

**FREE**

# BONAIRE The REPORTER

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## 2019 Faces



## of Karnaval

Marine Park Tags  
Special Olympics to Dubai  
2019 Election  
TCB Responds to Survey

Julie Morgan Photos

# FLOTSAM and JETSAM

## InselAir Out of Business

On February 16, Insel Air officially ended their operations under specific IATA codes. In a post on Facebook the company thanked customers for their loyalty stating it was truly a pleasure to serve each of them over the past 12 years.

The airline's only remaining plane has technical problems and is unlicensed to fly. Curaçao Airport Partners (CAP) reclaimed the hangar InselAir was using.

Passengers with tickets issued on flights 2511/2513 from Curaçao to St. Maarten or flights 2512/2514 from St. Maarten to Curaçao operated by Divi Divi and Corendon Dutch Airlines are advised to contact Divi Divi for their flight status.

Passengers affected by the flight discontinuation have been asked to have the following information for all communication to ensure prompt response:

- All passenger names.
- Your PNR/Record Locator (5-6 numbers/letters).
- Your InselAir ticket number (13-digit number starting with 958).

-Your scheduled flights.  
-Where you purchased your tickets and how you paid for them.

-How much you paid including taxes and fees.

If you purchased your ticket from a travel agent, you are asked to contact them for a refund or rebooking options. People who purchased their ticket by credit card online at fly-inse-lair.com or at one of their ticket offices are asked to contact their credit card company to dispute the charges as "non-delivered."

Airline employees traveling on standby leisure tickets are to initiate a refund process through myIDTravel or contact the employee travel department.

Those who purchased a ticket by cash or check at one of the ticket offices need to file refund claim with the InselAir's trustee Mr. R. van den Heuvel at VanEps Kunneman VanDoorne and Associates, Julianaplein 22, Willemstad, Curaçao or via email: [creditors.inse-lair@ek-vandoorne.com](mailto:creditors.inse-lair@ek-vandoorne.com).

Normal contact with the company through email or phone is no longer available. ■

►As of January 1, 2020, the allowance for AOV beneficiaries in the Caribbean Netherlands will depend on the personal situation of the applicant. The living situation and their income will determine whether they are entitled to an allowance and how much the allowance is. In a letter to the House of Representatives, State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) Tamara van Ark listed a surcharge of specific amounts: \$186 per two weeks for Bonaire, \$233 per two weeks for St. Eustatius and of \$224 per two weeks for Saba. Personal income for 2020 will be supplemented to the amount of the statutory minimum wage (WML). The amount depends on the living situation and income of the person. In total, people living alone entitled to AOV on Bonaire will have at least \$894 per month in income from January 1, 2020. AOV beneficiaries who have a partner can also qualify for the allowance if their joint income is covered. ■



►Shoppers were greeted with empty shelves rather than fruit and vegetables in their favorite markets from Feb 21 – 26. Many of the frustrated shoppers blamed the cruise ships. Often our stores lack food because the ships occupy the piers leaving no room for the Don Andres to unload. Don Andres director Eugenia N. De Jongh said, "This time it isn't the cruise ships." He explained that the container ships coming into Curaçao usually arrive on Wednesday but were delayed until Thursday. This pushed the unloading of goods to Friday night because there is only one crane in use on the Curaçao docks. Don Andres does not bring goods to Bonaire on the weekends as it is cost prohibitive, so the perishables didn't arrive until Monday night. ■

►STBC (Sea Turtle Bonaire Conservation) held an underwater fishing line cleanup dive on February 24 at the North pier. With tanks provided by Dive Friends, 25-30 divers collected a full green garbage receptacle of fishing line.

Monofilament fishing line carelessly discarded is deadly to marine life. On-shore and underwater animals become entangled. It cuts deep into their flesh keeping animals from feeding or it strangles them and they die. Please ask fishermen to be aware and not leave debris on shore or discard line or other fishing equipment into the water. ■



►The Bonaire Reporter is adding a new page called The Bonaire Reporter Business Directory. We are featuring businesses here that have been recommended to us or that we like. If anyone is interested in advertising in the directory please email or call. We have a special introductory price for three months. ■

### This Week's Stories

Faces of Karnaval (cover)	1, 9
Bonaire Votes 2019	3
Venex Bonaire	4
Bonaire to Special Olympics, Dubai	6
George & Laura hand over	
The Reporter	7
What does Marina Park do?	8
TCB Responds to Survey	9
Denchi Art Exhibit	10

### Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (End of InselAir, AOV changes, Empty shelves, Fishing line clean-up)	2
Reef Glimpses	3
Picture Yourself—Brussels, Belgium	4
Letters—Park tags, Over-developed Bonaire, Help wanted after theft	4
Born on Bonaire—Angele Cecilia	5
A Garden? Just Do It (Detox)	10
Making Bonaire "Accessible" — Wheelchair Challenges #5	10
Did You Know? Bonaire's Bathymetric Map	11
What's Happening, Close-in Events, Exhibits, Museums	12
Cruiseship Schedule	12
Bonaire Sky Park (Orion Family Reunion)	13
The Stars Have It (Horoscope)	13
Masthead, Tides, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Pet Of The Week (Aron cat)	14
Shelter News (Fleas)	14
Classifieds	14
Business Directory	15

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# Bonaire Votes 2019



Attendees at the two day training course for Island Council candidates

On March 20 Bonaire voters will have to choose from a list of 180 candidates. They will pick one from the 126 names submitted for seats on the Island Council and, for the first time ever, one from the 54 candidates for the First Chamber's Electoral College. Here is a summary of what you need to know.

There are three underlying issues in this election:

1. The level of involvement of the Dutch Central Government in Bonaire's internal affairs.
2. The professionalism and competence of newly-elected Bonaire officials
3. Adjustment of the less-than-equal status of Bonaire residents as compared to the residents of the European Netherlands.

The names of the eight parties or lists for Island Council, their leader and "colors" are:

1. **UPB Patriotico**- James Kroon -

Green - Union Patriótico Boneriano (UPB)

2. **PDB Demokrat** - Clark Abraham - Red - Partido Demokráitiko Boneriano (PDB)

3. **FSP**- Robby Beukenboom -Orange-Frente Sosial Progresivo (FSP)

4. **MPB** - Elvis Tjin-Asjoe - Blue - Movementu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB)

5. **Era Nobo**- Eric Soleana-Purple

6. List **Rafael Santana**

7. List **Suzy Thode**

- 8.1 **Union Pa Pueblo**

*The Bonaire Reporter* endorses no political party or candidate. The following comments are based on our assessment of what people are saying about the leading parties and candidates in the press and on social media:

**UPB**- Except for James Kroon the once all-powerful the Patriot's Party, has no proven strong vote getters. In past elections Kroon garnered almost enough votes

by himself from Rincon to gain a seat for his party. He is a tireless worker and given credit for many improvements in Rincon and elsewhere on the island. Several years ago he had a conviction for procedural misconduct but has had no issues since. The publicity campaign of some of the candidates on its list by using billboard ad-vertisements and advocating developments like high-rise buildings has alienated environmentalists.

**PDB**- The Democrats, Bonaire's oldest political party, is led by the charismatic Clark Abraham, one of the only candidates who has a degree in government. The party's list of candidates have some well-recognized names: one was involved in an embezzlement investigation but never formally charged. Abraham himself had a brush with the law recently involving domestic violence. Abraham was the only Island Council member who did not vote in favor of the recently approved Administrative Agreement with the Netherlands. The party was significantly weakened when two of its longtime stalwarts split off to form the FSP. Nevertheless the party enjoys strong support based on its long history.

**FSP**- The Progressive Social Front party is led by veteran politicians Robby Beukenboom and Maru-gia Janga. The FSP has gained substantial traction in a short time by attracting long-time Democrats and participating in the just completed two-day training given by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Wethoudersvereniging (Aldermen Association) and the University of Aruba sparked by former Bonaire Governor Glenn Thode.

*continued on page 14*

## Reef Glimpses



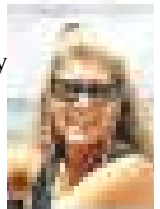
Photo: Julie Morgan

It was at least twenty years ago that I first saw this trio of lettuce coral, elephant ear sponge, and car (boat?) battery. My reaction then was probably the same as yours now: "Yucch! I'm embarrassed for my species..."

But now I see a triumph of nature over the dark (or unaware) side of humanity. That battery was dropped thirty, forty, fifty years ago. Over time the poisons it contained dispersed into the water enough to allow life nearby, and the sponge and coral took advantage of the location.

A healthy reef community can overcome (and overgrow!) just about anything.

■ *Dee Scarr*



25 years ago in the United States....

2019... Kate's still at it!



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## Letters to the Editor

Re: Bart Snelder's comments in the Feb 18-Mar 4 *The Bonaire Reporter*.

I agree that divers carry an uneven burden. However, I would gladly pay twice the new fee as a diver that enjoys the freedom and quality of diving that Bonaire affords. I've found it nowhere else. I don't think the fee raise is out of line. I believe it is long overdue. I actually pay the fee for both diving and snorkeling, even though the dive fee covers both, because I believe it is a worthwhile cause. I do not think the fee increase is indefensible. I wholeheartedly support it.

What I do think is a travesty is that cruise ship divers (who are the worst and do most damage to the reefs) are exempt from the fee. Why is that? They do the same dives. They do the most damage. Why should they be given a free pass to enjoy the marine park? This has to change. Either prohibit these non-skilled divers from using the marine park or make them pay the marine park fee. It's only fair!

Sincerely, *Larry m. Litwin*

Dear Editor:

Most divers I know -- visitors and locals alike -- are happy to pay the yearly Bonaire National Marine Park diving fee. We appreciate the work of BNMP Rangers and other staff members in protecting Bonaire's fantastic underwater environment. Also, most divers I know -- visitors and locals alike -- are unhappy that cruise ship divers are not required to pay a nature fee on Bonaire. This unfair cruise ship situation seemed to have no solution. Then I was reminded that **the reason cruise ship passengers don't pay nature fees is because legislation exempts anyone who is on Bonaire for less than 24 hours.** Granted, looking back at it, it isn't shocking that the culprit and the solution was legislation -- but I never had realized it.

So-o-o, now there's a focus: change the legislation. Oh, sure, all we have to do is change the legislation. If only it was as simple as it sounds... But at least it will be more productive than just complaining...

Keep your eye on the Reporter for more on this subject.

Sincerely, *Dee Scarr*

Dear Editor:

I read in the latest Reporter 2 items from visitors. I am coming to Bonaire for more than 18 years with my wife and we still do like the island, but there is something going wrong in our opinion.

The whole island is building new resorts and houses and everywhere there is building noise and a lot of dust. The big trucks are carrying too much load without a cover, so the dust/sand is blowing everywhere and also in the ocean. The streets are covered with grit from these trucks.

Jet skis are racing too close to the shore. There are three driving tours by car to see the nice things of Bonaire but on the way we see a lot of things Bonaireans have thrown away—garbage—old freezers, pallets, furniture and more. *Tom Kroese*

### Can You Help?

Hello I am Ellie Van der Veen.

We came back Sunday night with Sun Wing from Bonaire into Toronto Canada. When we left on 10 of Feb. (our first real holiday in 32 years, I was very nervous.) a person beside me said I love Bonaire. It is clean, safe, nice weather and good water you can drink it everywhere. I felt so much better after he told me that.

And yes we loved it, till Thursday 14 Feb. when they took my beach bag. After a couple visits at the police office, a person that stayed with us in the Marriott told us on Saturday 16 Feb. to go back to all the places where we went.

So we rented a scooter and we went back to Seru Largu Viewpoint. It was an enormous shock to me to see my beach bag laying on the left side of the stairs in the bush, all my stuff was laying all over between branches.

My husband recorded it on his phone and found out that there is between the bush a little bench with a water bottle just waiting there to steal !!!!

And they are fast, there was just a couple of minutes between us being there and a tourist bus coming with Ingrid the tour guide.

The person driving us around convinced us that 100 percent sure that the car was locked, so I must forgot it somewhere else, I was confused. But I was right they took it right there, of course I should kept the beach bag with me! I should have done so many things.

I am realllllyy SAD that they took my white Samsung Galaxy Tablet, it was full with pictures that we made a couple of months ago when visiting our family in Holland and my husband's mother that is really sick with cancer.

We were not the only ones that got robbed, 4 more people after us told their story.

I can buy a new Tablet but I can not buy those emotional pictures. ***I wish I put a note on that bench in the bush asking to please bring it back for a reward.***

Thank you for reading this. Could you help us .....

Thank you, *Peter and Ellie Van der Veen*

*Editor's Note: If anyone has any information about this theft please send the Reporter an email. There will be no questions asked. We would like to help her retrieve her photos. Thanks.*

Have something to say? Want to give your opinion?

All letters must be signed.

Email: [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)



**Venex Bonaire** collected food and other supplies at Warehouse Bonaire on February 23. The goods will be shipped to Curaçao and then forwarded to Venezuela. For more information on how you can help the people of Venezuela email [venexbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:venexbonaire@gmail.com).

## Picture Yourself with The Reporter in Brussels, Belgium



**A**nnick Leclercq sent this photograph of her husband, **Ron van Craenenbroeck**. She wrote, "Fortunately Ron was in Brussels on January 5, 2019 when the Atomium needed some help to stand. No issue for Ron, he managed to support the Atomium with one hand, holding the Reporter in the other. No wonder the Atomium needed some help as it is 61 years old. Built on the occasion of the World Exhibition in Brussels in 1958, it was to be demolished after 6 months, but the building became enormously popular. The Atomium represents 1 cell of pure iron. 'Iron'ically, it is not built in iron, but in aluminum. Cannot wait to see my husband in *The Reporter!* Oh yes, some info regarding Ron. He is on the island since December 2017. He is a fabulous handyman, and is a real ice-addict."

**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. Send to [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com) This and all 2019 photos are eligible for the next contest. ■

15&16  
MART  
2019



# Born on Bonaire July 18, 1972 — Angele Cecilia

“I grew up in Rincon. My mom worked for Cambes and my dad worked at Bopec. He had five children with his first partner, but when she passed away he married my mother. When I was born my mom stopped working and later my sister was born. I was daddy’s girl and my childhood was lovely. There was always food in the house and we had everything one basically needs because my dad worked very hard. We lived right in the center of Rincon surrounded by our cousins, uncles and aunts. We were raised by the extended family and we had a lot of freedom in that circle.

I was a very creative and artistic child. On the roof of my aunt’s garage we had a theater accessible by a ladder provided by my uncle. I made the costumes and the décor and my cousins took care of the music. My younger cousins participated in the show as well. There was lemonade and cookies which we ‘stole’ from our aunts. In our imagination there was always a large audience attending the show, but in reality there were just goats, iguanas and lizards.

When I was eighteen I went to study in Holland. I got myself a year’s subscription for the theatre and I attended many plays and shows. I did higher vocational education (HBO) and after I got my bachelor’s in school social work I went back to Bonaire where I worked two years for the government as a school social worker. When I was twenty-four I became pregnant and from the moment I could feel the baby move, I felt she was dancing in my belly! Imani was born in Curacao, December 24th, 1996. When she was eighteen months old we moved back to Holland. Again I went to school at HVA, University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam to get my bachelor’s in teacher education. Imani went to pre-school and after school care where she would dance and sing all day. Then I saw a show from Lucia Marthas’ Institute for Performing Arts on television and I immediately thought it would be something for Imani. I registered her and she started dancing in Amsterdam which was about a 45 minute commute. When she was six, she was accepted for the prior training. We would go back and forth every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. We lunched in the car, Imani got dressed in the car and if there was a show we had more rehearsals to attend. I was working part-time in education but still studying to become a teacher. I would do my homework in the canteen of the dance school while I was waiting for Imani. That’s how we lived for years! When Imani was eight my son Kaydon was born. My dad got sick with Kahler’s Disease when Imani was nine. He hadn’t been feeling well for a while, but I couldn’t make my mind up whether to return to Bonaire. I wanted my children to make memories with their grandfather and I wanted to be with my dad which was the main reason. We’ve been very lucky to keep him with us for another seven years so my children really got to know him. My dad passed away July 16th, 2014.

It wasn’t an easy decision to leave



**Angele Cecilia**

Holland as we had a life. We’d bought a house, we were working and studying and the children went to school and Imani was crazy for her dance classes – we were settled. Of course we were happy to be back on Bonaire with my dad and our family,



**Board and teachers of Dance Sensation at their tremendous show on Feb. 16th. L-R: Liliane de Geus, Angele Cecilia, Soekarsi Phelipa, Josslyn Teffer-Martinus, Joella Ramos and Imani Mercera. Not pictured are Jorien van Diepen, coordinator, and Sanne Davidsson, administrator and student.**

**“We have 45 underprivileged students, who get classes, transport and dance outfits for free. These children are subsidized although there is some uncertainty about the continuity of the subsidy. Anyone interested may contact us to sponsor a child.”**

but we had to adapt to the new situation. I had a toddler and a ten year old and my husband and I were working full-time. For Imani it was very boring and she blamed me for having to leave dance school and her friends. I felt guilty so I looked for other options. I found Fina Dance Company in Curacao. We would fly back and forth to Curacao every Saturday for my daughter to take her dance classes. We couldn’t keep this up and I began writing a project plan to set up a dance school on Bonaire. I thought ‘That’s it; that’s what I’m going to do!’ You see, my stubborn-

ness is also my strength!

Rudy Domacassé was the one who brought me into contact with the right people. When I found out the government couldn’t help me because they had a completely different vision, I decided to do it on my own. I’d approached a colleague, Fionarda de Windt, to help me and then we asked Soekarsi Phelipa to join us. Ten years ago the three of us founded Dance Sensation Dance School. We started with classical ballet classes and 15 children. The teachers were from Fina in Curacao. They flew back and forth and we paid for their tickets. Luckily they didn’t ask a lot of money, they just wanted to help! After three months we had 30 children and two teachers. Then we started hip hop classes and hired our first teacher who came from Holland. She took over all the classes while working part time in restaurants. Liliane de Geus who had attended the dance academy in the US, joined us to teach classical ballet. We had two teachers and we eventually hired an administrative assistant.

The number of children continued to grow and every year we had our end of the year show. I’d always maintained a very good relationship with Lucia Mar-

help of Liliane de Geus. So Imani moved to Holland at sixteen without her parents. That was hard; it was the most difficult year of my life, but she was living her dream and I had to let go. However, the next year, we as a family made the decision to go back to Holland. That year my dad passed away July 16th and two weeks later we left Bonaire.

I was travelling back and forth from Amsterdam to Bonaire and the dance school did fine, thanks to a great board and a fantastic coordinator, Jorien van Diepen. We did it for three years and then Imani graduated as a dance teacher and took a sabbatical. We came back to Bonaire and Imani followed two years later. In August 2018 she started working at Dance Sensation Dance School as a dance teacher. Next month she’ll return to Holland to get her bachelor’s in dance.

It all began with Imani and in the meantime dance has become a means to educate and develop children. A way to discover and evolve their passion without distinguishing between poor or rich, white, yellow or blue; it’s just for all young people on Bonaire. They learn discipline, motivation, working together, being stress resistant, presenting themselves and being aware of their body whether they are big or thin. And then there’s social development and responsibility. They learn to deal with all kinds of cultures and different environments. It is so much more than dancing although the pleasure dancing gives them is always number one.

In addition to our 125 students we work with 60+ elderly, a number of foundations and organizations, crèches and schools teaching at least 500 more people on the island.

You have to be creative and access funding everywhere to ensure the survival of the school. We have 45 underprivileged students, who get classes, transport and dance outfits for free. These children are subsidized although there is some uncertainty about the continuity of the subsidy. Anyone interested may contact us to sponsor a child. Four of our students: Imani Mercera, Kenya Aulacio, Kimberly Ram and Maria Barrios have studied or are still studying abroad to become professional dancers/dance teachers and we are very proud of them. I do have to thank my team and all of our fifty volunteers because we couldn’t have done it without them!

There’s still one plan for the future I’d love to realize; I want to establish a theatre on Bonaire and I’m going for it!

For more info: dsdanceschool@gmail.com or FB: DsDansschool Bonaire.

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



**Hasi bon,  
pasa bon!**

# Special Olympics team heads to World Games with help of Bonaire Digicel



Bonaire Special Olympics delegation, athletes and support team.

Back L-R: Elmer Marselia, Jeroen Grotewal, Arlene Marselia Engelhart, Su Endry Weef, Jaira Brito, Silvine Offerman, Lucille Pikerie, Shalimar Matthew, Roel Scherp tong, Anne Marie Mercera, Kenneth Piar, Suraya Hendriks, Nina Braeken, Silvio Semeleer, Ashanty Toppenberg and Edsel Cicilia. Front L-R: Marcelino Josefa, William Piar, Michele Matthew, Rolvin Hellburg, Arvienna Vis and Daremy Soliano.

On March 6, after a year of intensive training and preparation, 12 Bonairean athletes, ages 17-58, will take flight for the Middle East, accompanied by a nine-member delegation. They will participate in the Special Olympics World Games, the world's largest competitive event for special needs athletes. It is to be held March 10 - March 21 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Community-wide fund-raising for the World Games 2019 athletes began with the 16th Annual Walk-a-thon, March 4, 2018, with \$10,000 of support from Digicel Bonaire. Other support is pledged from the Council of China, Web NV, Krioyo Paint and the OLB.

This is the sixth time since 1999 that Bonairean athletes have attended the World Games. The six men and six women, all students from special schools in Rincon and Kralendijk, will join approximately 7,500 athletes from 170 countries to compete in track and field events, bocce and swimming. Four athletes will participate in

each discipline. While six of the Bonairean athletes will be competing for the first time, three of their teammates will mark their second competition, and three others will be returning to the World Games for the fourth time. The opening ceremony features each country's athletes in traditional native dress. Bonaire will be represented by athletes Lixandro Mauricio and Shalimar Matthew dressed in the traditional Simadon costume.

This is the first time that the World Games will be held in the Middle East/North Africa Region, with ceremonies and competitions scheduled among seven different venues. The bocce team will compete in Abu Dhabi, while both track and field events and swimming will take place in Dubai. All events will be televised on ESPN and on ABC.

Bonaire's delegation to the 2019 World Games will be headed by Arlene Engelhart Marselia with assistant head Silvio (Chio) Semeleers. The medical delegate is Jeroen

*continued on page 7*



"Empowering people with determination is central to our values. We hope to help provide the 'Fire, the Olympic Flame' for our athletes as they go to the competition." *Denis O'Brien.*

2019 Bonaire Special Olympics team, Back L-R Marcelino Josefa, Roel Scherp tong, Lixandro Mauricio, Michele Matthew, Lucille Pikerie, Sue Endry Weef, Kenneth Piar and Daremy Soliano; Front seated L-R: Suraya Hendriks, Digicel representative Ashanty Toppenberg, Nina Braeken, Shalimar Matthew and Silvine Offerman.

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*Bonaire heads to Special Olympics,  
continued from page 6*

Grotewal. The six accompanying coaches, who have worked with the athletes over the past year, include Merida Statia and William Piar (swimming), Rolvin Hellburg and Jaira Brito (bocce) and Arviena Vis and Earon Rosaria (track and field).

"I observe the athletes two to three times a week at the schools," said assistant delegation head Chio Semeleer. "I tell them, 'You are athletes and in good shape.'" Semeleer, in his 28th year with the program, said he tries to prepare the athletes mentally, guiding them on what to do and what they have to know.

Since 2003 Digicel Bonaire has taken the lead in funding support for the Bonaire Special Olympians.

"We are very happy to be given this opportunity by the Bonaire Team to partner with them in their great quest," said Digicel founder and chairman Denis Obrien.

Digicel assists 13 Special Olympic Committees with monetary donations totaling \$2.8 million. Digicel also provides volunteers, equipment, training, infrastructure contributions and a chairman's dinner for delegations.

Obrien noted that in this year alone Digicel has invested \$200,000 to enable teams in the Caribbean and Central America to participate in the World Games.

Andre McKenzie, marketing representative for Digicel Bonaire, echoed the commitment. "I would like to see a presence all year long to keep Special Olympics constantly present in the mind of Bonaire."

This is the sixth Special Olympics World Games attended by Bonaire. The first was in 1999 in North Carolina, then Ireland in 2003, Shang-Hai in 2007, Greece in 2011 and Los Angeles in 2015. Bonaire Special Olympics received a major financial boost when Digicel Bonaire came on board for the 2003 Ireland games. Looking ahead to the next scheduled Special Olympics, Digicel Bonaire will again make significant contributions with the upcoming 17th Annual Walk-a-thon on April 7, 2019 and the Open Water Swim in October.

For more information about the Special Olympics World Games visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) or locally [www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsBonaire](http://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsBonaire).

■ Story and photos by Julie Morgan.



## George and Laura hand over The Reporter



Twenty five years ago a dinghy bumped against our sailboat *Maruba* in the anchorage. A woman handed up a single sheet of paper, printed on one side, produced on a copier. It was the first issue of *Port Call*, *The Bonaire Reporter's* predecessor. George and Laura Desalvo were living a few boats away on *Oscarina*.

George and Laura took over the little news sheet as a service to their fellow cruisers when the founder of *Port Call* lifted anchor and sailed away. Under their care the publication kept growing, started running ads, began to include more and more Island news, became a real newspaper and outgrew its name.

*The Bonaire Reporter* has now been the Island's premier English language newspaper for many years. And George and Laura, having moved ashore, have been integral to the life of Bonaire. They are known and loved by almost everybody, know and love almost everybody, and are among the first to hear about everything that happens on the Island.

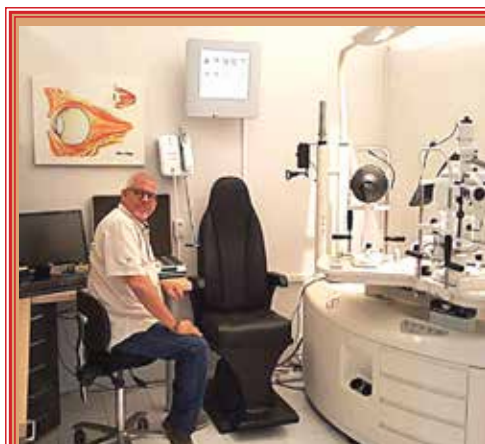
Now ownership of *The Bonaire Reporter* has passed into the capable hands of Julie Morgan, an ace photographer from a newspaper family, who has returned to Bonaire after wandering the world for 18 years.

George and Laura will remain on Bonaire. From their beautiful home in Luega Aleha, they will still be the first people on the Island to see the sun rise every morning.

■ Don Ricks



"We concentrate on the good things, that's our outlook on life. It hurts when I have to write about bad things...I want to be a good guest to the island... We are a magazine giving information about our beloved island," George DeSalvo from an excerpt from *Portraits of Bonaire* by Henk Roozendaal, with stories by Guus Gertson.



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Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

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

**WEEKENDS ONLY...**

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

# What does the Marine Park do?

As of March 1 divers are paying \$45 for a Bonaire Marine Park tag. If you are new to diving in Bonaire then you'll pay the fee and feel good about helping the reefs and waters of Bonaire. Return divers may wonder why there is a price increase as just last year the tag was \$25, but it has been that price since 2005. Prior to 2005, the price was \$10. People wondered and complained then just as they are now. The simple explanation is everything costs more now, right?

Bonaire has grown. There are more resorts, businesses, cruise ships, divers, snorkelers and people living here. And with this influx of growth, there is a massive impact on the reefs and marine life. That little marine park tag you purchase has helped keep Bonaire, well Bonaire. The fees fund the work that is done by Stinapa that manages Bonaire Marine Park (BMP) and Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP). These are the people that do whatever they can to keep the nature of Bonaire maintained and healthy. They are doing their best to keep the effects of countless visitors to a minimum.

Stinapa has 30 employees and 14 serve as rangers (eight for the Marine Park and six at Washington Park) and they have a lot of ground and water to cover. There are three full time biologists and also an education and communications department.

Divers always ask, but what does the marine park actually do, I don't ever see them?

Using three boats the eight rangers monitor, police and maintain over 100 public moorings and 86 public dive sites. They do everything from checking and mending the moorings weekly, changing out garbage receptacles from busy beaches and putting up signs to monitoring and helping at underwater and beach cleanups.

And we are just getting started: the marine park employees are responsible for in school kids education program, biologist studies and research, maintaining a history



A net is placed below the pier construction to catch any falling objects that could contaminate the water and prove hazardous to marine life.



Leonel Martijn and Nashantra Mercera repair a mooring line near No Name beach that has been severed by a boat.

museum, tours and the Junior Rangers program.

BMP works with various government agencies to develop new regulations and policies that deal with nature on Bonaire.

Construction activities that are close to the shore, including piers and docks, are checked on a day to day basis to ensure there is no contamination of the water or effect on marine life. All construction must be in strict compliance to the rules of their building and nature permits.

Active manager of BMP Leonel Martijn said, "Owners of the new hotel where Sunset Beach used to be, asked us how to build their new pier...they want to do it right for the environment."

Other building activities have been



BMP rangers load full trash containers from No Name beach. The rangers switch the full containers for empty ones at least twice weekly due to the heavy traffic from the cruise ship. Some days more than 500 visitors come to this small beach on Klein Bonaire.



Bonaire Marine Park rangers: L-R Gideon Cecelia, assistant ranger Nashantra Mercera and active manager Leonel Martijn

continued on page 9

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met with a lot of controversy and the marine park enforces the laws set by the government.

No Name beach on Klein is a popular site for cruise ship guests. Although there are many trash receptacles for recycling on the beach, the visitors throw everything together.

Martijn said, "The people aren't educated about recycling and we don't have the manpower to separate it."

In the near future, the BMP plans to have a ranger stationed on Klein to give information to the cruise ship people.

Other plans include a reef ranger course for the local divemasters and instructors. The course will enable these guides, that have direct contact with guests to Bonaire, to inform and enforce some of Bonaire's rules for diving.

The Bonaire Marine Park works closely with all nature groups including the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STBC), Echo, Reef Renewal Bonaire and various cleanup groups. Volunteers are invited to help with sponge transplantation, bird counts, the Junior Ranger program and other events.

**Mission:** STINAPA is dedicated to manage and share, protect and restore, promote and educate the resources, biodiversity and values of Bonaire's nature.

**Note:** So the next time you jump into the water and enjoy the majesty of Bonaire's underwater world, say a word of thanks for that little marine park tag that does so much.

For more information about Stinapa please visit the website [www.stinapabonaire.org](http://www.stinapabonaire.org). ■ Story and photos by Julie Morgan

## TCB responds to survey with tourism vision



Following the overwhelming response (1,350 completed surveys) to the "Future of Bonaire Survey" results which were published in the last edition of this newspaper and the flood of criticism about Bonaire's cruise ship tourism on social media, *The Reporter* was invited by the Tourism Corporation (TCB) to hear about and discuss TCB's future direction.

Currently the staff of TCB is reporting directly to the Bonaire Holding Maatschappij (BHM), the island government entity overseeing island autonomous companies like Telbo, WEB, the harbor and the airport. Since the dismissal of Maurice Adriaens the TCB has been operating without a General Manager or supervisory board.

Marketing head Malinda Hassel began by acknowledging the current glut of cruise ships was not entirely desirable and the number of ships would be capped at the present level. A jump in the head tax from \$2 to \$3.50, which has been planned since 2015, will be imposed immediately. An additional increase to \$5 is also in the works. However, it often takes some months or even years before these fees can be raised. Curaçao and Aruba currently charge an \$8 head tax per cruise ship passenger because, it is said, those islands offer more amenities, like dedicated cruise ship piers, than does Bonaire.

She said the TCB recognizes that several environmentally sensitive areas, like Klein Bonaire, are under stress because of the volume of visitors. About 70,000 cruise ship passengers landed on Klein last year, often without supervision. An additional fee for conservation has been proposed, perhaps to be collected by the

water taxis and charter boats transporting the people.

According to Hassel the key to the new focus was the recent approval by the Island Government of the Strategic Tourism Plan (go to [www.tourismbonaire.com](http://www.tourismbonaire.com) to review) first presented last June. While not without controversy, the Plan does set a clear direction. It says Bonaire "has the unique opportunity to become a high-end boutique destination that is founded on a fusion between nature and people."



Malinda Hassel at TCB

Becoming the Caribbean's first 'Blue Destination' will create this fusion. The plan is premised on Bonaire being a destination that is restricted and focuses on keeping the tourist density low while achieving societal goals of increased opportunities and quality of life." In fewer words, "less is more, emphasizing quality over quantity."

The engine pulling Bonaire in the future may well be provided by heralding Bonaire as the world's first "Blue Destination." Poorly defined until now, "Blue Destination" was at risk of becoming a meaningless catchphrase. That's set to change with the start of an information campaign and descriptive videos. Simply stated, a "Blue Destination" not only embraces the environmental aspects of a "Green Destination" but adds unique cultural elements, economic impacts and considerations of the local people. When these essentials are included, financing by organizations off the island, like the World Bank, can compliment funding from the Island Government.

Hassel recognizes that other items need attention: How to reconcile the negative posts about cruise ships that make the blameless cruise ship visitors feel unwelcome before they even arrive; or the proliferation of hawkers outside of the immediate port areas who harass tourists; or the balance between investments in waterfront ship facilities with plans to reduce the number of cruise ship visits. ■ G.D.

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# A Garden? Just Do It!



## Making Bonaire "Accessible"

### OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 5.

#### DETOX

I didn't want to start the year with a subject on body detox. I thought, first Carnival. People should have fun, eat and drink, just like in the ancient days before the fasting began.

Fasting, detoxing and cleaning the body have been spiritual issues in many cultures. In the past people knew how important it was to detox and to fast so the body could become healthy and vital again. Nowadays these wise life styles are a trend again and that is a good thing.

Our modern life is hectic and full of stress. Our food is full of chemicals and synthetic stuff. It's good to know that we need to take action to stay strong and that there are ways to do so. With this in mind I thought I would write about this subject.

#### Fasting and detoxing

Fasting is a kind of diet where one doesn't consume any solid or liquid foods for an extended period of time. In doing, the body detoxes from toxins and dirt. There is a lot of information written about this subject but I will concentrate on detoxing the liver.

The liver may be compared to an intelligent central processing unit that filters and cleans a liter and a half of blood per minute. It simultaneously processes around 500 vitally important biochemical metabolic reactions.

Liver flushing is a must because the liver has a very important function in the body. Traditional Chinese healing says that the liver works the best between 1 am and 3 am. So the best time for herb therapy to clean the liver is before going to bed.

#### Five plants to clean the liver

**Chamomile** - has a lot of antioxidants that clean, helps sleep and calms the nerves. Use this herb in a cup of tea every night for 2 weeks.

**Warm lemon or citrus water** - supports liver function because it is a strong cleaning agent. Add the juice of a lemon to a cup of warm water. Drink every night for three weeks one half-hour before sleeping.

**Ginger tea mixed with citrus** - perfect to clean the liver, lose weight and improve your health. Both ingredients have a lot of vitamin C, and antioxidants to fight against sickness and treat cellulite. Add a piece of ginger and the juice of citrus fruit to boiling water and steep for 15 minutes then drink slowly.

**Mint tea** - menthol and menthone oils allow the body to rid itself of toxins in the liver. Boil mint leaves and water for



You can grow your detox plants...



...or buy detox ingredients

two minutes. Drink one half-hour before bedtime for at least three weeks.

**Quaker oats drink** - fiber, vitamins and minerals clean the liver and give the body a boost. Put a spoonful of Quaker oats in a cup of water and let it set for seven hours. Then drain the oat mixture and mix the juice with a cup of water. Add honey for more flavor.

Besides all these remedies, drink a lot of water during your fasting diet.

Other plants that are great for detoxing are: avocado, artichokes, asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cayenne pepper, grapefruit, garlic, onion, olive oil and cinnamon.

#### Growing your detox plants

These plants can be found in stores, but some you can grow yourself. Ginger, for example, grows easily in a wide container. Mint tea, cayenne pepper, lemon and citrus we can plant in our gardens. Bonaire also has plenty of aloe and the neem tree which makes a very good tea for detoxing. Other plants for teas are yerba holy, bislips (wild oregano), lemon grass, oregano and tamarind.

#### Scheduling your detox

To restore your health and remove harmful toxins from your cells you can fast for one day for four weeks or fast the entire week on various diets. If you fast

So, how does one get to be a private caregiver? Well, one does not apply for the job. It just happens to you. One day or night or afternoon you may sit on the couch with your spouse, or walk along the beach or drive in your car and it happens. A strange sound of voice, a tremor in the hands or fainting. You call the doctor or an ambulance and before you know it you are sitting beside a hospital bed and your spouse is lying in it, unable to walk, talk or otherwise.

The diagnosis might be: a stroke, very low blood sugar (diabetes) or a brain hemorrhage and you still sit there and hardly know what to do. After the time in the hospital there might be a long stay at a rehabilitation center. You are involved in all kinds of therapy, you learn what to do and what not to do. You are happy with every small improvement and cry when things go wrong or when the progress is less than expected.

The time comes to go home and your house might not be accessible for your spouse to come home to, so adaptations have to be made. You may even have to move to a special housing project or worse.

Getting in and out of bed is something that needs special attention as well as taking a shower, brushing the teeth, eating and or drinking. And you, as a spouse know how to do it but it takes time, time you need to keep the household going. So you do what you can and try to get help.

Going to the doctor, therapy, speech therapy, these are the trips you arrange. You are the guide that is always there and you are always anticipating.

And this is what you do without being asked. You do so, because it is your wife, your husband, your father or mother or your child.

And how do you keep all this up and still keep going? You just do it, because it happens gradually and before you know it, you are an expert. You just don't quit, you may seek help: someone to clean the house or somebody to go shopping with.

And why not place the spouse in a home? Because that is what these homes are for? Because when you married you did so for better or for worse, in sickness and in health. And because you know your spouse like nobody else and placing him or her in a home feels like treachery.

And just imagine if your spouse were placed in a home and becomes sick or even passes away there, then that would be like having abandoned them.

But still, you are only a human being and you need to think about yourself. That is what they say. But they have never been in this position.

That is why it is so important to have people you can rely on, people that you can trust and that you may cry on their shoulders and share your pain with. We as private care givers need each other very much!

Let's get organized. ■ Story by Ria Evers-Dokter



for a long period of time, then return to your normal diet very slowly. The first week after fasting, eat very soft foods like pumpkin soup, self-made fruit juices, sweet potato and other light vegetables. Drink a lot of water to flush the body because the intestinal tract is not flowing smoothly, and the purged bile and toxins will be re-absorbed into the bloodstream.

Not everyone will notice the benefits of detox therapy immediately and sometimes it has to be repeated. This depends on your body and how toxic it is. But if you give it a try, I'm sure you will experience changes in your body. You'll notice things like bet-

ter skin, more energy, lack of headaches, no stomach pain and a better night's sleep. Yes, you will feel a lot better.

The best thing is to grow your own detoxing plants in the unspoiled soil of your own garden. You'll always have them

when you feel you are in the need of a good detox therapy. Fresh and pure. Start now. Just do it. □ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Be sure to pass by Captain Don's Habitat early this week to view and buy some great art. The proceeds go to charities on Bonaire. The art works are by Delno Tromp, known in the art world as Denchi. They are colorful, Bonaire themed and reasonably priced. Here is one of the paintings on display.



# DID YOU KNOW?

**Did You Know...that the map that is pictured here is the most detailed bathymetric map of Bonaire's surroundings that has ever been made?**

Have you ever heard or read that “we know more about the surface of the Moon than the ocean floor”? I have heard it many times, both during my academic studies and by watching documentaries and reading articles about the ocean. And it’s true! The Moon, Mars and Venus have been mapped to a higher resolution than the bottom of our own oceans, which lie at a staggering average depth of 4,000 meters. Only 15% of the ocean floor has been mapped in high detail by ships equipped with multi-beam echo sounder devices. However, since last year, the waters surrounding Bonaire can be added to the list of places where detailed bathymetric maps do exist.

A bathymetric map is a map of the ocean floor, lake or river bed (an area covered with water). It is the equivalent of a topographic map but instead of displaying the terrain on land, it shows the plains, mountains, canyons and hills that are found beneath the surface of the water. In other words, bathymetry illustrates the underwater terrain by measuring the depths of the water column.

Last year, in January of 2018, the research vessel Pelagia visited the Southern Caribbean and Bonaire as a part of the “Netherlands Initiative Changing Oceans (NICO)” expedition where (among many other things) the mesophotic reefs and cy-

anobacterial mats of Curacao and Bonaire were studied. ‘Meso’ means middle and ‘photic’ refers to light, so it makes sense that mesophotic reefs can be found at depths where there is an overlap between the organisms that require light to survive and those that don’t. For example, there are coral species that can’t survive without light, but there are also deep sea corals that don’t need light at all. Mesophotic reefs are usually found at depths of 30-150 meters, which makes them much less available for scientists and divers than the more shallow reefs (through SCUBA diving). They are also considered “too shallow” and costly to study with deep-diving technologies. Because of this unfortunate coincidence, far less is known about the mesophotic reefs than what you might expect. But this is about to change and the first thing that has to be done in order to study them, is to locate them. The easiest way to locate something is to use a map.

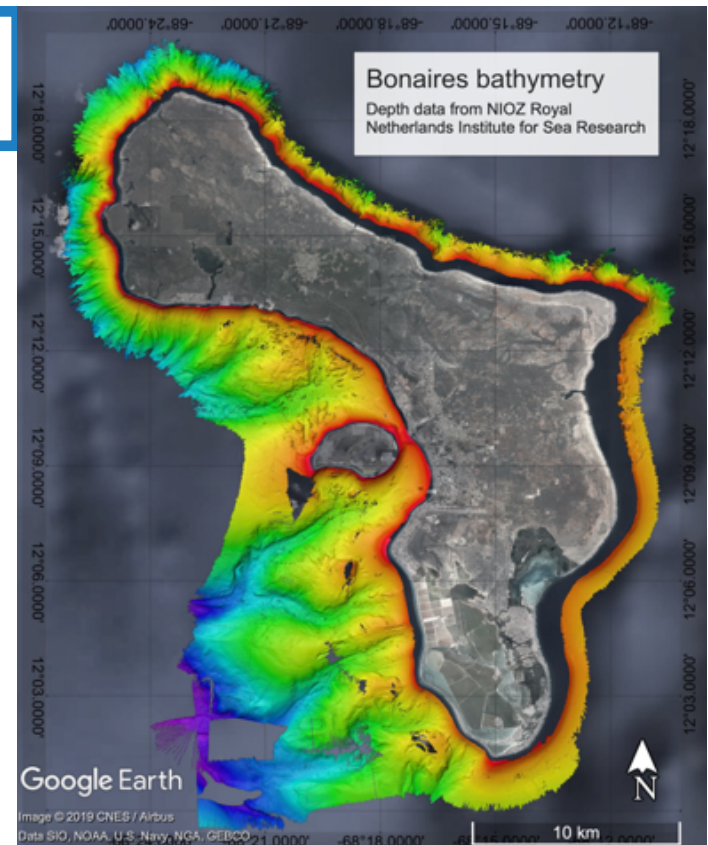
The most detailed bathymetric maps before 2018 were from the 1970s. These maps were not detailed enough to be used to locate the mesophotic reefs that the scientists wanted to study. The new maps created by the NICO expedition will be used to determine where mesophotic coral reef ecosystems may or may not be found. For example, underwater valleys, areas where water flow is strong and the likelihood of finding coral reefs is non-existent, can now be seen on this map and excluded from the list of places where scientists should go to

find and study the mesophotic reefs. Just like the shallow coral reefs, mesophotic coral ecosystems serve as crucial habitats for ecologically and economically important fish species. Since both of these types of reefs share many of the species that inhabit them, they may also be important as replenishers and could help to reseed the degraded shallow coral reefs (i.e., there may be overflow from deep reefs to overfished shallow reefs).

Aside from being an important tool for scientists, maps are also beautiful to look at and it makes sense to have some clue about what your surroundings look like, even though these surroundings are covered with water.


**Reference: DCNA BioNews 13, National Geographic, NOAA**

■ *Written by Emil Ren, Assistant Biologist @ STINAPA. Connecting People With Nature.*



*STINAPA would like to say farewell to Emil – he finished his internship with STINAPA and, after a brief vacation in Colombia, will be headed back to Sweden. Thank you Emil!*

Photo credit: The NICO expedition & Henk de Haas. Google Earth.



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# What's Happening



## KARNAVAL CLOSES

Official holiday Monday, Mar. 4—Carnival Monday.

*Monday, Mar. 4*

- Carnival Monday (official holiday), Old Mask Youth Farewell Parade & Burning of King Momito, 5pm
- Party of the Masks, Rincon, night

*Tuesday, Mar. 5*

Old Mask Farewell Parade and Burning of King Momo 2019

*Saturday-Sunday, Mar. 15-16*

BonDoet Weekend of Volunteering

## CLOSE IN EVENTS

*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>*

*Ends Wednesday, Mar. 6. Denchi Art Exhibit and Sale. Proceeds to local charities. Captain Don's Habitat. 10am-4pm. See page 10.*

*March 9, 8 am to 10 am at TeAmo Beach is Clean Coast Bonaire's next scheduled clean-up. Show up and make a difference... homemade cookies will be served*

## 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 Koeke 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](http://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@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.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 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 both kids and adults. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE

• **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](mailto: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 4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the

# Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUIESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	LINE
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
Tuesday	3-5-2019	Breamar	0700-1800	N.pier	929	Fred. Olsen
Tuesday	3-5-2019	Freedom of the Seas	0900-2000	S.pier	3782	RCCL
Thursday	3-7-2019	Mariner of the Seas	0700-1600	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Saturday	3-9-2019	Serenade of the Seas	0800-1800	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Monday	3-11-2019	Aida Perla	0700-1800	N.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Tuesday	3-12-2019	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	S.pier	2500	TUI
Tuesday	3-12-2019	Monarch	0800-1900	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Wednesday	3-13-2019	Costa Magica	0700-1400	N.pier	3470	Costa CL
Wednesday	3-13-2019	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.pier	3150	PCL
Thursday	3-14-2019	Explorer 1	0700-1400	N.pier	1924	TUI

church.) Contact: [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Papano 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](mailto: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. 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm.

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at [ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

## EXHIBITS

• **"Salute to the Sailors"**— old maritime photos, Museo Bonaire

• **Coral Restoration.** Terramar Museum

• **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

• **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: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



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it—just look up

## THE ORION FAMILY REUNION

This week we're going to focus on a group of winter constellations surrounding Orion the Mighty Hunter.

The ancients watched the sky the same way we watch tv. When they tuned into the winter stars, they saw a giant hunter with three stars for a belt, being trampled by a bull, with seven women on its back, while two hunting dogs were chasing after a unicorn and a bunny rabbit down by the river.

We have an ancient story that ties all together the bright stars in this area of the sky. Orion's brightest stars are blue Rigel on his left foot, and ruby-red Betelgeuse marking his armpit. Orion is most famous for his trademark belt—three stars all lined up. Not only are the belt stars your cue that you've found Orion, they'll also point you to several other constellations.

Connect a line through the belt-stars, and keep going up and to the right. You'll pass just under a bright orange star called Aldebaran, the menacing eye of Taurus the bull. Taurus has a small v shape of five stars for a face and two long horns.

Past the v of Taurus you'll see the best and brightest open star cluster in the night sky. These are the Pleiades or Seven Sisters. The Pleiades look like a little cloud to the naked eye but upon second glance you might be able to make out 5 or 6 of the individual stars. in a good pair of binoculars, they are just awesome!

Formed from the same nebula, the Seven Sisters are young hot stars burning the candle at both ends. These stars may only

live millions of years as opposed to our sun which has a lifespan of about 10 billion years. The cluster includes hundreds of stars, with only the seven brightest visible to the naked eye.

In Greek mythology, Orion fell in love with the all seven sisters, but they didn't care for him. They are sitting pretty on the bull's back while Orion must fend off their sworn protector. The gods let Orion bring his favorite two hunting dogs up to the sky with him.

Let the belt stars point you down and to the left. When you keep going, you'll run into the brightest star in the sky, Sirius, the dog star which marks the nose of Canis Major, the big dog. From Sirius, make a 90 degree turn up and to the left to find the little dog star, Procyon in Canis Minor. The two dogs aren't helping Orion with the bull. They're chasing after a unicorn... (the Constellation Monoceros) and a rabbit... (the Constellation Lepus) by the banks of the cosmic river... (the Constellation Eridanus).

In March, the Moon will move through Taurus and over Orion's head on the 12-14th. So, tonight after sunset, go to the heavenly movies and see a giant hunter... being trampled by a bull...with seven women on its back...while two hunting dogs...chase after a unicorn...and a rabbit... down by the river.

You can watch the Orion family winter get together just as your ancestors have done for thousands of years. ■ *Dean Rega & James Albury*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Horoscope March 2019

**Aries** (Mar.21–Apr.19) Don't let your mate bully you into thinking that you owe them your time and your life. Based on your excitement, serious-minded individuals will be more than interested in backing your ideas. Your home environment may be volatile if precautions aren't taken. Stress may cause minor health ailments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**Taurus** (Apr.20–May 20) Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Business trips might prove unproductive. You may want to make drastic changes concerning your personal partner. Refrain from using the highway as a racetrack. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**Gemini** (May 21–Jun.20) Do something constructive outside. Financial difficulties may be worrying you. You can put in some overtime and make extra cash. You can make a difference if you offer your help at functions that involve children. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Cancer** (Jun.21–Jul.22) The answers can only come from within. Concentrate on spending quality time with children and friends. You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. You can enjoy doing things that include children. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Leo** (Jul.23–Aug.22) Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Hard work will bring rewards. Travel will turn out to be far more exciting than you imagined. Relax and enjoy what you've accomplished when you're finished. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**Virgo** (Aug.23–Sep.22) Don't let your jealousy be the reason for a decaying relationship. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Try to avoid any drastic decisions concerning personal legal matters. Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Libra** (Sep.23–Oct.22) New relationships will surface through work-related events. You can win points if you present your ideas this month. Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls. Someone you work with may be trying to make you look bad. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

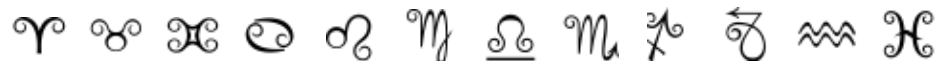
**Scorpio** (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) You will have no problem getting along with clients. There may be opportunities to attend social functions that are linked to work. You will find the perfect outfit if you shop this month. A second chance will result in good work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Sagittarius** (Nov.22–Dec.21) Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well. You will be able to borrow money in order to invest. Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Leave your check book and credit cards at home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Capricorn** (Dec.22–Jan.19) Think before you act if you wish to avoid friction. Your bank book will suffer. Your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. Someone at work may be trying to make you look bad. Recognition will be yours if you meet your deadline. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Aquarius** (Jan.20–Feb.18) People trying to entice you to join in will be less than trustworthy. You will attract new love interests. Your home may be in an uproar. Try to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible. Exhaustion will lead to minor injury if you don't know when to quit. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**Pisces** (Feb.19–Mar.20) Don't take advantage of your expense account. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. You'll have very hectic days if you've made promises to too many people. You'll find love and you'll get into tiptop shape at the same time. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■ *Michael Thiessen*



Bonaire Sun Rise/Set Moon Phase & Tides (AST)							
Winds and weather can influence the local tide's height and time.							
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 04	00:34 0.12 ft	04:01 0.10 ft	11:20 0.69 ft	20:17 -0.07 ft			18:45
Tue 05	01:49 0.15 ft	04:36 0.14 ft	12:04 0.62 ft	20:59 -0.03 ft		06:49	18:45
Wed 06	02:51 0.19 ft	05:49 0.18 ft	12:53 0.54 ft	21:33 -0.00 ft	New Moon	06:48	18:45
Thu 07	03:23 0.25 ft	07:46 0.20 ft	13:48 0.46 ft	21:57 0.03 ft		06:47	18:45
Fri 08	03:44 0.32 ft	09:37 0.18 ft	14:51 0.39 ft	22:14 0.06 ft		06:47	18:45
Sat 09	04:04 0.40 ft	11:02 0.12 ft	15:55 0.33 ft	22:28 0.07 ft		06:46	18:45
Sun 10	04:28 0.50 ft	12:06 0.04 ft	16:53 0.27 ft	22:44 0.07 ft		06:46	18:45
Mon 11	04:56 0.61 ft	12:57 -0.04 ft	17:43 0.23 ft	23:04 0.06 ft		06:45	18:46
Tue 12	05:29 0.71 ft	13:42 -0.11 ft	18:27 0.19 ft	23:33 0.03 ft		06:45	18:46
Wed 13	06:06 0.81 ft	14:25 -0.16 ft	19:06 0.16 ft		First Quarter	06:44	18:46
Thu 14		00:09 -0.01 ft	06:47 0.89 ft	15:07 -0.20 ft	19:46 0.15 ft	06:43	18:46
Fri 15		00:52 -0.05 ft	07:31 0.94 ft	15:50 -0.22 ft	20:28 0.16 ft	06:43	18:46
Sat 16		01:40 -0.07 ft	08:18 0.96 ft	16:33 -0.22 ft	21:16 0.18 ft	06:42	18:46
Sun 17		02:35 -0.07 ft	09:07 0.93 ft	17:18 -0.22 ft	22:09 0.22 ft	06:41	18:46
Mon 18		03:38 -0.05 ft	10:00 0.87 ft	18:03 -0.20 ft	23:07 0.29 ft	06:41	18:46

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**  
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# Pet of the Week

## Aron

**B**on dia! My name is Aron. I came to the shelter with my brother Ben not too long ago. I am a Tuxedo Cat, always formally attired! Did you know that Tuxedo Cats are known for their intelligence and dedication to their owners? (Shakespeare, Beethoven and Sir Isaac Newton loved cats like me!).



The humans here at the Shelter say that I am very affectionate. It's true, I love to love on people.

I follow everyone around until they sit down. I really like to sit on their laps. My favorite past time is snuggling and letting people pet on me. Sometimes I stand up to people and pat them just so they know I am there to be loved. I like other kitties but I am not a huge fan of dogs.

I am healthy, sterilized and vaccinated. Will you come and see me and let me snuggle on your lap? I am sure you would like to be my fur-ever family! My address is Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. nonstop. My phone number is 717-4989/701-4989.

Story & photo by Sanne Attevelt



## Bonaire Votes 2019, continued from page 3

Judicious publicity for the FSB via conventional and social media appears to be proving effective.

**MPB-** The top vote-getting party in the last local election never seemed to be able to implement its programs because of the instability of the coalition governments that failed and reformed over the last four years. It aims to correct this by winning a minimum of five seats on the Island Council, enough to form a government on its own. The MPB appears to be the party most aligned with Dutch interests and has a respected, long-time Dutch resident



The Passengrahn where the Island Council meets

on its list. Several of the younger candidates on its list have been gaining both experience and education in the process of governing. The party's leader, Elvis Tjin-Asjoe, a Bonairean who helped pioneer the Internet on Bonaire, has a home in Aruba where his Aruban wife holds a



# Shelter News

## 'TIS THE SEASON: PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM FLEAS AND TICKS

Fleas, ticks and rain often come hand in hand. Wet weather combined with heat and humidity equals the perfect conditions for a surge in flea and tick infestations. After our recent rainy season and current shower activity, Bonaire is in the thick of flea and tick season! These insects live on the blood of your pets and can cause health problems ranging from allergic reactions to life-threatening illnesses.

Ticks are a major problem on Bonaire and can cause a variety of serious anemia-type illnesses that are generally referred to here on the island as "tick disease". Because they are found deep within the hair of animals, pet owners may not immediately see them. Sometimes, an infestation may not be recognized until populations grow large and ticks are seen crawling across floors or walls. Adult ticks typically imbed themselves to a dog's ears and between its toes so always check there. Larvae and nymphs typically attach to the dog's back. After feeding, the tick drops off the host but does not travel far. An adult tick lays a mass of 1,000 - 3,000 eggs after taking a blood meal, and eggs are often laid around baseboards, window and door casings, curtains, furniture, and rug edges. Females can climb up walls searching for a place to lay their eggs. Adults can live for as long as 200 days without feeding.

Fleas can jump thousands of times (an average is the length of three football fields) and as high as two feet in each jump in search of a host. Fleas live sixteen days to twenty-one months, depending on the environment, feeding on your

dog or cat about once every two days. Fleas can cause anemia in adult dogs and for puppies a



flea infestation can be life threatening. Pets who are allergic to the saliva of fleas can have problems after a single bite of one insect. And remember, fleas bite people too!!

There are all kinds of ingredients in different products on the market—most are topical, but some are oral. Any topical product you choose needs to be waterproof. You want to make certain you do not use products designed for dogs on cats, and vice versa.

It's really important that you get specifics from your vet on which product is safe to use on your cat, kitten, dog, puppy or your lactating or pregnant pet. And be cautious if your pet has a history of seizures. Some products also require your pet to test negative for heartworm before use and some should only be given with food.

Be smart and protect your pet!

Talk to your vet about what product is best!

■ JaneDisko -Madden



top position in tourism. He is perceived by some as not spending enough time on Bonaire.

**Era Nobo-** The new Era Party seems to be the only one paying attention to the 'Nos KeBoneiru Bèk' (NKBB - 'We Want Bonaire Back') movement of James Fines. Its leader, Eric Soleana, leans towards a less Dutch influenced Bonaire, but distances himself from the radical de-colonization status advocated by Fines, who has

publically encouraged voters to stay away from the polls or vote a blank ballot. The party has had internal conflicts among its founders which appear to have weakened its support base. Soliana has run for election before and has an energetic group of supporters who have also participated in the recent two-day training.

The next edition of The Reporter, set for publication on March 18, will tell you exactly how and where to vote and report on any late breaking developments. G.D.

## Bonaire Reporter Classifieds—SELL!

Call 796-4055 or e-mail [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)

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**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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Introductory rate - call or email for availability - 796-4055 - BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

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