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BONAIRE The REPORTER

Mar. 18 - Apr. 1, 2019, Year 26, Issue 6

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BON DOET 2019



**Mangrove Maniacs
Elections
More Bon Doet**



**More Bon Doet photos on
The Reporter's Facebook.
Julie Morgan Photos**

FLOTSAM and JETSAM



With the growing population on Bonaire and the diverse use of salt, sales of salt bags at the Cargill plant has become a challenge for the safety of those involved. To avoid dangerous situations that can cause accidents, Cargill is changing the way it sells salt to locals. In March and April, Cargill will sell bags of salt only on Fridays between 8 am and 3pm. As of May 1st, bags of salt will be sold only through retailers around the island.

► As of March 18 the Kralendijk Police (KPCN)

began to strictly control scooter drivers. KPCN said they drive irresponsibly and pose a danger to other road users. During the recent inspections more than 90% of the scooter drivers who were stopped did not have the correct papers. If scooter riders are not in possession of the correct papers, their vehicles will be confiscated until they submit the correct papers.

► Phase one of three to dismantle the old prison was completed March 14-15. Cell containers and fencing were moved to the stadium for a large scale transshipment. The majority of the containers will find a home at the new prison at Plantage Aruba and some could be moved to other government agencies. All containers and fencing will be reused.



► A total of ten official reports were written and four cars were towed by Kralendijk Police Department during a parking check on March 12 between 7:30am and 11am. From now on, due to existing legislation, these checks will take place on a regular basis. Vehicles parked incorrectly, with no driver in sight, will be towed. The towing costs will be the responsibility of the car's owner. The police are warning everyone that incorrectly parked vehicles will be ticketed. So no more parking on the curbs and sidewalks. ■

► Please celebrate April Fool's Day by sending us your best 'fool's day' photo or story for our April 1 issue to www.Bonaire-Reporter2019@gmail.com *An example from the past:* In the 1990's when kayak diving was popular at Sand Dollar Dive & Photo we were often asked, "How deep do the kayaks go?" So Malin Kaisjer (the diver/kayaker) and I took this photo. *April Fools!*



Photo Julie Morgan

► Governor Rijna kicked off the 9th year of Bon Doet, the volunteer weekend March 15-16 during which Bonaire citizens worked at 71 jobs for 58 NGOs. Danilo Crestiaan of NGO Platform Bonaire, Marinka Peerdemann of Oranje Fonds, and representatives of Forma and Sea Turtle Bonaire spoke at the opening ceremony. After two days of hard work volunteers enjoyed happy hour to the sounds of DJ and Saxomania at Eddy's Restaurant. Bon Duet was sponsored by Oranje Fonds Nederland, Krioyo Paint, Kooyman, Play Trading, Budget Marine, Bonaire Cruisers and Jong Bonaire.

Bon Doet celebrates opening with speeches and confetti guns: (L-R) Elisabeth Vos Coordinator BON-DOET 2019, Forsa volunteer, Forsa volunteer, Forsa volunteer, Governor Edison Enrique Rijna, Carulienne Domacasse resident NGO Platform Bonaire, Marinka Peerdemann, Oranje Fonds Nederland and Fernon Koeiman, Forsa coordinator.



Photo Julie Morgan

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On-line at: www.bonairereporter.com
Printed every two weeks
On-line every day, 24/7
Next edition: April 1, 2019
Deadline: March 29, 2019

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Bonaire Votes 2019 #2

This week's elections are for the smallest unit of the Dutch political system, a "Public Entity," the Bonaire Island Government, and the grandest, the First Chamber of Parliament, akin to a Senate.

The most active campaigning has been for seats on the Bonaire Island Council. Unless one of the eight competing parties gets five of the nine available council seats Bonaire will once again have a coalition government.

One or more seats are expected to be won by the three established parties:

1. MPB - Elvis Tjin Asjoe - Blue - Movementu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB)
2. PDB Demokrat - Clark Abraham - Red - Partido Demokrátiko Boneriano (PDB)
3. UPB Patriotico- James Kroon - Green - Union Patriótiko Boneriano (UPB)

But the five newer parties are hoping for seats as well:

4. FSP- Robby Beukenboom -Orange- Frente Sosial Progresivo (FSP)
5. Era Nobo- Eric Soleana -Purple
6. List Rafael Santana
7. List Suzy Thode
8. 1 Union Pa Pueblo

An excellent overview of all the parties, their candidates and platforms can be found at <https://www.bonairestemt.nl/partijen/>

The members of the Island Council pass local laws and elect members of the Executive Council and the Commissioners who head the island's many municipal functions.

Almost anyone can become an Island Councilor. It's a part-time job similar to a village alderman in the American/English system. Candidates must be Bonaire residents 18 years or older and not be excluded from the right to vote. **It's not necessary to have Dutch nationality** to be part of the Council. Residents with a non-Dutch nationality must have lived on Bonaire for at least five consecutive years.

Can I vote?

Legal residents of Bonaire, 18 years old and up, including non-Dutch citizens living here five years or more, can vote in the upcoming local elections. By the time you read

this you should have received your "voter card" in the mail. If you believe you meet the requirements but haven't received a card, immediately visit the Burgerzaken, "Bevolking," the registry office on Kaya Nerlandia 40, near M-Tec, telephone, 717-5516.

Concurrent with the Island Council elections is an election for members of an Electoral College who, together with the representatives from the Dutch Provincial governments, select the members of the Senate. The Senate discusses and votes on draft laws that have already been adopted by the House of Representatives (Second Chamber of Parliament).

Decisions are made in the Lower and Upper Houses about the BES Islands, but up until this election the islands have had no voice in the Senate. By affecting the composition of the Senate, (indirect) influence is exerted on the decisions taken there.

Voting for Electoral College are persons with a Dutch nationality who were residents of the Public Entity of Bonaire on the day of the nomination (February 4, 2019) and who are 18 years of age or older on the day of the election (March 20, 2019). Persons may not be excluded from the right to vote.

Voting is held on Wednesday, March 20 from 7:30am to 9:00pm. Persons can vote at any of the polling stations around Bonaire:

- Jong Bonaire, Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar
- Sentro di Bario Tera Kora, Kaya Monsignor Niewindt
- School Kristu Bon Wardador, Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia
- Sentro di Bario Nikiboko, Kaya Pos di Amor
- Sentro di Bario Amboina, Amboina
- Sportshall Adventista, Kaya Ramona 8
- Kompleho Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam
- Sentro di Bario Nord Saliñ, Kaya Cacique 9
- Sociedad San Antonio de Padua, Kaya Rincon 66

- Tia Sani, Kaya Encarnacion B. Sint Jago (next to Rincon presbytery)

In order to vote, you must bring your voting pass and a valid proof of identity; either an identity card (Sedula) or driving license from the Bonaire OLB or a Dutch passport. You cannot vote without your voting pass and valid proof of identity. If you discover on March 20 that your identity card has expired for more than five years, you cannot vote.

Every voter is supposed to receive a voting pass at home. If you did not you should

continued on page 4



FOR SALE Kaya Virgo 3B Townhouse Close to the Ocean



- Location : Belnem
- Lot size : 157 m2 / 1690 sq. ft.
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<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

Bonaire Votes 2019, # 2, continued from page 3

request a replacement voting pass as soon as possible. This can be done in person until Tuesday, 19 March at 12:00. Go to Burgerzaken (Bevolking) with a valid proof of identity.

In the voting booth:

- You vote alone, via a secret ballot. Vote for only ONE candidate per ballot.
- You vote by filling in the white box with a red marker for the candidate of your choice.
- Did you make a mistake? Then ask for a new ballot. That is possible one time only.
- You fold the ticket after filling it out, so that your vote is not visible.
- You place the ballot in the ballot box according to the color of the ballot.

Please note: If you are eligible to vote for both the Island Council elections and the Electoral Colleges, you will receive a separate ballot paper for each election when you hand in both voting passes. You fill in the ballot boxes in the voting booth and put yourself in the designated ballot box.

You can vote a blank ballot. You do that by not making a single box red or any other mark on the ballot. ■ *George DeSalvo*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Cruiseship people pay when they dive. Please print this as well in the Bonaire Reporter and also that no food being in the supermarkets was because the customs officers in Curacao were on strike. Bonaire Reporter should not even mention the cruiseships in this respect. The island government is making money off the cruiseships. Part of the 12 million surplus from last year. Why dont you talk about how bad the US sanctions are for all our Dutch Caribbean Islands? As of June Bopec will have to lay off everybody. Bopec will close. There is no money coming in. Bopec is the second pillar of Bonaire's economy. Gone! Very sorry to hear that Laura and George are not the boss any more. I think they kept a nice balance and gave a balanced reporting. Lets see if you dare to publish this with the evidence to keep a nice balance.

Thérèse Rosier

Editor's note: The Reporter's editorial policy will continue to be to print factual information in the News sections and invite readers to express their opinion in Letters. ■

Have something to say? Want to give your opinion?

All letters must be signed.

Email: BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

Bonaire Water Polo is going to Carifta

The national federation for swimming sports on Bonaire, The Bonaire Aquatics Bond (B.A.B.) has selected 23 waterpolo players for two waterpolo teams to compete in Barbados during the XXXIV Carifta Games in April 2019. Our under 14 year old team is mixed with both girls and boys. In this event, the under 19 team can be men only. The selected waterpolo players are members of the Bonaire Barracuda's Waterpolo and Swimming Club.

The games are the Caribbean Championships in the disciplines Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Water Polo and Open Water Swimming. Bonaire along with 24 Caribbean Nations has been invited to compete in this prestigious event. Each nation can send members of their national federations to participate.

At this high level of competition, the water polo teams are not only training the game, but are participating in general swim training for endurance as well as dry land training for fitness at Bonaire Basics. This all around approach to top sports is a daily challenge.

To move 30 players, coaches and support people to Barbados and back is also a monumental challenge. The kids, coaches and parents have been working hard at our monthly drive through car washes at Budget Marine to raise money. The next car wash is on Saturday March 23rd 12-3 p.m. and is only \$10 for a spotless car!

Check out Bonaire Barracudas Facebook for dates and times of fundraising

activities and training.

The Bonaire Aquatics Bond represented by a board of all Dutch and European champion swimmers and water polo players, is continually looking for ways to improve the infrastructure and support the development of aquatics on Bonaire. Together they form a powerhouse of swimmers with knowledge and experience to move the sport forward.

We would like to heartily thank the sponsors that help make this trip possible, Fundashon Wega di Number, Digicel, Budget Marine, Remax, WEB, MCB, Akermans Auto Supplies, Delfins Beach Resort, Eco di Caribe and M-Tech. Anyone interested in sponsorship to help us achieve our funding goal may contact us at waterpolo@bonairebarracudas.org. ■



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Question: I heard you can only get a mortgage on Bonaire if you pay it off by age 65. I'm 59 now, does that mean I can't get a mortgage? If not, can I get a mortgage in the United States for a Bonaire property? Thanks, Jeff

Hi Jeff,

This is one of the most common areas of confusion I hear from clients. A Bonaire mortgage does not need to be paid off by age 65. I recently sold a property to a 70 year old American who was offered a 7 year mortgage. However, the older you are at the time you apply for the mortgage, the shorter your loan term is likely to be. Generally, the maximum mortgage term on Bonaire is 20 years, and the actual term is personalized to your situation. The bank will take into consideration your age, income and assets, whether you are still employed and other factors. Two different buyers of the same age may receive different loan terms, so it's important to consult with the loan officer about your individual situation.

At this time, no US banks will loan a mortgage on a foreign property in Bonaire. Some buyers with equity in their US homes choose to refinance that property and use the funds to purchase their Bonaire home with cash. Since US mortgages are not based on the age of the borrower and can be issued with a 30 year term for repayment, this is an attractive option for some buyers.

Best of luck in finding your dream home on Bonaire!

Kate Butler, GRI, Real Estate Agent, RE/MAX Bonaire

If you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at kate@bonairehomes.com
Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362

Picture Yourself with The Reporter in Hilo, Hawaii



Ken Kinoshita writes, "Here is a picture of me, my wife, Sherry Partosemito and our daughter, Shaista Dundas during our vacation in December 2018. We are at the famous waterfall called Rainbow Falls on the island of Hilo, Hawaii. We are something of an international family. I am from the U.S. (California and Minnesota), my wife is from Suriname (Indonesian ancestry) and Shaista was born and raised in Aruba. We are Bonairean residents for over 3 years now—just having purchased a home here."

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 This and all 2019 photos are eligible for the next contest. ■

On the Island Since 2015 — Ladina van Swoll-Melchior

“I am from Pontresina, Switzerland, a noted winter sports area in the Alps. It’s a small mountain village where nowadays about 2,200 people live. Pontresina is mostly rivers, glaciers and mountains located in the canton of Graubünden, in the east of the country. I grew up bilingual, speaking Rumantsch and German. Rumantsch is an ancient language descending from the spoken language of the Roman Empire and although it’s one of the four official Swiss Languages, only 1% of the citizens speak it.

One day, when I was twenty, I escaped my little community and went to Zurich. I attended the dance academy and on graduating I flew to New York. I stayed in New York for eight months dancing, taking workshops, courses and perfecting my dance skills. Then I returned to Pontresina for the nature, my family and I opened a little dance studio.

In the dance studio I added physio, massage, yoga and personal fitness training. It was there that I met my husband when he came to one of my dance classes. He was and still is a very ambitious windsurfer and he introduced me to windsurfing. My first time was at Lake Silvaplana in the mountains. It was very cold although I wore a very thick wetsuit. I struggled and fell into the water many times and froze my fingers off. I decided this wasn’t for me. It was too cold, but that was then.

We married in Pontresina. He was a photographer and I kept my dance studio. In 2000 our beautiful daughter Natascha was born. We travelled a lot, mainly to the States but also to Costa Rica and Brazil where we stayed for a while. Life was good. Then we began coming to Bonaire at least once a year for windsurfing and I loved it! Not only the windsurfing, but also for the nature of this beautiful island and the people living here. We spent our vacations here for nine years in a row.

We always played with the thought of staying for a year as a change from the very organized life in Switzerland, and in 2015 we did that—we came for one year. My daughter was fifteen and went to Havo high school. It was very challenging, but she was welcomed with open arms by her classmates, some of whom she knew from our vacations. I started working at Sorobon Beach Resort as a massage therapist, fitness trainer and yoga teacher—the same things I did in Switzerland. It was like a sabbatical as I kept my job in Switzerland. The three of us loved it here so much we decided to stay.

In November 2017, I left Sorobon Beach Resort and went to Jibe City and founded my own company, Irie Sports & Wellbeing Bonaire. Working together with a professional windsurfer, Arriane Aukes (www.arrianeaukes.com), I added a lot more activities to my program such as stand-up paddling, and yoga and windsurf clinics. In the week-long clinics, we teach people to windsurf and do yoga all day. It’s intense! This April we will have two weeks of these clinics. I have also added Pilates, TRX Fitness workouts and acro yoga where one person is the



Ladina van Swoll-Melchior

base and the other one is the flyer. It’s based on trust towards your partner in the group. It’s a little acrobatic, really fun to do and everybody can do it as it isn’t that difficult!

Windsurfing has become an important part of my life. It’s a very challenging sport and there are always new moves and tricks. The most important thing for me is the connection I feel with nature,

Natascha who’s my soulmate, my best friend, and I am super proud of her! She finished Havo high school last August and decided to take a sabbatical. Now she’s working a few jobs to make some money and we have a lot more free time to spend together, which is beautiful. Natascha is going for her Bachelor’s in skin therapy, a four-year training all about the skin, medical but also cosmetic. She will



Ladina and her daughter Natascha

“For me island life means saying goodbye many times and that’s very challenging. That’s island life; people come and go.”

wind and water. It’s like meditating; you forget everything while you’re out there on the board. And it’s a playground where you have fun with other windsurfers who share your passion. It’s like a big family. Everybody is helping each other with everything! ABK BoardSports’ Andy Brandt, who’s been here the whole winter has been a big help to me. He offers windsurf clinics and I’ve learned a lot of tricks. Andy has made windsurfing even more interesting!

When I’m not working or windsurfing I spend a lot of time with my daughter

start school in The Hague, Holland, in September and we’re organizing all the paperwork so she can get a student loan. We’re looking for a place for her to live. Her best friend, who she can count on, is already there which makes it easier.

I’m having mixed feelings about her leaving the island. On one side I am very proud she’s taking that step, but she will be far away from me. I am a little scared about her being all alone, and I will also miss her a lot. However, the time is right for her and she’s ready to go!

For now I will stay here because I am

so connected with everything I am doing here. Life in Holland would be no option for me; I am 100% sure about that. But if Natascha decides to stay in Europe to build her life there – then I don’t know – only the stars know. You plan things for the future, but it always comes out different.

For me island life means saying goodbye many times and that’s very challenging. I made a few really good friends on Bonaire to whom I felt super connected and close, and then they left. That’s island life; people come and go. I’m getting used to it—a little bit—but maybe I am also trying not to get too close to people anymore when I know they are leaving. I come from a mountain valley where people stay and grow old together, so I am not used to goodbyes. I feel that on Bonaire you live more day-by-day. It’s something I had to learn, and I think I’m getting better at it. But living day-by-day could be a problem if I ever decide to go back to Switzerland as everything there is very organized and planned!

I am also wondering how Natascha will do as she grew up in that organized life, but then she lived in Bonaire for five years. I’m sure she’ll master it and find her way. She has to learn what the ‘real world’ looks like nowadays. We each have to try to find our way by looking at things in a positive manner. When we spread that positivity around us, we can live a happy and productive life.

Well, I am not going out a lot, but if I go, I go dancing; a little Cuba and a little Coco Beach. I just love dancing. When I came here it wasn’t so much my passion anymore to teach dancing. I grew out of it somehow, and so I’m concentrating on what I am offering now. It gives me pleasure helping people with health issues and helping healthy people get stronger! I also just started a new project: special yoga for windsurfers. I’m doing it together with my friend Angie who’s a very good windsurfer. We will make films and videos which we will put online on the website we’re creating. These videos will be especially for windsurfers who want to practice yoga and Pilates at home to increase their skills. We will start right after the coming PWA 2019 Windsurf event on Bonaire. That’s my next plan and it gives me lots of energy!

I don’t miss my mountains when I am here, but when I am there I feel how precious they are to me. However, when I am on Bonaire I really don’t miss anything. Bonaire inspires me; instead of being stuck in a certain pattern, you have more freedom when you’re living in the moment. This island makes me try things I would have never dared to try before. That’s what Bonaire gives me: I am open to all the challenges ahead of me. I was a different person, trapped in a pattern, but not anymore, now I feel free.”

More info FB: irie sports & wellbeing Bonaire or ladina@irie-bonaire.com



■ Story and photos by Greta Kooistra

Are you crazy for mangroves?

If you love digging ditches, sawing through trees, playing in the mud and throwing giant dirt clods you might be crazy. If you do this surrounded by tropical birds, sea grass beds and mangrove trees in the Lac area of Bonaire on the west coast, you are probably a “Mangrove Maniac.”

True maniacs have a deep dedication in sustaining the nature of Bonaire even if it involves rolling around in the mud.

Since 2016 the Maniacs, led by marine biologist Sabine Engel, have been working on the Ecological Restoration of Lac on the South Coast of Bonaire. Because mangroves are extremely important to coastal ecosystems they need to be monitored, protected and perhaps given a little help by the Maniac’s hard work.

Part of the restoration project is to open pathways to the sea to provide fresh water to aerate the roots of the mangrove forests or thickets.

The maniacs come armed with shovels, saws and buckets to cut paths through the dense trees.

Lack of water circulation killed about 82 hectares (202.626 acres) of Bonaire’s mangroves in the back area of the forests due too much salinity. The restoration project opens sea paths to those areas. In recent years there has been the same amount of growth seaward as was lost. Measurement of the water salinity and



Mangrove Maniacs cut and dig a pathway to the sea with shovels and saws to provide fresh sea water to the mangroves.

carbon dioxide is tested in the dead areas and healthy ones. The dead mangroves release carbon dioxide into the environment lending to the effects of climate change. Healthy trees actually absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store huge amounts in their roots and trunks. So they are actually helping to prevent climate change.

“A healthy mangrove forest is good for the fish and good for the central bay. It fil-

ters the pollutants from the land before it goes to the sea,” said Engel, “It also prevents coastal erosion.”

Even though the mangrove trees live in salt water they don’t rely on it, but more or less tolerate it and have adapted. Each type of mangrove tree in Bonaire, the red, black and white have different root systems, which allow them to withstand the high salinity. The red, which is most prevalent in Bonaire, has aerial prop roots up to three yards long that extend out of the water. The black has up to 100 snorkel roots that grow up and out and breathe in oxygen just like a snorkel. The white prefers dry land and when flooded by water filters the salt through the trunk and excretes the salt through its leaves.

Bonaire’s mangrove forest banks the edges of Lac bay’s shallow and clear water. The area around the roots of the trees provide the perfect nursery and habitat for young barracuda, snappers, parrotfish, tarpon, crabs, upside down jellyfish and colorful sponges. Sea grass carpets the sandy bottom providing food for turtles.

On the outside of the forest live a variety of birds including parakeets, herons, egret and flamingos.

The mangroves have been threatened this year as well as last year with huge



sargassum seaweed drifts. Sargassum could literally choke the life out of the mangroves if allowed to enter (*see related story in Did you know, page 11*).

Mangroves, sometimes called, “tropical forests by the sea” are one of the most productive and biologically complex ecosystems on earth. They help prevent climate change, filter much of the toxic substance we have dumped into our wa-

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Canadian Beef on Bonaire

As carnivores we couldn’t resist accepting an invitation to the Introduction of Canadian Beef on Bonaire. On Sunday, February 17th, Brian Battah and his wife Indira Charles, invited Bonaire’s gastronomic scene to the restaurant, ‘It Rains Fishes’. Their company, Canarbo, and the company, Canadian Beef, organized the event.

If you like fine dining on Bonaire you’ve eaten products from Canarbo. Their products imported on a weekly basis via Schiphol include Canadian oysters,

fresh vegetables and Canadian beef.

Canadian born Battah flew in an entire cow divided into the well known rib eye, less known baseball cut and also the popular Brazilian cut, picanha, known as a sirloin or rump cap.

The beef on this sunny Sunday afternoon was prepared by chef Frederico Lòpez, a well-known Mexican chef and the Canadian Beef Ambassador. Lòpez was a good ambassador and teacher, saying: “American beef is good, Canadian is better.” Several students of the MBO (Secondary

Business Education) cooking program were present and the next day Lòpez had a master class with them. “The best thing I share is my passion,” said Chef Lòpez.

The chef used every single piece of the fresh (not frozen) meat flown in. After unpacking a whole rib eye he dressed it, to bring it into shape. You could give the small pieces to your dog, make hamburgers or use it to stuff tacos or fajitas. Even the fat was used to prepare a risotto. (I guess that our Italian community will have some problems with that idea.) From five pieces of meat in nine different cuts, Chef Lòpez and his crew prepared a lot of small dishes. Our favorite was the Espinoza cut, a small piece of the rib eye.

After the cooking show we were interested in what makes Canadian Beef so different from American Beef? Is it the breed? The feeding? The weather couldn’t be it. Surprise! According to Mauricio Every from Canadian Beef, the optimum temperature for cattle growth is -10° Celsius. Poor cattle, as they are the first year on the pasture and after that for 6



Chef Frederico Lòpez.

months on a barley diet.

The main question remains. How does Canadian beef taste? It is tender and soft, has a fine texture, perfect marbling and, last but not least, the full taste of beef. In other words: Hopi dushi. We are looking forward to preparing our first Canadian picanha at home. ■ Tien Delaey, Jan Fraessdorf



Brian Battah offers a taste of Canadian beef to two Bonairean gourmets.

RIDE • SWIM • WALK FOR THE ROSES

Fight against cancer!

Third Annual Ride for Roses Ahead

You can run, ride, swim or do it all. The important thing is you just do it "for the roses" on April 14, 2019 at Eden Beach Resort and Spice Beach Club.

This is Bonaire's third annual Ride, Swim, Walk for the Roses fight against cancer and the third year of sponsorship by Orco Bank of Bonaire. Last year over 700 participants joined in the fight. In a press conference on March 11, John Soliano of Orco Bank and Jursi Marshall of Ride for the Roses signed an agreement for another three years of sponsorship with hopes for another ten.

This super fun athletic event benefits cancer patients and their families on Bonaire. Everyone is a winner with a customized "Roses" t-shirt, receipt of a rose at the finish line and the great feeling of knowing you helped someone with cancer. To sign up for the "Roses", go to www.RidefortheRoses.org.

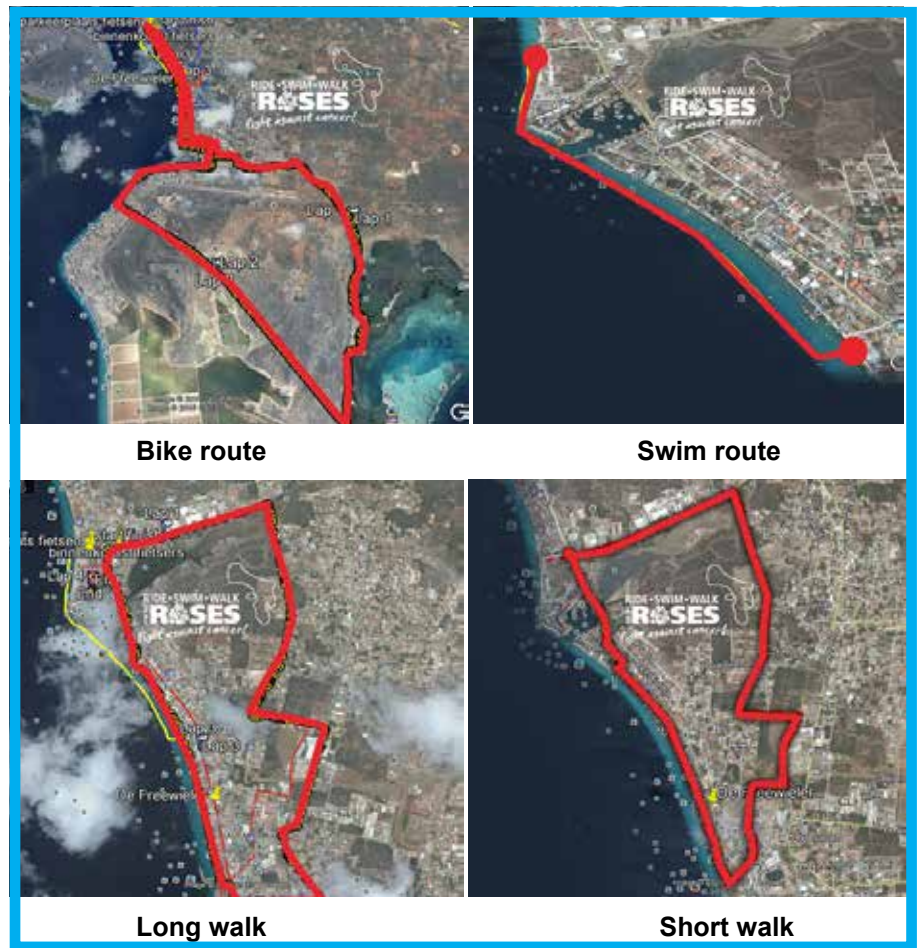
Ticket sales began on March 11 with the first ticket sold to Governor Rijna. To participate just buy a ticket to ride, walk or swim for only \$15 or \$20 for a combination. The tickets are available at

a variety of places: Airport Restaurant, The Freewieler, Lisa Convenience Store, Multipost, Draga Yoga at Go Green Center, Sensibile Yoga at Eden Beach and Yoga by Arlene at Plaza Resort. On March 23, March 30 and April 6 you can purchase tickets from 1-5 pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.

T-shirt pickup will be at Orco Bank April 12-13 from 3-7 pm or on event day.

Final ticket sales, registration and t-shirt pickup is from 6 a.m.-6:30. Following a brief opening ceremony participants can warm up in a yoga class with Draga Yoga at 6:45. Walkers hit the road at 6:55 and bikers roll out at 7 p.m. At 8 a.m. there is Sensibile Yoga with Elisabetta, face painting, massages and registration for the swim event. The swim begins at 9:30 a.m. Buses are available for transport from Eden Beach to Kas di Regatta for the start of the swim event at 9:30 a.m.

The morning is filled with more yoga, music and artists. Ride for the Roses ends at 2 p.m. ■



Bike route

Swim route

Long walk

Short walk



t-shirts and mugs are available for sale

25 years ago in the United States....



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A Garden? Just Do It!

A Wake-up Call

I read an article in a February 2019 science paper that said that insect populations are declining dramatically world wide due to pesticide use and other factors, with a potentially “catastrophic” effect on the planet.

‘World-wide’ also means on Bonaire, so treating this article as a serious wake-up call, I buried myself in more information to share with you because it concerns all of us. For numerous reasons the planet would be lifeless and dead without insects.

Insects are, by far, the most common animals on our planet. More than 1.5 million species have been named. But this is a small fraction of insects in nature. Many are yet to be discovered. Insects are found in every environment on Earth, but the majority are found in the warm and moist tropics.

Insects have adapted to a broad range of habitats, successfully finding their own niche because they will eat almost



On the kunuku a wild chicken feeds itself with insects, a natural way of life in ecosystem.

any substance that has nutritional value.

How insects contribute

Many insects, especially beetles, are scavengers feeding on dead animals and fallen trees, thereby recycling nutrients back into soil. As decomposers insects help create topsoil that is the nutrient rich layer of soil that helps plants grow. Burrowing bugs, such as ants and beetles, dig

tunnels that provide channels for water, benefiting plants. Bees, wasps, butterflies and ants pollinate flowering plants. Big eye bugs and praying mantis control the size of certain insect populations, such as aphids and caterpillars. Finally, all insects fertilize the soil with the nutrients from their droppings.

Insects have an economic importance since some produce useful substances such as honey, wax, lacquer and silk. They are also used in medicine.

Insects are also the sole food source for many animals such as reptiles, birds, mammals, and more. They are harvested and eaten by people in some cultures. They are a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals.

Our food depends on insects

On Bonaire we have fewer insects compared with other tropical areas. But the few we do have are very important for our gardens. For example, I always see bees around my pumpkin plants and blossoming palm trees. In the end they provide nice pumpkins and the many fruits in my yard. Also ants do a good job even if I don’t like them in my kitchen. But outside I leave them in peace because I know that without them I would not have fruits or vegetables.

Insect population is declining

So we now know how important insects are for our life and for the planet. But still insect populations are declining precipitously worldwide due to pesticide use and other factors, with potentially ‘catastrophic’ effects on the planet. Insect biomass is declining by a staggering 2.5 % a year. This rate indicates widespread extinctions within a century. In addition we risk 40% of the insects dying out. If a third of species are endangered, their decline could cause the collapse of the planet ecosystems with a devastating impact on life on Earth.

According to the article, causes of the decline include habitat loss, conversion to intensive agriculture, urbanization pollution, particularly from pesticides




and fertilizers, as well as pathogens and introduced species and climate change.

Protecting our future

According to scientists, because insects contribute critical services within nature’s ecosystems, we should act promptly to avert a catastrophic collapse. The conclusion is clear: unless we change our ways of producing food, insects will go down the path of extinction in a few decades. The impact of insect extinction is already seen in certain parts of the world. Birds eat birds because of the lack of insect food. Humans are at the top of the food chain, but we will suffer in the end too. Life is connected. No life can live on its own. So when humans disturb and kill life in nature by aggressive actions such as using terrible chemicals in air, water and soil, we will pay heavily. We are linked to all life and will suffer as much as all the life on the planet that we have killed.

This wake-up call is not a ‘far-in-the-future’ call. It is a warning also meant for life on Bonaire that speaks to our respect and responsibility to life in nature and our attitude to live and let live. Think of it; just do it now. ■ *Story by Angliet, Nature Lover*

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Remembering Hans Hass inventing the underwater dolly



Hans Hass' diving equipment, in those days, was a pair of black rubber fins and primitive goggles, a far cry from today's hi-tech fluorescent silicon masks, sophisticated snorkels and designer fins. Hass copied his own simple dive helmet from that used by William Beebe, an explorer and zoologist from New York, who had been diving in the 1920s in the Bahamas. Open at the bottom, the helmet was, in principle, a small diving bell put over the head; the air was supplied through a tube by a simple hand pump. With this equipment, which would have any present day SCUBA instructor turning green, he completed his first dives on Bonaire.

Hans Hass was already trying to make his first underwater films. He suffered the same frustrations and floodings as his modern day counterparts. Spending up to eight hours a day in the sea, he took some of his first underwater film footage on Klein Bonaire using a custom made housing and Movikon K16 camera manufactured by Siemens.

Off the west coast of Klein Bonaire Hass developed his own style of taking underwater cine shots. Holding his camera in front of him and propelling

himself slowly with his flippers he mimicked a camera 'dolly,' the little truck used for moving shots in the film studios. He succeeded in taking pictures of fish that live in thin rock crevices. No one had ever seen them because they took refuge whenever an old-style diver stalked along the seabed. These fish accepted the swim-diver as one of their kind: 'A fish among fishes,' as Hass always said. With his camera and swim-divers outfit, Hans could poise motionless or approach his object from any angle taking 'tracking' shots forward or backward. As the camera is weightless in water, extreme mobility was combined with complete steadiness.

Hans recorded many hitherto unknown things in their natural surroundings at depths up to 60 feet. He produced a short B&W film entitled "Stalking Beneath the Sea." Shown in 1942 in German movie theaters, it is now a part of underwater film history. It showed coral reefs, underwater fishing and a sequence with a large hammerhead shark.

■ Story by Michael

Jung—To be continued: Hass films fish behavior never before recorded.



Reef Glimpses



What does the white spot on this (starlet) coral look like to you? All the scuba professionals I know on Bonaire (including myself) registered it as parrotfish bites (possibly because we saw such signs as parrotfish actually scraping the coral with their beaks!).

Then one day a few years ago, scientists arrived on Bonaire to give an informative presentation on a coral disease: In addition to black band and yellow band, our corals were now plagued with the newly discovered Rapid Wasting Disease! They projected pictures of perfectly healthy coral, and then pictures taken the next day of parts of those coral colonies dead, including not just the coral tissue but the skeleton beneath it, all wasted away! This was awful and ...

About this time, reading my buddy's note ("Those are parrotfish bites!"), I lost track of the presentation.

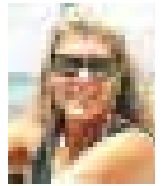
Several months later another set of

scientists arrived to announce another discovery: Rapid Wasting Disease was actually parrotfish bites! They disproved the existence of a Rapid Wasting Disease in excruciating detail, including pictures of coral heads protected by wire mesh, showing no damage, while surrounding unprotected colonies were damaged. Then, with equal care, they showed that the culprits were parrotfish.

(Ah, Science!)

How about you? Have you noticed these scraped areas on coral colonies? If so, did you figure out – or even actually see -- how they were caused? Have you thought about the reason for all this scraping? Those possibilities will turn up in a future Reef Glimpse.

Meanwhile, let's learn the lesson and pay attention to what our divemasters say! ■ Photo and story by Dee Scarr



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Making Bonaire “Accessible” OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 6.



The winning artists' work is produced on t-shirts and mugs and is available for sale to help fund beach accessibility. To purchase, contact Ria via email www.eversdokterh@yahoo.com

MiVaBo (Handicapped Association) celebrated a very special event.

Last Friday, March 15, an exposition was opened in the SKAL Museo, next to Tului park. The exposition is called: 'Esa-ki ta mi bida.' Here you can admire all the pictures painted by people with limitations and the elderly.

The opening began at 11 a.m. led by Ria Evers-Dokter. She addressed the crowd with these words, “On December 3 last year, MiVaBo organized a prize-winning painting contest and the results were so special that the decision was made to share this special art with all of Bonaire’s inhabitants and visitors.”

The artists are clients of FKPD, Kas di Mimina, Villa Antonia and FKBO. The jury consisted of: Janice Huckeby and Emma Groenevelt. The jury had a difficult job. Each artist worked hard on

their individual painting. In the process they told their guides and care-takers why they made their art work that way and the reason why. The theme was: “This is my life.”

We need to make a special note about a participant of the FKBO. Mr. Jaques Winklaar. He suffers from very bad eyesight and he decided he wanted to do something that did not need too much sight. He used stamps and the result was stunning!

The overall winner was Marcelino Josefa, (FKPD), first place was Criselda Soliano (Villa Antonia), second place was Juan Cicilia (COCARI), another second place was Dennis Reina (FKPD), third place was Bernardo Emerenciana (Kas di Mimina), another third winner was Micheli Mathew (FKPD) and a special prize went to Jaques Winklaar (FKBO).

Material, paint, and prizes were spon-

sored by: Janice Huckaby Gallery, Win Cheung Supermarket and Bonaire Warehouse.

There were cold drinks and cake for the invited guests, artists and family members. The “ambience” was great.

So, what does all this art and competition have to do with accessibility, you might ask? The goal of this competition was to raise funds for special rubber paths to make beaches more accessible and for a beach-wheelchair.

At the exhibition you will find mugs and t-shirts for sale with all the winning art printed on it. Receipts from the sales go to the beach accessibility project.

Another aspect to emphasize is that art is not only for able-bodied persons. Art is a way of expressing yourself and everybody can and may express themselves.

Through making art, people with limitations can work on their personal development. Plus, it is great fun! When people see your art, it gives you a great satisfaction and that is wonderful for everybody. And when you sell your work, it brings in money too!

Bonaire has known quite a few artists who have certain challenges. Mr. Dania is a well known painter. There is also Olivia Jangat who loves to paint and Luis Peña, a well-known candle-maker. I am sure that when we look carefully and make art more accessible, there are many more great artists.

So this exposition is a wonderful start to great art and to accessible beaches. ■
Story by Ria Evers-Dokter. Photos by Julie Morgan.



Are you crazy for mangroves? continued from page 6

ters and air, prevent soil erosion and provide a habitat and nursery for marine life.

Perhaps digging in the mud to protect the mangroves isn't quite so crazy after all.

If you would like to volunteer and be-

come a little crazy for mangroves, then visit the Mangrove Maniacs Lac Restoration Project on Facebook and send a message. ■ Story and photos by Julie Morgan



“Mangrove Maniacs” following a morning of fun and productive work in the mangroves at Lac: (L-R)

Arno Verhoeven, Jeandino Abrahams, Sabine Engel, Gellery ‘Chito’ Soliana, Bram Perry, Gevy Soliana, Clifton de Cuba, Florian Senger, Jimmy Trinidad, Arnaud Du Pont, Juliendro ‘Toto’ Soliana, Rens Jonker, Alessandra Polo, Scott Gilchrist, Henk Huisman, Jessica Johnson. Members not pictured: Artie de Vries and Joost van Gaalen

Way of the Cross Service

The end of Carnaval means the beginning of the season of Lent in the Catholic Church. Fr. Alphonsus Baak, Pastor of Our Lady of Coromoto, led a Way of the Cross, followed by a communion service, at Gruta di Lourdes in the Antriol Pabou section of Bonaire during the first Friday of Lent, March 8, 2019. It was very appropriate that the first service of this Lenten season, attended by approximately 70 people, was held at this location. In the early 1800’s Cornelis Marten founded the first church on the island of Bonaire and the grotto is dedicated to Mr. Marten. The Way of the Cross ceremony commemorates the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ and will be held in a different community each Friday night during the season of Lent. For more information call 717-4211 ■ SPhotos & story by Alan Zale



Faces of Bon Doet



Did You Know...Sargassum landings are predicted to keep on happening?

Last week (and perhaps it's still coming), Bonaire's east coast experienced yet another influx of the brown seaweed, Sargassum, which motivated STINAPA and volunteers to head out to Sorobon to remove it from the shore. Why is this becoming more and more of a problem?



Even in the rain the volunteers shovel and rake to remove the sargassum inside the yellow oil booms.

These particular batches of Sargassum seaweed are coming from an area of ocean east of Brazil that is full of Sargassum. It is thought that climate change is resulting in warmer waters (algae grow faster) and changing currents (more bunches of seaweed break off from the main mass) which is causing more Sargassum to reach the Caribbean. Some scientists also blame the increasing levels of nutrients that come out of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers that also fuel seaweed growth.

Once the seaweed hits the shore, it either washes up onto the shore or it bunches up in the shallows. Everything in the shallows dies, including fish, lobsters and conch. If the Sargassum isn't removed within a few days, it begins rotting and eventually sinks. When it rots, all of the oxygen in the water gets used up and hydrogen sulfide gas forms, both of which cause die-offs of marine life including seagrass and mangroves. If you were at Sorobon last week, you may have seen the floating, yellow booms that were catching the Sargassum and guiding it to shore. The Public Entity Bonaire works closely with STINAPA to respond to Sargassum incidents. The booms, meant for light oil, were tested to see if they helped prevent Sargassum from reaching the sensitive nature areas - mangrove and seagrass areas - of Lac Bay where our juvenile fish, conch and lobsters live. With some adjustments (additional anchors), the booms worked quite well, but there are not enough booms and much more specialized equipment (boats with conveyor belts, pumps, etc.) is needed to remove the Sargassum from the water.

Another problem occurs if the Sargassum stays in the water too long and rots - it stinks!!! The hydrogen sulfide gas travels with the wind and, in high enough concentrations, may cause problems to human health. The fire and health departments work together to monitor the gas concentrations and make sure volunteers and workers don't work in areas where there is a human health risk.

Something important to know - Sargassum is not all bad. In the open ocean, it is called "The Golden Floating Rainforest". Floating mats of Sargassum out at sea are extremely

diverse, providing important habitat for fish and invertebrates, many of which are not found anywhere else and some have the exact coloration of the algae (camouflage): frogfish, crabs, pipefish, nudibranchs, shrimps, etc. Also, young sea turtles often spend their tender years finding refuge and a plentiful food supply in these floating seaweed mats.

The next time we have large quantities of Sargassum on our shores and you feel like lending a hand, please check the STINAPA Facebook page for information on volunteer activities. STINAPA would like to thank the volunteers that helped out last week! And I would like to give a shout out to the STINAPA rangers and staff.

I worked beside them Thursday - their 8th day in the field - removing Sargassum from the water. After six hours, exhausted and sore, I had to leave, but they toiled on. The teamwork and dedication of my colleagues during extreme events like these makes me proud to be a part of this organization!

Written by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist.

Connecting people with nature. Photos Julie Morgan



A sargassum frogfish is one of the fatalities found when removing the seaweed by the volunteers.



Marine park rangers and volunteers lay out the oil booms to ward off the incoming sargassum.

Art and wine venture opens

The first ever wine and paint business, Studio Sauvignon, premiered at Eddy's Restaurant on Friday, March 15. Artist Mackenzie Clippard equipped the group with art supplies and painting instruction and Alcon Wines and Spirits provided, well, the wine. Eleven willing participants sat down to try their hand at painting, drink some wine and have some fun. Mackenzie said, "Anybody can do this. You can be a professional artist or you can be someone that has never picked up a paintbrush, it's all about fun and socializing." Painting along with the group, she provides step-by-step instruction with assistance to anyone that needs it. Alcon wine representative Manouk Calkhoven



and Charles Lont served small portions of four different types of wine. Each painter/drinker received a description of the various wines and a comment sheet. Mackenzie said Studio Sauvignon is perfect for private parties, office groups, special occasions, fundraising or team building. She brings the 'studio' to you. Regular classes are \$39 per person for two-three hours of painting, supplies and two glasses of wine. Alcon offers participants the chance to purchase bottles of the wine they drank during the class. Regular Studio Sauvignon classes will begin at Eddy's on March 29. Photo & story Julie Morgan

Faces of Bon Doet



What's Happening

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Saturday, Mar. 30—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

Saturday, Mar. 30—6-11pm. Taste of Bonaire. Wilhelmina Plaza, Kralendijk. Food vendors from Bonaire's fine restaurants. Cultural showcase.

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



Sunday, April 7—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. \$15. Pick up event T-shirts Fri. & Sat. Walk begins 5am at White Slave Huts to finish at Pasadia Kariño, Rincon.



Sunday, April 14—Ride, Swim, Walk for the Roses fight against cancer at Eden Beach Resort and Spice Beach Club. To sign up for the "Roses", go to www.RidefortheRoses.org. Tickets for \$15 or \$20 are sold at multiple locations. (See story page 8.) ■

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, 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. 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

• **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

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE
Tuesday	3-19	Monarch	0800-1800	N.Pier	2744 Pullmantur
Tuesday	3-19	Navigator of the Seas	0900-2000	S.Pier	3114 RCCL
Thursday	3-21	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.Pier	2886 CEL
Friday	3-22	Koningdam	0800-1800	S.Pier	2650 HAL
Saturday	3-24	MSY Wind Star	0900 -2359	N.Pier	148 Windstar
Monday	3-25	Aida Perla	0700-1800	S.Pier	3286 Aida
Tuesday	3-26	Mein Schiff 5	0730-1900	S.Pier	2500 TUI
Wednesday	3-27	Club Med 2	0800-1800	N.Pier	386 Club Med
Wednesday	3-27	Freedom of the Seas	0800-1800	S.Pier	3782 SRCCL
Sunday	3-31	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.Pier	3150 PCL
Monday	4-1	Azamara Journey	0800-2200	N.Pier	694 Royal Caribbean

church.) Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffe@hotmail.com

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

International Bible Church. Kaya Papiago 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. 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm.

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherreracochrane@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 ■

Faces of Bon Doet





BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it—just look up

COLORFUL STARS

Stars vary in brightness, size, distance, and especially color. Stars come in all colors, from ruby red to tangerine, from platinum-blond to deep blue. These distinct colors that you can see with the naked eye tell us a lot.

Face southwest any night in March after sunset. There you'll find the constellation **Orion the Hunter** with his distinctive belt of three stars. If you look a little closer, you'll see stars of different brightness and color.

Star color indicates temperature—blue stars are the hottest and red stars the coolest. You can really see the colors of the brightest stars like those in Orion. Most of his stars are blue—like the belt stars **Alnitak**, **Alnilam**, and **Mintaka**. and his left foot, the star **Rigel**.

The blue star in Orion's shoulder called **Bellatrix** is one of the hottest stars at over 38,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Through a telescope, Bellatrix is the deepest blue you will see. Bellatrix has a mysterious history. Its name means "beautiful amazon-woman-star." The star's influence was said to produce strong qualities in women rendering those born under it lucky and loquacious.

Marking Orion's other shoulder is the star **Betelgeuse**. In most legends, Orion has his right arm raised up holding a club. Betelgeuse roughly translates from ancient Arabic as "armpit of the giant." This star shines with a beautiful red glow. This color gives us a hint to its temperature -

only about 5,800 degrees on its surface. Much colder than blue Bellatrix.

The Native Americans of the Amazon river valley link these two, Bellatrix and Betelgeuse, in a mythological story. They picture Bellatrix as a young boy swiftly paddling his canoe, while old man Betelgeuse is struggling to keep up.

The brightest star in the night sky is the dog star, **Sirius**, over to the left of Orion. Sirius blazes with a stark white light in the south and a temperature of about 17,000 degrees. Sirius is a tiny star compared to blue Bellatrix, and is almost nothing next to behemoth Betelgeuse. The only reason Sirius is so bright is because it's so much closer to us—only 8.6 light years away compared to over 240 light years to Bellatrix and 640 light years to Betelgeuse.

Capella is a bright star high in the western sky. Similar to our sun in temperature, it should look about the same color—yellowish-white. But Capella is much larger and is four stars orbiting each other! Imagine the sunsets and sunrises seen from a planet with four suns!

Our Sun falls in the middle of the temperature spectrum. With a surface temperature of roughly 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the sun bathes us in the yellow-white light. Finally, if you look through binoculars or a telescope, you'll see the individual colors of dimmer stars.

■ *Dean Regas & James Albury, <http://www.stargazersonline.org>*



THE STARS HAVE IT

Horoscope March 2019

Aries (Mar.21–Apr.19) This will not be the best time to sign deals or to take care of other people's financial matters. If you haven't already, consider starting your own business. You will be able to borrow money in order to invest. Communications with loved ones may be strained. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

Taurus (Apr.20–May 20) Don't take your frustrations out on loved ones. Those you care about may oppose your ideas. Pursue outdoor activities or any physical exertion. You can make the most headway if you put in some overtime. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

Gemini (May 21–Jun.20) Empty promises are evident. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Don't be too eager to cut those who have disappointed you from your life. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

Cancer (Jun.21–Jul.22) Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. Self-deception is likely. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

Leo (Jul.23–Aug.22) You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do. Your emotions will be touched off concerning recent encounters with your lover. Find a way to consolidate. Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

Virgo (Aug.23–Sept.22) Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Unexpected bills may set you back. Adventure will result in added knowledge. Travel could turn out to be more exciting than you imagined. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

Libra (Sept.23–Oct.22) Some of that extra energy you have stored up might just be put to good use. Pleasure trips

should be on your agenda. You will be in the mood to socialize. Don't be too quick to voice your opinion. Listen to others carefully. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) Don't evade issues or twist the truth around. Take time to make physical improvements that will enhance your appearance. You are best to put your efforts into redecorating or inviting friends over. Someone around you may not be trustworthy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

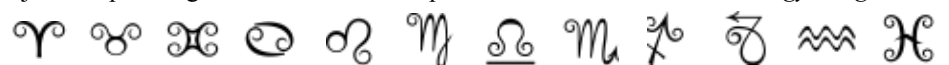
Sagittarius (Nov.22–Dec.21) A friendship might suffer if money becomes an issue. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Capricorn (Dec.22–Jan.19) Love can be heightened if you sit down and discuss your future plans. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Relatives will want to get together. You may find that depression is causing you to feel lonely and insecure. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Aquarius (Jan.20–Feb.18) Try not to get backed into corners. Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Disharmony will result in a lowered vitality. Stress may result in minor illness. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

Pisces (Feb.19–Mar.20) Pleasure trips will be emotionally favorable. You can expect to experience delays or additional red tape if you deal with institutions. Partnerships could prove to be lucrative. Take some time to change your house around. Remember Pisces goes with Taurus, Cancer, Capricorn and Pisces (most compatible!) Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. ■

Michael Emerson ©Astrology Insight



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 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
Tue 19	04:51 -0.02 ft	10:58 0.77 ft	18:49 -0.17 ft			06:40	18:46
Wed 20	00:10 0.38 ft	06:17 0.00 ft	12:03 0.65 ft	19:37 -0.13 ft		06:39	18:46
Thu 21	01:13 0.48 ft	07:52 -0.00 ft	13:16 0.53 ft	20:24 -0.10 ft		06:39	18:46
Fri 22	02:13 0.59 ft	09:25 -0.05 ft	14:36 0.43 ft	21:13 -0.06 ft		06:38	18:46
Sat 23	03:09 0.69 ft	10:47 -0.13 ft	15:55 0.36 ft	22:01 -0.03 ft		06:37	18:46
Sun 24	04:02 0.78 ft	11:56 -0.21 ft	17:08 0.32 ft	22:49 0.00 ft		06:37	18:46
Mon 25	04:52 0.84 ft	12:54 -0.27 ft	18:11 0.30 ft	23:36 0.02 ft		06:36	18:46
Tue 26	05:40 0.86 ft	13:46 -0.29 ft	19:06 0.29 ft			06:35	18:46
Wed 27		00:21 0.04 ft	06:25 0.86 ft	14:34 -0.29 ft	19:55 0.27 ft	06:35	18:46
Thu 28		01:04 0.05 ft	07:09 0.84 ft	15:19 -0.26 ft	20:39 0.26 ft	06:34	18:46
Fri 29		01:44 0.06 ft	07:51 0.80 ft	16:01 -0.22 ft	21:21 0.25 ft	06:34	18:46
Sat 30		02:24 0.08 ft	08:31 0.74 ft	16:42 -0.16 ft	22:01 0.25 ft	06:33	18:46
Sun 31		03:04 0.10 ft	09:11 0.68 ft	17:22 -0.11 ft	22:42 0.26 ft	06:33	18:46
Mon 1		03:49 0.12 ft	09:52 0.60 ft	17:59 -0.05 ft	23:24 0.27 ft	06:32	18:47

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
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Pet of the Week



Kiki

Hello animal lovers! We'd like you to meet Kiki. Sweet Kiki is about four years old and a shepherd mix. She is a beautiful lady who is vaccinated, spayed and ready for her forever home. Kiki loves attention, being petted and groomed which she needs now and then because of her semi-long hair and fluffy curly tail. Kiki walks very well on a leash and is very curious about learning new things. She does not mind sharing her food with other dogs and likes to play with them. Kiki would be great for you if you already have another dog because everybody is her friend. She is good at being alone but would make a good family dog with older children from eight years and up. Kiki loves to sleep in a corner with a blanket. If you are looking for a companion that will always be around and happy to see you, please visit Kiki 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. You can call and ask about Kiki at 717-4989 / 701-4989. ■ Story & photo by Sanne Attevelt



Faces of Bon Doet



Classifieds-SELL!

Call 796-4055 or e-mail BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

NEW LISTINGS

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Shelter News

THE WORKING CATS OF BOPEC



Cats have been working worldwide as "pest control" agents for thousands of years. But did you know that on Bonaire a feline work force keeps BOPEC free of mice, rats, lizards and other "pests"? It's a tough job as it is a large facility, but the feline crew is good at its job. For their salary the cats share the meals prepared daily for the human staff, sharing everything from stew to spareribs. And, of course, there is the affection shown by the human staff for those cats who are interested in that sort of thing!

Recently, Carmen Meneses of BOPEC contacted Animal Shelter Bonaire. The feline staff was getting a little too numerous, and in order to avoid layoffs BOPEC asked if the Shelter would help trap, sterilize and return the BOPEC cat crew. Carmen said that simply "getting rid" of the cats was not the right solution. When feral cats are removed from a "territory" other feral cats will move in. The solution of trap/neuter/release keeps the territory protected from feline "invaders" and keeps the work force at a manageable number.

Shelter staffer Sanne Attevelt contacted Tineke de Groot of Stichting Dierenhulp. Tineke is an "expert" cat trapper and the two coordinated the trap/neuter/release project in late February. And what a project it was! Over the course of a few days Sanne, Tineke and his coworker Bianca Sweers trapped 23 cats! With the great help of the island veterinarians, all the cats were spayed or neutered and released back on the job with only a few days off for "sick leave." Animal Shelter Bonaire's free sterilization program paid for 13 of the sterilizations done by Dr. Fulco de Vries and Stichting Dierenhulp's free sterilization project paid for the other nine done by Dr. Jan Laarakker.

One of the cats trapped belonged to a person from Rincon. The cat had disappeared during the frightening "fireworks season." She had previously been sterilized and microchipped by Stichting



Dierenhulp, so she was registered in the microchip database. The cat was returned to her owner and both cat and human were delighted that she was home after being gone for two months. This is another example of the importance of microchipping your companion animals.

The project was a huge success and local TV station NOS-TV was there to film the "release" of the feline work force the day it occurred. (<https://www.facebook.com/NosTvBonaire/videos/2224978587558228/?t=1211>).

In appreciation of their major effort, BOPEC has offered to help Animal Shelter Bonaire and Stichting Dierenhulp repairing traps and with other maintenance.

Thank you, Carmen and BOPEC, not only for your offer of assistance but for taking the time and making the effort to care about the welfare of your feline work force.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." ■ Jane-Disko-Madden; Photos by Julie Morgan



At Your Service

The following businesses have been recommended by Bonaire residents.
Introductory rate - call or email for availability - 796-4055 - BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

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