

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Feb. 18-Mar. 4, 2019, Year 26, Issue 4

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Karnaval 2019 Schedule of Events

Feb. 20—Jump Up Marcelo Anthony in Rincon
Feb. 21—Award ceremony at SKAL
Feb. 23—Youth parade in Rincon
Feb. 24—Youth parade in Kralendijk
Feb. 28—Jump In Live 99FM in Kralendijk

Mar. 1—Elderly parade & Teener parade Kralendijk
Mar. 2—Grand Carnival Parade in Rincon
Mar. 3—Grand Carnival Parade in Kralendijk
Mar. 4—Youth Farewell Parade in Kralendijk
Mar. 4—Party of the Masks in Rincon
Mar. 5—Grand Farewell Parade in Kralendijk

Survey Results Inside, page 7

FLOTSAM and JETSAM

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Consumer prices on Bonaire up 3.4 percent.

In the 4th quarter of 2018, households on Bonaire paid 3.4 percent more for goods and services year-on-year, against 3.5 percent more year-on-year in Q3. The increase in average price level was slowed down by the price development of petrol. On the other hand, the price development of furniture and fresh fruit pushed up the consumer price index; fruit became 4.4 percent more expensive than one year previously. Source CBS.



► **The BES Healthcare Insurance Office (Zorgverzekeringskantor BES, the ZVK) announced that several elements of the BES Healthcare Insurance were changed on January 1, 2019.**

Main items:

A disability examination is deemed a medical examination. It is not reimbursed because medical examinations do not fall under general-practitioner care.

Male and female sterilization, dietetic preparations prescribed by a dietitian and remedial therapy for COPD are reimbursed.

The reimbursement of repatriation costs of a deceased insured person applies to transportation between the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands.

The personal contributions for orthopedic and hypoallergenic shoes have been reduced. Insured persons aged 16 and older pay \$50.00 per calendar year, insured persons under the age of 16 pay \$25.00 per calendar year.

The claim for non-emergency patient transport - not by ambulance - has been extended: for oncological and kidney patients, the transport for consultations, examinations and check-ups is reimbursed as well.

The Information leaflet 'Who is insured with the ZVK? What is covered by the healthcare insurance?' contains a brief summary of the entitlements of persons insured with the ZVK. More on the website: www.zvkn.nl.

► BES Air is encountering opposition with its proposal to connect the BES Islands.

The Dutch aviation company BES Air—together with the German airline Air Alliance as partner—is ready to connect Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba with each other and with Sint Maarten, but are encountering opposition from the Inspectorate for Aviation and Transport (ILT). Owner **Wim Hesselink** has complained to the National Ombudsman and the Second Chamber Committee for Kingdom Relations. The latter has asked **State Secretary Knops** for a response.

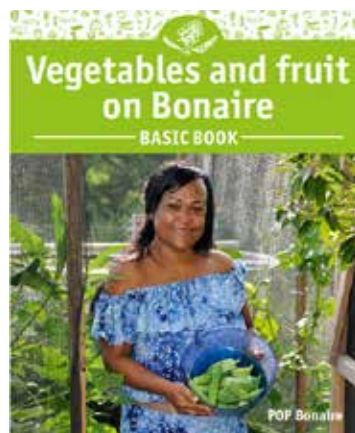


► Out of 155 nominations from 57 countries Bonaire was once again listed in the Top 100 for Sustainable Destinations.

Nominations were evaluated by experts of the Green Destinations Top 100 Team and a panel that included over 60 sustainability experts. The presentation award ceremony for the top 100

and the Awards will be held at ITB Berlin on March 6.

► **Dive Friends is hosting an underwater cleanup dive** to remove discarded fishing line and gear under the North Pier on February 24, 10 a.m. Please bring your advanced or above diver certifications, marine park tags and shears or line cutters. Tanks will be provided by Dive Friends.



► Rural development program POP Bonaire has created the first book for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables on Bonaire:

the Basic Fruit and Vegetable on Bonaire. This book is for everyone who wants to grow fruit and vegetables in his own garden. You see step by step how to build, care and harvest a vegetable garden. The photos show you what to do. The texts clarify the story.

The inspiration for the book comes from the workshops with **Rocky Emers** to adults and with **Edshel Martha** to young people.

At the official presentation of the book at the StreaBriante school the first copy was presented to **Mr. Nolly Oleana**, head of the OC & W of the RCN. Books have been donated to the heads of the schools for

use in the school gardens.

The book will also be used at workshops in the neighborhoods and at the MBO Groen training. You can buy your own Papiamento copy at \$ 12.50 at Addo's Bookstore.

The book is available free digitally in Papiamento, Dutch and English on the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database (www.dcbd.nl - search on the word basic book). For more information, please contact popbonaire@gmail.com.

► Intermittent Power failures continued in Kralendijk, 12th February 2019.

At 03:10 hours a power failure occurred in 28 districts. The malfunction was resolved at 05:15 hours. The cause of the power failure is unknown and is currently being investigated. WEB relies on the public's understanding of the situation.



► Volunteers are being sought for the World Championships for Sunfish sailboats.

Bonaire will host the 2019 ISCA World Championships September 14 through September 25, 2019.

Organizers are looking for people to monitor the starts, do administrative work, process results and serve as "hosts." You do not have to have experience, but you have the willingness to learn and to help during the day on the days mentioned. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/sunfishworlds>

The Bonaire Sailing Foundation has successfully signed a Charter Agreement with Laser Performance to provide 72 brand new boats for the event.

This Week's Stories

Karnaval Schedule (cover)	1
Roger's Appointment	2
Bonaire Chess Champs	3
Lora Conservation Center	6
Survey Results	7
Clean Coast (Micro-Plastic)	8
Ezone Shipping	9
Billfish Tourney	12
Bible Study	14

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (Prices, Health Care, Bonaire Top 10 Sustainable, Gardening Book, Sunfish Championship, Elections)	2
Picture Yourself—Great Smoky Mountains, U.S.A.	4
Letters—Park Tags, Cruiseships On the Island Since—Donna Hudgeon & Andrew Sands	5
Did You Know—Fossil Find Making Bonaire "Accessible" — Wheelchair Challenges #4	10
A Garden? Just Do It (Bacobas & Papayas)	10
What's Happening, Close In Events, Cruise Ship Visits, Exhibits Classifieds, Masthead, Tides, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Pet Of The Week (Totochi dog)	14
Shelter News (BonDoet volunteers needed)	14
Bonaire Sky Park (5 Brightest Objects)	15
The Stars Have It (Horoscope)	15

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continued on page 3



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The Bike Professionals

Flotsam and Jetsam, continued from page 2

► **Eight political parties submitted their list of candidates for the upcoming Island Council elections (ER) on Monday, February 4, 2019.** Six of these lists of candidates have a party name on their list. Two parties have the so-called blank lists (no party name).

These 126 candidates have made themselves eligible for the coming island council elections.

The table below shows all candidates per political grouping:

Groepering	ER	KC
List Rafael Santana	1	
Era Nobo	13	
FrenteSosalProgresivo (FSP)	12	
Demokrat	23	23
1 Union pa Pueblo	14	
UPB	21	21
MPB	35	10
List Suzy Thode	7	
Total Candidates	126	54

In addition to the Island Council elections, the elections for the electoral college (KC) Bonaire will be held for the first time this year. Three political parties participate in the elections for the electoral college. They submitted a list of candidates with 54 eligible candidates on Monday 04 February 2019.

► In recent article on STBC's new boat the Thalassa, we regretfully credited Bonaire Marine Park for contributions of cupcakes which was actually Bonaire

Marine Center. The boat is Colombian made, not Venezuelan.

► **An animal rescue organization is looking for donations to bring water to their shelter.** Elly Albers wants to add running water to the FKK facilities. The water pump is already present and the installation will be done free of charge by the company, De ZwarteRaaf. Elly is calling for donations of copper water pipe (15 meters) and flex pipe (30 meters).

The FKK Animal Rescue Foundation houses more than 80 dogs and about 40 cats and there is no euthanization. **Patrice and Peter Kersemakers** of the FKK drive the animal ambulance 24/7 on Bonaire and rescue dogs and cats. All donations go to the animals so that the Kersemakers live in a house with no running water.

► **Euro xchange over the years:**

Calendar Year	1 Euro = 1 USD
2011	1.3908
2012	1.2852
2013	1.3306
2014	1.3415
2015	1.1109
2016	1.1090
2017	1.1196
2018	1.1847



Rojer begins work as program manager. Danny Rojer, former director of Care since 2015 at Fundashon Mariadal, has been officially appointed as program manager for the governmental agreement Bonaire. Rojer was selected by the Public Entity Bonaire and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. In addition to his work at Fundashon Mariadal, he previously worked in the health-care sector in the European Netherlands. For the past few weeks Rojer has been preparing for the new role he will assume on March 4, 2019. ■

Art Scene in Bonaire

► **Denchi, aka Delno L.A. Tromp,** will exhibit his colorful paintings at Captain Don Habitat's conference room from March 2-6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds from painting sales will be donated to the artist's favorite charities. Delno promises the event to be very colorful.



► **Terramar Museum** welcomes everyone to their fundraiser—a vintage art and sculpture sale February 18 – 21. The fundraiser offers community awareness of local issues, supports local organizations and exposure for local artists. Terramar is located at Kaya J.N.E. Craane 4. Doors open at 9 a.m.

► **A painting exhibition of Teun Klumpers** opens at Bistro de Paris On Monday 18 Feb. 6pm. The painter will be present from 6-7pm. The exhibition can be visited for more than two weeks. The exhibited paintings can be seen at www.teunklumpers.nl/galerij. ■G./L.D.

25 years ago in the United States....

2019... Kate's still at it!



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Letters to the Editor

WANNADIVE BONAIRE ACTS TO KEEP COSTS DOWN

Dear All,

As you all might know our government has decided to implement a huge nature fee increase for divers at the instigation of STINAPA. Despite the dive sectors' objections to the completely indefensible increase, STINAPA will implement the increase as of March 1. The price will go from \$25 to \$45.

We believe this to be utterly unjust, as divers already carry a completely uneven burden (to the tune of no less than 95%!!!!) for the upkeep of our park system. The increase only serves to further this discrepancy.

Thus for a limited time and supply, Wannadive offers divers an opportunity to purchase the tags online through its website, at a much reduced price should you visit after March 1.

Should you be interested, please visit our website www.wannadive.com and click on the obvious sticker. Thank you! *Bart Snelder*

CRUISESHIP PROFITS ARE DOWN; ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS ARE UP

Dear Editor,

Today I stopped in the Cruiseship Market early (7:15 ish) and talked with a vendor setting up. He said despite more boats/more people his and others biz is DOWN compared to last year, like 40%, folks not buying, and it's not just him.

Also, as we were going to check-in we noticed three crew on the Pullmantour Monarch FISHING off a midship/rear Oceanside deck space. They caught something, that's why we noticed. And no park fees? I could not count all the water taxis taking folks to Klein Bonaire, again no fees, and creating trash out there for Stinapa to have to pick up and bring back. The numerous "tour" boats passing very close to the moored yachts are no treat either, not even a respectful distance.

How about if the Government sets a limited number of boats/pax that can visit, and auction the slots to those "lucky" few who really want to be here and are able to respect the ethos of the island!

I know, I am preaching to the choir! -*KW*

Bonaire Chess Champions

The youth chess club of Bonaire, BJSC, recently awarded their Chess Championship for 2018. Last Friday, February the 8th, they named Benjamin Djamin the Champion of Primary Schools, and Emanuel Lont the Champion of Secondary Education.

Our congratulations to all the winners:

Secondary Education:

1. Emanuel Lont kampeon invikto
2. Mark Anthony Nicolaas
3. Ralph Salimin

Primary Education:

1. Benjamin Djamin
2. Ian Djamin
3. Emil Littman ■ *Charles Lont*

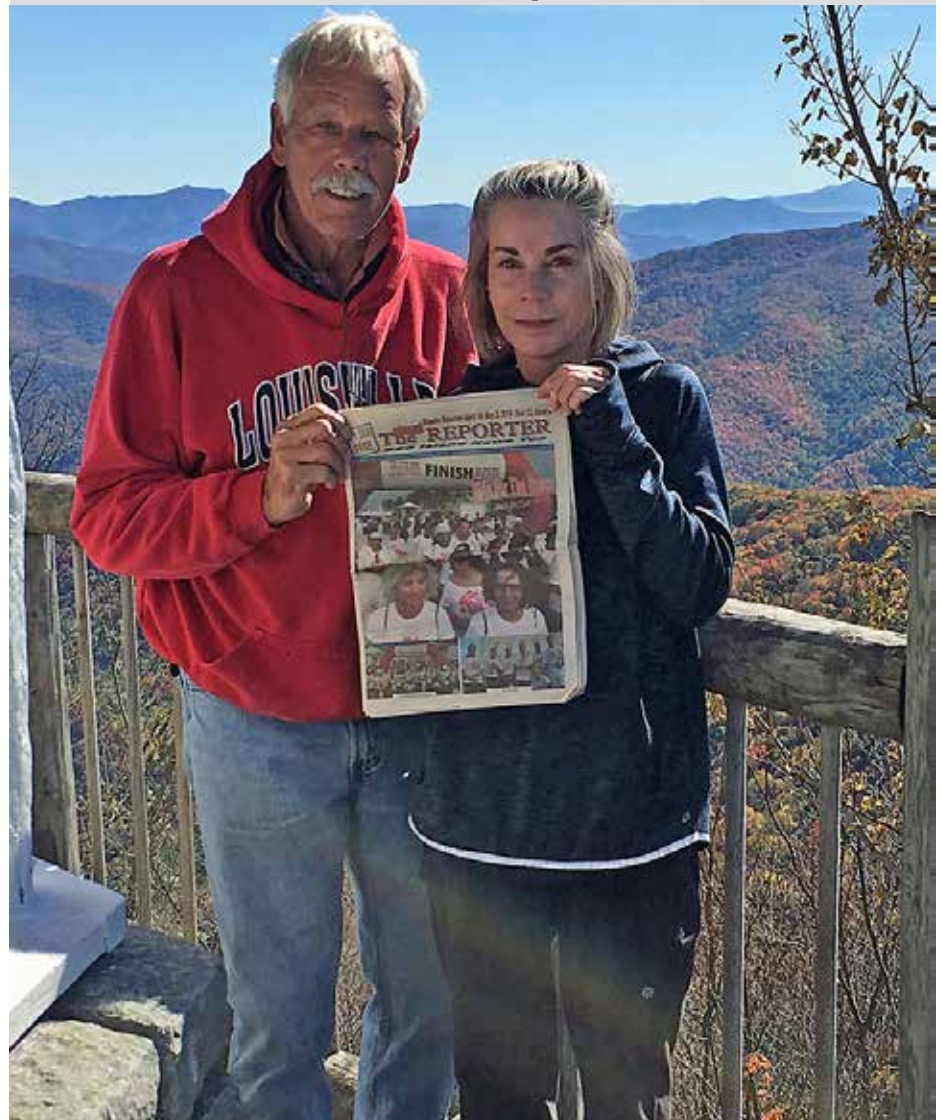


L to R. Emil Littman, Ralph Salimin, Emanuel Lont, Mark Anthony Nicolaas



L to R. Mr S. Pop, (head coach), Ian Djamin, Benjamin Djamin, and Emil Littman.

Picture Yourself with The Reporter in the Great Smoky Mountains



Rebecca Conkright writes, We are US citizens and own a home on Bonaire since 2004. We built our home and it is still a work in progress as the pool has yet to be finished. Don Dearing retired from a Kentucky Utility company as of 2016. I will retire January 2021 from the same utility company. We plan to start splitting our time during retirement to spend six months on Bonaire and the other six months in the States or traveling abroad. Thank you for asking and the opportunity to get our mugs in The Bonaire Reporter.

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

Karnaval 2019



Tisha and Shelle create the Toyland float. The Toyland float will make its first appearance in the 'kids parade' in Rincon on the 23 and then in Playa on the 24. Volunteer groups have been working hard to create the magic of Karnaval. See more on page 9.

On the Island Since 2018 — Donna Hudgeon and Andrew Sands



Donna Hudgeon and Andrew Sands

Donna: “We lived in Panama for nearly six years. Originally we moved there to take on a two-year contract in the mining industry, setting up a copper mine, and to give our youngest daughter a foreign culture experience. We loved Panama; we lived right on the Panama Canal, on the first island of the Amador Causeway, just fifty meters from the shores of the Panama Canal. After the two years passed we decided to stay until our daughter finished high school. Now she’s eighteen and studying at the university in New Zealand where her older brother and sister are.

Andrew is New Zealand born and he’s lived all his life in New Zealand except for a year in Turkey and six years in Panama. But while Andrew was based in New Zealand he worked in places like Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Mali, Zambia and Guyana, always in mining. I was born in Canada and lived seven years in Alaska, twenty-three years in New Zealand, six years in Panama and one year in Turkey. So we’ve done lots of travelling.

We’ve been coming here for three years. Originally we came when we were on a reconnaissance trip, looking for a suitable land sailing location.”

Andrew: “I’ve been doing land sailing for eleven years now, competing internationally. For me it’s all about freedom and friends; there’s a really lovely blokart community worldwide. The inventor and designer is a friend of ours and he envisioned a community of people that were connected by something that everyone could participate in – every age, abled or disabled, female or male. And so we wanted to further that mission in this part of the world and continue his dream.”

Donna: “Andrew was ranked 5th in the world which is important so that when people come, they’re learning from one of the best in the world!

First it was our intention to do the land sailing in Panama, but

the wind is not consistent there. Then we started looking on Google Maps to find locations that are flat, consistently windy with pleasant weather, out of the hurricane zone and with an active population and tourists. Before we got here I’d been corresponding with Mike Gaynor and he and Agnes Joosten met us at the airport in October 2015. It was Michael who first took us down to the old land sailing track and

minute we stepped off the plane – a very strong feeling of coming home. That feeling has only been growing since we’ve been here and every day we feel more that we belong.

October 2017 we did a soft opening and we actually haven’t announced our arrival, so this is the perfect moment to say ‘We’re open!’ Our containers are there, the track is in good shape and there are toilets. We offer light refreshments too. We have a van to pick up people – up to ten people – which is how many people we allow on the track as well. So anything and any party! So far we had lots of teambuilding events and we hosted the MCB family day and Buddy Dive’s kid’s camp on Thanksgiving week. We work with Jung Bonaire and lots of companies as well, including Stinapa. Michael Gaynor was going to introduce us to the disabled community because it’s a sport/activity that can be experienced

dollars for half an hour and 50 dollars for an hour. It’s \$60 per person for an hour when you want to be picked up and \$350 for non-residents to rent the track for an hour.”

Donna: “Locally the people have been hugely supportive, but we can’t just depend on them as the population isn’t big enough. We need the tourists, especially the divers when they can’t dive, although we do have big plans for the local people as well.

We will start a club and want to organize Sunday gatherings for informal competitions and we will have sailing schools run by Andrew. Actually we’ve already run a couple of schools last year, one for adults, one for children. Also we want to organize family fun days on a regular basis - \$10 for thirty minutes, so people can have a try and experience what it’s like. And now that we’ve found our base on Bonaire it’s our hope to introduce blokarting

shack.’ She laughs: ‘It was very romantic, very rustic and pretty magical; 1000 feet above sea level with the most incredible view and you could hear the Pacific Ocean crash on the rock below. In 2000 we were one of the first to see the sunrise. And now we’re looking for a place like that on Bonaire, resurrecting that dream. Bonaire is different; here you drive in maximum twenty minutes from ocean to ocean while in New Zealand from anywhere in the country it takes two hours to be at the ocean. But the water temperature is a little different! Here we are on an adventure; we discovered Bonaire and realized our adventure wasn’t over yet. And although all our three children are living in New Zealand now, we decided to move here. So the plan is to get back to New Zealand once a year and to have the kids come over to Bonaire once a year. New Zealand is sort of home and of course we miss our family and friends. Andrew hasn’t been there in five years, but I was there three years ago for work.”

Andrew: “Life just gets too busy. We’ll see if we can slow it down a little bit on Bonaire.”

Donna: “Andrew is still working in the mining industry and I am a consultant. I like the challenge of building a new business that ticks all the boxes, that’s good for the environment and good for the people. The land sailing is our retirement plan. I like that kind of work. I like talking to people and I like the marketing. I like to get some of the young people involved in the sport and get sponsorships for them and introduce these people to the comradery, the friendship that you have at an international competition. It’s very simple to learn the basics. The top people are always very willing to show the new young people their secrets. And to be the fastest in this sport you have to be smart, not rich, because everyone uses the same equipment and there are very few modifications that you are allowed to make.

Well, we’re looking forward to what’s to come. For being in a foreign country, it was easy to do business here, especially because of the nice people who speak four languages.”

For more info: Facebook Bonaire Landsailing Adventures or via WhatsApp 00599 786 1572

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“And to be the fastest in this sport internationally, you have to be smart, not rich, because everyone uses the same equipment.”

it was the perfect location, however the track needed lots of love. At that point we put the wheels in motion to be able to lease the land. Not long after Michael died in a traffic accident and it was heartbreaking because he was such a lovely, welcoming man.

During that first stay we’d also found out that many people come to Bonaire to do things like diving and surfing and kiting and caving and biking and so it seemed Bonaire would be a good choice. We opened a business and two years later we got permission to lease the land. Then one day, my friend Arlene told me, ‘Bonaire chooses you’ and you know what, I’d felt that the

with only upper body strength. Alas Michael wasn’t given the time to do so and now we would like to connect with the disabled community to see what we can achieve together. The other day the Woodwinds brought us a disabled snorkeler and he loved it and we also had a ninety-one year old great grandmother sailing in the tandem/shadow kart.”

Andrew: “We sail ages 8-108 and then you can start asking questions! It’s probably the safest sport I know, so that’s why it’s for all ages. We have special local prices like \$20 for half an hour, \$40 for an hour or rent the whole track for an hour (10 karts) for \$250. The visitor rates are 30

all over the Caribbean and set up inter island competitions. I am very passionate about it.

I am a social sailor, not a competitive one and I am a diver and Andrew is a fisherman. We both enjoy snorkeling and hiking. I am also a cyclist and both of us are looking forward to explore the caves – all of Bonaire’s hidden treasures. We’re also looking to build our own home here off the grid. In New Zealand we once had a beautiful piece of property of eight acres with a fairy forest and our eldest was convinced the fairies lived in there. We did lots of planting, all native trees, while we lived in our neighbor’s shearing shed which we called the love

Conservation Center is a blessing for Lora and Bonaire

Jomeer Lake is the rehabilitation home of the ‘pride of Bonaire’, the Yellow shouldered Amazon parrot or Lora. Located in an area called Dos Pos for its two wells, Echo Bonaire cares for injured or confiscated birds and supports the local wild population. Dos Pos is also the home of Echo’s re-forestation program. (Reporter story 1-21-19)

On 20 hectares (40.42 acres) of fenced land leased from the Pedon St Jago family, Echo is doing everything they can to support the Lora.

“Nos Lora Ta Nos Orguyo,” said Echo director, Julianka Clarenda. “Loras are our pride. We need to re-discover that value and that pride. Loras are a blessing as they are a unique species, a true Bonairean species.”

The rehab center cares for 24 resident parrots, two macaws, two yellow crown parrots and two parakeets in aviaries. Wild Loras and other birds fly and nest throughout the richly forested area. Clarenda said, “The parakeets hangout here during the day and the parrots come later, after five, and sleep here in the green trees. They nest in the cavities of the trees and live in the holes in cliffs.” In the dry season Echo has counted approximately 40 Loras and in the rainy season up to 250.

Breeding of the Lora is monitored closely as they are endangered. Nest monitoring takes place from March to July with the latest hatchings occurring by June. The Lora mate for life and breed once a year for three to four years.

Echo has been breeding the Lora in captivity since 2013 but their first success was last year with two couples producing healthy babies.

Lora have been protected by law since 1962 by the World Parrot Trust and local government. Even so, an estimated 600 parrots are still in captivity, living in people’s homes on Bonaire.

Several of the Lora at Echo were either confiscated by police or surrendered

parrots never learned to fly as they were taken as chicks. Part of their rehab at the center is flying from stick to stick with help from the staff and volunteers.

Poaching of the Lora is a big problem according to Julianka. Poachers can receive a fine up to \$2500 but many aren’t fined at all.

“I heard of someone shooting parrots in their garden because they were eating the fruit,” said Julianka. “They were fined only \$700.”

To accommodate the various needs of the Lora there are nine aviaries specific to their needs: intensive care, nesting, release candidates, the roost and retirement. There are plans for a new flying aviary to test candidates ready for release to the wild.

“The aviaries receive a once a week cleaning and we bring in fresh branches that they can chew on,” said Julianka. “We change the décor so it will be different for the birds.”

Volunteers, both local and international, are a big part of Echo Bonaire’s success. Permanent volunteers are offered a basic place to stay and cars to drive. The international volunteers are from Germany, England, Netherlands and the United States. They all come with various bird experience and knowledge that are an asset to the center.

There is an after school program from Nort Salinja Papa Corniche with kids from 11-13 years of age on Thursday.

“We always need more volunteers to help with the birds. Everybody can really help,” said Julianka.

Echo’s re-forestation grant project is in its third year and ends in September. During the past three years, project manager Johan Van Blerk has grown over 20,000 plants of 45 Bonaire native species in the four green houses. During that time Johan and Echo staff and volunteers learned by random testing the best way to propagate the seeds from local trees.



‘Queen’ and Echo director, Julianka Clarenda

to find the good seeds,” said Van Blerk.

He explained the difficulty was determining when the plants would flower as it was different every year because of the rain.

“Most we figured it out eventually although it took some time,” said Johan, “but with every tree we found a way to germinate the seeds.”

Van Blerk and his team are gathering the information they have accumulated over the last few years in their experimental seed growing and are compiling the information for future use.

Although the reforestation project is ending, the greenhouse work will continue with other projects. For example, many local kunuku owners are interested in some of the more rare plants propagated for their property.

“I encourage people to use local trees, fruit trees that are original to Bonaire. When people start using the local plants for the birds, they will automatically bring in Bonaire wildlife,” said Van Blerk.

count on January 27, 2019, illustrate that the reforestation project of planting native plants for the Lora is working. Echo’s 87 parrot counters were positioned at 33 roost sites and tallied the highest number ever, 1,153 Lora.

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 or volunteering visit www.echobonaire.org.

Echo Dos Pos Echo Bonaire Parrot Conservation tours are available to the public on Wednesdays at 5 pm for \$10. Private tours may be arranged any day at either 7:30 a.m. or 5 p.m. for \$25 per person. The tour is approximately one and a half hours with a limit of 15 guests. ■ Story and photos by Julie Morgan.



One of the nine aviaries

The Future of Bonaire Survey for Our Readers

Reader response to **The Bonaire Reporter's** survey on the future of our island, Bonaire, was phenomenal. The survey began in The Reporter on Sunday, February 3. As of Friday, February 15, 1,350 people had responded. They took the survey on the Internet (via Survey Monkey), dropped off completed surveys in our mailbox, and took photos of their answers and emailed them in.

People voiced their concern about Bonaire and what's happening to determine its future. The majority answered the questions in English (1146) or Dutch (183). Few people responded in Papiamentu (21), but a reliable source explained that Papiamentu speaking persons are used to reading and writing in Dutch and English and most likely answered in one of those languages.

The Papiamentu survey showed the same profile as the Dutch and English for Questions 1,3,5,6 and 9. Papiamentu respondents differed radically on Q.2 (100% said passengers don't affect the environment more other tourists); and Q.7 (84%

<p>1. How many Bonairean residents benefit from cruise ship visits?</p> <p>Most 4% Some 29% A Few 67%</p>	<p>1. Hoeveel inwoners van Bonaire profiteren van bezoeken aan cruiseschepen?</p> <p>De meeste 9% Sommige 37% Enkele 54%</p>
<p>2. Do cruise ship visitors negatively affect Bonaire's natural environment?</p> <p>Not at all 2% Same as other visitors 12% More than other visitors 87%</p>	<p>2. Hebben cruiseschipbezoekers een negatieve invloed op het natuur van Bonaire?</p> <p>Helemaal niet 2% Hetzelfde als andere bezoekers 23% Meer dan andere bezoekers 75%</p>
<p>3. Should cruise ship tourists pay a nature fee similar to that paid by visitors who stay over (in hotels, condos, rental properties)?</p> <p>Yes.95% No.3% Don't know 2%</p>	<p>3. Moeten cruiseschiptoeristen een natuurtarief betalen dat vergelijkbaar is met het bedrag dat betaald wordt door bezoekers die overnachten (in hotels, appartementen, huurwoningen)?</p> <p>Ja 88% Nee 10% Weet niet 2%</p>
<p>4. If you are a stay-over tourist how likely are you to visit Bonaire if cruise ship traffic increases?</p> <p>More likely 2% As likely 11% Less likely 30% Not sure 6%</p>	<p>4. Als u een toerist bent (geen cruiseschip toerist), hoe waarschijnlijk is de kans dat u om Bonaire weer te bezoeken als het cruiseschiptoerisme toeneemt groter?</p> <p>Waarschijnlijker 2% als 16% minder 62% niet zeker 19%</p>

<p>5. Do you think that the Bonaire Government and NGOs are taking enough care of the environment and ecology of the island?</p> <p>Yes 12% No.74% Don't know 14%</p>	<p>5. Denkt u dat de regering en NGO's van Bonaire voldoende zorg besteden aan het milieu en de ecologie van het eiland?</p> <p>Ja 18% Nee 68% Weet niet 14%</p>
<p>6. Is Bonaire becoming overdeveloped?</p> <p>Yes. 73% No.14% Don't know 13%</p>	<p>6. Wordt Bonaire overontwikkeld?</p> <p>Ja 58% Nee 28% Weet niet 14%</p>
<p>7. Should Bonaire have more activities for residents and visitors?</p> <p>Yes.32% No.47% Don't know 21%</p>	<p>7. Moet Bonaire meer activiteiten voor bewoners en bezoekers hebben?</p> <p>Ja 33% Nee 58% Weet niet 9%</p>
<p>8. How would you like to see Bonaire Develop as a Tourist Destination?</p> <p>Exclusive & Expensive Yes 24% No 76%</p> <p>Similar to other Caribbean Islands with Mass Tourism Yes 4% No 96%</p> <p>Ecologically Outstanding Yes 98% No 2%</p>	<p>8. Hoe zou je Bonaire willen zien ontwikkelen als toeristische bestemming?</p> <p>Exclusief en duur Ja 36% Nee 64%</p> <p>Vergelijkbaar met andere Caribische eilanden met massatoerisme Ja 7% Nee 93%</p> <p>Ecologisch Uitstekend Ja 96% Nee 4%</p>
<p>9. How expensive is Bonaire to you?</p> <p>Very 16% Moderately 76% Inexpensive 8%</p>	<p>9. Hoe duur is Bonaire voor jou?</p> <p>Ik woon hier voltijds Zeer 52% Matig 48%</p> <p>Ik woon hier part-time Zeer 35% Matig 62% Goedkoop 4%</p> <p>Ik ben een toerist Zeer 32% Matig 66% Goedkoop 2%</p>

wanted more activities). On Q.8 they were more in favor of mass tourism (50% Yes, 50% No). On Q.4 they were more optimistic that increased cruise ship traffic wouldn't keep other tourists away (53% as likely to come).

Question 10 asked readers to suggest a question of their own, or to post a comment. Over 550 people did so. Six major themes emerged. The responses fit into the following categories:

- littering, sewage, increased garbage and plastic bottles left behind
- increased traffic on the roads with golf carts and large tour buses
- the number of cruise ships and the 'every day' frequency of the visits.
- Bonaire's failing infrastructure
- the need for transparent policies from the government and tourist board
- concern for the reef—damage from inexperienced divers from the ships and damage from the ships themselves

Many thanks to the following persons who helped create this survey: Marie Craane, Karen B. Gilmour, Pauline Kayes, Barbara Lockwood. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Clean Coast Bonaire



Dahlia Hassell, Saba, picks through the sand to find more micro plastic. There is always more.

Clean Coast Bonaire attracted some 20 plus volunteers to their second cleanup of the year at Piedra Pretu on February 9. The cleanup group led by Carolyn Caparuso of Seven Seas Care follows the OSPAR (Oslo/Paris convention) guidelines to monitor marine litter. They scientifically collect information by collecting data on the quantity, type and significance of the litter.

Piedra Pretu is one of three targeted beaches for marine litter collection. Located on the windward side of Bonaire, Piedra Pretu receives micro plastic trash that has been in the water for a while and is most likely from other areas of the Caribbean or beyond.

Each target site, Boka Onima, Piedra Pretu and Te Amu Beach reveal different

types of marine litter. Litter collection at the windward sites, Boka Onima and Piedra Pretu is primarily plastic/polystyrene under 2.5 cm (micro-plastic). On the east side the frequently visited Te Amo Beach, volunteers collected 1330 cigarette butts and countless bottle tops.

Caparuso and her volunteer scientific collectors set up a boundary of a roped off 50 meter area marked by blue stones bearing the Clean Coast Bonaire logo.

“We started trying to clear everything but found that didn’t work,” said Carolyn. “We’ve found 5000 items in the 50 meter area.”

Clean Coast collects litter in the exact same place quarterly to monitor the accumulation.

Volunteers sit by the crashing waves

picking through the sand that at first glance looks relatively free of anything but sand and natural beach material. On closer examination the sand reveals little bits of plastic and other marine trash.

One volunteer found nurdles, a basic form of plastic or plastic resin pellets and the primary source of microplastics. This raw material has been found on beaches across the globe. They are found in the digestive tracts of various marine creatures causing physiological damage. Toxicologists say the impact of this raw plastic has been found in humans and has a major impact on human health and, of course, marine life. These plastic microbeads are used in cosmetics and toothpaste but are mostly introduced to the ocean by accidental spills.

As well as concerned local business owners, the Clean Coast litter cleanup attracted international participants including a Pat Wellenbach, a former Associated Press photographer from Portland, Maine who is on her seventh Bonaire visit, and a family from Denmark, the Thomas Stampes.

The Stampes took time away from their diving, snorkeling vacation and googled local cleanups. Brigitta Stampe, a volunteer for a local NGO for plastic change in Denmark said, “Denmark has a problem just like everywhere else but we are improving. We are really good at collecting and burning plastic to use the fuel to heat and

warm our homes. A large delegation from Indonesia came to see how we burned our plastic to make fuel for our homes.”

The cleanup group agreed that picking up the big stuff is somehow a lot more satisfying but it’s the little bits of plastics that are really killing our oceans.

“You think the amount of plastics actually in and around our oceans, is not that bad and then you begin looking and it’s everywhere,” said Carolyn.

Clean Coast Bonaire meets to clean up on the second Saturday of every month and homemade cookies are served! For more information about OSPAR’s Marine Litter Monitoring Program, and to become involved in helping our oceans, visit www.boneiruduradero.nl/what-is-clean-coast-bonaire/ ■ Story and photos by Julie Morgan



L-Wessel van den Berge, C-Michael La Fortune, R-Laur Verbaten

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Groups dedicate their time for Karnaval

Karnaval festivities in Bonaire began over a month ago with the opening at the stadium in Rincon on January 5. Since then there have been Jump Ins, Jump Ups, election of the youth queen and prince, Tumba road marches and the Karnaval Taste of Bonaire. There is so much more to come with seven parades until the Grand Farewell Parade on March 5.

Behind the scenes of all this activity are 16 different groups working to complete the beautiful, sparkling, eye catching costumes and the fabulous colorful whimsical floats for the

parades.

Party organizer Rochelle (Shelle) Thielman leads one of the groups making floats. Shelle has gathered six others to help her complete her designs for the 'Children's Toyland float' and the 'Queen's Garden float'.

The group has been building the floats from the ground up since the last week of January. They have made toy soldiers, trains, a merry go round with miniature horses, teddy bears and beautiful flowers made from foam, plywood, ribbons and a lot of hard work.

continued on page 13

Ezone offers shipping options for locals

One of the most convenient and least expensive ways for Bonaireans to receive single goods shopping online is through an international shipping agency called eZone. The company has been in operation under the reins of Bart Fielmich and family since February 15, 2013. This is eZone's sixth year in business on Bonaire.

A native of Curacao, Fielmich, worked for DHL in Curacao and Aruba before taking over the reins at Bonaire's DHL office. Bart said, "Everyone helped, my wife and three sons." In 2013, Fielmich added eZone Logistics shipping service to the location. The EZone/DHL office literally became a family affair when more staff was required and Bart added his brother in law and nephew to the staff.

EZone is the brainchild of a man from Trinidad and his friend in Miami with a post office box. "They collected medicine at a post office box in Miami and then when there was a big enough shipment they sent it off to Trinidad and Tobago," said Fielmich.

Today eZone is in 26 islands of the Caribbean. In the last few months they have expanded to Surinam, Santa Domingo, Peru and Chile.

"We basically do the same thing as Ro-cargo, we receive the packages and clear them through customs," said Bart, "We also export with DHL, we can't export with eZone yet, only import."

Two days a week everything is flown from Miami to Curacao and transported to Bonaire on the Don Andres four days a week. American based airlines like Delta, United and American are not flying cargo to Bonaire so the shipments have to go to Curacao. Ezone began imported from Europe last year through the Netherlands.

Bart explained the way it works. People order from the U.S. and ship everything to the eZone address in Miami. The sender or shipper believes that is where the buyer lives. One eZone user expressed how important it is to get the address correct when ordering. Only put your name and the eZone address on the shipping form.



Bart Fielmich hands over a customer order from online shopping

Do not include the name eZone on the shipping form. All shipments must have an invoice so eZone can clear the goods in Bonaire customs.

"We try to make it very easy for the people from living here to order. You have to open an account if only for a small time," said Fielmich. "Most travelers can open an account from island to island but every island has different rules."

EZone notifies the account holder by email when their package arrives when it is available to pick up. There are no home deliveries, yet.

Return shipping service is not available through eZone at this time. Fielmich explained that customers do have the option for returns through DHL but it is four to five times more expensive than importing.

Importing to Bonaire by locals through online shopping is gaining in popularity. EZone has gained in popularity on Bonaire and Fielmich looks to the future. He hopes to broaden their consumer transport options to include fresh vegetables, fruit and other perishables to Bonaire.

For more information about eZone, visit www.getezone.com. Ezone is located at Bulevar Julio A. Abrahams 51, 599-717-6161. Story and photo by Julie Morgan



Shelle surrounded by her flowers for the Garden float

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A Garden? Just Do It!

BACOBAS AND PAPAYAS



Do you believe in miracles? I do, but in small things. For example, often at a certain moment I have a friend on my mind and a few days later, or even a minute later, I'm face to face with that person. For me it's like a miracle.

This rare thing I have with plants too. A while ago I was walking in my garden having sweet bacobas on my mind. I have had some bacoba plants, but it was some time ago, so this thought was just for a second on my mind. Can you imagine how surprised I was when a week later I noticed the young bacoba flower popping up out of the tree. So there was the miracle again. And it's these little things that make my day. Being happy with the idea that soon I will enjoy my own sweet bacobas. Well, and there they are. Look at the picture; a whole bunch of nice round thick healthy looking yellow bacobas, unsprayed and ripened by the sun, grown in unspoiled soil, feed by rainwater, goat manure and rotten leaves. While most people don't believe in miracles, for me this is a miracle; the most delicious bacobas right in my own garden.

But the bacobas were not my only surprise. Look at the next picture. My great papaya tree full with good looking nice green papayas. This was an even bigger miracle than the bunch of bacobas because for years I have this tree and not one papaya. One day, when watering the plants, I said to the papaya tree, "One of these days I'm going to knock you down." And just like that, how amazed I was when sometime later I saw tiny baby papayas start growing in the flowers. I couldn't believe my eyes. So miracles do exist if you only want to believe.

Learning about the Papaya

Since I'm so happy with my papayas, I thought I would find out more about them. I was interested to learn that the papaya is originally from Central America and Mexico. Columbus transported the papaya to South-America, and so it spread over the world.

Papaya plants grow in three sexes; male, female, and hermaphrodite. The male produce only pollen, never fruit. The female produces small, inedible fruits unless pollinated. The hermaphrodite can self-pollinate since its flowers contain both male stamens and female ovaries.

Growing the Papaya

Papaya is a real sun-loving plant. It likes rich soil that transports water easily. Papaya plants grow easily. Seeds in small cups pop up after about 4 weeks. After a while you can put them straight in the ground. Dig a hole, fill it half with black-red-goat manure mixed dirt, and put the young plant in the middle of the hole. Then add more mixed dirt until the hole is full. Add some dead leaves on top of the dirt so water won't run away easily. Water the young plants every day, but later when they are bigger, water twice a week.

Eating the Papaya

Papaya is very popular in our local cuisine and is eaten as both a fruit and a vegetable. Green papaya goes in many types of Bonairean stoba. Whether the stoba is goat,



vegetable, fish, or salted beef, green papaya makes it a most delicious local recipe. Hot papaya curry chutneys, hot sweet and sour pickles and different salsas are also popular in the Caribbean.

Ripe papaya can be orange, red or yellow. Worldwide ripe papayas are used for juices, smoothies, fruit and vegetable salads, ice cream and marmalade. And all this you can do yourself. All easy recipes, fast and delicious. Also the leaves are good to use. In some countries the young leaves are steamed and eaten like spinach.

Papaya is full of vitamin C, vitamin B1, B2 and fiber, iron, carotene, pectin and fibrine. This last one, fibrine, is a rare stuff, only found in a few plants, and it plays a special role in blood.

When using papaya in combination with other animal protein like milk, yogurt, or gelatine, first boil the papaya a little bit. The papain in the papaya splits water from protein in your milk smoothie and you get a nasty liquid if you don't boil the papaya a little bit first.

Be careful with papaya too. It has a latex fluid when not ripe, possibly causing irritation and an allergenic reaction in some people.

The Papaya as a Tenderizer

The green papaya fruit and its seeds and the plant's latex are rich in papain, a protease used for tenderizing meat and other proteins. It's now included as a component in some powdered meat tenderizers. Also the seeds are used to make beef tender because of a high concentration of papain in the seeds.



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES

They fall ill, get a stroke, break a hip and they will never be the same again. They lose all feelings for their profession. Very skilled carpenters get clumsy. They stop believing in themselves. They don't cast a shadow anymore and shrivel up inside. Now they sit all day long, waiting for the day to progress and the program to go on.

And the same happens to women. This is so very sad and should not happen. But whether they are a man or a woman, they were a somebody once.

They grew up as happy children that played the whole day outside. They went to school. Some of them studied and left the island. They were silly teenagers and learned to be responsible adults. They fell in love, married and had children. They brought up their children to be responsible and reliable.

They worked very hard for their money and were proud of their jobs and professions.

This should be respected. By each and everyone of us. They are not pitiful now, they need our attention.

Last year I received an invitation to come to the Kas di Kuido to attend a musical night. I was so sorry I could not attend but a friend did and they told me about this magical night. A choir had come from Curacao. This choir entertained their audience with a long evening singing old songs. These were the songs the elderly people sang when they were young. And the most beautiful thing happened, everybody sang along. Even the men and women with Alzheimers disease that did not talk anymore. They sang their hearts out. Every song was a hit!

It would be so beautiful if they could repeat sing-alongs every year. They are fun for everybody.

A while ago, I was in the hospital during visiting hours and I heard laughter, music and happy voices, so I decided to take a quick look.

There was a stage set up with the decor of a bus for the clients of the Kas di Kuido. In this bus an elderly gentleman was seated. Boi Antoin was at his side interviewing him about his life. It turned out this gentleman used to be a busdriver. He told his story with pride and he received a thunderous applause from the crowd.

After this, more people stepped onto the stage and told of their former professional lives and their faces glowed. They were also applauded and I could see their pride. I was moved to tears seeing them and remembering my grandparents.

These evenings were organized by the Alzheimer Foundation. They do an awesome job.

Volunteers are needed to work with these elderly. People that will sit with them and talk with them about the old days of their youth. People that will play old games, sing old songs with them, challenge them in a quiz and make them feel special. The clients need someone to take them for a walk on a regular basis, talk about what you see on the way, how things change and about how it was.

It takes so little time and the rewards are so huge and heart warming.

Make that call to Kas di Kuido and apply to be a volunteer. I guarantee you, it will make a lot of people very happy, including yourself.

□ Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



You get also the same tenderizing effect when marinade meat in papaya juice. The seeds are very healthy too, so I do eat them, or better to say, I swallow them. They have a light spicy taste and in some countries they are used in recipes.

Dealing with Pests

I always have papaya trees in my yard, in different stages of growing. These trees are not using much space, and they have fewer roots with the main root going deeper in the ground.

It happens often that my trees get attacked by a virus called papaya mosaic. This virus destroys the plant until only a small tuft of leaves are left. The virus also effects the fruit. So when you notice it, just chop off the top of the tree. Often the tree gets new stems again and you are then lucky with nice papaya fruit. A well known pest is the whitefly. It lays yellow eggs that appear as dust on the undersides of the leaves. They eat the leaves, therefore damage the fruit. Protect your tree by spraying it with the neem tea liquid. Just

make this tea yourself and spray it once a week over the plants. The whitefly and other pests and bugs do not like the neem tea liquid and will not bother your tree any more. Papaya plants have other pests and fungi (mildew). We also have the iguana which are crazy about the young papaya leaves and the loras which will peck at your papaya fruits as soon as they turn light yellow. Protect your fruits with paper bags around them while on the tree, or just take the fruit off as soon as you notice the loras. But all these things are part of nature and don't let them stop you from growing your own papaya trees. Plant more trees and for sure you will have your own delicious healthy papaya fruits to enjoy. Just do it now.

□ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover





DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know...that a tooth from the biggest shark that has ever lived was recently found on Bonaire?

If you were to visit Bonaire sometime between 2.6 – 23 million years ago, maybe you would have seen it, the biggest shark that has ever lived. This week (week 7), Arjen van Dorsten, a passionate and experienced naturalist and self-proclaimed explorer found remains from this shark in the middle of nowhere when he was out on one of his exploring trips. This time, his passion for discovery brought him to an area near Fontein to do what he likes best.

What he found lying there on the ground in front of him as he was exploring was a fossilized tooth from the extinct shark species Megalodon. One can tell that Arjen has a lot of experience looking for things, because when you just give it a glance, the fossilized tooth looks like almost any other brown rock. But when you start looking at it in detail, its shiny surface, the serrated edge and the shape, that's when you realize that this is actually a tooth - a very big one! Megalodon actually means "big tooth" and the biggest tooth ever found was over 18 cm long and belonged to a shark that probably was around 18 meters in length. The Great White shark, the largest living shark,

sometimes reaches a length of just over 6 meters. That is just a third of the size of a Megalodon! It's hard to take in just how big Megalodon actually was so I will compare it with something that often is used when comparing the size of big animals like whales and dinosaurs, the famous yellow North American school bus! The maximum length of a yellow school bus is just under 14 meters, still 4 meters shorter than the biggest shark that has ever lived.

Unfortunately, many of the sharks that live today are also facing extinction if we keep doing business as usual. Some estimates say that as many as 100 million sharks are killed every year either through targeted fishing or caught as bycatch. The positive thing is that more and more countries are banning shark fishing and finning and the protected areas are increasing in numbers. The Yarari sanctuary is one such area, and it protects all the marine mammals, sharks and rays in the waters of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (dcnature.org) just published a Special BioNews with everything you might want to know about the Yarari sanctuary.

I asked Arjen if he had a goal with going there, if he was looking for something specific, but he genuinely just loves exploring new places, finding things and enjoying the



A fossilized tooth from the extinct shark species Megalodon.

natural beauty of this world. In his museum, which he started as a hobby but now is open every day there is a cruise ship in town (between 09:00 and 15:00), he displays all kinds of different things that he has collected in Bonaire. You can find everything from sea beans, an old Indian decorated pottery piece shaped like a bat, ballast stones from old ships and even dried

up fish that died in last year's Sargassum event. He has a lot of knowledge about all these items so if you go there, please ask him about them because he happily shares his knowledge and stories. ■ *Written by Emil Ren, Assistant Biologist @ STINAPA. Connecting People With Nature. Photo credit: Caren Eckrich, STINAPA*

Billfish tourney yields big catch



With no fanfare, the Nos Ku Nos fishing tournament took place and was a great success this weekend! Fishermen arrived from Curacao and Aruba to compete with our local fishermen for the Catch and Release Billfish tournament. If you did not happen to be in the marina, or watching as they entered or exited, most people would have no idea this event even happened! Eleven boats participated: four from Aruba, four from Curacao and three from Bonaire. What made this event unique is that every single boat did catch fish! This is very rare in Billfish tournaments.

The event was organized by Gordo of Curacao along with Gregory Obersi and Budget Marine. Without the sponsors this would not have been possible. Great thanks go out to Eden Beach, Spice, Bistro de Paris/ Zazu, Monster Drinks and Polar from Best Brands, Budget Marine, Napa, Xerox of Obersi Group and All Signs Curacao.

There is no consideration to the size of the fish, only that they are caught and released. This must be recorded in photos or videos for control. Each fisherman announces on the radio when they have hooked and released a fish. They are given a control code and that number must show up in the pictures along with the fish. The time they announce, hook up and release must match the time stamp on the pictures. Once at the boat, the fish are released. The fishermen earn 500 points for a Blue Marlin, 300 for a White Marlin and 150 for a Sailfish.

During this tournament a total of 19 Sailfish, 18 Blues and two whites kept everyone very busy. That makes more than two fish per hour of fishing. The most stubborn Blue took three hours and two minutes to bring along side, while the fastest was brought to the boat in only seven minutes.

Budget Marine challenged the fishermen for the best photo and best video. Heaven's Gift from Curacao won a Rule Tournament Bait Well pump for outstanding photos of the fish up close and personal while releasing the hook. Sea Hunter, also from Curacao, won a variety of lures and line to continue their hunt with some amazing over and under shots of the fish using a GoPro on a stick.

After 2 days of fishing, third place went to "Living Easy" from Aruba with three Sailfish and two Blues for a total of 1450 points. "Alina" earned 2nd place with five Sails and two Blues totaling 1750 points. Completing the clean sweep for Aruba, "Energy" earned the top spot with 1950 points by catching and releasing an impressive three Blues and three Sailfish. ■ *Pam Teitel.*

"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have the time to do it over?" John Wooden

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What's Happening



KARNAVAL SCHEDULE

SEE COVER for Karnaval events from FEB 20 TO MARCH 5.

Official holiday Monday, Mar. 4—Carnival Monday.

CLOSE IN EVENTS

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. 23—8am- 2pm Monthly Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei - Every last Saturday of the month A fusion of local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations, food & music and an exhibition about the most interesting sights around Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for kids and adults alike. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE

Monday, Feb. 25-Mar. 11—Healthy Back Workshops, Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Info on <https://www.evansi.com/2-healthy-workshop-bonaire-basics/290656588>

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 information of events for the rest of 2019: stinapabonaire.org/events, Tel. 717-8444

Bonaire Goat Farm Tour. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more.\$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950.

Echo. See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 4:30 a free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed.For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echo-bonaire.org. We need at least one day's notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

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 the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55,next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei.** Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance.

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

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

• **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.

• **Petanque—Jeu de Boules,** 2:30-6pm, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) Info: 786-0150.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

• **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 **Wednesday** to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

• **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.

• **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

Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	LINE
Monday	2-18-2019	Monarch	0800-1900	Z.Pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	2-19-2019	Mariner of the Seas	0800-2359	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Wednesday	2-20-2019	Jewel of the Seas	0800-1800	N.pier	3114	RCCL
Monday	2-21-2019	Crown Princess	1200-1900	S.pier	3150	PCL
Monday	2-25-2019	Aida Perla	0700-1800	N.pier	3286	Aida
Tuesday	2-26-2019	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	N.pier	2500	TUI
Tuesday	2-26-2019	Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858	CEL
Thursday	2-28-2019	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.pier	2886	CEL
Friday	3-1-2019	Star Breeze	0700-2100	N pier	208	Windstar
Friday	3-1-2019	Koningdam	0800-1800	S.pier	2650	HAL
Sunday	3-3-2019	Star Breeze	0700-2200	N.pier	208	Windstar
Monday	3-4-2019	Monarch	0800-1900	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Monday	3-4-2019	Adventure of the Seas	0700-1800	S.pier	3114	RCCL

4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

International Bible Church. Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob.N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

Catholic. San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

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

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

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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm.

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at elenherreracochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

EXHIBITS

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

• **Coral Restoration.** Terramar Museum

• **Luciano Tortorici Paintings** 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,Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from “The King's Storehouse.” Mon-Fri Cultural Market last Sat of the month. 786-2101

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays.Reserve 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. 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 cruiseship days, 9am-3pm. Free entrance





Groups dedicate their time for Karnaval continued from page 9

The Toyland float will make its first appearance in the 'kids parade' in Rincon on the 23 and then in Playa on the 24. The Garden float won't be seen until March 2 in Rincon and March 3 in Playa.

Contributing their time on the floats are Jeremy, Jampi, Katty, Selima, Tisha and Rianne.

Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire sponsored the Toyland and Garden float. ■ *Story and photos by Julie Morgan*



Jeremy cutting out one of the animals for the kids' float

Bonaire Sun Rise/Set Moon Phase & Tides							
Winds and weather can influence the local tide's height and time.							
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 18		04:23 -0.06 ft	11:20 1.00 ft	19:52 -0.22 ft		6:56	18:43
Tue 19	00:45 0.17 ft	05:38 0.00 ft	12:18 0.92 ft	20:40 -0.22 ft	Full Moon	6:55	18:43
Wed 20	01:56 0.26 ft	07:09 0.06 ft	13:20 0.81 ft	21:25 -0.22 ft		6:55	18:43
Thu 21	03:00 0.39 ft	08:49 0.08 ft	14:27 0.69 ft	22:10 -0.21 ft		6:55	18:43
Fri 22	03:57 0.53 ft	10:26 0.04 ft	15:37 0.58 ft	22:52 -0.18 ft		6:54	18:43
Sat 23	04:49 0.66 ft	11:51 -0.02 ft	16:46 0.47 ft	23:34 -0.16 ft		6:54	18:44
Sun 24	05:37 0.77 ft	13:03 -0.10 ft	17:53 0.39 ft			6:53	18:44
Mon 25		00:15 -0.12 ft	06:23 0.86 ft	14:07 -0.16 ft	18:55 0.32 ft	6:53	18:44
Tue 26	L. Quarter	00:54 -0.09 ft	07:08 0.90 ft	15:05 -0.19 ft	19:53 0.26 ft	6:52	18:44
Wed 27		01:31 -0.06 ft	07:52 0.92 ft	15:59 -0.20 ft	20:47 0.21 ft	6:52	18:44
Thu 28		02:06 -0.03 ft	08:34 0.90 ft	16:52 -0.19 ft	21:40 0.17 ft	6:51	18:44
Fri 01		02:38 0.00 ft	09:16 0.87 ft	17:44 -0.16 ft	22:32 0.14 ft	6:51	18:45
Sat 02		03:08 0.03 ft	09:57 0.82 ft	18:36 -0.13 ft	23:28 0.12 ft	6:50	18:45
Sun 03		03:34 0.06 ft	10:38 0.76 ft	19:28 -0.10 ft		6:50	18:45
Mon 04	00:34 0.12 ft	04:01 0.10 ft	11:20 0.69 ft	20:17 -0.07 ft		6:49	18:45

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Email: lisestrac@yahoo.com

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15 Cubic AL Pony Tank; Needs Hydro; Money back if fails. Asking \$25 OBO. Also.... Stainless Steel Double Tank Bands (2); Excellent \$75 firm. Call 717-0161

Saturday Driver needed to pick up and deliver items for Pakus di Pruga, the fundraising thrift store of the Animal Shelter. Your truck or ours. Please call Paul Wichers at 796-0466.

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Shelter News

CALLING FOR 20 BONDOET VOLUNTEERS

Hasi
bon,
pasa bon!

Do good, feel good! is the slogan for the annual Bon-Doet campaign. Animal Shelter Bonaire is again part of this year's island-wide volunteer days, when members of the Bonaire community volunteer at NGO locations all over the island. The event takes place on Friday and Saturday March 15 and 16. The Shelter has two projects this year, one at our Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market Store) and one at the Shelter itself.



8am-5pm on Saturday, March 16 and will focus on painting and "brightening" the quarantine area where new arrivals spend their time. When animals first arrive they are often frightened and stressed, so the Shelter wants to make the new arrivals feel more comfortable and secure with a bright, happy place. The project was not completed last year during BonDoet due to sending most of our volunteer group to help with the sargassum seaweed emergency cleanup on the east coast of Bonaire. We also will be cleaning the ceiling beams in the Palasio di Pushinan (Cat Palace). Ten volunteers are needed.

BonDoet weekend is always a fun and wonderful community experience, meeting new people while helping the NGO's that need a hand. And, of course, there will be food and beverages! If you are interested in joining the BonDoet community and helping at the Pakus or the Shelter, please go to <http://www.bondoet.com> and register for our jobs.

■ Jane Disko
-Madden



The Pakus di Pruga project is from 8am-5pm on Friday, March 15 and needs volunteers to help build a concrete ramp to make the Pakus more accessible to all. In addition, they need help with some roof repair and also sorting, arranging and taking inventory of all the items that are for sale. Ten volunteers are needed.

The Animal Shelter project is from

Pet of the Week

Totochi

Hello nice people, my name is **Totochi**, which means 'Remember'. You can call me 'TooChi' for short. I'm a very handsome guy, if you ask me. I'm only one and a half years old and full of life. I love to cuddle and be on your lap, or just follow you around. Teddy bears are my favorite toy. I like to throw them in the air, run around with them and sleep on them. I like children, cats, other dogs and all humans, except for one. Let me



tell you why. One day I was my handsome self, playing and running around a man came in his white coat. He petted me and in a split second I fell asleep. After I woke up my caretakers at the Animal Shelter told me that I was "fixed". I did not know what that meant because I was not broken or needed repair. I only knew and felt he took something from my pretty body! But after two days I was back on track, running around with my teddy, and loving everybody. Oh, I just love all the attention. Do you want to meet me? Love me? Play with me? And take me home? I'm the perfect companion for every family so come and visit me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. Call and ask about me 717-4989 /701-4989. ■ Story & photo by Sanne Attevelt



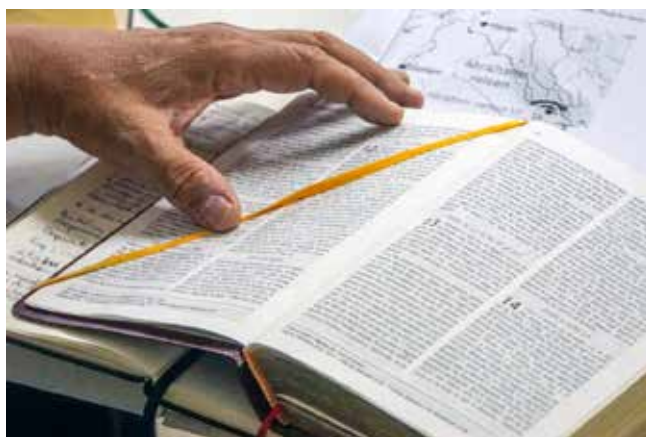
Our Lady of Coromoto Church Holds Bible Study

Helping people to read and better understand the Catholic Bible is the focus of an eight week Bible study class from now through April 1. The class is conducted by Fr Alphonsus Baak of our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Bonaire.

Fr. Baak was overwhelmed that more than 100 people showed up for the class. He explained that it is a basic course designed to help people read and study the bible along with preparing for the Sunday readings. Fr. Baak was pleasantly surprised to learn that 70% of the people already had a bible in their home.

Each week covers a different topic. The first week, on February 4th, served as an introduction to the class and talked about the creation of the world. The second class covered how God wanted to reveal himself through the Fathers of the Faith: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

The schedule for the remaining classes, each week discussing a different topic,



are: Moses, the Book of Songs, the Gospel of Mark, Gospel of John, The Acts of the Apostles, and finally the Letters of Saint Paul.

Fr. Baak says, "For me it's a great joy because of the response of the people." They are telling me that everything is explained on a basic level so that they can understand it.

The class meets every Monday night from 7-9p.m. in Sala Imelda, the parish meeting room, located behind the church on Kaya Korona. It is free and conducted in Papiamentu. The class will not meet on the Monday following Karnaval but continues through April 1st. ■ Story and Photos by Alan Zale



Fr Alphonsus Baak conducting a Bible study class in Antriol, Bonaire.



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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it—just look up

THE BRIGHTEST OF THE BRIGHT

Finding your way around the sky can be difficult. With so many planets, stars, and constellations, where do you begin?

Our tip—start with the really bright stuff. We've picked for you the five brightest nighttime objects this winter. Visible even from urban locations, these five celestial wonders are sure to jump-start your relationship with the universe.

If we're talking about bright stuff, we have to begin with **the moon**—#1 brightest nighttime object. How can you not be awed by the sight of a full moon rising above the eastern horizon? Or a thin, delicate crescent cradling the darkened orb after sunset?

During the last week of February the moon is best seen before sunrise. It'll be in its waning phases and will slowly move toward new moon. If we advance time day by day, we'll see a third quarter moon on February 25th. That's when only the left-half of the moon is lit. If we shift our view to the southeast on the morning of February 27th, the waning moon is next to the third brightest nighttime object.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Let's find the second brightest thing first. You can see something even brighter lower in the southeast. That is the dazzling planet **Venus**. Venus is so incredibly bright because the planet is perpetually covered in clouds—and these clouds reflect sunlight much better than any other planet. Venus is over 100 million miles away right now, but it's still way brighter than any star or planet visible from earth.

The moon will get closer to Venus on February 28th. And on March 1st the moon will be next to the ringed planet Saturn (which doesn't crack the top 5 brightest objects, but is still way-cool!) And then just before sunrise on March 2nd, you can see the two brightest nighttime objects in conjunction! The moon and Venus. Sweet! Now we're going back to the night of February 27th to reveal what large, gaseous planet, with a great



red spot will be next to the moon.

The third-brightest nighttime object is the planet **Jupiter**. There is no mistaking Jupiter's steady, cream-colored glow. When you point a telescope at it, Jupiter reveals a hidden system of four moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. The cloud bands and great red spot can also be seen with a larger scope.

To find #4 and #5 on our list, we just need to face south any night this week at around 8pm. That really bright and twinkling star is **Sirius**, the Dog Star. Sirius is seriously bright—making it the fourth brightest nighttime object. The name Sirius comes from a Greek word meaning searing or scorching. It lives up to its name, since it's twice as bright as any other star in the sky. It's called the Dog Star because it marks the nose of the constellation Canis Major, the big dog.

Number 5 is a yellow star named **Capella**. **Capella** can be found almost directly overhead on winter evenings. It's the primary star in the constellation Auriga the Charioteer. When you observe Capella, you're really looking at a complex system of at least four stars orbiting each other in two binary pairs. Imagine having four suns in our sky!

There you have it, the top five brightest nighttime objects. Wake up early and find the moon, Venus, Jupiter, (and Saturn, while you're at it). Then find the stars Sirius, and Capella after sunset. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



THE STARS HAVE IT

Horoscope end February 2019

On February 19, the Virgo full moon—a potent super moon—appears in the sky.

Aries (Mar.21–Apr.19) On the 19th, the super moon can jump-start your spring-training plans by helping you cut back on refined flours and sugars or begin adding regular cardio. Pace yourself because diving into anything too extreme, especially during Pisces season, sets up failure. Make small improvements each day.

Taurus (Apr.20–May 20) On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 5th house of fame, passion, fertility and self-expression. Your talents could be recognized, or you may have a creative breakthrough. With the moon beaming into your chart's romantic sector, strong emotions could surge up, so be careful that you don't bulldoze anyone with demands or diva antics. Cupid could deliver an extra bundle with his arrows this year.

Gemini (May 21–Jun.20) On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 4th house of home and family. Whether by blood or bond, those folks deserve your undivided attention over the next two weeks. If there's been tension, clear the air, setting ground rules for respectful listening and talking. The full moon could play real estate agent (or interior designer), helping you create the home of your dreams.

Cancer (Jun.21–Jul.22) On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 3rd house of communication. Have you been putting off a conversation or awaiting an answer? News could speed your way. Got a project idea brewing or a message to spread? With la luna lighting up your local-events zone, don't overlook your community. A small trial project would test your synergy with a kindred spirit.

Leo (Jul.23–Aug.22) On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 2nd house of work and finances. If you're considering an offer, getting ready for a job change or pondering a new project, the full moon emboldens you to decide. Under these confident moonbeams, you're poised to advocate for yourself. Be prepared with facts, then make your big ask!

Virgo (Aug.23–Sep.22) On February 18, "wounded healer" Chiron will plunge into your 8th house of intimacy, poking old wounds around power, money, sex and vulnerability. Under Chiron's influence, we transform ourselves by helping others. But a moment for numero uno! On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 1st house of self—this year's only full moon in your sign, YOUR desires are top priority.

Libra (Sep.23–Oct.22) Speaking of closure, are you holding onto something? Let it go. On the 19th, the super moon activates your 12th house of healing and release, nudging you to spiritual practice. Meditation, prayer, crystals—whatever speaks to you. Your inner life wants your attention. The unknown might seem scary, but if you veer off confining and painful paths, the universe could offer a more inspiring option or two!

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) More belated V-Day vibes head your way on February 18 as the Sun starts a month long visit to your 5th house of love and creativity. Your shut-in days are over—get out and have some fun! On the 19th when the super moon activates beams in your teamwork zone. Gather with a group or say yes to a promising collaboration.

Sagittarius (Nov.22–Dec.21) On the 19th, the super moon beams into your 10th house of career and success. Plot your power moves accordingly. You could be offered a leader's role or recognized for your work of the past six months. If you're not ready for a pay or status bump, what everyday actions will get you closer to your goals? The Virgo full moon reminds you to narrow your focus to what you REALLY want next.

Capricorn (Dec.22–Jan.19) On the 19th, the super moon illuminates your 9th house of travel, so hit "book now". The outspoken 9th house also rules entrepreneurship and learning. If you're starting a business, take an important action today. A class could deepen your knowledge, making you more confident. Have you been procrastinating on an important conversation? Be kind and respectful, but don't hold back the truth.

Aquarius (Jan.20–Feb.18) Aquarius is the sign of emotional detachment. While you've got feelings, you don't enjoy public display. On the 19th, the super moon could upend your control. Don't be embarrassed. Your humanity is attractive; it's the only way that people can truly connect with you. Being perfect is overrated!

Pisces (Feb.19–Mar.20) Your birthday is "me time", but, on the 19th, the super moon illuminates the opposite point of your chart igniting your 7th house of relationships. You could make a partnership official, or advance a budding connection. In contrast, you might call off a commitment that's no longer working. But with Virgo (the zodiac's fix-it sign) at the helm, you might first try to repair the rift. ■ *The AstroTwins: Ophira & Tali Edut*

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