

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE January 7-21, 2019, Year 26, Issue 1
The REPORTER

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2019**

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

**Maskarada
Tradition
See Page 11**



Julie
Morgan
Photo



Communications *The Reporter* have received via social media and email suggest that Bonaire will lose stay-over tourism by pandering to cruise ships. (see Letter to the Editor in this edition and comments on *The Reporter's* Facebook page.)

The correspondents are concerned that the hundreds of thousands of cruise visitors will undermine the health of the island's reefs and the road traffic and parking problems will inconvenience residents and overnight visitors while not contributing to the cost of managing the environment or improving the infrastructure.

► **The Bonaire island government (OLB) experienced problems with its domain name bonairegov.com last week.** As a result, it was not reachable by e-mail and its website, www.bonairegov.com was not active.

The recovery actions have been initiated. The problems should be resolved by the time you read this.

For urgent matters, you can contact them by telephone at +599 717-5330.

► **It's a compassionate social benefit:** If a person with a low income (no higher than \$1,073 per month) needs financial help for a large and necessary expense and has no money to pay for it, the RCN unit Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) can help. For example, when a refrigerator or stove breaks down, or when someone expects a baby, but does not have money for the layette. Special assistance is arranged for the specific situation. To

determine eligibility, an employee of the RCN's SZW unit checks by interviewing the needy person and a home visit if appropriate. The assistance is always in the form of goods or services not cash.



Lyndon Gardiner, founder of interCaribbean Airways

► **The determination of whether interCaribbean, the regional Turks and Caicos airline, will take over InselAir** has been again postponed, this time until January 16, at 3 pm. According to a Curacao's court decision interCaribbean Air must provide a multi-million dollar guarantee that would rescue InselAir. If it does not, the company must pay a penalty of \$500,000. A sticking



► **Bonaire's first 2019 baby was born in the early morning hours of the very first day of the year.** Midwife Sophie Zeegers holds a board listing the specifics.

In the photo with MCB's Lito the Lion mascot is MCB Bonaire Managing Director Cherethy Kirindongo who visited to present the mother and baby some gifts and a savings account in his name. Holding 7½ lb. **Baby Jordan** is his mother **Nohely Lourens**, Also looking on is **Inga Tjin-A-Sie** from Ennia.

We at *The Reporter* want to congratulate the Lourens family and join in welcoming Bonaire's newest resident. We hope all have a happy and long life.

point is that interCaribbean would own only 49% of the rescued airline. The island government of Curaçao would own the other 51%.

► **KLM wants to discontinue the duty-free sales on board** its flights this year because they are not very profitable due to the competition from online stores. On line prices are often cheaper there than on board.

KLM staff has mixed feelings because they can earn some extra money on the sale of items on board. The company now claims to generate more income from additional services, such as baggage, meals, seat choices and holiday trips with flights and hotels.

► This week, the director of the Netherlands World Wildlife Fund) WWF-NL, **Kirsten Schuijt**, will visit Bonaire for the first time. On Friday, Janu-

ary 11, STCB will organize a trip from STCB so that Kirsten can 'discover' the local nature. Perhaps a dive at Klein Bonaire?



Jong Bonaire chess players face competitors from Chile

► **Another activity available for Bonaire youngsters is chess.** In the recent SGB High School Championship **Emanuel Lont** outplayed **Ralph Salimin**, then beat **Mark Anthony Nicolaas** to

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The Bike Professionals

Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2)

become the under-18 champ. The top five players in the event were:
 1. Emanuel Lont 12 points; 2. Mark Anthony Nicolaas 8 points; 3. Ralph Salimin 8 points; 4. Tamaris Pikeur 5 points; 5. Abiël Nicolaas 3 points.
 Organizer **Serapio Pop** pledges more competitions in 2019.

► **Work is moving forward on the construction of the new Chogogo Hotel** on the site of the original Bonaire Beach Hotel. Completion possible this year.



Two ships in Kralendijk

► **There will be two cruise ships on EVERY** cruise ship day but one over the next two weeks. See schedule on page 12. Criticism of the effect of the cruise ships to the Bonaire quality of life and the alienation of stay-over visitors is growing, perhaps motivated by the free pass given to people arriving on a cruise ship while overnight visitors must pay a \$25 “nature fee.” See letter on page 4.

► **The staff of *The Reporter* wish all our readers a joy filled new year.** Thank you for voting us the #2 newspaper of Bonaire, — the top non- Papiamentu language newspaper. *The Reporter* is still free because of the support of advertisers. Please remind the owners of the shops, markets and hotels that advertising in *The Reporter* is good for business. It’s the most read newspaper on the island by tourists as well as locals and has a world-wide readership on the Internet. □ *G./L.D.*

Supermarket Prices



► In the last monthly check of supermarket prices by consumer organizations Unkobon/ FTpKB/ Ministry of Economic Affairs, **the ranking of the four least expensive and the four most expensive supermarkets remains the same.** In the middle group there was some re-alignment. For example, Rincon City now has cheaper alternatives for the expensive name-brands in the shop.

The observers also saw that the cheaper brands were often sold out in December. The prices of the products for each supermarket can be found on www.unkobon.org.

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Have something to say?
Want to give your opinion?
Email reporter
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Abandoning Bonaire?

Dear Editor:

When we arrive in July 2019, my wife and I will be completing our 30th consecutive visit to Bonaire. Our visits now include all eight members of our family, three generations, some of which have also been coming for over 20 years.

During this time we have seen many changes, some good and some not so good. When we first came we never locked our doors and enjoyed the universal friendship and hospitality of the fine people of Bonaire. Now we must lock everything. Because we travel extensively we understand this is not unique to Bonaire. It is still disappointing.

We have also seen considerable damage to the beautiful reefs of Bonaire. Some of this



is obviously beyond local control. However, the increase of cruise ship traffic does not help.

Our biggest concern is the extreme increase in cruise ship traffic that you are now allowing to visit and use the marine park and the waters of Bonaire for free. How-

(Continued on page 6)

First New Shop of the New Year

On Monday, January 7, a great new store with many useful and attractive home products will open to the public.

Last month Nuria Sint Jago began the conversion of her home and garden to the Bonaire Home Factory. On this same date (November 25) her late father, Ambrosio Nicolaas SintJago, also known as "Cola," would have celebrated his 86th birthday.

In the presence of close friends and family Nuria together with her two youngest children, **Neo** and **Naila**, "soft" opened the store and gave everyone a tour. As of Monday, January 7th, the store will be open to the public. It's on **Kaya Nikiboko Noord 44B**.

Bonaire home Factory will be selling home and garden products such as tiles, mosaics, pool cleaning necessities, garden accessories such as solar lamps and torches and bamboo products.



Nuria (right) with her children

For more information call Nuria at 777-4149. You can also visit her Facebook page Bonaire Home Factory to take a look at what they have. □ *Story & photo by Fleurtje Veldkamp*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Budapest, Hungary

During last summer in July 2018, this group from Bonaire: **Feliz** and **Toekijem Nicolaas**, **Felix Cicilia**, **Sandra Martina** and **Magna Molina** participated in a bus trip known as "Leu foi Kas" (Far From Home) for people from the ABC Islands. Feliz wrote, "Touring Eastern Europe and here we are in Budapest, Hungary, at the Trinity Square, in front of the Holy Trinity Column; beautiful place with lots to see, close to the Matthias Church, pictured with *The Bonaire Reporter*." □

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



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in New Bedford, Mass. USA

This photo sent was in on behalf of Kristen Hatton, a repeat Bonaire visitor who wanted to be considered for *The Reporter's* photo feature, Picture Yourself. She was at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts. □



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On the Island Since... 2013 – John Joubert



John Joubert and his wife Maria-Olga and their children, Jaden, Jarreth and Jayson

“I was born in Medellin, Colombia, but both my parents are from Curacao. When I was a couple of months old my mom and I went back to Curacao, where I grew up amidst my family. Then, when I was seven, I moved to Bonaire with my mother and stepfather. I stayed here for two years. After one year my mom and stepdad left for Holland to see how it was and whether they’d want to stay there for a longer period of time.

As it wasn’t a sure thing that we were going to live in Holland permanently, they didn’t want to interrupt my school so they left me with my granddad, **Edgar Joubert**, in his land house on Bonaire. It was a great time; I had a lot of freedom, there was plenty of space and I could play in the outback as much as I liked. I went to Papa Cornes elementary school and I loved – and still love – to swim. Together with my opa I went often to Slagbaai and Pink Beach. He really tried his utmost best to make it fun for me. After one year my mom and stepdad decided they wanted to stay in Holland and we settled in Hellevoetsluis, in the south-west of Holland, not far from Rotterdam.

It was a whole new experience. Especially the seasons were new to me and so was the combination of wind and rain. I went everywhere on my bike, to school, to

friends, to shop and although I’d seen snow before, I’d never lived somewhere where it was cold for so long. I did the sixth, seventh and eighth grades there and had lots of friends. When I was 13 we went back to Bonaire where I did Mavo at SGB. It was fun to be back and I reconnected with my old friends. After Mavo I did Havo. I hung out with my friends and I swam a lot.

When I was 20 I wanted to continue my studies, although the real reason was that my girlfriend – now my wife - had left the year before, to study in Leeuwarden, in the north of Holland. So I went too, to study social legal assistant. We moved in together for the first time and it was also a first that I was living so far away from my parents which made me more independent. After I’d graduated I went to study Management, Economy and Law, but after I passed my preliminary exam I went to the University of Groningen to study Law.

The first six months were a reality check. It was very disappointing to find out it was too

high a level for me. However, I did pass my introductory exam. But then my girlfriend was offered a job close to Rotterdam and we decided to move there. I had enrolled at Erasmus University, but then I decided to take a job and went to work at the tax office at the rent and care allowance department, while my girlfriend worked at an accountant’s office.

Well, life went just ahead and in 2009, my girlfriend, **Maria-Olga**, who was born in Venezuela, and I, got married on Curacao. In 2010 our son **Jayden** was born in Rotterdam. At first we had planned to stay in Holland for another 10 to 15 years but the birth of our son changed everything. It was overwhelming to be new parents and we had the feeling we needed help and we missed our family.

So, in 2011 we went to live on Curacao. Jayden was eight months old. It was great. We lived close to cousins, uncles and mother but it was also tough because my mom had a freight forwarders company and I began running it. There was a lot to learn but at the same time I had to make sure everything went well. And it went well – we stayed for three years and worked very hard but one day, when I came to Bonaire for a funeral, I found out this was where I wanted to be. I’d forgotten I could be at the sea in a minute and how much I’d missed that. So, when I came back to Curacao, I told my wife I wanted to live on Bonaire again. She didn’t agree; we were just building up our life on Curacao. However, I didn’t give up. I went online and saw a job vacancy



Deederick and John with the dog food they are selling

land. Once we even attended the same New Year’s Eve party! We became colleagues and followed the same customs training which we finished in July, 2016. In the meantime we’d become friends and that’s how ‘**Pampered Dogs Bonaire**’ started. Both of us love dogs from when we were little and one day, when we were talking about the dogs we had, we came up with the idea to wash dogs on location, at people’s houses. We’re bringing (flea and tick) shampoo, nail cutters and towels and the only thing we need at the person’s house is water. That’s what we decided, to keep costs as low as possible. So far we’re doing well and it’s fun! Even dogs that are scared of water become quiet and let themselves be washed. It costs \$20 to have your dog washed; including grooming it’s \$45. It’s a fixed price, but it does depend on the size of the dog.”

Deederick says, “I’ve loved dogs ever since I was a child and to me it’s never just a dog – they are my family. I can’t imagine a life without a dog. To me it’s the same as a child. When I’d fin-

shinier and they loved it. So then we reached an agreement with the franchiser in Curacao and we’ve already placed three orders in a short period of time, which impressed him a lot.”

John continues, “What makes me happy is the positive feedback we’re getting from our clients. We do free home delivery, almost 24/7 and if necessary... within 30 minutes but not at night. Our dog-clients are all different, big and small mixes, but also pedigree dogs. This food you can keep on giving from puppy to adult and it’s also for small sized dogs. We have different kinds of food with more or less proteins and fat but also grain free food for dogs that are prone to skin problems. We find it important that dogs in general are getting more attention and better care and if people don’t have time to do so or they can’t do it themselves anymore but they want their dog to be clean and fresh, then we come to pamper your dogs! We’re always doing it together and we check first on the dog to see what it is we’re going to do. The grooming we do at home and if the dog can’t be washed at the owner’s place, we’ll take it home as well.

People can contact us through Facebook: **Pampered Dogs Bonaire** or email pampered-dogs.bon@gmail.com. For us it’s not just business, it’s a hobby and the dogs love to be clean again! Of course we will pursue our careers at customs, but this is fun! If it’s up to me, I will stay on Bonaire forever. I don’t want to move anymore; it feels good, safe and familiar. As a little boy I played here in my granddad’s courtyard and now we’re back living here again and I see my own children playing in the same courtyard while my granddad enjoys so much having them around and I think ‘Wow! This is home!’”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“... to me it’s never just a dog – they are my family. I can’t imagine a life without a dog. To me it’s the same as a child.”

which I knew she would love. I mailed her that link. Reading it she became very enthusiastic until she found out it wasn’t on Curacao but on Bonaire! Nevertheless she applied and got the job! And so we moved back to Bonaire in 2013.

Two years later, in 2015, the twins were born. After a lot of talking we’d decided to go for a second child and we were hoping for a daughter, but then we got two little boys, **Jarreth** and **Jayson**.

I worked temporarily at my uncle’s company and then I applied for a job at customs and was hired. There I met **Deederick Paulina**, whom I knew from Hol-

ished my custom’s training they sent me to Holland to do the dog handler training and I did the narcotics dog training. After we’d started with washing and grooming I got the idea to also sell dog food, vitamins and supplements. I’m in various American Bully dog groups on Facebook where I saw a dog food brand named ‘Victor’ and according to the comments everyone was very satisfied with it. So I contacted the franchiser on Curacao, made an appointment and spoke to him about our plans. Then I first bought it for my own use as I have four American bullies and one customs dog at home. They did very well on that food. They looked better, their coats became

Barracudas Compete in Curacao



Barracuda Swimmers



Winners Basi Spruit, Marcel Spruit, Anita Smits and Nicole Pedersen

In December 13 swimmers from the Bonairean Aquatics Club "Barracudas" participated in the 9th Siegfried Francisco Invitational on Curaçao. Eight Caribbean Netherlands swimming clubs took part in this competition.

After three days of swimming, the Bonaire Barracudas swimmers took a total of 250 seconds off their best times, resulting in 38 personal bests.

Notable were **Kiki and Stijn de Valk, Elina Bosma and Koen Verhoeven** who all swam beautifully in their first competition. Elina received a performance ribbon and 8th place in the 100m freestyle and Koen a 7th place and ribbon for the 50m backstroke.

Other performance ribbons were received by **Ruben Volmuller** on the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke, **Jonathan van Meerten** on the 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle **Quinn Divine-Dalm** on the 100m backstroke and **Melissa van Blek** on the 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke. Melissa also won a beautiful silver medal on the 50m breaststroke in a brilliant time. **Nicole Pedersen** achieved one 6th place, one 7th place and three 8th places in beautiful personal records. **Valentina van den Berge** improved her times on all of her distances. Brothers **Basi and Marcel Spruit** were ready to go. Basi got a nice 8th place on the 200m breaststroke and swam several personal records.

Marcel won two gold medals at 50m &

100m breaststroke, two silver medals at the 200m breaststroke & 50m butterfly stroke and three bronze medals at the 50m back crawl & 100m freestyle.

Trainer **Anita Smits** won three gold medals on the long distance swims: the 400m medley and the 800m & 1500m freestyle.

At the end of this month The Barracudas Water Polo team will travel to Curaçao for another competition. Interest in swimming as a competitive sport is accelerating on Bonaire under the guidance of experienced coaches. Bonaire has the potential to offer its swimming youngsters the same opportunities it offered its windsurfers a generation ago.

Currently most training takes place at the sea-pool in front of the Arthur "Tului" Domacassé Park on the waterfront. Organizers are hoping that a competition-size swimming pool will be constructed on Bonaire because international competitions are all in pools. How many baseball diamonds and soccer fields are there on island?

Are you also interested in swimming (competitive swimming, water polo, open water swimming or synchronized swimming)? Please contact via e-mail: barracudasbonaire@gmail.com, visit the website www.bonairebarracudas.org and like the team on <https://www.facebook.com/bonairebarracudas>.

□ Press release/G.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Winner- 2018 Contest Oda and Ruud Peters in Nepal

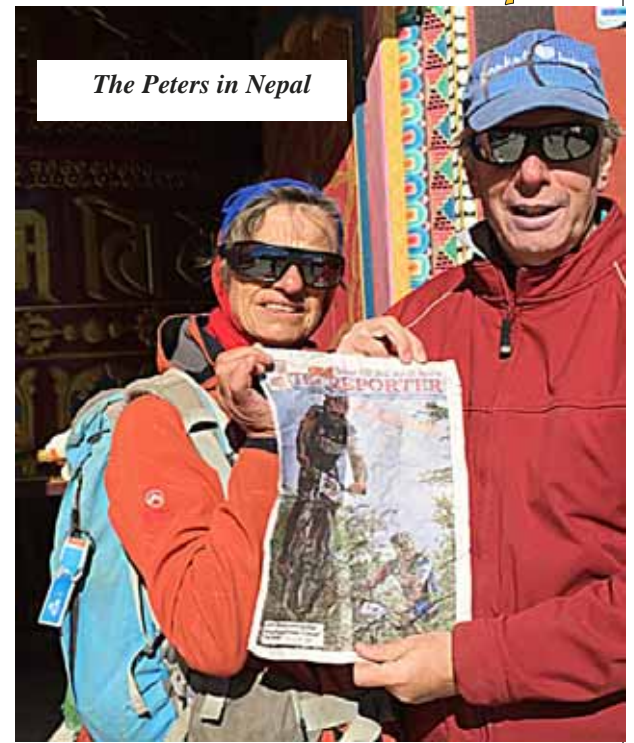
"It was heavy," said Ruud. Not the paper but the route and severe weather in the high mountains." During their trek in Nepal the Peters carried *The Reporter* so they could have this photo snapped.



Their prize is dinner for two at the highly rated Rumba Café waterfront restaurant in the Harbourside Mall.

Runners up in the contest were **Cars and Paulina-Jasperse** in Times Square NYC, and **Karen Sue Mackaluso**, with Tony the Tiger at the Kellogg Company factory in Battle Creek, MI, USA. Congratulations to all who entered their photos.

Picture Yourself with *The Reporter* in 2019 and win. ■ G.D.



The Peters in Nepal

Letters (Continued from page 4)

ever, visitors like us, who stay for an extended time, pay for hotels, eat in local restaurants and patronize local establishments, must pay a now increased fee.

Please understand, we do not object to the fee or the increase. Bonaire was a leader in protecting its natural resources and the marine park. We have been and continue to be happy to support that effort by paying a fee to enjoy it. We do, however, have a great deal of difficulty understanding why you do not expect the cruise ships to also pay their share for this privilege as well.

We implore you to reconsider this decision. Bruce, Kitty, Linda and the staff at CARIB INN have become close friends. Don't encourage us to abandon them and Bonaire by continuing this misguided policy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Carl L. Campbell and the entire family

GOOD TO KNOW

Dear Editor:

As I was cycling around Sabadeco this morning, I have been welcomed by a very aggressive dog who tried to attack me just in front of Terrace number 230.

To make sure that you find out which pedigree it is, the owner who was out, wrote it on the fence. "Rottweiler," it says, and for sure, he (she) knows how to growl.

I was trapped but I knew a trick. I had to stand still for 20 minutes at least because this savage beast is also very patient.

With the heat rising the black wolf had to look for shade. He looked back, too late, I was gone downhill..

Wealthy people feel insecure. In Sabadeco so many residents started having dogs who have very good guarding instincts but most owners have no idea (that) they need to train these kind of dogs. Sabadeco has become the most dangerous place in Bonaire for walkers or cyclists.

Fred Minne

The Yoga Terrace



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DID YOU KNOW?

That the temperature in the sand decides if baby turtles become male or female?

Turtles are some of the coolest animals in the ocean as can be seen in the popular movie "Finding Nemo." If you don't believe me, you can see sea turtles for yourself in many places around Bonaire, which is home to three of the world's seven species of sea turtles. They will act all cool and relaxed as long as you don't chase them in the water where they spend more than 99.9% of their lives.



Almy photo

Leatherback turtle hatching

around for the sea turtles to be able to reproduce. In many places, there are already more female than male sea turtles hatching.

Every once in a while the female turtles have to do something that is not so cool but very important; they have to leave their home - the ocean - and come up on to dry land to lay their eggs deep in the sand. This is a short but exhausting trip for an animal that is used to near weightlessness in the water and swimming with flippers. Nesting usually takes an hour or two. The female turtles do this several times during the nesting season, which lasts from April/May through December in Bonaire. **In 2018, the conservation organization Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire recorded 105 nests on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire.** When the eggs with the baby turtles inside are deposited in the sandy hole that their mother made, they don't yet have a sex; they are neither male nor female. But after the eggs are buried deep down in the sand, something happens and when they finally hatch and crawl out of the sand and into the ocean 60 days later, the sea turtles have become either male or female.

Researchers are trying different ways to lower the temperature in sea turtle nests so that more males will hatch and balance the sex ratio. Since many organizations that are working to protect nature have really tight budgets and seldom get enough funding from governments, there is a need for these methods to be not only as effective as possible, but they also have to be low cost and low-tech. In a number of experiments made on Bonaire's sister island, Saint Eustatius, researchers tried out different techniques of reducing the temperature by 1) shading the nests with different materials and 2) moving the eggs to a new location. The most effective material to lower the temperature by shading the nests turned out to be palm leaves which lowered the temperature by an average of 0.6° C. Relocating the nests to another beach was also proven to be effective since the temperature in the sand could vary by 1.9° C between beaches that were only one kilometer apart. These conservation strategies can be useful to reduce the impacts of a warming climate and help ensure that sea turtles will continue to be cool and beautiful animals that may be seen and enjoyed by Bonaire's residents and visitors. □

In humans, a specialized chromosome that we get from our father's sperm decides if we will be a boy or a girl. But turtles don't have these chromosomes. Instead, it's the temperature in the sand that decides what sex a sea turtle will become. If the temperature in the sand is below 29°C, the eggs will develop into male sea turtles and if the temperature is above 29°C, they will develop into females.

Since temperatures are rising due to climate change, there is a real concern that in the near future there will be too few males

Emil Ren, STINAPA assistant biologist Connecting People with Nature



Mountain Bike Fun Race



Mountain biking is a growing sport activity on Bonaire. Besides the pleasure of riding the many dirt roads and trails individually there are fun races and semi-professional competitions to enter. The last fun race was on New Year's Eve around Rincon.

Two riders rode conventional race-bikes on the paved roads, the rest of the 19 riders took to the dirt. Following the rides there was a get-together featuring the traditional New Year *oliebollen*, apple turnovers and beer

Top riders were: 1 Virgilio Batista 1.04.18, 2 Jonas Fischer 1.04.19, 3 Dennis Mark 1.04.20, 4 Arnold Koolen 1.06.50, and 5 Marvin



Story & photos from Frank Bohm, owner of the Free-wieler Bike Shop, who does a great job organizing the races and promoting the sport.



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Phone: 717-9181

Bobbejan's









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

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

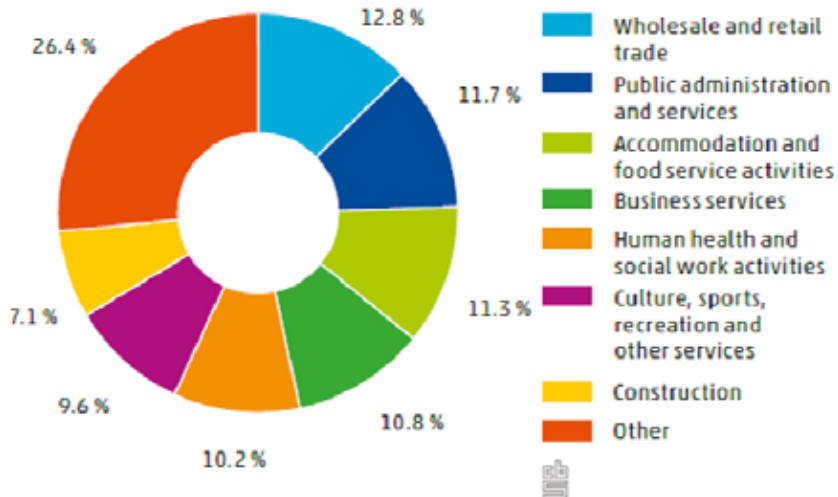
"Heel erg lekker"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

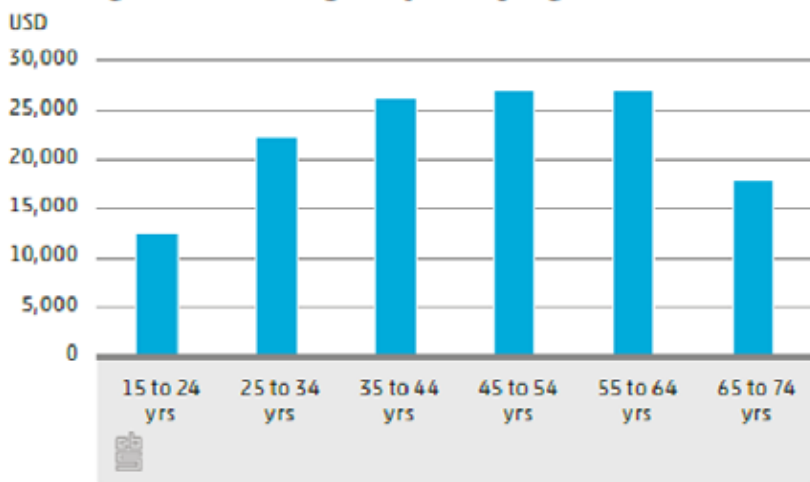
Friday	6-10 PM
Saturday	6-10 PM
Sunday	12-2 & 6-10 PM

Bonaire By Numbers

Employee jobs by economic activity, 2016*

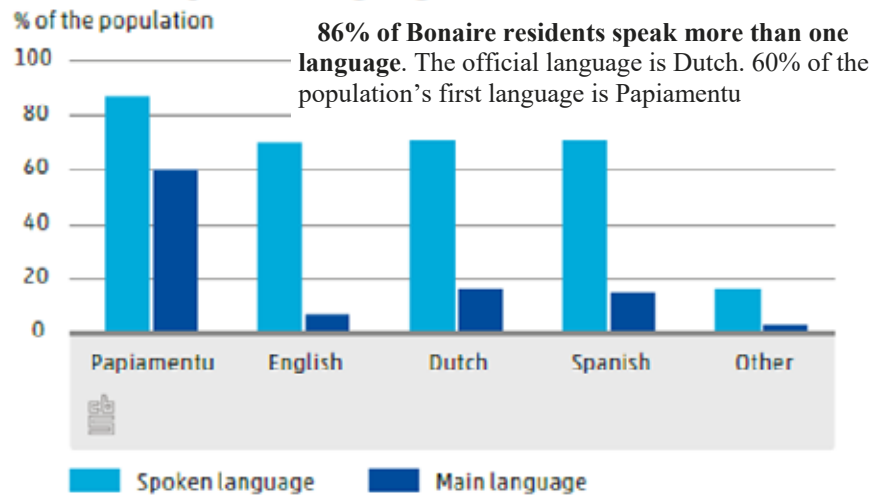


Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2016*



* most current information from the CBS

Main and spoken languages, 2017



Jobs On Bonaire

Lack of education is the predominant reason people say they are unwilling or unavailable for work. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to a disability (12%) or because they have to take care of family (8%).

Employee jobs: There are 9,300 employee jobs on Bonaire. The sector with the highest number of jobs is wholesale and retail trade, followed by the public sector and accommodation and food service activities.

Employee wages: The average annual wage on Bonaire stood at \$23,700 in 2016, almost the same as in 2015. The median wage amounted to \$19,000. This means that half of all employed people

earned wages below this level while the other half earned higher wages.

Wages vary widely, depending on the characteristics and type of work. In 2016, women's wages were 8% lower than men's. This pay gap is narrowing: in 2011, the difference was 18%.

Education

Bonaire has eight government-funded schools, including seven primary schools. The secondary school offers both general and vocational education.

On October 1, 2017, Bonaire had 3,525 pupils enrolled in these schools. Slightly over half were in primary education, nearly one third in secondary general education and 15% in secondary vocational (MBO) education. Apart from these schools, there is one private primary school. Press release

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Second Floor

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Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio's Ice Cream,
Shopping Hours: Tues: 10am to 5:30; Weds & Thurs: 10:30 to 5:30
 Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.
Phone 599-795-9332 email- Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com

More Bonaire Ambassadors Named

Last year 155 people were named Bonaire Ambassadors: 116 from the USA, 16 from The Netherlands, seven from Germany, six from Canada, four from Norway, three from Switzerland, two from Argentina and one from England.

A Bonaire Ambassador is a visitor who has been a guest on the island 10 or more times. The Tourist Bureau (TCB) makes the awards usually based on the recommendation of a Bonaire hotel or dive shop. There are three basic levels: bronze for 10 years, silver for 15 and gold for 20. The loyalty program was established by Delno Tromp when he was part of the TCB

Last month nine tourists were named Ambassadors. Seven of the new ambassadors with their friends are pictured at the right. You can recognize them by the medallions they are wearing.

For more information about Bonaire Ambassadors contact Helen Mercera-Thode at the TCB via email: helenthode@tourismbonaire.com or via 717-8322 □ G.D/Press release



Mitch and Kim Vest (with the medals), 20-year consecutive visitors



Rob and Jacqueline van Roesel from Holland 15 years



Paul and Jo-Anne Partlo from the US visiting for 10 years



Michael Agoos visiting for 15 years

We Are Happy Being Number 2

The *Bonaire Reporter* is Bonaire's second most widely read newspaper (35%) just behind the Papiamentu language *Extra* (41%)

— Results of the 2018 Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN Government) survey

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Sifranan di e enkuesta ta hen
mustra ku 41% di hendenan re.n
lokal ta lesa Extra, 35% ta sen
lesa Bonaire Reporter, 29% Cari
no ta lesa korant, 27% ta 27%
lesa Antilliaans Dagblad, 19%
13% ta lesa Amigoe, 8% ta 15%
lesa e edishon karibense di ties
Telegraaf, 8% ta lesa otro liaa

A Garden? Just Do It

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

It's 2019, a new year and new things. Happy new year to all of you. Wishing you a great year with good health, success in all your goals and wishes. And a lot of fun in life.

I want to get rid of old things at the end of the year. And one of the things I needed to get rid of was my big pumpkin plant. Yes, with pain in my heart, like a devoted gardener, I loved my pumpkin plant. It was growing so beautifully, with some flowers every morning, a few female and a lot more male flowers. And a lot of bugs and bees coming and going in the flowers. Because of these bugs' activities the female flowers got fertilized and that is how I got some nice pumpkins.



Caribbean Pumpkin



Pumpkin flowers are tasty and easy to grow and cook

The plant was growing very fast, like it had a motor inside. Every morning I saw more stems and big leaves. In my opinion no plant grows so fast as a pumpkin plant.

I used to pick the flowers after 9 in the morning when they were ready to close. Pumpkin flowers can't stand heavy sunlight so as soon as daylight gets too strong they close. By that time bees and bugs had their food from the flowers and meanwhile the female flowers got fertilized. So I picked the flowers, washed them, and cut them in small pieces. I scrambled an egg, added two flowers in one egg, then fried it. It's delicious and very healthy, lots of minerals and vitamins. Also the young stems with very small just developing leaves are good to eat. I chop them in small pieces and add them to cooked potatoes with some butter and salt and mash it all, ending with a green puree.

So my pumpkin plant was doing great, in fact too great. It was very dominant in the yard, taking so much space and crawling over all my other plants which couldn't get sunlight and had no space to grow. The pumpkin plant started to grow on the wall of my house where I have my bedroom. My view was blocked and I saw little bugs crawling on the stems to the window. No, no way these bugs in my bedroom! So I decided to get rid of the pumpkin plant with pain in my heart. On the other hand I like to see my yard with the other nice plants again and to have space to start with some new plants.

So on the third Sunday morning of December a friend and I started chopping up the pumpkin plant and pulling it out of the soil. Can you imagine: two very high heaps. We put the heaps into boxes because my friend wanted to make compost. So that helped me to overcome the sad feeling about the beautiful pumpkin plant. It's also nice to start the new year with a lot of space in the garden for new plants and fun in gardening.

Garden Challenges

The new year has of course new garden challenges. I know already that this year might be a tough garden year. It's said that El Nino weather will be dominant in the Caribbean, and that means very dry weather during almost the whole year. You may have noticed that there wasn't much rain in the past month. Normally we have a good rain at the end of the year until the beginning of February. That is not what we see now. Normally I don't need to water the plants in December. But I did this time.

So be prepared for this phenomenon. Look for plants that can stand very dry weather. Fruit trees and plants like guaba, coco, tamarin, mango, knipp, mispel, cashew, soursop, hoba, pomegranate can take dry weather and hot sun. Maybe they will grow very slowly, but they can stand El Nino. Papaya, cherry, bacoba, moringa will suffer a lot and you might lose them. Always save the rain water for these plants. Their roots don't go deep into the

soil so they cannot get water as easily as the big trees. And for sure all plants will have a better chance to survive when you water deeply once a week. Annual plants like peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, celery, yerba hole and spinach will have a chance out of the wind in the shade. Okra, tomatoes, celery, eggplant, pepper will suffer from *piespies* and white fly. Be prepared for that and think of the Neem tree leaves to make a tea to spray over the young plants.

So although it may be more effort with these plants, keep in mind the pleasure and joy when you will harvest your vegetables and fruits grown in difficult weather circumstances.

Don't forget to prepare your garden with a good soil mix from compost, charcoal, manure, red and black dirt and a lot of dry leaves. It's the dry leaves in the compost that holds the water longer. Dig bigger holes than normal and fill the hole with

some of the mixed soil. Then plant the young tree and add some more dirt on top. Make an edge around the plant to keep water from running off and add some dry leaves on top so water cannot dry so fast. Remember, when it's dry, iguanas will come to eat the young plants. Protect them now.

So a new year with lot of challenges in gardening. But you have some good information, so don't hesitate. Start now. And, oh yes, yucca likes dry weather, so you are always successful with that one. Have fun with gardening in 2019. □

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Making Bonaire "Accessible"



ACCESSIBILITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

On October 2018 it was 70 years ago that the Human Rights were initiated.

And it is a good tradition that in the beginning of a new year, one makes resolutions.

I wanted to start this new year 2019 doing so for Bonaire and for all its inhabitants with challenges. Accessibility is one of those rights and it is about time these rights were respected.

Here we go:

Since our population is growing older fast, there is more need for proper and specific care for the elderly: day-care, long term stay, respite-care, education in this field for all involved. Also we need a well organized mentorship in order to take care of all those who have no more family to provide for them.

There is a substantial group of citizens with mental health problems and those who are intellectually challenged. They are in dire need of attention, care and proper ways to spend their days. Daycare, workshops, adapted jobs, are what is needed. This special group also needs mentors who take special care of them.

All those elderly citizens with mental handicaps also need attention. They are not children and also need specific care and well trained mentors.

For all of the above there is a great need for an official mentorship-organization, organized by law.

Information is important. Citizens need to know where they can get the help and assistance they need. By taking care of that all media can be used, but leaflets or small folders that one can keep are most effective.

This year the ramp for easy access to KLM and TUI-flights must become effective. One cannot exclude all European passengers.

Our roads, our sidewalks, our parking-spots.... They are so important to all of us, so we need to be able to get access to where we want and to where we need to be. It would be wonderful to see that the money our government gets by renting out our sidewalks will be used for sidewalk repair, for painting visible cross-roads, easy access to those cross-roads, for fixing up roads and even replace all old and broken ones. No more just filling holes, please.

More control and visible laws

-Finally take care of good laws, by-laws, *eilands-verordeningen*, regarding traffic, alcohol use while driving, etc.

-Get this parking problem fixed for good, for easy and safe access.

-Try to get staff and personal to learn to speak and understand Papiamentu, so communication will get easier.

-Involve all citizens with limitations in the work process. They can work and need acceptance.

Although the island has many volunteers, they need training to keep them motivated. Without volunteers we cannot function properly. They provide all those important little extras the professionals cannot.

We all love Bonaire, we live here and we need our island to be a safe haven for everyone. We need each other. It does not matter who you are or what you do. Do it for Bonaire, for the love of Bonaire and make 2019 the best year ever. □

Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



Maskarada-A Unique Tradition COVER STORY

Maskarada is one of the most cultural, authentic, original and fascinating traditions on Bonaire. Every New Year the group of silent, mysterious, masked people starts at either at the Bestuurcollege (government house) or the governor's home to dance, to tease the onlookers and perform little skits—the same every year.

This year they first performed the Governor's home. Later the group moved on to other sites like the hospital, the old folks home and then to the houses of people in the barrios. It is said that good luck will come to those who invite them into their homes. They make another appearance on January 5 and 6 (Three Kings Day, Epiphany).

They arrive silently, following a group of musicians – an accordion, a tambu (drum), a raspa (file) and a quarto (large ukulele), and the skits and dancing begin.

Maskarada has been going on in living memory of even the oldest person on Bonaire, it is said, except for when it might have been rained out, and in 2012 when the group, the costumes and props all became worn out and could not appear.

Maskarada is important because Bonaire is the only island of the Dutch Caribbean where this unique custom exists in this form. Maskarada had some bad times awhile ago with lack of financing and assistance. But over the past few years thanks to the energy of the North Salina volunteers organization, Maskarada is back. All has been rejuvenated—the actors, the glistening costumes and the sparkling props, the enthusiastic musicians.

This year the costumes are even more fantastic, unique, beautiful. Everyone smiled as the cast performed their skits — hooking the shark which goes into death throes, the matador facing the bull, and of course the dancing with the audience.

Congratulations to the Nawati/North Salinja group for keeping this beloved tradition alive. ▣

Story by Laura DeSalvo- Photos by Julie Morgan at Governor's Residence and the house of Yombi Silberie, on Kaya Caribe, Noord Salina



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, Tel. 717-8444

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

•**Marshe Rincon Krioyo**-1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon—6pm

•**Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

•**Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket

Petanque- Jeu de Boules, 2:30-6 pm, 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 Cruscita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 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: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@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

Cruises

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time	Pier	PAX	Line
Monday	1/7/2019	Britannia	NA	S.pier	3600	P&O
Tuesday	1/8/2019	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.pier	2850	CEL
Tuesday	1/8/2019	Breamar	0700-1800	N.pier	929	Fred. Olsen
Thursday	1/10/2019	Norwegian Dawn	0700-1400	N.pier	2338	Norwegian
Thursday	1/10/2019	Navigator Seas	0700-1600	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Sun	1/11/2019	Adonia	0800-2030	N.pier	777	Carnival UK
Sun	1/13/2019	EQUINOX	0700-1500	S.pier	2850	CEL
Monday	1/14/2019	Aida Perla	0700-1800	N.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Monday	1/14/2019	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	N.pier	2500	TUI
Tuesday	1/15/2019	Monarch	0800-1800	N.Pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	1/15/2019	Celebrity Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858	CEL
Thursday	1/17/2019	TUI Explorer 1	0700-1400	N.pier	1924	TUI
Thursday	1/17/2019	Silhouette	0700-1500	S.pier	2886	CEL
Friday	1/18/2019	Koningdam	0800-1800	S.pier	2650	HAL

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15—
“Connecting People with Nature”—free talk on Bonaire nature, sponsored by Stinapa Bonaire National Parks Foundation. Hosted by Stinapa biologist **Caren Eckrich**, 7-8pm, DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10A (across street from City Shop). More information: stinapabonaire.org/events, 717-8444

Sunday, Monday, Jan. 20-21— Total Lunar Eclipse— Blood Moon (Page 15)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 23—Conjunction with Venus and Jupiter. (Page 15)

Saturday, Jan. 26 -
—**Monthly Cultural Market, Mangazina de Rei, 8 am -1 pm**
—**Rincon Street Market, noon-6 pm**

Jan. 26-27, February 2-3— Yoga Sensible Workshops- “Blooming into Awareness”
Four workshops for an experiential path of Yoga Sensible to learn a new alphabet of the physical, energetic, emotional and mental body. Learn main techniques to develop attention and concentration to get a greater presence and control of our mind and the quiet of feeling. \$60 per class or \$200 for all. Aqua Spa & Gym, Eden Beach. More information: **Elisabetta** at Yoga Sensible Bonaire. (Facebook).

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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
	13:47	23:23					
Mon 07	0.90 ft	-0.19 ft				6:58	18:25
	14:25	23:51					
Tue 08	0.84 ft	-0.18 ft				6:58	18:26
	15:04						
Wed 09	0.78 ft					6:59	18:26
		00:13	15:43				
Thu 10		-0.16 ft	0.71 ft			6:59	18:27
		00:30	07:16	11:23	16:23		
Fri 11		-0.13 ft	0.44 ft	0.38 ft	0.62 ft	6:59	18:27
		00:45	07:16	12:52	17:06		
Sat 12		-0.11 ft	0.52 ft	0.34 ft	0.53 ft	6:59	18:28
		00:58	07:28	14:07	17:51		
Sun 13		-0.09 ft	0.62 ft	0.28 ft	0.43 ft	7:00	18:28
Mon 14		01:12	07:48	15:14	18:40	7:00	18:29
		-0.08 ft	0.73 ft	0.19 ft	0.33 ft		
		01:28	08:14	16:16	19:33		
Tue 15		-0.07 ft	0.84 ft	0.11 ft	0.23 ft	7:00	18:29
		01:47	08:47	17:15	20:31		
Wed 16		-0.08 ft	0.95 ft	0.02 ft	0.14 ft	7:00	18:30
		02:11	09:24	18:12	21:36		
Thu 17		-0.08 ft	1.04 ft	-0.06 ft	0.07 ft	7:00	18:30
		02:41	10:06	19:07	22:51		
Fri 18		-0.08 ft	1.11 ft	-0.13 ft	0.03 ft	7:00	18:31
		03:18	10:53	19:59			
Sat 19		-0.07 ft	1.14 ft	-0.19 ft		7:01	18:31
		00:15	04:04	11:44	20:47		
Sun 20	0.02 ft	-0.03 ft	1.15 ft	-0.24 ft		7:01	18:32
	01:42	05:05	12:38	21:33			
Mon 21	0.07 ft	0.03 ft	1.12 ft	-0.28 ft	Full Moon	7:01	18:32

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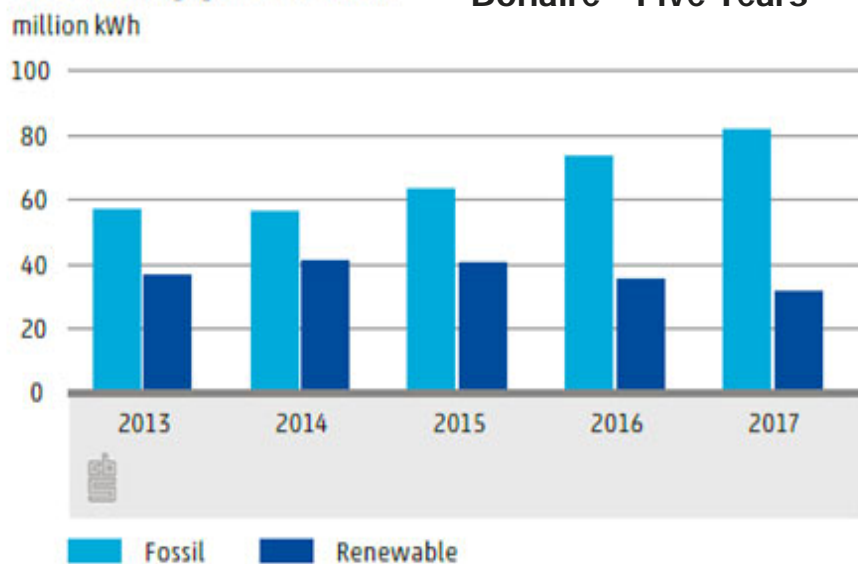
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Electricity production Bonaire—Five Years



Bonaire is surely growing. New construction is everywhere. Perhaps one of the ways to measure that growth is by the amount of electricity produced: **41% increase in the last five years.** And the demand is growing. But renewable production is dropping both in terms of actual output and a percent of the total. □ Source:

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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Shelter News

A NEW YEAR FOR THE SHELTER OLD YEAR RESULTS

The New Year has begun and Animal Shelter Bonaire is looking forward to another year of caring for unwanted animals and educating our community on proper companion animal care and the absolute necessity of sterilization. As we look back on 2018, the numbers indicate that the Shelter's mission is meeting with some success.


STERILIZATIONS: A record number of sterilizations for 2018! Through the Shelter's Free Sterilization Program, **524 pet owners had their dog or cat sterilized!** Considering that one un-sterilized female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in 7 years and one un-sterilized female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in 6 years, sterilizing 524 pets in just one year prevented hundreds of thousands of unwanted animals from being born on the island. Despite this wonderful progress over the 14 years of the free sterilization program, the number of abandoned animals also continues to grow. **Continuing education about the Shelter's free sterilization program, increasing the numbers of sterilizations and obtaining financial support for the program are critical. We need your help! Direct contributions to the Shelter Sterilization Fund can be made to: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V., Swift code: MCBKBQBN, Account name: Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire, Account Number: 10237800.**

ADOPTIONS: Loving homes were found for **161 shelter residents in 2018. 56 cats/kittens and 105 puppies/dogs** were welcomed into their fur-ever homes during the year. There are still plenty of healthy, loving cats and dogs that are looking for their home, so please pass by the Shelter if you are thinking about adding a pet to your family.

RETURNED TO OWNERS: Thanks to the pet microchipping program and the Facebook page "Pet Alert Bonaire," 22 animals that were lost and brought to the Shelter were reunited with their rightful owners. It is important that owners of



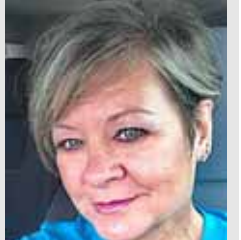
both cats and dogs take advantage of the microchip process to insure a speedy reunion in the event their pets becomes lost. Animal Shelter Bonaire and the other animal welfare groups on the island are cooperating in the establishment of a comprehensive database of chip numbers to allow quick and easy access to owner information. If your pet is chipped, please register the chip number and your contact information with Animal Shelter Bonaire or any of the veterinarians or other Bonaire animal welfare groups.


Animal Shelter Bonaire wishes everyone a very happy and healthy New Year! We hope you make a New Year's "resolution" to visit us and maybe lend a hand as a volunteer in or supporter of one of our many programs.  Jane Disko-Madden

LOST PETS ALERT
Every year during fireworks season (and any other season as a matter of fact) the Bonaire Animal Shelter acts as an intermediary for lost and found pets. **If you have lost a pet or have found one call them at 717-4989 or 701-4989.**

Pet Of The Week



Hello! My name is **Franchesca**. Yes, a fancy name for a fancy girl! I am a sweet, loving 8-month old kitty who enjoys pets and lots of love! Some people found me and my two sisters on the side of the road when we were eight weeks old, scared and confused with all the loud noises. These kind people brought us to a nice, safe place: Animal Shelter Bonaire. I've lived with many other cats so if you already have a kitty and know how to introduce new pets, let's talk. Or if you would like me to be your "only" fur kid that would be fine too! I am spayed, have all my vaccinations and my microchip and I'm ready to go home with you today. If you are looking for a purr-fectly adorable cat with, please come and see me at the Shelter! We are located at Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. non-stop. 717-4989.  Story & photo by Laurie Smith

Correction: Apologies for mis-identifying the author of The Pet Of The Week in the last edition. The story of Tarzan the dog of the week was written by **Sanne Attavelt**. 

Blockbuster Auction



Entertainer Moogie with organizer Dabney Lassiter




Auctioneers Deepak and Lee

What's a good way to start the New Year? The best way is to know that the Bonaire Animal Shelter will start 2019 with a comfortable financial cushion of \$30,000 as a result of the auction held December 9. It was a glorious evening - perfect weather, delicious food and drinks, and the wonderful music of Bonaire's own Moogie. And there must be a special wag of all the Shelter dog tails to our great auctioneers, the team of Deepak and Lee.

It takes a year of hard work to get the auction off the ground and running, but knowing that the proceeds will give the Shelter the opportunity to grow and expand makes it all worthwhile. The Shelter is currently in the midst of a multi-year expansion plan to accommodate the growing needs of the island's dogs and cats. When the current plan is complete

the residential capacity will increase which will allow the intake capacity to increase as well. The Shelter currently has an excellent Puppy Palace and an outstanding Cat Palace and the Shelter welcomes visitors to come and interact with all of the furry residents. The Shelter adult dogs have their own comfortable compound too, which is a very special, happy place.

Many, many thanks to the the generosity of the Shelter Patrons (REMAX, Best Cellars, Cadushy Distillery, KFC, and BonDiGro), the dedicated volunteers who made it happen, and the support of the animal loving community of Bonaire. It truly takes a village to make things happen and together WE DID IT!!

Happy 2019 - Please come and visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter.  Story by Dabney Lassiter, photos by Julie Morgan

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE SKY PARK IN 2019

Happy New Year! Welcome again to the Bonaire Sky Park. No fee increase for visitors this year, it's still free.

Let's highlight the best, most astronomical and extra-terrestrial events of 2019. We have a lot to look forward to, including a **total Lunar Eclipse and a Planetary Conjunction in January.**

We'll pick our best meteor showers of the year and preview an event so rare, that it won't be visible from Caribbean again until the year 2049. So, let's head to the future and see what's up in 2019.

The first major astronomical event of 2019 happens on the night of **Sunday, January 20th. It's a Full Moon that night, And Bonaire is dead center in the path of a total Lunar eclipse.** Let's follow the "blood moon"... across the night of January 20th.

Duration: 5 hours, 11 minutes, 33 seconds
Duration of totality: 1 hour, 1 minute, 58 seconds

Penumbral begins: Jan 20, 2019 at 10:36 pm

Partial begins: Jan 20, 2019 at 11:33:54 pm

Full begins: Jan 21, 2019 at 12:41:17 am

Maximum: Jan 21, 2019 at 1:12:14 am

Full ends: Jan 21, 2019 at 1:43:15 am

Partial ends: Jan 21, 2019 at 2:50:39 am

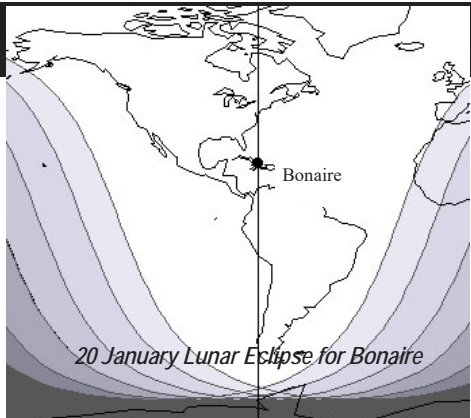
Penumbral ends: Jan 21, 2019 at 3:48:02 am

All times are local Bonaire Sky Park Times

After 1:43 am on Sunday, the shadow will begin to wipe away, leaving the Full Moon back to normal again at about 2:50 am. So, mark your calendars for January 20th, so you're not a day late.

Remember back in the summer and fall in 2018? Back when we had all those planets in the nighttime sky? We had **Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars.** Well, now only Mars is remaining. You can look for the red planet shining high in the southwestern sky after dark in January. The others headed to the morning sky, and you can see the two brightest planets before sunrise in the southeast. The brighter planet is Venus and the dimmer one is Jupiter.

Every so often, these dazzlingly bright planets appear close together in what is called a **conjunction.** Keep close tabs on Venus and Jupiter this January because as



the days roll on, they'll get closer and closer. **And on the mornings of January 22nd and 23rd we've got a conjunction!**

Although we can predict the dates of the meteor showers in 2019, it's hard to say if any of them will produce stellar shooting star shows. I always like the **Perseid** meteor shower that happens each August 13th. You have to stay up late. But in 2019 the nearly full Moon may wash out many meteors.

In autumn, we have the **Orionids** which peak on the morning of October 22. And then there is the **Leonids** on the morning of November 18. Don't expect the sky to be falling with any of these meteor showers. But you won't know what you'll see until you look up!

Finally, we have a super rare astronomical alignment happening in 2019. It's called a **Transit of Mercury** and it happens when the tiny planet Mercury comes between us and the Sun. On November 11th, Mercury will slowly cross in front of the Sun's disc and make a teeny, tiny eclipse. However, you'll need to prepare. The transit of Mercury will happen during the daytime between the hours of 8:30 am and 2 pm Sky Park time. You will be able to see the whole thing, **BUT you will need a safe solar filter.** After all, you'll be staring at the Sun, which is bad to do without protection. Otherwise you will go blind. And finally, you'll need magnification. Mercury is so small that you'll need to magnify it. So you'll need safe filters that fit on binoculars or a telescope. Now you have plenty of time to prepare for the transit of Mercury and everything else coming up in 2019. ■ *G.D./Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

January 2019

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your partner may push buttons that infuriate you. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Those you live with may be experiencing problems. Be careful not to come on too strongly. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Your confidence is growing and advancement is apparent. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated. Be careful of the groups you join or the people you associate with. Emotional relationships will be plentiful if you attend group activities. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't be alarmed. Don't be afraid to make additions to your house. It's a great day to attend social functions. Children may be on your mind. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to keep a low profile. Don't make any unreasonable promises. Contracts will not be as lucrative as you think. Coworkers may not be on your side. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. Try not to allow superiors or those in a higher position to take advantage of you. You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Plan a day of enjoyment with them. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. You can make

professional changes and direct your energy into making all the right moves. Go after your goals. You can expand your circle of friends if you get out and socialize. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) Short trips will prove to be more fruitful than you imagined. You should be looking at ways to spoil yourself. Residential moves will also be advantageous for all concerned. Concentrate on home improvement. Small details will make a difference. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Sudden romance could end just as quickly. Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Do not expect others to do your work. It might be time to make a fresh start. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. Try not to push your philosophies on others. You will be emotional about money matters. Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) It might be time to do some of those chores at home. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this month. There might be one who is quite willing to take the credit for your work. The battle continues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. ■

Michael Thiessen

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