

It's Still FREE

BONAIRE Apr. 29 - May 13, 2019, Year 26, Issue 9

The REPORTER

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Stories about Rincon and more
 Cadushy Distillery
 Posada Para Mira
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RINCON!

The oldest town in the Dutch Caribbean, Rincon, Bonaire celebrates their 30th Annual Dia di Rincon on April 30. Prior to 1989, April 30 was a celebration known as Queen's Day for the birthday of former Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. Even after her daughter Queen Beatrix took over in 1980, April 30 continued to be celebrated as Queen's Day in honor of the former Queen Juliana.

Queen's Day was celebrated throughout the kingdom of the Netherlands including Bonaire. In Rincon residents celebrated the day with competitions and games for children and adults. But as the years passed, the celebrations became less popular until they were completely gone. No one seemed to understand why they were celebrating on this day. April 30 was not the current Queen's birthday, she was born in January, so what were they celebrating?

That's when a popular politician of Rincon, Francisco Broertje Janga, came up with an idea to organize April 30 as a day dedicated to Rincon. The plan was to remind and teach the younger generation about the rich cultural and historical heritage of Rincon. Janga wanted to show them how the older generation lived and worked. Unfortunately he was met with a lot of resistance from the government and even from people of Rincon. They even called him crazy and that his ideas were stupid. Janga persevered and continued with his vision. Eventually he found some people who liked his ideas and they met and planned for several weeks. They decided the perfect day was April 30, the former Queen's Day, and the first Dia di Rincon was born on April 30, 1989. Janga's group even held a competition for the design of a flag.

The celebration was slow to catch on with very little interest from the people. But over time and with well thought-out event organization, the people began to see the importance of Rincon Day and the vision of Janga. Rincon Day became the biggest festivity on Bonaire.

During the early days of celebration there were all types of traditional foods available at food stands. Stages were set up illustrating how things were done in the past including cooking, planting, harvesting, making musical instruments and clothes. They even demonstrated how various life events such as baptism, communion, weddings and anniversaries were held.

People came from all over the Dutch Caribbean to attend the celebration. The hotels were full and it was difficult to find a rental car. People who could not find an airline ticket would make the trip by boat.

The main attractions were and still are the Simadan marches. In traditional dress, the people march, sing and dance through the streets of Rincon after a symbolic harvest. Today, a few weeks before Rincon Day, a festival is held to select the best folkloric song in two categories, youth and adult. The selected song is sung during the Simadan marches. As in the past, the celebration begins early in the morning with a holy mass at the main church, followed by the raising of a large Rincon flag. The people march with drum bands from the church to the plaza of commerce where the official celebration takes place. The commissioner, lieutenant governor and organizers will give speeches, awards and recognition to people who excelled during the past year in Rincon. Following the ceremony, people can visit the

various stages where bands are playing, enjoy local food and drinks, arts and handcrafts.

In the last few years there were more than 12,000 people roaming the streets, dancing and celebrating Rincon Day. Mind you, that's more than four times the amount of people living in Rincon.

In short, you can say that the main concern of Mr. Francisco Janga was not to let the local traditions, culture and history of Rincon die. He wanted to insure that the younger generations and visitors knew about early life in Rincon.

Story: Rudolf Wuyts, Photos: Julie Morgan



Francisco Broertje Janga was responsible for Dia di Rincon. He wanted future generations to know and honor Rincon's history and heritage.

FLOTSAM and JETSAM



Four new Island Council members were sworn in April 23, 2019 during a meeting of the Island Council: Renata Domacasse (MPB), Edison Ellis (MPB), Joselito Statia (MPB) and Norbert Silberie (UPB). The appointment of Elvis Tjin Asjoe, Nina den Heyer and James Kroon as commissioners of the new Executive Council caused three of the vacancies. The fourth vacancy occurred when MPB councilman Hennyson Thielman resigned to become advisor to commissioner Tjin Asjoe. photo: Government. of Bonaire

► Three of Bonaire's four gas stations closed their pumps Friday morning, April 26, 2019. The stations said they did not want to re-open until the fuel supplier, Curoil, and the Public Body paid attention to the poor quality of fuel. According to Tobias de Boer, General Manager of Bonaire, there are constant quality problems now that the fuel comes from unknown suppliers rather than the Isla Rafinaderij. Fuel filters have to be changed almost daily. The general manager of Bonaire's largest gas station says that Curoil blames quality problems on polluted tanks at the gas stations themselves. The owners of the stations deny this claim. Rincon gas station cleaned its tanks in January 2019, but now has the same problems again. The pumpholders also hold the Public Body responsible. They say it should be easy to check if the gasoline supplied contains residues or if there is water in the diesel.



Long lines at Mentor pump. photo: BES Reporter

The closure was successful. Curoil, the government and the gas station operators met and agreed on a temporary solution. Curoil will absorb the cost of extra filters. Governor Rijna promised an independent study into the fuel quality. The three closed pumps opened to the public shortly after 2pm Friday.

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► EZ Air will be adding extra flights for the crowds traveling to Dia di Rincon. EZ Air director Rene Winkel said the airline has already added several extra flights but these too have filled up quickly. The airline hasn't actively promoted the extra flights because they have sold out by themselves, but EZAir is still able to add some more flights.



► Bonaire was represented at the Miami Beach Seatrade Cruise Global Conference by Harbor Master Gunther Flanegin, Malinda Hassel, TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) and Mimi Zhen. For the first year, the three ABC islands shared a booth, and met with St. Maarten to discuss future itinerary collaboration.

Meetings were conducted with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) and its operational team of top executives from Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and FCCA. Meetings were also held with Norwegian Cruise Lines and Global Ports Holding. The Cruise Line executives said they are pleased with the high

satisfaction ratings given by their passengers after port calls to Bonaire, and with the recent pier renovations and improvements. Bonaire ranks as a top three destination among all other Caribbean Islands and a top seven in meeting tourists expectations (Source: Exit Survey FCCA). TCB presented its Bonaire Blue Destination initiative which was well received.

Considering the conference, TCB says that Bonaire's key stakeholders and the Island Government must define its cruise strategy because Cruise Lines want to put more ships in the Southern Caribbean. At a more specific level, TCB suggests all tour operators and partners develop unique products and experiences because there is still room to raise visitor spending.

► Entrepreneurs are taking over management of the three rural tourist routes developed by POP Bonaire (Rural Development Program). Juliana Clarendia (Echo and Posada Para Mira) and Danilo Christiaan (Mangazina di Rei) have adopted the Rincon route; Onnie Emerenciana (kunuku di Mamai Rosa) the Bara di Karta route, and Maaiké Smal (Wayaká Advies) Tras di Montaña. POP planned the car, cycling and walking routes to revitalize the three rural areas. The plan appears to work: weekend traffic has increased; kunukus are being renovated, and people are considering the products and services they could offer to tourists. See website www.explorebonaire.com.



Which is better?



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Enforcing Bonaire's Laws

Officer sentenced. On Friday, April 12th, the Court of First Instance Bonaire handled the case against E.A., a tactical investigator from KPCN (Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland/Dutch Caribbean Police Force). E.A. was loaned out to the The Criminal Investigation Team (RST) and received a company car with a bank card for fueling the car. However, research showed that for over a year he frequently used the bank card to fuel his family's vehicles. He also used gasoline from the RST car to supply his home with electricity. His wife and co-defendant, J. A-G, who is a senior officer at KPCN, was suspected of complicity in theft and misappropriation of funds.

E.A. was sentenced for theft to 360 days in jail, 359 of which were probationary with a probationary period of 2 years, with the special condition being 180 hours in prison His wife J.A-G was acquitted. *BES News.*

Illegal conch. Mid-April, the Rescue and Coordination Center (RCC) reported a suspicious vessel south of Bonaire. When the Coast Guard Team, Police, and the Royal Netherlands Military Police checked the boat, they found three men with illegally caught King Conch meat. The vessel was taken to the pier in Kralendijk for further inspection. The three men have been arrested and the captain has received a citation because his documents were not in order. The conch was confiscated. Illegal harvesting of protected King Conch remains a problem in the waters around Bonaire and especially in the Lac Bay area. *BES News.*

Police Report for April 18-25:

Two houses were burgled. Valuables were taken from a house in Punt Vierkant between 7 & 9.30pm and from a house Kaya Merengue between 9am & 1pm.

Three scooters were stolen. Two of the scooters had been chained and locked. Two were taken from public places, a restaurant and an entertainment venue; the other was taken from an apartment. One scooter was later found after it had been set on fire.

A man was arrested for abuse, non-compliance with an order from a police officer and violation of the Weapons Act BES.

On the roads: •Two men were arrested for violating the Bonaire Road Traffic Regulations. • A driver of a pick-up lost control and drove into the bush. His passenger was slightly injured. • A night-time collision occurred between two cars on the Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus. A victim complained about pain in his wrist.

In drug related crimes: • Two men were arrested for violating the Opium Act BES.

• A 14 year old minor was arrested for dealing. • Three men were arrested for violation of the Opium Act BES, Wapenwet BES, Aliens Act BES.

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip, phone (+599) 717 7251
If there is no emergency, phone Bonaire (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000

Picture Yourself with The Reporter sailing to Pitcairn Islands, southern Pacific Ocean



May we introduce **JP Richau**, the Unofficial Bonaire Ambassador to Pitcairn Island. JP stays in touch with what's happening on Bonaire by reading *The Reporter* online on his tablet.

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. All 2019 photos are eligible.



Free Concert, Wilhemina Park!
10th year Anniversary. See page 12.

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Letters to the Editor

While we are in transition: For on-line readers who prefer the older “scroll-down” version of The Bonaire Reporter, you can still access it at: <https://www.bonairereporter.com/news/019pdfs/newcurrent.pdf>
You can also download The Reporter from the transition version. In the menu below the newer version, you will see a download icon. Click that, and a “scroll-down” pdf appears.

Dear Editor:

I use Fire Fox also and have learned how to read The Bonaire Reporter using FF.

- 1 Open “Bonaire Reporter, then click open “New Edition”.
- 2 Click “Read Now”.
- 3 Double click the front page to see it in full size, or hit escape to get Yellow arrow to change to page 2.
- 4 Click the new page and it will go to full size and you can use your mouse to move up and down or side to side.
- 5 Press escape to get to the arrows and change the page.
- 6 When you are finished reading The Reporter click the last page to reduce, at the top of your window you will see to boxes with the Adobe logo, click the X on the second box and that bring you back to the Reporter’s home page, or click the home logo.

I hope this makes it easier for anybody using Fire Fox.

David Batafsky, reader of The Bonaire Reporter on line

Hi Greta

After many times trying and finally calling our Technical Department to try to help, have to tell you to ask Ms. Morgan to make a change in the way the Reporter is published on line. We cannot get the paper to print in a normal size readable page. We can zoom in and out and go full screen; but when we try to download or print in any size, it always reverts back to a print so tiny, no one can read it.

We have made attempts over the last two months without success. Can you ask if there is something she can do? The old method was much better, the paper would print out perfectly. Thanks Greta – I enjoy the Reporter very much, but without being able to take it home and read it leisurely, I am missing a lot! (I have no printer at home). *Thanks, Laurie Rockwell*

(Greta Kooistra wrote ‘On the Island Since’ for 18 years and was a major contact for readers to communicate with The Reporter. We thank her for passing this letter along to us.)

Editor’s Note: the original format of The Bonaire Reporter is still available at this address: <https://www.bonairereporter.com/news/019pdfs/newcurrent.pdf>.

We were able to print the “new” format from Safari.

1. Click the download symbol in the menu bar below the issue to download the PDF.
2. Save the PDF to your computer (you can’t print directly from the downloaded PDF).
3. Print the saved PDF.
4. To increase the type size, increase the scale of the printing to “actual size,” or larger.

Have something to say? Want to give your opinion?

All letters must be signed.

Email: BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

Q: Why can’t I watch my favorite shows on Netflix when I am in Bonaire yet my friends here can?

A: Netflix and others license their shows based on a geographic region. (The exception is Netflix produced shows which are available worldwide on Netflix). Your friends are probably using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to “fool” Netflix into thinking they are still up in the USA/Canada/Europe.

Q: How do I get a VPN?

A: There are various types of VPN’s. Some are software only and work for a laptop or tablet. Some are hardware, and work for every device in your home (Smart TV, PC, Tablet).

Q: Which VPN is best?

A: I will dedicate the next “Ask a Geek” to choosing a VPN. Stay tuned... *Brian Niessen, The Geek.*

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire? Email it to the editor, and we’ll try to get an answer for you by the next issue.



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: I want to buy a property we will use for vacations and rent to tourists when we are not on the island. Can we make a yearly profit after expenses? Mark

Hi Mark, You didn’t mention if you are paying cash or getting a mortgage, which will factor into any profit. If you pay cash, subtract the costs of property management, cleaning, utilities, laundry, pool, gardener or HOA costs from the rental amount to see what the return on your investment will be.

If you are paying with a mortgage, you will need to add that payment to the monthly expenses, which makes it more unlikely that you will see any income after expenses. However, most buyers with Bonaire mortgages are happy to receive rental income that contributes to paying the mortgage and expenses.

You will also need to factor in the location and desirability of the property, how often you plan to use it yourself and whether you plan to use it in high or low season. I’ve seen properties with a 30% rental occupancy rate, and others over 70%. Your real estate agent can tell you if there is a rental history on the property. *Wishing you all the best, 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

Bonaire Business News

Budget Marine adds Whatsapp. Customers will now be able to contact Budget Marine through their new Whatsapp number. Most of the messages Budget Marine receives are pricing or availability requests. People usually know what they want and by asking a quick question they can avoid using their limited data plan.

Pam Teitel of Budget Marine said, “Texting lowers the communication barriers; people just want to send a message and get a quick response.”

The new service allows the store to let customers know when their special order arrives and visiting yachts can use an international phone. Customers also receive confirmation that an item they are looking for is available at the store.

Spokesperson for Budget Marine said, “Adding the WhatsApp number as a means of contact just makes sense.” The WhatsApp number is 599-700-7500.

Marriott Bonaire offers new services. Hotel guests at Courtyard Marriott Bonaire can now enjoy several new amenities, activities and services. The hotel has added a new massage room, 24-hour mini market, Aqua Zumba, sunset yoga and happy hour on the weekend from 5pm to 6pm.

Their new restaurant MOOD, managed by Francesca Cartone and Carlo Tarquini, features a new menu with great chefs preparing the best Italian food. The restaurant is open to everyone for breakfast, lunch and dinner. As of April 26th, MOOD is serving an ‘all you can eat’ Italian style BBQ from 6:30 pm – 10 pm.

Delphins Beach Resort opens new villas. Delphin Beach Resort opened new villas April 25 with a parade of electric cars, champagne toasts and speakers. Resort owner Gerrit Tjihuis and Deputy James Kroon, welcomed the crowd of approximately 50 guests and announced the new street name as Delfins Villas.

David Rietveld, general manager at Delfins said, “We are sure that these beautiful additions will appeal to dive groups visiting Bonaire.”

A tour of the 13 new villas by Sunbelt Realty’s Martijn Eichhorn revealed two story units with two different floor plans featuring both three and four bedrooms. Each villa has covered parking for two vehicles and a personal swimming pool. The villas are available to rent or buy.

RINCON DAY is April 30th, but celebrations extend either side of Dia di Rincon.

The remaining activities are:

Monday, April 29
Simadan of schoolchildren 4-7pm
Party at community center 10pm

Tuesday, April 30
Holy mass at 8 am at the church
Big celebration of Rincon Day all day

Wednesday, May 1
Bicycle parade 4 pm
Farewell at community center 7 pm



A Wish Granted on Bonaire

Did you come to Bonaire, like I did, because the coral reefs beckoned? Almost all of us who have moved to Bonaire enjoy the surrounding ocean in some way. And if there's any doubt that the sea is also enjoyed by those who grew up here, I offer as evidence the use of our beaches over Easter weekend!

So it would be really, really nasty if you lived on Bonaire and loved to be in the ocean – but couldn't. I have a friend who is in this situation because she has frequent seizures. Many of us want to help her, but that's not enough: we needed to be able to keep her safe, and to keep her confident that she would be safe.

And then, I got an email that my friends Andrea and Butch were coming back to Bonaire.

The first time I met them on Bonaire, Butch Hendrick and Andrea Zaferes, the principals of Life Guard Systems (look up teamlgs.com), were teaching an advanced rescue/first aid-type course to Bonaire divemasters and instructors through Sand

Dollar Dive and Photo. The course was amazing and many of the students are still working in diving on Bonaire: Wilco at Habitat, Leonel of the BNMP, Pepe at Buddy Dive, Alvin at Divi and myself are just a few.

There are no people in the world (really, literally, the entire planet) better prepared to take Wanda into the water than Butch and Andrea. And Butch and Andrea were more than willing to give up their vacation time to help her. We began by meeting with Wanda and her husband Mark to plan the experience. When we were talking, Wanda had two seizures. Butch and Andrea watched carefully. Only later did I realize that they were thinking about how the specific movements of her seizures could be accommodated in the water.

Butch made the plan; the jobs of the rest of us were to do what he said. That included Wanda, Mark, myself, Andrea, and the two others Butch and Andrea brought, also on vacation: Jim Stelling and Barry Lipsky.

Soon we were all across from Cant 'i Awa. Wanda, wearing a wetsuit loaned to us by Captain Don's Habitat, walked into the water with one person on each side and the rest standing by. After she was comfortable with that, Wanda leaned back into the water with Butch holding her head and Jim and Barry on either side, the buoyancy of the wetsuit holding her up.

Then she had a seizure. Butch calmly held her head out of the water, Barry and Jim held onto the wetsuit sleeves to keep her steady, and we all waited for the seizure to work itself out. In time Wanda relaxed and floated again. Eventually she snorkeled with Butch, and then with Mark. She hadn't been able to be in the water like this for years. Then,

just when we were thinking it might be enough for the first time, Wanda had another seizure.

During all this Butch kept her head out of the water, supported her head, stayed calm, and talked with Wanda while assigning jobs to the rest of us. He turned us into a smoothly-running team while giving Wanda a longed-for experience, one that was enhanced for both she and Mark because they were confident with the knowledge, skill, and ability of their support team.

And for the support team? For me, the experience was amazing. I know others here would be interested in helping with such events, and so let's hope Butch and Andrea can come back to train us! *Dee Scarr*

Sea turtle dies as result of boat strike

On Easter Monday, April 22, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) received a call on the Hotline, reporting an injured sea turtle that had been hit by a boat. STCB staff examined the juvenile green turtle and concluded that the turtle had a propeller injury. The damage to the shell was too severe for the turtle to recover. The carapace was cracked and the intestines of the turtle protruded through the openings in the shell. The turtle died shortly after STCB was alerted.

STCB believes that the increase in the number of boats and personal watercraft on Bonaire has led to more boat collisions with sea turtles. In the last five years, STCB has dealt with at least one report each year of a sea turtle killed as a result of a boat strike. Although sea turtles have hard carapaces, they cannot withstand the strike of a boat or the cut of a propeller; these injuries are often fatal.

STCB urges boaters to adhere to Bonaire's boating regulations ('rules of the road') as taking simple measures can reduce the potential of boat collisions with marine life. Most importantly, all vessels are prohibited to take off at full speed until they are in dark blue water and have to navigate on the seaside of the mooring buoys. Greater vessel speed increases the

probability of collisions as sea turtles surface to breathe and often linger on the surface while breathing. The slower the rate of travel, the more likely a sea turtle will move out of harm's way.

The juvenile green turtle that died as a result of a boat strike was PIT tagged by STCB in March 2017 at Petrie's Pillar. The turtle weighed 2.4kg (5.29lb) at the time and its carapace measured 28.3cm (11.14in). Measurements taken on Easter Monday indicated that the turtle had gained 2.7kg (5.95lb) and grown 8.5cm (3.34in) in approximately two years.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is a non-governmental research and conservation organization that has been protecting sea turtles since 1991.

Kaj Schut, Communications & Fundraising Officer, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, 717-2225, cepa@bonaireturtles.org



Remembering Hans Hass Travelling back to Europe

On May 1940 the three friends, Alfred von Wurziem, Hans Hass and Joerg Boehler, left Curaçao and returned to Vienna by way of the United States, China and Russia.

In New York, Hans sold copies of his underwater photos to the famous "Black Star" Picture Agency, which supplied "Life Magazine" and "TIME." The Caribbean-expedition lasted a total of nine months. Hass vividly described his experiences on Bonaire shortly after his return in his book "UnterKorallen und Haien." It sparked considerable interest in the underwater world when it was published in 1941 and later translated into English, entitled "Diving to adventure," published in 1951.

Upon his return to Vienna, Hass began to study zoology. Among the coral reefs of the Caribbean he had realized what great opportunities awaited the researcher if he turns himself into a "fish among fish" beneath the ocean surface and, instead of relying on the haphazard discoveries of the trawl-net and the grab-bucket, works directly on the spot.

Hass realized as well that, in the true sense of the word, a new dimension was opening for the natural scientist. New animal and plant species were there to discover about whom nothing was known before the introduction of diving. As opposed to the aquarium, fish display their true behavior only among the coral reefs. In addition, the ocean contains the origin of all life, and seems the most suitable place to approach this phenomenon, which still fascinated Hass lifelong. *Story by Michael Jung*—To be continued: Hans, Hass plans other expeditions to the coral seas of the Southern Hemisphere.



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Cadushy Distillery embraces 'spirit' of Bonaire

you can give and most of the regular souvenirs are made in China or Indonesia with Bonaire stamped on it. They decided to make a really nice locally produced souvenir.

While learning more about the Kadushi cactus that they loved, they discovered the locals used it to make soup. Well, that was it!

"If you can make a soup out of it, then you can make other things," said Eric.

He spent three months at a distillery in Europe learning the basic skills of how to make alcoholic beverages.

Back in Bonaire they practiced a lot and tasted a lot and then discussed a lot. Over time and quite a bit of tweaking they came up with the recipe.

It's like riding a bicycle, you still aren't able to go to the 'Tour de France', you have to practice a little bit," said Eric.

That was in 2008 and it took a year and a half to get it right and in 2009 they presented the first bottle to Bonaire mayor Glenn Thode.

With that one product, the Gietmans founded Cadushy Distillery on April 16, 2009, 10 years ago.

The Gietmans harvest their own Kadushi cactus the traditional way.

"We always leave the cacti on the ground and as soon as it hits the ground it starts growing. That is a tradition and its been done that way for 100s of years," said Eric.

Cadushy currently employs 14 people in Bonaire and the Netherlands for production, sales and as hosts in the Cadushy Experience in Rincon. There are plans to sell the Cadushy Spirit line in Europe.

In two, five, 10 years, Eric hopes the Cadushy products will be found around the world and people will look at the bottle and see, "made in Bonaire". They will go online and find out where Bonaire is and maybe visit. He says this will be a whole new target group for Bonaire.

The couple believes very strongly in sociable entrepreneurship. They say it's good to make money and it's fun to make money, but it's even more fun if you can give something back to the community. From day one they had that in mind.

"We don't want to get rich from this business; it would be nice if it was a side effect, but that's not our main purpose," said Eric, "We want to add

something to Bonaire and especially Rincon."

Even before their move to Bonaire, Eric and Jola established the Bonaire Heritage Foundation. From their trips to Bonaire they thought nature was taken care of but the island heritage needed some help. After presenting their ideas to the government, they were told, great idea, but we can't help. The Gietmans decided to do it themselves and today a percentage of every sale at Cadushy goes to the Bonaire Heritage Foundation for good work on the island.

In addition, they support the youth in the Bonaire culinary team and Krioyo, the local music foundation. Other donations include support for Wild Bird Rehab, the animal shelter, classical music foundation, cultural groups for Dia di Rincon, reforestation on Klein Bonaire, local domino groups and the list continues to grow.

The Gietmans' island promotion song, "The Spirit of Bonaire", has little or nothing to do with booze, but everything to do with how special this island is and how they want to keep it that way, related Eric.

With two other entrepreneurs they put together an original music cd.

"We didn't really have a song to promote the island. It's a song about how special Bonaire is," said Eric.

Revenues of the hit-single go to the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF) that helps kids who have fewer opportunities than most.

Gietman stepped down in January 2019 as president of Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) after five years. He believes we have to downsize cruise tourism. The number of cruise visitors has to go down, but the revenue can increase. The number of visitors

continued on page 7



Eric and Jola Gietman

"I'm a cactus lover, yeah, I have something with cacti all my life," said Eric Gietman of Cadushy Distillery, (pointing to his wife, Jolande), "you do too. We love cacti!"

Eric and wife Jolande (Jola) are the creators and owners of Cadushy Distillery, in Rincon, Bonaire and the only place in the world that makes cactus liquor.

The Gietmans are not just about making liquor. They are all about promoting Bonaire and keeping the true spirit of the island alive.

Originally from the Netherlands, Eric brought his new wife Jola on their honeymoon in 1997 after she told him, now that we are married you are taking me to the Caribbean.

Eric had been here before, but as a couple, they immediately fell in love with the island before they even got off the stairs of the plane at the airport.

"There was a feeling in the atmosphere, something different about this island. It is difficult to describe, I call it the 'spirit of Bonaire'," said Eric, "It is so intangible but it is here. Anyone who feels it, sees it, knows what we mean, and others are like, duh, what is that?"

In 1997, after many trips to Bonaire, they decided to dive in and make a permanent move to the island and start a business. For the last 10 years they had brainstormed about what they could do for work. Then they had what Eric called their 'Eureka!' moment. As tourists on the island they knew how difficult it was to find the perfect souvenir. There are only so many t-shirts and bags of salt



Cadushy garden is a great place for guests to relax and enjoy a cool beverage and the many birds that visit throughout the day.

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would be lower but Bonaire would attract the right kind of visitors.

Cadushy has its own certification program for the cruise ship tour bus drivers.

“With the training, they know what they can expect from us and what we expect from them.” Eric said.

The Gietmans think this plan would work for the island too. This is also in the strategic tourism plan made up by TCB, BONHATA and the island government. They hope the new government will embrace the plan and the island council will adopt it.

“When we implement the plan for the island, we will have less visitors and more revenue,” said Geitman.

One of the many things that Eric and Jola love about Bonaire is that you can walk up to any Bonairean on the street and have a chat. The locals are proud of their island and they want to help the tourists and visitors who come.

“This is why mass tourism is not good. How can you have a chat with mass tourists if you have to meet them one at a time?”

The Gietmans say, what we really do is island promotion. They believe supporting the community is a lot of fun. They love Rincon and want the locals to know that they aren't here for just the tourists but also the locals.



Bring your birding book to navigate the many birds that frequent the garden including bananaquits, loras, parakeets, hummingbirds and more.

“Everyone is welcome to walk in. We encourage people here to visit. We just want people to enjoy what we have to offer. There is no entrance fee; just bring your good mood,” said Eric.

Cadushy will be open regular hours 10am – 5pm on Rincon Day.

They don't have to buy anything, we just want people to enjoy what we have to offer,” said Eric. “There is a lot of history here.” *J.M. story & photos*



Fundashon Balornan Bonairiano
Bonaire Heritage Foundation

Simonis excels in Carifta chess games

Out of 64 competitors, 11year old Frederic Simonis placed second in the Carifta Junior Chess Championships, U12 Open division, in Curaçao, April 18-23.

Frederic attends Lisea Bonaireano in Bonaire. He is a member of the BJSC (Bonaire Jeugd Schaak Club) with Coach Serapio Pop.

Frederic was invited to compete on the team for Curaçao in the Carifta Games, where he trained with Jimmy Izijk.

During the competition, Frederic won six of seven games lasting up to three hours each. He has achieved a FIDE rating of 1300.

In addition to his training with Coaches Pop and Izijk, he trains regularly on the internet. Frederic is hoping to participate in the Pan American Youth Chess Championships in Guayaquil, Ecuador in July.

The Carifta games in Curaçao included chess players from Bermuda Trinidad/Tobago, Aruba, Barbados, Bahamas, Antigua/Barbuda, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, U.S. Virgin Islands and Curaçao.



Frederic Simonis at Carifta Games

The BJSC is very proud of Frederic and his achievements. They hope he will inspire more kids to participate in international tournaments.

Frederic is the son of Piet and Teresa Simonis. *Charles Lont*

Kaile Finies, senior fine art student at the University of Louisiana in Monroe, Louisiana, is completing 20 different works of art with the subject of flamingos. The flamingo art will be sold in an online auction to assist Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab in caring for the baby and juvenile flamingos at risk. Each acrylic piece is 18 x 24 inches. Bids for the flamingo art will start at \$150. Examples of the art are posted on the Wild Bird Rehab Facebook page. Kaile is the daughter of Elisabeth Vos and James Finies.



Thanks for caring for our flamingos



For the past week, Elly Alber's Wild Bird Rehabilitation has been in danger of running out of food to feed the 100 plus baby and juvenile flamingos. Then yesterday Wild Bird Rehab friends, Captain Yuri of the *Fishtales* from Bonaire Big Game fishing and Jan Lokhorst saved the day. They made a five-hour trip by boat to Curaçao to pick up the last six large bags of food pellets available.

Even more food is on the way, thanks to Stichting Dierenlot in Holland. Once they heard about the lack of food they purchased 20 bags of the flamingo pellets and then arranged to fly them to Bonaire.

Elly and her volunteers use one of the large bags of flamingo food pellets per day to feed the young birds. The crisis isn't over yet. Please contribute if you can to Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab either in person, or go to the GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-the-flamingo039s-on-bonaire>. *J.M.*

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Granddaughters Jourday-ann and J'Nephtery with their grandmother Jovianka Bernabela, owner of Posada Para Mira

With a 360° view of the beautiful Rincon valley and hills, Posada para Mira (loosely translated as, "relax and enjoy the view") delivers everything it says in its name. The restaurant features local Bonairean food and is owned, run and was built by a local herself, Jovianka Bernabela and her family.

The massive open-air building sits atop a hill on over 2000+ acres on the edge of Rincon providing guests with a million dollar view while they dine and have a nice drink.

Jovianka worked for a bank for 25

years. In the evenings she would bake cakes to help relieve the stress of the day. When the last of her three children left the island for school she decided she was tired of banking.

"I was at the bank and I said this is not for me, too much stress, but I had no idea what to do," said Jovianka, "The kids aren't here, I don't have a mortgage and I like baking and then I decided."

On a vacation trip to Brazil she was inspired with the palapas there so she bought one and had it shipped to Bonaire and stored it in a container.

Jovianka said, "I had all this land from my papa, so everyday we came and cleared the dense forest on the land that overlooked Rincon.

She had a concrete floor poured for the building just in time to throw a big party for her birthday.

Once the building was finished and the Brazilian palapa roof was installed they began having parties. She didn't rent the chairs, tableware, tablecloths or cooking equipment, she bought them.

"So when we opened I didn't have to buy anything, I had everything for the restaurant. It was something that I just did without knowing," said Jovianka.

We began with 100 seats and place settings and then I bought more," said Jovianka.

Posada opened nine years ago April 29, the day before Dia di Rincon. Jovianka said it wasn't easy with all the government stuff to open on that day but she wanted to be open before Dia di Rincon and she did.

Jovianka still has parties. People come for birthdays and anniversaries. On New Years she had a party for 950 people.

Jovianka would like to focus more on being a restaurant than a party place. The restaurant seats 350 people.

She learned to cook from her mother and the menu reflects that. Guests will find local dishes of goat, iguana, salted fish

and vegetarian items like rice with beans, plantain and black-eyed beans and rice. Everything is fresh down to the herbs used for seasoning. All the food on the menu is local except for a hamburger and hot dogs for kids.

One of the specialties is sorghum pancakes made from special sorghum flour grown in Rincon.

Last Thursday, Posada had their first ever, traditional, local buffet from 6pm - 10pm with the band Tutti Frutti. The buffets will be held on the last Thursday of every month as a regular event.

Posada is a true family restaurant. It was constructed by family and all three children work in the restaurant in some capacity. Everyone lends a hand: Julianka, director at Echo works part time, as do her sons, Jurna and Juliandrick and even the grand daughters, Jourday-ann age four and J'Nephtery age five.

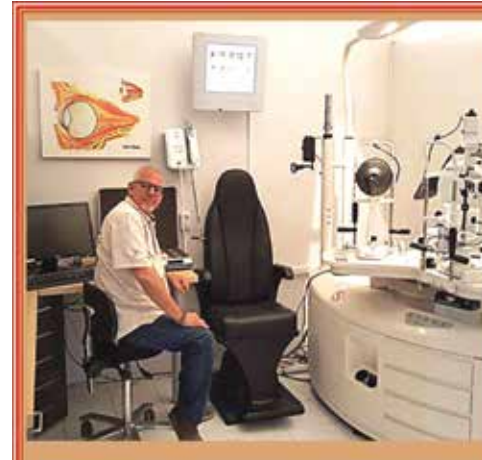
To celebrate the 10th anniversary, Posada will be adding a lodge on the side of the hill that overlooks the valley. Jovianka said the construction should begin soon and will be finished by Dia di Rincon 2020.

For more information about Posada para Mira visit their website: posadaparamira@live.nl or call 717-2199/701-7060. Facebook: Posada Para Mira.



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Wanika develops educational games with Bonaire themes



Vanessa Peralta and Fernando Nava, otherwise known as Wanika, create board games. They are currently developing their second one and the first one, Kimeria, should be available in stores in June.

Kimeria is based on the faraway planet of Kimeria that was so polluted all the animals died. The Kimerians went in search of a place to recreate the animals and that place was Bonaire. Their creations are a combination of several types of animals. Whoever is playing the game learns to identify the composite critters and some interesting facts about them. The game is for kids five and up.

With Kimeria close to release, Wanika is in the final stages of developing an educational game based on the oldest town in the Dutch Caribbean, Rincon.

“Rincon ta On” is a bi-lingual English/Papiamentu game that is entertaining, educational and competitive. Players drive, hike, bike and dive on their journeys around the board game discovering what makes Rincon such a special and unique place. There are 30 locations or places in Rincon that are featured in the game.

Players roll the dice and proceed along

their path but there are pitfalls involved with scary ghosts and over ambitious players can impede the other players journey along the way.

Recognizable local sponsors are featured in the actual game cards and they actively help the players achieve their destinations on the board to be the winner.

“It’s a fun way for people to learn about the area. We believe it helps people feel more proud of their heritage”, said Fernando.

The couple did a lot of research talking to the people of Rincon, visiting Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei and Washington Park.

Vanessa and Fernando, originally from Venezuela, said they created the game because, as immigrants and parents, we wanted our daughters to learn about the cultural richness and natural beauty of Rincon.

Both games have been created with education and fun in mind. They are kid tested by Wanika’s daughters Agata, age nine and Amanda age seven. *Story and photos by Julie Morgan.*



Bonaire Coastal Living

Correction: The owners of Bonaire Coastal Living are L.-Suzette (Su) Stapleton and R.-Beatriz (Bea) Toth. Bea owned and ran the Rumba Café for seven years. Their business, Bonaire Coastal Living, is located off a side street of Kaya Nikiboko Zuid.

We apologize for these errors to Su and Bea and to our Reporter readers.

Reef Glimpses



The Story of Meg

This is the only creature I’ve ever touched before I set eyes on it. I was guiding under the Pier and we were on our way back to shore, when I saw a dip in the sand bottom. Other dips have concealed heart urchins, moon snails, and even razorfish, so I wriggled my hand into the dip, and touched something ... squishy. Definitely not an urchin, and it didn’t move enough to be a fish. I didn’t feel any shell, so it wasn’t a snail or a crab. I fanned the sand away and saw what looked like a scrunched-up anemone – but like no anemone I’d ever seen before -- with a large, smooth base, like the foot of an anemone. We had to leave, so I fanned the sand back into place and made sure I could find the dip again.

I dubbed the critter “Megapod” (“big foot”), called it Meg, and began trying to find out what the heck it was. Since it was under the sand in the daytime, I figured it would be active at night, and that was correct. I was wrong about Meg not being a mollusk, though; I finally found out Meg is an Umbrella slug, *Umbraculum umbraculum*. And although I didn’t touch a shell on our first meeting, Meg does have a shell. It rests on the top (dorsal side) of her* body, it’s much smaller than her foot, it’s covered with algae, and it’s so flat that it’s barely visible in the photo.

Meg’s main food on Bonaire’s reefs is the Lumpy Overgrowing Sponge, *Desmapsamma anchorata* (the editor of

The Reporter called it the “bubble gum” sponge and I knew instantly what she meant); at night Meg climbs onto a bubble gum sponge and begins to munch. By morning she’s underneath the sand again, the only clues to her existence being the munched sponge, the dip in the sand, and, in the dip, a few corn-kernel-sized clumps of red poop, which is what comes out of Meg after the bubble gum sponge goes in.

So: In the daytime Meg’s out of sight under the sand. At night she looks like a sponge. Since most sponges are distasteful if not actually poisonous to other marine animals (Umbrella slugs and angelfish being outstanding exceptions), an animal who looks like a sponge is likely to be left alone. Finally, since you are what you eat, some of what makes sponges unpalatable is likely to become part of the Umbrella slug’s tissue; any predator who tastes Meg does not want more of Meg.

Clearly, Meg doesn’t need the protection of a shell. She’s an evolutionary example of “use it or lose it” – or, as biologist Terry Kardos explained to me, “Meg is a snail on her way to becoming a nudibranch.”

*I use the female pronoun because “Meg” is a girl’s name. *Dee Scarr*



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A Garden? Just Do It!

Watch Out!

Years ago I had a holiday in Montego Bay in Jamaica. It is a beautiful place, with great nature and interesting cultural things to do. I enjoyed myself eating a lot of fruit and delicious food like ackee with codfish.

One day I was taking an unusual road home through a valley. Along the lane were trees with attractive nicely colored fruit. Of course these trees immediately caught my attention. Because the fruit was hanging so low I could easily break off a few and I tried one. Wow, this was an awful taste and bitter as hell. I spit it out immediately and rinsed my mouth with water. Once back at the hostel, I asked what this fruit was. The owner looked at me very seriously and said to never eat this fruit directly from the tree because it is very poisonous. He explained how dangerous it is and how it is used in Jamaica. I understood that I had escaped death with this experience and I knew I would never taste an unknown fruit again.

So I was surprised when a friend on Bonaire sent me a picture of ackee fruit and asked me if he can use it. I was in shock and answered NO. He told me that he sees a lot of the ackee in Bona Vista area and the trees are full of it. Now it was my turn to explain to him how dangerous this fruit is. Because so few people are familiar with the ackee, I find it important to tell you why you have to stay away from it unless you know how to prepare it.

The ackee fruit

Ackee, also known as achee, ackee apple or ayee (*Blighia sapida*), is of the lychee and longan family and is originally from the West Coast of Africa. It grows easily in the tropics. The ackee was introduced to Jamaica, spread throughout the Caribbean and is now in Bonaire. It's an evergreen tree with pear-shaped fruit. When the fruit ripens, it turns from green to bright red to yellow-orange, and splits open to reveal three large, shiny black seeds. Each seed is partially surrounded by soft



The ackee fruit--watch out!

yellow flesh or hard and cream-colored flesh (the aril). There are two types of this fruit. Jamaicans call them "butter" and "cheese." The Ackee saltfish dish is the national dish and the achee is the national fruit for Jamaica.

Preparing the ackee

Ackee pods can only be used when they are totally ripe before picking. Clean and wash the arils (the extra seed-covering) and then boil them for about five minutes. Look for recipes on the internet for canned ackee when fresh isn't available. The dried seeds, fruit, bark and leaves are used in medicine.

Beware the poisons

Ackee fruit has poisonous effects. Unripe or inedible portions of the fruit contain toxin - hypoglycin A and hypoglycin B. Hypoglycin A is found in both the seeds and aril, while hypoglycin B is found only in the seeds. These both are very toxic when the fruit is unripe. If improperly eaten, ackee can cause what has been dubbed as the Jamaican Vomiting Sickness which can lead to coma or death.

So once again, the only edible portion is the yellow arilli that surrounds the always toxic black seeds. This fruit belongs to the ten most dangerous fruits of the world. Keep an eye on children with this tree in the neighborhood!!! Just do that ALWAYS.

Angliet.Nature lover.



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 8.

The Client-Board

When life and circumstances force you into a position where you have to depend on other people, in every sense of the way, you lose your independence. You were once able to make your own decisions and now they are taken away. That is a bad thing especially if you are of a sound mind.

This is almost always the case when elderly people get placed in a facility. When they cannot live by themselves anymore and are too old to be alone in the house, then placement in a home seems to be the only decision. Suddenly, their independence is gone. As soon as they step in the door every decision is made for them; they are not consulted or asked.

Setting up a "client-board" is a perfect solution. A client-board functions as an advisory board. It consists of a group of clients/inhabitants of that particular organization who have know-how. They stand for the rights of the inhabitants with a common interest.

In every decision the management makes, they must consider the recommendations of the client-board.

Sometimes a family-member can be asked to be a member of the client-board. All this must be established in the regulations.

The client-board has lawful rights:

Rights to information, rights to deliberation and the right to advise. The client-board has rights to a meeting place, access to a computer/copier and a budget.

The Dutch law states that every institution that offers care: patient-care, social care or care for addiction, MUST have a client-board in place.

This includes our Kas di Kuido (Fundashon Mariadal Nursing Home) and the FKPD (Foundation for Care of People with Disability).

Every client has a right to an opinion and needs to be heard. After all... it is their life.

When there are elderly and people with mental retardation who are alone, with no one responsible for them, the family court can be approached and a mentor can be appointed. Staff-members can never be mentors because their relationship to the client is work-related. This is also stated by law.



The organization Humanitas is known for their expertise in these cases. They offer courses for people who are interested in becoming mentors. Once they are appointed by the family or judge as a mentor, they can offer guidance and supervision.

Client-boards and mentorship have not been known or used on Bonaire. They are however, in the best interest of the elderly and retarded populations and should be organized and offered.

We have a new commissioner, Nina den Heyer, Deputy of Society and Care, who has a big heart especially for this part of our population. It would be wonderful if she would pick up these special projects and make them a priority. After all, what does "having rights to" mean if they are not practiced.

It would be so wonderful to have this in working order by December 3, The International Day of Persons with Disabilities! Now, THAT would be an awesome achievement.

Yours truly will be glad to offer expertise. *Ria Evers-Dokter*



Easter Egg Hunt



Washington Slagbaai Park / Stinapa welcomed over 100 kids for their first ever Easter Egg Hunt on April 22. The hunt for the 300 eggs was divided into two areas for older and younger children. The kids could decorate their own eggs, have their faces painted by a Junior Ranger and get a hug from the Easter bunny. Snacks and drinks were served to the hunters



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Echo announces new projects



DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know... There is a new potential threat to Bonaire's coral reefs?



ECHO announced their new reforestation project MyBonaireTree.org with a ceremonial tree planting at Courtyard Marriott Bonaire. L-Echo volunteer Danique Trenidad and R-Julianka Clarendra. photo J.M.

MyBonaireTree.org is a new program launched by Echo Bonaire inviting everyone to become more involved in the reforestation project on Bonaire. In the last few years the project has planted more than 13,000 trees to increase natural habitat and food for the Yellow-shouldered amazon parrot (Lora).

Years ago Bonaire's landscape was a rich dry forest but has been degraded by man's presence through clearing of the land, construction, and the introduction of donkeys, goats and pigs. Echo is working to restore the dry forest habitat and they need your help. By adopting one or more of the 54 native trees through a symbolic adoption the habitat can be rebuilt.

There is no set price for adopting a tree. Any amount from \$5 to \$500 will help keep the plants watered and maintained and help build reforestation extrusion areas. Anyone contributing \$500 receives a certificate and an update on how the trees are doing.

Name a national tree

In addition, Echo is engaging the schools in a campaign to name a national tree for Bonaire. In May, Echo will be visiting the schools to involve the kids in

the selection of 20 trees in a democratic voting campaign on June 22. From the 20, seven tree candidates will be selected. On August 22, Bonaire will be able to vote online at MyBonaireTree.com to select the national tree.

T-shirts are available

To proudly wear your support for Echo, 100% biodegradable t-shirts are available at Carib Inn and Dive Friends.

Supporting Echo and the reforestation program ensures Bonaire's biodiversity and the overall well being of the animals.

Echo is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot on Bonaire. For more information visit Echo-Bonaire.org and to learn more about reforestation visit MyBonaireTree.org.



Brain coral in the Florida Keys affected by Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. Photo Dr. Bob Steneck.

Compared to the wider Caribbean, Bonaire has some of the best reefs around; our reefs have more coral, more fish, and less algae than many reefs in the area. While some of our corals do occasionally bleach or get diseases, they are faring better than other corals in the Caribbean. Unfortunately, there is a new disease making the rounds in the Caribbean that seems to be spreading really quickly! Not only is this disease deadly to corals, there is very little that can be done to stop its spread. This worrying disease is called Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) was first documented in the Florida Keys in 2014. Since then, the disease has spread into the Caribbean. Corals impacted by SCTLD have been seen in, among other places, Mexico, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and more recently, St. Maarten. Because the disease spreads through the water it can spread very fast and may spread very far. If SCTLD continues to spread the way it has been so far, it could be only a matter of time before it hits our reefs.

Once a coral has been infected by SCTLD, the coral tissue, the part that gives corals their pretty colors, comes loose from the coral skeleton in patches and the coral dies. The exact cause of this disease is still unknown. Scientists suspect bacterial infection to be at the root of it. Usually coral diseases will affect only certain corals, but SCTLD seems to be able to affect many different types of hard corals. SCTLD is also very deadly: if 10 corals get infected, eight of them will die! Another thing that makes this disease so dangerous is how long the outbreak in Florida has lasted. Most other coral disease outbreaks we know of last about a year, but the SCTLD outbreak in Florida has been going on for five years!

Because SCTLD is so deadly and has lasted for so long, it has had a huge impact on the coral reefs in the Florida Keys. Where before there were living corals, the reef is now covered with dead coral skeletons. Obviously this is not an outcome we want for Bonaire, so what can we do to help? If you have been diving on reefs with this disease, it is recommended to clean your gear very well by washing it with plenty of fresh water. Some agencies recommend sanitizing gear with a 5% bleach solution to minimize the risk of spreading this disease from infected reefs to non-infected reefs. We also need to make sure our corals are as healthy as they can be. Healthy corals stand a better chance against SCTLD than corals that are already sick or weak. This means making sure our waters are clean, minimizing accidental contact with the reef, using reef-safe sunscreen, etc.. If you do see a coral that seems to be infected by SCTLD please, if you can, take a picture and report it to STINAPA with the date and location. We all need to work together to protect our reefs. *Written by Roxanne Liana Francisca, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature.*

Happy Mother's Day

May 12, 2019

What's Happening

Monday April 29	Rincon Simadan of schoolchildren 4 to 7 pm Party at community center 10 pm
Tuesday, April 30	Rincon Day The whole island comes to Rincon to celebrate the oldest town of the Dutch Caribbean. Enjoy a whole day of local food, music, dances and the grand parade Holy mass at 8 am at the church.
Wednesday, May 1	Labor Day Holiday Rincon Bicycle parade 4 pm; farewell at community center 7 pm Harvest Simadan Festival @ Kralendijk marks the harvest of Bonaire's growing season (March/April).
Saturday, May 4	Global Big Day Join the world-wide bird count. Info: https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-4-may-2019 . Mashe Rincon Krioyo Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month
Thursday, May 9	Washington Park Celebrates 50 years 8am-5pm
Friday, May 10	Music Festival 8pm Benefit Concert, Quintet Curaçao with Chaira Borderslee; Mondriaan Hall Court Yard Marriott. See page 5.
Saturday, May 11	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Boca Onima 8am-10am Music Festival 7pm Wilhemina Park, BilBoBasso, spectacular fire dances from France, Quintet Curaçao, Tuttie Fruttie, both with Chaira Borderslee See page 5
Sunday, May 12	Mother's Day
Saturday, May 25	Mashe Rincon Krioyo Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations and an exhibition about 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.
Sunday, May 26	Animal Shelter Bonaire celebrates the 10th anniversary of the launching of our free sterilization campaign.
Thursday, May 30	Ascension Day Legal Holiday

REGULAR EVENTS

'Sea Turtles of Bonaire' is a free public presentation about Bonaire's endangered sea turtles—topics such as where to see sea turtles, how they live, what they eat, how they reproduce and how you can help! Where: Yellow Sub, Dive Friends Bonaire (on the front porch) 8:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours—\$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Soldachi Tours. See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for information of events for the rest of 2019: stinapabonaire.org/events, Tel. 717-8444

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

Echo. See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 5pm \$10 per person. 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

Come celebrate with us 10 years of music 80 concerts & school concerts

Friday May 10. Attend a benefit concert in the Marriott courtyard, proceeds to go to the Fundashon Hofi Kultural.

Listen to Chaira Borderslee, the famous musical star, perform musical arrangements specially composed for Bonaire. Enjoy the Curaçao Kwintet playing Haendel, Mozart, Donizetti, Schumann, Gardel, and classical Antillean music from Palm and Statius Muller.

Saturday May 10. Come to a free concert in Wilhelmina park. Enjoy popular classic, Antillean classic and Krioyo music. There will be 200 seats in front of the Dome with room for many hundreds more! The acoustics will be splendid!

classicalmusicbonaire.com

10 year Classical Music Board Bonaire

Friday 10 may
20.00 hrs benefit concert
Courtyard Marriott
Kwintet Curaçao
Chaira Borderslee

Tickets at Addo's bookstore or through the website. Ticket \$45. Refreshments are included

Saturday 11 may
19.00-22.30 uur Wilhelminapark
Kwintet Curaçao
Chaira Borderslee
Agrupashon Tutti Frutti

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Hofi Kultural, ROCARGO Services N.V., Bonaire Beach Resort Bonaire, Bellafonte, THE REPORTER, MCB, FxDC, Bonaire Dive Resort

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	4-30	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur

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 Sabena 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 church.) Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

• **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. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 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. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*—Free

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thurs.- Sun. Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 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

continued on page 13



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it—just look up

THE SUPER SPRING TRIANGLE

It's the middle of spring and three bright stars are taking center stage. It's called the spring triangle and it's huge! Covering one-sixth of the sky, the spring triangle incorporates three ancient constellations. There's a lion, a herdsman, and a maiden up there.

It's really tough to see a lion, a herdsman, and a maiden in those stars. But even though if you don't have the required imagination...the three stars are easy to find. We're facing southeast at 10pm any night this week. We have the super-wide-angle view on, since the spring triangle is huge. If you live in a city, the three stars in the spring triangle might be all you can see.

We'll start with the star on the far right. That's Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation of Leo the lion. You usually start seeing Regulus early in the spring and it shines with a blue-white light. The star farthest to the left, and the brightest of the trio is Arcturus. Arcturus is the brightest star in the herdsman named Bootes. If you look carefully, you'll notice that Arcturus is quite orange - a very different color than Regulus. And the third star in the spring triangle is Spica, the brightest star in Virgo the Maiden. Spica is the dimmest of the three and the bluest too.

Let's compare the three stars in the spring triangle to our sun. The sun is about 865,000 miles in diameter and lies about 93 million miles away. That's the distance light travels in 8 minutes. So we'd say that the sun is 8 light minutes away. The sun is dinky compared to the three spring triangle stars. Regulus, for example, is three times the diameter of the sun, shines 288 times brighter and is 79 light years away. So instead of 93 million miles, Regulus more than 460 trillion miles away. Spica is even bigger at 7.5 times the diameter of our sun, shines twenty-two hundred times brighter and lies 250 light years away. That's equal

to about 1.5 quadrillion miles! And that leaves Arcturus. It is by far the largest of these stars at 25 times the sun's diameter. Since it is an orange star, it's not as hot as the others. So while it still shines 170 times brighter than our sun, it doesn't give off nearly as much energy as the hotter Regulus and Spica. Arcturus is the closest of the three spring triangle stars at around 37 light years. But that's still like 217 trillion miles.

We're zoomed in on Regulus and its constellation Leo. When I connect the dots on the main stars, I guess I can see a lion sitting with his front paws stretched out. Well, it's certainly easier to imagine than a herdsman or a maiden. The lion has a backward question mark for a head above Regulus, and a triangle for a tail. And this is supposed to be the Nemean lion that was killed by Hercules.

Now we're looking at the star Arcturus and its constellation of Bootes. It's almost impossible to see a herdsman in these stars at all. Instead, look for stars that make a kite-shape or an ice cream cone. Then, down and to the right of Bootes, you can find Spica and the stars of Virgo the Maiden. She is often depicted as a goddess lying on her side holding a piece of wheat, the star Spica. If you can see a herdsman and a maiden in these stars, congratulations, you have an ancient greek imagination!

So there you have it, the three brightest stars in the spring sky making a humongous triangle covering 1/6 of the heavens. Regulus, Arcturus, and Spica. And although you may have trouble seeing Leo the Lion around Regulus...Bootes the Herdman around Arcturus...Or Virgo the Maiden around Spica, you can appreciate these three celestial beacons for what they are: fascinating and far-flung stars. It's all there when you...

Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury; <http://www.stargazersonline.org/episodes.html>*

What's Happening, continued from page 13

• **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of WWII American soldiers' camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

• **Yana's Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call:599 785-5002. Free entry. Also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open all cruiseship days, 9am-3pm. Free.



THE STARS HAVE IT

Horoscope May 2019

Aries (Mar.21-Apr.20) Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. Try to be patient with their inability to accept your new beliefs. This will not be the best day to sign deals or to take care of other people's financial matters. Children may be less than honest with you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20) You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. Advancement can be yours if you are assertive in your approach. You need an outlet that will help take your mind off any troubles at work. Over spending or unexpected bills could set you back. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

Gemini (May 21-Jun.21) Past partners are likely to reappear. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Things are looking up. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

Cancer (Jun.22-Jul.22) Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Make the necessary changes that will enable you to advance financially. This is not the best time to take a risk, to gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

Leo (Jul.23-Aug.22) Be sure to sidestep those who are eccentric or unpredictable. Friends and relatives can give you good advice. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Luckiest events this month occur on Thursday.

Virgo (Aug.23-Sept.23) New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. You may have difficulties while traveling or prob-

lems dealing with close friends or relatives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Libra (Sept.24-Oct.23) Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position. Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about pressing personal problems. Try to be as mellow as possible. Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You'll need to exercise control. Jealousy may be a contributing factor to your emotional ups and downs. Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. Don't be shy to promote your own interests. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.21) Don't be afraid to say what's on your mind. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities this month. Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19) Property investments will be lucrative; however, upsets with family members may be likely. Take a close look at contracts and agreements that have been offered to you. You may need a good friend to lean on. Relationships will be emotional this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18) Get motivated and follow up on some self-improvement resolutions. Try to be understanding. Don't bend to the pressure. Get out and rub shoulders with people in high positions if possible. Your luckiest events this month occur on a Sunday.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20) You may make someone else look bad. You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. You may have ignored or neglected your mate lately. You may become rundown if you take on too much. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

Michael Thiessen Astrology Insight



Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Around Rincon



Chici Tan Museum is located in a historic home that is over 100 years old. The museum features local art, history and is landscaped with the perfect example of the cactus fence.

Shelter News

Reggie, Pet of the Week



Hello everyone. My name is Reginald but everyone calls me Reggie. My owners left the island and were not able to take me with them so now I am living here at the Animal Shelter. The humans here say I am beautiful but I prefer to be called handsome. I think they say "beautiful" because it looks like I have eye-liner on but I really don't. I have long hair and my ears make me look somewhat like a bobcat. I just like to lay around, eat, and get lots of petting. Although they take very good care of me here, I would really like to be in a home with a nice family. You see, I am pretty laid back. I'm very friendly and don't mind other cats. Will you be my fur-ever family?

Please come and visit me at the Animal Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26A, Monday till Friday from 9am till 12pm and 3-5pm and Saturday from 9am till 3pm non-stop. Call for me at Bonaire Animal Shelter 701-4989 or 717-4989. *Story and photos by Laurie Smith*



- **The drop-off cage is temporarily locked.** Animal Shelter Bonaire has taken in 188 surrendered or abandoned dogs/puppies and cats/kittens since January 1 of this year. As a result of this overwhelming influx, the drop off cage (Kouchi pa Bestia) at the rear gate of the shelter is locked until the recent arrivals have cleared the quarantine process area and are placed in the appropriate residential kennels. This does NOT mean we cannot take animals at all. If you or someone you know needs to surrender an animal or finds an animal, please call the shelter at 717-4989/701-4989 and we will make an appointment for you to bring in the animal(s). We will try to accommodate you as quickly as possible.

- **Weekend Warrior Wanted!** The Shelter is still looking for someone to fill the paid weekend position of Animal Care Giver 1. This is a great opportunity to make some extra cash on the weekends and enjoy the unconditional love of our residents. For details see accompanying help wanted ad on this page.

- **Cleaning kennels not your "thing"?** Want to volunteer for the Shelter but cleaning kennels is not your "thing"? We have plenty of other projects that need your help and can be done on a less "scheduled" basis. The Shelter needs someone to do occasional "garden maintenance": trimming trees, cutting grass, etc. We can make arrangements for you to help once a month anytime between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Or maybe you fancy yourself as a "bibliophile" (book lover)? The Shelter/Pakus di Pruga is in need of people to help sort the hundreds of book donations we receive on a regular basis. Project involves sorting the books by language, genre, etc. This project can also be scheduled at your availability. If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please call us at 701-4989 or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

- **SAVE THE DATE! May 26!** On May 26th, Animal Shelter Bonaire celebrates the 10th anniversary of the launching of our free sterilization campaign. In 2009, "Bonny the Super Dog" donned his cape and began educating Bonaire residents about the need to sterilize their companion animals...at no cost to the owners. Over the last 10 years, the Shelter has sponsored over 4,500 sterilizations! The anniversary celebration will feature a book fair/flea market, beer and soft drinks, raffle, and lots of other fun things. Mark the date Sunday, May 26 on your calendar. More details coming soon!!



Rincon school teacher, Mrs. Emma Pourier, was inspired to duplicate the Lourdes Grotto in Rincon following a visit to Lourdes, France. It is used for outdoor worship and open to everyone to come for meditation.



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JOIN OUR GANG!



WEEKEND WARRIOR WANTED!

Do you love animals? Not afraid of hard work? Need extra cash? Animal Shelter Bonaire needs you for a weekend position:

Animal Care Giver/Level 1

10 hours per week, Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. \$6.25 per hour
Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Bonaire sedula
- Clear conduct record
- Good people skills
- Speak and read basic English (Papiamentu a plus)

If you are interested please email your CV (resume) to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com for an interview appointment

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