which means that it is the most reflective. The reason being that Venus is completely enshrouded in perpetual cloud cover. And this cloud cover acts like a great mirror and reflects sunlight very well. Over the next few months, Venus is going to get higher and higher in the sky, reaching its highest point on August 17th. It will be its most brilliant on September 24th.

When Venus appears in the sky in the early evening, it's often referred to as the 'evening star.' Venus will stay in the evening sky for almost nine months.

If we could view this from outer space, as Venus orbits the **Sun**, it eventually passes us, is lost in the glare of the Sun, and reappears in the morning sky. Venus will then be considered the morning star and will be visible for another nine months.

So right now, Venus has just rounded the opposite side of the Sun and is swinging around to meet us on our side of the solar system. The last time Venus was on the same side of the Sun as Earth was during a moment we call 'inferior conjunction.' That happened on March 25th, 2017.

Over the course of a season if we trace Venus' place in the sky, at the same time every day, it makes a big loop. Then if we chart the motion over the course of eight years, we get some interesting patterns.

Venus' motion in the sky comes in five forms:

- A squiggle down
- A loop down
- A zig-zag



El Caracol monitored Venus

- A loop up
- And a squiggle up.

That's five patterns in eight years. Then the patterns repeat almost exactly.

The ancient Maya were fascinated by Venus which was sacred to them. The nine-month period of time that Venus spent in the evening sky matched the length of time it took for them to plant, tend and harvest corn. Corn was a sacred plant to the Maya since it was the plant that gave life.

After observing Venus for centuries, the Maya developed an incredibly accurate set of Venus tables that could predict where Venus would be in the sky for years. They even built an observatory just for Venus.

This observatory, named **El Caracol** (translated as the snail) is aligned perfectly so that an observer could see Venus through its windows at its northern and southern most extremes in the sky, for each of the five looping patterns.

Mayan astronomers kept such accurate records of Venus, that after 500 years, their Venus tables would only be off by one day! The Maya noticed the five different patterns that Venus would produce in the sky and they gave each manifestation of Venus a personality represented by the five different creatures on the Venus tables. Some were good and represented prosperity and a plentiful harvest, and others were not so good and represented hard times and scarcity.

Venus will be traveling westward through the constellation of **Taurus the Bull** as the month passes. So during the next five months, enjoy watching the beautiful planet Venus as she graces the evening sky for all to enjoy in the Bonaire Sky Park. □

Dean Regas & James Albury



# THE STARS HAVE IT

June 2018

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. Set your goals and stick to your guns. Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will be a real chatterbox this month. Don't jump into investments too quickly. You will meet potential new mates through friends or relatives. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your personal secrets may be revealed if you let coworkers in on your family dilemmas. You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. Try to satisfy both of your needs. Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Do not react too harshly when dealing with partners. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. Travel will be fun and entertaining. Business conducted in your own office will proceed smoothly. Don't overextend your self in order to add luxury items to your entertainment center. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to keep a low profile. New hair, new outfit, new you. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Be prepared to meet new lovers through colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Keep tabs on your spending. Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Get involved in the activities of children. They will teach you far more than you expect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't blame every thing on your mate. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Arguments with children or friends may leave you steaming. Your changing philosophies may lead you into new circles and open doors that will give you a unique outlook on life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Changes could be overwhelming. Your charm will attract someone special. Sign up for courses that will bring you more skills. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Do your own thing, you need time to yourself. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Opportunities for partnerships are present; but get every detail in writing. A lot has changed and so have you. You will need to finalize important deals this month. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. Tempers may flare if you haven't been completely honest about your intentions or your whereabouts. Try to avoid being extravagant this month. You should get out and meet new people this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will enjoy interacting with those who come from different backgrounds. Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. Don't be too quick to react. You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. □

Michael Thiessen

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- quiet residential area
- freehold land (registered 4-F-942)
- total lot size: 11,969 sq.ft / 1.112 m<sup>2</sup>
- living area: 1,668 sq.ft / 155 m<sup>2</sup>

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 287,500**

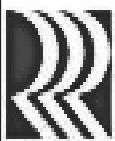
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