



Photos by Julie Morgan.

Doing good makes you smile

Bon Doet is all about smiles. The smiles of doing good work for a good cause. And the smiles from the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that need the work done. Hasi bon, pasa bon or do good, feel good.

More than 957 volunteers wore those smiles March 11 and 12, doing hard work and having fun in 70 jobs that needed to be done for our local NGOs.

The official opening of the 12th annual Bon Doet began at the Stichting Project "Nos Kas", a temporary home for kids who can't live with their parents. Following an inspirational kick-off speech by deputy Nina den Heyer the BonDoet team got to work right there on the property with a painting project.

Despite the wet weather on day one, volunteers worked between the raindrops completing jobs at 1000 Steps, Jong Bonaire, Echo, Chech'i Ton Museum, Reef Restoration and others.

The biggest Bon Doet day is always Saturday when working residents take a break from their regular job and support the NGOs. Many of the volunteers sign up as groups from their workplace. Others sign up as single individuals, or as families or friends who want the shared experience of doing something good.

Bon Doet is filling the needs of many NGOs by completing jobs that might not be done due to lack of staff or funds.

Businesses like Selibon have actively participated all 12 years. This year the employees worked at Bon Kuido Foundation mowing, removing trees and weeds and replacing a fence. At the Hardin di Maracaibo, Selibon donated diabas (soil used in road construction) to spread in the kid's playground.

Some 25 kids from the Bonaire School Community (SGB) helped STINAPA with the ongoing clean up of the latest onslaught of sargassum in the Foodies area. Even in the pouring rain they made great headway. and then did a quick mangrove area clean-up collecting eight massive bags of litter within 25-30 minutes. On day two of Bondonet at

Reef Restoration, divers from RCN (Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland) helped out in the coral nursery at Buddy Dive. The law firm of VanEpps Kunnerman Van Doorne lent a hand at Animal Shelter Bonaire by painting some of the buildings and creating playground equipment for the dogs.

A few of the 70 jobs completed by the many volunteers were: Tera Barra nature garden had an amazing 29 volunteers building compost bins and planting tables as well as cleaning up the garden generally. Echo spread smiles for two days with work in the greenhouse and the new visitor center. Chechi Ton museum in Rincon received a

new cactus fence. Goldfinch soccer field received major landscape clean-up and a new paint job. Kunuku Kakelvers received a fresh coat of paint and work on the new dog pens. The yard and buildings of Bonaire Sailing School were cleaned up by numerous volunteers. Klein Bonaire received a litter clean-up. The 1000 steps stairway was repaired.

To celebrate the achievements of Bon Doet 2022, on the evening of March 12 the Bon Doet team thanked the volunteers with drinks, snacks and a prize raffle at Eddy's Restaurant. Winners of the raffle were from Speelschool Jiwiri, Bonaire Sailing School, Konsulta pa Grandinan and Gold Finch.

Some of the companies registered in Bon Doet 2022 were: TELBO, Digicel, Grant Thornton, OLB, RCN, MCB, WEB, Selibon, Talent Ontwikkel Programma Bonaire, Caribbean Homes, Scholengemeenschap Bonaire, Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland, Bonaire Lions Club, Liseo Keyclub Kibrahacha, Mental Health Caribbean, Movementu M21, Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, Innatus BV, Sunbelt Realty and Divi Flamingo.

For more smiling faces of Bon Doet 2022 visit the Reporter Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter> and the official Bon Doet website <https://www.bondonet.com>



Bon Doet's Reef Renewal volunteers head out to clean outplanted coral at one of their sites on Bonaire

By Julie Morgan

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of March 7 - 14, 2022

66 new cases	1 hospitalized
7016 total	28 deceased
In the week of March 7, the number of infections increased - 66 new cases versus 24 new cases in the week of Feb. 28.	

Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>



BES now connected with INTERPOL

Under a new agreement, the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) in the BES Islands is now connected with INTERPOL. INTERPOL creates a single point of contact for the police authorities in 194 member countries around the world. It provides a shared database members can use to conduct direct searches for criminals, terrorists and other unwanted persons or criminal groups and act against them quickly and effectively.

Three officers from KPCN were specially trained to use the INTERPOL technology. Bonaire can instantly check arriving international travelers for information regarding illegal activities.

DMR

Covid-19 round-up

All corona restrictions are now canceled on Bonaire because of the declining number of infections. The Public Health Department urges people to continue practicing the hygiene and social distancing precautions.

Second booster injections now being given. People over 70 and others with vulnerable health can now receive a second booster shot, as can residents of nursing and old people's homes and those with a referral letter from their specialist. The second booster shot is strongly advised for people in the above categories, providing at least three months have passed since their first booster or a covid infection. The Pfizer vaccine is used for the second booster shot.

People who qualify for the second booster can be vaccinated without an appointment on Saturdays between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Sentro Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas. Residents of nursing and old people's homes, and those who need to receive the second booster shot at home, can make an appointment by calling 0800 0900.

Rincon residents can obtain the first and second booster shots Wednesday March 16 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Old Practitioner General Practitioner Castro, Kaya E.B. Saint Jago 7.

A highly infectious, but less serious, variant of omicron has turned up on Bonaire called the BA-2.

Covid-19 round-up, continued on page 4

Netherlands turns down thermostats for the Ukraine

A campaign has been launched in the Netherlands encouraging people to turn down their thermostats to help the country become less dependent on Russian gas. Schiphol airport is setting an example for the rest of the country.

"If the whole of the Netherlands lowers the heating by one degree, that means approximately 6 percent energy savings. In this way we ensure that we become less dependent on gas, which is also good for the environment and saves money."

The Schiphol Group will donate the money it saves to Giro 555 Ukraine. The Netherlands has raised more than 100 million euros to support the Ukrainians battling the Russian invasion, and donations continue to flow in. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

The new cargo port will be built in Hato, government says

"The Executive Council of Bonaire has designated the site at WEB in Hato as the preferred location for relocation and construction of a new cargo port for Bonaire," according to a March 14 government news release. The release did say some formalities still need to be observed. A consulting firm was hired only recently to prepare a required social cost and benefit analysis (SCBA). Tenders have not yet been invited for the required environmental impact study (EIA). The business case seems not to be completed. And the BOPEC site is still Plan B.

On the other hand, the language of the news release is not tentative. It says Hato has been the preferred choice of the Executive council since 2018 and is the unanimous choice of the New Container Port Project Team. The release also gives many reasons why Hato is unquestionably the most advantageous location on Bonaire to construct a container port. *DMR*

New tourist tax predicted to double island's income

If a proposed new tourist tax is passed, the public body Bonaire expects to double its income simply by collecting taxes owed to it. Presently some accommodations and car rental companies collect the tourist tax from visitors but do not remit it to the government, thereby cheating both the public and their competitors who do remit.

The public body Bonaire has been missing out on millions a year for years. With the new system, visitors would pay the tax either on-line in advance or in person upon arrival. The government expects to increase compliance from less than 50% to almost 100% by collecting the tax directly.

The new draft regulation proposes to replace the current tourist tax and car rental tax with a single new tourist tax. The proposed amount would be \$50 per person per year, collected from every visiting non-resident. Families would pay \$10 per year for children 12 and younger. Residents of the five islands of the former Netherlands Antilles would also pay \$10 per year. Bonairean students studying outside the island would be exempt. As now, the shipping companies would remit the taxes for their passengers. *DMR*

Bonlab now accredited

The Dutch Accreditation Council accredited Bonlab as a medical laboratory on February 17. The international accreditation certifies the quality of the services Bonlab provides to the community. It also assures that Bonlab can send samples to other accredited laboratories for testing when necessary. Last year the OLB announced it intended to close down Bonlab because it lacked accreditation, but the government extended the lab's operations to the end of 2022. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 13

If you love seafood, you'll love El Pescado



Owner-managers Esther Rijnbergen (R) and daughter Lot (L)

near the ocean.”

Neither Esther nor Lot have restaurant backgrounds, but it certainly runs in the family. Husband/father Kees Rijnbergen owned several restaurants in Utrecht, Netherlands for 25 years. Somewhere along the way the ladies picked up some great ideas for the restaurant with not only the menu but the design and style.

“We wanted simple food but good quality in a simple, easy going cozy atmosphere. We want everyone to feel welcome,” said Esther.

The menu ideas sprouted from the family holidays in large cities close to the sea. Their favorite restaurants were the small, out of way places serving dishes of the country’s

origin. El Pescado’s menu reflects some of their favorites from those visits with a special twist or new interpretation. Diners will recognize dishes originating from Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and the Netherlands. The menu itself is a collaboration between Esther, Lot and the head chef who has worked in many restaurants in the Netherlands. They also picked up a few ideas from Kee’s seafood restaurant in Utrecht.

Lot said, “We wanted to make the menu ourselves because we knew what

we wanted together with the chef.”

Diners will find everything from fish soup to sashimi to different baguettes wrapped around various seafood. There is a type of seafood antipasta for sharing, a fabulous pasta dish, tuna steaks, kibbeling and much more. The dishes are not covered in sauces to ensure a fresh and purer taste.

Quality is very important to El Pescado. The majority of seafood is local with a few items imported from the Netherlands.

The wines from Spain and Portugal are exclusive to El Pescado. The restaurant

celebrates happy hour from 3 to 5 pm with beer bucket and sangria specials. El Pescado has cocktails, coffees, soft drinks and yes, dessert.

The restaurant has several areas for seating including a few tables to sit outside with a view of the sea. El Pescado is located at 1 Kaya Isla Riba. Opening hours are Tues – Sat 12-11p.m. For reservations, takeaway or more information visit <https://www.elpescadobonaire.com> also on Facebook, Instagram, Trip Advisor or call +599 701 3547.

Story and photos, Julie Morgan



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Preparing for Dia di Rincon



At the table L-R: Rincon Day organizer Marjolein Kroon, commissioner Nina den Heyer and director of culture Felix Thomas

Bonaire's most festive legal holiday, Rincon Day, was given the go-ahead a few weeks ago for the first time since Covid-19 appeared. The official celebration which coincides with Queen Juliana's birthday on April 30 is looked forward to by all on Bonaire and nearby Curaçao.

In a press conference March 8 at Man-gazina di Rei, commissioner Nina den Heyer, director of culture Felix Thomas and Rincon Day organizer Marjolein Kroon announced the adjustments that will be made to the island's biggest party.

No strict covid measures will be in force but the cultural committee for Dia di Rincon has made a few changes.

Rincon Day will begin at 8 a.m. and end promptly at 8 p.m.

The official ceremony of flags and speeches will be from 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

Food stands and bands will begin at

12 noon. Eight local bands will play throughout the day. Curaçao bands are not invited. If they wish to celebrate Rincon Day, then they can find another venue.

The official street parade begins at 3 p.m. with the colorful dancing groups.

Cultural organizer Marjolein Kroon said, "The canta (song competition) is cancelled this year so we are focusing on April 30. We have four groups officially signed up."

The costumed dancing groups are E Simia Bonplanta, Kosecha dia Dia.m.ante, Den nos Zjilea, TCB and friends and possibly Grupo Kibrahacha.

Commissioner Nina den Heyer said, "People have to be responsible. And the elderly should not be neglected. We hope to have self-tests available for them."

Final plans will be announced as the date nears.

Story and photo Julie Morgan

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

We want to move to Bonaire, does buying a house make us residents? Should we open a Bonaire bank account before we buy? We are US residents. Fran

Hi Fran,

Buying a house does not make you a resident of Bonaire. Anyone may buy a property here, becoming a resident is not required. Generally, people decide to become legal residents because they want to stay on the island more time than is permitted for non-residents (generally 6 months in a year for Dutch and American passport holders and 3 months in a six month period for other nations' passport holders.) Residency has a number of requirements (income requirements and verification, background check, etc.) in addition to showing that you have a residence to live in (either a home you own or a rental property you have a lease on.)



L-R: Jean and Kate

Becoming a legal resident of Bonaire does not void your citizenship or passport in another country. In your case, if you obtain residency here, you would be a US citizen and a resident of Bonaire. Due to international money laundering laws, you cannot open a bank account on Bonaire before you own a home or have a long term lease on a residence.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team
Re/Max Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

Covid round-up, continued from page 2

Covid related hospital occupancy has declined on all islands. The less virulent Omicron variety is causing the majority of infections. Therefore the data suggests the danger of hospitals being overwhelmed by new infections has passed. The unvaccinated and people over 60 are still the most likely to be hospitalized.

The Dutch cabinet wants to abolish almost all corona measures on March 23. Vaccinated travelers from outside the EU, including the Caribbean islands, will not have to be tested. Face masks will be required on planes because other countries still require them.

Fundashon Mariadal will gradually relax COVID-19 measures and closely monitor the situation. Different departments within Fundashon Mariadal have their own policy.

The Public Health Department (PG) still wants pupils and students of secondary and high schools to self-test twice a week, even without symptoms. The purpose is to detect infections in the young before they infect more vulnerable older members of the family at home. For now, the advisory does not apply to pupils in the elementary schools. *DMR*

POLICE REPORT

The new anonymous tip line is 9310

Arrested/held in custody.

March 7. The driver of a scooter was spotted driving without a helmet and with an old number plate. The patrol gave chase at a leisurely pace and found the driver at a home on Kaya Triton parking the scooter. The driver did not have a driver's license or proof of insurance. The man, 20, received a police report and the scooter was taken into custody. The man began to behave aggressively and was arrested for failing to comply with a police demand.

March 6. When a passenger walked to a car parked at Kaya Amsterdam he saw an unknown boy at the car's hubcaps. The 17 year old was arrested red-handed. During the arrest, another man, 20, began insulting the police and was arrested for obstructing the arrest and insulting officials in office.

March 5. A woman, 23, was arrested in the Center area for failing to comply with police demands and for public intoxica-

tion. The woman had opened the door of the official car and pressed the horn. She was addressed about this. When the officers left the official car for a while, she did the same again and she was arrested.

March 4. Around 3 a.m. a woman, 69, was detained on Kaya Industria. The suspect was stopped for driving recklessly. She was arrested for driving under the influence and taken to the police station for a breath analysis.

Traffic accidents/violations

March 8. A car crashed into tree on Kaminda Gurubu. The driver stated that he lost control when the car skidded. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

March 6. A motorcycle on Kaminda Lac drove into a hole and fell over. The driver was not wearing a helmet and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

March 5. Around 4 p.m. a passer-by encountered a car rolled over on Kaminda

Sorobon. The car likely had been speeding. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Traffic control

March 7. Traffic checks were held at various locations. Official reports were issued for driving without: a valid driver's license (8); valid insurance (9); a helmet (6); a seat belt (3); a license plate (1); a tail light (1); a front light (1); and a turn signal (1). Reports were also given for driving with a mobile phone (8) and for speeding (4). A car was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

March 7. Speed checks were carried out at Rincon and E.E.G. Bulevar near Bachelor's Beach, during which several official reports were issued for driving at too high a speed. The controls are carried out with a special laser gun that measures the speed of passing vehicles.

Public order

March 6. In the early afternoon a cruise ship tourist was found unconscious on Klein Bonaire. When the man was brought ashore those on board the boat had already started CPR. On arrival, the victim was immediately taken by the

ambulance to hospital where he died some time later. The man with initials A.B. was born on May 28, 1960 in Germany.

Police barricade traffic at Bachelor's Beach

At Bachelor's Beach drivers now have to slow down and enter and exit through designated gaps in a stone barricade. The police, in consultation with the OLB, ordered the installation of the barricade to help maintain public order. When the police arrive to quell riotous behavior, they'll need only to block the entrance and exit. The malefactors will not be able to rush off in all directions, tires squealing. The barricade is also expected to promote visitor safety while reducing noise pollution and trash.

While barricade is generally considered a good idea, many wonder why it has to be so ugly. Much of it is just a pile of loose dirt and stones.

DMR (Bonaire.nu)

Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

The Kaya Amsterdam roundabout

To the Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire

Dear Colleague,

One of the foundations of good governance is transparency and also accountability of the directors with regard to their policies and decisions taken. This is especially important when it comes to policies and decisions made regarding the limited financial resources generated by our society by paying taxes and other financial obligations to the government coffers.

The Executive Council is charged with the implementation of our infrastructure projects, specifically our roads. It is well known in what poor state of repair our existing roads are, without mentioning the enormous lack of new roads in the newly created neighbourhoods. Our society is very tired of these circumstances.

In December 2020, Deputy James Kroon announced with great fanfare that the roundabout at Kaya Amsterdam / Kaminda Djabou is ready and that the official opening will take place at the end of January 2021 after the construction of the last layer on the roundabout.

The alert society has found that the roundabout was too small, which prevented large trucks with containers from using it. An intensive public discussion resulted from this notification and it appeared that the architect, those in charge of the construction and the new director of R&D had to come to the conclusion that the original drawing had been significantly altered and that The order was given to draw a new roundabout with dimensions that differ significantly and are smaller than the original version.

As a result, the roundabout was ordered to stop and be canceled, destroying assets of between US\$600,000 and US\$800,000, as announced to the public in a press conference and to us in an island council meeting.

At the same time, it was announced that an administrative and technical investigation would be carried out or commissioned to determine where things went wrong and who is responsible for them.

Today we are on March 8, 11 months later. To this day, neither the society nor the Island Council that represents the society has received the results of the investigation. I consider this not only a violation of the general principles of good governance, but worse, a total lack of respect for the taxpayer and for his/her representatives. An investigation that has been going on for 11 months, while society is looking for clarity. For these reasons, using Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure, I ask the following questions:

1. Who gave the order to deviate from the original drawing? Who commissioned a new roundabout with much smaller dimensions than the original version? Who commissioned the BWM to recreate the roundabout in its new shape, but smaller?

The second question that the investigation had to clarify is:

2. How great is the financial damage and who is responsible for this damage and what is the island government doing to reclaim the financial damage from the person(s) who caused this damage?

I agree with society that there is no valid reason to justify why the investigation has not yet been completed. The only reason is that it seems that at all costs this shameful event must be covered up, in order to protect those who actually caused this deplorable situation with public funds. The population wants to know who caused this blunder and what sanctions will be imposed.

I hope to get verbal answers to these questions at the next public meeting of the Island Council.

Yours faithfully,†

Desiree E. Coffee

Member of the Island Council of Bonaire

followed on the Facebook page of Miss Tourism Bonaire.

❖ **The Miss Tourism Bonaire election will occur every two years.** The next pageant will run in 2023.

❖ **TCB and SKAL** (Section of Culture, Art and Literature) have agreed to jointly develop and promote, both locally and internationally, “Kulturismo” and “Bario Festivals” projects involving: Maskarada, Kultura di i den bo bario, San Juan and San Pedro, Siman di Kultura and the Four District Days.

The parties will also work together to realize a School Academy that will have art and culture as a vocational training course, at MBO 2 and 3 level.

Cruise ship visitors enter Bonaire untested

Dear Editor:

I live on Bonaire and recently flew back from a vacation in the US. Before returning, my partner and I had to have COVID tests that cost \$250 each to ensure we had results in time to meet Bonaire requirements. We are fully vaccinated and boosted. We had to upload our test results, vaccination cards, and Bonaire health form within 24 hours of our arrival. When we landed in Bonaire we had to show all of these documents before we were allowed in.

Cruise ship passengers have a very different experience. I was at Klein Bonaire a few days after my return home, on a day that 2 cruise ships were in town. I talked to the cruise tourists about their experience. They said the ship required a rapid antigen test before boarding the ship. However, the ship did not require any tests after that, even though their stop in Bonaire was 5 days after boarding. During those 5 days, they had also stopped at several other countries and gotten off the ship. They were surprised that Bonaire did not require an antigen test prior to getting off the ship.

Even worse, they said that vaccination was not required to be on the ship, and unvaccinated passengers could “only take shore excursions through the ship, not walk around off the ship.” (Of

course, a shore excursion through the ship simply means that the ship arranges the tour with a local operator, so Bonaire residents and other tourists are still exposed to unvaccinated passengers who have not taken a test.)

I was horrified to hear this, which was confirmed by a second group of passengers on the other ship in town that day. Bonaire is requiring so much from people who fly in and yet nothing from cruise passengers! My husband and I had to spend \$500 in testing to come home to Bonaire, yet these cruise tourists just walked off the ship. This is unfair to residents and unfair to the tourists who fly in and spend money on hotels, meals, restaurants, dive shops and tours during their stay.

I am happy to take whatever tests are necessary to keep my fellow Bonaire residents safe, as long as EVERYONE who comes to Bonaire from a high risk country is being tested. I hope our government will require negative antigen tests for all cruise ship passengers 24 hours before they are permitted to leave the ship. If not, I hope they eliminate the testing requirement for fully vaccinated and boosted travelers who come to Bonaire by plane.

The current situation is unfair, and it does not protect our island if only some people are tested.

K Kaplan

Bonaire's emergency rescue gets A+

A family tragedy almost struck for Barbara and me on March 4. Bonaire's emergency responses were seriously tested and passed with an A+. Our daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Soren Christiansen, were visiting from Canada. They were fishing in front of our house at Boca Druifi, way up north near Playa Frans.

Soren made a misstep and fell off the seven meter cliff. He hit his head on the jagged coral on the way down. Unconscious and bleeding in the water, he was drowning. But thanks to the quick responses of many people, he was saved. He was still recuperating when they flew home on March 16th.

Beth jumped in and swam to him. Gilbert Janga and Leo Anthonie, two men from Rincon who happened to be at Boca Druifi helping out with odd jobs that day, climbed down the cliff with a rope to help her. The three of them managed to tie the rope around Soren's chest so they could hold his head above water.

When a ladder was lowered down the cliff, they had something besides sharp coral to get a hold of. With great effort, the three of them got Soren out of the water and onto a rough ledge near the bottom of the cliff.

By then help began to arrive, 911 hav-

ing been called. An ambulance crew driving a pickup, the fire department from Rincon, and the police showed up. The EMTs climbed down the cliff and treated Soren where he lay.

A fisherman, Roy Dokterlina, came from P. Frans in his boat. The emergency crew lowered Soren into the boat, landed him at P. Frans, put him in the pickup, and drove to Karpata, where an ambulance was waiting.

The ambulance had been staffed to give Soren emergency treatment on the way to the hospital. An anesthesiologist was aboard who put him under and they went to work on him right away.

Soren also received superb care from an emergency team of specialists when he arrived at the hospital, and in the days following.

Without question, Janga and Anthonie, together with Beth saved Soren's life. Had they not responded to the emergency quickly, wisely, and bravely, the family members present would not have been able to rescue him.

Full credit goes to the first responders, to Dokterlina, and to the hospital emergency staff as well. At several points Soren was within minutes of death that day. *DMR*

More air passengers in 2021 In 2021, more than 290 thousand travelers passed through the airports of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. This is an increase of almost 60 percent on 2020, yet still a 36 percent decrease compared to 2019 (when it stood at over 457 thousand). *Statistics Netherlands (CBS)*



❖ **Miss Tourism Bonaire, Sunniva Manuel, will represent Bonaire in the Miss Tourism World 2022 pageant** in Aruba May 31st to June 6th, 2022. Angelo Domacassé is helping Sunniva with the pageant. All preparations can be

Luciano comes to Hato



Dropping in for that ice cream cone you are craving just got a lot easier in Bonaire. Luciano Ice Cream just opened a new store in Hato providing the same great ice cream, coffees and pastries as in central Kralendijk.

Luciano's first opened in Bonaire in 2016 under the ownership of Huub de Groot and master ice cream maker and founder Luc Blok of the Netherlands. Anyone from Holland is familiar with the award winning ice cream parlors that he started 25 years ago.

In the Netherlands the parlors aren't open year round. Instead there is an 'ice cream' season. People are seen lined up out the door to indulge in the frozen delicacy.

Luciano's has 14 Netherlands locations to date and was voted best luxury ice cream in 2020. The parlors are con-

sidered one of the 25 best in the entire world and we now have two in Bonaire.

Huub said, "It's the secret recipe that makes it so special. And from the moment Luciano became the ice cream shop of the year then everyone comes to eat your ice cream."

Blok has given up his franchises in the Netherlands although he still supplies the ice cream. He remains co-owner of the Bonaire locations with Huub and visits the island several times a year.

"We make it here by ourselves, the other ones [ice cream stores] can't do that. He [Blok] came over and gave us a course and comes twice a year to upgrade us," said Huub.

Blok is very passionate about the ice cream. He is always coming up with new ideas and new flavors. The ice cream itself is from his name 'Luc' and the upside down A in Luciano logo is for his wife Angelique.

According to Huub, one of the secrets of Luciano's great taste is to only use fresh strawberries, melon, mango and other fruits for the ice creams. Or if they have to be frozen due to seasonal or shipping conditions then they are of the highest quality.

Vanilla is made with official vanilla beans from Madagascar that cost a whopping \$650 per kilo. It takes 24 hours for the beans to be absorbed into the mix. Only the finest ingredients are used for the different flavors: Haliar pistachios, French hazelnuts from Italy and world renown Callebaut Belgium chocolate.

Huub said, "Working with the freshest and highest quality, we don't save money. But I think that makes the difference."

Luciano serves the standard flavors and favorites, but there are always new ones like a Tamarind sorbet and a Sweet Guava that is sweet but not too sweet. Seasonal ice creams include the Speculaas during Christmas.

The Hato location serves 16 different ice creams while Luciano central offers up to 24 at a time. The new location sells the much-loved Illy coffee, ice cream shakes, cakes and pastries while the central location has a broader menu including sandwiches, liquors and wines.

Local restaurants It Rains Fishes, Cuba Compagnie and Rum Runners include Luciano on their dessert menu.

Huub said, "Thanks to our staff we survived covid. And thanks to Holland for support and also the banks, we survived. Everybody who had a normal company survived but it was hard for everyone."

Huub de Groot has been on Bonaire since 1995 and is married to Bonairean Shaina Offerman who is a big part of the businesses. In addition to Luciano, the couple owns restaurants Cuba Compagnie and It Rains Fishes. Huub has served on the Chamber of Commerce for 13 years.

Luciano Hato has only been open a few weeks and is still looking for staff, so drop by if you are interested in working at one of the best ice cream parlors in the world. The Hato store at the roundabout shopping center is open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Luciano central is open daily 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

(See the Luciano ad on our online Foodie's Guide (page 9) for a quick connect to their Facebook page.)

Story and photos Julie Morgan



Deeniah Martinus serving her favorite Luciano ice cream in the new Hato parlor.

Your help is needed



Punto Kalbas is one of the hardest hit sargassum areas

For the last several years springtime in Bonaire means a plague of sargassum that invades the east coast. This floating seaweed can suffocate sea grass beds, marine life and inject toxins in the environment causing our mangrove forest to die. The huge rafts of sargassum made their first appearance this year February 25 creating a call to action from STINAPA to try to curb the seaweed. Oil booms were set in place to stop the invasion, but many weren't useable. STINAPA rangers placed 650m of the working booms but at least 2800m are needed.

Three years ago ministries of I&W and LNV in The Hague promised financial help against the problem but none has been received to date. The influx is too much to handle for OLB (Openbaar Lichaam) and STINAPA without more help from the

Netherlands.

STINAPA chief ranger Din Domacasse said, "This is not a STINAPA issue. This is an island issue."

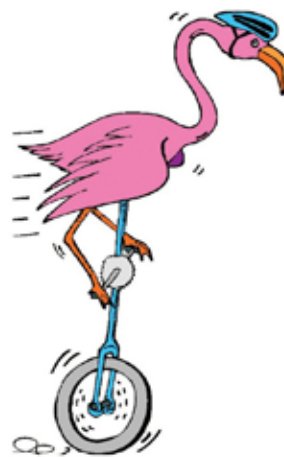
Volunteers, along with marine park rangers, junior rangers, and hired hands from Plenchi di Trabou have shown up every morning to rake and shovel the stuff to shore. Heavy machinery operators then pile it into mountains of seaweed. Selibon is expected to pick up the rotting seaweed this week and move it to a landfill.

Monique Grol of STINAPA said, "Last year the sargassum lasted 11 weeks. This year we expect it until the end of April."

If you can help, please sign up to receive a call to action message:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hqd-hcgwbFSr9VGeOOEqMWA>

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Did You Know? *that many of the plants found in Bonaire's tropical dry forest also have medicinal and religious uses?*

Besides being an amazing ecosystem, full of plant and animal life, the tropical dry forest (TDF) also provides us with many benefits. One major role of the TDF is reducing the amount of erosion and sediments that end up in the marine park after rain events. In this way maintaining a healthy forest also helps us to protect the reefs by keeping our coastal waters clean and free of sediments and other things harmful for corals. Forests also play a very important part in storing some of the CO2 that is released when we burn fossil fuels. They can help us to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses, elements in the atmosphere that trap heat and mess with our climate, simply by growing. But, there is another benefit provided by dry forests, and specifically Bonaire's TDF, that we don't talk about often: the plants themselves. Traditionally in the ABC islands many of these plants have been used for generations to treat illnesses ranging from digestive issues, to asthma, and even smallpox! And while we are not advocating substituting professional medical care with these remedies, it is interesting to see how previous generations who did not always have access to doctors and hospitals used the resources they had at their disposal to treat various illnesses.

Traditionally plants were used in a variety of ways, mostly depending on the intended goals. Many of these plants were not only used medicinally, but also spiritually. Plants were commonly used to make teas, as poultices, or in baths. Teas were mostly used to treat head-



The calabash (*Crescentia cujete*) or "kalbas."

aches, colds, fevers, chills, stomach problems and for pregnancy relief. Poultices, often made with crushed and heated leaves, were used for injuries like wounds, bruises, and sprains. Baths were more often used as protection from evil spirits, as a way to recover from childbirth or serious injury, or to offer relief and healing. Religious or spiritual use of plants was often accompanied by rules on when to use them as well as what time to pick them. Some of the early Caribbean inhabitants like the Caribs tribe would carry leaves for good luck. In many Bonairean homes you can still find plants like

aloe vera grown in the gardens. These are said to bring good luck and to ward off evil spirits and bad luck. Of course, not all plants were used for healing or protection, some plants were also used as poisons because of the toxic compounds they contain. Oftentimes however, the difference between a remedy and a poison depends on how much you take.

So, what plants found on Bonaire also have medicinal uses? One example is the yellow mombin (*Spondias mombin*) or "hoba" as it is called in Papiamentu. Not only is the bright yellow fruit of this tree edible, with a slight acidic taste, but tea made from the leaves or seeds was used to treat sore throats. Extractions from the bark and the root, often as liquor, were also used to treat diarrhea, dysentery, and even gonorrhea! Of course, some plants were also used for more nefarious ends. One such plant is the calabash (*Crescentia cujete*) or "kalbas". While zeta di kalbas (Calabash oil) extracted from the fruit has been used by many grandmothers, including my own, to treat fevers and colds, the pulp of the fruit itself, when mixed with leaves from another plant, can induce unpleasant nausea and diarrhea. There are also plants, like lignum vitae (*Guaiaecum officinale*) that were used to offer relief from arthritis and rheumatism. However, when taken in large doses these plants can cause damage to the liver and intestinal system.

If you look closer at the over 60 plant species that can be found in Bonaire, you will find that many of them have traditionally been used for various purposes. So, while TDFs are often overlooked, they are actually a great asset that we could all appreciate a little bit more. Even if ours are a little prickly.

*Written by Roxanne-Liana Francisca.
STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature.*



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Peppers, iguanas and mangoes

Sometimes out of a negative situation something good comes. That happened on the Saturday when all of Bonaire had an electric blackout for almost the whole day. Because one could not do much inside, people everywhere were busy in their yard. Of course it was nicer to be outside with the fresh breeze while inside the house was too warm. A lot of yards looked nice because of the big clean up, thanks to the blackout.

Peppers

Every day I'm surprised by how much goes on in a garden. Like the pepper plants that suddenly popped up near the outside water faucet. A lot of them; I can't remember when I've seen so many pepper plants. I wondered what kind of peppers these plants would bear. They got plenty of water there by the faucet and when I replanted them with more space in between, they started to grow fast and very vital. I also planted some young plants under a young papaya tree which I watered every two days, so both plants are watered at the same time. The plants grew even better with a deep green color, because they were not exposed to the hard sunlight.

When they bore fruit, the peppers were the same as the nice looking hot red peppers which I have bought at Van den Tweel. I'm so glad as they are tasty and perfectly good for my homemade curry

chutneys.

A different type of pepper plant came up in a container where I planted a pit from an avocado. I saw the young plant pop up and I recognized it as a sweet pepper plant. My experience is that sweet peppers are difficult to grow on Bonaire so I did not spend too much time on it. But it surprised me with two nice, big sweet peppers. Lucky me, this is a good lesson not to give up.

Iguanas

Today was iguana catch day. I see some little ones around, but thought that I am maybe seeing the same baby iguana. I tried to catch it many times but when I'm almost lucky, it jumps away. A friend came over today and we saw the iguana. My friend caught him at his tail but the iguana was moving so much he escaped. Three times we almost caught him, jumping over containers, plants were damaged, we got scratches and then we could not find him anymore.

"Stupid iguana," I said, but in fact we were stupid, with the two of us not able to catch him. So tomorrow for sure he will continue eating my bitter gourd plant. Iguanas are crazy about its leaves.

Mangoes

Last but not least, my mango tree surprised me this year. It is full of blos-



Hot peppers from my garden, wonderful for my homemade chutneys.

soms so that means that I will get a lot of mangoes, one of my favorite fruits. Three years ago it started to bloom, but produced only one blooming stem. I got one mango and the rest did not develop.

Last year there were three stems with blossoms and I got three mangoes. I thought, this mango tree is a lazy one. What a pity, a nice tree but hardly any mangoes.

But this year the whole tree is blooming. So yes, after a half year, I will be the lucky one with hopefully a lot of sweet mangoes. But I worry about the loras and prichichi. They don't live in the mondi anymore, but right here in busy downtown. They even sleep in my calabash tree and fight and make a lot of noise just for one stem more. Almost like humans with too much of everything but still nev-

er satisfied. There is a mango tree I pass every morning. It's full of young mangoes. The birds found the tree so I don't need to say what happened there. The ground is covered with damaged young mangoes and the tree is almost empty. What a waste of such good stuff!

But don't let this stop you from planting. Maybe we have to look at it this way, the more we plant, the more is left for us.

So start planting, just do it now.



Support the people of Ukraine through a donation to one of these organizations or other verified charities.

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(voices.org.ua/en/)

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(donate.unrefugees.org.uk/)

UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org)

World Vision (worldvision.org)

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

How do you get to be a caregiver?

It has never been my dream to be a full time caregiver. I took care of my mother when she got older as we happened to live with her. But when it became too impractical, because I worked on the mainland, she went to live in a home for the elderly. Mom passed away a few years later, pretty unsuspected.

The night after her funeral we, my husband and I, were exhausted and were resting on a couch. Suddenly he made a sound, and I could literally see his face and body change on one side. I called our physician and she came to our house within minutes. My husband was examined, and the doctor's face turned very serious.

"I am afraid it is a stroke or a brain bleeding," she said and proceeded to call the hospital. After a short discussion, it was decided Anthony was to be transported by lifeboat. After a short ride in the ambulance and a 12-minute boat ride we were across the Waddenzee, where another ambulance waited. After another 20-minute ride we arrived at the Emergency Room. Anthony's eyes were wide open and fixed on me the entire time. He was very scared. I could not really help him but I kept saying that we would be at the hospital very soon and I promised him that I would stay by his side.

A team of experts stood ready and the process of examination and diagnosing began. I kept telling Anthony everything

they were doing and stayed within his sight.

Finally, a diagnosis was determined, and treatment began. He was injected with a huge dose of aspirin to try and open the clotted neck vein.

Off we went to the ward, where Anthony got settled in a bed, hooked up with an IV-line as nurses sat with us asking about his medical history. I was asked to stay with him, because staff also saw that he was very scared. Every action I translated into Papiamentu, and hoped he would understand.

In the meantime it was 3 am and I was very tired. Nurses set up a bed beside Anthony and told me to sleep there, because resting was very important for me. When daylight came, I was up again, although I had not really slept, but I wanted to sit beside the bed again. During the next 19 hours I was in the ward, observing staff, answering doctors and watching like a hawk.

The diagnosis was official: a stroke, a hemi-parese (right side paralysis), aphasia. Prognosis: Anthony would need life-long therapy and revalidation. His life expectancy was very low.

I was offered a room at the Ronald McDonald house, which I gladly accepted, because I was so very tired and needed to rest. It was also very near the hospital. Because he couldn't do anything but lie there, I fed him a teaspoon of thickened water every hour and translated everything to him hoping he would understand. And that is how I became a caregiver.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

The healing effect of forgiveness

Is forgiveness about the other person or about myself?

Studies indicate that people who are naturally more forgiving, or those who learn to forgive, are happier and more satisfied with their lives. They suffer less depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, anger and hostility. The act of forgiveness decreases the risk of heart attack, improves cholesterol levels, improves sleep, reduces chronic pain, blood pressure, anxiety levels and depression. Chronic anger puts the body in a state of fight and flight, raises blood pressure and heart rate. Chronic stress leads to general adaptive illness and immune system failure.

There are few things as useless and harmful as resentment. I once read that

holding a grudge is like drinking poison hoping it will work on the other person. I think it's a very accurate metaphor.

Forgiveness means letting go of the invisible thread that chains us to the person or the thing that hurt us. Forgiveness involves ending that connection, letting go in order to continue walking with lighter negative load and allow room to receive the good things in life.

Forgiveness is an active and voluntary process. When the decision is made to let go of negative feelings towards another person, whether those feelings are deserved or not, the benefit of forgiving is mostly for the person who forgives. In most cases, the other person is not waiting for our redemption to continue with their life. Many times, the person doesn't

even realize what is happening to us. Other times he or she knows and doesn't care too much. Sometimes the other person futilely seeks our forgiveness. Other times the person has managed to forgive himself and has moved on from the original incident. The key is to be kind and forgive ourselves if necessary.

Some see forgiveness as a state of compassion. If we believe that everything happens for our learning, we accept the pain caused by damage as an intrinsic part of life. We then detach from that pain. We separate the pain from the source to empower ourselves with our ability to end the suffering.

It may be that we have been harmed arbitrarily, unfairly, and beyond our control, as are the victims of terrorist attacks. After surviving the damage, they may hold the painful feelings or they may actively work to cope with the harm, repair the damage, learn from the experience, grow and let go of the grudge.

Other times, we can understand the role we played in the damage to us. For

example, if we by stay in a toxic bond. We can not condemn ourselves for staying. We can gently understand that we did what we could do at that time with the personal resources we had. Our learning is both profound and healing since forgiving oneself lightens the spirit.

Therefore, when painful emotions seize us, it's better to explore them rather than deny or repress them. Find out what hurts and try to understand what message this bring us. If resentment invades us, it is necessary to understand it, identify the pain to which it refers and understand our role either in the original damage or in the maintenance of the suffering. Sometimes we simply have to be gentler with ourselves and with that simple change, we manage to forgive ourselves and others.

Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.



On March 7 the website, Intangible Cultural Heritage of Bonaire, was launched. The project is coordinated through UNESCO along with FuHiKuBo, Bonaire's cultural heritage knowledge center. Fuhikubo facilitated the majority of the content for the website which is in three languages: Papiamentu, Dutch and English.

<https://www.patrimoniokulturalintangibellboneiru.com/?lang=en>

L-R: Rudy Domacassé (Papiamentu), Veilli Gijsbertha(FuHiKuBo), Lourdes Nicolaas (Dutch), Liliane de Geus (Leader Workgroup UNESCO Bonaire, GUB, and website coordinator), Saskia van Oostveen (Director Heritage Care Knowledge center Intangible Cultural Heritage Netherlands-KIEN), Boi Antoin (FuHiKuBo & GUB) and Emma Pratt (Coordinator FuHiKuBo) Not pictured Anneke Jansen (Audiovisual FuHiKuBo).

CRUISE SHIP RATING

Carnival Corporation's Emerald Princess visited Bonaire on March 9 with a total of 1650 passengers and a capacity for 3,114.

Although the Princess Cruise Line advertises a commitment to the environment through pollution prevention technology, water use/ treatment and waste management they fall short on the Friends of the Earth environmental report card. The ship received: Sewage treatment D+; Air pollution C+; Water quality compliance D and Transparency F for a final grade of F.



The Bonaire Reporter Mar. 16 - Mar. 30, 2022



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Sharpnose Puffers - Cute and Curious

"I couldn't get your attention!" Julie exclaimed, after our dive. "I was looking at

a little group of sharpnose puffers, when one looked right back at me. I held out a finger, and it cleaned my finger!"

Back when I dived with cameras, I was never a fan of having a buddy watching what I was photo'ing, since the mere presence of another diver often caused my subjects to change the behavior I wanted to shoot. In return, I steer clear of photographers, including Julie and her camera. Bad decision in this case!

A few days earlier, however, I saw the incident in the photo: three creole wrasses with their mouths extended for cleaning from a sharpnose puffer! There were no shrimp or other cleaners around, so how did the wrasses know that this sharpnose puffer would clean?

Just like Julie did: by the puffer's behavior. At least, the first fish client probably figured it out by the puffer's behavior; after that, others could learn by the behavior of the clients as well as by that of the cleaner.

There are quite a few sharpnose puffers around these days, as I suspect you've noticed. (If you haven't noticed, I hope the following will open your eyes.) On my most recent dive off Playa, I hovered over the sand and counted the sharpnose puffers I could see. When I got to 50 -- without moving my head -- I quit counting. Fifty sharpnose puffers no more than 25' away from me boggles my mind. How can these cute little guys and gals possibly get enough to eat?

This is something that used to actually worry me, but now I'm pretty sure our sharpnose puffers aren't going hungry. Why not?

One reason is seeing sights like this: I was diving near shore the other day and came across some fish scraps, discarded when a catch was cleaned. French angelfish, a couple of grunts, and some morays were working on those scraps,

and the sharpnose puffers were there, too, but the puffers seemed more interested in the show than they did in the dinner.

So sharpnose puffers -- even when there are dozens of them -- apparently get enough to eat. It helps that they're interested in eating just about everything. They eat tiny shrimp, crabs, and snails. They eat algae. They nibble on discarded fish scraps. And some of them check out the possibility of finding food around larger animals, animals such as fish, or even people.

A thread dangling from my wetsuit attracted my first sharpnose puffer cleaner, off Klein Bonaire, as I was looking at a pair of lobsters. Julie had one check her out when she was diving in Florida. In fact, as I write this, I realize that I know of more instances of sharpnose puffers investigating divers as cleaner clients than of sharpnose puffers actually cleaning fish!

So: here are new opportunities for us. We can watch sharpnose puffers on the reef, to see if they're doing any cleaning, or if they're even hanging out with other cleaners. And ...We can go somewhere with a sandy bottom where there are lots of sharpnose puffers. Staying as still as possible, we can watch the sharpnose puffers watch us. Who knows what we'll learn from these little creatures?

Next issue: More about puffers. Find out what the tropical Pacific blue-ringed octopus has in common with our Caribbean sharpnose puffer.

Note: Reader responses are 100%: banded coral shrimp are not living a lie, they really do clean!

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, available for purchase through touch-thesea.com.



Three creole wrasses vie for the cleaning services of this little sharpnose puffer.

Parrots and People by The Echo Team



Our Echo staff- L-R: Juliano Clarendra (the LORA), Julianka Clarendra, Rayshantaly Coffie, Jason Kraal and Bienvenido Koffie

We celebrated BON DOET March 11 at Echo. The celebration is an annual day highlighting volunteer work, and you know there's nothing we love more than our volunteers.

On this annual event, volunteers and supporters gather at their favorite non-profit, like Echo, to contribute their time and energy to causes they are passionate about. We were thrilled to have a big turnout of volunteers at Echo for this year's event, including one couple from the Netherlands who celebrated their eighth BON DOET with us. They plan their holidays for March every year and make spending time at Echo and BON DOET part of their tradition. We are so honored by their contribution of time and heart. Thank you to all who came out to participate in projects like painting the new visitor center and re-

pairing a fence. While we did not get as much done as we had hoped due to heavy rains and winds, the rain was a beautiful sight to gardeners like us.

As you can see on the picture, we have a Lora Costume! We try not to brag, but we have the coolest supporters! One of our Echo friends made this lora costume entirely by hand, how cool is that?

A big THANK YOU to all Echo supporters for the recent donations and volunteer labor hours. We literally could not do it without you.

If you are also interested in making a donation to Echo, please don't hesitate and visit this link.

<https://www.mightycause.com/story/Gift2nature>



Karel's pier construction is underway

For the construction of a new pier at Karel's Beach Bar, part of the Kaya Jan NE (Cachi) Crane will be temporarily closed to all motorized, non-motorized traffic and pedestrians. On the days the work takes place, the road between Kaya Boneiru and Karels Beach Bar will be closed March 21, 2022 to May 6, 2022.

Drivers and pedestrians are asked to follow the sign posted diversion routes. During this period Kaya Jan NE (Cachi) Crane may be open to road traffic on certain days. Photo by Julie Morgan

Trouble finding a printed copy of The Reporter?

Read us online! <https://bonairereporter.com>


Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)


Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

Beach Tennis Bonaire can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.


Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact us via phone 796 2819 or email peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program gives a presentation at Yellow Submarine every Monday 7:30 p.m.



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m.



Bonaire's sky park
SPRING EQUINOX
Thanks to stargazersonline.com

March 20 is the vernal equinox - when our sun is directly over the equator and day and night are equal.

For thousands of years, the equinox marked the start of a new year. Makes sense, spring means rebirth, fertility, new life. Thousands of years ago the sun would rise in the constellation Aries on the vernal equinox, but today it rises in Pisces. This is because of **precession**.

Precession is the wobble of earth's axis. Like a top, we're flopping back and forth as we spin and orbit. Over time, the stars actually move - about a pinky on an outstretched arm, every 72 years.

In 26,000 years Vega will be the North Star not Polaris. Wild!

To find Vega, hit the skies just after midnight this week and look northeast. Vega's bluish hue will be one of the brightest.

Enjoy your new spring, I'm Trace, keep looking up! *Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline*



ACE Foundation was approached by Fundashon Betie Doran from Curaçao and Stichting Kindermuziekweek Nederland to organize Children's Music Week on Bonaire. ACE Foundation immediately said yes, although there is little time to prepare. So ACE is starting small this year and hoping next year can get bigger. Anyone who wants to contribute to the Children's Music Week should contact ACE Foundation 796-5677; acesbonaire@gmail.com or facebook page ACE Bonaire.

Tentative cruise ship schedule
March 2022

DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	03-16	Enchanted Princess	1200-2000	3660	Princess
Wednesday	03-16	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830	Marella
Thursday	03-17	Freedom	0800-1600	2980	Carnival USA
Thursday	03-17	Norwegian Epic	0600-1300	4100	Norwegian
Friday	03-18	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894	TUI Germany
Saturday	03-19	Sirena	0700-1300	684	O.Regent
Sunday	03-20	Costa Deliziosa	0800-2000	2000	Costa
Monday	03-21	AIDA Perla	0800-1800	3300	AIDA
Wednesday	03-23	Horizon	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Wednesday	03-23	Le Champlain	1000-1800	108	Dumont
Friday	03-25	Explorer OTS	0800-1700	3114	RCCL/CEL
Tuesday	03-29	Grandeur OTS	1200-2100	1992	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	03-30	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830	Marella
Thursday	03-31	Seabourne Odessey	0800-2300	450	SBN

What's Happening

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. With a subscription from the library, members can also find books online outside opening hours and request information. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and informative books can be found on www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9-4

Washington Slagbaai: Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.)

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): Pakus is back open, regular hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Masks required indoors, social distancing.

Wednesday March 16	Open Bonairean Championship Bridge. At Hillside in Antriol. Participants can register via the email button on the facebook page https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire . The winning pair can call themselves Bonairean Bridge champions for a year.
Sunday March 20	Fishing Line Clean Up Dive (South Pier). 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at the Dive Inn (Chachacha Beach). Sponsored by STCB & DFB. To register, please send an e-mail to stcb@bonaireturtles.org .
March 21 - 27	Terramar Museum. Bonaire's first Global Money Week A financial awareness campaign for youth. Workshops include: Become an entrepreneur, How to start up a company, Become a first time home owner, Work on your personal budget, Apply for project grants. Contact: info@terrarmuseum.com or send a whatsapp to +599 7014700
April 1 - 8	Children's Music Week. For the first time, Bonaire will participate in "The Children's Music Week," an annual event in the Netherlands.
Sunday April 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Thursday - Monday April 14 - 18	Forsa King of the Caribbean. Sorobon around The Frans Paradise. In addition to the competitions for the professionals, competitions and activities will also be organized for up-and-coming talent.
April 15 April 17 -18	Good Friday. Easter. Easter Monday. Public holidays
Wednesday April 27	King's Day. Public holiday. National day.
Saturday April 30	Rincon Day. Regional holiday

Coming May & June

Bonaire Culinaire will take place from May 19 to June 2, 2022. During these 15 days, participating restaurants, lunchrooms and foodtrucks will offer diners a three-course dinner for \$33; a two-course lunch for \$22 and a foodtruck special for \$11. To sign up as a venue, email: contact@Bonaire-Culinaire.com. For more information visit: <https://bonaire-culinaire.com>

Bonaire Rum Week will be held for the first time June 14 to 17, 2022. The festival will begin with an opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition featuring Bonaire's best bartenders, a rum-soaked lunch, a juicy rum Happy Hour; a multi-course culinary experience combined with rum, followed by a rum-and-cigar combination event. For the most up-to-date information, schedule, events and partners, visit: www.bonaierumweek.com

International Flights to Bonaire	
Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM connects daily through Aruba arriving Bonaire 20:50. Departure 22:05 TUI Fly direct flights will start in March 2022. Now connecting Sat through Aruba and M. W. Th. F. Sun. through Curaçao. Times vary in afternoon and evening.
Brussels (BRU) Starting Nov. 4	Air Belgium starting in November will fly twice weekly F. Sun. Arrive Bonaire 15:05. Return departure 16:05. The triangle flight makes Bonaire the first stop from Brussels then carries on to Curaçao: BRU-BON-CUR-BRU
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta Four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat. Arriving 14:44. Return departure 16:09 From April 10th through June Delta will fly twice weekly:Tues. Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American During March and April American will be offering daily flights to Bonaire from Miami, Florida. Arriving 14:30. Departure 15:37.
Houston (IAH) & New York (EWR)	United Sat. from Houston arrive 15:53 depart 14:40. Sat from New York Newark Liberty International arrive 15:53 depart Sun. 06:03.
Toronto (YYZ & YTZ)	Pearson International (YYZ) Seven routes with one connection via: Aruba; Miami; Punta Cana; Atlanta; Curaçao, New York; Huston. Billy Bishop (YTZ) One route with one connection via New York (EWR)
Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) gives flight information. Schedule (Feb. update) is at https://www.tourismbonaire.com/includes/International-Flight-Schedule-Feb-2022.pdf	

Fundraising Update – Flamingo Veterinary Clinic Bonaire

by Brian Niessen

Bondia,

A month ago, we started a fundraiser to raise \$4,500 to purchase dental clinic equipment for the Flamingo Island Veterinary Clinic. With the generous help of some of the good people on Bonaire, we have now raised that amount, ordered the equipment, and the clinic is looking forward to providing a full range of dental services to your fur-babies in the very near future.

Along with the generous support, we did receive some comments from one person and I want to address them here.

COMMENT: (I won't donate) Because: A veterinary center is a company, not a non-profit organization. Company's have to work cost-covering, if they don't they have to make a business plan to get it.

RESPONSE: Actually, the Flamingo Island Veterinary Clinic is owned by Stichting Travelling Animal Doctors, a registered non-profit.

COMMENT: By the way, if I see the prices at the Flamingo Veterinary Cen-

ter compared with the Klinika Veterinario Bonaire I cannot imagine how a "normal" Bonairian can pay this. Vaccinations, medication and treatments are much more expensive at the Flamingo Vet Center, so they should work much more cost-covering than the other vet...

RESPONSE: It does cost money to get new equipment, renovate the clinic, and hire veterinarians. Currently Flamingo has three full-time veterinarians on staff and provides pretty much instant emergency services. They are also cognizant of client's abilities to pay full price and are willing to work with those who need their animals to be looked after but cannot afford the "full price." But to be fair, compared to what would be paid in other countries for the same quality of service, the prices are still very cheap. Meanwhile, it is wonderful that we have two clinics, so you can choose based on price.

COMMENT: I remember Jan already had an x-ray machine, it was even a mobile one. Urine tests can be made for years and also blood tests are not new to

the island. Even ultrasound is no news, I never tried it at the other vet (Klinika Veterinario) but I know they have proper tools to clean teeth for cats and dogs. Because of my diabetic cat I have regularly used this service.

RESPONSE: Jan's ex-ray machine was not portable. It still required the large old 1960's style x-ray "gun". It was a newer digital 'film' unit that was connected to a laptop. Blood tests on the island were sent to the human laboratory, which does not provide the same test results as blood tests now done in-clinic and are calibrated for animal testing. When I asked Fulco for an ultrasound for one of our cats, he told me "I don't have one because nobody would pay to use it." And cleaning teeth is very different than a full mouth extraction that is required for diseases like feline stomatitis or filling of cavities (which can now be done too).

I look forward to a future article in the Reporter interviewing the founder and staff at the Flamingo clinic to inform the people of Bonaire of the new level of ser-



vices that are available for our pets. As I said before, it is amazing to finally have a "real clinic" on the island. The thing I like most is that they have an app for all of your pets' records and you also receive an email with the diagnosis and treatment immediately after the visit.

Thank you again to all who donated.

DONOR LIST: Deepak Daryanani, Ruth van Tilburg-Obre, Dabney and Bob Lassiter, Camille and Brian, Bruce and Karen Zavon, An Anna Mouse, Bethany Asplundh, Mike Lafortune and Diana Rybak, Don and Rhonda Lockhart, Earline Wasser, Frans de Jong, Rika & Jack-Jack, Jenna and Dan, Constance Hall, Kelly Livingston, Jamie Morphy, Todd Friedman, Mary Lawson, Barbara Levine, Julie Morgan.

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Ombudsman's report on Caribbean students having effect

As reported by Dossier Kingdom Relations, research by the National Ombudsman found that Caribbean students encounter many obstacles when studying in the Netherlands. These include "racism, a language deficiency, cultural differences, little tutoring, complicated laws and rules, and more." The Hague has taken the report seriously and work is underway to deal with many of the problems.

The National Ombudsman said: "First action points have been set in motion. For example, Dutch ministries are preparing amendments to the law, so that in the future Caribbean students will receive a BSN on time and access to Dutch health insurance. A Steering Group is also preparing a trajectory to improve the connection between Caribbean and Dutch education. In addition, the organizations involved are working on better information about studying and living in the Netherlands. And about student debts.

"At the same time, there is still work to be done. Changing laws takes time. Also, some problems, such as the lack of housing, are not easily solved." The National Ombudsman will therefore continue to monitor what happens with his recommendations in the coming year. At the end of 2022, he will organize another round table meeting with the organizations and ministries involved. Then he wants to hear about what has definitely improved for Caribbean students in the Netherlands." DMR (*Dossier Koninkrijks Relaties*)

Mediation team sent to Statia

A team of high ranking commissioners from the Caribbean Islands has been sent to St. Eustatius to try to mediate an end to a government deadlock between the Island Council and Government Commissioner Alida Francis and Deputy Government Commissioner Claudia Toet. In December the Island Council voted to request mediation because a majority felt too little progress was

being made toward the restoration of full democracy on the island.

The Hague dissolved the previous island government and ordered a new election in October, 2020, because those governing Statia had dug in their heels and refused to engage in reforms. The Statians responded by reelecting the same people. The Island Council subsequently decided mediation was needed because no progress is being made in establishing a budget or even appointing commissioners. The councilors also accused the commissioners who were appointed by The Hague of not being transparent and failing to consult with them regarding establishing criteria and a timetable for the return to democracy.

Three Caribbean mediators have been sent to Statia. Suzanne (Suzy) Camelia- Römer is the appointed mediator for the Island Council. She is a lawyer and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles. Maria Liberia-Peters is the appointed mediator for the Government Commissioners. She is the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles. Alba Martijn, a lawyer, and former Ombudsman on Curaçao, will support both mediators. DMR (*Besreporter*)

Van Huffelen promises islands respect and consultation, and good governance too

Alexandra Van Huffelen, the new State Secretary of Kingdom Relations, recently made a two week get-acquainted visit to the islands in mid February. In a letter to the House of Representatives afterwards, she declared her immediate goals. She wants to help improve living standards, protect nature and the environment, promote good education, and achieve a more diverse economy.

"The islands offer a great many opportunities if the residents are given the opportunity to seize them," says the State Secretary. "I see it as my mission to support this. I want to work hard for that together with the administrators and residents of the Caribbean part of the kingdom. Of course also with respect for the autonomous position within that same kingdom."

State Secretary Van Huffelen is initially concerned

about the poverty she has seen on the islands. "Despite the efforts of previous cabinets, I have noticed that people on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius are not yet aware of this enough in their wallets."

She pointed out that, under the coalition agreement, EUR 30 million is structurally available for the Caribbean Netherlands, in addition to EUR 35 million for the conservation and restoration of nature.

As far as the State Secretary is concerned, central to the relationship with the countries Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten is cooperation on the basis of equality. "All three countries are fully part of the Kingdom and that is the foundation from which we work together for the future."

Challenges that the countries face in this regard include increasing poverty, a lack of implementation capacity and a rule of law that needs strengthening. Van Huffelen said, "These are serious challenges for which we must use the power of the Kingdom. It is up to the countries to work on solutions, but they are not alone. This also means that we are committed to sound and honest governance that is committed to safeguarding human rights." DMR

Contour Global to add solar panels

According to Solar Magazine, Contour Global expects to increase Bonaire's capacity to generate sustainable energy in just over a year from now. The company will add solar panels and more batteries to supplement the current mix of diesel and wind generation of electricity. WEB's and Contour Global's long term goals, 100% renewable energy and much lower charges to customers, are considered challenging but feasible.

Meeting the island's growing needs for electricity requires more than additional hardware. Sophisticated software programs are needed too, such as GEMS Digital Energy Platform and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). "GEMS enables Contour Global to monitor, analyze and forecast weather conditions, as well as renewable energy output, battery storage performance and grid load, then adjust grid assets continuously to ensure grid stability and reliability, as well as lowest costs," according to Solar Magazine. DMR (*Solar Magazine*)

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Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. The Shelter is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment to see them, via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Hello nice people. My name is Olivia, and I'm around 2 years old.

I'm a very good girl, I'm perfect with other dogs of any size, age, male or female. I'm friends with everybody.

I love to run, alone or with friends, I do enjoy cuddles and a nice grooming session.

And, I don't want to forget to tell you; I love water! I love to dig in it, lay in it or just play with it.

I'm a real family girl, I love kids of all ages, even the young ones, they don't scare me. I love it when they cuddle with me.

I would love a family of my own that will take me for a swim or for a walk or just relax together in the yard.

If you think I will fit in your family, then I'm your girl.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Olivia



Sonny

Meet this young cat. This young and handsome cat is Sonny. Sonny is about 10 months old. Eight months ago he was brought to the Shelter, together with his mother and six brothers and sisters. They were found in a construction area, which was no place to be for a mother and her tiny kittens.

This beautiful boy is already neutered, has had his vaccinations and will be chipped the moment we know he has found his forever home.

Come and meet this playful pretty boy and you will have a friend for life!

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



L-R: Jane Disko

Sanne Attevelt

Monique Degenaar

Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

Coming soon: Dive Friends at Delfins Beach

Dive Friends at Delfins Beach is nearing completion of its new dive retail shop and drive through. The shop is easy to spot right from EEG boulevard with its unique dive mask design. Customers will be able to purchase a wide variety of diving gear, apparel, and much more to make the most out of their diving experiences on Bonaire. Upstairs, there is a cozy classroom where students can begin their diving lessons. Students will have access to the biggest pool on Bonaire at Delphins. The new drive through

located directly behind the retail shop offers quick and easy tank exchange, equipment rental and personal gear storage for all Dive Friend's customers, no matter which Dive Friends shop they are registered. Want to boat dive in style? The resort boasts a large boat dock with stairs going all the way into the water for simple and safe dive entry. When you combine this with all the new additions, Dive Friends at Delfins Beach truly is the one stop shop on Bonaire to fulfill all your scuba desires.

Shelter News

HASI BON, PASA BON! Do good, feel good!



The Bon Doet volunteers give the Shelter's office a new coat of paint. Photo Julie Morgan

A huge thank you to the volunteers from VanEpps Kunneman VanDoorne for their great work at Animal Shelter Bonaire as part of Bon Doet 2022. The law firm's volunteers, alongside some of our regular Shelter volunteers, had a good day painting. They helped paint materials that will be used to make playground equipment for the dogs to enjoy in their play yards and also some areas on the property that were in need of new paint.

Animal Shelter Bonaire is also very grateful to the Bon Doet Team and Oranje Fonds for another great year of support

and assistance. Every year the Shelter receives much needed "extra hands" for projects that need doing and most times the Bon Doet event produces a new group of regular volunteers.

And a special thank you to Mary Breadfastbox (Mariline Poulina) who provided the hardworking volunteers with a delicious lunch personalized for our Bon Doet volunteers. Check out Mary Breadfastbox on Facebook.

Masha danki to all of this year's Bon Doet team.

STINAPA protects Bonaire's shoreline

Karel's pier construction complies with STINAPA requirements

STINAPA Bonaire National Marine Park manager Judith Raming is satisfied with the constructive cooperation by Karel Visser and contractors Richard Duyn and Richard Burger. She expressed her confidence that the instructions given by STINAPA will be strictly followed and observed during the construction.

Recently STINAPA rangers under supervision and guidance of the Marine biologists removed corals from the construction area, to prevent any damage to these brain corals. There are still some corals left at the site including a decent sized staghorn coral, however the chance of survival of these corals by removal are very slim, therefore it has been decided to leave it there. The developers have designed a possible design that will display this coral and give it the necessary sunlight without much harm.

2021 Lionfish survey

For over ten years, STINAPA Bonaire has been conducting lionfish density surveys to monitor the population of this invasive species on our reefs. After many years with low density, fewer than 40 fish per hectare (10,000m²) of the reef, the results from 2021 showed an increase in density.

New signs at LAC

Marine Park Rangers have recently placed new signs at Lac to prevent visitors from stepping on the seagrass. STINAPA hopes the signs will reduce the number of people that step on the seagrasses and damage them.

Seagrasses are an important part of the Lac ecosystem. They stabilize the sea bottom. They also provide food and habitat for other marine organisms, and maintain water quality.

Dutch government to compensate for rising energy prices

The Dutch government has agreed to make \$5.5 million available to the Caribbean Netherlands to compensate for rising energy prices. The government bodies of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius are discussing how to spend the money most effectively. The Executive Council of Bonaire proposes to mitigate the increased energy tariff by reducing the excise duty on petrol.

The Dutch government is taking this measure to compensate for the loss of pur-

chasing power, especially because energy prices have risen dramatically as an effect of the war in Ukraine. "Supporting and ultimately improving purchasing power for the Bonairean citizen is a primary goal of the government. Due to developments worldwide, we will have to take into account that prices on Bonaire will also rise." The price of fuels imported to Bonaire fluctuates with international market prices. *DM*

Sand Dollar holds Special Olympics walk

by Alan Zale

Owners at Sand Dollar Condominium were not about to let a second consecutive year pass without walking to benefit Bonaire Special Olympics. The cause is too important.

Wearing a collection of Bonaire Special Olympic Walk tee-shirts dating to 2013, walkers left Sand Dollar at 7am on Sunday, March 6. The 5K walk along the sea road went to the Customs House and back. The group of approximately 30 walkers included owners, renters, staff, island friends and two dogs, Joy and Milo.

Though it wasn't a race, Kathy Harrington from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, was the first walker to reach the Custom House. She has been visiting Bonaire for more than 20 years.

The idea for the walk came approximately 10 days earlier to Rich and Madeline Setterberg, who have owned at Sand Dollar since 2015. They realized that even though the Bonaire Special Olympic team was not traveling, it still had expenses that needed to be met.

Madeline said, "It was important to let them know people still supported them."

Rich's initial idea was to re-create the

walk from White Slave to Sand Dollar starting at 4:30 a.m. covering a distance of 15 km (9.3 m). That plan was met with a resounding "NO!" when he mentioned it to other people.

A centerpiece of the walk was a full breakfast that greeted walkers when they returned from their one-hour trek. Rich and Madeline, who like to entertain and bring people together, felt that since there were no tee-shirts, hats or other goodies for the walkers, a breakfast would be a nice incentive to walk. So, while everybody was out walking, a team of five stayed behind to prepare the breakfast.

The walk raised approximately \$2,000 for the Bonaire Special Olympics program and produced several heart warming and funny stories on how donations were made. One owner and a renter had a pledging war with each one increasing their donations to top the other. Another owner was so impressed with the donations they doubled theirs while a couple passing by who saw the breakfast made an immediate donation when they heard what it was about.

Plans are to present the proceeds raised from the walk to Sand Dollar Maintenance Supervisor Balbino (Ben) Antho-



Walking for a cause: Approximately 30 walkers head out of the Sand Dollar Condominium grounds on Sunday morning, March 6th, to raise money for the Bonaire Special Olympics. Leading the way on the 5K walk to the custom's house and back are (l-r) Gretchen and Tom Spittler, Tom McFarland, Pamela Field, and Jim Kewley.

Photo Alan Zale

ny. He will give the donations to the Special Olympics in a formal presentation.

Ben's enthusiasm for Bonaire Special Olympics was part of the Setterberg's motivation for the walk. Each year Ben would be a tireless seller of Special Olympics tickets. The Setterberg's felt that this would be a good way for the Sand Dollar community to repay Ben for all that he has done over the years for the

program.

The Setterbergs, like many people who visit Bonaire, have a deep love for the island that has brought them so much happiness.

Rich commented, "I think we owe Bonaire something, either through volunteering or just giving back to the island."

The walk they organized is a perfect example of that.



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