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BONAIRE The REPORTER



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Sinterklaas is welcomed back to Bonaire
Photo Julie Morgan

He's back and so is the holiday spirit

Hundreds of people showed up on November 19 to welcome the return of Christmas and the holiday season on Bonaire. Sinterklaas, Sanikolas or St. Nickolas, no matter what you call him, arrived and brought the joy and spirit of the season with him.

The smiling faces on children and adults alike said it all as Sinterklaas arrived in true Bonaire tradition on a tugboat from KTB (Towboat Company Bonaire). And, of course, the man in the red cape was accompanied by his entourage of colorful, dancing and acrobatic Zwarte Piets.

It's been two years since Bonaire has celebrated the Christmas holiday traditionally without preventive measures and everyone is ready to fully engage the season.

As Sinterklaas rode in on the tugboat, countless boats, carrying more Piets and fans, surrounded the North pier to be a part of the celebration.

To make it official, acting Lt. Governor Nolly Oleana and Felix Thomas, director of SKAL (Culture, Art and Literature) welcomed Sinterklaas back to Bonaire.

A brass band and the dancing Piets accompanied Sinterklaas and the officials as they made their way through the crowd stopping occasionally to say hello

to some of the children.

Organizers for the event, Commission Sanikolas Bonaire and Wedoe, kept things running smoothly. They set up a tented stage for Sinterklaas so he could be seen by all and have the best view of the crowd and entertainment.

In Wilhelmina Park, beginning at 8 a.m., MC Jo Café set the mood along with music by DJ Xiano and DJ Marv.

Food stands with snacks and drinks were available as were some craft booths and a special corner for kids to play.

After Sinterklaas took his throne accompanied by Lt. Gov. Oleana and Thomas, they each welcomed the crowd and declared the holiday season open.

Rap singing Zwarte Piets led the other Piets in several gymnastic dances before the stage and crowd. They appeared with

gunny sacks full of oranges, not coal, to hand out to the kids which they gladly accepted.

The Dream Girls dance group performed several times, occasionally accompanied by the Piets and Bonaire's Drum Band.

Following the celebration Sinterklaas and the Piets toured the barrios of Playa, Tera Kora, Nikiboko, Ambiona, Antriol and Rincon.

The seasonal celebration will continue on Bonaire with shopping night on Kaya Grandi and Terramar shopping area on December 17. All shops will be open from 6-9 p.m. with special holiday discounts for shoppers. The mood will be festive with live bands set up at Tourism Corporation Bonaire and Littman's. And in Wilhelmina Park, the cruise mart will be teeming with food, drink and craft. Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance to get last minute wish lists from the kids. and photos will be available too.

According to the government, from now to December 17, Bonaire's Road crew will be hard at work to complete the road on Kaya Grandi.

Story/photos Julie Morgan
More photos on our Facebook page



Asst. Lt. Gov. Nolly Oleana has some fun with a few Zwarte Piets

TUI lawyer threatens to sue STINAPA. Public Relations says "What?"

Here's the timeline:

November 6. *BES Reporter* publishes a story that documented, with photographs, the damage the recent heavy weather inflicted on the artificial beach at Chogogo Resort, the beach created by dumping imported sand without a STINAPA permit. The photos showed deeply eroded gullies where sand had washed down to, and in places over, the low curb that Chogogo built instead of the required seawall. In places the sand had washed across the sidewalk onto the stone beach.

November 12. *Bonaire.nu* publishes a rebuttal to the *BES Reporter* story. The rebuttal was written by René Jacobs, architect for the Chogogo Resort. Jacobs claimed the photos had been misinterpreted. He said they show the storm surge had actually washed native sand onto the beach, not imported sand off the beach, and that the low "seawall" the Resort built had worked perfectly.

The November 12 story includes an extended rebuttal of Jacobs written by Jan van der Ploeg, Director of STINAPA. Van der Ploeg repeatedly refers to "TUI Chogogo Resort."

November 21. *Bonaire.nu* publishes a story and an editorial, both announcing that TUI house lawyer Jeroen den Dikken has accused STINAPA of falsely identifying TUI with Chogogo Resort. Den Dikken issued a fearsome legal threat: if STINAPA continues to publicly link TUI with Chogogo, TUI would "be forced to consider taking legal action."

Usually TUI is not a major subject of discussion on Bonaire. But many Bonaireans are thinking and talking about the company now.

(Note. Writers take a professional interest in the colloquial terms used in each other's languages. The *Bonaire.nu* writer thinks the English "barking up the wrong tree" was apt for den Dikken's action. I especially liked the sentence that translated as "den Dikken ripped the pubic patch from TUI.") *DMR*

(See another challenge to Jacobs's story on opinion page 6.)

Egg shortage to continue, according to the numbers

The egg shelves in Bonaire's stores are often bare within half an hour of being stocked. The island's single egg producer, Punta Blanku, cannot satisfy the growing demand. They have purchased additional laying hens, but the hens still have to mature before they start producing. Punta Blanku is also being squeezed by the high cost of imported chicken feed.

Stores can import eggs from Miami. At this point, the discussion gets complicated. Punta Blanku eggs retail for \$3.53 per box on Bonaire. The government ceiling price for imported eggs has been \$1.36 per box. Bondigro supermarket has been selling imported eggs as a loss leader, limit two boxes per customer. Other stores don't carry imported eggs.

But Bondigro has had to stop importing because the price of eggs in the U.S. is approaching \$6.00 a box. Costs have been increasing for American producers too, plus they also have a shortage of laying hens. Seven million birds were destroyed in America to prevent the spread of disease.

The government has announced that, beginning next week, Bonaire's stores can start selling imported eggs for \$3.50 per box. But with the price in the U.S. approaching \$6.00, that's too little too late.

Pay VET online, government suggests

The government is encouraging tourists to pay their Visitor Entry Tax electronically prior to arrival on the island. People can now pay the VET via iDEAL, an option especially popular in the Netherlands. Soon they will be able to pay via PayPal and Apple Pay as well.

Visitors who arrive with their QR code in hand can use the fast lane, called the "Happy lane." The press release doesn't say what the other lane is called.

Police counter leak of sensitive information

Police have taken the unusual step of releasing factual information about an ongoing case in order to counter incorrect and suggestive information that had been leaked to the press and appeared on Thursday, November 17, in the media. The police say that leaks disrupt investigations and violate every employee's legal duty to maintain confidentiality.

The police explained that two people, while cleaning two cars that had been left unlocked, found a package suspected to contain narcotics. They immediately informed the police, who immediately investigated the scene, confiscated the package, and continued investigating the site and eventually the adjoining premises.

The police announcement emphasized that the people who reported the likely narcotics are considered helpful witnesses, not suspects, as was apparently implied in the leak. The police said no further announcements will be made regarding the investigation until it is completed.

Public hearing on development plan, November 24

The draft of the Executive Council's 12th revision of the Spatial Development Plan Bonaire (ROB) will be discussed at a public hearing on Thursday November 24, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the meeting room of the Space and Development Board at Kaya Amsterdam 23. The subject will be the amendments to the ROB that will be submitted to the Island Council for adoption. This is not an integral revision of the ROB, but a revision on points. It concerns locations and subjects, the overview of which can be found at <https://www.bonaire-ro.nl/>.

Income tax deadline extended again

Income Tax (IB) returns were due by November 11, but the filing portal, MijnCN, was down from November 4 to November 6. So the deadline was extended until December 10. The original deadline for filing was May 16.

Big support coming for books and heritage

The Hague is committing millions of euros in coming years to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom for libraries and heritage, according to State Secretary Gunay Uslu of Culture and Media. The money will go to physical libraries on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba and to an online library available to everyone on the six islands as well.

Uslu said, "Culture is the foundation and cement of our society. And a library is the place where children, young people and adults come into contact with culture, with stories, with each other . . . We also invest in heritage and archives. Because those are the stories about our shared past and we have to take good care of that . . . Precisely because that history is sometimes fraught and complicated."

One million euros is available this year to improve the library network, and two million annually in 2023 and 2024. Five million euros is available annually for the entire Kingdom for creating an online library, and an additional eight million euros in 2023 and 2024.

Bonaire celebrates the 30th edition of Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week, organized by the Bonaire Public Library every year for 30 years, ended on November 18. Children were invited to visit the library to read or borrow books, and to listen to talks, on this year's theme, nature and sustainability. They learned about such subjects as planting their own food, recycling, and environmental awareness.

Army exercises scheduled for Bonaire in December

The 41st army company, stationed on Curaçao, will conduct operational readiness exercises on Bonaire during December 1 - 8. The troops will get acquainted with the environment on Bonaire, will cooperate with the local authorities and emergency services, and will work on charity projects. They will bivouac at the old airstrip. *DMR*

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OMNI celebrates Black Friday



Branch manager Hitesh Baxani presents the newly expanded showroom full of inventory. Photo Julie Morgan

With an expanded showroom 33% larger than before, OMNI Bonaire's Black Friday sale November 23 – 28 has just about everything you need with even more choices at great prices.

OMNI features the best brands, those that everyone recognizes: Panasonic, Samsung, LG, Sealy, Serta, Restonic and Radio Shack.

OMNI branch manager Hitesh Baxani explained the store now has room for more furniture, bedding, washing machines, ranges, air conditioners, televisions, exercise equipment and domestic appliances.

Shoppers will find a selection of more than 30 different refrigerator models in both 110 and 220 volt. There are six different types of air conditioners and televisions

ranging from 32 – 86 in. OMNI has been the leader in mobile phones with their Galaxy phone selection and will soon add the Apple iPhone. There are more laptops, play stations and audio accessories available.

For the sale, OMNI will be open non-stop Monday – Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. And, on the real Black Friday, November 25, doors will be open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

In December, OMNI is planning to bring back their "Spin the Wheel" for special discounts (no specifics yet).

OMNI is located at Kaya Amsterdam 25B. Contact OMNI at 599-717-7516 or on WhatsApp +599- 782-2203 and on Facebook. Visit page 10 to see some of what's on sale.

Julie Morgan

Nature fee consolidated, simplified

The Executive Council, In consultation with STINA-PA and stakeholders, has equalized the different rates that have been charged as the nature fee. Beginning in 2023, visitors will pay a flat fee of \$40 per year for diving, water sports, and access to the national park. The nature fee will not have to be paid by residents of Bonaire, and visitors of Saba, St. Eustatius, Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten, or by any visitors under the age of 13. Cruise passengers will pay \$10 for entry to Washington Slagbaai National Park and \$10 for entry to the Bonaire National Marine Park.

Companies that carry out commercial activities in the Marine Park will contribute to its management by paying \$1,000 per year, up from \$840. That will be a flat fee and will replace a other fees they have had to pay, depending on their business.

Visiting yachts will pay \$ 35 per night for overnight mooring, up from \$10. Bonaire residents pay \$1,000 per year for a private buoy.

DMR



FOR SALE Oceanview Condo Kaya Grandi 89 Apartment E



- Location: Kralendijk, close to the boulevard
- Living area: 80 m2 / 861 sq.ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage / parking

- Spacious balcony with great views
- A short walk to downtown Kralendijk

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$399,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
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Child of the ABC Islands publishes



Poet Ini Statia

“In the Name of Love” is a book of poems 40 years in the making but, perhaps even longer. When Ini Statia was asked how long she had been writing poems, she answered, “Since the beginning”.

Ini calls herself a child of the ABC islands. She is one of six children, three born in Aruba and three in Bonaire. Ini was one of the Aruba kids. She lives in Curaçao now but she spends time on all three islands growing, learning and teaching as she has throughout her life.

“In the Name of Love” is Ini’s first published book, which is pretty amazing for a writer who has been writing all her life. She doesn’t count the publication of her master thesis after graduating with her degree in literature in the Netherlands.

Ini remembers her mother as a voracious reader who stimulated her interest in books and the value of Papiamentu and other languages.

“Since my childhood, I can remember in school I would recite poems. I was always interested in languages and literature,” said Ini.

The author enjoyed writing throughout her life, whether it was in school where a teacher so passionate about literature made her fall in love with writing or as a teacher herself in later years – she simply loved it.

Ini said, “All those years I have written stories and essays and I never thought about publishing until last year. It was only important to write – not publish.”

Ini explained that in her seventh decade she wants to leave something behind. It’s important for her to speak about certain subjects, life concerns, community and personal and social themes.

In the preface of the book, Ini writes, “I want to connect with the whole of life, keep learning, continue to nurture my curiosity and creativity and contribute to the sustainable development of our language, literature and community. This anthology is the result of all this together. Life is too complex to confine it to antagonistic, black-and-white schemes. You must dive into the depths to pry loose layers, and discard obstacles and limiting taboos, to gain deeper insights and unmask undermining messages. Art can be of great help in channeling such a process.”

In the “Name of Love” is divided into five sections from an island birth through different phases of a person’s life. The poems get longer as the phases progress.

Beginning – dedicated to my language and how the language was born in me.

The island of my birth

Growing – childhood to teenage years

Blooming – the student years, first sexual experience and political awareness.

Maturing – features longer and more mature poems.

A few of the poems are dated and some mention historical events the reader will recognize or perhaps remember.

“My niece/goddaughter was born 30 years ago, and the book is dedicated to her with one poem for every year of her life,” said Ini.

The book is also dedicated to the child within each of us. Different poems could evoke a feeling of the child within us because we all have different memories of our childhood.

“In the Name of Love” is published in three languages so people all over the world can read the difference between Papiamentu, Dutch and English. Ini wants people to get acquainted with Papiamentu.

“It’s important to translate international work into Papiamentu. It’s a small language of a small group of people and this is a way to accelerate the production of books into Papiamentu, especially original work,” said Ini.

Each section begins with a photo by Dutch artist Frouwkje Smit, a talented artist now living in the Netherlands. She considers Smit a ‘placemaker’ or transformer, someone that adds value to a community.

Ini is very grateful for her translators and funding and support from Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied, OCW and SKAL.

A book launch of “In the Name of Love” will be held November 30 at Plaza Resort’s Cacique Room from 7-9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. After that the book will be available for purchase locally at Del Mar and Bruna bookstores.

Photo/story Julie Morgan

Bonlab’s future still in doubt

Despite the objections of Bonaire’s Executive Council and Island Council, State Secretary Maarten van Ooijen still wants to terminate Bonlab’s contract with Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) as of January 1, 2023, and to contract with Fundashon Mariadal (FM) hospital for all medical testing on the island. Van Ooijen has agreed to extend BonLab’s contract for another six months, provided that, in his judgment, serious discussions actually take place.

Van Ooijen has in hand an advisory report that levels many accusations against the current system of medical testing on Bonaire and concludes: “Maintaining the current facilities is not responsible....the current inefficient use of buildings, personnel and equipment for current production leads to irresponsibly high costs for laboratory care on Bonaire.” Van Ooijen has informed parliament that he agrees with the report. He also complains that the public body Bonaire (OLB) has not been prompt in defending the continuation of Bonlab.

Deputy den Heyer of Health Care has sent a letter to parliament also. She vociferously disagrees with Van Ooijen’s conclusions regarding medical testing on Bonaire and with his representation of the Bonaire public body’s participation in the discussion. She accuses Van Ooijen of quoting out of date and inaccurate data, of being inconsistent in his contributions to the talks. She insists the OLB has been clearly and publicly supportive of retaining BonLab since Van Ooijen first raised the issue. The OLB has also presented, she says, many legitimate reasons for the island to have two labs.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations; Bonaire.nu)

Step inside Digicel’s cash vault to win

Digicel kicked off the holiday season December 18 with some great deals on keeping you connected to your family and friends. They know it is the perfect time to spend with loved ones and Digicel is making that a little easier through video, voice calls and even live streaming family events.

In the spirit of the holiday season, Digicel customers will receive a 25% discount on all postpaid and prepaid mobile phones and even a 40% discount on the A03 Core. Additionally, new postpaid customers receive a Samsung A23 free of charge with a two-year Prime More (USD 55/month) plan. Or customers can opt for a free Samsung A33 with a two-year Prime Extra (USD 69/month) or a free Samsung S21 with a two-year Prime Extra (USD 109/month) plan.

Here is the fun part, Digicel is opening a Cash Vault. For every dollar spent, prepaid and postpaid customers receive a raffle ticket, giving them a chance to win weekly prizes to enter the swirling booth of cash known as the Cash Vault. Lucky participants stand inside the booth as a whirlwind of money surrounds them and they have to catch the cash and keep as much as they can grab in their earned time.

To play, simply activate a Prime bundle or pay your postpaid bill in person or on your MyDigicel app. And, if you purchase a Digicel gift during the holiday season, you can earn even more raffle tickets for a chance to win “time” in the Cash Vault.

Every week Digicel will call to let lucky raffle winners know if they were chosen to grab some cash in the Cash Vault. At the end of the holiday campaign there will be one grand prize winner.

The holiday campaign is valid from November 18, 2022 – January 6, 2023. But Digicel has more in the



Erick Alvarez of Dutch Caribbean TV stepped inside the Cash Vault and won a Samsung A130 cell phone.

works. Visit the Digicel Facebook page or www.digicel-bonaire.com for more details, terms and conditions. Photo / story Julie Morgan

Downtown flooding predicted Bonaire's future

Last week downtown Bonaire was flooded. The rain has seldom poured down on the island so heavily for so many days and weeks. Those are effects of climate change. And islands around the world are especially vulnerable because so many of their people live so near the oceans, which are rising and submerging low lying coast lines.

Various levels of government have responded to the threats recently.

At the Hague, Member of Parliament Raoul Boucke (D66) called on the cabinet to apply "The principle of 'Loss & Damages' to the to CAS countries and the BES islands. This concept was discussed at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt. 'Loss & Damages' is a way of calculating climate damage and determining compensation for poorer countries that hardly contribute to climate change themselves, but do experience its consequences. The Netherlands is in favor of rich countries setting up a fund that will be used to help poor countries arm themselves against the consequences of climate change.

A study by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam into the consequences of climate change has produced "worrying" results, writes State Secretary Van Huffelen (Kingdom Relations). She says "The Caribbean Netherlands cannot escape the

consequences of climate change." The researchers warn of the risk of flooding due to rainfall and rising sea levels. They also reproach the government for not taking the threat seriously. Van Huffelen announced that in 2023 "a broader assessment of the consequences of climate change for the islands will take place based on existing and new research." She points out the municipalities and public bodies are responsible for preparing climate change responses themselves, but promises the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management will support them. The Public Body Bonaire intends to set up a climate table that will include both climate mitigation and climate adaptation information.

Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Harbers informed the House of Representatives that Bonaire could take one mitigation step against sea level immediately: it could no longer allow new construction close to the coast. He assured parliament that the BES municipalities already have legal powers to anticipate the future consequences of climate change. This includes excluding new construction directly on the sea, limiting the use of vulnerable areas and taking spatial measures to deal with the consequences of extreme weather (peak showers, drought, storm).

DMR (File Kingdom Relations)

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Why isn't my Bonaire house selling? My agent says it is a fair price and some people have looked at it, but there have been no offers. J.T.

Dear J.T.,

We have a saying in real estate that the first reason a property doesn't sell is the price, and the second reason is also the price. However, here on Bonaire there can be some other reasons why a house takes longer to sell.

Your house's location, condition and rental status are also factors. Some locations appeal to buyers more than others, especially if they hope to use the property for vacation rentals. Cleanliness is also important. Buyers looking for their

dream home are not envisioning clutter and untidiness, so it is important that the home looks as clean and spacious as possible. If your house is rented, do the tenants keep the property clean and permit showings when requested? Some tenants may not be eager to agree to showing appointments, especially if they want to keep living there. The state of maintenance of your house is also important. Is the house well maintained? Does it need a fresh coat of paint? Buyers prefer a house that is well maintained and with a garden that is clean and not overgrown.

Have you received feedback from your agent after each showing? This is a good indication of whether there is a specific concern about your house that you can fix or update. If there are no negative comments after a showing, but lookers end up buying other houses, it's probably the price. Wishing you all the best for a successful sale!

*Bob Bartikoski, Broker/Owner
Re/Max Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email me at bob@bonairehomes.com or call or WhatsApp me at +5990786-7362

POLICE REPORT

Traffic accidents/violations

Nov. 9. In the night hours, around 1:30 a.m the theft of a black Yamaha scooter, registration MF-1240, was reported. The scooter was parked locked with an ignition lock in front of a house on Kaya Mandolin. The owner was woken up by a rustling outside and caught three boys red-handed trying to take the neighbor's scooter with them as well. The boys managed to get away.

The patrol found another Yamaha scooter with registration number MF-497

in a side street of Kaya Mandolin. This was most likely also from theft since the scooter was in the middle of the street. The scooter was taken to the police station for safekeeping. The owner can pick it up after showing a valid ID.

Nov.8. Around 11:50 p.m. the driver and passenger of a scooter fell off the scooter on Kaya Nikiboko South. The cause was probably the wet road surface. Both were taken to hospital by ambulance.

Public safety.

Thursday morning six dogs killed several goats on the school grounds of the Bonaire SLP/VSO school community.

Partly because of the large scale and the location where the incident took place, the Lieutenant Governor and the KPCN decided to trace the dogs and have them put to sleep by a vet. The owner of the dogs was informed of this decision.

Dog owners can be fined if they do not keep their animals on their own property. In some cases, the damage caused by a dog can be recovered from the owner of the animal.

KPCN would like to remind dog own-

ers once again that dogs should be kept in the yard by a good fence or by keeping the dog on a leash. It is also advisable to socialize a dog. A dog needs education and training; the owner is responsible for the behavior and training of the dog. Next week, the Public Entity Bonaire will start the information campaign that is part of the broad phased approach to combat the dog problem and to guarantee animal welfare.

**If you see something suspicious,
call 717 8000 or
the anonymous tip line 9310.**

FORMA offers free tourism courses

Public Entity of Bonaire, in collaboration with TCB and BONHATA, is funding free courses in tourism at FORMA, Bonaire's adult education center. The courses are primarily aimed at improving the quality of service of those working in the tourism sector. However, anyone can register, including people who work in another sector but are interested in working in tourism.

The first class has graduated in Social Hygiene/HACCP/Food Security. "With this course, we not only learn to protect guests and the company against undesirable situations, but also ourselves," said one of the students.

Four new courses will start in the first week of December. The range of courses will be expanded in the course of the next calendar year. For more information contact: Pamela Beukenboom

Mail address:
courses@fundashonforma.com



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.

A cruiser's perspective

I read your article about the conflict between local boaters and STINAPA, and felt your readers should also be aware of brewing conflicts between visiting boaters and STINAPA which arose out of the recent reversals.

During the previous reversal I and two other boats moved our boats to the temporary mooring buoys on the west side of Klein for protection. The marina staff had advised us this was ok to do when the mooring field became unsafe. In the morning STINAPA rangers politely asked us to move back to the mooring field which was still rocky and potentially dangerous. I refused. They returned four hours later and threatened to have us removed by force.

We were told by the rangers that we weren't allowed to overnight on the buoys but we could use them for up to two hours during the day. But in a call to Judith on the same day, she told us that we could use the Klien buoys during the night in a reversal but only as an unspecified "last resort" during daytime reversals. Clearly no one knows what the rules are, if indeed there even are rules. This would all be comical, but it risks putting boaters in a potentially dangerous position of having planned a safe harbour solution and then being prevented from carrying it out as stormy weather closes in.

But the plot thickens... The rangers led us to understand that there had been a complaint from dive operators and pointed vaguely to the coast across from us. While I appreciate that dive operators need access to the moorings, under the unique circumstances of a reversal I would argue that boaters have a more pressing need to keep their floating homes safe, and the dive operators

should use alternative sites.

They might argue that we can always go to the marina. That would be true, if there was always space in the marina. On this day the marina was full of dive operator boats that had been taken off their usual moorings and were taking up slips in the marina. So the operators were aware of both the need for safe harbour, and of the limited number of marina slips.

I don't mind the dive operators complaining. After all I'm complaining in this letter too right? But STINAPA have to adjudicate and they don't have a policy in place to assess the need of these resources in these circumstances. In the context of a changing climate, everyone accepts that reversals will become more common. So it's incumbent on STINAPA to develop a more considered policy on the priority of use for the mooring buoys under a reversal. I think everyone would agree that during a reversal boaters have a more urgent need than dive operators.

From my perspective, not only is the current approach wrong, it seems there are no rules, or at least, no one, including STINAPA rangers or marina staff have been told what the rules are.

I shared these thoughts with Judith who admitted STINAPA had failed in their communications with visiting boaters. Since then there have been no more communications from STINAPA to boaters, even though there have been several more reversal days. I followed up with Judith via whatsapp, and offered to meet her to help her understand the needs and constraints of non-resident boaters. Not only has she not replied, my message to her has gone unread.

From January, the mooring ball costs will increase from the (arguably undervalued) \$11/night to (the arguably overpriced) \$35/night. But boaters get no services in town. No pontoon to park their dingy. No toilets. No bins. We have to sneak around throwing our rubbish bags in business and residential bins when no one is looking, and get in the way of the fishermen's dock each time we go ashore. Apologies to those we cause a nuisance too. No boater in the mooring field wants to be a disturbance to you. Our experience of the people in Bonaire has been resoundingly positive.

The mooring field generates over \$10,000/month from fees for STINAPA and soon that will triple, yet the visiting boaters contributing it get little more than a lump of concrete with a bit of rope tied to it for their money.

Bonaire is a beautiful place, and we've been proud to contribute to the park's running costs. We've volunteered for beach cleanups, underwater cleanups, and restoration projects above and below the water. But it feels like the goodwill with the park is very much one way.

While international boaters are a disparate bunch we communicate and share tips. I only came here because of the enthusiastic recommendations of other boaters. If STINAPA doesn't reciprocate some good will towards visiting boaters by giving them priority to the Klein buoys during reversals and providing conveniently situated bins, a dock and toilet facilities for the new 3x fee, then there will be far fewer of those enthusiastic recommendations about Bonaire.

*Andy Pag
Captain, SY Cushla*

Thank you, Bonaire!

I want to give thanks to Selibon and its employees for the good they do on Bonaire. I recall how their crew went through some neighborhoods and cleaned them up. This was separate from their normal work load. I look forward to its continuing improvements and innovations. Presently things are a mess with all the construction and rains, but the future is before us.

Thanks also to The Bonaire Reporter, Extra Boneriano and XP Paradise Bonaire in this age of Facebook, Twitter, Apps, keeping some of us connected to what is important in our daily lives. Their print newspaper articles inform and answer a lot of questions we all have. I thank InfoBonaire.com for their online newsletter for the information it provides. Bonaire.nu, ABConlinemedia.com, BES Reporter (besreporter.com) are more online newsletters that I'm able to read in English. These are also available in other languages.

Thanks to those who work two and three jobs to improve the quality of their lives and in so doing, improve

many lives. Not every household or business requires 8-hour a day services. Many functions happen on the island because of the hourly odd-jobs you perform. People are striving to improve your lives but bureaucratic change happens ever-so-slowly.

Thanks to the untold numbers of great volunteers (some local and some visitors to the island) who participate in activities on island and in the sea off the island, because they care for and love this island.

Thanks to the new entrepreneurs on island who are showing us that change can be good for all. They have brought about so many improvements. It doesn't have to continue to be the way it always was.

Big thanks to our Police, Fire personnel, Customs, Harbor Master, Coast Guard, Medical personnel, Utility suppliers and other unsung guardians who we notice every day but don't thank often enough. We mustn't forget the military who come on maneuvers and work in the Mangroves at Lac Bai, or other locations as needed.

Thank you to everyone in whatever capacity you

serve, for representing the best of Bonaire. It is the people that make the island's hospitality so rich and what tourists will remember in coming years as buildings have a tendency to age and crumble. The same buildings' images are captured in photographs and sometimes put into albums or published books and on postcards.

Thanks to those who treasure their native culture and share it in many ways, so the rest of us can learn it. I've read as much as I can in English print, of the island's history, building's architecture, fence designs, murals, and its residents life styles. It has been very interesting. I understand why you want to preserve it. I've visited three of the museums on island. Info Bonaire.com lists 11 museums on Bonaire. <https://infobonaire.com/about-bonaire/history/bonaire-museums/>.

*Mushi Danki
Earline Wasser
Kralendijk*

Visitors feel scammed by hospital

Emergency hospital San Francisco request us \$500 for standing there 25 minutes without seeing a doctor.

As a matter of fact my wife had sinus issues. Saturday arriving at the hospital we entered the emergency asking what should we do. Without informing us about the prices. Two women wearing emergency clothes took my wife temperature ask her what was the matter, made a covid test, and ask her to wait outside. After 15 minutes they informed her that the test was negative and give her 2 pill of paracetamol and a prescription for nose spray. She did not see a doctor. My wife arrived at 11h50 and left around 12h25. They asked our credit card and charged her of \$500!!!! We asked for a detail. Inform your readers so they do not fall in the same scam.

*Regards, Marja Ouwendijk and Alain Piersoul.
(After meeting with the hospital authorities both sides agreed on a compromise.)*

We'd all like to see the Chogogo sand story go away

The unauthorized sand dump near the waterline by Chogogo Resort was not an ecological disaster. But the people of Bonaire will continue to support negative media reports as long as those responsible continue to pretend the violation was an insignificant act. Arrogance is a word often associated with the story.

René Jacobs, architect for the Chogogo Resort, has complained that critics won't let the issue of the Resort's unauthorized beach modifications die. He has written a refutation of a Bonaire.nu story that documented, with photographs, the damage the recent heavy weather did to the beach at Chogogo.

Bonaire.nu said Chogogo's illegal sand had been washed into the ocean and fouled the reef. Jacobs countered that the photos instead showed mostly native sand that the storm surge had carried onto the beach. He said that if people interpret the photos correctly, they will understand that the stubby retaining wall performed exactly as designed.

Jacobs also claimed that the weather conditions were both extreme and had stripped much more sand from unprotected natural beaches. These are deflection arguments. The weather was not extreme, just heavier than usual and within parameters architects design for. As to the native sand that unfortunately was washed from many beaches, it is not the issue. The issue is the imported sand that was dumped adjacent to the seashore without legal authorization by Chogogo Resort.

The owners of Chogogo Resort can make the sand story fade away. They can instruct Jacobs to design a sea wall that meets STINAPA's published specifications, then—finally—build it. Resolution of the large fine STINAPA levied against Chogogo Resort would still be pending, but that is a different story for the press to write about.

Don M Ricks

Dive in Depth can answer your questions

Every person on the planet is on his own personal journey and most would like to know more about themselves. Why they do what they do and why are they here?

Oliver Schmidt of Dive in Depth is using Regression Healing Hypnotherapy to help individuals find these answers.

Oliver asked himself these questions about eight years ago which set him on his own personal journey. He was working as a financial controller in Germany and it just wasn't fulfilling.

Oliver began scuba diving and guiding divers while working in Mauritius. He began exploring Sadhguru of the Isha Foundation and his yoga teachings. He studied the New Testament realizing there was a lot of truth, but a lot was left out.

Oliver explained, Female and male are equal, and the bible taught this but the bishops removed it for more control and power.

In addition to the bible, Oliver studied Buddhism and Hinduism. He then moved on to inspirational speaker, channeler and author Abraham Hicks, best known for the series of Law of Attraction books. And he studied the work of hypnotherapist Dolores Cannon and her Quantum Healing & Hypnose Technique.

Oliver said, "With this knowledge and interest, I finally got certified as a Regression Healing™ Hypnotherapist based on Dolores Cannon's teaching. Around this technique I developed my own program to go even further, for example, cleansing, balancing and harmonizing chakras.

He records each client session and begins by asking seven to 15 questions based on what they want to know and/or what is troubling them in their lives. Oliver guides them to find the root cause of why they are who they are. Past lives of the individual are explored so the concept of reincarnation and karma is cause and effect.

"Christianity took out the concept of reincarnation.



Oliver Schmidt of Dive in Depth

The problem is if you don't believe in reincarnation then karma doesn't work," said Oliver.

He guides people to a place where they can relive their experiences and what they might have done to others or what has been done to them. Infusing the teachings on forgiveness from the bible and the 'sleeping prophet' Edgar Cayce, "Through forgiveness, we free ourselves from past history".

Regression Healing Hypnotherapy allows people to release conscious and unconscious blocks, stress and trauma. It helps to understand what's behind physical, emotional and mental ailments and forgiveness to cleanse and balance a person's energies.

The session includes an induction which is the preparation of the session as well as explaining the process. In total the session takes 3 – 4 hrs (varies per individual). Cost is \$240 and \$160 for follow up sessions if needed.

Aqua Flotation Therapy is a 'short-cut' into a meditative state. It releases blocks, reduces blood pressure, muscle tension and stress.

Aqua therapy is suitable for children with disabilities or autism and appropriate for the elderly.

Oliver said, "Real healing can happen through past life healing – emotionally, mentally and physically."

Diving in Depth programs are held everywhere on the island. Home base is Binduyoga Healing & Yoga Studio and in Bonaire's beautiful sea. Aqua Flotation Therapy is taught by Oliver and Inez either in a local pool or in the Sea.

Binduyoga is located at 20 Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar.

For more information visit: www.diveindepth.com/regression-healing/; DiveInDepth.RegressionHealing on Facebook. Contact on WhatsApp: +599-795-6604/+599-787-5864.

Photo/story Julie Morgan



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Chef Helmi Smeulders Photo Marcel of Skyview

Chef Helmi Smeulders brought her own unique and innovative style of Modern Caribbean cuisine to Bonaire in a Dinner in the Field dining experience on November 11 and 12. Originally scheduled to be held at Bonaire Daily Fresh at LVV, the dinner was moved to Rincon's Posada Para Mira due to all the rain. Smeulders exhibited not only her amazing culinary skills but her sense of humor and flexibility by creating a fine dining experience and renaming it "Dinner in the Rain."

A practicing Curaçao chef and author, who thinks out of the box, Smeulders said, "The idea is to create an awareness for local farmers and produce. We live on an island where almost everything is imported... The idea is good for the local economy and a huge opportunity for the local farmers."

Smeulders and her crew hold a

'Dinner in the Field' every month on one of the many different farms on Curaçao. First, they see what's available in local produce and incorporate the food into an amazing, sustainable Modern Caribbean menu.

A former legal counsel in Curaçao turned chef, Smeulders said, “I didn’t have the passion for law but I did have it for food. I started catering and that evolved in using local foods.”

This is not her first experience cooking on Bonaire. As part of the Curaçao culinary team, Smeulders shared her technique of incorporating locally grown foods in a presentation for the aspiring chefs at MBO tech school. She also did a few successful restaurant take-overs at Sorobon Beach Resort last year.

Every dinner Smeulders and her crew prepare is freshly made, from the pasta to pesto made from Swiss

chard. The menu for Dinner in the Rain featured a lot of lettuce and fresh herbs. To start things off, the chef created a tartare with watermelon and plantain that was totally vegetarian and surprised every diner. And there was an unusual dish called Cheeseball 2.0 with black truffle. One interesting and tasty dish was a starter with grilled Romaine from Bonaire Daily Fresh. A fresh tuna tartare and banana di ref, one of Smeulders' favorite ingredients growing along our seaside, swam in a soup made of 'edo', a root vegetable and coconut. Goat is a traditional item served on Bonaire, but it was far from traditional in a ravioli with pumpkin

mousseline and pika foam. Dessert included the locally sourced java plum, shimaruku and bevisima flower.

Five different wines were perfectly paired to each course beginning with a Prosecco appetitif, followed by a rose, chardonnay, tempranillo and Mendoza.

Smoulder is hoping to create awareness with every menu. One of her favorite foods to cook is lionfish. She does a workshop called “catch and cook” along with Lisette Keus, a lionfish jewelry maker in Curaçao. The entire menu is

Dinner in the rain to page 8



Photo Marcel of Skyview

Don't touch the big snails



A Giant African Land Snail (*Lissachatina fulica*) has turned up in the Republic district. Imported from Africa, the snail has previously been reported on Curaçao and other islands in the Caribbean, but this is the first reported case on Bonaire.

People should avoid direct contact with the big snails. They sometimes carry a harmful parasite that can be transmitted to people. The Health Department says that anyone who handles one of the big snails should immediately wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water.



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Preserving Bonaire's cultural history



Liliane Geus. Photo Julie Morgan

The cultural history of Bonaire is documented on the UNESCO website, *Patrimonio Cultural intangibel na Bonaire*.

The site arises from the convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Netherlands ratified the

convention in 2012 and the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius were immediately involved. The UNESCO Bonaire Working group participates fully in this project. It is responsible for maintaining and implementing the knowledge center along with the OLB (public entity).

In recognition of the 10 year anniversary on December 11, Liliane Geus, working group member for Bonaire since the beginning, presented website updates and showed what visitors to the site can expect in the future.

Each of the six islands in the Dutch Caribbean has its own cultural website. The Bonaire site is full of the island's rich history and is expanding by the month thanks to the Bonaire working group.

"Last year we worked with local youth. We couldn't have done this without the material in the archives," said Geus.

There are documentaries on cultural events, festivals and a section on natural disasters like tropical waves, tornadoes, lighting and drought. Some 30 inter-

views are presented with local kunuku owners, first responders and people directly involved.

Three-part documentaries are available for viewing in Papiamentu and English. There is a 65-minute version, 45-minute version with subtitles and 27 minute shorts in English.

Many of the videos are presented in the language it was recorded with English subtitles. More funding is needed for English so people worldwide can learn more about Bonaire.

Boi Antoin has been fundamental in supplying content for the site and soon the whole Fuhikubo library will be available.

"Intangible Cultural Heritages create bridges between past present and future. They make continuity and change the structure of the society with experiences like transition and transcendence". (Sciencedirect.com – 2016)



Nos Zjilea Saturday, Nov. 26

It's in our nature

The new slogan of Bonaire is 'It's in our nature.' Birds like the Caracara and the Yellow Amazon parrot, trees like the Lifetree, but also the coral and the shells make the nature of Bonaire unique. However, the nature does have its challenges. There are periods with a lot of drought and periods with a lot of rain. In addition, by cutting down the trees, the fertile soil is washed into the sea.

The next edition of Nos Zjilea will be held on Saturday, November 26 at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon with the theme 'It is in our nature.' According to Peter Verweij of the University of Wageningen and Julianka Clarendo from the foundation ECHO, nature inclusivity can help Bonaire to become a sustainable island.

Nature inclusivity is a way of living and working that benefits both nature and humans. Peter Verweij will present the research results and a vision of what Bonaire

could look like in 2050.

Nature inclusivity also leads to a more healthy and sustainable economy which in turn contributes to the wellbeing of the people. Julianka Clarendo will speak about the benefits of nature inclusivity for Bonairean organizations.

The Miss Bonaire candidates will be part of the program. The culture market has local fresh products such as natural fruit juices, herbal teas, delicacies. The local art should not be missed. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups and the opportunity to sample various local creole dishes, including seafood, during the afternoon. All this in a cozy atmosphere with a "live" performance by "Dairon Entertainment" and the local band "Watapana."

For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei's Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei.

By Izain Mercera

INDEBON Baseball Week and Walk-Run-Ride

INDEBON (Institute of Sports, Bonaire) is sponsoring two sports events in November.

November 21-26. Baseball week: Monday, Nov. 21 till Saturday 26. Our kids will be coached by big star MLB players such as Vladimir Guerrero Jr and Jonathan Schoop along with others from baseball academies of Curaçao and Dominican Republic. Sign up at Indebon Bonaire on FB and instagram.

Location: Velt di Amas – new baseball field in Tera Kora next to the soccer and softball field.

November 27. Walk, Run or Bike. 6:30 a.m. start from Jossy Boekhoudt Ballpark, Kaya Nikiboko Zuid to Ocean Oasis, 260 EEG Boulevard. FREE (includes a t-shirt and prizes). Sign up on Nov. 23-24, 6 – 8 p.m. at INDEBON (Sports hall at Kaya Amsterdam).



Dinner in the rain from page 7

based on lionfish down to the spines which can be used after heating as a skewer.

"We need to get rid of the lionfish and keep the reef clean. If we eat the lionfish then people don't eat the other fish... it is a totally local resource," said Smeulders.

She holds pop-up dinners at secret locations where no one knows the location until they get the message with directions just before the dinner.

"We did one in an old church, a machinery warehouse, old hospital, and one on Klein Curaçao. Can you imagine fine dining on an uninhabited island?" said Smeulders.

She believes there is not enough "Modern Caribbean" food being prepared. To support her ideas and inspire others, she has penned two cookbooks to bring home that point, "Modern Caribbean Flavors" in 2015 and "The Joy of Caribbean Cooking" in 2018. In addition to the books, twice a year she publishes the food and lifestyle magazine, Island Vibes, featuring her recipes and interviews with entrepreneurs. At her Chef's Kitchen Smeulders teaches Modern Caribbean cooking classes for tourists and locals to encourage them to use local food.

For more information or to book one of Helmi Smeulders events visit her website:

<https://helmismseulders.com>

Julie Morgan

BLACK FRIDAY

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Cadushy Distillery Wins Global Culinary Travel Award

The Cadushy Distillery was nominated for a Global Culinary Travel Award and received an award in the category “Best Focus on Wine & Beverages in Culinary Travel”.

The Global Culinary Travel Awards were introduced by the World Food Travel Association (WFTA) in 2015 to set the benchmark for excellence and innovation in culinary industry. This year 131 companies from 27 countries were nominated.

Founder and CEO of the WFTA, Erik Wolf, was on Bonaire to present Eric Gietman of The Cadushy Distillery the award for The Cadushy Distillery.

Eric Gietman: “We are very honored

to receive a global award for the work we do on Bonaire. And it inspires us to put Bonaire even more on the travel map as a culinary destination.”

The World Food Travel Association was founded in 2003 and today is recognized as the world’s leading authority on food and beverage tourism. Each year the Association serves over 200,000 professionals in more than 150 countries.

Erik Wolf: “The Cadushy Distillery stands out in creativity and use of culinary culture in the production of their products. The Cadushy visitor center, is a truly unique place where you can enjoy nice drinks surrounded by the history and heritage of Bonaire.” *Eric Gietman*



L-R. Erik Wolf, CEO World Food Travel Association presents the Culinary Travel Award award to Eric Gietman, Cadushy Distillery.

STINAPA to take over management of Parke di Fraternan



(L-R) Fundashon Cas Boneriano director Ben Oleana and STINAPA chairman Mr. Pierre Perrigault

For many years STINAPA has been using “Parke di Fraternan” in downtown Kralendijk for educational activities for the primary schools of Bonaire. The education team has created various trails in the park that focus on themes like parrots, animals, and nature.

Fundashon Cas Boneriano has managed the park. Under a contract signed by STINAPA chairman Pierre Perrigault Monte and Fundashon Cas Boneriano director Ben Oleana, STINAPA has assumed responsibility for guaranteeing continuity and maintenance of the park as an essential part of the nature education program of Bonaire.

Arthur Sealy spoke at the event. He said the frères created the park long ago. Now their legacy is a living biology and science class where the younger generation can experience local nature in person.

DMR



Historian Arthur Sealy



Results of World Bank study discussed at town hall meetings

At three town hall meetings in mid November, the results of the World Bank study into the sustainable development of Bonaire were reported and discussed by the public. The study was commissioned by the Public Body.

According to the study: Most residents experience Bonaire as a safe place to live. The vast majority find the cost of living too high. Many born Bonaireans feel that there are too many foreign-born citizens on the island; while many foreign-born citizen feel there are too many tourists. More than 80 percent of the population believe that improving roads and other public infrastructures, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring affordable housing are important. An overwhelming majority believes the preservation of the local language and culture and an appropriate migration policy are important.

DMR

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Trumpetfish and Spotted Morays



A trumpetfish just after it captured a wrasse.

Photo: Dee Scarr

What's long and skinny, and eats small fish?

Sure, you might have been influenced by the photos, but what was your first thought? Trumpetfish or spotted moray? Let's look at how they each work toward their common goal of getting food.

For starters, trumpetfish suck.

Not in the colloquial sense, of course, but in the literal sense. The way a trumpetfish catches prey is by darting forward suddenly and opening its mouth, creating a suction which engulfs the prey fish right into the trumpetfish's tubelike mouth structure.

That's not as simple as it sounds, however. There are a few prerequisites.

First of all, the trumpetfish needs to get very close to its prey. This necessity is made easy by the trumpetfish's remarkable ability to hover in any position, and also by its long skinny shape. Find a trumpetfish and look at it head-on: a 24" (60 cm) trumpetfish takes up very little space from that perspective!

A favorite trumpetfish hunting technique is to swim along with another fish, like a nice algae-eating parrot-

fish, or a swiftly-moving jack. Other fish register the parrotfish as not dangerous, and the jack's swim-by is also safe. All the trumpetfish needs is one preoccupied little fish...

One preoccupied little fish who, secondly, is within the trumpetfish's narrow size parameters, and in position to be taken headfirst. One time I saw a trumpetfish who had just sucked in a bluehead wrasse. Through the skin of the trumpetfish's snout, I could see the wrasse struggling, but, like most fish, it could only swim forward – very convenient for the trumpetfish! Later, we could tell the trumpetfish had had a big meal by the bulge in its body.

Last month, at a Jellyfish Jamboree at Karel's Beach Bar, the underwater lights attracted a bunch of small fish to the surface of the water. Suddenly, from beneath a boat, a trumpetfish appeared and skipped on its side along the surface of the water, sucked in one of the little fish, and zoomed back under the boat. Not one other person saw this sneak attack, and I'd never seen anything like it before -- but that's what I saw.

In contrast to trumpetfish, morays don't suck, morays bite. They might sneak up on their prey, but the final lunge always involves what biologist Jack Randall calls "awesome dentition." The long, thin, sharp teeth of a spotted moray grow all around its jaw, top and bottom, essentially like ours. In addition, though, the moray has another row of teeth, protruding from its upper palate, from the front to the back of its mouth. All these teeth can easily penetrate its fish prey. But then what?

That's when morays engage their second set of teeth. Seriously, morays have two sets of teeth! I learned about this one day when my dog came home proudly carrying a very dead, very dried-out spotted moray. Naturally I wanted to check out the teeth. When I opened the moray's mouth, I saw a second set of teeth in its throat. At first, I thought the moray had swallowed another moray tailfirst. Instead, I learned that morays have what's called a pharyngeal jaw, another set of teeth in their throats!

So, the moray has a prey fish gripped in its mouth. The moray's palate teeth prevent the fish from escaping, of course, but what's so unexpected is that they can fold, backwards, enabling the prey fish to slide right down into the moray as the throat teeth pull it along!

Morays also have a startling way to eat fish that are too big for them to swallow all at once: they tie themselves in knots. The moray gets a good grip on the food, wraps its tail around its body, and pulls its head through the resulting loop. The moray's own body gives it the leverage to rip off a bite-sized piece, which it swallows; then it repeats the process until the food is gone or it can't stuff in another mouthful.

Trumpetfish and morays demonstrate that the same goal can be reached in a variety of ways, a useful reminder for us all.



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 through touchthesea.com.



Years ago, under the North Pier, this moray found a dead fish. Since the fish was too big for the moray to swallow whole, the moray bit into the fish, wrapped its tail around itself, and will rip off a piece of fish by pulling its head through its body loop. Cool, yes? Photo Dee Scarr



Bas Noij, recently retired from the STINAPA board, enjoyed a friendly thank you get together with fellow STINAPA board members at Rum Runners at Habitat. Noij was a member of the Board of Directors of STINAPA for 6.5 years and four of those he served as vice president.

Bas said, "I served on the Board of STINAPA because I believe Nature on Bonaire in general and the Bonaire National Marine Park in particular are the key to a healthy long term future for our island. I think it's important to not just use my skills and time for my own benefit but also for the benefit of Nature and our island. As a STINAPA Board member I have always tried to be an advocate for nature and sustainability. Both locally and internationally. I'm extremely proud of the work STINAPA is doing and the organization and all it stands for will always be in my heart. After some very intense years during and after the COVID pandemic, it is now time for me to focus on other things. I also think after more than six years on the board it is healthy for the organization to have some new and fresh representation. So it is with proud memories that I stepped down. I want to thank the staff and management of STINAPA and my fellow board members (past and present) for their time and energy and I wish them all the best."

Photo Julie Morgan

"Speak with love" was the theme of the Week Against Child Abuse, Nov. 14-20.

The campaign raised awareness about the psychological abuse caused when life is stressful and children are blamed, belittled and intimidated. See the full poster on our FB and online update pages.



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Crossing for prevention

Aruban swimmer Deaxo Croes set out November 19 at 2 a.m. to do something no one has done before, swim from Bonaire to Curaçao, and he did it. That's a total distance of 53 km (32.9 mi) from Red Slave, Bonaire's southernmost point to the eastern tip of Curaçao according to WOWSA (World Open Water Swim Association). Croes accomplished this amazing feat in 14 hours.

Why did he do this crazy thing? Croes calls it the Crossing for Prevention. The idea is to raise awareness of cancer and hopefully receive generous financial support to support the cancer foundation Kanker Fonds Bonaire.

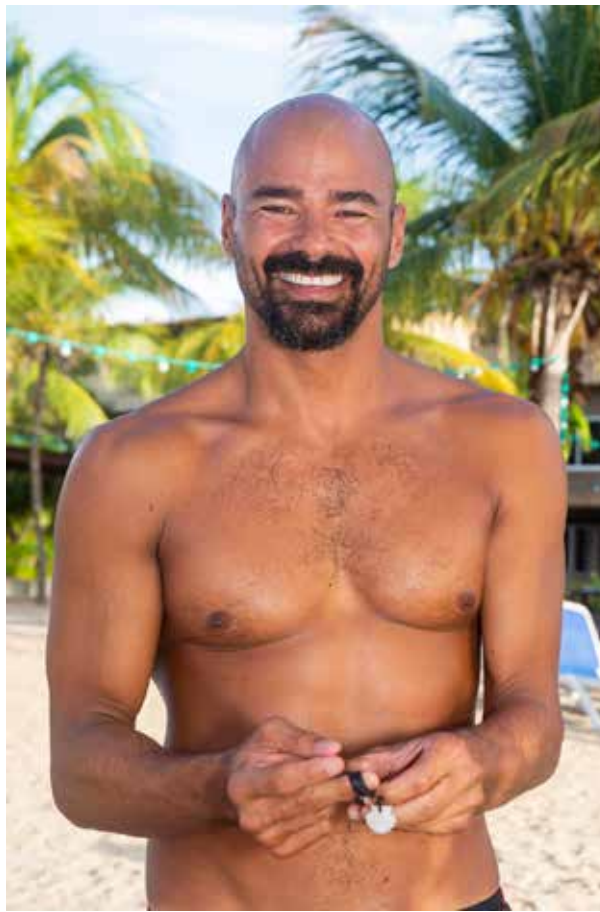
This isn't the first time Croes has set a goal like this for cancer. He made a similar swim in 2018 from Aruba to Venezuela, a distance of 28 km (17.4 mi) which ended up being 42 km (26 mi) due to currents.

Preparation for the Bonaire - Curaçao swim included swimming for 50-72 km (31-44.7 mi) per month approximately 10-15 km (6.2-9.3 mi) a day.

During the November 17 press conference, key supporter Orco Bank contributed \$2500 check for the swim project and later Ang. 10,000 to the Crossing for Prevention Kanker Fonds Bonaire. Other donations to Kanker Fonds Bonaire are still being tallied.

And, to ensure Croes didn't miss a day of practice, Bonaire's swim and water polo team joined him for a short practice run from Eden Beach to Klein and back, approximately 800 m (.5 mi) each way.

On the Crossing for Prevention, Croes was accompanied by a team of 25 volunteers including doctors, a dietitian, a coach, kayakers, divers, a film crew, three boats and four additional swimmers: his coach Francisco Goedgedrog, Lori King, Bobby Gibson and Louis Mario Arends.



Deaxo Croes. Photo Julie Morgan

Croes' next big Crossing for Prevention is already in the works, with a swim from Curaçao to Aruba.

Story/photos Julie Morgan

Bonaire's Water polo team wins Carifta 2022

The Bonaire U14 team won the Carifta Water Polo Championship 2022 which took place November 11 to 13 in Florida. The Bonaire U16 team, in the Boys U16 age category, took second place just behind the team from the Bahamas.

A special award was given to Louis Minne, who was named Most Valuable Player under the age of U14.

In addition to Bahamas and Barbados, several American water polo clubs also participated in the tournament, including South Florida Water Polo Club, Miami Riptides, Hialeah Storms, Orlando United and Florida East Coast. Bonaire has proven with this tournament that it knows how to hold its own with strong competition.

The Aquatics Federation Bonaire looks back on a very successful tournament. The tournament took place at the Aquatic Center in Coral Springs (Florida) and was organized by the Barbados Aquatic Sports Association.

Speaking of the Carifta tournament, Head coach for the Bahamas' national water polo teams, László Borbely, said, "What is very unique in this CARIFTA is that it is not kept at the same location or time as the swimming CARIFTA. It is held in south Florida instead. It is not just the Caribbean countries but Florida club teams will be participating as well. I am excited because it is two tournaments at the same time."

Participation in this tournament would not have been possible without sponsorship from Indebon, Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, MCB Bonaire, Bonaire Tourism, Delfins Beach Resort, de Freewieler, Budget Marine, WEB Bonaire and Sunbelt Realty Bonaire.



Deaxo Croes and the Bonaire Swim and Water Polo Team before the practice swim to Klein Bonaire and back.
Photo Julie Morgan



Bonaire's sky park

Pleiades and the Demon Star

Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline:

November is a great time to see the Pleiades. Stars aren't all the same. Some are colorful, some are big, some are old – and if you know where to look, you can see stars being born.

Hit the darkness at around 9 p.m. and look east. You should see a bright red dot, that's Mars, the Pleiades will be up and to the right of it. The Pleiades are an open cluster of many hundreds of stars situated about 440 light years away. Though with the naked eye it may look like a small, faint cloud, if let your eyes adjust, you may be able to pick out five, six, or seven individual stars. Through binoculars or with a long camera lens you can see so many!

Galileo pointed his telescope at them 400 years ago, discovering they were dozens of suns! Today, astronomers use open clusters to learn how stars age and grow.

We can use the Pleiades, that gorgeous open star cluster, and a few other stars to find Perseus and Medusa's severed head.

Come out at 5 a.m. and look west – starting at the Pleiades, hop up and right to Capella in Auriga – and then down and right to Mirfak.

Mirfak translates to elbow – Perseus' elbow in this case. Perseus is the legendary Greek hero who slew Medusa – we see him here on his back as a kind of v-shape. Mirfak is on the upper line and on the lower is Algal – the eye of Medusa. Algal is a three-star system, so it dims and brightens over time; ooh so creepy! It goes by another name – Ra's Al-ghul – meaning head of the demon.

If you need another way to find Percy just look for the distinctive 'W' of Cassiopeia... He's always nearby.

Keep lookin' up.



The "Demon Star" Algal in Perseus (the Hero) is among the most accessible variable stars for beginner sky watchers. This star's visual brightness dims noticeably for about 10 hours once every two days, 20 hours, and 49 minutes when a dim companion star orbiting nearly edge-on to Earth crosses in front of the much brighter main star. Once the eclipse begins, the star steadily drops in brightness for five hours, and then it ramps up again during the second five hours - until the eclipse is over.

Algal represents the glowing eye of Medusa the Gorgon, whose severed head Perseus is carrying. That's why this star has the nickname the "Demon Star."

Image and information from: <https://starwalk.space/en>

Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Healing powers of animals

There was time while living in Holland, I was in charge of guiding families and children with mental retardation.

A mother of a four year old boy with Angelman's Syndrome told me about a time she was pregnant with her baby. They had a cat that never left her side during the pregnancy. The animal followed her everywhere she was in the house, and when she laid down to rest or take a nap, the cat would lie on her stomach. When the baby was born, the cat was always close by the little boy. It was really as if the cat knew there was something special about the baby.

Our dog, a Fila Brasileira/ Mastino Napolitana, also fell for this boy. She loved him and never let him out of her sight.

She was always very calm and had a good influence on his behavior.

My late husband, Anthony loved horses and loved to ride them. I told this to his therapists when he was in a revalidation clinic following his stroke. They promised to see to it he could go horseback riding again. And that is what they did. They kept their promise. He went riding a few times. It took about five volunteers to get him on a horse, but once on horseback, he was on top of the world.

Back at home I wanted to have Anthony ride again. The physiotherapist got some volunteers together and the fun soon began. They choose a wonderful horse for him but warned everyone not to touch the horses face. But, you guessed

it, while helping Anthony on the horse's back, someone touched the horse's face. She began to get restless and wouldn't let anyone touch her. The four volunteers got Anthony on the horse just in time and she began to prance. We all stood in awe and were praying. But, the "horseman" in Anthony appeared. He sat straight, grinned brightly and dominated the animal with the one hand and leg that he could use. If he could have talked, he would have said: "What did you guys think? I cannot handle a horse?"

And just this morning I had a nice conversation with a mom of a young girl with a disability. She is wheelchair-ridden and not very agile. However, for the last few months she has had the chance to feel the power of horses. Between two horses a "contraption" is fastened. There is ample space for a disabled person to lay down comfortably. When the horses walk or run, the affect is therapeutic and

relaxing. And the young lady just loves to "ride horses" now.

There are many ways animals can help, assist and make living easier. We, as people, can learn so much from animals. Just hold a cat on your lap and stroke it or sit by a dog lying down and lean against it: there are so many ways an animal can help.



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

How to create your own Blue Zone

The Blue Zones are five places in the world where people are the healthiest and live the longest. These are Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece and Loma Linda, California.

In 2004, a paper published in the Journal of Experimental Gerontology, written by Gianni Pes and Michel Poulain identified Sardinia as the region of the world with the highest concentration of male centenarians. In Sardinia, a village called Seulo, located in the Barbagia of Seulo, holds the record of 20 centenarians from 1996 to 2016. This confirms it is "the place where people live the longest in the world". Pes and Poulain drew concentric blue circles on the map highlighting these villages of extreme longevity and began to refer to the area inside the circle as the blue zone.

Building on that demographic work,

Dan Buettner pinpointed other longevity hotspots around the world and dubbed them Blue Zones which is now a trademark.

These five blue zones share nine specific lifestyle habits.

1. People there move naturally, that means they do a lot of manual labor, like our grandparents used to. They clean, garden, climb stairs and definitively, they do not sit eight hours in an office in front of a computer.

2. They have a purpose in life, which is evoked every morning as a reason to wake up. It doesn't need to be a big mission, what needs to be big is the commitment.

3. As a routine they use time during the day to ground, connect or just chill out to relieve stress. They use different strategies, like praying, honoring ancestors, napping or happy hour with friends.

4. They stop eating when they feel their stomachs are 80% full. They avoid overeating. The last meal of their day is small and in the late afternoon or early evening.

5. They have a plant-based diet, an omnivorous diet which in proportion includes far more vegetable products than animal products. Their main source of energy comes from legumes, cruciferous, whole cereals, nuts, seeds and sweet potatoes. They do eat fish, seafood, pork, goat, eggs, chicken and beef, mainly as side dish.

6. Except for the Adventist in Loma Linda, they all consume moderate amounts of alcohol on a daily basis with friends or with food.

7. Most centenarians, but not all of them, belong to a faith-based community. Denomination doesn't seem to matter.

8. They are family-oriented people. Their family members are their priority. Aging members are kept nearby, and quality time is spent with spouses and kids.

9. They build social networks that support healthy habits.

There is some dispute on whether Okinawa has a longer life expectancy compared to the rest of Japan and there is no evidence to determine which of the nine points plays a more vital role in health and longevity. But let's just give some credit to the studies that came up with this list and think: what are our possibilities of building our own personal Blue Zone on Bonaire?



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.

What's Happening

Animal Shelter: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/ whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. Weekly schedule can be found at: <https://www.bonaireartsandcraftscruisemarket.com/market-schedule> or <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday - 10 - 4

Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344. Any one can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): 8- 4 Saturdays.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. <https://terrarmuseum.com>

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

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

November 9 - 30	Terramar after school workshop. Art Exhibition: Create your own art and organize your own exhibition in the museum. Two hours a week, \$20 for the entire workshop. Register: +599 701 4700 terrarmuseum@gmail.com
November 21- 26	Baseball week. Coaching for kids. See page 9.
November 26 - December 3	Underwater photography workshops at Buddy Dive Resort with Lorenzo Mittiga. https://bonaireisland.com/events-calendar/buddy-dive-resort-x-lorenzo-mittiga/
Saturday, Nov. 26	Chamber of Commerce Art Show. See page 20. Nos Zjilea Cultural Event. Theme: 'It is in our nature'. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 9.
Sunday, Nov. 27	Animal Shelter Holiday Book Fair & Flea Market. 10 - 3. See page 17. Walk, Run or Bike. 6:30 a.m. See page 9.
Saturday, Dec. 10	Barrio Festival Nort'i Saliña - 6 - 10 p.m. Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.
Thursday, Dec. 15	Kingdom Day. A public holiday. Most businesses and government offices are closed.
Friday, Dec. 16	Meet the Artist. 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, Dec. 17	Bonaire Christmas Shopping Night/Fiesta Di Bari 6 - 10 p.m. Shopping with discounts in most of the stores in Kaya Grandi and Kaya Grandi adjacent. In addition, TCB promises a Christmas surprise.
Sunday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day. A public holiday. Most businesses and government offices are closed.
Monday, Dec. 26	Boxing Day. A public holiday. Most businesses and government offices are closed.
Saturday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Fireworks
Sunday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day. A public holiday. Most businesses and government offices are closed.

Activities, Events & Meetings

12 steps meeting: 12 Step Meeting, Wednesdays at Kaya Den Haag 30 in Hato. Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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 addiction or no addiction 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>.



Echo Conservation Tours - weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program. Presentations 7:30 p.m. on: Nov. 28 - Toucan Divers at Plaza Resort and Dec. 3 - VIP Diving, 77 Julio A. Abraham Boulevard.



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.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, Dec. 11	Te Amo, 8 – 10 a.m. Clean Coast Bonaire. Held second Sunday of each month at one of three locations. Collect and count. Donate your time by working as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter and data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire .
Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/	
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. 1. fishing line clean ups with Dive Friends and 2. annual clean up with SELIBON of Klein's beaches that have nest sites. Check FB page for dates. https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/?ref=hl	

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Weds. Nov. 23	JEWEL OF THE SEAS	0700-2100	South	2501
Thurs. Nov. 24	NORWEGIAN GETAWAY	0600-1300	South	4028
	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0630-1600	North	2680
Fri. Nov. 25	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1700	North	180
	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	1200-2000	South	3660
Sat. Nov. 26	CELEBRITY EDGE	0700-1700	South	3200
	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	North	2668
Sun. Nov. 27	WIND STAR	1300-2200	North	159
Mon. Nov. 28	ROYAL CLIPPER	0700-1600	North	246
	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	0700-2000	South	3000
Tues. Nov. 29	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	South	3840
Weds. Nov. 30	AIDADIVA	0730-1900	North	2500
Thurs. Dec. 1	MARELLA EXPLORER 2	0630-1400	North	2253
Fri. Dec. 2	VOYAGER OF THE SEAS	0800-2100	South	3838
Sat. Dec. 3	NORWEGIAN DAWN	0600-1230	South	3000
Mon. Dec. 5	CARNIVAL GLORY	0800-1700	North	3540
	SIRENA	0600-1400	North	824
	BRITANNIA	0700-1800	South	3674
Tue. Dec. 6	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	1300-2200	North	2417
Wed. Dec. 7	CARNIVAL MAGIC	0800-1600	South	3646

American Citizen Services

The Consular Officer of the United States Consulate General Curacao will be in Bonaire for American Citizen Services.

Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Location:** Trans World Radio Station, 64 Kaya Gob. N. Debot **Appointments:** Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, email ACSCuracao@state.gov. **Available Services:** * U.S. passport applications * Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications * Notarizing documents

International Flights to Bonaire

Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM Daily flights connecting through Aruba TUI Daily
Brussels (BRU)	Air Belgium will fly to and from Bonaire on Dec. 23 & 25 and on Jan 6 & 8, 2023. Will also connect through Curacao.
Atlanta (ATL)	Currently Delta has a weekly Sat. flight. From Dec. 17 to Jan.8, Delta will fly five flights per week: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. From Jan. 9 to March 8 the flight schedule will be two weekly flights on Wed. and Sat.
Miami (MIA)	American's current flight schedule through Dec. 12 is three weekly flights: Mon., Wed., Sat. Starting Dec. 14 through Jan. 7 there will be daily flights with a Boeing 737 offering more capacity in both Business Class and Main Cabin. January 9 the flight schedule will go back to three weekly flights on Mon. Wed. and Sat. with A319 Jet.
New York (EWR) & Houston (IAH)	United. According to TCB, the flight from Newark, New Jersey with United Airlines is currently on hiatus but will resume on October 29, while flights out of Houston, Texas will remain with a weekly flight to Bonaire on Saturday with return flight on Sunday.

Navy transports Bonaire's books to other islands

For many of us, destroying or burning a book is considered almost a sin and a great loss to humanity, even if it is a textbook. Bonaire's Liseo (high school) needed to discard several piles of books no longer used. They were earmarked for destruction when Artie de Vries stepped in. The textbooks were perfectly good but were no longer used in the school's curriculum.

"They were on their way to the landfill or to be burned. There were so many [books]; math, English, Spanish, physics and French. They don't teach French on Bonaire anymore," said de Vries."

Finding a new home for the books wasn't difficult, it was getting them there. The books were bound for a whole group of new students in Surinam at Instituut voor de Opleiding Van Leraren (IOL), a training school for teachers and the Radolphus College (high school) in Curaçao.

Rocargo was too expensive for shipping, but another solution was found.

Melinda Labega, Captain reserve at the Royal Netherlands Army living on Bonaire took control. She contacted the charity department of the Royal Netherlands Navy in the Caribbean for help. If Labega, de Vries and the school could meet the preconditions of the Navy then the Zr. Ms. Pelikaan would make a stop-over on Bonaire and transport the books. The conditions were met and after continuous contact between Labega and the Pelikaan's LTZ20C Jan Bruinsma the books would soon be on their way.

A plea went out on Facebook by Nynks Nressink Hoekstra requesting help. Branch manager Robert van Dam of AGS Meyer Moving and his crew

signed on to move the books and even contributed 100 boxes and 25 rolls of tape. And even more boxes came from Patricia Jovan of Del Mar Books.

The books that had been stored in a container during the process could now be boxed. The military would be shipping a total of 76 boxes to Surinam and 23 to Curaçao. Rocargo arranged the clearance forms for free as did the other companies did in Surinam and Curaçao.

De Vries told us everything was done in complete military order by Labega. "If I had done it, it would have been a disaster."

On moving day November 17, the Zr. Ms. Pelikaan under Captain Marc Jereskes and a crew of 17 arrived at Bonaire's North pier. The AGS Meyer Moving truck and the marines unloaded the 99 boxes of books and in military precision loaded them onto the boat in special crates with a crane.

Captain Jereskes explained this shows collaboration between the Netherlands and Surinam. The Pelikaan landed in Surinam on November 21, and then on to Curaçao on November 26, unloading on the next day.

The Pelikaan, based in Curaçao, is a first responder for the region during hurricanes and serves as a transport ship for people. This is their first book transport.

The ship will return to Bonaire on December 1 for training and on December 8, they will sponsor a tour for kids to support the community and show what they do. .

Photos/story Julie Morgan

"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light." Vera Nazarian



L-R: Captain Marc Jereskes, Melinda Labega and Artie de Vries help load one of the boxes of books on the ship.



Ready for Christmas shopping night?



CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR AND MARKET

SUNDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
(weather permitting)

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Shelter News

ANOTHER CALL FOR HELP



Last issue Animal Shelter Bonaire put out a call for help because of inflation....both in number of animals and the costs of running the Shelter. Well, to make matters a bit worse, now we are inundated with rain and flooding. The situation worsens with every new rainfall. Some of our kennels are constantly under water and the dogs are suffering and developing health problems from their feet constantly being in water. We have no choice but to do some construction work to create run off drains and to raise concrete floor levels to alleviate the problem. In addition to needing funds for our day to day operations we now also can use some assistance in this construction work.

We need your help! Any amount you can donate will be greatly appreciated. There are a number of ways you can donate. Donation boxes are located all over the island, look for the purple and white "dog houses". Bring your donation to the Shelter and visit our residents. You can donate on line via our website www.animalshelter-bonaire.com.



[bonaire.com](http://www.animalshelter-bonaire.com). Click the yellow "Donate" button to donate via PayPal (U.S.) or the "on line doneren" box for European PayPal and debit card via Geef.nl. In addition, you can make a donation via transfer to our bank accounts. Our bank account information locally is:

Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Bonaire Branch

Account name: Animal Shelter Bonaire/
Stichting Dierenasyl Bonaire, Account
Number #10237800, Kaminda Lagun 26,
Kralendijk, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Bank address: Kaya Gob. N. Debroet #70,
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean,

SWIFT/BIC: MCBKBQBN

In the Netherlands:

Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands)

Account name: Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire

Account number: NL40RABO0137748744

No amount is too small. Our animals appreciate whatever you can do.
Jane Disko

Pet of the Week

This pretty chubby boy is Zappa. He is a little over one year old and I really don't understand why he's not chosen to be adopted yet. He is very sweet and playful, he will catch mice for you if you want him to and he is very beautiful. Look at his pretty white whiskers and eyebrows. Isn't that something? He was about eight weeks old when he was found one morning in the kouchi.

Zappa has had all his vaccinations, tested for leukemia and FIV, castrated and he will be chipped before the new owner can pick him up.

Zappa has been almost a year at the Animal Shelter,..... don't YOU think that's long enough? Come and meet your furry friend but be quick, he might be gone before you know it!

Story/photo Monique Degenaar

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - 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 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email

animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



A Bonaire team celebrates a win.

Island kids compete in the Big Live Nature Quiz

On November 15 the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) hosted the Big Live Nature Quiz for kids, aged 12-14, living on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Sint Eustatius. With 134 participating teams (consisting of one to four kids per team) competing, the event was a great opportunity to bring nature into the classrooms. After many exciting nature question rounds, a team on Sint Maarten won.

The Big Live Nature Quiz is a live online nature trivia game played in high schools across the Dutch Caribbean. The quiz is a true multi-island team effort: created and supported by the six Dutch Caribbean islands including the nature conservation organizations (parks), high schools, (local) sponsors, and Dutch Caribbean TV. The quiz questions were made available in four languages: English, Dutch, Papiamentu, and Papiamentu. Due to the extreme weather and school closures on some of the islands, the quiz was postponed for a week, to November 15th.

Winners. There were 134 teams competing. The first-place team, 'Kenatra Palarchie', won a sailing and snorkeling trip around Sint Maarten. Also several

local prizes were available for the island winners. The highest scoring team was 'Lions' for Bonaire, '4x4' for Curaçao, 'Perros' for Saba, 'Fun-tastic four' for St Eustatius, and 'Kenatra Palarchie' for St Maarten. DCNA would like to congratulate all the teams on their impressive trivia knowledge!

Endangered Species. This year's quiz included questions about the endangered animals and plants within the Dutch Caribbean. From rare flowers to burrowing owls, this quiz covered a whole host of island inhabitants, showcasing the unique and extraordinary wildlife across the islands.

The annual quiz was created in 2020 to teach citizens about nature, and to bring people in the Dutch Caribbean into contact with each other. The adult's edition is held in April and the youth's in November. Follow along with the DCNA facebook.

The Big Live Nature Quiz is subsidized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and the DCNA activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. Local prizes were kindly sponsored by Gio's Bonaire, Rumba Café and El Mundo.

A Garden?

Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover



It is so great that after many years I have the delicious flor di Jamaica plant again in my garden. Because of the rain, I have many flowers of which I can make delicious tea and there is no white fly sickness on it. For a long time, I did not have this plant because every time I tried to grow the flor di Jamaica, it would die from the white fly sickness just as it began to bloom.

By accident I started the plant again. Some months ago I got a little bag with seeds from a friend. I sowed the seeds and the flor di Jamaica popped up. I thought this will not be

successful, thinking of all the failed attempts. But I left it to grow and when the heavy rains came, the plants grew like crazy and flowered. I enjoy so much the tea made from the flowers and after that I eat them. Never has this tea tasted so good as when it is made from the just picked flowers. I used to buy dried leaves once in a while in herbal shops which tasted good too, but there is a difference between the dried leaves and fresh flowers.

Aqua de flor de Jamaica or rose de Jamaica is a popular beverage in Africa as well as in parts of Asia, Central America and South America and the Caribbean. It's usually prepared by steeping the calyces of the plant in boiling water. You then strain the mixture by pressing the calyces to get all the juice out, add sugar (if you want) and stir. It's served chilled. In Jamaica this drink is a tradition at Christmas served with fruitcake or sweet potato pudding. Since it's almost Christmas, maybe it's a good idea to try this exotic recipe. There is also beer made from this red beverage.

The plant has many names depending on which area it grows. Other names are sorrel, hibiscus and rosella plant.

There are many recipes for the dried flower, like cocktails, jams and even sweetened dried snacks.

These dried Jamaican flowers are the dried burgundy hued petals of the rosella plant. The flowers, in fact, aren't flowers at all but the calyx or sepals of the flower which enclose the petals and form a protective layer around the bud.

Benefits of the flor di Jamaica:

Helps to boost your immune system and may help to prevent cell damage caused by free radicals in the body. It contains other antioxidants such as anthocyanin that lowers blood pressure.

Avoid hibiscus if you are allergic or sensitive to it or members of the malvaceae family. It has also been linked to dermatitis, headache, nausea, and ringing in the ear.

Growing this plant is easy from seeds. It needs a lot of moisture and humidity so the weather these days is perfect to grow the rosella. Put seeds in small plastic containers and keep watching until they pop up. When they are bigger and stronger, replant the young plant in bigger containers or straight into the garden soil.

After about three months the flowers will appear and are ripe to pick for use. Their

major threats are leaf spot, rust, aphids and whiteflies. During the drought it's difficult to get them to grow, so the time to grow the rosella is NOW. Just do it.



Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

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