

**Photo exhibit: Our Youth Our Future**  
**OLB's report card**  
**Vote for the 48hr films**



Photo: Julie Morgan  
 Story: Pam Teitel

## Bonaire Regatta 2019

The 52ND Annual Bonaire Regatta, October 9 through 12, opened with the colorful Nations Parade winding through town from Kralendijk Stadium to Wilhelmina Park. Sadly, before Regatta's close, one sail boat would be lost and four people injured.

At the opening ceremony, the teams attending the Kingdom games from Aruba, Curaçao, St Maarten, the Netherlands and Bonaire proudly carried their flags and took the stage. They were followed by residents of Bonaire carrying flags of their birth countries. The Regatta was opened by the Lt Governor Rijna. The local studio Dance Sensation performed a dance dedicated to earth's conservation. As with all Regatta evenings, music from local and regional bands raised the energy of the crowd. Over 40 stands provided food, crafts, and a fun kid's area to keep everyone entertained.

Hype Events, led by Hennyson Thielman, organized the regatta for the fifth time. Hennyson commented, "Every year we are learning while we go. We started with no experience ... [we are] trying to improve every year."

October is a risky month to hold a Regatta as our strong trade winds can elude us. The weather forecasts looked dismal, predicting rain and low winds, but while Curaçao had thunderstorms and bad weather, Bonaire was blessed with reasonable winds. Unfortunately, the

winds were not strong enough to entice the wind surfers or the kite surfers. They were, however, enough for other competitors, although with the lighter winds, a few race courses had to be shortened to get everyone back in time.

Over the years Regatta has shifted to various locations around the island. This year was the first time it was directly in the town center. The starts were from Klein Bonaire, while the finishes were in front of the town pier. Home for the Regatta office was Fort Orange.

Micro boat sailors were skeptical of the town pier/Karels location, but a small floating pier assembled behind Karels bar was far enough off shore for consistent winds, and was in fact a success. Sixteen micro boats competed in four categories. Raji Lamper brought three boats from Aruba while Haisel Cijntje brought one from Curaçao. Genaro Anthony, Miro Anthony, Melissa Domacasse and Jermeline Domacasse captained the rest of the Bonaire fleet. The unique micro boat class with its beautifully crafted boats is always fun to watch.

Of the 16 optimists sailing, 10 competitors came from Curaçao and the remaining six from Bonaire. They moved the course to the town pier, but with a cruise ship blocking the wind, they returned to the Kas de Regatta course. The young sailors had a great competition.

There was a small turnout for the Sunfish with only 10 boats from Bonaire and no visitors. The tight team

from Bonaire enjoyed the friendly competition and had a great time! Following the recent high energy Sunfish World Championships, it was nice to have a more relaxed event!

As always, the Boto Piskado, the old sailing boats traditionally used for fishing, presented many challenges. As the boats are not used regularly anymore, they fall into disrepair. Four were restored for the 50th Regatta, and these were readied to sail this week. One of these boats was the foundation of the Regatta 52 years ago. As they are a big part of Regatta history, Hype Events helped them out this year with a gift certificate at Budget Marine for materials and a crane to get them in and out of the water. (In past years the fishing boats were lifted by a group of sailors and carried into the water.) The crews were working hard to finish the boats as the crane arrived to lift them into the water. Uniko, though fixed and ready to go, did not have a full crew, so it stayed on shore. On the second to last race on Saturday a gust turned the boat, Brisa. With the ballast now on the wrong side, the Brisa quickly sank. This same boat sank 20 years ago during the Regatta, but it was rescued from 302 feet where it sat on top of a sub sea wall to the abyss. Had she landed two feet further she would have been lost for good. We will test with depth sounders to find her new resting place and hope for a shallower rescue depth.

*Regatta, continued on page 3*



### Big gains made in Education & Health Care, however....

Nine years ago this month the Netherlands Caribbean became a public body within the Dutch state. Or, to put the matter differently, nine years ago the five smaller islands were liberated from many decades of mis-governance and non-governance under the thumb of the former Netherlands Antilles.

The progress made since 10-10-10 on Bonaire under the OLB was evaluated during extensive discussions between Island leaders and State Secretary Tamara Van Ark, who visited this month.

Bonaire's report card: the quality of education and health care has improved substantially. However, progress in the social domain is disappointing. Poverty has increased rather than declined. The cost of living has increased more than incomes. Bonaire still needs to be brought up to the social standards expected in the Netherlands.

The government in the Netherlands and the OLB agreed to continue working together until all the goals of the Administrative Agreement have been met.

► **State Secretary Van Ark met with Central Dialogue Bonaire to discuss the benchmark social minimum.** Central Dialogue Bonaire is the local consultative body consisting of the Executive Council, representatives of employers and employees, and the Chamber of Commerce.



On October 3rd, members of the Central Dialogue and State Secretary Van Ark signed a joint declaration. The aim: to achieve a broadly supported and consistent socio-economic long-term policy.

► **The transition period for Bonaire's new traffic law has been extended to March 1, 2020.** During this period, the police will continue to monitor the new rules. Drivers with multiple warnings and citizens who endanger traffic with their behavior will risk a fine.

The transition period has been extended because more time is needed to properly enforce the rules. Four rules are emphasized: 1. Drivers and passengers of scooters, motorbikes and quads must wear helmets. 2. Drivers must not hold a mobile phone or tablet when driving. 3. Occupants must wear a seat belt. 3. Children under the age of 4 must ride in a child seat. As always, drivers must not drive under the influence of alcohol.

The law regulating tinted windows hasn't been finalized. At the beginning of this year, the Island Council decided that tinted windows should allow 70% of the light through. The Island Council then submitted an amendment to lower the standard from 70 to 55%.

► **Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe discussed how to modernize Bonaire's tourist tax during his October visit to the European Netherlands.** He met with Mr. Jan Geert Bakker, the director of the tax office of the municipality of Amsterdam, and chairman of the National Association of Local Taxes; and senior tax lawyer Ron Stam. "With more than twenty million visitors a year, Amsterdam has enormous expertise in the field of tourist tax, including cruise

passengers and a wide variety of accommodation and attractions. Mr. Bakker is happy to share the knowledge and experience of his service with us," said deputy Tjin Asjoe. Modernizing Bonaire's tourist tax is a condition of the Administrative Agreement.

► **The island government (OLB) will help low-income households install a more cost-efficient way to buy propane gas and electricity.** OLB will finance the full initial payment to install Pagabon (pre-paid system of the WEB) or to exchange small gas bottles for large gas bottles.

After installation, the person or family will be responsible for the on-going cost of electricity and propane.

OLB's financial initiative launches its information campaign: "Watch your money" ("Wak bo sèn"). The campaign's aims: to help residents manage their money; to improve the level of life in the neighborhoods; to promote safety in homes; and to combat poverty.

► **On September 29, 2019 Bonaireans in the European Netherlands celebrated Dia di Boneiru.** Gathering in a Rotterdam convention center, they braved the harsh autumn weather to enjoy a heart warming program of culture, music, dance and Bo-

nairean snacks and drinks. Deputy James Kroon attended as representative of the Executive Council (BC). According to Kroon, the BC believes it is important to keep in touch with the Bonaireans in the European Netherlands. "With the projects that are in the planning, there will be vacancies in the coming years that I hope will find suitable Bonairean candidates who will bring experience along with knowledge," said Kroon.

► **The ministries of I&W (Infrastructure & Water Management) and EZK (Economic Affairs & Climate) have promised to amend the Electricity and Water BES Act that was introduced last year.** Bonairean stakeholders felt that the law had undesirable consequences, particularly for small-scale consumers, including low-income households. The Executive Council (BC), after consultation with stakeholders including the management of WEB, sent a letter to the ministries of I&W and EZK proposing changes. Through internet consultation, all were given the opportunity to comment on the draft text of the amended law. The BC points out that amending electricity and water tariffs fits with the policy of the Cabinet, in its fight against poverty, by reducing the costs of essential necessities such as water and electricity.

► **Bonaire's police (KPCN) will run a turn-in campaign for weapons October 28 to November 3.** Weapons can be handed in between 8am - 8 pm. at the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) and the Public Prosecution Service (OM). The holder of a (illegal) firearm can also have it collected by appointment with the KPCN. The identity of the person handing in the arm will be registered. Fire arms cannot be handed in anonymously, but other weapons can be returned anonymously.



Photo: Roëltón Thodé

Bonaire hosted the sporting tournament "Torneo di Reino" October 6 to 11, 2019. Jong Bonaire organized the event for 150 young competitors between the ages of 12 and 18 from Sint Maarten, Aruba, Curaçao, Netherlands and Bonaire. The teams competed in three sports: football, baseball and basketball.

Torneo di Reino is a program of the Dutch Ministry of Justice. Together with the Dutch Laureus Foundation, the Ministry has set up the program "Only you determine who you are." Prince Pieter-Christiaan of Oranje-Nassau is the chairman of Laureus. The program is designed to give young people a solid foundation for the future through sport. As part of the program, young people can attend clinics with professional athletes. Participation in Torneo di Reino is the highlight of the program. Photo: Bonaire's team with Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna and Prince Pieter-Christiaan of Oranje-Nassau.

We are only 12 pages this issue. Our publisher, Julie, has broken her arm. The Reporter will return to our regular 16 pages soon.

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# Our Youth Our Future

Recently seventh and eighth graders from three different schools attended an exposition of 38 old photos of people of Bonaire, then wrote down their impressions. The images, from the archives of several collections\*, dated from the 1800s into the 1950s. They gave the children new, sometimes unexpected insights into their heritage.

Some students said they were surprised to see their forebearers living in wooden houses, barefoot, and riding on donkeys. Some didn't know the boys and girls were educated in separate schools, the boys taught by friars and the girls by nuns. Black faces predominate in the photos, which puzzled some students.

One girl recognized her grandmother as a young woman in one of the photos. She's close to her grandmother and was proud so see her portrayed in the exhibit. The girl talked for ten minutes about her grandmother and where they live. Other children thought they recognized grandparents in



the pictures too, or great uncles and aunts.

The exhibit was presented by The Traveling Caribbean Heritage Project, a four year research project by the Dutch Institute for Science on the heritage of the islands. The exhibit was prepared by Liliane de Geus, FUHIKUBO, and Professor Alex van Stipriaan Luisius, Caribbean History and Culture, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

The responses of the children are part the data being collected.

\*Collecties Archivoboneiru, Heitkoning, Stadsmuseum Tilburg (Frater's van Tilburg) & Nationaal Museum voor Wereldculturen.



## Regatta, continued from page 1



photo Pam Teitel

### Last minute preparations to ready the historical fishing boats (boto piskado) for the 52nd Bonaire Sailing Regatta

In the Yacht Racing class 1, there were two boats from Bonaire, two from Curaçao and one from Aruba. In the racing class 2, all four boats were from Curaçao. These boats compete together year after year in the Bonaire Regatta, so there is a great atmosphere among them. The open class had a competitor from the US, one from the Netherlands and one from Bonaire. On the first day of racing, the buoy was just behind the cruise ship so sailors needed good luck to get some wind to get around it. The course was adjusted to avoid that problem for all types of boats.

The festive boat party was well attended with tons of boats and floats enjoying the sun, the sea and the music! Sadly, just before the close, a passenger was apparently thrown from a fast-moving cig-

arette boat, Hu\$tlar from Curaçao, just before it flipped over. Authorities arrived at the scene, off shore from the party in less than one minute and took the three injured people to an ambulance awaiting them on shore. At least one was seriously injured. A Seadoo also flipped sending its driver off in an ambulance as well.

The final evening of the Regatta closed without further problems. Awards were announced, and the sailors were cheered as they received their honors at the main stage. Everyone partied into the night to the music from Bonaire's live bands.

Look for results of Regatta winners and more photos on *The Bonaire Reporter* facebook page. *By Pam Teitel*

## FOR SALE Kaya Saturnus 22, Belnem Guesthouse Amarula



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# And... It's a Wrap!

See the films  
Oct. 25 to 27

The 48 Hour Film Project

It was a sleepless weekend October 4th to 6th for Bonaire's filmmakers who had just 48 hours to write, shoot and edit their films. At the Friday night kickoff, each team received a different genre for its film in a random drawing. Then they learned the required elements - a character, a prop and a line of dialogue-- each of which must appear in all films.

Bonaire's participating teams and team leaders are:

- **599 Empire** – Urvin Sint Jago
- **JMH Studio** – Clayton Ignecia (Curaçao & Bonaire)
- **Kabritu Team** – Erick Alvarez
- **MBO MEDIA** – Gairo Frans
- **OrigiOne** – Jeanvier Janga (Bonairean team in the European Netherlands)
- **Ray Production** – Raynel Cecilia
- **We Were Born Ready** – Jeremy Pikerie
- **Your Vision Production** – Kitian Francis

- **Mega D Youth Foundation/MSTAR Media** (Sint. Eustatius)

Come see the nine films and vote for your favorite Friday or Saturday, Oct 25 & 26. Each night has three screenings at 7, 9, and 11pm. Tickets are \$5 per screening. Then come again on Sunday Oct. 27 at 7pm for Awards Night when the winning films are announced and screened. Tickets are again \$5.

Bonaire's top film will be screened at Filmapalooza 2020, the official 48HFP Awards Weekend hosted in Rotterdam.

## Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

### Who do you call?

In response to the article in the last issue about fake Facebook accounts trying to scam you with new "be my friend" requests, a reader wrote in and asked why I didn't report the scammers to the police.

The reasons why I didn't are quite simple.

#1 – Who am I reporting it to? I am in Bonaire, and the scammers are "somewhere" in the world, and the phone number they used for SMS was an American one

and so was mine. So reporting it to Bonaire would get a laugh since there was no crime taking place here. Reporting it to the US authorities wouldn't get anywhere since I am not in USA. And...

#2 – Even if I were to figure out which police department to report it to – who do I report? At no time did I have anything other than fake names and burner SMS numbers to communicate with. I expect that the scammers weren't even in the USA. So...

#3 – While it is scummy and immoral, until there is an actual exchange of money – there is no crime committed... Just conspiracy to commit a crime by some unknown people in unknown places. That's not going to excite any police officer anywhere.

As for the "Sending by FedEx" or "give me your checking account information" – these scammers hire people online to pick up packages for them or receive funds for them, knowing that if the 'fake recipient' gets caught, the buck stops there. Nobody knows the real identity. We've all seen the spams offering "work at home jobs."

So, the best solution is to be cautious and not get duped, tricked or scammed by these mean and nasty people. Have a great week and surf safe.

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.



## BONAIRE SKY PARK

Can you spot Venus?

Other than the moon, the planet Venus is the brightest thing in the night sky. Whether you call it the morning star, the evening star, the first star you see at night, or a UFO, this planet is unmistakable. It is so incredibly bright! But you probably haven't seen Venus in a while.

That's because it has been behind the sun for several months, and has been pretty much invisible. But Venus is rounding the sun and heading into the evening skies soon, and so we wanted to issue a challenge: who can be the first person to see Venus? We will give you the tips and tricks to spotting it first, so you can claim the title of Venusian observer #1.

Look at the sky Saturday October 26th a little before sunset. To spot Venus you'll need impeccable timing, a clear view to the southwestern horizon, and no clouds. As the sun sets, the brighter stars will pop out. The first star you may see, just above the horizon, is no star at

all. It is the beautiful and dazzling planet Venus. Well, that was easy.

But spotting Venus might not be quite that easy. You'll have to look for Venus at just the right time of night. If you look too early, the sun will be up, and the sky will be too bright. If you look too late, Venus will be below the trees. If there are any clouds near the horizon, they could block Venus - not to mention trees or buildings. So, it is possible that you can start to see Venus on Saturday, but it will definitely get easier as the weeks go on.

As we approach Venus, we can see that this planet is about 7,500 miles in diameter - just slightly smaller than earth. It's often called our sister planet for this very reason. However, that is where the similarities end, because under a thick blanket of carbon dioxide lies a battered, sweltering surface that is 900 degrees Fahrenheit. Also, the air pressure, under all that atmosphere, would be so intense that it would squish you flat. And finally, when it rains on Venus ... it rains sulfuric acid. So, that would leave any visitor to Venus, a melted, squished, acidic pile of goop. Those clouds that squished and rained acid on

visitors are also what make Venus so bright. All of the planet's reflect light from the sun. That's why we can see them at night. But Venus' atmosphere is the most reflective of any planet. Plus, Venus is relatively large, and can come relatively close to earth. That combination makes Venus super-bright!

On Saturday October 26th just after sunset, Venus is just barely above the southwestern horizon. Venus will get easier to see as the days and weeks go on. If we look again, day by day, on the 27th... the 28th... and the 29th, Venus won't get much higher above the horizon but our friend the moon comes around to help. A slim, waxing crescent moon will be just above Venus on the 29th and this can help you in your search. And Mercury will be there too- but it will be tough to spot. You may even be able to find it at the beginning of the week. But if nothing else look for the crescent moon near Venus on the 29th.

It's all there when you... Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.stargazeronline.org/index.html>

## Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Dragana Drmesic

### Which style of yoga do you teach?



My classes are mainly Hatha based. This is the stubborn practice of taming the body, the breath and the mind. Hatha yoga is the most ancient style of yoga; it is the foundation for the other styles. Originally, Hatha yoga is done to keep the body healthy; the classical asanas (poses) were developed with the purpose to stimulate the internal organs. Over the years, modern yoga poses have been invented which work more on the external body. For example, the modern poses work on the muscles, so one becomes strong and fit. Both aspects are to be found in my classes, among other goals like mental health. My classes like yin/yang yoga, power yoga, and beginners

class are a mix of these goals. More and more people experience the great benefits of yoga. There is a style and teacher for everybody.

Some people ask what style I teach before signing up for a class. Well, there is no short answer. It actually depends on several factors. Which students are in the class? What is their energy level—are they all low energy, or all high, or does the energy level vary? In short, what is the kind of yoga the students need at that moment? With this knowledge, I know what kind of yoga I need to teach. During the class, I make sure people are challenged without overstepping their abilities.

The interesting part is that the students who come to my classes for different reasons, join the same class. The reviews that follow are from two different people. Although they attend the same class every week, they have different needs and experience the practice in different ways.

• *I am coming to your classes to reconnect to myself. To leave the week behind and to really be in the present moment, under the guidance of your gentle voice. Also to get more in to my body, to stretch and heal. It feels like a warm shower for my soul. Every end of the class, I am looking forward to the next. I feel very comfortable with you, which is not always the case with all yoga*

*teachers. The atmosphere is always soft and welcoming. It is for sure a highlight in my week.*

• *The yoga class is very relaxed and pleasant. For me it was the first time yoga, like many others I thought yoga is not for me, probably too spiritual. Dragana has completely surprised me with her yoga class. There is good guidance, laughter and she knows what is good for each body. I find myself fully unwinding and have noticed my body is becoming smoother.*

Their experience is different due to the guidance to connect to the self. Any judgement, negative thoughts, blames are gradually removed from the mind, being replaced by peace and calmness. This is why the slogan is: for everybody.

For information about classes, services and more: [www.dushiyogabonaire.com](http://www.dushiyogabonaire.com)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/dushiyogabonaire/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dragana.drmesic/>

Contact: [info@dushiyogabonaire.com](mailto:info@dushiyogabonaire.com); +599 770 3078



Bonaire has a strong and diverse yoga community. We have invited each of the Island's teachers to write about the type of yoga they teach.





As this years Wounded Warrior trip to your beautiful island lingers in my mind, I have been reflecting on every little thing that makes your island the best place for anyone to visit.

Every traveler has their own unique story he or she loves to tell.

The beauty of your island is magnificent, the water around the island are gin clear, its rich marine life, like the island lizards, donkeys and birds, and the flamingos are marvelous to see. The beaches, lagoons, caverns and desert-like hills are striking.

I have been to your island many times since 2006. I have never seen anybody angry. The act of saying "thank you" and "please" are heard throughout the island. Acts of kindness abound; everyone just comes up and welcomes you, talking always gets you to know more about the people of any country.

The caretakers of our trip were Helen Mercera-Thode, Derchlien Vrolijk and Rolando Martin from the tourism board, they had everything under control, and running like a clock.

One evening we were escorted by the Iron Order MC to the Cocktail Reception with the Lt. Governor at the Parliament and Council House in Kralendijk. Commissioner Nina den Heyer stood in for the Lt. Governor. She is an amazing person and a great speaker and host. A lot of smiles, a lot of laughter, and a couple tears were shed. I had the opportunity to thank the amazing government. Each warrior

was presented to the citizens of Bonaire, each were made ambassador of Bonaire and presented a certificate, Bonaire Flag pin and a Medallion. The people we had the pleasure of meeting were exceptional and caring.

There are so many people on Bonaire that made dreams come true for our Warriors and we thank you. Sorry if I missed you.

Orlando Francisca "Rent to Fun" you are my brother on my special second home. Every day he worked hard for the Warriors. Thank you for all you did all week. Claire Seely from Captain Don's you are my green-eyed angel and Floris Van Loo from Rum Runners, "Monday Night BBQ" and pizza mm mm good food. Rick and staff from Jewel of Bonaire we love you. Iron Order MC, KFC of Bonaire & Ruth van Tilburg-Obre, "It Rains Fishes", El Mundo Restaurant, "Rose Inn", "Eddy's", "Buddy Dive" Thank you, Paul Coolen, Roger & Wilco Haug and Sherman, "Breeze n Bite", "Bonaire Talk", Caradonna Dive Adventures and Freddie Bonaire. A big thanks to Julie Morgan of the Bonaire Reporter, with us every step of the way.

Our trip was stupendous! Now back to the people of Bonaire. I find them to be patient, optimistic, they have integrity and very passionate about presenting their



**Ask Kate**  
**Bonaire real estate advice**

*Question: Can I make an offer with contingencies, such as the contingency that my home in Canada sells before I buy a place in Bonaire? Gail*

Hi Gail,

Good question! A contingency in a purchase agreement means that unless a certain action takes place, the purchase agreement is void and the Buyer has no obligation to purchase. The Seller may accept or reject various contingencies. A contingency that a home in another country must sell first is one that will almost certainly be rejected by a Bonaire seller, since there is no guarantee that the home will sell. If your house is currently under a purchase agreement and you are just waiting for the closing date to receive the money, a Seller may be agreeable to a short contingency.

Two contingencies that are more common here in Bonaire are inspection contingencies and financing contingencies. Both will have expiration dates, a typical time frame for an inspection contingency is 14 days from the date of the fully signed purchase agreement. A financing contingency will take longer, because the bank will require the buyer's financial documentation and a completed appraisal of the property before submitting it to the loan committee for approval.

Remember that the Seller has the right to accept or reject any contingency, since the property is effectively on hold and cannot be sold to someone else during the contingency period.

Best of luck, *Kate Butler, 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

island as the best place to live in the world. They have learned, if you want to succeed, live your life by being kind and warm. Yes! Bonaireans make Bonaire. God Bless the Great Island of "Bonaire", and

all that live there.  
*Stewart Snyder, President, Handicapped Scuba Diving Alliance.*  
*Stew@hsanjscuba.com*



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# Law Enforcement

## Police Report for Sept 27 — Oct. 7, 2019

### Robberies

During night of Sept. 30: • a car was stolen (Hyundai Accent, registration #B-2239). The driver had left the keys in the starter. • Also, a wallet and other things were stolen from a car parked on Kaya Patricia.

During the night of Oct. 1: • Two main lights and injectors were removed from a Toyota Yaris parked at the Kaya Rafaela. • Two cars parked at Kaya Gloria were searched and the insurance documents removed from one of the cars. • A house on Kaya Deseado was broken into through the back door. Among other things, a laptop, a tablet, a PlayStation 4 and cash were taken.

Sometime during Oct. 4 and 5: • An orange children's bicycle was stolen. The bicycle was parked next to the stairs of an apartment complex on Kaya Patachi. • Diving gear was stolen from a car parked at a home on E.E.G. Bulevar. Four table lamps and a painting were also stolen from a locker in the garden. • An orange scooter (Gilera Runner, registration # MF-465) was stolen from behind a house on Kaya Tanki Matrimonio. On Saturday the scooter was found in the vicinity of the Kaya Organ.

Between Oct. 5, and Oct. 6, a wallet was stolen from an unlocked car parked in front of a house on Kaya Linda.

**Police Report, continued on page 6**



# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 21

## Life's Little Surprises

In one day a lot can happen. If you really pay attention, you will see that many of those little things can be very surprising, challenging and even sometimes daring. These little moments make life interesting and valuable.

I would like to share a few of one day's moments with you.

I started the day on the porch with a nice hot cup of coffee. While sipping the brew the sun started to rise and showed me an amazing array of colors. The whole sky was orange, red, yellow and the few clouds had golden edges. What a treat! What a way to start a day.

When I opened my ipad, I learned that our deputy, Nina den Heyer had sent me a message which made me very happy. As a personal care-taker I need feedback and help, as all those care-takers like me. So this message gave me a pep-up and made me feel good.

While chatting with a friend, I learned that she had important news to tell me, and excellent advice for how to get devices designed for persons with limitations.

More interesting facts were made clear: a befriended couple is going on a diet. Since the Keto-plan is a hot

topic and seems to work very well, they decided to try it. And dieting together is more fun. I wish them luck and success!

On Facebook one can find a challenging page: WHEELCHAIR-MAFFIA. They post witty info, amazing pictures. They challenge us as followers and give hot tips.

When you are a personal care-taker, you need feedback from other caretakers. That is why I love to talk with my peer group through a Facebook page. Here we can meet, chat, give tips, make fun and be there for each other.

Getting a new wheelchair is not as easy as it seems. It is like getting new shoes. You have to get fitted! And once all measurements are known, additional info is gathered and the order is sent to the manufacturer. It can take more than six months to get the chair. Recently a new kind of adapted wheelchair was approved. Let us hope that the procedure to get it will be shorter.

These days, when I have to go downtown, quite a few people stop me to say hello and to tell me that they read this column. "I know who you are. What is your next column about?" is the question I hear most. The question shows that people read to inform themselves. And that is the main goal. Now I hope that this awareness helps to improve accessibility.

Having a helping hand to clean the house is a blessing. Especially since our help is a person with limitation. She sure knows what to do, how to clean. She sees what needs to be done. I never have to tell her. She even plans ahead and asks me to prepare and plan with her, so she can execute a specific cleaning or clearing away. She makes me write a list of the cleaning products we need in order for her to do the job properly. And before and after the work, we talk a lot about things she likes to do, and the things that she needs guidance for. We love her to pieces and hope she will stay with us as long as possible.

And the last message of the day was that a famous Dutch singer had passed away. He had been wheelchair-bound for many years after a car accident. "God made the gates to heaven a bit more wheelchair-accessible."

And all this happened in one day. Our days are never dull. And never the same.

Maybe you can do the same.... sit down at the end of a long day and write down what happened and how it made you feel. Stick to all positive things and you will be surprised to learn how much that will amount to.

We wish you an interesting and surprising new day.  
*Ria Evers-Dokter.*

## A Garden? Just Do It!

It is such a good feeling when your job gives you a splendid result. This happened to me when a few weeks ago I had dinner with my kids at Red Palm Village restaurant. About a half year ago, Corjan, who is the restaurant's main chef, visited my garden asking about local herbs. I promised him to visit his kitchen to see how he used herbs from Bonaire.

At the restaurant we had a delicious four course meal. First we had a small light-colored green soup prepared with mint. The second course was salmon with herbs. While Corjan was busy with the main course I took a small walk in the cozy restaurant. I saw everywhere nice wooden containers and pots with the herbs that he uses fresh in his recipes. Can you imagine how great food tastes with just picked herbs: the aroma, the fresh green colors, the flavor – you can't beat it. One of my guests was a vegetarian who is very selective in his food choices. So I always do hold my heart when we go for dinner. When I saw a big smile on his face while he said, "This is fantastic food," I calmed down. In his vegetarian dish there were herbs mixed with olives, feta cheese and nuts. The other guests were also very satisfied. There was yerbi hole in the food, oregano, mint, parsley, Italian basil. The herbs give such a cozy atmosphere in the kitchen, and when herbs are as fresh as possible, you get the full nutritional value. In the end we had a plate with home made pudding and ice cream with some herbs on top.

I was really impressed by what a walk in my yard could do for a kitchen. I told Corjan that some of the herbs like the yerbi hole (kind of a basil) and the Mexican mint need full sun. So when you have these plants in the kitchen let them enjoy the full sunlight a few times a week. They become stronger with a healthy green color, and they stay alive longer.

**Herbs are of course good for our health.** There is an extremely bad flu going around Bonaire. I was right in the middle of it, so I know what I'm talking about: sore throat, headache, pain in the bones and no energy. For a long time I have not had the flu, and for sure it is because of the fresh herbs I use to make tea. This time it got me, but I fought back with herbs and it has lasted only three

days, not two weeks.

The best teas to drink are made from ginger (for headaches and to clean the blood); lemon grass, lemon and lemon leaves (for fever and vitamin C); tamarind and its leaves (for vitamin C and to clean the blood).

For an inflamed throat you can gargle with tea made from the bark of the cashew tree. Spit the tea out. Don't swallow.

To take away the flu's headache you can make a rub from the leaves of the Bonaire lily. Mash one of the long leaves with some menthol. Put the rub on your forehead. You can put another leaf over your forehead. A cotton kitchen towel will keep it in place.

So there are a lot of herbs and plants on Bonaire to use against flu and the cold. Aloe cleans the intestine; Mexican mint, local oregano and yerbi hole calm the stomach and leaves of local guiaba tree fight diarrhea. Build up the body with vitamins and minerals from the moringa and tamarind trees. Fight body pain with ginger, lemongrass, yerbihole, Mexican mint and oregano.

Use the teas the whole day in the way they should be used by gargling or drinking or rubbing. If you have none of these plants in your garden start planting them now. They all grow easily on Bonaire. They like its climate and sun. To have your medicine around your house, just do it now... *Angliet, Nature lover.*



Amazing, all these herbs growing in Corjan's kitchen.

## Police Report, continued from page 5

On Oct. 6 between 7.30am - 9.30pm, the back door of a house was forced and, among other things, two tile cutters (one a Makita brand) were stolen.

On Oct. 7, Thieves entered a house on Kaya Linda. They came through a kitchen window that was slightly open for ventilation and removed pieces of jewelery.

### Dive Site Robberies

Sept. 30, between 5.30-6pm a backpack and contents were removed from a car at the dive site Bulevar Santa Barbara Abou.

Oct. 6, between 2.30-3.15pm various items were stolen from the car from a car parked at the dive site Hilma Hooker.

Oct. 8, between 8.30-9.30am two dive logs, a white iPhone 6 and a first aid box were stolen from a car parked at the Tolo dive site. The car was not locked and the windows were open.

### On the Roads

On Sept. 27 a collision occurred on Kaya Korona. A man 64 yrs., was detained for being under the influence of alcohol.

On Sept. 28, around 8.30 a car hit a house. The driver left the location. Later in the evening a man (35 yrs.) was held.

In the evening hours of Oct. 8, a car and a scooter collided on the Kaya L.D Gerharts. The driver of the scooter came into contact with an arm on the left-hand side of the car. The riders of the scooter fell. The co-rider was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Neither scooter riders wore a helmet and received a warning.

### Arrests

Oct. 4, a man, 28 yrs., was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES.

Oct. 5, a man, 33 yrs., was arrested for attempted murder / manslaughter and mistreatment.

Oct. 6, a man 51 yrs. arrested for vandalism.

Oct. 8, a man, 63 yrs, was arrested while he was stealing gas from a car on Kaya Inglaterra. His car was also seized. The police have been busy for several weeks with reports of gas theft in various places. *Communicatie KPCN*

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip,  
phone (+599) 717 7251

If there is no emergency,  
phone (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000





# Reef Glimpses

## Lush coral growth on Playa mooring blocks creates challenge

*Would you like to help?*



The original buoy on this line became covered with fire coral (neither a true coral nor a reef-building coral), which weighed it down so that it couldn't keep the line afloat. The additional buoy raised the line, but some damage can be seen on the coral head. Clearly the buoys aren't the best long-term solution. (Behind the lines is my net bag with more soda-bottle-buoys)

off town, in our Harbour, there are healthy corals growing merrily (healthily?), even upon our concrete mooring blocks.

Because the fishermen's pier moorings are so close together, buoys to the surface would be too close together for safe boat passage. This no-buoys-system worked benignly for the first twenty years or so, but now many of those otherwise healthy corals on the mooring blocks are being injured by the mooring lines, which are in turn

being damaged by the corals. How do we protect the coral and the lines from each other, on mooring blocks which were created to secure boats and protect the coral? Well, we can't protect the coral from the lines and still use the moorings. And as the coral grows, we can't protect the lines from the coral, either. How can we deal with this?

For the past few years I've tried tying buoys underwater to pull the lines up. As long as the water is deep enough so the buoys don't interfere with the boats, this works pretty well – but only for a year or two. Why? Because stuff starts growing on the buoys themselves, which makes them heavier, and eventually they no longer lift the lines off the coral colonies and have to be replaced.

A much more permanent solution would be relocating the vulnerable coral colonies away from the mooring blocks. Most of the colonies are small enough to be carried by a diver to new locations nearby. Could we do this without injuring them unduly?

Such a project would need BNMP permission, of course, probably their supervision and possibly (okay, probably) their assistance. We'd have to identify the vulnerable coral colonies, remove them from the blocks (that step sounds so much simpler in words than it will be in actuality, don't ya think?), and transport them to their new sites. It will entail some hard work, but it will also provide a rare opportunity to help living coral colonies in a personal, tangible way.

By the way, substitute "sponges" for "corals" and this project sounds familiar, doesn't it? I think the coral colonies will be more difficult to detach than the Salt Pier sponges, but finding new sites for the coral heads will be easier than with sponges because each colony can stay in its own site and nothing will need to be tied.

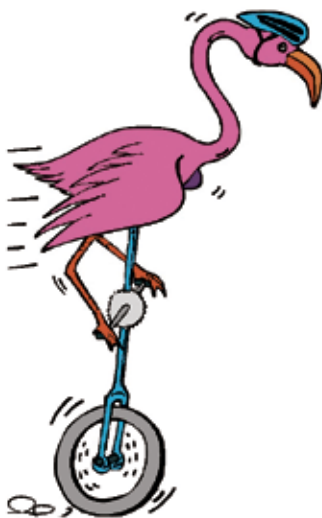
If you're interested in helping, with this, please contact me: dee@touchthesea.com. Otherwise, watch this space for updates. *Dee Scarr*

*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.*



One of the bow lines has been rubbing along this coral colony for a while; the wear is easy to see on each of them. Eventually the line would have been cut by the coral, and the parts of the coral colony below the shredded line have probably been killed.

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# Did You Know...that seagrass is a vital part of Lac Bay?

It serves as a habitat and nursery for fish, provides food for sea turtles and other animals such as the protected conch.



Not many people understand the importance or the fragility of the seagrass beds. In Lac Bay people damage the seagrass beds when they walk through them. The seagrass is trampled not only in front of the various establishments where bathers enter the water but further to the north of the bay. Windsurfers who are unable to turn, step off their board and walk on the seagrass beds. This damage happens despite the signs that prohibit walking over the seagrass beds, and signs that indicate the windsurfing zone.

Lac Bay is home to five different seagrass species. Of these, four are originally from Bonaire; *Thalassia testudinum*, better known as Turtle grass, *Syringodium filiforme*, *Diplanthera wrightii* and *Ruppia maritima*. The fifth species was discovered in 2010 during seagrass monitoring. *Halophila stipulacea* is an invasive species originating from the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf that is rapidly spreading through the Caribbean. This newcomer is much less nutritious than the turtle grass for the animals that eat it.

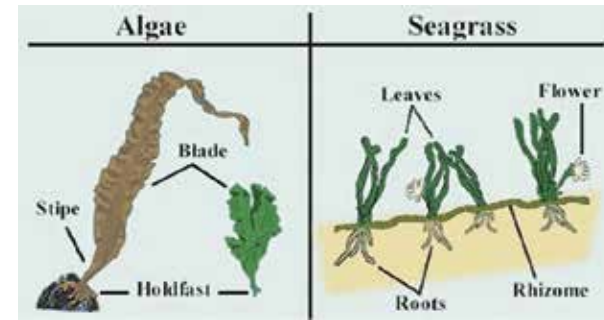
Seagrasses evolved from land plants and are categorized as a type of flowering marine plant. There are 53 known seagrass species and they are the only plants that can survive while being entirely submerged in salt water. Many people mistake seagrass for seaweed. Seaweeds are a group of algae, and it is easy to differentiate an alga from a plant. Seagrasses have roots, stems, and leaves; all these parts of the plant look very different from each other. Seaweeds, on the other hand, do not have roots,

but instead have a little holdfast that anchors them to the bottom. Unlike seagrass, there is very little difference in the appearance of the different parts of an alga.

Seagrass benefits both humans and animals. It sustains the biodiversity by providing food and shelter for many marine animals. It helps maintain the water quality of the ecosystem. Seagrass beds trap small particles and sediment that float in the bay, which increases the water clarity. The extensive root system of the seagrass in Lac Bay helps to stabilize the shallow sandy bottom of the bay and reduce erosion. In addition to all these ecosystem services the seagrass beds provide, they also help to remove a lot of carbon dioxide from the air. One square meter of seagrass bed absorbs about 83 grams of carbon every year! Seagrasses could help us to control the amounts of greenhouse gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere and make our planet hotter.

Seagrass in Lac Bay is at risk. Seagrass in front of Sorobon beach is damaged by windsurfing, kayaking, and standup paddle boarding. But it is damaged mostly by walking. Studies show seagrass that is trampled will be less tall, less dense and produce fewer new shoots. Just like walking on newly planted grass, walking over young seagrass will break the fragile roots and limit how well the roots attach into the bottom.

If the amount of seagrass is reduced, the bottom will become sandier. Now, you might think 'I prefer to walk on a nice white sandy bottom instead of on seagrass' but remember, seagrass is very important. Without it sea



turtles and conch would have no food, fish would have nowhere to hide, and the beach would slowly erode.

We know the activities that negatively influence the seagrass in Lac Bay, but the question is, how badly is it affected, and what can be done to reduce this negative effect? In the next 14 weeks we will be looking at the various activities that take place in Lac Bay and how they affect its ecosystem. We will use surveys to better understand human behavior at Lac. We will also gather data on the number of animals we see in the seagrass, and the overall health of the seagrass beds. In about four weeks an intervention will be introduced at Lac. By combining the survey results with the research, we hope to limit the negative impact on the seagrass beds by increasing the awareness of visitors to Sorobon and Lac.

*Lola Salvador STINAPA intern from Avans University Connecting people with nature*

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# What's Happening

Saturday, October 19	<p><b>Bonaire National Marine Park's 40th Anniversary Event</b></p> <p><b>Quarterly Clean-up Dive around the pier.</b> Check in &amp; briefing 9:30-10 am next to Karels Beach Bar. Bring certification cards (if not on file). BMP tags are required. Bring dive knife or shears for fishing line. Non-divers needed for logging the items removed from the water. <b>6pm, potluck BBQ for volunteers.</b> Bring a snack, side-dish or dessert to share. We provide main course and one beverage.</p> <p><b>Global Big Day Birdwatching Event</b> How many birds can be found worldwide in one day? Join by counting Bonaire's birds. See: <a href="http://www.bonairebirdtours.com/october-global-big-day-is-coming/">http://www.bonairebirdtours.com/october-global-big-day-is-coming/</a></p>
October 20-22	<p><b>Coral Spawning Night Dives with Dive Friends Bonaire</b> @ 8:30 pm - 11:30 pm Guided night dive to witness coral spawning. Based on predictions from research center CARMABI For information and to check pricing and availability, email <a href="mailto:info@divefriendsbonaire.com">info@divefriendsbonaire.com</a>.</p>
October 25-26-27	<p><b>Bonaire 48 Hour Film Project 2019.</b> Tickets \$5 per screening. At BYOF Theater (Trans World Radio, Kaya Gob N Debrot 64)  <b>Fri. &amp; Sat: Screening &amp; Voting:</b> Three screenings 7pm, 9pm, 11pm  <b>Sun. Winning Films.</b> 7pm</p>
Saturday October 26	<p><b>Mashe Rincon Krioyo</b> Street market in Rincon, 1st &amp; last Saturday each month</p> <p><b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts &amp; crafts, plants &amp; 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.</p>
Saturday, November 2	<p><b>Taste of Bonaire Wellness Edition, 6pm-11pm, Wilhelmina Park.</b> Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, yoga, meditation, massage techniques and other wellness incentives.</p>
Saturday, November 9	<p><b>Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey</b> Piedra Pretu. 4pm. Clean Coast Bonaire trains volunteers (local residents and visiting eco-tourists) to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.</p>

## REGULAR EVENTS

**“Reef Renewal Bonaire.”** A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email [info@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.org).

**“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. See the calendar above.

• **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, Bolscentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every **Wednesday** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: [12stepbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepbonaire@gmail.com)

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



## 2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE
Monday	10-14	<i>Crown Princess</i>	1200-1900	N.pier	3150 PCL
Tuesday	10-15	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	S.pier	2744 Pullmantur
Tuesday	10-15	<i>Volendam</i>	0800-2300	N.pier	1432 HAL
Tuesday	10-22	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	N.pier	2744 Pullmantur
Thursday	10-24	<i>Freedom</i>	0800-1700	S.pier	3782 RCCL

• **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** every two weeks. For more info. 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-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday 8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

**Children's Club** Saturday 4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (church annex) Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

**Catholic.** San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am & 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.

**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 [ellenherracochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherracochrane@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 Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am-3pm. Free.

## Bonaire Reporter Classifieds: Employment Opportunity

**STCB is looking for a full time Field Coordinator (40 hours).**

The Field Coordinator helps to carry out field work activities and day to day operations of STCB under the direction of the Manager.

**Qualifications-short list:** Bachelor degree; Fluent English; Must be able to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends and holidays; Dive training certificate is desirable, snorkel experience and strong swimming ability is a must; Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook); must be comfortable working with spreadsheets. **To see the full job description, please e-mail [stcb@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:stcb@bonaireturtles.org) and [cepa@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org) (attns. Mabel Nava & Kaj Schut). Deadline for submitting applications is November 15th.**



# Shelter News

## Pet of the Week: Bradley

### October is Adopt a Shelter Dog month.

Animal Shelter Bonaire is pleased that we have had many successful adoptions so far this month. However, over the years we have had dogs/puppies returned to us for reasons that could have been resolved with just a little patience and understanding. People sometimes expect way too much, way too fast from these poor dogs. We need to look at it through their eyes.

Here is a letter from one of our adoptees.

Dear Kind Person Who Adopted Me:

Now I have arrived at your home, everything is strange and I don't feel quite right.

Don't feel impatient if I do not sleep in my new bed. Yesterday I slept on a concrete floor.

Don't be terrified if I gobble up my food. Before I arrived at the Shelter, I had to do it to survive.

Do not get angry if I pee or poop on the floor. Yesterday it did not matter.

Don't get upset if I don't play with my new toys. I don't really know what toys are.

Do not be sad if I am somewhat afraid of your loving hand. I didn't always have one.

Please have patience with me, it's your world but not yet mine.

Please never forget, I am a rescued Shelter dog. All I need is a little bit of time, patience and kindness to adjust.

Once I trust you, and learn about your world I can give you the greatest gift I have to give....my heart!

With hope and love,  
Your New Shelter Dog



Animal Shelter staff are always available to answer questions, offer advice or provide hands on help if you need assistance in helping your newly adopted dog/puppy (or cat/kitten) adjust to their new environment. Come by to see us, call us at 701-4989 or email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)



Hello animal lovers of Bonaire! I am Bradley. Not Brad, but Bradley. I am a sophisticated, 1 1/2 year old black and white cat and I like to use my full, formal name. Here at the shelter there are so many different personalities among the cats. As for me, I prefer to remain drama-free and just enjoy observing what is going on. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy playing with the toys and other cats, but just when I decide I want to. Most of my time I enjoy sitting wherever I can find the most shade and getting what the staff here calls a "cat-nap." I just call it a nap, but they're the ones with the food, so they can be right! I would love you to come and visit me and see if I could sucker you into loving me fur-ever! I think I can. My address is Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors on Mon.-Fri. 9am-12 p.m. and 3-5 pm, Saturdays 9 am-3 pm, nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. Story by Travis Sullins. Photo by Jane Disko



## EDUCATING PARROTS AND PEOPLE

Education is the key for future conservation. We are happy to share this focus with most of our stakeholders.

Dos Pos Conservation Center is the center for Echo's education program. At the center we train both parrots and people. Visitors and tourists come to us to learn more about the native parrots and Bonaire's dry forest. Although important, educating non-residents is not enough to conserve our nature and safeguard the future of our Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrots. We must teach Bonaire's upcoming generations about the native parrots and plants that Echo is working to save.

Here is a glimpse of Echo's local education programs.

Since 2015 Echo has educated more than 500 kids about our Loras through a Disney Conservation Fund Project. The Club di Lora Magazine contains four booklets for kids four to 10 years. They contain fun and interactive stories and games about parrots and peoples on Bonaire.

Echo has initiated an education program about reforestation for older kids. The participants actively take part in reforestation by recognizing trees, picking up seeds, planting and watering trees for one year.

The teens at the SGB can also participate in Echo's programs. For example, kids from PRO special education are taught about greenhouse practices and reforestation. Each presentation in class is followed by a field trip where these youngsters are able to engage even more with Bonaire's outstanding nature.

The next level of education was created for MBO leisure and hospitality students who are being trained as tour guides. This year, they were trained on parrot counting. Thanks to the curriculum commissioned by WWF, we created possible volunteers for the 2020 Roost Count on January 25th.

Echo director Julianka Clarenda gives native plant lessons to the MBO1 green education both at Forma and in JICN for Prisoners. These adults are already familiar with Bonaire's plants, but hopefully these lessons will help create more gardens with local plants.

When we present our research outcomes to the public during Nos Zjilea Markets or People Meeting Nature presentations we can reach the rest of Bonaire.

Most importantly, the students and visitors give back everything we give to them. By working with elders from Bonaire and interacting at Cocari in Rincon, we have expanded our documentation of parrot behavior on the island. Education is the key for action.

The Echo team hopes to encourage more awareness about the work in nature conservation by partnering with other NGO's on the island.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum, 1968.)

If you wish to learn more or help educate others about Echo, please email us at [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)



Teaching Bonaire's next generations about reforestation and conservation.



# At Your Service

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

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- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- condo with beautiful views
- including storage and parking
- very spacious covered terrace
- close to town with restaurants and shops
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- freehold land (registered 4-D-2567A4 )
- lot size: 16,140 sq.ft / 1.500 m2
- living area: 1,323 sq.ft / 136 m2

**Asking price**  
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