

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Feb. 4-18, 2019, Year 26, Issue 3
The REPORTER



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

**Take the Survey
What's Bonaire's Future**

In English, Papiamentu or Dutch on page 4

**Underwater Cleanup
See Page 8**



Julie Morgan photo

Last Tuesday, January 29, the Island Council met to discuss and approve new traffic laws which would include new rules for drunk driving, darkly tinted windows, helmets for scooter and motorcycle riders, child safety seats, mandatory seat belts, handicapped parking and more. The new laws will begin to be enforced beginning August, 2019.

►But last week the police were busy enforcing the present traffic laws which were last updated in 1958. On Monday, January 21, a speed check was held on the road to Sorobon. The speed of 20 vehicles was measured with a laser gun. Three fines have been issued for vehicles that drove faster than 90 km / h. Then on Friday 25 January, an alcohol check was held at the Bulevar J.A. Abraham between 21.00 and 22.00 and from 22.00 to 23.15 on the Kaya Korona; **342 breath tests** were taken. A total of 18 driving bans were issued and 2 arrests were made. On Saturday, January 26, during a traffic control at Kaya Papa Cornes, a man was arrested for driving under the influence. He also ran a taxi but did not have a taxi license.

►This year the 26 January annual Lora (parrot) count had more volunteers, more sites and more Loras. **Julianka Clarendia**, the Director of Echo, reported that as a result of everyone's hard work, they covered more sites than in previous years, resulting in the highest count ever.

With 87 people out counting, the result was an **amazing 1153 Lora**. This count is the highest yet, and shows how the population is becoming stable. Thirty-three roost sites were covered, including 9 in Washington Slagbaai National Park. The Fontein roost recorded the greatest number of Lora with 250.

Echo would like to thank all volunteers, STINAPA Rangers and Junior Rangers who participated in the annual parrot roost count.

►The motor vehicle tax for 2019 must be paid no later than this Valentines Day. Last week a notice of this was sent to all known owners of a motor vehicle. The date of the assessment is 31 January 2019.

It's possible to pay motor vehicle tax in two equal installments. The first half must be paid before 15 February. The second installment must be paid by 30 June 2019 at the latest. No sticker or other acknowledgment of the paid tax, except for the receipt, is given. It is possible to pay the tax before you

received the assessment. You can make the payment via internet banking, the Post Office or at a bank counter. Indicate the payment reference, which consists of your CRIB number / 0119 plate number, when transferring. Your bank statement applies as proof of payment.

For further information and / or questions please mail to tax-olb@bonairegov.com or call +599 717-5330 extension 2637.

Yearly Rates are:

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

►Fuel prices dropped in February except for diesel which remained the same.

Mogas 95	109.00	USDct per liter.
Kerosene	55.50	USDct per liter.
Diesel	70.00	USDct per liter.
LPG 100LBS	35.97	USD cylinder.
LPG 20LBS	9.07	USD cylinder

►The monthly price comparison done by consumer organizations Unkobon and FTpKB and the Ministry of Economic Affairs showed the prices of the package of 60 products rose slightly on average in January compared to December. Warehouse Bonaire is again the cheapest supermarket in January, the next cheapest was Wing Cheung.

►Consumentenbond Nederland is filing a lawsuit against KLM for their no-show policy. This is the policy that applies if a passenger does not show up for a part of the route, his/her ticket becomes invalid for the rest of the journey. For example, if you missed the outbound flight, but still want to use the return flight, KLM will charge a hefty penalty.

►American Airlines plans to maintain four BON-MIA flights year-round. Three extra flights per week were scheduled for the winter season 2018/2019 since these flights have been performing so successfully. So American Airlines has decided to maintain

these flights all year long. This will supply Bonaire with over 2,300 seats and between 17-18 flights per month. They fly Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.



►Bonaire is getting a significant upgrade to its electrical power facilities. The Finnish technology group Wärtsilä is installing an integrated 6 megawatt energy storage system ordered by ContourGlobal Bonaire, the island's provider of electrical power to WEB. The project includes the hardware, consisting of batteries and inverters, as well as energy management software. The system will enable Bonaire to increase its use of wind and solar energy and to provide the grid stability and reliability required for the island. Work has commenced, and final completion is expected in April 2019.

And it's rumored there is more improvement to come

►Bonaire set a goal of 100% renewable power in 2004 after a fire destroyed WEB's main diesel generator on the island in 2004. The wind generators added afterwards helped drive the cost of electricity in Bonaire down from \$0.50 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.22 per kWh, according to the World Bank.

The island's 12 wind turbines now can supply only a fraction of the island's electricity, at best about 40% of its annual electricity demand. Average wind speed on the island is about 14 miles per hour (7 m/s).

The solar array at Barcadera was installed by Dutch company Oskomera Solar Power Solutions. WEB works with the Dutch grid operator Stedin for optimal use of the solar supply on Bonaire. More solar and wind power for the island is being considered.

Apart from adding more solar, Bonaire dreams of powering its diesel generators with biofuel using algae grown in unused salt pans.

►The past couple of weeks have been difficult for InselAir. Maintenance on its single remaining plane caused a four-day suspension of service. And the negotiations between itself and InterCaribbean Airlines moved from the negotiating table to the

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The Bike Professionals

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
 courtroom. The InselAir bankruptcy trustee placed a lien on the fuel aboard one of Inter-Caribbeans aircraft in St. Maarten to assure payment of a \$500,000 guarantee, effectively grounding it. Consequently relations between the airlines about the takeover of InselAir by InterCaribbean have ground to a halt.

►The NGO Platform Bonaire invites all companies and individual volunteers on Bonaire to participate in BON DOET 2018. This



annual traditional event, where residents and companies provide necessary help to others, has huge impact on the well-being of the island. This year, BON DOET will be held on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March. In two days volunteers will do 74 jobs at 60 locations.

Over 120 volunteers have already registered. But there is still room for more than 1,000 more volunteers!

Get more information and register for one of the jobs at www.bondoet.com. Sign up for the job of your choice by entering contact details and the number of volunteers.

►On February 4 the list of candidates for the March 20 elections for the island Council and Electoral Council will be presented. These elections are perhaps the most important of this century so far because the candidates will receive formal orientation about their potential positions and a mandate to closely cooperate to provide good government. In addition it will

mark the first time Bonaire will have a voice in the First Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. The leaders of the election bureau include Nadya Tromp, Christopher Frans, Dennis Martinus, Edison Rijna, Bert te Hennepe and Irma de Graaf-Cicilia.



► Looking for something new in real Bonairean-made gifts? A taste of the island? For a mouth watering treat try the Beau Choco chocolates, made here by master chocolatier Bo Attevelt. Satisfying and scrumptious. Sold at van der Tweel in the bakery section (Beau Choco Bonaire on Facebook). Another real Bonaire product is Bonaire Flower Honey, collected from Bonaire bees by local bee keepers. True taste. At Green Label when available.



►Bonaire's Special Olympic Team of 12

►The new generation of the Bonaire Barracudas water polo team played four games from Friday evening to Sunday morning against the Curaçao Orcas in Curaçao last week. Games will be held monthly during the next six months in both Bonaire and Curacao. The young barracudas won one game, lost two games and tied one. They gained invaluable experience.



The Barracudas in Curacao

►The Barracudas are also holding another one of their great "assembly line" car washes on the 16th of February. Don't miss it, it's the best \$10 car wash on the island. It starts at Budget Marine at 12 noon to 3pm. The Barracudas do well with water on land too!

►On Thursday 21 February 2019, beginning at 4:30 pm, the Bonaire Barracudas will hold a Sponsor Swim again. It's your chance to contribute to add swimming to the sports Bonaire is already famous for like windsurfing and soccer. Members of both the speed swimming and water polo teams will be asking their friends and neighbors to sponsor them for swimming laps in the Bonaire sea pool. Proceeds are to support the team and finance their trip to CARIFTA, the Caribbean Championships.

All this fundraising activity is to allow Bonaire's talented swimmers opportunities to compete on an international level. About 25 years ago Bonaire's young windsurfers were given similar support. Many became world champions, professional instructors, coaches and operate wind surfing schools.

athletes and their coaches will be leaving for the Special Olympics World Games March 6-23 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. More than 7,000 athletes from 192 countries will participate in 24 different sports.

►Welcome our newest advertiser Special Occasions. Just in time for Valentine's Day. See their story and advertisement on page 9 □ G./L.D.

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Future of Bonaire Survey For Our Readers

Here's an opportunity for *Bonaire Reporter* readers to make their voices heard about the future of our island, Bonaire. It should take about three minutes to take the 10-question survey. The results will be printed in the **February 18 issue** of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

To take the survey on line go to the links below:

in English <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JDSC8N5>
 In Papiamentu <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LG3ZZBG>
 In Nederlandse <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDVQPKQ>

To take the survey from this printed page draw a circle  around your selection, Take a photo of the page with your phone and email to reporter@bonairenews.com.

Alternatively, send the photo via Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to *The Bonaire Reporter*. (599796-6125)

Or cut out and drop in the mailbox at Kaya Grandi 89 G L.D.



Wilna Gronenboom photo

English

1. How many Bonairean residents benefit from cruise ship visits?

Most Some A Few

2. Do cruise ship visitors negatively affect Bonaire's natural environment?

Not at all Same as other visitors More than other visitors

3. Should cruise ship tourists pay a nature fee similar to that paid by visitors who stay over (in hotels, condos, rental properties)?

Yes No Don't know

4. If you are a stay-over tourist how likely are you to visit Bonaire if cruise ship traffic increases?

More likely As Likely Less Likely Not Sure

5. Do you think that the Bonaire Government and NGOs are taking enough care of the environment and ecology of the island?

Yes No Don't know

6. Is Bonaire becoming overdeveloped?

Yes No Don't know

7. Should Bonaire have more activities for residents and visitors?

Yes No Don't know

8. How would you like to see Bonaire develop as a tourist destination?

Exclusive and Expensive Yes No

Similar to other Caribbean Islands with Mass Tourism Yes No

Ecologically Outstanding Yes No

9. How expensive is Bonaire to you?

I live here full-time Very Moderate Inexpensive
 I live here part-time Very Moderate Inexpensive
 I'm a visiting tourist Very Moderate Inexpensive

10. What questions would you like to add to this survey

Papiamentu

1. Kuantu habitante di Boneiru ta benifisiá di e pasaheronan di krusero (segun bo)?

Mayoria habitante algun habitante kasi niun habitante

2. Bishitantenan krusero tin influensia negativo e naturalesa di Boneiru?

Kompletamente di akuerdo mesun tantu ku otro bishitantenan mas ku otro bishitantenan

3. Turistanan krusero mester paga un tarifa pa naturalesa, similar ku e tarifa ku otro bishitantenan (ku ta keda den hotel, apartamento, kas di hür)?

Si Nò Mi no sa

4. Si bo ta un turista (no turista krusero), kon grandi e chèns ta ku bo ta bolbe bini Boneiru, si turismo krusero sigui krese?

Mas probabel Probablemente ménos probabel no ta sigur

5. Bo ta kere ku Gobièrnu di Boneiru i NGO's ta hasi sufisiente pa e naturalesa i ekologia na Boneiru?

Si Nò Mi no sa

6. Boneiru ta desaroyando demasiado?

Si nò Mi no sa

7. Mester tin mas aktividat pa bishitante i habitante na Boneiru?

Si nò Mi no sa

8. Kon bo ta deseá pa mira Boneiru desaroyá komo isla turístiko?

Eksklusivo i karu si nò

Komparabel ku otro islanan den Karibe, ku turismo masal si nò

Ku ekologia ekselente si nò

9. Kon karu bo ta haña Boneiru?

Mi ta biba aki henter aña hopi moderá barata

Mi ta biba aki un parti di aña hopi moderá barata

10. Kua pregunta bo ta deseá pa añadí na e enkuesta aki?

Nederlandse

1. Hoeveel inwoners van Bonaire profiteren van bezoeken aan cruiseschepen?

De meeste Sommige Enkele

2. Hebben cruiseschipbezoekers invloed op de natuurlijke omgeving van Bonaire?

Helemaal niet Hetzelfde als andere bezoekers Meer dan andere bezoekers

3. Moeten cruiseschiptoeristen een natuurtarief betalen dat vergelijkbaar is met het bedrag dat betaald wordt door bezoekers die overnachten (in hotels, appartementen, huurwoningen)?

Ja Nee Weet niet

4. Als u een verblijfstoerist bent, hoe waarschijnlijk is het dan voor u om Bonaire te bezoeken als het cruiseschip groter wordt?

Zeer waarschijnlijk Vrij waarschijnlijk Minder waarschijnlijk Niet zeker

5. Denkt u dat de regering en NGO's van Bonaire voldoende zorg besteden aan het milieu en de ecologie van het eiland?

Ja Nee Weet niet

6. Wordt Bonaire overontwikkeld?

Ja Nee Weet niet

7. Moet Bonaire meer activiteiten voor bewoners en bezoekers hebben?

Ja Nee Weet niet

8. Hoe wilt u Bonaire ontwikkeld zien worden als toeristische bestemming?

Exclusief en duur Ja Nee

Vergelijkbaar met andere Caribische eilanden met massatoerisme Ja Nee

Ecologisch uitstekend Ja Nee

9. Hoe duur is Bonaire voor u?

Ik woon hier voltijds Zeer Matig Goedkoop

Ik woon hier part-time Zeer Matig Goedkoop

Ik ben een bezoekende toerist Zeer Matig Goedkoop

10. Welke vragen zou u aan deze enquête willen toevoegen?

TO TAKE THE SURVEY ON LINE CLICK ON THE WEB LINKS ABOVE OR COPY AND PASTE THE LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER'S ADDRESS LINE

On the Island Since... 2012 – Diny van der Drift



Flying with Evert over Bonaire

“We came for a dive vacation in 1998 and we loved it. But at the time I still had my own company— my hair and beauty salon – and I wasn’t ready at all to make the move. However, my partner wanted to live here instantly. But we went home to Holland where I had six people working for me and I thought, ‘Impossible!’ Life continued its course and in 2007 we came back to Bonaire. The following year we bought the apartment in Windsock with the idea that some day we would end up here. Of course it was a big step – but really, nothing is impossible.

The desire for Bonaire was 80% the weather - the lovely climate. But let’s be realistic, wherever you go, you have to work. So that was a bit of an issue until we got the management of Windsock, then it became real. I was also thinking of continuing my work here, but not six days a week like I did in Holland.

Of course we’d never thought Windsock would be such a hit because when we started it was slow, like 15% occupancy, which we changed in a couple of years to 80-90%. I am a perfectionist; when you do it, you do it right, not halfway. My dad taught me to always give it the extra kick. He taught me everything he knew. We were one of a kind.

We came to Bonaire with our sweet little dogs, two Jack Russells, which were both eight years old at the time. First we lived in our apartment in Windsock but after a year and a half the Windsock apartments had become so popular that we decided to rent our own apartment as well, and we went to live elsewhere. We were busy with the bookings and picking people up from the airport. We added a car rental to our business and I was doing permanent makeup again now and then. So, before we knew it, we were on a roll again!

Besides good entrepreneurship and professionalism there is service orientation. Listen to your guests’ dive stories because that’s their passion. That’s what they came for. And Bonaire is such a unique place. What you see here

underwater and above has become very hard to find in this world. I am a dive master myself and I did a lot of dives with people but always for fun. So, I went with our guests as well and we always had – and still have – a good time.

Meanwhile my Dutch clients were sad that I’d left the country. So I promised them I’d be back twice a year, which I’m still doing. Permanent make-up is a very personal thing and you have to trust the person who’s doing it, just like when have a tattoo. On Bonaire the word spread like wildfire, and before I knew it, I was on the express train again. Knowing that people have faith in me and are happy with the result gives me a lot of energy. Often people come in feeling insecure and sometimes they are even scared because it’s about the eyes, but that fear is soon gone. For a permanent make-up artist experience is number one. But also you have to have knowledge of the colors and skin tones as nobody is the same. And then you deal with facial forms and expressions and the fact that every eyeliner or eyebrow is different for every individual.

“What struck me most is that I started looking at clouds in a totally different way. Clouds and weather are awesome and every day is different – I never saw it like that until I started flying.”

I’ve been doing permanent makeup for 25 years, but I’ve been in the beauty and hairdressing business for over 35 years now. Permanent makeup has become very trendy. Also people who have cancer come to me to have their eyebrows done before they start chemo. Losing all your hair is bad enough but your eyebrows are so important for your facial expression. It makes a world of difference to have them, not only for women but also for men. It just gives people more confidence and makes them feel better.

Nevertheless for most men it’s still an issue when their wife decides to get permanent makeup

but I think if it makes you happy, do it!

In general I like to discuss and talk things over with my partner but then he asks me, ‘Why are you asking me? You always do what you want!’ Hahaha! That’s how it went when I learned to fly. He’s a pilot and became an instructor and of course I’d go with him whenever I could. In Holland we had our own little plane– a low wing – and we would fly to France and the Czech Republic and Germany, we would go everywhere! On one of those trips my partner asked me: ‘Would you like to know more about it?’ And my answer was ‘Yes! But then I want to become a pilot myself!’ And I became his most difficult pupil. That’s what he’s always told me. When he would say – when I was still his student – ‘Let’s practice sharp turns today,’ I would an-

swer: ‘No, I don’t feel like it at all. I just want to fly nicely.’ In the end he told me he’d learned a lot from me because your own partner always gives more feedback and dares to say more.

Of course I had other teachers too. One of them was a female pilot with a lot of experience and a tremendous passion for flying. She also had her own plane and would fly to her house in France and I would accompany her on the way. Was it like two weeks ago when I read about a Surinam Airways plane that was flying for the first time with an all-female crew? I remember thinking ‘Coool!’

Well, because I was very busy working and it was a hobby come

true, I took my time and enjoyed every single lesson. Two and a half years later I got my license. Of course it’s not just about flying. Theoretically there is a lot involved, like the weather, navigation and engines. What struck me most is that I started looking at clouds in a totally different way. Clouds and weather are awesome and every day is different – I never saw it like that until I started flying.

Life is too short to do everything in only one lifetime and when I come back I want to be a plastic surgeon. I never thought consciously about having children. When I was 30 I started my own business and I am very much a perfectionist and you just can’t have it all.

We’re still busy with Windsock and my practice, the car rental and

an errand on a motor scooter.

We still love the island. It’s a lovely place and we’re planning on staying for a very long time. I read that on an average people leave the island after five to seven years, either because of the grandkids – a problem we don’t have – or for health reasons. It doesn’t count for us though because we’re having a great time and are enjoying ourselves. For me a quiet night on the sofa at home feels so good and special because we’re always having tons of people over. However, eventually I will have to step back I guess because at a certain point your body says it’s enough.

I always wanted to do a lot of different things in life and I like too many things. I did a lot of classes, courses and education for the fun of it but also to specialize in dermatology, skin diseases and skin improvements. I also did pedicure and foot reflexology too because when you don’t have kids you can do whatever you want. I gave courses for other firms and beauticians as well.

Now I’m starting to study Applied Psychology. I am always looking for a new challenge, then I plunge into it and I want to do it right, otherwise there’s a chance life could get boring and I do not want to get there! Believe in yourself and if you want it, go for it. Just do your thing, even if it’s a ‘boy’s thing!’”

For more info: dinyonbonaire@gmail.com or phone 795 1413

Story by Greta Kooistra.



Diny and her dog Sky in front of her salon



Have something to say?
 Want to give your opinion?
 Email reporter
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DAMAGING FREE RIDE

Dear Editor,

I just want to add my voice to the others that think it is a travesty that cruise ship "divers" do not have to pay the marine fee. In my experience of 8 weeks of diving on Bonaire over several years I have seen that it is these inexperienced and unskilled "divers" that are so destructive to the reef. They have no respect for the requirement to not touch anything. I have observed them crashing through soft coral and bryozoans. sitting in sand, holding onto coral, digging blenny burrows out to watch the fish dig another, harassing turtles, crashing into coral while taking selfies, and so on.

To give these "divers" a free pass to dive and damage the reefs is absolutely horrible. Why should they get to dive free and I, having done more than a hundred dives on Bonaire and never touched anything except the sand/broken rock/coral at the entry/exit, have to pay the fee?



Don't get me wrong, I am happy to pay the fee and I actually buy both the diving tag and the snorkeling tag even though I'm only required to buy the diving tag. I don't even care about the increase. It probably should have increased years ago. What really burns me up is that the cruise ship "divers," who do so much damage to the reef, are allowed to dive for free. Perhaps if they had to pay the fee they might realize that reef protection is serious business and quit doing damage.

Larry M. Litwin

SOLDACHI THANK YOU

Dear Reporters:

The Soldachi Tours want to send you a big Thank You for your support that we received during the year 2018 and all the years before.

In the year 2000 we started with our Rincon Village Tour, where we highlight our history, culture, nature, architecture and especially our hospitality.

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We know for sure that you will go on supporting our Rincon Village Soldachi Tours for the years to come We wish you all the best and proudly,

The Soldachi Tours, say again, Thank You, Danki

Maria and Company, from Rincon, the Heart of Bonaire.



Maria Koeks

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in London, England



Paul Hosefros displays a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* in Trafalgar Square, which is located in the City of Westminster, Central London. Trafalgar Square has been a significant landmark since the 13th century. Over Paul's shoulder is Nelson's Column which is a monument to commemorate Admiral Horatio Nelson who died at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Paul is a retired *New York Times* photographer who started his career as a copy boy and eventually worked his way up to Senior Photographer.

His 36-year career at the paper included a period being assigned to the Washington Bureau. During that period

he covered the White House photographing Presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

He also worked for the paper on the photo desk in New York, holding several positions including Temporary Picture Editor and Picture Assignment Editor. When asked what was his biggest accomplishment at the paper, Paul responded it was during his time as Picture Assignment Editor, hiring **Alan Zale**, who now shoots for *The Bonaire Reporter*, as a freelance photographer for *The New York Times* and whose Karnaval cover photo Paul is showcasing in Trafalgar Square. □

Picture Yourself A Winner



Winners of the 2018 Picture Yourself With *The Bonaire Reporter* contest, **Ruud and Oda Peters**, enjoy their prize, a Dinner for Two at the award winning **Rumba Cafe** waterfront restaurant in downtown Kralendijk. They commented, "Great food and friendly staff." *Eet smakelijk*. They won with their photo in Nepal. □

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IRON



Iron is a mineral that has many different roles in the body. It is particularly important for making hemoglobin: a protein contained in red blood cells that transports oxygen around the body. Iron also plays an essential role in maintaining a healthy immune system (your body's natural defense system).

What are the symptoms of iron deficiency?

People with mild iron deficiency often feel tired, lacking in energy and tend to be more susceptible to infections. With more severe iron deficiency (called iron deficiency anemia) symptoms such as heart palpitations, brittle nails, thinning hair, itchy skin (pruritus) and mouth sores or ulcers can develop.

Which foods are good sources of iron?

Many different foods contain iron in different amounts. Some food sources are more iron rich than others. For example, animal-based sources such as red meat (beef, lamb and pork) are particularly rich sources of iron and are most easily absorbed, and to a lesser extent fish and poultry and eggs. Plant-based sources of iron include pulses (edible seeds) and legumes (such as beans, peas, and lentils), dark green leafy vegetables (such as spinach, cabbage, and broccoli), tofu, nuts and seeds, peanut butter and dried fruits like figs and apricots. The iron in animal-based sources is often referred to as 'haem iron' whilst the iron in plant-based sources is often referred to as 'non-haem iron'. Haem iron can increase the absorption of non-haem iron. Therefore, to improve iron status it can be beneficial to

eat, for example, red meat (beef, lamb or pork) alongside green leafy vegetables. Many breakfast cereals are also fortified with iron

Iron and vegetarianism

Although not as easily absorbed as animal-based sources, plant-based foods such as beans, grains and vegetables also contain iron. Some plant based foods contain more iron than others and food preparation can enhance iron absorption. For example, cooking, soaking nuts and seeds and using sprouted seeds and grains. Try and opt for the more iron-rich plant-based foods.

Vitamin C

Although vitamin C has been shown to increase the absorption of iron, it is currently unclear as to whether this improves iron status. Nevertheless, fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin C should be eaten in regularly in the diet.

Tips to ensure an iron-rich diet:

Add green leafy vegetables to main meals.

Add dried fruit to desserts and have fruit and (or) nuts as snacks between meals.

Try iron fortified products too.

Iron is an important mineral we need to have in our daily diet. Opt for a variety of iron-rich foods to ensure an adequate intake of iron.  *Lucinda van der Wardt*

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

Remembering Hans Hass

This is the second of 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.



Hans in 1939

... continued from the last edition...

On Bonaire Hass met and snorkeled at Punt Vierkant with a Dutch veterinary surgeon based at Kralendijk to whom he had been recommended. **Dr. Diemont** had a very keen interest in marine life. He had even modified his primitive diving goggles by adding a small tube so that he could equalize the pressure in



Klein Bonaire Campsite. Vestiges are still visible today

them. The marine life at Punt Vierkant was spectacular, partly as a result of a local belief that fish from this area were poisonous. That's why no fisherman was fishing here. Here Hass saw his first shark. One day later Dr. Diemont took Hass and his friends over to Klein Bonaire where they pitched their tent under the shade of a big DiviDivi tree near the Carl's Hill diving site. The outline of this precisely laid out camp is still visible there today.

At this point in its history this solitary DiviDivi tree played a decisive role.

Night after night under the shelter of its branches, the three friends discussed the future and each of them envisioned and projected a future for themselves. Beneath this tree during many sleepless nights Hass dreamt of equipping his own research vessel and manning it with researchers who, as divers, would be amongst the first to explore the fascinating world of the bottom of the sea. Bearing in mind the strategic significance of this site, the tree should perhaps be named "Hans Hass' Vision."

(Continued on page 13)



Buena Vista Optics

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BBQ



"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

Underwater Cleanups- Lots Of Divers

Dive Friend's Environmental week, January 19-26, brought environmentally conscientious divers together for underwater cleanups, a talk on plastic pollution and dive debris and peak performance buoyancy specialty classes.

Bonaire's downtown piers and a strip of the anchorage received a much-needed cleanup by local and visiting divers.

The dives were held January 19, 20 and 26. A record number, 127 volunteer divers and 25 members from various Bonaire environmental groups, concentrated on debris removal under the north and south piers with a final dive in front of Bonaire Sailing School.

Divers reclaimed 2 km of fishing line and approximately 750 kg of underwater debris that consisted of tires and common trash. Divers moved huge truck and car tires up from the depths via lift bags and lines to people stationed on the piers.

The dive volunteers were provided with a tank and dive bag for garbage collection of the refuse that had been carelessly sent into the ocean.

On January 22, marine biology student **Roos Swart**, from the Netherlands, spoke to a group of concerned individuals about the world's plastic problem.

According to Roos, five million plastic bottles go into the water every day in the US. Single-use plastic is one of the biggest problems to our oceans. Seventy-two percent of what is washed up on the beach is single-use plastic.



Even the degradable plastics are a threat to coral reefs as the plastics emit CO₂ that promotes climate change to our planet. The plastics that are broken down combine with algae, which the fish eat. Then we eat the fish. This causes hormonal problems and cancer in animals and humans.

Roos said, "Prevention is the key... recycle, refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, re-gift and recover."

The week ended with the Dive Friends quarterly cleanup dive in front of Bonaire Sailing School. Following the dive, everyone gathered for complimentary food and drinks.


Environmental Week wouldn't have been possible without the help and assistance from SELIBON NV, STINAPA and the Junior Rangers, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Project Aware, Bonaire East Coast Diving, La Cantina, Caribbean Dive Trading, Courtyard by Marriott Dive Resort, Tropical Nature Products and Ikelite. □

Story & photos by Julie Morgan.



Photo at left: Hans Koning cuts a stubborn line
Photo above: Leonel Martijn, Acting Manager BNMP, right
EnchomarWanga - Park Ranger tend a lift bag


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"Toon" Abraham, 7 July 1936 - 19 January 2019

Last month Bonaire lost a man who helped guide the Island into the 21st century when Bonairean Laurenso Antonio "Toon" Abraham, passed away. A quiet, modest man, he played a key role in government and business from the 1950s through the early 2000s. He served as political leader, government minister and businessman. Fifty years ago, as head of tourism, he was key in attracting the first cruise ship to Bonaire

Toon and his family profoundly influenced the culture of Bonaire. He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie Abraham Nicolaas, two brothers and six sisters: Julian, Sylvia, Clelia, Iraida, Geraldine, Evangeline ("Evy"), Johan ("Jopie") Alexandre ("Lexy") and special heart child Amir Martin.

May he rest in peace. Condolences to his family.

Special Occasions

asesorio i dekorashon pa tur okashon

“SPECIAL OCCASIONS” IS TRULY SPECIAL

Anyone who loves planning or having parties and celebrations will welcome Bonaire’s first and only party store, “Special Occasions.”

Bonairean owner **Anne-Marie Mercera** said, “This is something new for Bonaire. You can get everything you need in one place for a party.”

Five years ago Mercera knew she wanted to open a business. She looked around and saw that if anyone wanted to have a party or celebration there was always a problem finding anything but a few basic decorations.

She said, “I like parties! I like to organize them and I like the decorations. I knew Bonaire needed the party products. I wanted to supply one-stop shopping.”

This was the perfect niche for Anne-Marie so she took a three-day a week, six-month business class at FORMA. In addition to the class she read an eBook on the party store business. Armed with information from her classes she made a business plan.



Anne-Marie said, “This is very important. Many businesses open on Bonaire and then they close after a year because they don’t have a business plan.”

She believes her competition is the Internet. Mercera says the problem with ordering online is not only the expensive shipping but you can’t really see the items you are interested in buying. Her new store allows the buyer a broad array of themed decorations for all occasions and there is no running from store to store or ordering online.

In the not-so-distant future she sees “Special Occasions” as being the place



Anne-Marie Mercera looking happy at her shop

where people will go if they are throwing a party or celebration.

“If people need something for a party,” she explained, “they will think, we can get it here.” This is even part of the “Special Occasion” logo: “accessories and decorations for all occasions” (*asesorio i dekorashon pa tur okashon*).

“It’s important that people from Bonaire start their own companies. It’s not only important to me and my store, but to all Bonaireans.” said Mercera. And now training is available on how to best start one.

Anne-Marie was born and raised on Bonaire. She has been the director at FundashonWega di Number (the lottery) for 13 years, president Special Olympics, member of the Red Cross and treasurer for Ride for the Roses, a charity for cancer.

Special Occasions is located at Gobernador N Debrot #50. For more information see the “Special Occasions” ad on this page of *The Reporter*. **Story & Photo by Julie Morgan**



asesorio i dekorashon pa tur okashon

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A Garden? Just Do It

DWARF TREE GARDEN

Have you ever seen a dwarf garden? Have you seen miniature fruit trees? I just did and I was surprised by the many dwarf fruit trees full of fruit. So cute and nice on a porch or in a small garden, on a roof top or sunny balcony. What makes me write about this is that there is less water needed for dwarf fruit trees, and it's so much fun to easily pick some fresh fruit from your trees on a small balcony.

It should be a successful way of gardening on Bonaire because often these fruit trees like sun and dry weather, and it is less work. So, after Bonsai this is another technique in miniature gardening to try in any space you have.

To create a miniature garden that will last for years, choose plants that grow slowly and stay small for as long as possible. Dwarf trees can grow in pots or in a garden. Nothing is so nice in your garden or on your porch as an orchard of potted trees, especially when they are in blossom, buzzing with pollinating bees, or dripping with fruit. Especially if you don't have yard space and only a tiny balcony it's really worth having one fruit tree or a line of miniature trees there. And think of how much less water you need—just a small bucket every two or three days—and you can water with a can or cup. You need a lot of water to grow big fruit trees in very dry soil (the high water bills scare us!) and when they have fruit, the Loras and iguanas are right there too, and you cannot protect your fruit because they're so high in the trees. Dwarf fruit trees bring also a structure and a delicious sense of maturity to a balcony or roof garden. Some romance hangs in the air.

These dwarf fruit trees can bear a lot of fruit. You will be surprised how much fruit you can pick from the small trees. For children it's so much fun to eat an orange that they pick by themselves. And they learn in such a nice way something about gardening.

How do you choose dwarf fruit trees?

Fruit trees are good as long as they are grown on a dwarf root stock. If you are unsure ask for a specialist supplier who can help you to select the right one for your porch. Also check with suppliers if you need more than one tree to ensure good pollination. Some trees are self-fertile, and some need a partner nearby to ensure pollination. You can also have a "family" tree on which tree varieties have been grafted onto one rootstock.

Some dwarf fruit trees may need extra encouragement to grow upright as they become established. This is a simple task you can do at planting time or soon after with tree stakes. Young trees growing in windy areas benefit from staking even if they are not dwarfs.

How to plant and grow dwarf fruit trees.

You can grow these trees in pots at least 1 foot (30 cm.) in diameter and 1 foot (30 cm.) deep. Galvanized garbage cans, terracotta pots, half wooden barrels are great, but also plastic planters or rubber containers will work.

If you want to plant the dwarf trees in your garden, you also can put them in a line. Keep at least 19 inches (50 cm.) between



Dwarf Lemon



Dwarf mandarin

each. Dig holes bigger than the tree needs. Remove the big stones. Fill the hole halfway with a mix of black dirt, dry leaves, some goat manure, some charcoal and a little bit of red Bonairean soil. Put the dwarf tree in the hole on top of the mixed dirt, then add more of the mixed dirt, but not totally. Leave it a little hollow so that water can stay in instead of running away. Add some dry leaves on top to help keep the dirt moist. Use the same procedure for pots.

The most dwarf fruit trees I've noticed in garden shops are citrus trees like lemon, orange, lime, kumquat, mandarin. But I understand that mango, cherries, papaya, golden apple (*pommisiter*), bacoba trees and maybe more are also possible.

Making Bonaire "Accessible"

MENTAL HANDICAPS

Only just a few weeks ago I overheard somebody yelling at a person with a mental handicap, "Who do you think you are, you idiot? You are not supposed to think for yourself." This is no lie, this is the bitter truth.

And it happens a lot. People are addressed by their handicap and people without a handicap are called names that are used to "classify" different forms of mental retardation. In the Greek-Roman period these people were called "monsters." (Monere comes from the Latin word "monere," to warn).

During the Middle Ages the word "cretin" was also used. They say it was a word coming from "Christian." Not because they were, but because they were taken from homes by the church.

They were called "change-children" because their mothers had supposedly changed them for a healthy child.

From the 19th century, being mentally retarded you were: idiot, imbecile or devil. Nowadays you are not supposed to use that lingo anymore. Persons with mental retardation and their parents have been lobbying very hard to change that. If someone suffers slightly from retardation, suffers from retardation or is severely retarded they are called "a mentally disabled person."

So, keep that in mind when you call names; think about that. During WW2 those persons were even killed by the Nazis because they suffered from retardation or were sterilized so they could not reproduce!

Persons with physical limitations also got called names: "You are a deaf and dumb cripple" or "stupid spass."

It is better to say: "a disabled person," or a person with cerebral palsy, "a wheelchair-user."

We now have Special Olympics and the Paralympics. Thank God this is an ongoing process and persons with challenges get better chances in life. They are hardly institutionalized anymore. They form a big and important part of our community.

So, here lies a big job ahead.

Keep them accepted, treat them as any-



body else. They form no threat, they are not a liability. Give them chances, give them jobs. A foundation like FKPD should be able to function as a hub. All their clients should be living in normal homes, like a family, not being institutionalized. Not being presented as a large group of people who deserve pity.

And persons with a physical challenge should get the same chances as everybody else. They also want jobs, being treated as a person who has abilities.

Insurance companies should also treat these persons as anybody else and insure their vehicle, scooter-mobile, the same way they do for able-bodied persons.

And everybody should be able to get out of their house every day and every night, go to town, make use of decent public transportation, drive with a proper vehicle on good streets, walk on decent sidewalks.

So, with the new Bonaire *Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning* (social support) and the *Wegen en verkeers-verordening* (Roads and Traffic Regulation, dating from 1957) in place, this should be no problem at all.

And.... "sticks and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me." □

Ria Evers-Dokter



How to deal with pests.

Of course, even when you have these dwarf trees on your porch, balcony or in your garden, watch out for iguanas. These trees can be an expensive hobby for collectors and you don't want to lose them to iguanas who love these small nice smelling plants. So put chicken wire around the trees or paint buckets, open on both ends, over them as iguanas cannot climb on those surfaces.

As we know in the dry season there are *pies pies* on the plants. Citrus fruit trees and bacoba trees suffer a lot from this plant sickness. Don't wait until your dwarf mandarin or lemon has this problem. Prevention is better! Make the neem tree tea from the neem leaves and spray the trees every two

weeks, even better once a week. It's easy to make the tea. Boil one liter of water and add neem leaves. Let cool then fill the liquid in a spray bottle. Spray the trees from bottom to top. Bugs and *pies pies* don't like this and won't come onto the trees. And it will not harm you because it's a pure nature remedy.

So did this story inspire you to start growing your dwarf fruit garden?

Then don't wait! Just do it! □ *Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover*



DID YOU KNOW?

That one of STINAPA's main goals in the coming years is to make Washington-Slagbaai National Park more green with more trees, especially young trees?

Goats have been a part of Bonaire's culture for centuries and they were first brought here by the European colonizers several hundred years ago. Since then, they have been an important food source for the inhabitants of this island. Food was (and is) of course the most valuable resource after water so it is not surprising that goats were (and are) treasured by Bonaire's inhabitants who had little to choose from when it came to meat production on land. This was the reality for hundreds of years. However, food is now as available here on Bonaire as it is in any other modern country, with a multitude of different sources of meat from a large variety of animals from many different places. Regardless of what is available in the supermarket, goats still have a special place in Bonaire's social and culinary culture and goat meat remains one of the main reliable food items produced in Bonaire.

Goats are incredibly good at adapting to different climates and habitats since they are generalists who will eat just about anything to survive. These traits were some of the reasons for which they were brought here in the first half of the 16th century. It was actually a commonly used strategy for European colonizers to bring and let loose goats and/or other livestock

on islands that they discovered in order to secure that food resources would be available in the future if they planned to come back. But however amazing this adaptability is for the survival of the goats and food supply for people, it comes at a high cost for the environment, something that has been demonstrated in various places around the world.

This is especially true for many small islands since their ecosystems never had any big herbivores to threaten their plants. Because of this, the plants didn't evolve any defenses against goats, donkeys and pigs. As I mentioned before, goats will eat almost anything, as long as there are no spines with which they can hurt themselves. This is why there is so much vegetation with spines on Bonaire these days. They are the only plants that have the necessary protection against the feral goats. This may also affect the iguana population, which were the largest herbivores before humans brought the other animals here. Overgrazing even threatens some cacti species and the native bats and birds that depend on these cacti to survive.

Without managing the goat population in a sustainable way, vulnerable areas of Bonaire could eventually become more desert-like. The disappearance of vegetation is already believed to have increased the rate of erosion and loss of soil. The eroded sediments get washed into the sea and increases the pressure on the already vulnerable coral reefs.

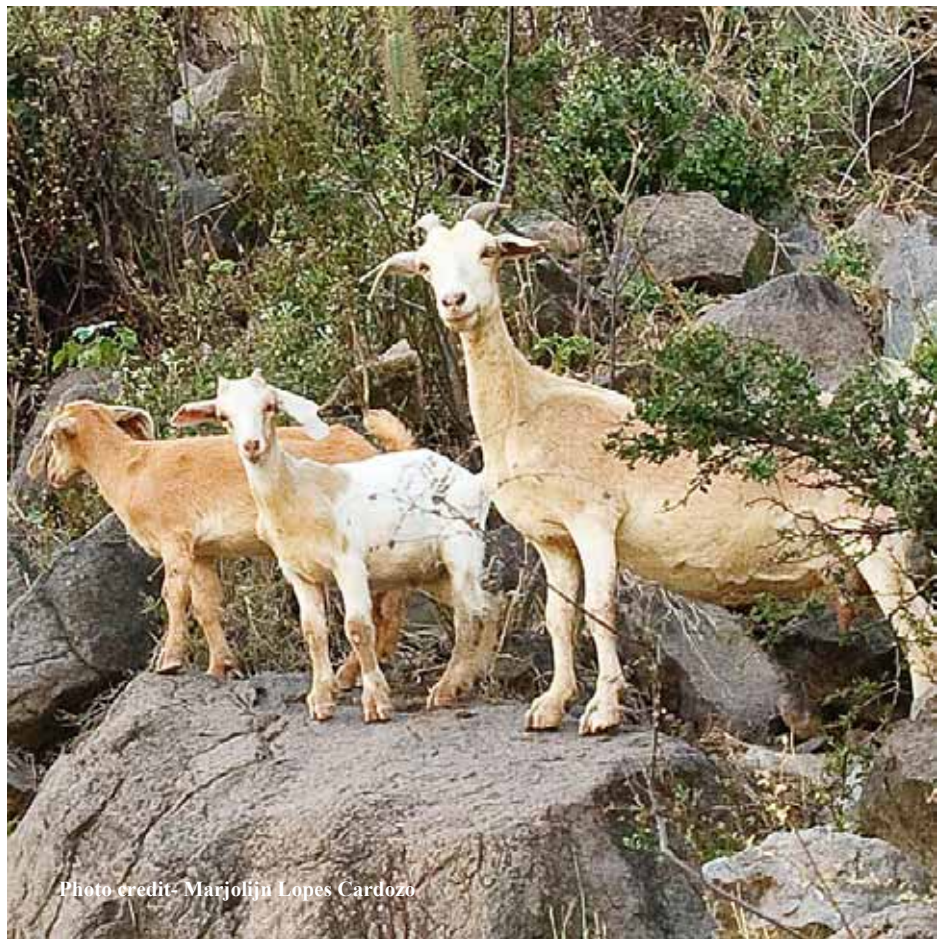


Photo credit: Marjolijn Lopes Cardozo

Part of STINAPA's mission is to manage, protect and restore the biodiversity of Bonaire's nature, which is treasured and recognized as one of the main resource of Bonaire's existence. In the coming years, STINAPA, as the parks authority in Bonaire, will be putting more effort into managing the goats more sustainably in the Washington Slagbaai National Park, beginning with the Slagbaai part of the park, so that young trees are given the chance to

grow and flourish. It will be exciting to see the changes in the vegetation and, in turn, the wildlife in this area.

□ 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%)

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

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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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 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

Cruises

Date, Day	Cruise Line	Time in port	PAX
Feb 4, Mon	Britannia P&O	8:00-18:00	3600
Feb 5, Tue	Monarch	8:00-18:00	2744
Feb 6, Wed	Jewel RCCL	8:00-18:00	
Feb 7, Thur	Silhouette CEL	7:00-16:00	2886
Feb 9, Sat	Riviera	7:00-14:00	750
Feb 9, Sat	Norwegian Dawn	8:00-17:00	2340
Feb 10, Sun	Aida Perla	8:00-18:00	3300
Feb 10, Sun	Veendam	8:00-17:00	1350
Feb 11, Mon	Mein Schiff	7:30-19:00	2500
Feb 11, Mon	Norwegian Gem	7:00-15:00	2340
Feb 14, Thur	Freedom RCCL	8:00-18:00	3634
Feb 14, Thur	Marella Explorer	7:00-14:00	1924
Feb 18, Mon	Monarch	8:00-18:00	2744

EXHIBITIONS

—“Salute to the Sailors”—old maritime photos from the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, Museo Bonaire, Kaya Kachi Craane #34, free.

—**Coral Restoration Exhibit-Terramar Museum**

— **The paintings of Luciano Tor-torici 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

Saturday, Feb. 9—Sunrise Hike, Brandaris, Washington Slagbaai National Park, 5:30am-8:30am, \$10, 717-8444

Tuesday, Feb. 19—Connecting People with Nature, Stinapa free talk on Bonaire's Nature, 7-8pm, DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10a, across from City Shop

Saturday, Feb. 16—Fund raising Car Wash for Bonaire Barracudas Swim and Water Polo Team. Noon-3pm, Budget Marine, \$10

Saturday, Feb. 23—Nos Zjilea Cultural Event, Mangazina di Rei. Local arts, crafts, plants, educational presentations 8am-2pm

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 23—Children's Carnival Parade, Rincon

Sunday, Feb. 24, Children's Carnival Parade, Kralendijk

Saturday, Mar. 2—Grand Carnival Parade, Rincon

Sunday, Mar. 3—Grand Carnival Parade, Kralendijk

Monday, Mar. 4—Carnival Monday (official holiday), Old Mask Youth Parade and Burning of King Momito, 5pm

Tuesday, Mar. 5—Old Mask Parade and Burning of King Momo 2019

Monday, Feb. 25—Mar. 11—Healthy Back Workshops, Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Info on Bonaire Spiritueel

March 15—Bon Doet see pg. 3

April 1 - 5 –Windsurf/Yoga and Wellness Week Bonaire 2019, Bonaire Spiritueel

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 04	12:36 0.80 ft	22:12 -0.14 ft			New Moon	7:00	18:38
Tue 05	13:17 0.74 ft	22:46 -0.12 ft				7:00	18:39
Wed 06	13:59 0.67 ft	23:11 -0.10 ft				6:59	18:39
Thu 07	14:44 0.60 ft	23:29 -0.08 ft				6:59	18:40
Fri 08	05:57 0.34 ft	10:16 0.29 ft	15:31 0.52 ft	23:42 -0.05 ft		6:59	18:40
Sat 09	05:56 0.43 ft	11:51 0.24 ft	16:21 0.43 ft	23:53 -0.04 ft		6:59	18:40
Sun 10	06:09 0.53 ft	13:02 0.17 ft	17:11 0.35 ft			6:59	18:40
Mon 11		00:06 -0.03 ft	06:29 0.64 ft	14:01 0.09 ft	18:01 0.28 ft	6:58	18:41
Tue 12	First Quarter	00:23 -0.04 ft	06:57 0.76 ft	14:54 0.01 ft	18:49 0.21 ft	6:58	18:41
Wed 13		00:45 -0.07 ft	07:30 0.86 ft	15:44 -0.06 ft	19:38 0.15 ft	6:58	18:41
Thu 14		01:14 -0.09 ft	08:08 0.96 ft	16:33 -0.11 ft	20:28 0.11 ft	6:57	18:42
Fri 15		01:50 -0.11 ft	08:50 1.02 ft	17:23 -0.16 ft	21:22 0.08 ft	6:57	18:42
Sat 16		02:33 -0.12 ft	09:37 1.05 ft	18:13 -0.19 ft	22:23 0.08 ft	6:57	18:42
Sun 17		03:23 -0.10 ft	10:26 1.04 ft	19:03 -0.21 ft	23:31 0.10 ft	6:56	18:42
Mon 18		04:23 -0.06 ft	11:20 1.00 ft	19:52 -0.22 ft		6:56	18:43

Hans Hass (Continued from page 7)

For six weeks Hans Hass and his two friends lived on the tiny island, living off the fish they caught and water and fresh fruit brought to them by Dr. Diemont, who listened with keen interest to their tales of adventure.

Living rough, he and his friends dived often with sharks on Klein Bonaire and were agreeably surprised to find that they were not immediately attacked. Sometimes the sharks came up to them, especially in the early morning or evening. The young Hass realized that he had developed an innovative method of studying fish in their natural surroundings. His encounters with sharks, above all, brought completely new knowledge to the zoologists and altered fundamentally their attitude towards these "cannibals."

Hans' wrote in his book: "On 23 July 1939 we spent our first day on this small, completely uninhabited island. We led an idyllic life on Klein Bonaire! By day colorful humming-birds whirred in the tree, and at night, when we bathed for fun, the

sea gleamed as we moved. As soon as darkness descended we would sit down around a fire where the mosquitoes could do us the least harm, and each of us would tell what observations he had made during the day. Leafing through my diary of the Caribbean expedition I find encounters with sharks mentioned on almost every page. First described in detail, then only fleetingly noticed - but sharks were always there. They passed by in the distance or circled around us or popped up unexpectedly among the reefs; but since they did not threaten us, and we could do nothing with them we soon stopped paying any particular attention to their presence." □ Story by Michael Jung
—To be continued

Next edition— Hass' innovations to develop the first comprehensive set of underwater scuba and photo gear.



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Shelter News

SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES AT THE BONAIRE ANIMAL SHELTER

Animal Shelter Bonaire is so proud that some of our Shelter "team" will be part of the Bonaire delegation participating in the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Abu Dhabi, March 6-23. **Kenneth Piar**, a Shelter employee for 26 years, is part of the Bocce team (*bolos krioyo*). This will be the sixth country to which Kenneth has traveled as a Bonaire Special Olympics athlete. **Suendry Weef**, a Shelter intern, will also represent the Bocce team and is a repeat Special Olympic athlete as well. Both Kenneth and Suendry are training every Wednesday to hone their skills for the worldwide competition. But they are dedicated to the Shelter as well, and go to training after they have finished their Shelter "shift." We wish Kenneth and Suendry



Kenneth Piar (r.) and Suendry Weef (l.) in their Special Olympics training gear.

and the entire Bonaire delegation great success in the Special Olympics World Summer Games. **□ Jane Disko-Madden**

Pet Of The Week

Hello everyone! My name is Lancelot, Lance for short.

I am just over a year old. I arrived at Animal Shelter Bonaire when I was just three months old and have grown into a handsome young man, don't you think? I love to snuggle and sit on everyone's lap when they come to visit the Cat Palace. I really love when people pet my soft fur and scratch my ears.

I get along very well with all the other fur buddies in the Palace. I am healthy, vaccinated and neutered and really looking for my forever family. Won't you please come and take me home?

My address is Cat Palace, Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26 and you can come and get me on Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., non-stop. See you soon, I hope! **□ Story by Laurie Smith**



Photo: Luvi Rodriguez



WELCOME BACK!

The Shelter is also very happy that a former staff member has returned to Bonaire and re-joined our team. **Monique Degenaar**, who previously worked at the Shelter from 2007 to 2011 recently returned to live on her beloved Bonaire. She was welcomed back to join the Shelter staff with open arms and paws. Monique was never really very far away as she returned each year for her vacation and volunteered every morning during every trip. The animals and Shelter staff are so glad she is back with us! **□ Story and photo by Jane Disko-Madden**



Monique Degenaar and Shelter Manager Luvinia Rodriguez celebrate Monique's return.



Adopt Me One More Time

This pup, "Bobby," is appearing in *The Reporter* again as he is one of the sweetest dogs ever, according to his fans who unfortunately cannot adopt him. He's about 5 years old, very healthy, very playful and so cute and different looking from the other shelter dogs, according to those admirers. "Just look at that smile," they say. "He is just phenomenal and he gets along with other dogs." You are welcome to see for yourself. This blonde boy is at the FKK (Fundashon Kunuku Kakelvers on Facebook). Call 780-8020. **□ L.D. by special request from T.C. and others**



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THE SOLAR SYSTEM IN PERSPECTIVE—IN THE KITCHEN

Let's help put the Solar System into perspective. Our solar system is so large with respect to the size of the planets, that most people, ourselves included, have never really had a clear concept of the scale of the universe.

And how often do we think of the differences in sizes between the various planets as they drift across our evening and morning skies? Even with all the easy access we have to information about the universe, many of us still don't really relate to the size and distance of things when it comes to the night sky.

So, we have a neat analogy that can help, and you can do it at home, using everyday objects you can find in your kitchen.

Let's first talk about **Jupiter, Earth** and our **Sun**. Jupiter is our largest planet, but what does that really mean? We can easily look up the fact that we could fit 1,300 Earths inside Jupiter, or it would take 1.3million Earths to fill up our Sun.

Or take their distances for example. If you drove in a car from the Sun to the Earth at 70 miles per hour, it would take you almost 150 years to make the trip. Furthermore, it would take you almost 800 years to drive from the Sun to Jupiter and almost 6,000 years to drive from the Sun to **Pluto**.

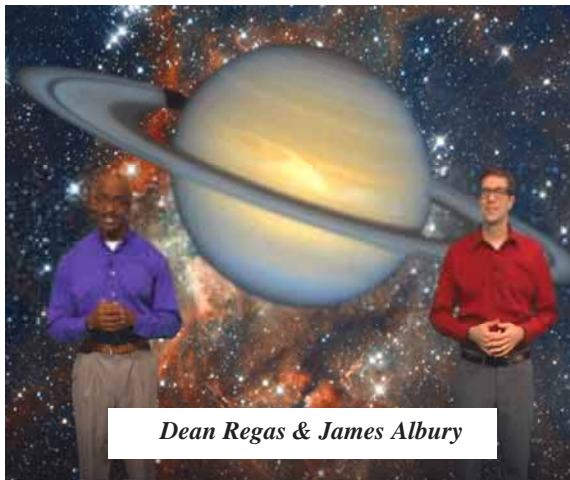
But numbers are easily forgotten, so if you really want to relate to the cosmos, it's best to think of it in every day terms and what could be more every day than your kitchen.

So, the next time you pick up an orange, pretend that it's the Sun. Then, take basalt shaker and sprinkle some salt in your hand. If you can pick up just one of those grains of salt that will represent the Earth.

Then, to place them at their proper distances, put that bit of salt 30 feet away from the orange. That is the size and scale of the Earth and the Sun.

Now take a black bean. This black bean represents the planet Jupiter, 200 feet away, or one city block. away from the orange.

The planet **Saturn**, another black bean, two city blocks away (or 400 feet from the orange). Pluto, everyone's favorite dwarf



Dean Regas & James Albury

planet, would be one speck of finely ground pepper, 10 city blocks from the orange.

But our Sun is just one of the billions of stars in a family we call our **Galaxy**. On this same scale, the Sun's closest neighbor, **Alpha Centauri**, is another orange, 1300 miles away!

And all the other stars are fruits of different sizes and on the average are 2000 miles apart.

So to make our Galaxy, the **Milky Way**, we will need 200 to 400 billion oranges, grapefruits, cantaloupes and pumpkins. If you could amass that much fruit, you'd then need to distribute it over a space 20 million miles in diameter. And that's just one Galaxy!

But, to show the number of stars in all the galaxies in the visible universe, it would take more oranges, grapefruits, melons and pumpkins than have ever grown since the beginning of time!

There may be two trillion Galaxies in our universe, each with billions of stars in them. And remember, our Sun is just one of those oranges, with its eight major planets and five dwarf planets, all mere specks of salt, pepper and black beans, circling less than 15 city blocks away.

Or think of it like this the next time you're in your kitchen. If we could fit our entire Solar System, our Sun and all its planets, including the distances between them, inside a coffee cup, our Galaxy would be the size of North America! ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



THE STARS HAVE JS

February 2019

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity. Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines. Get busy on those home improvement projects that you've been procrastinating about. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may interest some of them in a service you have to offer. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Accommodate others but not before you do your own thing. Do the proper safety checks before you go out. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Get motivated and follow up on some self-improvement resolutions. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. Try not to take others for granted. Tempers could get out of hand this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Make plans to do the things you enjoy. A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your ability to come up with good solutions for problems related to work will no doubt help you in getting a promotion. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment. Deception is probable if you don't use discrimination. Don't press your luck with your loved ones. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may have a problem with someone you live with

if you don't include them in your gathering. Investments that deal with property will pay off but could cause conflict with some family members. Curb or cut out that bad habit you've been meaning to do something about. Partnerships may be strained if one of you has been erratic and hard to deal with. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. You'll communicate easily and develop new friendships. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can get ahead if you are willing to take a partner. This is a wonderful day to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Rewards, gifts, or money from investments or taxes can be expected. If you're looking to do something worthwhile, consider volunteer work. Uncertain changes regarding your personal life are evident. Get into fitness programs to keep in shape. Your ambitious mood may not go over well with loved ones. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your attitudes at work will open new avenues for you. You can make professional changes and direct your energy into making all the right moves. Go after your goals. You can get into weight loss programs or go out and change your image with a new look in clothing, hairstyle, and attitude. Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Opportunities to learn important information will surface through discussions with peers or seminars you attend. Don't invest too much of your own money. You can get ahead if you work diligently behind the scenes. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■

Michael Thissen

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