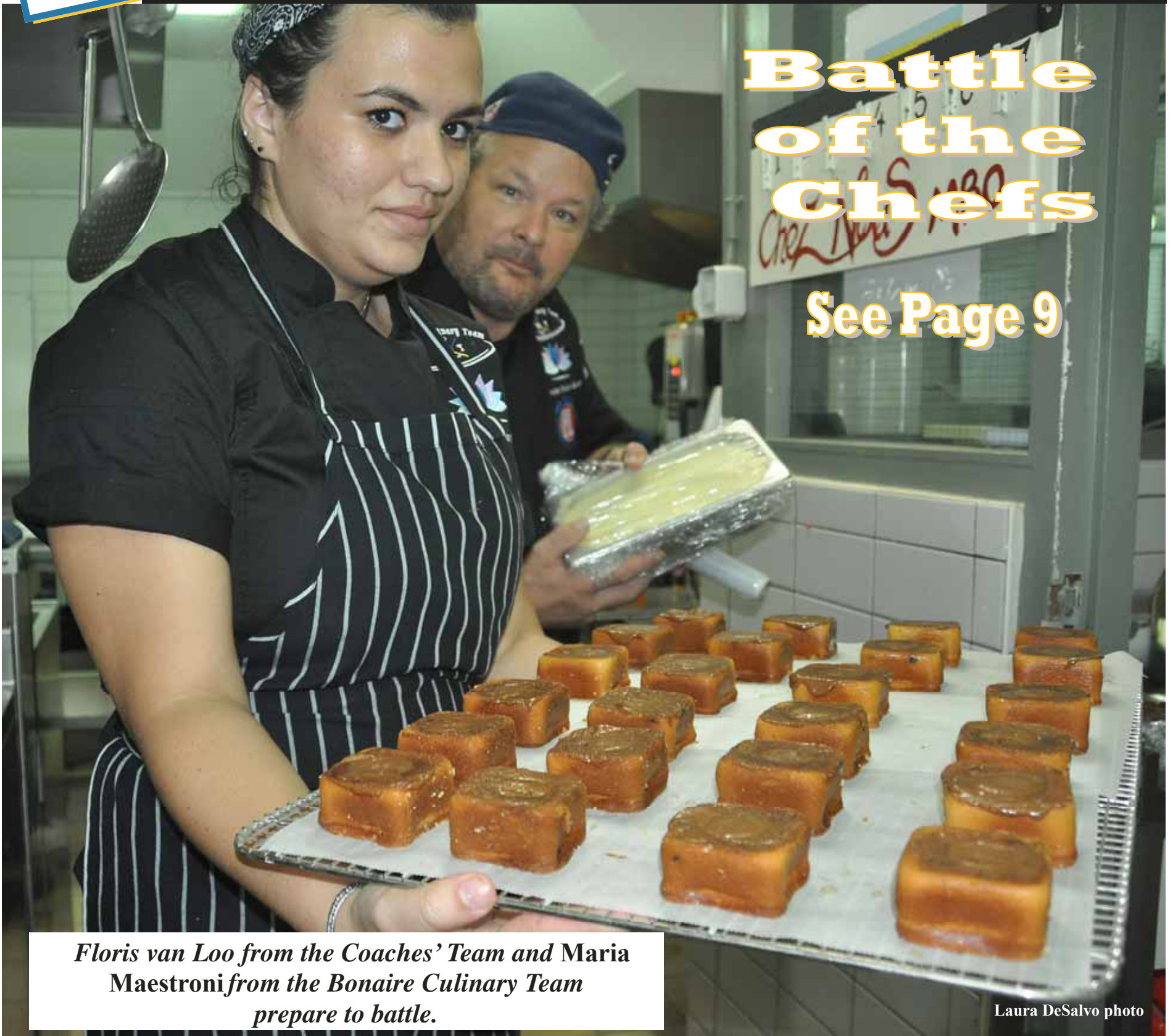


**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Jan. 21-Feb. 4, 2019, Year 26, Issue 2
The REPORTER

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



**Battle
of the
Chefs**

See Page 9

Floris van Loo from the Coaches' Team and Maria Maestroni from the Bonaire Culinary Team prepare to battle.

Laura DeSalvo photo



Corine Gerharts photos



Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire

The Public Entity of Bonaire
The Local Island Government

Last year examiners and public officials themselves acknowledged that additional skills and expertise were needed to govern Bonaire effectively in the 21st century. Plans were put in place to provide this knowledge beginning this year. One of the ways was to offer appropriate education.

Now, aspiring candidates for the Bonaire Island Council elections on March 20 have been offered a two-day training session. This is the first time an opportunity like this is available. It is an initiative of both Bonairean and Dutch governments to have more well-qualified individuals in government.

According to the press release, "The two-day training course examines what a councilman or commissioner on Bonaire needs to know for their specific role so that the person can do the work as well as possible. It is not only the theory, but also a connection with daily practice. The participants can count on experienced trainers, who know the practice well. I refer you below to the complete program.

The Lieutenant Governor urges all political parties, organizations or individuals who will participate in the elections by means of a list, to register no later than 21 January 2019 at info@konsehoinsular.nl."

► **Bonaire's March 20 elections will not only be for the members of the Island Council, but also, for the first time, the Dutch Senate, the First Chamber of Parliament.** The Senate has 75 members, selected by members of Dutch provinces and, in the case of the BES Islands, an electoral college, chosen by popular vote.

A recent amendment to the Dutch Constitution means residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, beginning in 2019, like all other parts of the Netherlands, can influence the composition of the Senate. Dutch citizens on the islands can vote for candidates for the electoral colleges. Go to <https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/over-de-rijksdienst-caribisch-nederland/binnenlandse-zaken-koninkrijksrelaties/kiescollege2019> for a comprehensive explanation.

Bonaire gets 9% of one seat based on its population. The

influence of all three of the Caribbean Netherlands' islands, as a whole on the composition of the Senate, amounts to 0.11% seats.

► **With the new tourist season there have been changes in the ownership of some restaurants.** Cuba Compagnie sold to Chef Danny Klein, entrepreneur Huub Groot and a silent partner. It was sold to them by founders Joep Van der Ligt and Edgar de Vuijst. (See [On The Island Since](#) in this issue on page 5).

The Peruvian restaurant, **Tasty Bar and Steakhouse**, was sold by Jaidey Rojas to the chef, **Moises Ceras Bautista** as of January 1, 2019.

Porchia's Restaurant run by Porchia Duncan is rumored to have been sold but the new owner hasn't been identified.

A new restaurant under way near the old Esmeralda Project is the **Ocean Oasis**, run by **Guido Panjer**, a Dutch chef who has

been on the Dutch Culinary Team. He was one of the judges at the recent Bonaire Culinary Team Challenge.

► **Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. (WEB) is expanding its drinking water production** with the help of engineering firm Royal Haskoning DHV. The demand for water and electricity is increasing rapidly and more desalinators will be installed at Hato and more water tanks built on Seru Langu beginning in the middle of this year.

► **Kicking off Carnaval season is the Taste of Bonaire, Karneval Edition**, on February 1 at 6 pm at Wilhelmina Park. The Taste offers visitors an opportunity to try signature cuisine from Bonaire's top restaurants. In addition to food there will be cultural events, local art and many things unique to Bonaire.

► **The ministries of Justice and Security and of Health, Welfare and Sport, in collaboration with the local government, have set up an intensive campaign to curb violence in relationships** using videos, updated monthly, on the Facebook pages of RCN and OLB.

Every month a topic related to violence in relationships is highlighted, such as different forms of neglect, mental or physical violence, but also violence against the elderly.

Three organizations on Bonaire can assist: (Youth & Family Center: 715 7200), the Integrated Community Development (*Integrale Wijkaanpak*): 717 2211 and the Victim Support Center: 717 6181.

► **EZ Air's planned direct flight between Bonaire and St. Eustatius is in jeopardy.** The biggest user of the connection, the RCN, has yet to make arrangements for the use of EZ Air's Beechcraft 1900D planes.

EZ claims its aircraft can cover

the distance in two hours, while other carriers take almost a whole day with stops in both St. Maarten and Curaçao. The carrier is currently flying from Bonaire to Curaçao and back four times daily, with plans to add Aruba later this month.

► **The takeover of Insel Air by InterCaribbean Airlines took a step closer** last week when InterCaribbean presented a multi-million dollar bank guarantee to the trustee monitoring the bankruptcy proceedings. A final decision is expected this week.

► **You are now able to borrow books online via a Koninklijke Bibliotheek pilot project.** The online library has more than 20,000 e-books. You can read e-books in three ways. On your e-reader, your tablet or smart phone and on your PC or laptop. Go to Website kb.nl

The National Library of the Netherlands (Dutch: Koninklijke Bibliotheek or KB; Royal Library) is based in The Hague and was founded in 1798. The mission of the National Library of the Netherlands is to provide "access to the knowledge and culture of the past and the present by providing high-quality services for research, study, and cultural experience."

► **The Santa Barbara Development Company - Sabadeco has launched yet another set of building lots in its Crown West area.** It provides the absolute best in panoramic views and hillside breezes. The majority of the lots provide spectacular views all the way to both the south and north ends of Bonaire. There is no obligation to build. Prices start at US\$ 141,540. Contact Harbourtown, Re/Max or Sunbelt Realty for more information.

► **As part of Environmental Week Jan. 19-26, Dive Friends Bonaire has scheduled their quarterly cleanup dive** for Sat-

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The Bike Professionals

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
 urday, January 26th, 9:30 am. Everyone is asked to meet at the Bonaire Sailing School to clean up the harbor front. Read about it in the next *Bonaire Reporter*.



► **Governor Edison Rijna** wished a crowd of approximately 200 a happy new year at the annual Governor's Reception at the patio of the *Bestuurskantoor* on January 10. The governor expressed his hopes of a better 2019 than 2018.

► **In 2017, the most recent year for which figures are available, the average employee wage on Bonaire was \$2,050 per month before taxes.** On Saba and St Eustatius, the average monthly pay stood at \$2,285 and \$3,150, respectively, according to Statistics Netherlands (CBS). Approximately one-quarter of all employee jobs on Bonaire earned less than \$1,000 per month. These were probably part-time jobs. For



37% of all employees, gross monthly wages were in the range between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Nearly 40% of employees earned more than \$2,000 per month.

The public administration sector on Bonaire has seen wages increase since 2011. Accommodation, food services, trade and business services lagged behind, however.

► **Like to dance? Aqua Spa welcomes everyone to join the new salsa classes** given by Chris Muller at Aqua Spa & Gym (Spice - Eden Beach) Kaya Gob Debrot 73: - Intermediate - 19:15 - 20:15; Advanced - 20:15 - 21:15. Only \$10 per class. Aqua Spa also has Spinning, TRX and Yoga.

Fuel	Type	Annual Fee
Gasolin	B òf V	USD 190.00
Disel	B òf V	USD 838.00
Gasolin	TX òf AB	USD 137.00
Disel	TX òf AB	USD 209.00
Gasolin	MF	USD 137.00
Disel	Z	USD 1,257.00

► **Visits by cruise ships to Bonaire have shown almost exponential growth, from approximately 40,000 cruise passengers in 2005 to around 500,000 in 2018.** Bonaire's present year-round population of cruise ships can trace its start to 2013 when the island became a Platinum member of the Florida Cruise Ship Association (FCCA). Bonaire joined FCCA as an Associate Member approximately 23 years ago at an annual fee of \$500. **Upgrading to Platinum, at a cost of \$25,000 annually,** gave Bonaire access to the inner circle of cruise line operators to better showcase what Bonaire had to offer.



The FCCA is a not-for-profit trade organization, created in 1972, composed of 19 member cruise lines operating more than 100 vessels in Florida, Caribbean and Latin American waters. Cruise lines have considerable negotiating power over small islands because the foreign cruise ship companies can easily relocate their operations, while the tourism industry on an island like Bonaire cannot. Bonaire has to adapt to compete with other destinations and meet the needs and requirements of cruise lines if it wants to attract ships. **"Adaption" in Bonaire's case includes relaxing environmental protections, reduction or elimination in fees, and expansion of the excursion facilities on the island.**

TCB representatives and island tour operators negotiated with FCCA for cruise ship port calls. Itinerary planning occurs two to three years in advance. Before negotiations started an incentive package was created and approved by the island government. **Specific incentives to attract ships to Bonaire included a very low head tax, exclusion of environmental protection fees and free admission to the Marine Park.** These incentives have been so successful that individuals and organizations on Bonaire are concerned that the sheer number of island visitors arriving by ship is overwhelming the infrastructure of Bonaire, damaging the fragile environment and degrading the quality of the "Bonaire Experience" for both tourists and residents.

Suggestions to remove incentives to reduce the number of cruise visitors to match the ability of the island to maintain its reputation as an ecological destination have been largely ignored. Instead, millions have been spent to better accommodate even bigger ships. Reference: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17450101.2016.1229972>

► **It's time to pay the annual motor vehicle tax. See rates at left.** The first half is due Feb. 15. Pay on line and keep the receipt in your car because there is no sticker offered. Prefer to pay cash? Do this free of charge at FXDC - POST.

► **Thanks for reading *The Reporter*.** Encourage the shops and restaurants you visit to advertise and keep *The Reporter* "Still Free." □ G./L.D.

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Have something to say?
Want to give your opinion?
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DON'T WANT TO BE TRASH POLICE, BUT...

Dear Editor:

Today is January 6th and we are just finishing up a two week trip to Bonaire. We have enjoyed our stay here and are impressed with the many initiatives to keeping the island naturally beautiful. Sadly though, there is MUCH room for improvement. I picked up trash at most of the locations we visited... these include multiple used fireworks (many at the ocean side), scores of both glass and plastic bottles (most of which I recycled), a HUGE quantity of beer caps from the ocean sands (found at almost every snorkel/dive site, which I also recycled), and other metal and plastic detritus.

Perhaps the most disturbing things I witnessed were the use of one use plastic bags and straws by the local population (we never take bags or straws), and seeing a local man throwing a plastic bag of fish guts into the ocean behind the airport, yesterday. Three early 20's men speaking Papiamentu, had fished about 50 Red Snapper and were cleaning them at the



ocean side. One man filled a clear plastic bag with guts and then kicked it into the water. I walked up to them and said "Did you really just do that?" I then walked in to the water, took out the bag and said "Plastic does NOT belong in the ocean!" I properly disposed of the bag.

As a visitor to the island, I should not be the enforcer here. It seems you need much more education to the local populace and also enforcement of 'visiting litterbugs' near the water.

-Brad Abernethy, Ontario, Canada.

Picture Yourself Winners

The prize, a Dinner for Two at the top-rated Rumba Café, for the best 2018 Picture Yourself submission went to Ruud and Oda Peters (center) for their photo taken in Nepal.

Send your photo today. □



Photo Bruce Braback

George and Laura DeSalvo flank Ruud and Oda Peters

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in San Francisco, California, USA



Rebecca Sweers writes, "I visited my daughter, Danique Sweers, who is a physiotherapist at Bonaire Basics, in October 2018. I loved having an English newspaper to catch up on all the latest things happening on this beautiful island. After returning home to San Francisco, California, I took a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* on a hike where we had a spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Hulst, The Netherlands

Frans Verwilligen pictured himself with *The Bonaire Reporter* in his back garden in Hulst, Z.V.L. The Netherlands, at zero degrees Celsius. He last visited Bonaire in May 2018, to visit his daughter in Kralendijk.

(Editor's note: See the bonsai trees in the background. Check Angliet's column, page. 10, on how to grow bonsai in Bonaire) □

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@bonaire-news.com. This and all 2019 photos are eligible for the next contest.



The Bonaire Reporter Jan. 21– Feb. 4, 2019



STREET HEARTS MAKE THE ISLAND HAPPIER

Dear Editor:

This one goes out to Mrs. or Mr. Anonymous...

Dear glorious person, who keeps spreading so much love all over the island: Thank you! Danki! Gracias! Grazie! Dankjewel! Obrigado! Danke! ...

You came up with a fabulous idea and you took action. Know how much this is appreciated! By many! You're leaving a huge, inspiring footprint on our beautiful island, whose residents and guests you're massively 'happifying'. Through Social Media your action is radiating its magic even all over the globe. Well done on you!

There's a couple of more aspects that we (Hubby and I) would like to share about your street (he)art and we hope you don't mind us raving so extensively.

You didn't just drop the stones here and there. As they come in many shapes and formats, you seem to have skillfully picked the best fitting heart for the chosen spot and placed it with an eye for the divine proportion. Like a pastry chef, who just knows how and where to place the whipped cream decorations and cherries on the cake.

Speaking of cakes: Hubby and I had the honor to find one of your heart-warming mystery stones right at the entrance to our home. What a delicious surprise! You have no idea how humbled and delighted we felt and still feel. Thank you. We're proud to know you, even if we don't know who exactly you are.

So, you sparked a good vibes-filled discussion, and people keep on wondering, who the mysterious "happifyer" might be. Another delight is: Even I myself go tasked the one or the other time, if it was Hubby and me coming up with the heart's magic. And you know what? We felt pretty flattered, being considered as the potential initiator of such an impactful creation. My reply, from the depth of my heart, is I wish!" (not in the jealous way, but in the appreciative way). All the credits, kudos and standing ovations go to you, my Mrs. or Mr. Anonymous. If someone would ask us, we'd choose YOU for the person of the year award!

Just so you know! With much love,

Mr. & Mrs. You Know Who.

On the Island Since... 1991 – Joep Van der Ligt and Edgar de Vuijst



Greta Kooistra photo

Joep and Ed now

Ed: “For four years we had a camping annex hotel in France but then Joep read a book about Bonaire and we sang, ‘Oh island in the sun,’ and we moved here. At the time there weren’t a lot of Dutch people on the island. We were tanned with blond hair and drove a white Jeep with two big dogs in it, and many people wondered, ‘Who are they?’ We were looking for peace and quiet and wanted to work in one of the restaurants, but we weren’t hired. Two months later the owner of that restaurant came to our house and asked us to buy his business, and that’s what we did. Earlier in life we’d had three restaurants in Holland, so it wasn’t new to us, but on Bonaire it was our first. We named it ‘Toys’.”

Joep: “From the very first day ‘Toys’ was a hit and we became the new trend! The island’s elite and artists from Holland came to dine with us and we became famous on Bonaire. We worked hard and had a good time. Then a buyer came around and we sold it. You see, if it’s booming and someone wants to have it, we switch! For us it’s about starting it up, dressing it up, cooking great food and making it a hit. That action, that thrill, that’s what we do it for!”

Ed: “Soon after we bought ‘Bistro Des Amis’ from Lucille Martijn and named it ‘Classics’. It worked out well but then again someone came in and wanted the business and we sold it. Then I spoke to Jeannette Heitkönig about renting the location she owned at the boulevard and she gave us a top contract! We called the restaurant ‘Mangerie de la Mer’ – it was a nice place, French style, and it was booming! We worked day and night and got the nickname ‘the boys with the golden hands’! One night someone came for dinner and the next morning he stood at our doorstep in Sabal Palm – there were only two houses – and he insisted on buying the restaurant!”

Joep: “We were getting restless and were looking for new hori-

zons, so we stipulated he could buy the restaurant if he bought our house as well. And then there was nothing that kept us here.

We bought a house under construction in Benidorm, Spain, and stayed for a couple of weeks but we still had to go back to Bonaire to finish some business and to get our macaws to Spain. Just then KLM Cargo got into big trouble about chipping up hundreds of Siberian ground squirrels and a ban on transporting animals followed so we couldn’t get our macaws off island and without his birds Ed wasn’t going anywhere and I wasn’t going without Ed!

Then I was approached by Henk Ram Sr. about Club Nautico and got in touch with APNA pension fund, the owner of the building. Well, to make a long story short, in the end APNA took our offer and I went to Holland to buy stuff.”

Ed: “I started demolishing, cleaning up and rebuilding. Some of the apartments were just *choller* (drug addicts) homes. Then,

at the millennium, on December 31st, 1999, we opened ‘It Rains Fishes’. It was a giant party and a giant success from day one!

This is how we do it: Joep puts the team together and it becomes some sort of a family. It’s never just the two of us; it’s all of us together. And when people ask me ‘what’s on the menu’ I have to tell them I don’t know because I’m just chatting, entertaining the guests and doing some stuff at the office and repairs and cleaning up. If someone throws up somewhere or the toilet is a mess, I clean it up immediately and Joep is always checking the kitchen, does part of the shopping, keeps an eye on what is

being bought and checks on the staff while they’re working with the guests. That is our formula; we don’t feel better than the others – we do everything.”

Joep: “In 2007 I had a serious motorcycle accident. My lower leg was shattered and I could no longer work, I was in a wheelchair. We were living at the back of Rain Fishes and I just didn’t want to have anything to do anymore with the restaurant or the people. We were already renovating ‘Chogogo’, the house at the south, and I wanted to go to silence and to the sea. I had enough of everything, but I was also bored. So I started importing furniture from India. In 2008 we sold the restaurant to Huub Groot.”

Ed: “So then life was completely different until our adopted son Jason told us that Anthony Nicolaas had talked to him about the building at Plaza Wilhelmina, to see if we would be interested in doing something there. Jason and I went to have a look and I felt positive about the idea. So we went to see if there was a possibility and as there were more candidates we pointed out that we’d been very successful on Bonaire. OLB then awarded it to us and we applied for all the permits and Huub has been of tremendous help with that.

From the very first day Joep knew exactly what it was going to be like and so we went to work. It took a year and then it was Regatta and time for us to show what we’d made of it! Cuba Compagnie was the biggest hit we ever had – because of its size. It’s a large place, but also because it’s a super location. The



The early years: Joep and Ed with Zen, son of a family friend



Joep and Ed at Cuba Compagnie

Cuba now and then, but the last six months I couldn’t even take a break. Then we got a buyer but the deal fell through. Then it was Huub who wanted to buy the restaurant and we started deliberating. The fact that Huub is our friend who has always supported us made us sell it to him for an amount we wouldn’t have sold it for to anyone else. But now we can still walk in and out of Cuba Compagnie whenever we feel like it which is good because Cuba Compagnie will always be our flagship.”

wonderful places.”

Ed: “Now we’re going to finally get to organize the house and make it neat and enjoyable because we never had time for it. I love being at home and I love technology, the internet and I love luxury. I really enjoy my Apple TV, such a small box through which you can receive the whole world. In the near future I’m going to assist Ron Gijzen with computer work because that’s what interests me.”

Joep: “We’re together for 39 years and we’re still good. I think it’s because we both live our lives the way we want, and we want the other to be happy. I’m Ed’s opposite. I don’t care for luxury, I am a thinker, a world traveler and an adventurer and therefore we also travel separately. I’m planning a long trip through Asia and then one through South Africa. Then I want to see Patagonia.”

Ed: “We’re in balance. I take care of the house, our base, and I’m pushing him to go for it and to do it now. He’s going to be all right; he has to do what he wants to do. And where ever he goes, we’re in touch every day – because we cannot live without each other.”

Story by Greta Kooistra. Two photos from Joep Van der Ligt and Edgar de Vuijst



“After 28 years on the island I feel sad that so many people are still dead-poor while a lot of money is being spent on other things. It should really be a priority and social security payments should be higher and more extensive .”

Plaza came to life again and up to today it is a unique spot on Bonaire.

Our life was just work and at the same time so much fun! However, the last couple of years I did the administration, went to travel a bit – Holland, as my dad is still alive— but also to see Jason, and to my beloved Colombia and the Dominican Republic.”

Joep: “Ed’s been tired of the restaurant business for a while now. He’s 63 and I am 65. A lot ended up on my shoulders which I didn’t mind so much but the last half year I noticed I was only working seven days a week. Usually I would go to Colombia or

Ed: “After 28 years on the island I feel sad that so many people are still dead-poor while a lot of money is being spent on other things. It should really be a priority and social security payments should be higher and more extensive.”

Joep: “We know a lot of people and have seen their children growing up. People feel good with us. Maybe it’s because for us it has always been a matter of give and take and the forever young feeling we both have. It’s a lovely island and of course it has changed but the whole world changed. I don’t see us moving from here anymore although Medellin and Havana are also

DID YOU KNOW?

That nurse sharks have eggs that look like a mermaid's purse?

In the second week of January, **Martijn Hickmann** of the Bonaire East Coast Diving company found what is most likely an egg case from a Nurse shark during a dive outside of Lac Bay. The dive site is called White Hole and it is known for its dynamic underwater landscapes and the chance of spotting sharks, rays and large turtles.

In Papiamentu, the Nurse shark is known as *Tribon di santu* which is a suitable name since it translates in to Sand Shark and relates to this specie's lifestyle of resting on sandy bottoms or in shallow water caves during the day, which is often where they are seen by divers. The English name, "Nurse" shark, however, is thought by some to come from the term "Nusse" which was applied to so called cat sharks, the group of sharks that nurse sharks belong to. Cat sharks originally got their name from their cat-like eyes, but the eyes of nurse sharks are tiny and actually don't look much like cat eyes at all. Others believe the name came from the sound Nurse sharks make when feeding, which resembles that of an infant nursing.

Nurse sharks are mostly active during the night when they go out to hunt. They literally can "go" out since they

can sort of climb along the bottom by using their muscular pectoral fins (fins located on the side of the body close to the head). They also hunt while swimming, but almost all of the time they stay close to the bottom because that is where they find their prey. Their diet consists of fish, stingrays, mollusks (like octopus and squid) and crustaceans (crabs, lobster, shrimp) which they catch by using their strong sucking ability. This suction is so strong that they can suck conch and clams out from their shells!

Nurse sharks are ovoviviparous – a word that is both hard to spell and pronounce. The "ovo" part of the word means "egg," and the "viviparous" part means that they give birth to live young, called pups. By putting these words together, we get a shark that lays eggs and gives birth to living pups. This might sound contradictory because usually an animal either lays eggs OR gives birth to live young, but it just means that the eggs hatch inside the mother. Then the empty egg cases (see the picture) leave and shortly after, the young are born. Just to make things more confusing, some species of sharks are oviparous – they actually attach their egg cases to the bottom. And some species are viviparous – each pup grows inside the mother via an umbilical cord (like with humans). Every two years a Nurse shark may give birth to 20-30

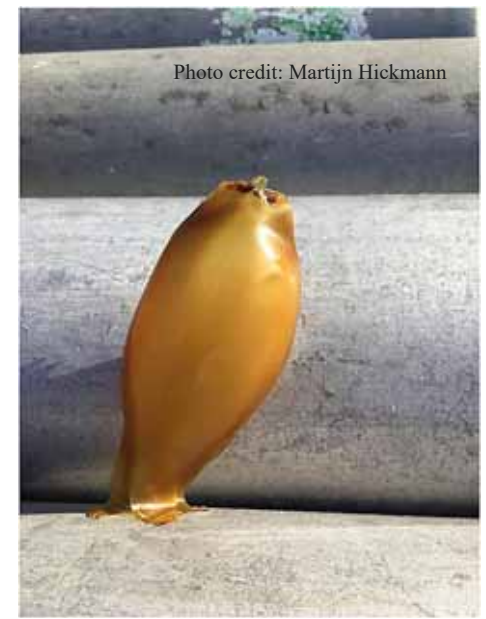


Photo credit
Hans Leijnse
(SHAPE/DCNA)

Nurse shark

baby sharks that are up to 30 cm. long. If this article was about Sand tiger sharks, I would have to tell you that they give birth to only one or two pups, because the pups that hatch first eat their siblings while they are still inside their mother's womb.

The egg case in the photo was found outside of Lac Bay where young nurse sharks have all three of their preferred habitats in the vicinity. Apart from shallow coral reefs, young nurse sharks are usually found in mangroves or sea grass flats. Plus, all of the territorial waters of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are part of the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary, so these



Nurse shark egg case

pups have a greater chance of reaching adulthood and making pups of their own.

I wonder where the young nurse shark that once was inside the egg case in the picture and its siblings are right now... If you see any young nurse sharks, or if you find egg cases, you are more than welcome to contact STINAPA. We appreciate your help in monitoring the animals of Bonaire's amazing national parks!

□ Emil Ren,
STINAPA assistant
biologist

Connecting People with Nature



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%)

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Over-The-Water Restaurant OKed



STINAPA Photo

The supporting pilings on the Bonaire waterfront at Karel's Beach Bar

In December 2018 the proposed over-the-water restaurant at Karel's Beach Bar was given the green light after seven years of litigation. The 34 pilings left in the water will remain to support the new pier and its building which will have to conform to strict regulations to protect the environment. Reef conservationists were surprised at the announcement because back in 2016 a court had blocked development, spurred by a challenge to the original permit brought by the protectionist NGOs—STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). It cost them an estimated total of \$80,000 in legal fees to stop construction.

BACKGROUND

The restaurant is the vision of **Karel Visser**, born and raised on Bonaire. After completing high school in the Antilles he obtained a Baccalaureate in mechanical engineering at the Delft University of Technology. He is a principal in the family business, Jokaya N.V., which includes the land, Zeezicht Restaurant and Karel's Pier. His father, Johan, and grandmother, Sylvia Abraham, built Karel's Beach Bar and had plans to build a luxury hotel around the Zeezicht property.

Karel took the first step in 2009 by applying for a building permit for a "Seaview Boutique Hotel" which included construction of an additional second pier. The bar on this pier was to be named "Pure Lounge Bar Bonaire." The project aimed to enhance tourism and commerce and employment for locals.

His claim that "the pier will provide jobs and enhance tourism" was contested by the NGOs as they argued that expansion of the pier would not significantly enhance the economy. When Mr. Visser applied for new permits, his new permit application was denied, citing the Island Ordinance regarding Nature Management Development in the Marine Park.

He argued this decision as he had already been granted one, but not all of the required permits in the past. After negotiations with the local government he was ultimately granted the appropriate

permit and sunk the pilings.

This was the starting point for the legal dispute between the local and Dutch governments and the NGOs. After being compelled to do so by court, Mr. Visser stopped the construction of the new pier. To prevent further damage to the marine park, the pillars that were already placed were allowed to remain in the water until the final decision had been reached (photo).

According to the STINAPA Marine Park News of 21 July 2015, a second round of appeals acknowledged the "importance of proper nature conservation legislation to protect the Natural Capital of Bonaire." It said that the "amendment to Bonaire's Spatial Development Plan (ROB) that allowed building activities in the heavily protected marine park are in violation of the law, regulation and nature policy of the island." STCB and STINAPA said they were pleased with this verdict, as the annulment of both the re-zoning plans as well as the permit issued for development reiterates the importance of Bonaire National Marine Park for Bonaire's future and the need for good governance by the local government.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

STCB was not aware that the permission for the construction of the pier was given, until it was announced in October 2018. STCB's Manager, **Mabel Nava**, said that STCB and WWF-NL were not part of the decision and weren't informed until it was made public. STCB is not in accordance with the decision to allow construction to resume and is expected to submit a position letter with WWF-NL.

Arjen de Wolff, STINAPA Director, provided his NGO's view of the issuance of the construction permit:

"For over seven years, litigation has

been ongoing between the Public Entity of Bonaire (plus the NGOs and Rijkswaterstat-Ed.) and the entrepreneur that owns Karel's



Arjen de Wolff

Pier. Visual evidence of the stalemate is the large pillars standing in the water next to the existing pier.

The interest of STINAPA in this matter has been to ensure that both the permitting process on the side of the local government, and the nature of the construction plans on the side of the entrepreneur, conform to agreed upon proper procedure as laid down in our island's spatial planning documents, its laws, and its regulations and that the work does not cause undue harm to the ecological values contained in the protected national marine park.

After thorough changes made to the development plan by the entrepreneur, and after a new planning and permitting process from the side of the government, STINAPA saw no compelling reasons anymore to interfere in what is, in the end, a process between the government and the entrepreneur. The new permit contains severe restrictions to both the construction of the pier itself and to what kind of activity can take place on the pier once in operation. The development plan itself reflects this as well, by providing a project that conforms with the key necessity that economic activities in the protected marine park need to be sustainable.

To clarify further: STINAPA does not decide on spatial planning laws and regulations, nor does STINAPA issue permits. Rather, STINAPA's responsibility under the law is to manage the national parks, mindful of the need for a careful balance between nature conservation and sustainable and responsible use of our resources. STINAPA is the supervisory authority with the duty to ensure that all actors adhere to the law, and to the conditions of the nature permit. The law and the permit themselves though are the responsibility of the Public Entity. STINAPA acts within the legal framework and decisions taken by the government.

STINAPA is relieved that a seven year court battle has now come to an end, that the government has now followed a new permitting process that adheres to its own legal standards and contains far reaching restrictions, and that the entrepreneur has radically revised its original plans and has proven willing to work towards a development that can be an example of sustainable entrepreneurship in the midst of a protected park, providing income to Bonairean households in a way that preserves our natural resources also for the enjoyment of future generations." □

G./L. D.

Remembering Hans Hass

In this edition we begin a series of articles about Bonaire's first scuba diver, underwater photographer and conservationist, Hans Hass, written by Michael Jung of the Hans Hass Institute. During the last half of September this year European divers will gather at the Sand Dollar resort to dive and commemorate his life.



Photo Hans Hass Institute

Hans Hass experimenting with underwater camera

Hans Hass has to be considered the true pioneer of diving on Bonaire. He was born on 23 January 1919, in Vienna, Austria. During a holiday in southern France in 1937 he happened to meet the American **Guy Gilpatric**, who with his simple mask and long wooden harpoon spent his time underwater hunting. Spear fishing immediately held an uncanny fascination for the young Hans Hass - he too went hunting for fish. But even back in those days he was not simply an underwater hunter. He was also fascinated by what he saw of the biological processes in this new underwater world and was determined to document and understand them. Soon the spirit of research awakened in Hass, and he was no longer content merely to hunt fish as game, but much more to learn about the manifold biological processes taking place beneath the surface of the sea which were undreamt of. To this end he built himself an underwater housing for his "Robot" camera and immediately started documenting his underwater experiences.

In addition to a passion for research, Hass also possessed a love of adventure. This is why, just one year later, at the tender age of 19, Hass undertook his first expedition. This time he was accompanied to the former Yugoslavia by several friends from the University of Vienna. Hass already used flippers on this expedition. They were invaluable for Hass's underwater photography because with flippers he could use only his legs to dive and swim, leaving his hands free for the camera.

Hans Hass decided to move further afield - lured by what he had heard of tropical seas he sought adventure and wanted to experience for himself the beauty and dangers that coral reefs had to offer. At the time connections to the Dutch Caribbean islands were very good so he set out with his two friends **Alfred** and **Joerg** to explore the fabled islands of Curacao and Bonaire.

Astonishingly, even in those days it seems that Bonaire's reputation preceded it. They spent only a few days on Curacao before local fishermen advised them to go on to Bonaire where the fish were more plentiful and the reefs even more beautiful! So on 20th July 1939 they set sail for Bonaire aboard the Venezuelan cutter *Sultana*. □

Story by Michael Jung
—To be continued



Dutch Officials Visit

In a press conference at the Bonaire Firehouse on January 10, State Secretary Raymond Knops and Social Affairs and Employment (BZK) Minister Tamara Van Ark addressed the issues of housing, poverty and economic opportunities.

The officials visited the public housing foundation, Fundashon Kas Bonaireano (FCB), which is building 500

new housing units on Bonaire. Knops announced that the project, beginning with a contribution by the BZK and rent subsidies usually paid by the island government (OLB), will be picked up by BZK. This budgetary aid will reduce local expenditures but is contingent on the island council adopting a number of regulations.

Regarding poverty and childcare, Van Ark said, "In the past year... support is increased, the child benefit has been increased and the employer's tax has been reduced."

She is aware this is only the beginning and plans to consult on a socio-economic discussion with the Senate and Second Chamber. Van Ark hopes to have a progress report and timetable by summer.

To improve childcare, a letter of intent for the BES(t) 4 KIDS project with a set of agreements was signed. Van Ark said she has a good overall view of needs to present to the Hague ministries.

"I am greatly impressed by the friendliness and hospitality. I go back with



Social Affairs Minister Tamara Van Ark, Governor Edison Rijna and State Secretary Raymond Knops

impressions. I go back home and I will make sure that when I come back, I can show follow-up steps and make new plans to improve the lives of people on Bonaire," said Van Ark.

To further understand how Bonaire can be marketed as a "blue destination" the political delegation, accompanied by WWF and STINAPA personnel, went underwater via a mini-sub to survey the reefs. STINAPA naturalist Caren Eckrich explained the importance of a conscientious land based infrastructure to obtain healthy reefs and water quality.

Knops said, "It was an eye opener to see that there is stress on this (the reefs) from large cruise ships or sewers that are not well regulated."

In the press conference, Knops noted she is leaving with a good feeling. "Huntu," which means together, is their motto. Let's do it together. **Story & photo by Julie Morgan**

New Sea Turtle Survey Boat

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) christened their new boat, *Thalassa*, on January 11, at Club Nautico Marina.

STCB manager **Mabel Nava** and **Netty Kerkhof** placed a neem tree branch on the bow and ceremoniously doused the boat in champagne to ensure the vessel returns safely home from sea.

Following a short welcoming and thank you speech, approximately 20 friends of STCB toasted the vessel with more champagne and turtle-decorated cupcakes donated by Bonaire Marine Park. Many of the attendees took a short boat ride to Klein Bonaire.

The Venezuelan-built, 32-foot **Eduardono** was donated by **Blue Jay Bonaire B.V.** *Thalassa* is named for the primordial Greek sea goddess or sea grass goddess because green turtles thrive on sea grass. She received her name from the donor and STCB.

Kaj Schut, in charge of communications and fundraising, said the boat will improve conditions and efficiency for the staff in aiding Bonaire's turtles. *Thalassa* will be used to perform in-water surveys on Klein Bonaire and the rougher areas of Bonaire's west coast. This new boat will allow STCB to use their other boat, donated by WWF-NL, for netting efforts



Volunteer Netty Kerkhof and STCB manager Mabel Nava baptize the *Thalassa*.

at Lac Bay.

STCB has three permanent hard working staff members: manager Mabel Nava, communication coordinator Kaj Schut and field specialist Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbreghts.

Founded in 1991, STCB sustains and protects turtles through satellite tracking, nest monitoring, in water surveys and education. For a complete list of everything STCB does and how you can help Bonaire's turtles, please visit the website www.bonaireturtles.org.

Story & photo by Julie Morgan

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Bonaire Culinary Team Challenge



“It was back in August,” Floris van Loo said, “that the culinary team said they could cook better than the coaches!” Those words were a challenge! This was going to be a culinary battle, the first ever in the history of the Bonaire Culinary Team and their coaches. Last week at the high school’s Chez Nous Restaurant the challenge was met.

After two days of preparation, gathering the ingredients and plotting their strategies the teams started working at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, January 13. Tensions ran high as the two teams worked in separate sections of the spacious Chez Nous kitchen. FORMA instructor **Isidoor van Riemsdijk** was the master of ceremonies and overseer who made sure the contestants had everything they needed.

At serving time, invited guests were breathlessly awaiting the culinary results of the battle, of which they, the guests, were the benefactors. Dishes from each team were offered and the diners were asked to judge. They were overwhelmed by the creativity, taste and presentation and found it nearly impossible to say

which was better. They were served a cocktail and four courses: an amuse, starter, main course and dessert.

As well, “official judges,” **Rashindra Donge** (“Chef of the Caribbean” as a member of the Bonaire Culinary Team at the Taste of the Caribbean 2014) and **Guido Panjer** (a member of Dutch Culinary Team) were there to evaluate as culinary professionals. By just a couple of points, the Coaches won.

Culinary Team Members: **Sherunduly Bernabella, Kelvin Ventura, Maria Maestroni, Miguel Saragosa.**

Coach Team Members: **Floris van Loo, Danny Klein, Dhanesh de Kok, Han ten Winkel.**

Want to join the team? Contact Floris van Loo on floris@habitatbonaire.com or use the team fb page [bonaire culinary team](#).

The team especially needs a Junior Chef.

On January 31, at 10am there will be an info get together for all chefs and bartenders at Rum Runners at Capt. Don’s Habitat. □ Story & photos by L.D.



Coach Han ten Winkel



Team member Miguel Saragosa



Team member Sherunduly Bernabella



Team member Maria Maestroni



Coach Danny Klein



Coach Dhanesh de Kok



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A Garden? Just Do It

BONAIREAN BONSAI



Beautiful examples

Not so long ago I met a tourist at a friend's party on Bonaire who was very knowledgeable of bonsai culture. Bonsai, a Japanese word, means "tree in pot." While we were taking a walk in my friend's beautiful garden he taught me a lot about this kind of art. It is an art started in Japan centuries ago and spread out over China and the world. It's a big topic and there are so many books about the art of Bonsai, not only in gardening but woven into many other arts like painting, fashion, dining and household ware.

After this gentleman spoke so enthusiastically and gave me so much information about bonsai culture, I thought it was worth writing about, because bonsai is also possible on Bonaire.

Some of us like to do things with plants but don't have much space, but bonsai is a way to have experience with plants and enjoy gardening. My bonsai friend told me

that he started small but now has a whole garden with all kinds of bonsai plants. It's become his passion.

So here is a new garden challenge for a new year.

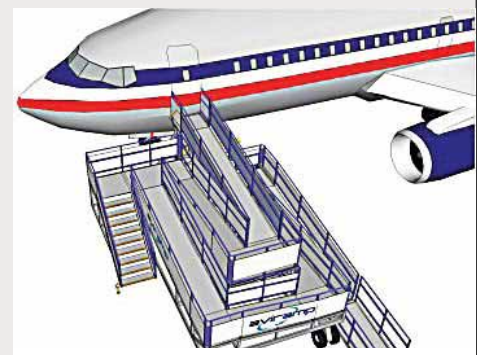
To start with bonsai, pick a plant that is mature or at least partially grown, for example part of a tree from cuttings or layering. On Bonaire I've seen small bougainvillea (trinitaria) in bonsai form, full of flowers, beautiful on porches, needing less water. Or you may choose nursery stock. Commercial

(Continued on page 11)

Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Accessibility and Inclusion

Accessibility stays an issue this year and the following years to come. Why? Although there are two Aviramps at the airport, it seems that they are not being used. We understand that the American/Canadian divers, "Cals On Wheels," had to be carried from the aircraft when they arrived. This is a pity, and it would be interesting to know what happened and why. Our Aviramps cost a lot of money and are a necessity to all persons with limitations to get on and off those aircraft.



Our Aviramp is NOT being used. WHY?

We are very glad that this special group of divers chooses to come to Bonaire again. That makes us feel proud. Let us hope that more special divers and other vacationers keep coming to our wonderful little island in the sun. And that Bonaire works harder than ever to get things in order.

Another nice thing is to know that the painting competition was very successful. As soon as everything is arranged, MiVaBo will organize an exposition. So be prepared. Bonairean handicapped artists are on their way. Which, by the way, is important. Because creating great art is not only a thing for the able-bodied artists.

Since plastic is very dangerous for nature, we need to pay more attention on Bonaire and ban this material. So many artifacts are made from plastic and we need to give more attention to recycling. As an example the big pink flamingo that stands at the waterside, feeding her chick that everyone can enjoy. Bonaire is ready for more art made from plastic and other flotsam/jetsam. Here lies a wonderful opportunity for organizations like FKPD, FORSA, FKBO, etc. to collect and create. Make brooms from plastic pop-bottles, doorstoppers from flip flops, mats and grocery bags from plastic bags.

Persons with limitations are part of our community. But one hardly sees them on the streets, in the shops. They rarely get to

travel. All organizations involved need to work very hard on inclusion. Make sure that the world gets to know all our special persons and see what they can accomplish.

It would be so wonderful if in the downtown area there would be a cozy little terrace, run by persons with limitations. The only able-bodied person would be the coach/trainer. Smiling persons with down syndrome, people with vision problems or hearing problems, and so on. They all could work there. Wait on tables, do the dishes, cook. There would be ample place to park your scooter-mobile. The tables would be big enough to make room for wheelchairs. There would be a charging station and parking places for walkers. It would be an inviting place to go and to be, to eat great but simple food and taste wonderful local juices. Maybe even buy precious keepsakes, all handmade.

People with limitations need to be seen and they need an opportunity to show the world that they can do so much more than people think.

Special Olympics Bonaire often brought home more medals and prizes than other athletes in other sports. Goes to show.

Let us all work together on this one.... Inclusion combined with accessibility. □

Story by Ria Evers-Dokter

YOGA ON BONAIRE February 2019

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Morning		6-715 am Dragana		6-715 am Dragana			
		730-830 am Relax & Stretch Lolymar		8-930 am Dragana		8-930 Dragana	
	8-9 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	8-930 am Dragana	8-9 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	8-9 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	8-9 am Vinyasa Gerjanne	830-930 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	930-1030 am Dynamic Flow Jane
	8-9 am Dynamic Vinyasa Jane	8-9 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	8-9 am Dynamic Vinyasa Jane	8-9 am Dynamic Vinyasa Jane	830-10 am Astanga Vinyasa Sarah	1030-1130 am Morning Flow Jane	1030-1130 am Morning Flow Sarah
	8-9 am Morning Flow Sarah	8-9 am Pilates Gerjanne		8-845 Yoga Ladina	830-930 am Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta		1030-1130 SUP/Yoga Ladina
	10-11 am Hatha Level 1-3 Sarah	8-845 Yoga Ladina		1030-11 Guided Meditation Sarah	930-1030 Dynamic Vinyasa Jane		
	930-1030 Dynamic Vinyasa Jane		11-12 Hatha Level 1-3 Sarah				
Evening					4-5 Chill Skills ages 11-14 Jeannette	2-3 pm Kids Yoga 8-12 Jeannette	
	530-630 pm Yoga Sensibile Elisabetta	530-630 pm Sunset Yoga Ladina	530-630 pm Slow Flow Sarah	5-555 pm Laughter Yoga Florence	530-630 pm Beginner's Yoga (Paplamento) Arlene	315-415 Kids Yoga 4-7 Jeannette	
	630-730 pm Power Flow Jane	530-630 pm Stretch & Lengthen Sarah	645-745 pm Pregnancy Yoga Sarah	530-7 pm Astanga Vinyasa Sarah			
				5-6 pm Wobble Yoga ages 5-10 Jeannette			
	7-8 pm Back Care Health Ladina	6-7 pm Beginner's Dragana		530-630 pm Sunset Yoga Ladina			
		6-715 pm Yin Jane		6-715 pm Yin Arlene			
	7-8 pm Vinyasa Ladina		630-730 Sunset Yoga Lolymar				

Location: Classes are color coded by location, see key below. Class costs vary by studio.

Bona Bista A10	Bonaire Basics	BonBida Gym	Divi Flamingo	Go Green Center	Jibe City	Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio
Sorobon Beach Resort	The Bonairian	The Marriot	The Terrace at Eden Beach	For more information on locations and teachers, visit www.facebook.com/yogaonbonaire or @yogaonbonaire on instagram		

Saxomania Fundraiser

FUND – A – SHOW

Fundashon SAXOMANIA and Red Palm Village will be organizing a fundraising dinner show on **JANUARY 4th 2019!**



With a free saxophone lesson during the concert!

RED PALM VILLAGE

Date: 4th January 2019
Place: Red Palm Village
Time: 7.00 PM
Make reservations for dinner at +599 700 3978

FUNDASHON SAXOMANIA

The Fundraising Dinner Show for Saxomania at Red Palm Village was a great success, and it's hoped to be repeated in the summer. The venue is very suitable for dining and performing and the wind doesn't blow the sound away too much. But it isn't so wind still to make it too hot to play.

Red Palm offered a themed three-course dinner for \$37.50 to a sold out restaurant and we played in between courses. They had to turn away people for dinner but people could come in and buy a drink and listen. Seating at the tables was a great way to meet new people as all tables there are for large numbers so you have to sit with whomever happens to be there.

There was also an open saxophone lesson for six people and as a result we have

a few more possible students.

Our percussionist Gabi Mercera had injured himself over Christmas, but at the last minute we managed to find a suitable replacement. It is a bit daunting to get used to a new player at the last minute but his skill on the *cahon* made it easy. We missed Gabi of course and hope he gets better soon. Boi Antoin and his TV crew were there so we look forward to appearing on local TV soon.

Our next concert will be in June and probably at Red Palm Village where we will showcase the students who have been having lessons. They will hopefully play with us as a very big group but also play some pieces on their own.

Thank you to all who are supporting us.

□ Carla Hay, Saxomania Coordinator

Just Do It (Continued from page 10)

bonsai growers in general sell mature specimens that display bonsai aesthetic qualities already.

Collecting suitable bonsai material in its original wild situation, successfully moving it, and replanting it in a container for development as bonsai—these trees are called *yamadori*—and are often the most expensive and prized of all bonsai.

Styling Techniques.

- **Leaf trimming:** Trim off leaves or needles projecting below the plant's branches.

- **Pruning:** The top part of the trunk may be removed to make the tree more compact. All branches should be removed to fit within the planned design.

- **Wiring:** Wrapping copper or aluminum wire around branches and trunks allows the bonsai designer to create the desired general form and make detailed branch and leaf placements. When wire is used on new branches or shoots, it holds the branches in place until they conform.

- **Clamping:** For larger specimens or species with stiffer wood, use screw-based clamps which can straighten or bend part of the bonsai.

- **Grafting:** is meant to add branches where they are needed to improve or complete a bonsai design.

- **Deadwood:** Create or shape deadwood using techniques to simulate age and maturity.

- **Growing environment:** Most bonsai species require humidity and sunlight conditions year round.

- **Watering:** Different species need different amounts.

- **Soil volume:** Large soil volume is needed for the tree trunk to extend in length and increase in diameter.

- **Temperature:** Local trees and plants can grow perfectly as bonsai on Bonaire.

- **Sunlight:** Trees generally require a good deal of sunlight. So no problem with bonsai culture on Bonaire with the hot sun above.

- **Repotting:** Specimens meant to be developed into bonsai are often placed in "growing boxes" which have a much larger volume of soil per plant than a bonsai container does. These large boxes allow the roots to grow freely, increasing the vigor of the tree and helping the trunk and branches grow thicker.

- **Fertilization:** is key to keep it healthy. It depends on the tree, how often and how much is needed.

Bonsai is not a race, nor is it a destination. It is a never ending journey.

So for those who are inspired by the beautiful bonsai culture start now. Make Bonaire a Bonsai Town in the Caribbean. Just do it. □

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Reforesting Bonaire

Looking at the vegetation on Bonaire today it may be difficult to believe but Bonaire was once covered in a dense evergreen dry forest. Unfortunately the land today is mostly populated with scrubby trees and cactus. This is not the most stable environment for Bonaire's Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot (Lora).

With this in mind Echo Bonaire has designated over 33 hectares (81.5 acres) of "exclusion areas" to reforest.

These areas are fenced off to protect the precious planting of 8,000 native trees from donkeys, goats and pigs.

On January 12, Echo took a big step forward in making Bonaire greener and keeping the parrots well fed.

Seventy-nine volunteers and Echo staff dug, cleaned, fertilized and planted 575 plants at the Seru Largu exclusion area.

Former director Sam Williams originally wrote the reforestation plan. The project began in 2016 as a three-year government funded grant to restore and reintroduce native plants.

Echo Director Julianka Clarenda said, "Reforestation creates more habitats for the parrots. Restoring their habitat is better for the birds but also for people."

Making Bonaire greener and keeping the parrots well fed is why reforestation is so important to Echo, according to Clarenda.

The goal of Echo is to ensure a stable and growing population of the Lora.

Echo volunteers planted 26 species of native plants that will thrive in the limestone composition of Seru Largu. But their work doesn't end there, as the small plants need to be watered once a week for a year in the dry season from February to September.

Echo's nursery manager, Johan Van Blerk, grew and selected the species specific to Seru Largu and the other reforestation areas.

As nursery manager he has grown over 20,000 plants of approximately 45 species from seeds in the Echo nursery at Dos Pos. Volunteers collected the seeds from all over the island.



This is the second time volunteer Rens Jonker has helped at ECHO but his first time planting. "I love being in nature and helping out the island," said Rens.



Merel Notten (L) and Corine Gerharts (R) work together to plant a Huku plant, one of the 26 species planted on January 12 at Seru Largu

Van Blerk explained that the introduction of goats, donkeys and pigs in addition to the harvesting of the evergreen trees for export in the 16th century decimated much of the dry forest of Bonaire. The plan is to reforest the island and return it to its natural state.

Today, areas ravaged by the feeding of goats and donkeys are left with a scrubby grey green plant known as sage that the grazers don't like.

The fenced exclusion areas lock out the

(Continued on page 13)

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 Liberator 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, Wednesdays, Fridays

• **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour**—9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950-

Wednesdays

• **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.

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: 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. De-brot. 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 6 pm 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	Ship Name	Time	Pier	PAX	Line
Tuesday	1/22/2019	Monarch	0800-1800	N.Pier	2744	Pull-mantur
Tuesday	1/22/2019	Britannia	NA	S.pier	3600	P&O
Wednesday	1/23/2019	Jewel of the Seas	0800-1800	N.pier	3114	RCCL
Wednesday	1/23/2019	DIVINA	0700-1800	S.pier	3959	MSC Cruises
Thursday	1/24/2019	Aida DIVA	0800-1800	N.pier	2050	Aida Cruises
Thursday	1/24/2019	Freedom of the Seas	0800-1800	S.Pier	3782	RCCL
Friday	1/25/2019	Nieuw Statendam	0800-1800	N.pier	2650	HAL
Friday	1/25/2019	Celebrity Summit	0700-1700	S.pier	2450	CEL
Saturday	1/26/2019	Serenade of the Seas	0800-1800	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Monday	1/28/2019	Aida Perla	0700-1800	N.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Tuesday	1/29/2019	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	N.pier	2500	TUI
Wednesday	1/30/2019	Disney Wonder	0700-1700	S.pier	2400	Disney
Thursday	1/31/2019	Norwegian Dawn	0700-1400	S.pier	2338	Norwegian
Saturday	2/2/2019	Balmoral	0700-1800	N.pier	1778	Fred. Olsen
Monday	2/4/2019	Britannia	NA	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

Jan. 19-26 Environmental Week

All week: **2-4-1 special** on Dive Against Debris Specialty and Peak Performance Buoyancy at Dive Friends

Tues. Jan 22—Plastic Problem Presentation by Roos Swart, 17:30-18:30 at Dive Friends

Saturday, Jan. 26 -

—**Dive Friends Quarterly Cleanup Dive** at Bonaire Sailing school – 9:30-20:30

—**Monthly Cultural Market, Mangazina de Rei**, 8 am-1 pm

—**Rincon Street Market**, noon-6 pm

—**Annual Lora Count**, info; Contact info@echobonaire.org

Jan. 26-27, February 2-3—Yoga Sensible Workshops-“Blooming into Awareness”

\$60 per class or \$200 for all. Aqua Spa & Gym, Eden Beach. More information: [Elisabetta](https://www.facebook.com/Elisabetta) at Yoga Sensible Bonaire. (Facebook).

Sunday, Jan. 27—Kadimo Survival Trail 2019, Walk Washington Park, 7am-10am. Reservations: stinapabonaire.org, 717-8444

Tuesday, Jan. 29—Bonaire's Wetlands, free talk by Stinapa. DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10a (across from City Shop)

Friday, Feb. 1—Taste of Bonaire (Karnaval) Wilhelmina Park, 6-10 pm

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 21	01:42 0.07 ft	05:05 0.03 ft	12:38 1.12 ft	21:33 -0.28 ft	Eclipse Full Moon	7:01	18:32
Tue 22	02:58 0.15 ft	06:30 0.10 ft	13:34 1.05 ft	22:15 -0.30 ft		7:01	18:33
Wed 23	03:57 0.27 ft	08:13 0.17 ft	14:33 0.95 ft	22:56 -0.31 ft		7:01	18:33
Thu 24	04:48 0.42 ft	09:57 0.19 ft	15:34 0.83 ft	23:35 -0.30 ft		7:01	18:34
Fri 25	05:35 0.57 ft	11:34 0.17 ft	16:36 0.69 ft			7:01	18:34
Sat 26		00:12 -0.27 ft	06:19 0.71 ft	13:00 0.11 ft	17:39 0.55 ft	7:01	18:35
Sun 27		00:49 -0.23 ft	07:03 0.83 ft	14:17 0.03 ft	18:42 0.43 ft	7:01	18:35
Mon 28		01:24 -0.19 ft	07:46 0.92 ft	15:27 -0.04 ft	19:45 0.31 ft	7:01	18:36
Tue 29		01:57 -0.13 ft	08:28 0.98 ft	16:32 -0.10 ft	20:49 0.22 ft	7:01	18:36
Wed 30		02:27 -0.08 ft	09:10 1.00 ft	17:35 -0.13 ft	21:54 0.14 ft	7:01	18:37
Thu 31		02:54 -0.03 ft	09:52 0.99 ft	18:37 -0.15 ft	23:05 0.09 ft	7:00	18:37
Fri 01		03:15 0.02 ft	10:34 0.96 ft	19:37 -0.16 ft		7:00	18:37
Sat 02	00:34 0.07 ft	03:20 0.05 ft	11:15 0.92 ft	20:36 -0.15 ft		7:00	18:38
Sun 03	11:56 0.86 ft	21:28 -0.15 ft				7:00	18:38
Mon 04	12:36 0.80 ft	22:12 -0.14 ft			New Moon	7:00	18:38

(Echo Tree Planting Continued from page 11) animals and the results in plant growth are evident.

“It’s important to bring back all the original species – diversity. Parrots need food year round. They should be able to find the food in the forest. Biodiversity, we need to restore it,” said Van Blerk.

Julianka Clarendina named and described some of the 26 species planted on Seru Largu: Sabal Palm, native to Bonaire and Curacao; Shimaruku – West Indian cherry; Kohara – white berries people ate to get drunk; Oliba; Wayaca – orange seeds, 2-types, used the wood for windmills and ships; Stoki – people chew it to clean their teeth; Watapana – Divi Divi; Amyris – rare on limestone terrace; Palu di Lechi – evergreen; Dakawa; Callabas – only Loras eat the fruit and it is pollinated by bats; Kibra Hacha tree and the tourist tree – *Bursera simaruba*.

“The work is really important even though we don’t do massive areas. It is an example to see how everything works and I

hope we can continue to make Bonaire a lot greener,” said Van Blerk, “It helps global warming through less erosion and keeps the corals free of sediment.”

The plan for reforestation is in its third and final year and Van Blerk said he is sad to see it end.

The January 12 Seru Largu tree planting was aided by the help of 35 Jr. Rangers, 30 local volunteers, nine Echo volunteers and five Echo staff. On the day before, January 11, 26 kids from Centro di Bario Nort Salinja, and two teachers planted 30 Wayaka trees.

To see and learn more about the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot of Bonaire you can visit Echo’s conservation center at Dos Pos. For more information about Echo visit www.echobonaire.org.

Story & photos by Julie Morgan



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Shelter News



Photo credit: Stichting Dierenlot

Shelter Manager Luvinia Rodriguez and Board Member Annemarie Rozendal gratefully accept donation from Leo Dijkgraaf of Stichting Dierenlot.

The year 2019 is off to an extremely busy start for Animal Shelter Bonaire.

-Between January 1 and January 18, the Shelter took in 39 animals that were surrendered or abandoned. More than 2 per day! As a result of this overwhelming influx, the drop off cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*) is locked until the new animals have cleared the quarantine process area and are placed in the appropriate residential kennels. If you or someone you know needs to surrender an animal, please call the Shelter at 717-4989/701-4989 to make an appointment to bring in the animal(s). We will try to accommodate you as quickly as possible.

-Animal Shelter Bonaire is grateful to Stichting Dierenlot (Dutch animal welfare organization) for their recent donation of 1,250 Euro (\$1,425.) to the Shelter. Stichting Dierenlot made donations to many Bonaire animal organizations last week on their visit to the island. Animal Shelter Bonaire was recognized as the oldest animal welfare group on the island as well as the first to receive Dierenlot support many years ago. Thank you, Stichting Dierenlot for supporting our work so generously and for so many years!

-Pakus di Pruga (the Shelter's flea market store) is open every Saturday from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m. selling quality second hand items at bargain prices. All sales benefit the care of the Shelter residents and our sterilization program. You can find anything from clothes and bedding to furniture and household appliances. We are always in need of items to be donated to our store. If you are "de-cluttering" your house please let us know. Your clutter is our treasure. You can bring your items to the Pakus on Saturdays (opposite Brandaris Cafe on Kaya Simon Bolivar) or to the Shelter on Kaminda Lagun. We will also pick up your items if you cannot bring them. Call Dabney Lassiter at 717-3949 to arrange a pick up.

-Do you want to do some volunteer work at the Shelter but can't commit to a regular schedule? Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday March 15 and 16! Those are dates for the 2019 Bon Doet Community Volunteer Day. The Shelter will need help at the Pakus di Pruga on Friday and at the Shelter on Saturday. Details in future issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

□ Jane Disko-Madden



Pet Of The Week



Hello everyone! My name is Gina and I'm seven months old. Almost a big girl, not in height though. I'm smaller than a medium size dog and bigger than a small dog... I guess I'm special! I am healthy and vaccinated.

I do like people but I'm still very shy at first. Once I trust you and know you love me I will show you my true colors... and will be the perfect companion. I like to play with toys and pull on a rope or just run around. I also really like sunbathing and sleeping.

I'm good with kids who have some experience with animals. I do like other dogs and about those other furry animals...oh yeah,



"cats"....they scare me sometimes. If I'm the fur baby you are looking for come by and meet me I'm waiting for you at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon - Fri 9 AM - 12 PM and 3-5 PM; Saturday 9 AM - 3 PM nonstop or call and ask about me 717-4989 / 7014989. □ Story & photo by Sanne Attevelt

Yuma Coaching & Cooking

YUMA COACHING & COOKING IS BACK AND READY TO COOK!

Yuma Coaching & Cooking is back and has started cooking classes with the kids. Its new location is in Nawati and offers space for eight kids per cooking class. The space has everything needed for a semiprofessional class and still has a cozy feel so the kids feel right at home.

All children between ages of 4 and 12 are welcome to learn new skills, cook and eat different types of food, enjoy each other's company and learn about a healthy lifestyle.

Throughout the week and on Saturdays, Yuma Coaching & Cooking offers classes, usually with an assistant to make sure everyone gets the guidance they need and to assure the safety of the kids. Each class is 1½ hours long in which the children read the weekly recipe, divide tasks, cook and eat together. The cost per class is \$15.

Because Yuma Coaching & Cooking wants to grant each child the opportunity to participate, despite their family's financial situation, there is a sponsorship program in place in which companies or just anyone who is willing can sponsor a child so they can participate. If you are inter-



Enjoying their self-cooked food

ested for your child to participate, want to host a guest class or want to sponsor a child please contact us via our Facebook page Yuma Coaching, email yumacoaching@gmail.com or phone number 700-1855.

Let's work together so kids can grow in their confidence, discover new talents and have a positive way to spend their free time. □ Story & photo by Fleurtje Veldkamp

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ORION THE HUNTER'S TWO WONDERFUL DOGS

Canis Major and Canis Minor

You know it seems that almost everyone's favorite winter constellation is Orion the Hunter. But his two faithful hunting companions, Canis Major and Canis Minor, should not be overlooked because their brightest stars are quite wonderful. Canis Major is Latin for the bigger dog and Canis Minor is Latin for the smaller dog.

And this month is perfect for observing this cosmic dog show.

On any night the next few weeks between 7 and 9 pm, Sky Park Time, look up and south where the most obvious constellation will be Orion the Hunter. Three bright stars in a row mark his belt, two bright stars mark his shoulders and two bright stars mark his knees. And to find his two faithful hunting dogs all you have to remember is that they follow him across the sky. To find his first dog use the belt trick. Simply shoot an imaginary arrow down through Orion's belt and that arrow will land smack dab on Sirius which marks the eye of Orion's bigger dog and which is also the brightest star we can see with the naked eye.

Now many people draw a stick figure of a dog here in different ways but the one we're showing is my personal favorite. Sirius is mentioned in practically every culture that ever kept records. Even in ancient Egypt it was called the dog star and whenever it was seen rising just before the Sun in early morning it was used as a cosmic sign that the Nile river would soon flood and make the land of Egypt fertile for planting. And if you've ever heard of the hot dog days of summer many of our ancestors believed that Sirius the dog star was responsible for them.

Today we know that Sirius is among the



very closest of all the stars, only 8.6 light years away, which means that the light we see actually left Sirius 8.6 years ago which is really close. So its closeness has something to do with why it appears so bright, although we have to add the fact that it is almost twice as wide as our Sun and because it is so much hotter and is 23 times brighter! Additionally it has a special companion star called a white dwarf. Special because even though it has the same mass as our Sun it is only two Earths wide, which makes its material so dense that a teaspoon of it would weigh several tons here on Earth.

Not to be out done, however, the brightest star of Orion's other dog Procyon, although not quite as bright to the naked eye as Sirius, is even bigger, 2.3 times our Sun's diameter. But because it is not as hot a star as Sirius it shines only 6 times brighter than our Sun. It too, like Sirius, is close, only 2 and a half light years farther away than Sirius, 11.3 light years distant. And strangely and coincidentally, like Sirius, it also has a white dwarf companion star almost identical to Sirius' white dwarf.

So there you have it, the two brightest stars of Orion's faithful companions, each with their own little pup, which to my way of thinking is really something to howl about. ■ Jack Horkheimer (RIP 2010)



THE STARS HAVE JS

End January 2019

Aries Horoscope Mar 21 – Apr 19
With a good plan you can sail right through a series of errands today. Leave as much room as possible for something spontaneous to happen when making social arrangements. It's essential to know that a delicious detour or extra stop isn't out of the question if you're psyched for adventure.

Taurus Horoscope Apr 20 – May 20
Go as far as you can reasonably be expected toward achieving a practical goal today. Extra energy and enthusiasm can be nicely channeled into a creative hobby, gentle exercise, or a favorite entertainment. It's possible to feel the sensation of stress melting away as you surrender to enjoyment and relaxation.

Gemini Horoscope May 21 – Jun 20
Several enticing possibilities seem inviting today, with each appealing to a different part of your personality. The urge to satisfy your curiosity with a trip to an aquarium, a museum, or a historic site is compelling. If you get your timing right, you can enjoy a little of each activity, along with a fabulous meal. The pleasure principle is the key to your heart.

Cancer Horoscope Jun 21 – Jul 22
There are times when nothing but the best will do. Your sharp eye for quality and your sensitive palate are a winning combination. Your choices make a clear statement. Ensure that whatever you do says, "I'm tasteful, perceptive, and I care." Your intentions shine when you operate from your heart.

Leo Horoscope Jul 23 – Aug 22
Walking around with your head in the clouds is wonderful until it isn't. Be ready to shift gears from low-key to high-velocity. There are times when you won't be in total control. Stay on your toes to be at the front of the pack. You're a natural-born leader.

Virgo Horoscope Aug 23 – Sep 22
Actions taken behind the scenes can have a big impact on the outcome of a project today. Tasks essential to the smooth flow of progress might be overlooked or go neglected. You're happy to let the ego strokes go to another. But unseen doesn't have to mean unacknowledged. Peers or loved ones applaud your role.

Libra Horoscope Sep 23 – Oct 22
A rocky path may lead to a spectacular destination today. Take a moment to reconsider what you want to accomplish. Just because it isn't easy to do doesn't mean it's not worth trying. Slow and steady can take you to victory. Prepare for a trip of a lifetime. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits.

Scorpio Horoscope Oct 23 – Nov 21
If you think you've heard it all where food and diet are concerned, think again. You can get the straight lowdown on the truth with a great deal of fact-checking. Let caution be your guide. In all things, knowledge is power. Listen to your body, and choose what's healthiest for you.

Sagittarius Horoscope Nov 22 – Dec 21
All the pieces of a topnotch plan are within reach today. But you may need to consult with someone outside your usual circle. What's left to the last minute can become distracting so try to tie up loose ends. When your work is done, relax and enjoy the rewards.

Capricorn Horoscope Dec 22 – Jan 19
It's all hands on deck at your house or the home of a dear one today. A job that requires multiple pairs of mitts to be successful, can be made short work with enough volunteers. The social component is almost too good to be true. Go with the flow. Multiple waves of positive vibes move in unison.

Aquarius Horoscope Jan 20 – Feb 18
So much happens at once to rock your world that it may not be until later in the day when you realize the cart's been put before the horse. Patience is not simply the ability to wait. It's how we behave while we're waiting. It takes time for things to be returned to proper order.

Pisces Horoscope Feb 19 – Mar 20
Money doesn't burn a hole in your pocket today. Your first impulse is to check the price tag, even when wildly enthusiastic about a trip or purchase. With a streak of cold, hard realism pervading your outlook, you can easily avoid busting your budget or doing even minor damage to your credit score or savings. □ Tarot.com

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