

FREE

BONAIRE

May 27 - June 10, 2019, Year 26, Issue 11

# The REPORTER



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## Remembering Hugo Gerharts Celebrating Captain Don Day Flamingo Update

**Animal lovers Peter, Willem, Siggy and Harry of Scuba Bikers Bonaire make a hefty donation to Jane Disko of Animal Shelter Bonaire.**

### Let's celebrate us!

*"We are the earth's caretakers...we take care of it and all the things on it. And when we're done with it, it should be left better than we found it," Katherine Hannigan*

Let's celebrate Bonaire, and those amongst us who are its caretakers. Let's celebrate those who work for nature, for the birds and animals of the island, and for the sea that surrounds us.

If you like your nature warm and cuddly, come to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The shelter is a refuge for cats and dogs. Some have been left at the shelter because their owners could no longer care for them. Some have been abandoned.

This past weekend the shelter celebrated its 10th anniversary of providing free sterilization for ALL dogs and cats on the island. The shelter made a real party of it with a book fair, flea market, an hourly raffle, beer and soft drinks and lots of other fun things.

The Scuba Bikers Bonaire made a healthy donation during the event.

A Diving and Riding club, rather than a motorcycle club, the scuba bikers support a variety of projects. They help educational associations and those who work with people with disabilities, and of course, they help the animal shelter.

The shelter dogs and cats survive on such donations, and on the proceeds from the shelter's permanent weekly flea market at Pakus di Pruga. [www.animalshelterbonaire.com](http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com)

If you like your nature wild and free, you can join the Bonaireans who protect the environment and the creatures who live in it.

In the last few months Bonaire's national symbol, the flamingo, has been in danger.

Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab has been rescuing the baby and juvenile flamingos that have wandered away from their protected habitat. Assistance with food and caring for the 180 plus baby and juvenile birds rescued is still needed. See page 7. [www.mangrovecenter.com/bonaire-wild-bird-rehab/](http://www.mangrovecenter.com/bonaire-wild-bird-rehab/)

The endangered Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot is another iconic symbol of Bonaire. Echo Bonaire is committed to conserving the parrot and its habitat through reforestation. For the last few years they have worked to restore the dry forest habitat for this beautiful bird. [www.EchoBonaire.org/](http://www.EchoBonaire.org/)

Bonaire's free roaming wild donkeys are a part of Bonaire's history. Their existence to remain free and wild is threatened. Please contact [bdplf@hotmail.com](mailto:bdplf@hotmail.com) or on Facebook Bonaire donkey protection league.

Everyone loves turtles and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STBC) works on a daily basis to ensure that Bonaire's sea turtles have a secure future. Turtle nesting season is from May through December but turtles live on Bonaire year round. [www.Bonaireturtles.org](http://www.Bonaireturtles.org) Story and photo, JM





# FLOTSAM and JETSAM

**Paul Blokhuis reserves 1.5 million euro yearly for a healthier Caribbean Netherlands.** State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport, Paul Blokhuis, signed a *Caribbean Netherlands Sport and Prevention Agreement* on St. Eustatius May 14, 2019 and on Bonaire May 15. For Saba, the agreement is contained in a broader Saba package arranged through the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The agreement works under the belief “prevention is better than cure.” The agreement covers: obesity, alcohol abuse, smoking and drug use, sport and exercise, sexual health. It strengthens the organizational structure for sport and prevention. It is drafted to encourage active children and adults, not forgetting the elderly.

#### Importance of local context.

Blokhuis: “Everywhere in the Kingdom, we want to make it easier for people to make healthy choices. But, it is important that we look at local conditions. So smoking here less of an issue, but being overweight all the more. Half of Caribbean Netherlands exercise insufficiently. Among children, this problem is even

greater. This has everything to do with the availability and accessibility of facilities on the Islands. And the solution lies sometimes in very small things, like good lighting on a sports court so everyone can also sport in the evening.”

**Focus on youth.** The agreement supports healthy meals in schools and the use of non-free sports associations. Blokhuis: “It uses initiatives where we have a lot of success such as JOGG (Youth on a Healthy Weight). Just like in Netherlands, the fee for a lifestyle coach and the quit smoking care will be included in the basic package.” The high school curriculum includes units on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

**Sexual health.** The number of abortions in the Caribbean Netherlands is high and sexually transmitted diseases like chlamydia and gonorrhea are common. The aim is to decrease the number of abortions and increase the use of contraceptives. The focus will be on professional sex education in schools, low-threshold testing for STDs, support for women in unintended pregnancies and the free provision of condoms.



**State Secretary for Health, Welfare, and Sport, Paul Blokhuis**

**Foster care.** While on Bonaire, Blokhuis met with foster care parents. “When it comes to the safety of our children, a different approach in the Caribbean Netherlands compared to the European Netherlands is not responsible.” said Blokhuis. Because the cost of living is high in the Caribbean, a higher fee for the foster parents is needed to equal the level paid in the Netherlands. The new fee is based on the age of the child, and continues until age 21. *Sources: Soualiga Newday, Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland.*

► **Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30.** Hurricanes are rare this far south, but the public entity Bonaire, OLB, is making sure that all residents are well informed if a tropical storm or hurricane heads our way.

The OLB has developed an emergency app. The app Disasterprep Bonaire can be downloaded via iTunes and Google Play. The app is in English as well as Papiamentu and Dutch. In the app, Bonaireans are told how they can prepare for various disasters. The app also outlines the government’s actions in a disaster, what the emergency number is, and where people can find information on social media. The OLB can send short and important messages to all users via the app if necessary.

In addition to the app, the OLB will deliver hurricane leaflets door-to-door in four languages before the season begins. The OLB will also publish safety information on its facebook pages (Gobièrnu di Boneiru and Bonaire Public Body), twitter (@OLBonaire), and the website (www.bonairegov.com).

The Public Body Bonaire (OLB) has a disaster response team. During and after the emergency, the team will coordinate the relief efforts of agencies such as the police, fire brigade, doctors and caregivers. During the crisis OLB also arranges shelters for people who are not safe at home.

► **Speaking for Bonaire abroad.** Bonaire and Curaçao will be featured at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), held in the Hague World Forum June 4-5, 2019. GES brings together 2,000 international entrepreneurs, investors, scientists and government representatives. Its aim is to promote entrepreneurship worldwide. GES is organized annually by the United States together with another country. This year the U.S. partners with the Netherlands.

On June 5 a session will be devoted to “Resilient Islands,” highlighting Bonaire and Curaçao as potential investment locations, development sites and markets. Spokespersons for Bonaire will promote Bonaire as the first “Blue Destination of the World” (<https://bluedestination.com>).

► **A breakwater at Cai.** May 20, the public entity Bonaire (OLB) began building a breakwater to protect the access road to Lac Cai. The total work will take approximately 6 weeks.

In recent years, waves have eroded the land at the level of the access road. If the erosion is not stopped, Cai will become unreachable by road. Behind the road lies the water area “Pariba di Cai”. If the sea breaks through to this area, the entire water management of Lac will change with major consequences for nature in the Lac area.

The access road to Cai will remain open as much as possible. The project will use material from the island itself for the breakwater, for reasons of sustainability and economy. The construction of the breakwater is commissioned by the OLB

and financed with the nature funds that the government has made available.

**Stinapa Bonaire**, the NGO in charge of Bonaire’s national parks, will start pre-selling their nature fee through the internet. Reef Support, a Bonaire-based consultancy company will provide the selling platform and technical support. The system will be available early June. Stinapa Director Arjen de Wolf says the new on line system will considerably reduce the workload of the local operators, reduce over-the-counter cash transactions and reduce the use of plastic.

► **Lobster season** is closed from May 1 to October 31. It is forbidden to catch lobster in the waters of Bonaire, Klein Bonaire and Lac. It is also forbidden to buy, serve, sell or eat fresh local lobster during this period. Lobsters mate during the warmer summer months and a female can lay hundreds of thousands of eggs twice a season. She holds the eggs under her tail for a few weeks until they are ready to hatch. The gestation period is a maximum of one year.

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#### How to Find Us:

*The website isn’t finished yet, but the scroll-down version is back.* Find the issue on-line at: <https://bonairereporter.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>

Available in 80 locations  
 Printed every two weeks  
**Next edition: June 10, 2019**  
**News Deadline: June 7, 2019**  
**Contributor’s Deadline: June 5, 2019**

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**Distribution:** Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,  
**Production:** Barbara Lockwood Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao  
**Founders:** George and Laura DeSalvo  
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# Bonaire issues new license plates

Dudley Wederfoort, the head of the finance department of the OLB (Public Entity Bonaire), presented the new license plate for Bonaire on May 16. The new number plate is a simple white plate with black letters. The simple design was adopted to discourage theft. Bonaire's current license plates, with their distinctive design and bright colors, are often stolen from cars.



The car license plate costs \$8.40 and the motorcycle plate \$ 5.60.

In the next two weeks, a media campaign will be launched to let the public know how and when license plates can be replaced. The following information is taken from the preliminary OLB announcement, with clarification and asides from "a fairly reliable source."

## Where & when to pick up the plates

From June 17 - 28, you can pick up your license plates from the Finance department of the OLB, J. A. Abraham Boulevard 27, non-stop from 8 am to 6 pm. Individuals or companies with five or more license plates must make an appointment to collect the license plates in the period July 1 - August 31. Those who cannot collect their plates June 17 - 28 can also make an appointment to collect them before August 31. For an appointment, contact the Finance department, telephone 717 5330, or send an email to [tax-olb@bonairegov.com](mailto:tax-olb@bonairegov.com). If you have not picked up your plates by the last day, Friday, August 31, your rights to the number on your license plate will expire, although your outstanding debt will remain.

## Bring your ID

To receive the license plate, you must show proof of identity (sédula), passport, or driver's license. If you have car(s) registered to your company, bring documentation from the Chamber of Commerce. (Our "fairly reliable source" said you might want to bring a copy of your ID and Chamber letter as you might be asked to leave them.) If a person authorizes someone else to pick up the license plate, the authorized person must bring an authorization letter and the sédula or a copy thereof from the person who authorizes him.

## Bring your paperwork

In 2017 the Finance department converted to a paperless technology to collect our payments for the motor vehicle tax (MRB). Now the Finance department wants to collect the paper it said it didn't need anymore.

You must give the Finance department the following:

1. a copy of proof of payment at the bank (at the teller or on line) for the new license plate. The payment receipt must reference the specific number of the license plate you are replacing.
2. a copy of proof of insurance,
3. copy of proof of residence. You can bring an invoice from WEB or Telbo. You could bring a bank statement, but remember—you have to leave this copy.

**Now here is the tricky bit.** The OLB announcement says that you must bring:

4. a copy of proof of payment for the road tax you paid for 2017, 2018 and at least half of 2019. Our "fairly reliable source" says she's been told that 2019 is needed, but not the earlier years. Before June 17, we expect the OLB will clarify this requirement.

The OLB media release warns residents that the Finance department won't make copies.

## Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF)

**Ovier Maduro studying in LA.** Thanks to funding from "Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie," Ovier Maduro, a BYOF Arts student, is attending two workshops at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles, California: film acting and screen writing for film and theater. As a requirement of the funding, Ovier must share his learnings and incorporate what he has learned in a production of his own. Ovier Maduro started his artistic journey at Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation's artistic development department, BYOF Arts. He participated in different theater productions here on Bonaire. As the absolute winner of the Bonaire Talent Competition in 2017, Ovier had the opportunity to perform his piece in the "Kunstbende Festival" in Amsterdam last year. You can follow Ovier's journey on his website [www.oviermaduro.com](http://www.oviermaduro.com)



**BYOF held a visual arts exposition** Friday May 3. The exposition displayed student work from a visual arts project led by Tatiana Nicolaas, Arts & Design Education student, Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tatiana worked with the adolescents for a week, challenging them to think differently about the visual arts. In one activity, the students created art works from objects they found on a short walk.



Source: Angelo Alberto, Production coordinator, BYOF.

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## Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

**Question:** *How long does it take to buy a property on Bonaire once the Seller and I agree on the price? Sela*

Hi Sela, This varies depending on whether you are paying cash or financing the property, and whether there are any contingencies that need to be satisfied prior to the transfer of ownership. A cash sale with no contingencies can generally close in 30 – 45 days if the buyer sends all funds and needed documentation on time. The specific time frame can depend on market conditions. During a busy selling season, the demand for appointments for property appraisals, home inspections and Notaris appointments increases. However, there is not an increase in the number of professionals who provide these services, so appointments make take longer to schedule during busy times.

If you require a mortgage from a Bonaire bank, plan a minimum of 90 – 120 days, since the bank will require an appraisal and detailed financial information before the application goes to the loan committee for approval. *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](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com) Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362



**May 23, 2019** Voting for the European Parliament. The first day of this issue, May 27th, is a historic day for the people of Bonaire, and for those of Saba and Sint-Eustatius. For the first time in history, BES residents holding Dutch passports will have voted for members of the European Parliament. Close to 400 million people were eligible to vote in May's European Parliament elections—one of the world's largest democratic exercises. This year's elections took place over four days in 28 different countries. Voting procedures and counting were done on a country-by-country basis – but the results were kept secret until all voting was finished. The results were announced from 23:00 Brussels time on Sunday, May 26. Each country elects a different number of members (MEPs), roughly in line with their population. The Netherlands elects 26 MEPs .

## Letters and Opinions

### A Small Step

Dear Editor:

I want to tell you about something that happened on the evening of 7 May. That night, around 7.40pm, my friend and I were attacked near Willemstoren lighthouse. Luckily, we both came away unharmed if quite shaken and a bit freaked out.

We went to the South to watch the flamingos and the sunset. After it was dark, among several cars, a scooter with two men on it drove by a couple of times. We paid no particular attention. Then we noticed a small SUV parked up quite a distance away towards the West with the headlights on full, pointing at us. This lasted several minutes, we started wondering what they were doing. After they backed up 45 degrees, now pointing lights at the Salina, the scooter joined them for a while. It then came slowly back towards us, no headlights, just a blue light at the front. It drove by and disappeared - we thought. In fact, they went behind my car, and then one of the guys came around behind us and immediately started assaulting my friend. When I stood up and challenged him, he just let go of her, walked past me and got back on the scooter. They drove off, were joined by the car, and they all left.

We reported this to the police. It has been recorded as a sexual assault. But no investigation will be undertaken as we were unable to provide descriptions or details on either the guys or the vehicles - it was very dark. All we know is that the attacker was young, tall and slim with dark skin, wearing a baseball cap and hoodie.

We do not believe the purpose was a full attack on us. There would have been ample opportunity for those two men if this had been what they wanted. It seemed to us more the intention to scare us away, for whatever dubious (criminal) purpose, we seemed to be just in the way. Nevertheless, it was an extremely unpleasant experience that I do not wish to happen to anyone else.

Please be aware and alert when out after dark in remote places.

It is a sad day on Bonaire when you feel you cannot go wherever you please, whatever time you want, without worrying. *Regards, Ulrike Bartz*

Hello Bonaire Reporter!

I am sure this has been thought of previously, but I wanted to pass along a tip in regard to the concern of the environmentalists about the many arrivals of cruise ships and the potential damage to the Bonairean reefs. Has anyone mentioned that in many places, the cruise ship docks AWAY from the mainland and special boats either furnished on the ship or furnished by the port, bring tourists in for sightseeing and shopping? Is this a possibility for Bonaire? It would protect the reefs hopefully, and initiate new jobs, as well as other benefits that come about during the process of the visits.

If The Reporter staff feel this tip worthwhile, please enter it as a "Note to the Editor".

Thank you. *Laurie Rockwell, Advocate for the Environment*

Dear Editor:

I don't know how to write to your newspaper but I hope that this will suffice. My wife and I own an apartment in Hato. We have been on the island for three weeks. Is it me or does anyone else notice that the whole island smells like a cesspool? There is a strong smell of raw sewage in the air here. What is going on and is there any fix to this problem? Is there a problem with the sewage treatment plant? Where is the sewage treatment plant? *Todd Lichtenstein*

*Editor's note: We investigated, confirmed the smell, but found no explanation. People smelled the "sewer odor" in Hato, and on the road from Rincon into Mentor. The return of the sargassum might be a possible explanation. Does anyone have a better idea?*

Have something to say? Want to give your opinion?

All letters must be signed. Email: [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)

In 1581 the leaders of some provinces in the Netherlands cited a list of grievances about the biased tyrannical behavior of King Philips II of Spain and declared they would no longer be subject to his rules. This Act of Abjuration was the beginning of the Netherlands as an independent state. Much later, in 1776, Thomas Jefferson when drafting the U.S. Declaration of Independence used this act.

Following the Netherlands independence from Spain, the Dutch West-Indian trading Company established itself in Bonaire in 1636. Bonaire became one of the possessions of the company and their only goal was to make money.

In 1810 the Netherlands was no longer an independent state but an incorporated part of France until 1813. Almost all the possessions outside Europe were conquered by Great Britain, including Bonaire. Only on a trading post on the small Japanese island of Deshima, did the flag of the Netherlands flutter.

After the demise of the French Republic, in 1813, the Netherlands again became an independent state. In 1816 Bonaire was returned by England but was now a colony.

During World War II only the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam were unoccupied. After the war, decolonization was much quicker and in 1954 the six isles of the Netherlands Antilles became a state within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

But the collaboration within the independent states was not successful. Aruba left the Antilles to become an independent state on its own. At the beginning of the 21st century, the other five isles opted to cancel the Netherlands Antilles and become either independent or more connected with the Netherlands. On 10-10-2010, three isles, including Bonaire, became part of the Netherlands. The inhabitants of Bonaire could vote for the Island Council and for the Second Chamber of the Netherlands but not for the First Chamber. In 2019 this has changed.

The Bonaire Reporter celebrates this May 27 issue as a historical day for the people of Bonaire, and people of Saba and Sint-Eustatius. For the first time in history, the members of the First Chamber will be elected by members of the Electoral College chosen by inhabitants of each island. The election was held on March 20 and voters had to have a Dutch passport.

The people of Bonaire finally have some influence on the composition of our First Chamber just like the inhabitants of the European Netherlands.

Hopefully Bonaireans will not have to wait another eight years for the next steps toward change for a reasonable social minimum income.

Whether the actual governance form of Bonaire, Saba and Sint-Eustatius can be a lasting solution, is more doubtful. The Island Councils have many but not all the competences that Municipality Councils have in the European part of the country. A council that is elected by the inhabitants of the islands cannot look after the interests of the three islands. An Antillean province is totally missing.

The island inhabitants are more intensively controlled by the central government than the inhabitants of the European part of the country but without a proportional major influence on the composition of this government! So the Netherlands is not a unitary state anymore and the citizens are not equal for the law anymore.

And it makes clear that the Netherlands have not learned to be generous despite the help of the colonies and many other countries during their history.

But all of this does not exclude that the next prime minister could be someone who is born and grown up, in Bonaire. *GC Vdmeij*

*GC Vdmeij is a retired civil servant and lives in the Hague and has regrettably never lived in Bonaire or the Antilles. Since 2010, Vdmeij has taken action to correct incorrect, incomplete, or misleading "special municipality" information and knowledge in the islands.*





## Remembering Hans Hass Re-visiting Bonaire 1953 Discovering a fish-cleaning station



Hass with his wife Lotte and the researchers on the XARIFA

On his way to the Galapagos Islands aboard his XARIFA Hans Hass could not miss the opportunity to revisit Bonaire. By now he was no longer simply a snorkeler or an amateur photographer - he had completed his doctoral thesis as a marine biologist and was spearheading marine research into the mysteries of the underwater world.

Hans Hass made landfall on Bonaire at November 1953, and Willem George Sohn Weis de Haseth, the Gezaghebber from Bonaire, gave him a very warm welcome at the Pier. - In 1939 he was one of the boy scouts, who camped near the tent of Hans and his friends at Punt Vierkant.

Hans proceeded to explore the reefs at Boca Slagbaai, Punt Vierkant, and Klein Bonaire. For work in greater depths he used compressed air, otherwise he employed his oxygen-rebreather. At Slagbaai, together with other researchers, he studied the structure of the coral reef to a

depth of 220 feet. Additionally he took much of the film footage for the first color cinema film ever made on coral reefs entitled "Under the Caribbean" - a film which later received a lot of awards. For example in December 1959, in Los Angeles, Hass was given a prestigious award for outstanding underwater cinematography. At this festival he received also his nickname "aquatic eye of science."

Whilst diving and underwater filming on Klein Bonaire one of the researchers aboard the XARIFA, Irenaeus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, discovered a fish cleaning station on the reef. A cleaning station is an area of reef, sometimes a single coral head where fish come and allow "cleaners" to rid them of parasites. This was the first time that a cleaning station had been identified and its significance realized.

Story by Michael Jung. To be continued: Underwater cinematography in Bonaire 1953.

## Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen

*In this issue, I will attempt to solve your VPN/Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime watching issue. But first, I need to warn everyone about the current influx of ransom ware spam emails.*

**Ransom ware spam emails** have a subject line like "Dirty Pervert - ty38473" where the "ty38473" is a password which you have used in the past on a site like LinkedIn or others. The spammers purchased your name/email/password from hackers who stole the information from the various sites. This makes you feel like "OMG, this is real." but it is not.

The body of the email then goes on to detail various viewing activities, and ends with a threat to tell the world what you have been doing unless you send some Bitcoin to a certain address and they promise that once you pay, they will erase your information. And that is the rub... Bitcoin is anonymous, so there is no way they would know if you paid or not...

and in general, they do not have control of your camera, and they do not have your files, and they do not know your family, friends or boss.

In fact, I just checked the value of the bitcoin address in the current email, and it has received \$0 in ransom demands - BUT there are many "Anti-Virus" programs who offer to remove this ransom ware tied to that bitcoin address, FOR A FEE of course.

So, before you pay out any hard earned money to anyone threatening you in an email, take a breath, and do a quick check and see if anyone else has had a similar situation, and ask friends, family, or me.

**Now, onto the VPN Solution for Bonaire.** There are basically 2 types of VPN solutions - One is VPN software that is installed into your tablet, computer or phone. They are great, and work well for the one device, but who wants to watch TV on their laptop all the time?

### International Policing

The Royal Netherlands Navy (RNLN) intercepted 1,600 kilos of drugs on the open sea the third week in May. Four people were arrested. Last year RNLN intercepted over 2500 kilos of drugs. With this latest seizure, their total is over 4000 kilos this year.

**KMar (Royal Netherlands Marechaussee)** is a police organisation with a military status. Among other duties, they provide security and policing at all civilian airports,

On May 17, two men of European descent were sentenced by the Bonairean court to four months in prison for having skim equipment. Skim equipment can transfer payment data from bank cards to other cards without the bank card owner noticing. The men were arrested by KMar on February 2 upon arrival at Flamingo Airport after a Customs inspection found the equipment. After serving their sentence, the men will be transferred to the Aliens Police and deported from Bonaire in collaboration with KMar.

Units of KPCN, KMar and Customs have arrested five men in Bonaire for illegal drugs and ammunition transport. On the night of April 22 - 23, 2019, two Venezuelans and a Bonairean were arrested with about 10 kilos of marijuana and 200 live bullets. The prohibited goods came from Venezuela. The men were in the mangrove bushes near Sorobon after being dropped by a local boat. The boat was detected by the Rescue and Coordination Center of the Coast Guard in Curaçao. On May 20, after investigation by KMar, two more men were arrested for this case. One suspect is from the Dominican Republic and the other is Bonairean.

KMar arrested a Curaçao citizen in the Netherlands at Schiphol on May 16 on suspicion of drug trafficking. The man is suspected of being involved in the smuggling of 60 kilograms of cocaine to the Netherlands in June 2018. The drugs were then found in a KLM plane that had flown from Bonaire to the Netherlands. Sources: Bonaire Nu.

### Bonaire Police Report for May 16 - May 22

**Supermarket robbery.** On Monday, May 20th, at approximately 11 AM, the police central received notification that a robbery took place at a supermarket located at the Kaya Industria. The police have started an investigation. At the time of publication, this is all the information the KPCN could share.

**Three arrests:** • A man was arrested for threats and intimidation at a snack bar on the Kaya Rincon. • A man was arrested for having an illegal firearm at Roi Lamunchi. • A man was arrested for domestic violence.

**Four Thefts:** A windsurf sail was taken from the trunk of a pick-up parked at Sorobon. The sail was removed in five minutes between 5.30-5.35 pm The sail is an orange-red sail Saverne, type Freck. The storage bag is orange.

Between 6-6:30 pm cameras were taken from the beach on the E.E.G. Bulevar while the owner was swimming.

Two different tourist accommodations were burgled on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham:

- Two tablets ( iPad Air) were taken from the first room between 7.30 pm-11 pm.
- Electronic devices were taken from the second room between 8 pm-9:45 pm. The owner is an IT employee of a company employed by the National Police. All devices from the IT company are blocked and there was no data the devices taken.

**On the roads:** Two cars collided on the Kaya Korona. Car 1 signaled a turn but then drove straight ahead, causing car 2 to hit it. The driver of car 1 had a head injury and was taken to the hospital by the ambulance for medical treatment.

Cars collided on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver of one of the cars complained of pain in the abdomen and chest and was taken to the hospital by ambulance for a medical check-up.

**Traffic controls** were held at Kaya Industria and Kaya Korona. 63 vehicles were checked. Eight fines were issued for not having a valid driver's license and / or insurance certificate. *Communicatie KPCN*

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

The other, and better, is a hardware router-based solution in which everything you have connected to that router is run through the VPN. This allows all devices, including smart phones, Roku, Firesticks, etc, to appear to be in the USA to watch Netflix, Canada to watch CBC, Britain to watch BBC, or elsewhere, at a click of the mouse.

In various testing myself, and with clients, for the hardware solution, we have settled on the ExpressVPN with one of the pre-configured routers they sell. (They also sell Software Only version if that is all you need.) They have 148 servers in 94 countries, and seem to be quick to add new IP addresses when they are blocked by the service providers like Netflix, etc and have decent customer service.

Remember, like everything else, you get what you pay for. Free gets you that much service and support, and you are probably paying with your private information in the end! You can read all about their services and hardware routers at <https://www.expressvpn.com/vpn-software/vpn-router>  
Good luck and happy surfing...*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 get an answer for you next issue.



# In Memoriam



**Hugo Gerharts, "Mr. Bonaire"**

Gerharts is said to be a man with an insatiable drive. He worked tirelessly to develop and popularize Bonaire. His family and his many friends and employees remember him as a hardworking, driven man with a dynamic personality. Gerharts inherited his entrepreneurship from his father, Lodewijk Daniel Gerharts, a politician who was responsible for bringing electricity to Bonaire, among other things.

At the peak of his business life, Hugo Gerharts headed 28 companies in Bonaire and employed approximately 350 people. He was considered the biggest employer on the island and his employees speak well of him.

Gerharts was considered a captain of industry. His business aspirations were unlimited. He was always trying to create new jobs for Bonaire. The majority of his employees worked at Bonaire HMB Trading Company, Sunset Beach Hotel, and Bonaire Travel and Tours. In the early 1990's, Gerharts founded Sunbelt Realty which is now the largest real estate agency on the island. Other notable ventures included three movie theaters and eWoWo Discotheque. People would fly in on chartered planes from surrounding islands to spend an evening at the disco.

Always promoting Bonaire tourism, he was instrumental in bringing direct KLM flights from Amsterdam to Bonaire in 1991. The Gerharts family was also responsible for the first cruise ships coming to Bonaire.

Gerharts worked tirelessly to promote tourism in Bo-

naire. He would print promotional materials on his own dime and sponsored travel agents on their visits to the island.

In 1991, Gerharts and L. Piar of Maduro & Curiel Bank founded Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). He was an outspoken member of Bonhata.

His highly promoted Sunset Beach Hotel was popular with tourist and locals. Unfortunately it never lived up to its promise, and he ended up financing the hotel from the cash flow of his companies that were solvent. He began losing money and when ABN Amro Bank refused to continue financing his group of companies Gerharts switched to the Aruban Interbank. He quickly pulled the plug from the business group, followed by the bankruptcy of most of the NVs.

Gerharts never really recovered from the loss of his companies.

He moved to Miami for a while but his love for Bonaire brought him home. Gerharts last public appearance was the 50th Anniversary of Washington Slagbaai National Park.

The memorial service and funeral were held May 25 at Nos Consuela and he was buried next to his father at the protestant cemetery. *JM*



Entrance to Hotel Bonaire

Bonaire lost one of its most important architects of tourism and commerce with the death of Hugo Gerharts on May 19, 2019. He was born in the Curacao Hospital on April 11, 1931 but in his heart and in the eyes of others he was born on Bonaire where he lived the majority of his life.

## Picture Yourself with The Reporter NASA Johnson Space Center Houston, Texas, U.S.



Picture Yourself with L, Alan Zale, Center, Owen and Karen Arkison and R, Joan Zale at NASA Johnson Space Center with *The Bonaire Reporter*.

When Owen and Karen Arkison heard that *The Bonaire Reporter* contributing photographer Alan Zale and his wife, Joan were going to be in Houston, Texas, with plans to visit the NASA Johnson Space Center, they came up with a plan of their own.

Knowing that Alan had covered several space shuttle launches as a photojournalist and was a big fan of the United States Space program, Owen and Karen asked their daughter, Erin, if she could reach out to her friend, Jackie Vu, a software developer at the Johnson Space Center, (JSC) to see if she could arrange a private tour for Alan and Joan.

Just before Owen and Karen left Bonaire last month they surprised Alan with exciting news that they had arranged a private tour for all of them to visit Johnson Space Center.

The day after Joan and Alan arrived in Houston, they all headed to NASA for the tour. The visit included viewing Mission Control which is usually off limits to the public.

Mission Control is the heart of JSC.

This is where all operations on the International Space Stations, including space walks, and previously space shuttle flights are monitored and controlled. Joan and Alan, who always travel with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*, knew that when you are visiting such a special place there is one thing you must do, take a picture of yourself with the paper and that is exactly what they did.

Owen and Karen, from Canyon Lake, TX are long time visitors to Bonaire making fourteen visits. For Joan and Alan, who live in Hartsdale, NY, and own a condo at Sand Dollar, it was their 46th trip to the island. They would like to extend a special thank you to Jackie Vu for taking this historic photo and arranging this very special tour. *Alan Zale*

**WIN A PRIZE!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip to an interesting location or when you return home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. Send to [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com). All 2019 photos are eligible.

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## Bike fun race set for June 2

De Freewieler bike shop will hold a Washington Park Fun Race on Sunday, June 2. The event begins at 7:30 am at the entrance to the park. Pre-registration is available at De Freewieler on Saturday, June 1. To register the day of the race bikers should arrive 30 minutes early before race time at the park. A pace car will be available along the road to assist bikers. There will be sports drinks, water and fruit along the route and also at the end of the course. **BYOB (Bring Your Own Bike!)**



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# What's happening to our flamingos?



**Elly and Patrice Kersemakers attach colored tie wraps for identification to a juvenile flamingo that FKK just brought to the rehab.**

For the last few months Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab has been caring for one of the island's most fragile and admired symbols, the flamingo. Elly Albers, director of the rehab, and many volunteers have rescued, fed, cared and finally released the birds to live their lives. But, unfortunately in some cases they have watched the birds die a senseless death.

The birds are found wandering along the highway or lost at some hotel or resort. In all instances the birds are weak and malnourished. Some recover and some don't. Many die within the first 48 hours of being rescued.

Elly said, "Most come in so bad, that it's too late."

In the beginning of the season the incoming rafts of sargassum had a huge effect on the birds' food source and measures were taken to ward off the seaweed. Countless volunteers, Cargill Salt, Stinapa, and the Mangrove Maniacs worked to curb the encroaching sargassum from entering the flamingo reserves and mangroves.

Juveniles learning to fly have lost their way and are led off course, due to the strong spring winds. Many of these wandering birds were traffic fatalities due to careless drivers speeding along on the southern roads of Bonaire. Over 100 flamingos have been documented and found dead on the roads.

To date, 180 birds inhabit the rehab, 40 have been released and 80 have died. Do the math, that's 300 birds!

So what's happening? Is this just part of nature?

Is there a problem with the food source? Did the sargassum taint the waters where the brine shrimp live?

According to Elly, something is definitely going on. Researchers from World Wildlife Fund Netherlands and bird specialist Odett Doest from Curacao visited the rehab May 25th and 26th to try to get to the root of the problem. They sampled the food sources and performed autopsies on some the deceased flamingos. Hopefully their results will be conclusive of what is actually occurring and how to resolve the problem(s).

In the meantime there are 180 birds that still need to be cared for and fed. Volunteers help out twice a day, everyday. They tube feed the babies and juveniles, provide fresh water and food pellets for the older birds, clean the containment pens and do whatever else needs to be done.



**This juvenile flamingo walking along the road near Cargill needs to be rescued. The dropped wing means the bird is suffering from dehydration and malnourishment. If you see a bird like this call 780-5353 or take him to Wild Bird Rehab.**



**Volunteer Frances Van Rems receives a thank you from a young flamingo after feeding. Frances helps out at the rehab everyday.**

People have been overwhelmingly generous in donating time, money and food. Lafeber International donated 20 bags of 40 kilos of Emerald Piscivore, a special bird food they produce. The company has offered a discount of 50% off on the next batch needed. A zoo keeper at Artis Zoo in Amsterdam, Hugo Abrahamse, set up a Go-Fund Me page and raised enough cash for 50 bags of the much needed pellet bird food and shipped it via KLM.

When there weren't enough holding pens for the growing number of birds, Haafkes construction workers came out and built a huge enclosure. The rehab was down to their last bag of pellet food so local guys, Jan Lokherst and Yuri Van Kampen, drove their boat to Curaçao to pick up available food to feed the birds. Peter and Patrice Kersemakers of FKK Animal Rescue patrol the southern parts of the island for hours and bring in many of the disoriented and malnourished birds. There are countless stories like this and each one has made a huge difference in the care to keep Bonaire's juvenile flamingos alive.

If you would like to help Bonaire's flamingos, visit Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab Go Fund Me page and make a difference. *Photos and story, JM.*



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**FINALLY!**  
The scroll-down version of *The Reporter* is back.

We haven't finished our website yet, but we have restored the on-line version that's easier to read.

Find the issue on-line at: <https://bonairereporter.com>

And there are always more photos on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>





## The Bonaire Barracuda Aquatics Club Travels!

The Bonaire Barracuda Aquatics Club competes in both swimming and water polo. With over 100 members, it is a challenge to organize travel to keep everyone competing at their level.

In April the competitors selected from the U19 men and U14 coed water polo teams performed outstandingly at the Carifta games on Barbados. A delegation of 33 athletes, coaches and coordinators traveled to this international event.

The U14 played the first game of the event against the Bahamas, who had a cheering section second to none, with horns, drums, pots and pans and more. The noise was amazing! Combined with the impressive aquatic center, the size and skills of the Bahamian team, our young team played really hard but were unable to prevail. Game by game, the young players came into their own, performing well in these intimidating circumstances. Overall, they finished 5th just behind Curacao, while Trinidad and Tobago took the top spot. The improvement in play was great to watch.

The U19 games kept us on the edge of

our seats throughout. The strategy and team work were great, unfortunately, the scores were not reflecting the excitement of the game. Trinidad and Tobago secured first place in this as well as most categories while our team was fourth behind Barbados and Bahamas.

Having great level of competition, friendships have been forged and the Barbados team is already planning to visit Bonaire for a competition later in the year. Playing on this international level raises the level for our teams. We look forward to improving our infrastructure to allow for more competitions. The transition from the sea to a pool is difficult for water polo with less buoyancy and for swimming with no starts or turns in the sea.

In Mid-May the Barracudas traveled with a delegation of 50 people to Curacao. The U14 water polo players, that were not part of the Carifta selection, and the Ladies Masters team had competitions at the Rif Swimming Center. Bonaire U14 dominated Curacao in three out of four games. The Ladies team did not fare so

well losing all four games.

Meanwhile, 23 swimmers participated in the seventh Hensley Heerenveen International Competition at the Sentro Deportivo Curacao (SDK) pool, along with five other clubs from Curacao, Aruba and Surinam. The swimmers ranged from 6 years old to adults. In total the swimmers improved their previous records by more than an impressive 315 seconds setting many personal best times. Several swimmers were participating in their first competition, laying down the time to beat in the next. Marcel Spruit took home a bronze medal, Patricia Vos a silver and bronze, Simone Sweers a bronze and coach Anita Smits four golds! More than half of the swimmers finished in the top eight in at least one discipline.

At the end of this month the Men's master water polo team will be heading to Curacao.

The logistical challenges like raising money to afford the trips are also signifi-

cant. Hundreds of cars were washed and sponsors sought. The teams want to thank those of you that supported the car washes, sometimes each month. Due to their success the car washes will continue until the summer school break. The next will be on May 25th at Budget Marine using the Eco di Carib Car wash and wax. We would like to thank our sponsors, Fundashon Wega di Number, OLB, Digicel, Bonaire Basics, Budget Marine, Remax, WEB, MCB, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Delfins Beach Resort, Eco Di Caribe, Lek Lek Thai food, M-Tech, ACU and many individuals. *Story and photo courtesy Pam Teitel, Bonaire Barracudas*



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## Captain Don Day celebrated



**Captain Don teaching.** Photo: Geri Murphy

To celebrate the arrival of Capt. Don Stewart to the island of Bonaire on May 21, 1962, the first ever Captain Don Day was held on May 20 at Capt. Don's Habitat.

The idea was to honor this man and his accomplishments in hopes of establishing an official Captain Don Day on Bonaire, the island he loved so deeply.

"Today we honor that man who sailed in and became one of us... Bonaire will always be indebted to Capt. Don because he believed in Bonaire and gave the better part of his life to preserve its treasures," said featured event speaker Governor Edison Rijna.

In addition to his role as Habitat's Monday night musical entertainment, Ralph "Moogie" Stewart served as MC for the event. Other speakers were Habitat manager Clare Sealy,

Stinapa director Arjen de Wolff, Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea, Al Catalfumo of the Black Durgon Inn and Janet Thiboult, Don's life partner. Several inspired guests took the mike and added their impressions or stories of Don.

A crowd of approximately 75 people attended and enjoyed the evening of speeches, free rum punch and snacks, a drawing and a slide show.

Lucky guests received gifts donated from Habitat dive shop, Rum Runners Restaurant, Vista Blue gift shop, Dee Scarr, Cadusky Distillery, and a Captain Don book



**Stinapa director Arjen de Wolff and Governor Edison Rijna.**

from Janet Thiboult.

Governor Rijna said, "A day of Capt. Don, or Capt. Don Day, I fully agree that such a person, such a myth, such a hero is worth remembering. In the name of Bonaire I totally sustain this idea to make a Capt. Don Day, I fully agree. I am open and able to accept proposals to make this day a day for Capt. Don."

In preparation for Capt. Don Day, the May 13 issue of the Bonaire Reporter focused on the Capt. with letters, stories and old photos. The Reporter thanks everyone who took the time to find their old images, pen their sentiments and send them to us for the issue and for Capt. Don Day. The slide show and photos of the evening can be seen on our Facebook page. *Story and photo. JM*



## This Time the Coral Won



The embedded fishing line



After the line is removed

Sometime in the past, a fish got hooked near this coral colony. Probably as the fish tried to escape, the line got caught and all the hooked fish could do was swim around and around this coral. End result: fishing line wrapped around the coral colony.

The fishing line was there long enough for algae to grow on it, and also long enough to influence new coral growth: the curves at the top left were formed to accommodate the fishing line. The darker color of the coral tissue beneath where the fishing line had been is also an effect of the line; perhaps the algae in the coral tissue got darker by trying to increase its efficiency as its light was reduced by the line and the growing algae. These coral polyps were surviving despite all their problems.

In time, though, all the coral polyps (polyps are individual coral animals) under the fishing line would have run out of space and died.

But they didn't die, thanks to their own hardiness, and to a diver with the knowledge and the tools to help. A small sharp knife and a pair of shears, used very carefully, clipped the line and enabled it to be unwound from the coral. Ta dahh!

What are the lessons?

First: healthy coral in a healthy environment can overcome a surprisingly wide variety of challenges; we'll see more of this in upcoming Reef Glimpses.

Second: there are things divers can do, while diving, to help reef inhabitants. The more we understand about any creature, the better is our likelihood of being able to help it.

Third: although working biodegradable fishing line is still a dream, the fish probably got away. Even when they carry a hook, most fishes do okay as long as they're not tied to the reef. Eventually the hook drops out.

Fourth: the shape of every coral colony reveals some of its history. What can you deduce on your next dives? ...Photo and story by Dee Scarr

*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses".*

*The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.*



15th Annual Pro Kids ABC Island IFCA windsurfing championships were held at Sorobon Beach May 23-26. Kids ranging age four and up competed in windsurfing slalom and freestyle. Competitions were held May 25th and 26th with the closing ceremony on Sunday. Results will be published on *The Reporter* Facebook page.

## Guardian Walk and Run--Winners all!

My Guardian Group Walk and Run Bonaire attracted 375 energetic participants on Sunday, May 19. The athletes, 79 of which were runners, completed three different distances: two km for children below 12 years, four km for ages 13 to 15 years and eight km for ages 16 and above. There were nine different categories.

At 6:30 a.m. following a send off from Jacques van der Scheer, managing director of Guardian Group Aruba and Bonaire, the runners/walkers began the trek from Bachelor's Beach to Sorobon Beach.

Some ran alone while others traveled in the company of friends, colleagues and family. The mood was happy along the route and entrants enjoyed finishing to the rhythms of St. Bonaire's Youth Brass Band. At the finish the athletes enjoyed refreshing juices and a good soup.

By 8:30 the first athletes had arrived at Sorobon. The best overall time went to Femenino Inge van Bergen and Maskulino Charlon Sumter. They each won a trophy and a ticket to participate in the My Guardian Group Walk and Run in Curaçao on October 27.

Ivonne Badloe and Jacques van der Scheer donated two checks of \$1,500 each to St. Bonaire Youth Entertainment and Pikkebuys Productions ("Buki di Pret") to continue their work with the youth of Bonaire.

Guardian Group contributes to sports, social activities and the personal development of young people. The race began five years ago with only 25 competitors and has multiplied in popularity to 375 walkers and runners. Guardian thanks the participants and hopes everyone will return next year.

Guardian Group is grateful to all partners who contributed to the success of My Guardian Group Walk and Run Bonaire 2019: Best Brands (Dasani), Nature Discount, Scooters Bonaire, Obersi Group, Sunshine Market, Budget Rent A Car, Rento Fun, Bonaire Windsurf Place Red Cross Bonaire and KPCN. We would also like to thank Elisabeth Vos and the volunteers from WK Sailteam Bonaire. They provided guides around the roads, shared technical knowledge and advice and helped ensure the success of My Guardian Group Walk and Run Bonaire 2019. *Photo: JM*

Race results will be posted on [www.myguardiangroup.com](http://www.myguardiangroup.com).



### Winners in the fifth annual My Guardian Group Walk & Run held May 19 were:

**Inge van Bergen, Iza Benschop, Elina Verhoef, Niki Knevel, Jorieke Haarhuis, Kim Brummans, Kelly Mettes, Joanna Luttkhold, Marieke Peereboom, Steef Zwennes, Mary Tielman, Paulien Wijnvoord, Christina Pillitu, Nickey Mientjes, Brigitte Boekhoudt, Charlon Sumter, Dani Verhoef, Luc Benschop, Richard Thielman, Marcel Spruit, Dejean Francees, Xerzyan Wedervoort, Stijn Van de Westelaken, Miguel Pietersz, James Granger, Martijn Robbertsen, Harm van Duinen, Freek Daams, Pieter Degen, Cassius Coffi, Kenneth Abrahamsz, Jerome Spruit, Leo Martijn, Fons De Bie, Steven Winkel, Sergio Tixi, Ramiro Eugenio, Jimmy May**



# A Garden? Just Do It!

Early this morning, when I took a walk in my yard, I was really surprised that even with a hard drought and the strong sun, my trees are bearing fruit. My papaya trees still have young papayas and one of my plantains bore a big bunch of bananas. But what surprised me most is the soursop tree. I noticed two low hanging soursop fruits and I looked up to find each branch had a soursop. I counted 22 fruits. This is the most fruit the tree has ever born. It makes a deep impression on me to experience the power and strength of nature.

My early morning walk had a lot of nice surprises and that makes my day. But, an iguana must have been in the neighborhood because the young leaves of some string beans have been eaten. Time to take action. I have the string beans in big flowerpots against the wire fence, so they can grow on the wire. I put a big paint bucket without bottom over each pot so the iguana cannot see the young plants and they will have a chance to grow. Iguanas love the leaves of this plant. I guess they smell it from afar. You may wonder why I don't grow them in a greenhouse. I did but the plants did not bear fruit because there were no bees or bugs to fertilize the flowers. Now I plant them in an open area and I have been lucky a few times. In the rainy season, I had so many string beans and no iguanas because the iguanas move into the countryside and "mondi", where they find enough to eat. But now, with the drought, they come out of the mondi and into the yards for food. I always try, you never know. When you don't try, for sure you have nothing.

Beside string beans, I have hot and sweet pepper plants, eggplants, okra, spinach, tomato, yucca and sweet potato. I harvested the yucca, spinach, plantain and peppers and enjoyed them. Don't think I harvest baskets of veggies; it's only a little bit of everything everyday. I make a spinach salad with tomato, boiled egg and cheese, and some fried yucca or boiled plantain and that is enough for two. All of my dinner is grown in my yard.

I sometimes make a mixed pot of vegetables and a green fruit stew known on Bonaire as "stoba". From green papayas one can make a delicious curry with coconut milk spiced with chutney or a Caribbean stoba with fresh tomato, sweet pepper, onion, garlic and lemon.

Other vegetables that grow easily on Bonaire are the local cucumber, "bembe," a wild leaf vegetable from the spinach family, local beans called "bonchi" and pumpkin.



## Mango all over the place

There is a lot of free coconut on the island that is very healthy. What else can you wish for but to keep yourself healthy and strong with all these vitamins, minerals and fiber around you?

While walking through the yard I notice my mango tree has little baby mangos. This was a surprise, as I had not expected my young mango tree to bear fruit with this extreme drought. The fruit can be seen all over the island. The trees are bending from the weight of mangos. When you see them growing in someone's yard ask the owners if you can have some. People of Bonaire like to share. The mangos are sweet as sugar and juicy, even if there has been little rain. The nutritional value of the mango is best when grown in unspoiled soil and ripened in the sun.

Mango blended as a juice mixed with lime or other fruit is delicious. If you eat too much it can cause diarrhea, so keep that in mind. Green mangos make good pickles and chutneys that can be used in curried vegetables and dahls. You can use half-ripe mangos to make jams, marmalade, fruit desserts, syrups, frozen fruit and ice cream.

You can have your own mango tree in your yard. Save some seeds of a nice tasting mango and let them dry in the sun for a few weeks. Put them in pots and water when the soil is dry. Not all will grow but if you are lucky you will succeed. When it's big enough, plant the tree with a mix of black dirt, compost, goat manure, charcoal and water. It will take some years to bear fruit and it will become a big tree, so don't plant it too close to the house.

So if you want to enjoy fresh mango from your yard, plant a tree, just do it now. *Angliet, Nature lover*



# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

## OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 10.

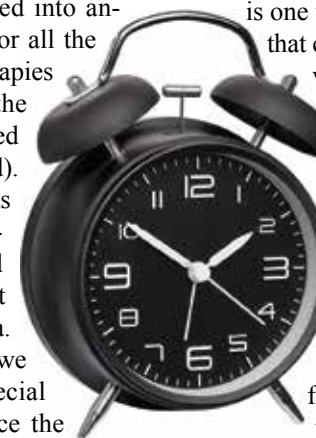
### Time waits for no one

This month we celebrate the fact that three years ago we returned to Bonaire to live. We had our doubts, should we go or not? Should we stay in Holland in the cold, but where everything is organized especially if you have a handicap.

But in Holland waiting was something we did not expect. It began when my husband needed a place to rehabilitate. We waited for a nursing-home until there was a bed available. After rehabilitation we moved into another nursing home. For all the different kinds of therapies we had to travel to the mainland (we also lived on an island in Holland). Most of our waiting was spent at the ferry terminal. It always seemed to be low tide and not enough water in the sea. Once on the other side we had to wait for a special transport vehicle. Since the shuttles were shared we had to wait until all other passengers were dropped off at their destinations before we were home. We became familiar with all the small villages on the north of Friesland very well.

But as soon as we heard that there was a ZVK (BES Health Insurance) we had no more fear and we could begin making our travel plans for Bonaire.

Dear friends made it possible that we could live in a very nice house, close to hospital, doctor, pharmacy and shops. The house was fully adapted to my husband's needs. A crowd-funding committee was formed and within a few months we were on the plane and have no regrets.



Walking to town and accessibility, however, was a whole other STORY. But, things have changed gradually and our needs have changed as well.

What did not change was the waiting. The waiting grew in a sneaky way. Suddenly there were waiting lists! Waiting a long time for an appointment at the specialists or for an operation can be so frustrating.

Waiting a long time for specific lab results makes you grit your teeth. To stand in line and wait for a handicapped toilet is one thing but seeing people emerge that clearly have no handicap is a bit weird.

Waiting months for a specific kind of wheelchair makes you feel so helpless.

Waiting for someone to drive out of a handicapped parking spot for you makes you want to cry.

What makes us jump for joy is the cars being towed from the sidewalks. No more waiting for a parking-spot!

And the thing we have been waiting for so long, the AVIRAMPs at Flamingo Airport. We saw the large switch-back ramp standing there from December 2018 all alone on the tarmac with the little ramp at its side ... waiting to start working and let passengers get on and off a plane.

We have been waiting for the renovation of the hospital to finish and our patience has been rewarded. There is a big light shining at the end of the tunnel. All this waiting was not for nothing. We cannot wait to enjoy the beauty. *Ria Evers-Dokter*



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CLEAN COAST  
B O N A I R E

Next Cleanup June 8  
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# DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know? Bonaire boasts two species of birds that are orioles, the Venezuelan troupial (*Trupial*) and the Yellow oriole (*Trupial kachó*), but only one is native to Bonaire.**

Over forty years ago, the Venezuelan troupial was brought on purpose to Bonaire. Both birds are gorgeous and have similar markings – they are closely related – and are well-loved by bird enthusiasts. However, like siblings, they each have their own way of doing things.

The Yellow oriole is not as bold or as brightly colored as the Venezuelan troupial and its call is not considered



very melodic. In fact, the Papiamentu name, Trupial kachó (dog troupial), refers to its call as sounding like the bark of a dog. These birds spend quite a bit of time building well-designed hanging nests and often return to these nests year after year.

The Venezuelan troupial is extremely curious. It has a

very beautiful call, and its orange, black and white color pattern is striking. These birds don't bother with building a nest and instead are obligate nest pirates! They steal nests! Obligate means they don't have a choice – they have to – but I think it's just pure laziness, or cleverness. Why bother building a nest when you have the skills to steal one. They often eat the other birds' eggs or babies in the process. These birds were introduced to Bonaire in 1973 and although I've heard several stories as to how, Elsmarie Beukenboom helped me with the historical account. A friar, who also happened to be a bird enthusiast, visited Bonaire and noticed that there were no Venezuelan troupials here. He had seen them in Curacao and Aruba and figured they had gone extinct in Bonaire. So, thinking he was doing a good thing, he brought seven birds to Bonaire. Soon after, to make sure they established themselves successfully, he brought another 19 birds! And that's how these birds came to Bonaire.

Although these birds are a favorite of bird-watchers, they compete with native birds by stealing nests (and eating other birds' eggs/young) and they also compete with native birds for food, particularly the Yellow orioles since they are so closely related. These sorts of introductions or invasions (like rabbits in Australia or lionfish in the Caribbean) have all sorts of impacts to native species, many of which are poorly understood and not well quantified. Although people say there are fewer Yellow orioles than before, we really don't know.

As we learn more about invasive species (introduced species that have a negative effect on native species), people and governments are making progress in trying to prevent non-native species from entering new places, especially islands. Islands are particularly susceptible to invasions. In the past, when there weren't planes or



motorized boats, it was rare for a new plant or animal to reach an island. Every now and then a bird would get blown off track during a storm or a lizard would drift on a piece of floating wood (an uprooted tree for instance) until they reached an island. Because of this isolation, many islands have endemic species, species that only live on that island and nowhere else. Nowadays, we are used to having non-native species around like goats, donkeys, pigs, mice and rats on our island. What many people don't realize is that these non-native species have far-reaching consequences on our native plants and animals. Many of which we don't fully understand because these introductions happened so long ago.

Back to the birds. Venezuelan troupials are here to stay. I have to admit that I love these birds, despite knowing that they are non-native species and nasty nest raiders as well! They say history repeats itself, but hopefully we learn from our past and keep working towards keeping nature in balance by preventing future introductions.

Story and photos: Caren Eckrich, STI-NAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature



## Why Celebrate World Oceans Day?

World Oceans Day has been celebrated every June 8 since 1992. The concept was proposed at the Earth summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil by Canada's International Center for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada.

Now more than ever, with the overwhelming threats of plastic choking our oceans and marine life, and with global warming, do individuals need to make this personal. Everyone should be afraid of what we, as humans, have done to our oceans. We need to be aware of the effects our daily habits have on the oceans and our planet and make a change.

The oceans are the lungs of our planet, providing the oxygen we breathe. They are a major source of food, medicines, and income. We celebrate this day to remind everyone of the major role the oceans play in our everyday lives. It is a day to celebrate the beauty and the promise of the oceans. On this day we hope to unite and mobilize the world's population for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. JM.

## REEFIESTA: Diving to restore Bonaire's reefs on World Reef Day

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (formerly Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire) hosts the fourth annual Reefiesta on World Reef Day June 1. The goal of the Reefiesta celebration is to bring divers and ocean conservation-minded individuals together to promote coral reef restoration and ocean conservation. World Reef Day is a call to action for people around the world to make simple choices today to save our reefs' future.

To do our part on Bonaire, Reef Renewal Bonaire is asking you to join a dive and help coral restoration efforts. Participants do not need any previous coral restoration experience and only need to be certified divers. Dives will take place all day, by boat and by shore. Reef Renewal Bonaire divers will lead divers as they out-plant corals and work in the coral nurseries. Reefiesta will end with a sunset celebration on the beach thanking all of the volunteers for their hard work.

The event is a free, educational event with the goal of spreading awareness for the restoration and conservation of Bonaire's coral reefs. For more information about the event and to sign-up, visit [www.reefrenewalbonaire.org/reefiesta](http://www.reefrenewalbonaire.org/reefiesta).





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Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

**WEEKENDS ONLY...**

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



# What's Happening

Thursday, May 30	<b>Ascension Day</b> <i>Legal Holiday</i> <b>Free movie</b> "From the Waste Up" 7pm /7.30. See box at right.
Saturday, June 1	<b>Mashe Rincon Krioyo</b> <i>Street market in Rincon, 1st &amp; last Saturday each month</i>  <b>ReeFiesta</b> for World Reef Day. Rebuilding Bonaire's reefs. see page 11.
Sunday, June 2	<b>Fun Bike Race</b> , See page 6.  <b>Jibe City</b> , Windsurf Slalom Race. Sign up May 31, 1 - 4 pm.  <b>Bonaire Culinary Team's BBQ Fundraiser</b> . 11am-3pm At: Best Cellars, Kaya Industrial. \$15 per person. Tickets: Kelvin, 795 4041; Rhashindra, 529 0716
Saturday, June 8	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey</b> Te Amo Beach. 8-10am
Sunday, June 9	<b>Bonaire Culinary Team's Cook-Out #6</b> . 6pm-9pm. It Rains Fishes Restaurant. \$45 per person for a three-course menu with wine. Reservations ONLY: Jarno: 700 6112; bonaireculinaryteam@gmail.com. Help send Bonaire's Culinary Team to the annual Taste of the Caribbean competition.
Thursday, June 13	<b>National Reading Day</b> At 10am more than 100 volunteers will read to all classes of all primary schools and many reception centers on the island.
Sunday, June 23	<b>Walk, Ride, Swim for the Roses</b> . Join in the fight against cancer. Complete the cycling (12-20KM), walking (6-8 KM) and swimming (1.2 KM) routes. A combination of Walk & Swim and Ride & Swim is possible. First participants start at 6.30am, Location: Spice at Eden Beach. Find where tickets are sold at: <a href="http://ridefortheroses.org/2019/index.html">http://ridefortheroses.org/2019/index.html</a>
June 23-26	<b>DéFi Wind Caribbean</b> ; A race for experienced windsurfers who know how to surf in open sea. Hosted at Sorobon Beach Resort. Held at different locations, depending on the winds at Kralendijk, Pink Beach and Lac Bay.
June 27-30	<b>Sorobon Masters</b> begins directly after the DefiWind Caribbean – a windsurfing long distance race in the open ocean at Lac Bay SoWrobon Beach resort. Divisions: Slalom, Freestyle, Speed and Rookies.



Plastic Free Bonaire features free movie "From the Waste Up" a movie about families living without plastic for a year will be shown FREE on May 30, 7:30 pm at Sign Studio on Kaya Amsterdam (behind Homestyle). Anyone arriving early can view a demo of a plastic machine used for a current pilot project by Bonaireur Duradero at 7 pm. There will be a discussion following the movie. Snacks will be available.

## 2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	5-28	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	6-4	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	6-6	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL

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 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

• **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.

### 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](http://stinapabonaire.org/events), Tel. 717-8444

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

**Echo**. See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 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](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). We need at least one day's notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

### SATURDAYS

• **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)** Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

• **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers' Market)** At Kriabon the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55,next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.

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

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

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

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

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

### CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)**—Every **Wednesday** at Bonaire





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it—just look up



# THE STARS HAVE IT

## Horoscope May 2019

### JUPITER AT MIDNIGHT

Jupiter, the largest gas giant planet in the solar system, will reach opposition on June 10th and that means it will soon be closest to earth for the year. We're going to view the sky at midnight when we might get an extra special guest planet to make an appearance. We have our skies set for the end of May at 10pm facing southeast. As the sun sets in the west, the brighter stars are starting to pop out. As we get toward 10:30 and even 11pm, you can't miss our featured planet shining like a cream-colored beacon in the night. That's Jupiter, and it is really bright! If we compare Jupiter to a star, like Antares over there, brightest star in the constellation Scorpius, you'll notice Jupiter doesn't twinkle as much as Antares. Stars generally twinkle more than planets. So Antares will sparkle red and white. Red and white. But mostly you'll notice the red. Jupiter will give off a steady, cream-colored light. Even though Jupiter is coming closer to the earth, it's still not exactly close. Jupiter will be about 400 million miles away from you. But that's significantly closer than it was six months ago. Let's take a look at the earth and Jupiter from space. Let's head above the sun!

We're looking down at the orbits of the earth and Jupiter around the sun. The earth is, on average, 93 million miles away from the sun, whereas Jupiter's average distance is 484 million miles. As Jupiter and earth orbit the sun, they constantly vary their distance from each other. When Jupiter is at its farthest distance from us, and is on the other side of the sun, it can be as far as 580 million miles away. However, once every year, earth and Jupiter line up on the same side of the sun and they are a lot closer. Instead of 580 million miles, they're only about 400 million miles from each other. Whenever this happens we say Jupiter is at opposition because Jupiter is opposite the sun in the sky as seen from earth. And when Jupiter is at opposition, it is always at its closest, brightest and best for viewing.

At midnight we see Jupiter higher in the sky. Since Jupiter is near opposition, it makes a great sight in a telescope. Through a small telescope you can see the disc of the planet and four moons nearby. The moons are Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Through a larger telescope you can see features on the surface of the planet. You can see two or more horizontal stripes and if you're really lucky, you can sometimes make out the great red spot. The great red spot is a humongous cyclone of gasses that well up from the inside and churn the outer surface of the planet. Right now, the great red spot is about the size of two earths. One other plus of staying up past midnight: you may be able to catch a glimpse of next month's featured planet: and it has lots of rings. That steady yellow light, clearing the treetops is actually the ringed planet Saturn! I'm really looking forward to this summer when I can see both of these giant planets in the nighttime sky. This week, here is your preview. So look for Jupiter this week rising in the southeastern sky. You may have to stay up a little later than normal, but it is totally worth it. And be sure to look at Jupiter in a telescope this month. It doesn't take much magnification to see Jupiter's four largest moons at opposition this month. Jupiter will tide you over until Saturn season. It's all there when you keep looking up!  
*Dean Regas & James Albury, <http://www.stargazersonline.org>*

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**Aries (Mar.21–Apr.20)** Family get-togethers will be interesting. You may have to explain your actions to your family. Talk to an older family member you have helped in the past. Romance appears. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Taurus (Apr.21–May 20)** Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. It may not be the best day to confront employers or to present your ideas. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**Gemini (May 21–Jun.21)** You need an outlet. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. You could find yourself having problems with coworkers and employers. It's time to reevaluate your own motives and make changes to yourself first. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**Cancer (Jun.22–Jul.22)** New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last. You should get involved in competitive sports this month. You need to get out and challenge yourself. You must be careful not to trust just anyone. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**Leo (Jul.23–Aug.22)** Call someone you haven't seen in a long time. Avoid any erratic behavior or it could cause isolation at home. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Travel will be fun, but expect it to cost you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**Virgo (Aug.23–Sept.23)** Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. Travel will result in new romantic attractions. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. Call someone you haven't seen in a long time. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Libra (Sept.24–Oct.23)** Your high energy will enable you to take the role of

leader in group functions. Direct your energy wisely. Your passionate mood will be well received by your mate. You may get some opposition. Personal changes will be to your benefit. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24–Nov. 22)** Residential moves will be in your best interest. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Get involved in a competitive sport that will bring the challenges you thrive on. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Sagittarius (Nov.23–Dec.21)** An older loved one may be having problems. Don't expect support from your mate. Try to curb your tongue and let others at least get a word in. Do what you can to help them but don't neglect your own family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Capricorn (Dec.22–Jan.19)** Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. Try not to be so demonstrative. You can expect to have a passionate time if you go out with someone you are romantically interested in. You need to be around friends and family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Aquarius (Jan.20–Feb.18)** Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind. Get into some activities that will help you in making new friends. Deception and doubts may surround your involvement with friends and relatives. You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Pisces (Feb.19–Mar.20)** Compromise may be necessary. You can't help everyone. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Be prepared to neutralize any threats. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. *Michael Thiessen Astrology Online*

## Faces of the Guardian Walk and Run

Overall winners for all races were Charlon Sumter finishing 8k in 29:23 and Inge van Bergen overall female finishing 8k in 32:06.



My Guardian Group presented \$1500. checks to St Bonaire Youth Entertainment and Pikkebuys Productions.





## Reflections On Another Time

On May 4, the volunteers of Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga dedicated the Renee Leach Library room, designated by two original signs designed by Michael LaFortune and Dianna Ryback of Sign Studio. Renee attended the gathering unaware of what was to occur. She was delighted by the "unveiling" and the well-deserved honor presented by her colleagues and friends. On May 9, 2019, Renee passed away with advanced ALS disease.



Renee sees her signs at the unveiling of the library named for her

Many years ago Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga found a permanent home on Kaya Simon Bolivar. At the shelter itself there were more books than you can imagine in several different languages. They were stacked in piles and boxes in a 40-foot container waiting to be sorted and transported to their new location. The challenge was getting that done and a daunting challenge it was. Many attempted to do this and many failed until a little blonde lady named Renee Leach quietly appeared. A devoted shelter volunteer, Renee waved her magic organizational wand, and voila! All was in order. Dutch, English, Spanish, German, and even some Papiamentu books were in their proper places. The books were all neatly arranged by genre, designation, authors and in alphabetical order. Our remarkable Renee did this monumental job alone, on her own, devoting weeks and weeks towards creating a fantastic library.

From that day forward Renee was 'on the job' going through books in the shelter container. She decided which ones would go to the Pakus, seeing they arrived in a timely manner and made sure they were put in their proper place on arrival. Renee knew exactly where to find the book you were looking for and kept a list of names waiting for the arrival of a requested book. It's now taking an entire team of volunteers to do Renee's job. Even though they are doing it well, there will only be one 'book lady' in our hearts and memories and that will be Renee.

You are missed. Story: Dabney Lassiter. Photos: Rhonda Lockhart



Original signs designed by Michael LaFortune and Dianna Ryback of Sign Studio



Renee with Paul Wichers, founder of Pakus di Pruga and Gibi Bomba



A small sampling of our "inventory."

## ANNUAL KITTEN BLOWOUT EVENT!

It's kitten season again at Animal Shelter Bonaire and time for the Annual Kitten Blowout Event! The shelter has a huge selection of new arrivals. All new makes, models, sizes and colors! Over 40 to choose from, that's right...40! There are big ones, small ones, striped ones, spotted ones, long haired ones, short haired ones...you name it—we've got it! From eight weeks to five months old we have the perfect one for you. They all come fully equipped with current vaccinations and a warranty for future sterilization at the appropriate (mile)age included in the adoption fee. There's no better time to rev up your life and your home with a brand new kitten (or two)! Trade in your uneventful days and nights for months of a top of the line feline entertainment center. Treat yourself to years of luxurious soft fur and unequalled love and companionship from one of these new beauties. Come by the Kitten Showroom at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and drive a new kitten(s) home today! Monday through Friday, 9am -12pm and 3 - 5pm, Saturday 9am - 3pm nonstop. Story: Jane Disko, Photos: Amy Weir



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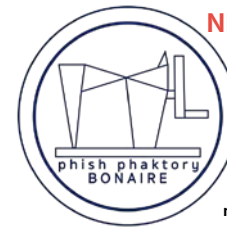
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# Antriol, Kaya Fidelia 1

## Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- restored (2009), authentic Bonairean house
- two spacious terraces
- Accessibility: 3 minutes to the center of Kralendijk
- air conditioning in bedrooms
- total living area: 1,528 / 142 sq.ft./m2
- total ground area: 7,761 / 721 sq.ft./m2

**Asking price  
US\$ 210,000**

**Buyers cost**



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
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