

It's Still
FREE

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The REPORTER



Kaya Grandi 89G, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone 786-6518, 796-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com



Julie Morgan photos

**Nativity
Tableau**



Popular and renowned Bonairean artist Adi Figaroa has again outdone himself with this very moving and handcrafted creche, *Pe-sebre Magiko* (Magical Manger). The creche, located at his home at Piedra Presioso #7, took him six weeks to complete. The life size figures, the lighting, the whole ambiance transports you into that mystical

time. Adi is a brilliant, mostly self-taught artist who lives to create- in three dimensions like the crèche, the mural on the walls of the old prison in town to protect the *karko* (conch) and multiple other forms. Adi is a gifted art teacher as well, as many of his students can attest. The creche will be open until January 7. Information 786-5973. **□**



The Bonaire Reporter is the second most widely read newspaper on Bonaire, says the recently completed government survey. 35% of the people of Bonaire read the English language *Bonaire Reporter*, just 6% behind the 41% who read the Papiamentu language daily *Extra*. Thank you readers for your reaction. →→

► **The salaries of RCN employees will increase by 3.4% as of the 1st of January 2019, in addition to the agreed increase of 1.75%. This brings the total wage increase in 2019 to 5.15%.** Employees of other agencies and companies may also get a wage increase since the employer contributions to retirement, health and other taxes will be reduced 5% on January 1. This is being done in the hope of improving the economic condition of employees.



► **The 13th largest cruise ship in the world (by tonnage), Freedom of the Seas, visited Bonaire for the first time on December 13.** Royal Caribbean Captain Tomas welcomed members of the Government, TCB, ship's agent and Harbor Office aboard and explained his experience docking the ship for the first time and his past journeys with Royal Caribbean. Plaques and symbolic gifts were exchanged in a brief welcome ceremony.

83% di hendenan ta hasi nan informashon via medio sosial, 59% via radio, 51% via wepaart lokal di notisia, 48% via korant, i 38% via kanal di television lokal. Solamente 2% di hendenan na Bonaire riba 14 aña, no por alkansá via un di e medionan ariba menshoná.

Extra
Sifranan di e enkueta ta muestra ku 41% di hendenan lokal ta lesa Extra, 35% ta lesa Bonaire Reporter, 29% no ta lesa korant, 21% ta lesa Antilliaans Dagblad, 13% ta lesa Amigoe, 8% ta lesa e edishon karibense di Telegraaf, 8% ta lesa otro

► **For the Port of Bonaire its visit was special because it was the first time the newly constructed dolphin was used.** The dolphin was constructed along with the renovation of the pier to be able to accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world and yesterday was the first time a *Freedom Class* ship was able to moor in Bonaire. *The Freedom of the Seas* has a length of 339 meters (1,112 ft.). The \$800 million ship carries 3,600 passengers and 1,400 crew members. It's scheduled for several more visits this coming season. This ensures that Bonaire can securely accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world.

► **Not everyone on Bonaire is enchanted by the huge vessels** because of their negative ecological impact and the disruption to normal life caused by the thousands of passengers who come ashore.



► **Bonaire's tourism will get a spurt if American Airlines can fill the four return flights a week it plans to fly from BON to MIA.** It will add around 500 arrivals a week.

If you are coming from the USA you can now **travel to Bonaire non-stop every day of the**

week except Tuesday and Wednesday. Hub cities are Atlanta for Delta Airlines, Houston and Newark for United Airlines and Miami for American Airlines. Schedules vary so check www.tourismbonaire.com/includes/Airline-schedule-2018-2019.pdf and your airline for latest information. Lowest prices (on American Airlines) can be as low as \$100 one-way.

► **InselAir's creditors did not vote against the bail-out by InterCaribbean airlines, paving the way for take over of the Curacao airline.** A two-thirds majority was needed. That means that InselAir can be taken over with an investment of NAF 11 million by the Grand Turk-based airline. The airline owes NAF 133 million.

► **Announcement of details of the takeover was delayed because InterCaribbean did NOT come up with the required bank guarantee from the CIBC Bank in the Bahamas.** The bankruptcy judge gave them a nine-day postponement. By law the Curacao Government must retain a 51% interest in the airline which may be a sticking point.

► **As we go to press EZ Air announced it will be flying among the ABC Islands.** First flights to Curacao were Sunday, December 23 at 4pm and 6pm. Flights from Curacao to Bonaire are at 2, 5 and 7pm. Call +5999 560 1900 for assistance.



► **The Saudi Arabian-owned refining company, Motiva Enterprises, a subsidiary of Aramco, based in Houston, is the top contender to take over the 335,000 barrel-per-day Isla Refinery in Curacao at the end of 2019.** Venezuelan-operated Isla has been closed since May over a legal dispute but is planning to reopen soon. Environ-

mentalists are hoping the aging, polluting refinery is shut down permanently.

► **Bonaire needs storage for petroleum products for its very survival.** The import and storage of Bonaire's fuel, with the exception of aircraft fuel, depend on docking and storage facilities at BOPEC. The future of Venezuelan-owned BOPEC is uncertain so the Bonaire government wants a long-term solution.

Construction of a new storage facility is expected to take about two years.

A working group reporting to steering committee chaired by **Governor Edison Rijna is already soliciting partners to build, own or operate the storage facility.** The committee consists of commissioner **Hubert Martis** and representatives of three Dutch ministries. Stakeholders directly involved are BOPEC, WEB, Contour Global, Bonaire International Airport, Curoil, Oil Trading Bonaire N.V. and the Fire Department of Caribbean Netherlands.

► **Although the official ban on lighting fireworks, as stipulated in article 31b of the Public Code of Bonaire is lifted for just two days, December 31 and January 1, we can expect to hear explosions as soon as the fireworks shops open.**

A license is required for setting off fireworks outside the aforementioned period and for setting off "large" fireworks, such as the huge carpets of firecrackers.

Based on past years' experience on New Years Eve, Bonaire's skies will be filled with light and sound near midnight and well past into early morning hours. It is spectacular and at least two waterfront hotels, **Captain Don's Habitat** and **Buddy Dive**, will contribute to the spectacle.

Fireworks are banned within of 250 meters of hospitals, nursing facilities and buildings

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How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"


The Publisher: George DeSalvo
George@bonairenews.com
Phone + 599 796-6125

The Editor: Laura DeSalvo
Laura@bonairenews.com
Phone + 599 786-6518
Kaya Grandi 89G, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands

Story, tip, question or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
Phone 796-6125, 786-6518

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The Bike Professionals

Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2)

where church services are held. It is also not allowed to light fireworks within a radius of 250 meters from gasoline pumping stations and storage sites of explosive and slightly combustible substances. The firing of fireworks that go into the air may not be done in a place that could pose a danger to air traffic.

In order to prevent damage and accidents, the Bonaire Government calls attention to the necessary precautions and caution when lighting fireworks. **Pet owners should take precautions to secure their animals. See page 14 for pointers.**

► **Fuel prices across the board will drop in January.** The price reduction for gasoline is 6 cents (\$1.089/liter), for kerosene 10 cents (\$0.5737/liter), for diesel 11 cents (\$0.6798/liter) For large gas bottles (100 lbs) \$4.81(30.30/tank) and small gas bottles (LPG 20 lbs) \$0.96 (\$7.69/tank).

► **Whether you are a local or an off-island visitor be sure to visit the life-size Nativity tableau in North Salinja** (along the road to Santa Barbara) that is shown on the cover of this edition of *The Reporter*. It is a handcrafted art work and a product of local art and culture.



It is the product of significant expense and weeks of work by **Adi Figaroa**. Help him by putting some money in the basket of the little shepherd at the exit door.

► The father of one of the two **Bonairean students studying in Holland who risked their lives to save three people** contacted *The Reporter* with this news. On May 5, **Khalito Gomma's** daughter **Emma (21)** and her boyfriend, **Elvis Thode (23)**



ran to help three people who had been stabbed despite the threat to their own lives.

On December 15th, Elvis and Emma received a **Carnegie Heldenfonds** bronze medal from Pauline Krikke, Mayor of The Hague (see photo above). Since 1911, the Carnegie Heldenfonds in the Netherlands has awarded and rewarded people who have saved someone's life at risk of their own.

Elvis Thode is studying Chemical Technology at the Rotterdam High School. Emma Gomaa studies Psychology at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Both plan to return to Bonaire after graduation. Emma's father, of course proud, said it was not a surprise as "Emma is always there for people who need help."

► **STINAPA announced that Washington Slagbaai National Park will be open on New Year's Day for the first time in the Park's history.** Visit the Park on January 1, 2019, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Park and the 40th anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park. □

G./L.D.



► **WEB**, Bonaire's electricity and water provider, has changed its rates for 2019. **Electric power drops a bit, water prices go up.** Rates for electricity and drinking water will begin with February invoices For Pagabon and the water tanker, the new rates apply from 1 January 2019. An overview of the new tariffs and a calculator to estimate your water and electric bills can be found on www.webbonaire.com

WEB	Old Rate	New Rate	Old Rate	New Rate	Change	Percent
Electric	\$ 28.00	\$ 26.59	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.27	\$ (0.02)	-7%
Water via pipe	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.76	\$ 4.04	\$ 0.28	+3%
Water via tanker			\$ 3.76	\$ 5.17	\$ 1.41	+37%



► On Saturday December 15, the newly formed **Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk, Bonaire, held its charter ceremony** at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. The new club chapter was organized on September 25, 2018, and has 19 charter members. The club installed **President Patricia Gerritzen-Veen, Secretary Derchlien Vrolijk-Dijkhoff** and **Treasurer Ricard Nicholson**.

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TRAVEL TO BONAIRE FOR THE HANDICAPPED NEEDS IMPROVEMENT



Rich Schwerdtfeger

Dear Editor,

I would like to share a recent experience I had flying into Bonaire from an Indonesia vacation.

I suffered knee cap dislocation and tendon rupture on a dive boat fall in Raja Ampat. As a result I was immobilized from bending my left knee. We took Garuda Air back to Amsterdam and had wheel chair access to and from planes. I could be seated by fully retracting all arm rests and sliding in. I also had ramp access to each plane. When I got on KLM to Bonaire the problems started.

KLM had no available leg room seats. We spent nearly €300 upgrading to economy comfort. Not a single arm rest retracted back on the ends and remaining arm rests only retracted partly. Seat bases extended far back making it difficult to slide feet under seats. Imagine flying from Indonesia with an unbendable plank leg and trying to get into a seat full of "dremfels." Some seats were empty so I could stretch my leg across thereby wedging myself under partially retractable arm rests. This flight was roughly 12 hours long and you can't sit upright, without back support, for 12 hours. Your leg gets strained requiring you to constantly get in and out of the obstacle course.

When we landed in Bonaire I had reserved wheel chair access but found myself looking down a steep flight of stairs to get to that wheel chair. You are tired, and every muscle aches. Bonaire recently touted their new plane ramp but it does not reach the door of the KLM plane. The plane's captain kindly helped support me down the stairs and into the wheel chair.

An attendant wheeled me into the baggage area and dumped me without further assistance. How do you expect a disabled person to carry heavy dive gear bags out to a vehicle? The other airport locations took your luggage and you to a vehicle.

In Kralendijk I noticed that all the cars parked in handicapped spots had no handicap permit. Try walking on crutches from a free spot in the back of Tops to Kaya Grande. Wheel chair use is virtually impossible as the sidewalks are a mess and you constantly have to maneuver between the road and the sidewalk without being hit.

Everyone we encounter in Bonaire is willing to give a helping hand and without being asked. Yet, becoming disabled can be tortuous to disabled travelers. It only takes one mishap to become disabled.

—Rich Schwerdtfeger (In his working career Rich was the Chief Technology Officer for access to IBM software by people with disabilities. He developed technologies that are used all over the world by persons with special needs.)

PRAISE

Dear Editor:

In Bonaire and happened to pick up a copy of *The Reporter*.

A great read and well written, interesting articles so thank you!!!

Outstanding information and data on economics as well!! Cruise ship data also illustrates positive revenue outlook.

Most enjoyable, so thank you again.

—David Regan, Philadelphia Pennsylvania



LOVE LETTER TO BONAIRE

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Bonaire, for being so uncomfortable in the beginning and then so warming and welcoming when I didn't give up on you. It happened like what my Antillean friend says: Bonaire accepts you or reject you.

Thank you for accepting me for almost 10 years.

Thank you for opening for me your secret spots, my favorite hidden beach going north where I did all my little rituals of passages during the time and I could be completely hidden for hours. The early morning walking from Oil Slick to Karpata when you showed yourself in all your majestic beauty. Me, you, the sky, the ocean, and parrots, goats, iguanas, the after-the-rain smells of something familiar which reminds me the Mediterranean sea. Your grounding energy that sometimes pulled me deeply like I was right at the center of the Earth. The full moon nights on the pier with hundreds of baby fishes resting underneath. Like a lover, you made me experience any possible emotion. Many times I was so mad

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Between Belgium and The Netherlands



Maartje Gorissen writes, "Last year, we spent, with great pleasure, our summer-holiday on Bonaire. Of course, we read *The Reporter* during our stay. In the photo, you can see our two sons, Alex and Arthur Gorissen, reading *The Reporter* next to a boundary marker (right on the picture). Those markers note the border between Belgium and The Netherlands. We live next to the border, in Belgium, next to Maastricht, and that is the reason why we chose this place to make the picture. □

WIN A PRIZE! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip to an interesting location or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. E-mail to reporter@bonairenews.com This and all 2019 photos are eligible for the next contest.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Saba

Popular Bonaire taxi driver Therese Rosier (right in photo) took a *Bonaire Reporter* with her to Saba. She sent us this photo of herself at the Dutch Museum with Rene Caderius, owner. □



at you and suddenly you touched my heart with a sparkle of magic, maybe a flamingo flying over my car while I was driving south, and I simply melted again.

What a challenge to be with you. But, thank you for challenging me so deeply till the point to turn my life upside down. And thank you for allowing me to sleep on your white sand every time you made me exhausted. For the thousands of hypnotizing sunsets. Each one different. For your caves where I discovered a bright dimension of the darkness. I loved to live in a place which doesn't exist when I fill a form on line. I loved to live in a place where the seasons are only two, instead of four: the high one and the low one. I loved just to say "It is Bonaire!" and laugh every time things are working completely differently from what I expected.

You are not perfect at all – you can be impossible sometimes - but you wear your imperfections like the most precious jewelry. A charming and bizarre woman that everyone forgives anyway. I met hundreds of people here and now I can recognize the ones who are made for you, and the ones who aren't, because there is no middle way. Some of them will try to change you but you know how to turn your back and step away. I wish you to stay strong for the next thousands of years and be unalterable to the so-called development or progress. You don't need it, nobody really needs it. You are one of the last authentic outposts of resistance in the Caribbean. Flourish from inside not from outside. Keep being beautiful, dysfunctional and little weird, as all the people who feel and hear you.

—Laura Stefani

On the Island Since... July 2003 – Jose Smit



Josie Smit at home

“I came here in December 2002 with my son Lars, who was 13 at the time. When Lars was a baby his dad passed away and Lars’ uncle – his dad’s brother – had always told him ‘when you’re a bit older, you come to Bonaire’ where they had a house in Rincon, right across from the church. However, I thought he was still too young to travel alone, so I came along. So we spent Christmas and New Year on Bonaire attending mass at night on the 24th at the Rincon church. Afterwards people were shaking our hands, wishing us ‘Bon Pasku’ – Merry Christmas – and on New Year’s Eve the fire brigade let their sirens roar. We were so impressed! The kindness of the people was overwhelming and we had a great time diving, snorkeling, caving and exploring the whole island by car and scooter.

I’d never thought about leaving Holland, but my then partner was always interested in living abroad, so when I came back in January I told him, ‘If we ever move from here, then it’s going to be Bonaire!’ I was super enthusiastic and he became very curious, so in March the two of us came to the island to see about work opportunities. Both of us were working in healthcare; he in youth care and I in disabled care. We found the Maria Höppner Foundation which was taking care of youngsters and at FKPD – the foundation for the handicapped – there were a number of vacancies. Four months later we were living on Bonaire with our three boys. We’d rented a house and arranged the schools and we were very idealistic but also convinced it was going to work fine!

August that year I started working at FKPD with **Lupe Uranie**, who was the director at the time. I remember Lupe telling me: ‘You’re the angel who came down from heaven! I need you!’ She had rented a house in Rincon for three psychiatric clients who were in need of specialized care which was my field because I am a certified psychiatric nurse and I

have a Bachelor’s Degree as an activity supervisor. I set up the guidance structure and the programs and my only handicap was that at the time I didn’t speak a word of Papiamentu. However, I asked my colleagues to make a list with all the bad and dirty words which I studied and when the clients cursed at me I recognized what they said and I could take action! I wasn’t afraid; it was my job and I was going for it!

The project was a big success. I was the only *makamba* (Dutch person) working for FKPD. During my first night shift, as I was sitting on the porch of the house, writing reports, people were passing by trying to find out who I was and what I was doing there. So the second night I decided to take a walk with my clients and introduce ourselves to the com-

munity. We went to the Rose Inn where we were offered a coca cola and from there on to a number of snacks where I explained who we were and why we were living there. The response was nothing other than, ‘Respect Señora!’ Later on I was asked to become team leader of the large home and I did that for two years.

Because I had three school going boys at home and a partner who was very busy setting up projects in youth care where I was also involved, I couldn’t do the work any longer, so I took a part-time job in tourism. First I became a kayak tour guide at **Elly Albers’** Mangrove Center, then I worked for Voyager Events. Then I had a stand for several years at the cruise ship market. I was making small mosaics, jewelry, driftwood signs, and mobile hangers – all kinds of stuff. The first couple of years



Josie with several works of art



Holiday art

there were just five stands and cruise ships would come in once or maybe twice a week, but the majority of my customers were the long-stay tourists and the ones who would visit the island regularly. As it became busier with way more boats and cruise ship tourists who prefer a \$3-Made-In-China item over something hand-made, I quit in 2015.

I worked for a year on the

I come from a super creative family. One of my sisters is a sculptress and another one a painter. My parents were also very creative. I grew up painting and making music, I learned how to weld and do needlework – everything with lots of love!

In Holland I worked from age 18 to 30 years with mentally handicapped people and I guided these people in creative activi-

“...remember that inside you is your home and never forget to follow the spark.”

Mushi Mushi catamaran as a hostess – at sea – something I hadn’t done before, and it was definitely fun! I’m a person who likes to make people feel good and I think that’s one of my qualities.

Well, the children found their lives too. **Lars** went to Holland in 2008 when he was 18 to study and now, coming April, he’s going to work for KLM as a steward. **Youp** stayed on the island. He is a professional freestyle windsurfer, and every year he goes on a world tour, but he also works at Forsa, guiding youngsters and he’s building his own house here. **Bram** became a chef and this spring he immigrated to Portugal. This year I also found my own place again and the first thing I did was build a workshop attached to the house. I paint, I do carpentry, I saw, I make mosaics and break tiles and something beautiful comes out of it!

I remember one client who was severely autistic and who was only painting tiny boxes or squares. I had to structure that client very strongly, otherwise it became chaos. But after months I saw where he was heading with that painting. It was amazing because then it all came together and all those tiny squares grew into a painting of planes and ships and people. Once a year there was an art fair and at the fair this art gallery holder came to me and offered 2000 guilders for the painting, which was a lot of money in those days. He told me it was impossible that the painting was made by a human being. When I told him the story about my client he was very impressed that such a work of art was created by my client and my crawling into my client’s mind and guiding him in the process.

So, not only my education, but also my own creativity makes it

possible that what lives inside someone can take shape because of my guidance. Now, with my workshops, which I started giving two months ago, I hear people saying, ‘I can’t do this,’ but then I help them by offering compositions, colors and shapes. Of course they do have ideas, but they just don’t know how to go about it. However, in the end they create something they’re truly proud of!

The most important thing is that people get a good feeling by creating something beautiful in a nice environment. One can register for my classes/workshops starting in January. It’s \$20 for three hours. People can contact me by email jose.smit@live.nl or phone/App 785-6670 or Facebook [Jo-Sea Art Bonaire](https://www.facebook.com/Jo-Sea-Art-Bonaire).

The first years on Bonaire were especially very intense; I didn’t have a lot of time for myself. But now I do have time and the inner peace to give shape to the images in my head. I only create things I think are beautiful because that’s what I have to do - to do what I like best and to remember that inside you is your home and never forget to follow the spark. That’s the stage of life I’m in now after everything I’ve done. I trust myself that this is my true reason: creating art and also doing it together with others. I put on some nice music, serve a good cup of coffee and people say they haven’t thought about anything for three hours and they feel so peaceful.

I also do commission work. My biggest order was the mobile hanger at the tax office; I made it of stainless steel, driftwood and shells and named it ‘Balance.’ The stainless steel and its tight shapes show the new developments since 10-10-10, and the organic shapes, the wood and the shells represent nature and culture of Bonaire which makes the balance. But because the moisture was drawn out of the organic part, the mobile hanger is nowadays a bit out of balance, which for me represents the reality...

Bonaire is my freedom, my peace and my home, my safety and my inspiration. From the very first moment I arrived in Rincon, I knew it – this is it. I’m no longer restless, I’ve found my place.”

□ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Navy and Marines Open Day



Last Sunday's open day aboard the HNLMS *Zeeland* offshore patrol vessel attracted over a thousand visitors. Informed crew members described the ship's functions and equipment in a way that entertained and educated children and adults. The ship was originally designed to fulfill patrol and intervention tasks against lightly armed opponents, like smugglers.

In fact on Tuesday, just after leaving Bonaire, having been alerted just after 7 pm by the Rescue Coordination Center radar of an unidentified boat near Bonaire, the ship intercepted a "go-fast" boat with four men and a load of drugs aboard. The ship's helicopter had to fire warning shots to get it to stop. The *Zeeland's* FRISC (fast inflatable) arrested the crew and retrieved drugs and goods that had been tossed overboard. The *Zeeland* then towed the go-fast to Bonaire. *Zeeland's* now back on patrol.



The day wasn't all about ships. On the South Pier alongside the supply ship *Pelikaan*, the Royal Marines had over a dozen demonstrations and exhibitions particularly aimed at youngsters. After handling a rifle, nine-year-old Ava Wuyts said she didn't want to shoot anyone but would want to protect her house and animals if

they were threatened.

Two of the military personnel providing information were **Vian Lomp** from the Curacao Milite and Marine **Canan Babayigt**, originally from Turkey (above). □ *G.D./Reporting & photos by Julie Morgan*

National Park Fees to Rise



According to STINAPA Director **Arjen de Wolff**, 78% of STINAPA's income comes from Dive and Nature fees. Its annual budget amounts to \$1.7 million. Administration of the tags consumes 8%-9% of that budget, but a more automated system is in the plan. STINAPA also would support an airport and port fee collection approach for all island visitors, including those arriving by cruise ship. Additional STINAPA funds come from the DCNA Endowment and the OLB (for education in schools). Direct support from the Dutch Government, as provided to National Parks in the European Netherlands, will be pursued.

Director de Wolff explained that the additional income would be used to better STINAPA's protection of the environment. He added that when someone observes an ecological problem the first thing they do is: "Call STINAPA." He wants to better his organization's response to those calls.

Some of the planned enhancements to STINAPA's missions will be to assign resident Rangers at Lac, Sorobon and Klein Bonaire. These areas are exposed to more significant environmental pressure

Marine Park Acting Manager Lionel Martijn welcomed the new fees. He had recommended that it rise in increments but that was not adopted. The Marine Park is using the feedback from the recent two-week-long stakeholder meeting to improve their services.

Acting Washington Slagbaai National Park Manager Albert Crestian said that his park did not need a government edict to charge a \$3 fee for cruise ship visitors. The fee would be for using the Park's Visitor Center (toilets, trails, tours, museum and exhibits). It was free for them up until now. Several events will be expanded: the Local Food Fest, Lighthouse Commemoration, walks and tours. Part of the park will be fenced in to limit the damage to the natural vegetation caused by feral goats, donkeys and pigs. This will be done in cooperation with the Echo Foundation. Currently tourists pay \$20 to enter park, and they must also have Nature Tag. After March 2019 non-residents and children 12 and over will need the \$25 nature tag as well.

Reporter reader **Randy Cherry's** Facebook comments summed it up: "Bonaire is a very rare jewel and should be recognized as a world wonder. It deserves to be protected. Personally, I view Bonaire the same as I do the Galapagos Islands." □ *G.D.*

The pushback from the increase in the fees for island visitors to experience Bonaire's Land and Marine Parks was not about the increase, but about the government decision to allow cruise ship visitors free entry. All other visitors must pay from \$20 to \$45. The fees hadn't been raised in 13 years.

Objections to the short notice of the increase was softened by delaying the new fees until March 1 of next year.

STINAPA submitted the request for the price rise in February 2018, but the official government ruling was delayed until December.

The rate increases were not without controversy. The dive shop association, CURO (Council of Underwater Resort Operators) felt they were left out of the final negotiations and the rate increase could not be factored into their 2019 business plans.

The announcement of the increases in the on-line pages of *The Bonaire Reporter* gathered more comments than any posting to date. A common thread ran through them: The rates were justified and reasonable in comparison with park admission fees worldwide. But there was universal disgust at the "free ride" given to cruise ship visitors whose ecological impact was very significant if for no other reason because they number in the hundreds of thousands.

As **Joanne Panizzera**, a 20-year Bonaire dive visitor wrote, "I am ok paying my share to support the parks. But, to give cruisers a pass is absolutely abhorrent! Why??? They jam the roads, trample all over the reefs and add to the demise of the diving industry which is what Bonaire was all about. Boutique destination? Who in the hell wants that? Poor Capt. Don; his vision is getting dumped on...and so are the fragile reefs."



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire announces that the registration period has been opened for market parties to register for participation in the management and financing of new fuel storage facilities on Bonaire.

In order to ensure a well-functioning energy and fuel supply, it was decided to work with market parties to realize structural improvements in transport and storage of fuel on Bonaire.

Parties that are interested are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi). More information about this can be requested by email via eoioi@taskforce-itsfs.com

The submission deadline closes on December 21st 2018.

Lieutenant Governor,
E.E. Rijna

Island Secretary,
mr. N.M. Gonzalez



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US\$ 1,950,000



Belnem, Kaya Solo 8
US\$ 365,000



Kralendijk, El Sueno Apt 28b
US\$ 218,000



Kralendijk, Kaya Finlandia 8b
US\$ 350,000



Ocean Breeze, Apartment 36
US\$ 199,000



Belnem, Kaya Solo 3
US\$ 275,000



Lac, San José
US\$ 400,000



Republiek, Kaya Garnet 3
US\$ 339,000



Sabadeco, Crown Terrace 103
US\$ 125,000



Belnem, Bellevue Apt 8
US\$ 579,000

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10,000 Dives Logged

One of the many things new divers learn during certification in 'Open Water 101' is to log their dives. Everyone does it for a while under the watchful eyes of their instructor. Unfortunately the majority of divers fall short after that first logbook is filled.



Linda with her dive logs on the Carib Inn pier— Julie Morgan photo

Carib Inn dive instructor **Linda Baker** took logging her dives to heart and she recorded her 10,000th at 'Something Special' on December 8, 2018. That is 10k dives, or in her words, 426 days and eight hours underwater since 1985. She has a stack of 18 log books to prove it.



Linda with 10,000 dive sign at 'Something Special'. — Ellen Mueller photo

The books show every dive including her first 100 dives in her home country of Canada before moving to Bonaire in 1989.

"Looking back in my dive log books I see that it was at dive 2,550 where I changed the time to days. I had 85 days then," Baker said. "That is when I thought, Hey, I wonder if I can get a year of my life underwater? I never dreamed I

would get 10,000 dives till I reached 9000. Then I thought, Hey, I can make it 10,000."

(Continued on page 11)

Bringing Christmas To Bonaire



Aimed and Marishalla Ayubi

The Ayubi Family Has been Bringing Christmas To Bonaire For 31 Years

Every Christmas since 1987 the island of Bonaire has been filled with the magnificent smell of freshly cut Christmas trees thanks to the Eddie and Meni Ayubi family.

Lebanese born Eddie Ayubi and wife Meni and children moved to Bonaire from Curacao in 1986. Eddie operated Fruiteria del Pueblo and sold seasonal fireworks.

Meni's family sold Christmas trees in Curacao and, with a little convincing, she brought her own tree business to Bonaire. That was 31 years ago and the tree sales continue but with son Aimed in charge.

Eddie died in 2011 and Meni, 73, suf-

fered a stroke eight years ago. Due to Meni's illness Aimed and wife Marishalla decided to take over the Christmas tree sales and began a partnership with Mac Enterprises.

"The most important thing for the Bonairean people is the smell; it's why they buy the trees," said Aimed. "They love the smell it brings to the home."

Aimed and partners, Mac Enterprises, Evelini and Mauro Cecilia, import the trees from a Quebec, Canada, plantation specializing in the production of Balsam and Fraser firs. Approximately 2,000 trees in two 40' containers arrive on Bonaire every November. The trees are sold for \$20 to \$250 based on type and size.

Aimed and Cecilia recently attracted

(Continued on page 14)

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Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.
Phone 599-795-9332 email- Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

That on Bonaire, STINAPA manages the coral reefs in a way that will make them last longer and stay healthier than elsewhere in the Caribbean?

Coral reefs are in decline all over the world, even here on beautiful Bonaire. Many scientists think that we will lose almost all of the coral reefs within 100 years. The effects of losing the coral reefs are unimaginable, but they are not unknown. It is believed that this loss will be due to global threats that seem like they are out of our control (since we're just a small island), but we are still a part of the problem. These are threats like climate change, rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification, and they are very hard to address because they are not limited to a specific place. Only if the leaders of the world come together can something be done to combat these threats on a global scale.



ected by the same negative effects that come with climate change. For example, recent studies have shown that Bonaire's coral reefs are showing signs of resilience – which means that they may be able to recover from damage done by, for example, hurricanes and bleaching events. This is the first time this has been shown in the Caribbean. It is evidence that what we are doing on Bonaire in order to protect the coral reefs is working. It means that we are not wasting time doing unnecessary things.

But there are things that can be - and have been - done here on Bonaire, partly because this is such a small island. There has been a long tradition of protecting the environment here on Bonaire, and the results are clear: **Bonaire has some of the best coral reefs in the Caribbean!** Actions that have been taken to protect the corals reefs have had positive effects. Recent studies done by scientists that have compared how different coral reefs in the Caribbean are managed show that those that are protected and managed the right way are healthier than those that are not, even though they are all af-

The coral reefs are protected and managed in many different ways by different organizations and concerned citizens. Some of these management and protective actions started a long time ago. For example, following Captain Don's advice, the government banned spear fishing in 1971. In 1975, corals were protected. The fee for diving in the marine park was introduced in 1991. Since 2008, there are two areas that are completely protected from fishing. There has been a highly successful Lionfish con-

trol program which was prepared even before the Lionfish invasion. Restaurants buy locally caught Lionfish from divers and fishermen who catch them and make delicious meals from their meat. In 2010, all parrotfish species were protected as well as several other species of marine animals. In 2015, the government installed the sewage treatment system. This reduces the amount of sewage that goes directly into the ocean via the groundwater. There are successful collaborations with companies that do coastal development and renovation activities. One example is the Salt Pier, where STINAPA collaborates with Cargill to transplant sponges that live on the pillars of the salt pier that are being renovated.

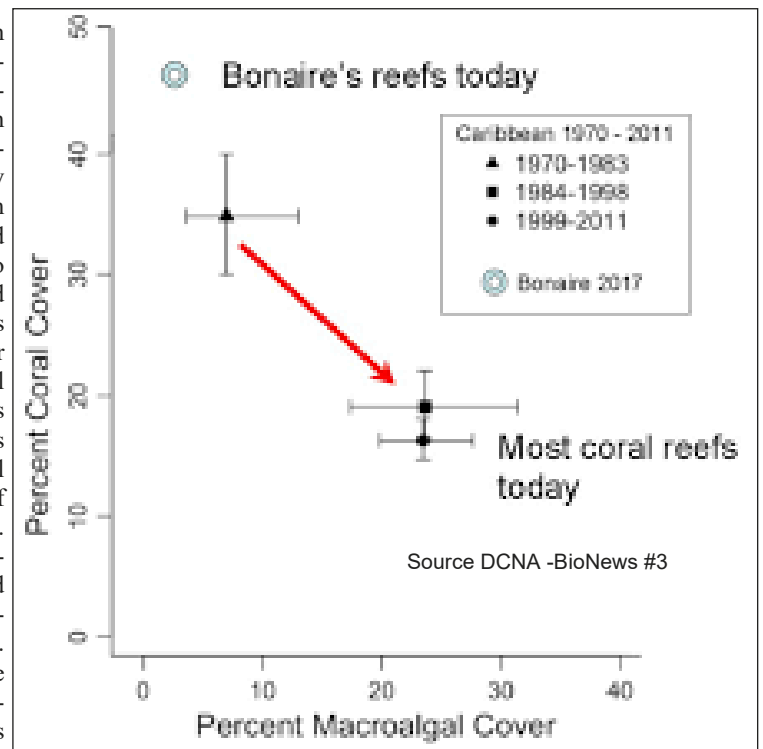
In a report where scientists used mathematical models to predict different future scenarios for some of the Caribbean coral reefs, they conclude that protecting parrotfish and other grazers dramatically reduced the rate of degradation of the coral reefs. Having a high number of parrotfish could also help the reefs recover faster when there

is an extreme hurricane event. This won't save the reefs from global threats like climate change, but it may buy us time.

If we don't do anything, the sad truth is that there eventually won't be any coral reefs left. But if Bonaire keeps being a good example of nature management, others can follow in our footsteps, or hopefully do it even better. Because we all share this world together. □

Emil Ren, STINAPA assistant biologist

Connecting People with Nature



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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

SHOW THE WORLD YOU CAN!

“You are pretty for a big girl.”

“You are wise for a blind person.”

“You play tennis well for a retarded person.”

“You paint well for a deaf person.”

You are beautiful for a handicapped girl.....”

Oftentimes I wonder how people can say things like this, but they do. And the funny thing is, they mostly are very serious and do not mean to hurt.

A very beautiful and special lady that hears those words a lot is **Miss O.** I met her when I started to work on Bonaire. Although most of my clients were mentally challenged, she only had a physical handicap; she was born with cerebral palsy.

Born on Bonaire into a family with three daughters, she lost her dad at sea when she was a baby. When she was three years old, their mother passed away. Nobody could take care of the little girls, so she went to live in Curacao, in a home for “the handicapped.” Here she lived, was cared for and even went to school. The MYTYL school. They offered tutoring for the physically handicapped. Because that was they were called in those days.

Then 33 years ago Miss O. came back to Bonaire. She went to live with her sisters.

I had a computer in my office and Miss O. wanted to learn how to work that computer. I told her to start off by playing a game like Hangman so she could get used to the mouse. Every day Miss O. came to my office and we talked a lot. Since my brother Braham also suffered from cerebral palsy, I was able to teach her a thing or two. We got to be friends and I wanted so much for her to go to live in Holland where she could live in “*Het Dorp*,” a village specially set up for persons with physical disabilities. She refused. She was happy to finally live with her family again. But I kept stimulating her, to think it over.

The CEO of the institution where Miss O. lived in Curacao had always told her that she had this handicap and would never get up to anything; she better learn to live with that. And **that** made me want to help her and fight even harder for her.

Miss O. got better and better on my computer and loved it, and so did I.

When I left Bonaire I had high hopes that Miss O. would come to Holland. And I heard that she went there indeed. But being so far away from her loved ones, she got very homesick and came back to Bonaire.

As soon as my husband and I returned to Bonaire, I heard that she was well and we became Facebook friends. I was so happy to know she was OK. She loves to paint, work on her own computer and listen to gospel music. Miss O. is a firm believer and is happy with God in her life.

For her 55th birthday she wanted to go to Holland for a vacation and that she did. All by herself she got into that big blue bird and had an awesome time. She even got to go to Paris and see Disney World and the Eiffel Tower.



Olivia working with Janice Huckaby for the “Artists In Harmony” story in the November 3, 2006, Bonaire Reporter. Olivia was chosen to present her art to Queen Beatrix on her visit to Bonaire a few days later.



Below the Eiffel Tower

Now Miss O. participates in a project where she can learn to live on her own and is one of the advisors to MIVABO Bonaire’s handicapped persons assist foundation when it comes to accessibility checks.

“You see..... When someone tells you that you cannot.... Show the world that you can!”

The year is almost over. Those who celebrate Jul, Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, I wish a wonderful time with family and friends.

And I hope that 2019 will be a year of changes on Bonaire, for everybody and that Bonaire will be completely accessible for everybody.

Happy 2019 everyone. □

Story by Ria Evers-Dokter, Photos by O. and Greta Kooistra



The Eclectic Collectors: Everything But Lola

Isn’t it marvelous when avocations that produce a feeling of joy become a new source of rewards and pleasure...and all in your own home?

After managing Bonaire’s popular Little Havana bar for six years, **John Weemaes** and **Erika Sanders** have embarked on a new adventure called “Everything But Lola,” which brings together their love of travel, entrepreneurial spirit, and eclectic tastes in an occasional “shop” right out of their home in Playa Pariba. Within this two-story, concrete abode can be found furniture, art, sculpture, textiles, musical instruments, lamps, etc., all with a distinct style that exudes comfort, originality, fun, pragmatism, and perhaps just a smidgen of surrealism.

Their “Everything but Lola” dream began in 2013 with a trip to New Orleans, where near the Spotted Cat bar they saw a two-level house full of art, pianos, antiques that reminded them of an artist’s house. As John recalls, “We thought we would do the same: build our dream house and fill it with the same things.”

Several years later, after selling Little Havana to **Koen Lieben** and **LaToya de Bruin**, Erika describes their epiphany at the time: “It was time to do what we are good at and figure out how we can bring in some money and have fun doing it, something to do while we travel and collect interesting things maybe to sell later and then travel some more.”

And so their unique “everything but Lola” concept is being introduced this December: everything in the house is for sale except the dog Lola. All products have been personally collected by John and Erika from all over the world—i.e. Italy, France, Morocco, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, etc. They resell items for the same prices as the country of origin with no added transportation and import costs (and they even deliver). Since John ran two shops in Holland he “didn’t want regular hours, just open every now and then. It will be a shop that is different from what people are used to.” And what they don’t sell will remain in the house so there is no pressure to “move the inventory” like regular shops. Instead they can have fun collecting, selling, and collecting some more.

Here are some examples:

1. “Flip,” a quirky ceramic bust procured from an old cinema antique shop in Newton, Iowa, on a recent road trip from Chicago, Illinois, to Portland, Oregon.
2. A monkey lamp from Seletti (above right), an Italian brand). Erika points out the reason for three of these lamps: “We needed something fun, something to make it funkier.”
3. Art and handicrafts from local Bonairean artists, whom they both want to support and publicize.
4. A yellow foot stool from Holland that evokes the nostalgia of 70s design.



It looks like New Orleans, but it’s really John and Erika at their Bonaire shop



In browsing the constantly shifting chaos of their living room, one can also find handmade books, vases, chandeliers, handmade cushions from Morocco, carpets from Turkey, chairs and outdoor furniture from France, even an antique sewing store counter and piano. Erika laughs, “If the shop doesn’t work, we will be stuck with a lot of furniture.”

So where did this sense of design, style, and taste come from? For John, “Through my love of music, I met a lot of creative people (musicians, actors, writers, artists) who piqued my interest and then Erika inspired me further.” Erika always had an interest in interior design, reading all the popular magazines for years, but then retiring from Little Havana gave her the opportunity to take a course in interior design. Finally she realized that “I could do something like that.” Ever the supportive husband, John claims that the “creative Erika is flourishing now more than ever.”

In combining a shop with occasional art exhibits (like the recent December 22 Harry de Winter show) and three guesthouses all in the same area, John sees one potential problem: “People may not completely understand the idea and be a bit confused.”

One thing is for sure: visitors will be intrigued and entertained and perhaps find the one artifact that they can’t live without. □
Story and photos by Pauline Kayes

For more information, visit www.everythingbutlola.com.



A Garden? Just Do It

CHRISTMAS AND COLORS

Hi everybody! It's Christmas, a time to celebrate family and old friendship reunions, a time to bring up sweet memories, and a time to enjoy the good life. Time for peace and spiritual thinking. Yes, the best time of the year.

This all goes along with great food, delicious recopies, creative lunches and dinners and peaceful morning brunches. I wish you the happiest moments during the Christmas holidays.

While I was biking around in my neighborhood last week with my eyes always on fruit trees and gardens I saw something that brought up the idea for this article. Oh, yes, we are all busy with cooking and preparing menus these days, the most exotic and colorful dishes we want on the table. Well here is an idea to make your dishes look extravagant and still be healthy.

When making salads, puddings, ice creams and cakes, the yellow or reddish rice, juices and cocktails, we like to see them in an eye catching color. Food these days should look attractive, so we might want to add colors. But most of time these colors are not good for our health. But that should not be a problem anymore. Read this and you will find pure natural fruit colors for all your recipes.

By experimenting with pure fruit and vegetable colors I've come up with some creative fantasy food, which is so colorful and attractive on the table. And it even might taste better or just different or rare.

The purple **Druif Surinam (Surinam Sea Grape)** is a berry with a strong reddish-purple color. A very nice Christmas color in juices, cocktails and ice cream, it turns **blue** in cakes, puddings and other cooked food. The same with the Baby Druif, full with ripe dark purple berries found all over the island. These fruits have such a concentrated color that it only takes a few to give a color to your food.

Do you want **green** color? Uncooked mashed spinach or kalaloe (wild vegetable growing everywhere) and *postelein*. Just grind these veggies, add some drops of water, drain the juice and you have your green color.

Orange color you get from carrots and pumpkin. Get the concentration the same way as above.

Deep **yellow** comes from curcuma powder (turmeric) or from curcuma fresh roots at some supermarkets.

Brown comes from pure chocolate.

Red comes from beets, reddish cabbage, kidney beans, cherries, strawberries and red cactus fruit.

Do you know that these natural food colors have certain food values as well?

Red fruits and vegetables are likely to be rich in antioxidants lycopene and anthocyanins, a carotenoid that helps your body make vitamin A.

Most orange and yellow fruits and veggies are rich in beta-carotene, which your body converts to vitamin A, a nutrient that not only improves night vision, but also helps keep your skin, teeth and bones healthy.

Green vegetables are good for your eyes, bones and teeth, and their vitamin K content helps your blood to clot properly. These antioxidant vitamins, particularly vitamins C and E, may lower your risk of chronic diseases.



Hoba



Sea Grapes (Surinam Druif)

Blue and purple fruits and vegetables contain anthocyanins, natural plant pigments with powerful antioxidant properties that may reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease and certain types of cancer.

White fruits and vegetables, including bananas, cauliflowers, cucumbers, apples and pears are high in dietary fiber, helping to protect you from high cholesterol, and antioxidant-rich flavonoids such as quercetin. They may also lower your risk of stroke.

It's not only interesting to know what the color of your food means to your health but also good to know that you have it all around you right here on Bonaire and even in your garden (or in your neighbor's).

One of my friends asked me to teach him all the fruits of Bonaire. We bike around and from only two neighborhoods we collected bags full of all kinds of fruit. He was amazed that there is so much fruit all over the place, lying under trees or rotting on the trees. We found berries, grapes, papaya, mango, soursop, mispel, golden apple, starfruit, cherries, birambie, plums, pomegranate, hoba, guaba, appledam, coco, bacoba, tamarin, cactus fruit. All that fruit in only a few hours.

So when you are thinking what to prepare for Christmas or the holidays, think of all those colorful healthy fruits and vegetables in your yard. Don't wait for next year to enjoy natural colors and a nice taste in your dishes.

Try it! Just do it now!

I wish you all a great Merry Christmas in peace and love.

□
Story & photos
by Angliet, Nature
Lover



Raw Elements:
safe for the reef, safe for you!



@Rawelementsbonaire on Facebook

The close-to-the-equator sun on Bonaire demands a strong sunscreen, but the same sunscreen must not harm the reef.

The ideal product is now available on Bonaire: **Raw Elements sunscreen products.** They are

100% certified natural and rated #1 by the EWG's (Environmental Working Group) independent guide to sunscreens. Unlike most sunscreens, Raw Elements sunscreens are zinc based and provide maximum protection without exposing your body to harmful chemicals. All are broad spectrum, meaning they've been tested and shown to effectively protect you against all types of harmful rays. They're also waterproof and never sting your eyes, great for outdoor sports, but gentle enough for sensitive skin. The natural ingredients make it completely reef safe.

Raw Elements products are distributed on Bonaire by 16-year-old **Bonnie Roefs** who presented them to **Princess Beatrix** during her recent visit to Bonaire (photo above).

Now available in local shops including: Van den Tweel, Bonaire Windsurf Place, Jibe City Windsurf Shop, Your Scuba Store, Multishop, Carib Inn, STCB and on the Woodwind Tours. Contact them directly at rawelementsbonaire@gmail.com or Facebook page @rawelementsbonaire. □ G.D.



Junior Rangers photo

10,000 Dives Linda Baker (Continued from page 8)

In an online search there are very few hits on anyone achieving 10k dives. This record would seem to be limited to a very few divers. Linda said, "There are probably a lot of divers with even more dives, but they perhaps don't log their dives, like the divemasters at the Divi."

About 90% of her time underwater has been on Bonaire. The other 10% include dives in Jamaica, Thailand, Fiji, Australia, Bali, Mexico, Dominica, Africa, Costa Rica and Lembeh in Indonesia.

"The best thing about diving is finding the critters and the surprises underwater, it's absolutely exhilarating," said Linda. "I would go back to Lembeh in a heartbeat. I was blown away by the muck diving. It's so similar to diving the Town Pier back in the day."

In 2005 Linda was rewarded for her critter finding by REEF (Reef, Environmental Education Foundation). She documented and submitted 1000 surveys with 301 Bonaire species and became the inaugural member of the elite Golden Hamlet Club.

Linda's travels aren't all about diving.

She climbed Mt. Kenya, went on safari in the Serengeti in Tanzania, visited Zanzibar, Nepal, climbed Macho Pichu in Peru, ran marathons in Edmonton, Amsterdam and New York City and a half Ironman in Calgary.

Baker hopes her future travel plans will include the 500-mile walk of El Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Her next dive destination vacation may be the Philippines in 2019, where she can log more dives toward the second 10,000. Linda has started the count in her new log book at one and is now up to 12.

Baker said, "It was really hard to go back to one." □ Julie Morgan



Linda moved to Bonaire in 1989 and worked briefly at the old Sunset Beach Hotel before joining Bruce Bowker's team at the Carib Inn in 1990. Her home life includes a cat named Kasha and three dogs, Zuly, Miko and Missy.

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.

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

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 La- goen 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, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 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.

•**General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)**—Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

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

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

For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private

tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

Fridays

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Cruxita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 9am 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-10am 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: Maryt- jin@gmail.com or Daisycof- fie@hotmail.com

Dutch service Every Sunday evening at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call +599 787-0646

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com. **Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

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

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

Casa de Oracion para todas las naciones, Hanchi Amboina 37 Kralendijk, **Spanish service: every Sunday morning at 9 am. Dutch service: every Sunday evening at 7 pm**

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 or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Day	Date	Cruise ship	Time	Pier	Cap
Tuesday	12/25/2018 Christmas	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744 Pull-mantur
Thursday	12/27/2018	Navigator of the Seas	0700-1700	S.pier	3114 RCCL
Sunday	12/30/2018	Azamara Journey	0700-1800	N.pier	694 Azamar a Journey Inc
Sunday	12/30/2018	Serenade of the Seas	0800-1600	S.pier	2490 RCCL
Monday	12/31/2018	Serenissima	1400-2300	N.pier	118 Volga Dream Cruises
Monday	12/31/2018	Aida Perla	0700-1800	S.pier	3286 Aida Cruises
Tuesday	1/1/2019	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	S.pier	2500 TUI
Wednesday	1/2/2019	Insignia	0600-1400	N.pier	824 Oceana Cruises
Wednesday	1/2/2019	Britannia	TBD	S.pier	3600 P&O
Thursday	1/3/2019	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782 RCCL
Friday	1/4/2019	Albatros	0800-1800	N.pier	1000 V.ships
Monday	1/7/2019	Monarch	0800-1900	N.Pier	2744 Pull-mantur
Monday	1/7/2019	Britannia	TBD	S.pier	3600 P&O

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**

— **The paintings of Luciano Tortorici are on display again at Bistro di Paris**

—**Yana's Fine Art Exhibition at Bon Bida Spa and Gym-**
Info: 599 785-5002

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 all cruise ship days, 9am – 3pm. Free entrance ■

CLOSE IN EVENTS

December 24, 25, 26—Most RCN and OLB Offices closed

Monday, December 24—Friday, January 4—IND (Immigration) Offices closed

Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day-Holiday

Wednesday, December 26—Boxing Day-Holiday

Thursday, December 27—Holiday Cleanup Dive at Yellow Submarine sponsored by Dive Friends/Project Aware.

—**Full Moon Lagadishi Trail Walk**, Washington Slagbaai National Park, \$10

Monday, December 31—New Years Eve—Massive Fireworks Displays all over the island. Rum Runners Restaurant at Captain Don's Habitat and Buddy Dive have big displays prepared.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019—New Years Day-Holiday, Washington Park is open

—**Maskarada** begins at Governor's House at 10am, then to the hospital at 11:15. Later to private families.

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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
	04:08	06:09	13:55	22:51			
Mon 24	0.17 ft	0.17 ft	1.15 ft	-0.30 ft		6:53	18:17
	04:49	07:58	14:50	23:30			
Tue 25	0.27 ft	0.23 ft	1.10 ft	-0.32 ft		6:53	18:18
	05:29	09:41	15:46				
Wed 26	0.38 ft	0.27 ft	1.02 ft			6:54	18:18
		00:08	06:09	11:17	16:42		
Thu 27		-0.32 ft	0.52 ft	0.28 ft	0.90 ft	6:54	18:19
		00:44	06:50	12:45	17:39		
Fri 28		-0.31 ft	0.65 ft	0.25 ft	0.76 ft	6:54	18:19
		L Quarter	01:20	07:32	14:08	18:38	
Sat 29		-0.27 ft	0.78 ft	0.19 ft	0.61 ft	6:55	18:20
		01:54	08:14	15:27	19:39		
Sun 30		-0.22 ft	0.90 ft	0.12 ft	0.46 ft	6:55	18:21
		02:26	08:56	16:42	20:43		
Mon 31		-0.15 ft	0.98 ft	0.05 ft	0.31 ft	6:56	18:21
		02:55	09:39	18:00	21:57		
Tue 01		-0.09 ft	1.04 ft	-0.02 ft	0.20 ft	6:56	18:22
		03:19	10:21	19:10	23:26		
Wed 02		-0.02 ft	1.07 ft	-0.09 ft	0.12 ft	6:56	18:22
		03:35	11:03	20:15			
Thu 03		0.05 ft	1.07 ft	-0.14 ft		6:57	18:23
	01:39	03:16	11:45	21:14			
Fri 04	0.09 ft	0.09 ft	1.04 ft	-0.18 ft		6:57	18:23
	12:26	22:05			New Moon		
Sat 05	1.00 ft	-0.19 ft				6:58	18:24
	13:07	22:48					
Sun 06	0.95 ft	-0.20 ft				6:58	18:24
	13:47	23:23					
Mon 07	0.90 ft	-0.19 ft				6:58	18:25

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Salary to be determined on experience and ability

Submit cv, cover letter and examples of past publications to Reporter@Bonairenews.com before January 1, 2019

Shelter News



PET TIPS FOR "FIREWORKS SEASON"

It's that time of year again on Bonaire, New Year's fireworks season. It is one of the busiest times at Animal Shelter Bonaire with intake of many dogs and cats found wandering and scared. While humans delight in the dazzling displays, many animals are lost, seriously injured, even killed, during this time of year so here are some tips to keep your pets safe.

- It is best to keep your pets inside when fireworks are being set off.
- Walk your dogs during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely.
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks.
- Put on some music or tv to mask the firework sounds.
- Prepare a quiet space or hiding place for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. They may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Ensure your pet is wearing some form of easily readable identification – even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag with a phone number.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, meow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out – it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- Stay calm, act normally and give lots of

praise for calm behavior. It's OK to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.

- Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make them more stressed.
- Pets are likely to drink more when they are worried, so fill their water bowl up to the brim. BEST TIP: Include Florence Ditlow's Rescue Remedy in their water bowl, available at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Just 4 Pet or the Da store.
- Seek veterinary advice if you feel your pet needs a prescription calming medicine. **DO NOT GIVE YOUR PET ANYTHING THAT IS NOT PRESCRIBED BY A VETERINARIAN EXCEPT FOR RESCUE REMEDY.**
- **Never** take your dog to a fireworks display.
- **Do not throw or set off fireworks when your pet or other pets are in the vicinity.** Dogs that may not be afraid of the noise of fireworks may likely chase what you throw or be curious. This is how many dogs on the island have been seriously injured or killed.

□ Jane Disko-Madden



Pet Of The Week

Hello! Let me introduce myself, my name is **Tarzan**. No, I'm not Tarzan of the Jungle, I'm Tarzan from Bonaire! I am a healthy, sterilized and active Stafford mix about one year old. I like to play with friends and run...I really like to run! When I'm tired of playing and running I just want to be next to you so I can be petted and loved. I almost forgot, I do love water...especially in a big water bowl so I can dig out the water and relax in it and fantasize about having a family. I see us walking in nature, swimming at the beach, and playing in the garden of the place I can call home. I like all kinds of children, but I think I'm better with older kids because I can be a bit clumsy.



Would you like to meet me? Because I really want to meet you. When you come I have a secret to tell you....I have a big crush on my lady friend dog, Taylor....whoops, now I told you the secret already! Please come and meet me and take a look at my big hazel eyes and you'll fall in love with me. Now that's an old jungle trick....hypnosis! I am waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. □

Story & photo by Laurie Smith



More Fireworks Tips To Benefit Pets From The Pet Project 2018

As noted in *The Reporter*, New Year's fireworks are expected.

You probably know of Rescue Remedy- the herbal treatment for pets sold at year's end. I have a few suggestions for administering this solution. Remember large amounts of Rescue are not needed; you get best effect by repeating a few drops regularly.



Begin adding a few drops to the water of your pet, in the week of Christmas.

You may put it on food or treats.

During high volume noise you may apply the solution to the part of the pet's foot with no hair. It can get through the foot pad.

Please keep pets indoors to prevent loss of your friend. If your pet disappears after fireworks, check the Shelter first..



Rescue Remedy is now at the Animal Shelter for \$4. Da Drug Store in Hato also has it. □ Florence Ditlow RN, herbalist and owner of contented, adopted dogs.

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Ayubi Christmas Trees (Continued from page 8) some competition with another tree importer, but Aimered is not worried. Their tree business has a great following delivering trees to the majority of resorts, banks and restaurants. Under their hands the tree business is thriving, selling out every year well before Christmas.

Aimered is also the owner/operator of radio station 99.9 Live FM.

What to do with your tree after Christmas

According to Aimered, when Christmas is over, Bonairean Catholics use their old tree to celebrate the Three Kings visit in the nativity story. They hold a party on January 6 in honor of their visit and burn the tree as an offering.

Environmental suggestions include: Grinding or chipping the dried tree into mulch to create a better garden soil or to create a bird sanctuary. □ Story & photo by Julie Morgan





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

ORION FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

We can tell that winter is here both from the number of tourists and the stars in the Sky Park. Even the most inexperienced observer can look up and identify the constellation Orion. Orion is the unmistakable king of the winter sky. You can find him by his distinctive belt of three stars in a row and several other stars that mark his body and head.

From Earth, the outline of Orion is easy to imagine. But what if you could take a trip off the Earth and sail among the stars? Would Orion still look the same from another solar system? Remember the stars we see aligned in our sky are all vastly different distances from us in space. The closest star to the Sun is called Alpha Centauri and we should really call it a system. Instead of one star Alpha Centauri is actually three stars that orbit each other: two yellow suns and one little red one. This system is about 4.3 light years away. That's about 25 trillion miles! So even though Alpha Centauri is closer than the other stars, it's not exactly close.

Perhaps the farthest star you could see with the naked eye is Deneb. It marks the tail of the swan constellation Cygnus.

James explains: It's a whopping 3000 light years away. So the distance to the stars you see at night can vary a lot. On any night this week face southeast. And behold! There he is, Orion in all his glory. No stars tie together like those in the constellation of Orion. Three stars in a row form his belt. Their names are, from left to right, Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka. From there, we can outline the rest of his body to show him as a mighty hunter with his upraised right arm holding a club and his outstretched left arm holding a shield. And he has other stars that form a sword hanging from his belt. I know that takes a lot of imagination, but see if you can see him in the stars.

Now let's label Orion's other major stars. We have bright blue Rigel marking his foot and the really red star named Betelgeuse marking his armpit.

His other shoulder is a star called Bellatrix and the other knee is called Saiph. Finally his head star, which is kind of dim is called Meissa.

From Earth these eight stars form a nice, neat pattern that our imaginations can turn



into a giant hunter. They look like they're the same distance from us, but the closest of the eight stars is Orion's shoulder, Bellatrix at about 245 light years away. That means the light we see shining from this star left it 245 years ago. Next is big, bad Betelgeuse who is about 625 light years away. So Orion's armpit is nowhere near his other shoulder. Saiph is a little farther, at around 650 light years and Rigel measures about 773 light years away. Orion's head and belt are his farthest stars. Belt star Alnitak is about 800 light years away and Mintaka lies 916 light years away. Head star Meissa is about 1,100 light years away and Alnilam is a whopping 1,342 light years away. That means because we can see Alnilam as a bright star, at such a vast distance, it must be humongous. The diameter of Alnilam is 30 times that of our Sun.

So what if we launch off the Earth and travel faster than the speed of light to gain a different perspective on the stars of Orion? When we come around to the side of these eight stars we can see Bellatrix far from the rest and Alnilam way over on the other side. You don't see Orion in the stars now.

So look for Orion this week and think about the vast distances to the stars and think about what aliens might see in our stars. Stargazing can definitely take your mind on some incredible journeys. ■ Dean Regas & James Albury



THE STARS HAVE IT

December 2018

Aries (March 21st – April 20th)—Plenty of raw energy is available this December 2018, but it will be up to you. Patience with others may not be easy this month, but it will come. Mercury retrograde in your 9th house tangles communications and undermines understanding until the 20th. Mars enters the same house on the 25th giving you an opportunity to choose tolerance over self-importance.

Taurus (April 20th – May 21st)—As the month begins, Neptune, the planet of delusion and confused thinking, forms a harsh angle to willful Mars and materialistic Venus in Scorpio who are opposing your Sun. This is the astrological recipe for passion but not necessarily the kind you might be hoping for. There is something special in the air, but the uncertainty of change may be scary.

Gemini (May 21st – June 21st)—Mercury, the ruler of your Sun sign, is retrograde in the 7th house of relationships. Communication with your significant other or clients is not what it could be. There is lots of conversation but not enough understanding. Money conservation and budget scrutiny are important now.

Cancer (June 21st – July 23rd)—Your Sun sign is the site for Saturn's retrograde transit. The next several months will involve personal inventory taking to decide which beliefs and patterns are 'keepers' and which are not. Don't hesitate to dream, but 'a day at a time' is what you need to focus upon. Your houses of romance and relationship are highlighted this month.

Leo (July 23rd – August 23rd)—Expanded thinking and communication are major themes this month as Jupiter continues through your 3rd house. Asteroid Chiron in the last degrees of your 6th house through February, 2018 provides the opportunity to expand your knowledge of healing or to consider a healing practice.

Virgo (August 23rd – September 23rd)—Benefic, expansive Jupiter, now at the heart of your 2nd house of money, will be joined by the South Node on the 27th. With Mercury retrograde, however you need to be satisfied in your own wisdom and truth without expecting others to 'get it.' Be patient... particularly later in the month and especially with family members.

Libra (September 23rd – October 22nd)—Philosophical, probing Jupiter is reaching the halfway mark in your Sun sign where it will spend another 10 months. Jupiter rules your 3rd house of communication and the mind and helps you to formulate whatever

you might want to teach, speak, or write about. It is also a favorable time for expanding business horizons. There is an old issue or two to lay to rest so that you can restore much needed peace and harmony within yourself.

Scorpio (October 22nd – November 21st)—The transit of Mars and Venus through your Sun sign is already in progress as the month begins. This has ignited your intensity and passion. There is great power to heal and uplift in what you have say and share with others. You are at a turning point in accessing the self-trust that will allow to more freely express that part of you.

Sagittarius (November 21st – December 21st)—Happy Birthday to visionary, fun loving Sagittarius! Jupiter, the ruler of your Sun, is now arriving at the midpoint of your house of friends. Fiery, energetic Mars moves into Sag on the 25th ratcheting up your intensity, so be cognizant of your impact on those around you. You are in store for a powerful shift in the last week of the month.

Capricorn (December 21st – January 19th)—In the first week of the month, benevolent, expansive Jupiter transits the heart of your 10th house of career and receives great support from the Sun and Neptune. Creative opportunities are abundant. If you have artistic or healing talents this is a great time to expand them or consider turning them into a career. renovating the relationship accordingly.

Aquarius (January 19th – February 19th)—New talents and interests are beginning to percolate now to be revealed and will be revealed in their fullness over time. On the other hand, uncertainties about your job may surface. Because Saturn rules your 12th house of spirit it is important to go within for solutions. Events or realizations in the last days of the month will help you to see things with greater clarity. Socialize some at month's end. You never know what important connections you might make. Read that new inspiring book you heard about to stoke the fire in your belly.

Pisces (February 19th – March 21st)—Themes of freedom and creativity abound, but perhaps not according to your ideal. Saturn's retrograde passage in your 5th house of creativity is about developing strategies for your creative part. Not to worry, . There are healing energies and opportunities all around you. Use your sensitivity for healing and magic rather than sweating the small stuff you have no control over. □ Horoscope.org

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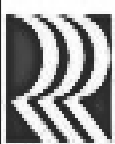
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