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Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire artists shine at KvK exhibit

In recent years more and more attention has been focused on Bonaire's local artists and craftspeople. We've seen in the past year the craft market at Wilhelmina Plaza grow. As if inspired by Bonaire's nature itself, amazing art has suddenly grown on boring building spaces thanks to the Street Colors project and other artists. And the public can't seem to get enough of it. It's a win-win situation for our artists and buyers.

This was the second year Bonaire's Chamber of Commerce (KvK) provided an outlet for local artisans to exhibit, mingle with other artists and sell their work.

The exhibit with 36 artists was held November 26 at KvK headquarters from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Approximately 350 guests crowded the show despite the rain. Originally a bus was scheduled to shuttle in cruise ship visitors. When that didn't happen, Business Advisor Pierre Perigault Monte said, "On one side it was better because at one point there were too many people in the building."

The majority of people didn't attend for just a quick look, many lingered to explore booth to booth and to nosh on snacks and drinks. Work on display included glass art, fusion art, a child artist, a podcast, crayon art, painters, environmental, ceramic art, recycle art, multi media, epoxy resin and performance art.

Many of the exhibitors were full time Bonaire artists known to the island. But others were just breaking into the art world, some perhaps working part-time and fulfilling their own artistic needs. One thing was clear, all artisans had a passion for what they were doing and were happy to discuss and share their work with the guests.

Artists exhibiting at KvK Art Exhibit 2022:

Vanessa Peralta - watercolor and stained glass plus she is a singer and co-designer of the Wannika Games. <https://www.facebook.com/wanikart/>

Janice Huckaby Baillie – artist and owner of Jan Art. If you didn't make a purchase at the show, drop by JanArt Gallery on Kaya Grandi.

Lorenzo Mittiga – professional underwater wildlife photographer producing environmental fine art. <https://www.lorenzomittiga.com>

Renske Herder – abstract multimedia artist and de-

signer incorporating her photographs. Herder will be exhibiting at Terramar in January. [Facebook.com/renske.g.herder](https://facebook.com/renske.g.herder).

Femke Franckaert – acrylic pour paint artist. [Facebook.com/femke.franckaert.75](https://facebook.com/femke.franckaert.75)

Marion Blouw

Bernal Hugo and Lira Gilberto – recycled glass art taking bottles and transforming them into attractive lamps, incense holders, wind chimes and more. Engraves and etches glass too. madeinbonaire@gmail.com

Artie de Vries – Artie sifts through sandy beaches on Bonaire to find washed up items such as old soldiers and cartoon characters and converts them into nostalgic art.

Rudsel Chirino – a painter in his own right who instructs kids at Jong Bonaire in art, video and photography. [Facebook.com/rudsel.chirino](https://facebook.com/rudsel.chirino)

Linda and Esther deVeer – a sister performance art team who make you feel good by giving you compliments after speaking to you for a few minutes. [Facebook.com/linda.deveer](https://facebook.com/linda.deveer)

Melissa van Blerk – Teenage artist creates art inspired by local nature. Melissa began painting when she was 12. [Facebook.com/melissa.vanblerk.3](https://facebook.com/melissa.vanblerk.3)

Ghislaine Monte – full-time artist known for her larger mural work at Kanti Awa, Street Colors and most recently the TCB building mural. [Facebook.com/ghislaine.monte](https://facebook.com/ghislaine.monte)

Leslie van Valenberg – and husband Ken, upcycles old furniture and home décor items and re-purposes them giving recycling a new meaning. [Facebook.com/leslie.vanvalkenberg.54](https://facebook.com/leslie.vanvalkenberg.54)

Daniela Agudelo – acrylic painter who has loved art all her life and hopes to explore the world of creativity everyday.



Lorenzo Mittiga, National Geographic award winning nature photographer, discusses his photos with a guest

KvK art exhibit, to page 10

Sand on Chogogo Beach sparks criminal investigation

The BES Public Prosecution Service has announced it is conducting a criminal investigation into the raised beach of Chogogo Beach and Dive Resort.

According to the press release, "In this context, as usual, all facts and circumstances are collected that can provide insight into the question of whether criminal offenses may have been committed in connection with the construction of this beach. It is relevant here to investigate whether or not a license has been granted and, if so, when that license was granted. It is logical that this claim is directed to the BC of the OLB because the BC OLB is the licensing authority and will therefore have access to this information."

"If we conclude that criminal offenses have probably been

committed, we will assess whether it can be determined who is criminally liable for this and whether or not (further) prosecution is appropriate," the press release stated.

In the meantime, study commissioned by Wageningen University has determined that the prevailing winds will gradually blow the sand into the water, even if a higher sea wall is built. The imported sand used to construct the beach is much finer than the native sand which, being coarser, is more resistant to the wind.

The researchers had some good news. The imported artificial sand contains hardly any organic material. Therefore it poses little risk of introducing microbial pollution that could damage the coral.

DMR

Cause sought for power outage

WEB and Contour Global Bonaire (CGB) do not know why the system wide power outage occurred the afternoon of November 24 and are therefore concerned it could happen again at any time. A joint investigating committee has been formed to diagnose the system vulnerability and correct it. The committee consists of experts from both companies and an independent investigator.

Public Body wants visitors to pay their entry tax online only, in advance

Visitors coming to Bonaire are expected to pay their VET in advance on the website www.bonaireisland.com. They then receive a QR code that lets them walk directly to immigration via the 'Happy Lane' when they arrive. Those without the QR code have to use the other, slower line, to get out of the airport. Visitor testimony confirms the people who use the other line do not leave happy. No cash payments are accepted.

Support funding continues for Caribbean students in the Netherlands

Funding has been assured for The WeConnect Foundation until 2027. The WeConnect Foundation supports Caribbean students and starters on the labour market. Its funding for 2023 amounts to about 200,000 euros.

WeConnect helps students coming from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom cope with major social, financial, and cultural challenges. It promotes study success and well-being of Caribbean students in the Netherlands by providing them with a network, budget training, meetings and pre-departure information while they are at schools in the Caribbean.

Then, after their studies, WeConnect helps the Caribbean students get started in the Caribbean labour market. The students are often tempted to stay in the Netherlands to work, but their training and talents are needed at home. There is a great shortage of professionals in the islands.

Employers and potential employees often find it difficult to find each other when they are located thousands of kilometers apart. WeConnect helps bring them together.

Social minimum for BES still a work in progress

The central government is committed to replicating, for people in the Caribbean Netherlands, a just social security entitlement comparable to that enjoyed by people in the European Netherlands. The BES will have its own social minimum, however, one especially designed for its economy and society. That takes time and research. In the meantime The Hague is funding temporary support packages to meet immediate needs in the islands.

There is a considerable push in parliament to make child-care in the Caribbean Netherlands completely free for poor families. Minister Schouten (Poverty Policy) objects. She says the policy of treating the European and the Caribbean Netherlands equally works both ways. Therefore BES families should pay a personal contribution of 4 percent, as those in Europe do. She adds that if the Public Body Bonaire wants to reimburse that amount from its own funds, they are free to do so.

Island Council wants money to celebrate its anniversary

The Island Council's seventieth anniversary is approaching. The Council proposes to withdraw \$110,000 from the general reserve to finance a celebration. The Financial Supervision Board (Cft) has objected. It says the Council should find the amount in money the Council has already budgeted, not take it from the general reserve.

The Executive Council also wants to reduce energy costs for the public by spending \$2 million from the tourist tax revenues. The Cft objects to that out-of-budget proposal too. It points out that there is uncertainty about the result expected this year. The Cft also notes that the BC ignores advice.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Reading Day 2022 reached more than 2000 students



November 24 was Reading Day all over Bonaire. Nearly a hundred volunteers read to primary schools during morning classes. Almost all primary school groups, and there are more than a hundred from Rincon to Nikiboko, were visited.

The volunteers were allowed by their employer half an hour to read from a book of their choice. Many private individuals also participated. Some readers selected a children's book from the library or from the Mediabus.

In preparation, Monica Clarendra gave a workshop on storytelling for interested readers. As a result, the volunteers were at the school gates early with a number of tips and tricks.

The Reading and Writing Foundation Bonaire thanks the schools and volunteers for their participation. Judging by the reactions of everyone and the nice photos, this annual event was again a great success.

For more information, contact Paul Ruys, Reading and Writing Foundation Bonaire, Whatsapp 599 782 4569.

Paul Ruys

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Visit us!



Ham radio is still alive

With no fanfare, a group of eight Ham radio operators competed November 25, 8 p.m. to November 27, 8 p.m. non-stop in the CQ World Wide DX Contest from Bonaire.

Yes, Ham radio is still alive and well with over 2.7 million operators world wide. Before telecommunications advanced to mobile phones and internet there was amateur radio or Ham. Operators could talk to any other operator around the world and they still do. And when all else fails, during emergencies, Ham radio works and with all the technology available, the astronauts even use it to talk to Earth.

Sometime during the last 130 years of Ham technology operators began competing in contests to see how many other operators could be contacted worldwide within a designated time.

Since 1984, Bonaire has been home to a Ham contest initially put in place by the late Chet Brandon. Anyone who has been to the most northern point of Bonaire near Playa Frans has seen three large radio towers and probably wondered what they are. These 140 ft (42.67 meters) amateur radio towers are part of a renovation project done by Ham operator Walt Rakitsky originally from Pennsylvania. He's been coming to Bonaire since the 80's and was a part of the yearly contest with Brandon until Hurricane Lenny destroyed the Ham radio station in 1999.

Rakitsky, a bio-tech based in San Francisco, has been working to renovate the station since 2017. The towers, a new house, container complex with 20 solar panels, batteries, generators and 800 gallon water tanks have been added. The generators are usually just for backup as most of the energy is supplied from the solar panels and inverter.

In 2018, with most of the station fully rebuilt, the Ham station began operating.

"This was the first year...we had a 1.5 year covid pause. Next year it will be fully ready which will coincide with more solar activity (sun-spots) that makes it easier to reach everyone around the world," said Rakitsky.

Ham radio contest are held at the same time each year. In addition to a morse code contest (CW) there is a separate voice communications contest.

The Bonaire team was made up of six U.S. and two U.K. operators. This was a morse code (CW) contest and the operators came in second with about 13,500 contacts.

"We contacted some stations on more than one band, so more than once. We plan to compete again next year with the goal of winning," said Rakitsky.

Rakitsky has been a Ham since he first became interested in his neighbor's hobby in 1970 at 15 years old.

Ham radio *continued on page 5*



Walt Rakitsky in the radio frequency switching room.



The Ham operators are focused on making as many contacts as possible in the contests.



Operator call signs painted as Bonaire dive markers

FOR SALE Great Investment Grand Windsock Villa 23 with Private Pool



- Location: Kralendijk, close to the airport
- Living area: 170 m2 / 1830 sq.ft.
- 3 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms / storage / carport

- Resort facilities: communal pool with snackbar, restaurant The Beach with ocean access, onsite dive shop

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$699,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire

Give Plantation Bolivia nature rights, that is important against climate change

by Dorine van Norren and Wilma Nijland

Originally published November 25, 2022, Volkskrant



Plantation Bolivia. Photo Wilma Nijland

On Bonaire there are major building plans for Plantation Bolivia, a nature reserve covered with vulnerable tropical dry forest. Instead of waiting for a natural disaster to occur, the nature reserve should be given its own rights.

At the beginning of this month, parliament passed a motion calling for a brake on the development of the dry tropical area 'Plantage Bolivia'. The area has a protected nature destination (open landscape) but may be redeveloped. The reason is the purchase of Plantation Bolivia by a project developer who wants to build homes there. To do this, the zoning plan has to be changed. There are indications that great pressure is being exerted on local politicians and civil servants to this end.

Apart from the fact that there is sufficient space for the new housing needs on Bonaire, the area is a vulnerable and unique nature reserve in the Antilles.

Plantation Bolivia is located in the northeast of Bonaire, is approximately 3,000 hectares and makes up 10 percent of the island, with the 15 km coastline bordering pristine coral reef. The destination of the area is 'open landscape', in order to preserve the landscape and natural values for now and future generations. So, it is not allowed to build. It is the largest dry tropical forest of the Antillean islands, which is classified by Wageningen University, among others, as an ecologically valuable area with a unique (terraced) landscape.

Not only will the essential ecological main structure (the only north-south corridor) of the island be destroyed by the planned housing development, but it will also have an impact on indigenous cultural heritage, as the housing will be built near the Caves of Spelonk and Roshiki-ri with rock paintings of the first inhabitants of the island. The locals are very concerned about this.

Foreign investor

Protest from islanders also focuses on the fact that Plantation Bolivia was

bought by a foreign investor (entrepreneur Meine Broomhaar bought the estate at the end of 2019 for 12 million dollars) who aims at luxury holiday homes for Europeans and Americans who come to enjoy the untouched nature, nature that is being destroyed by the project. This is seen by some as recolonization of the area.

In doing so, the old notion of 'development' is released onto the area to hide the fact that it is about earning (at least) 100 million dollars by a Dutch millionaire and the comfort of foreign tourists. The offer of a nature organization to buy the area for twice the purchase price (twice 12 million) was rejected by the project developer.

The area is of great importance for mitigating climate change through its corridor, tropical dry forest and adjacent coral reefs. The coral reefs hold back the sea, the forest holds fresh water. Much needed when the climate becomes drier. Replacing old forests with new forestry for climate mitigation occupies thirty times more land.

Climate case

As newspaper Trouw reported at the end of September, the Dutch state is doing too little to protect Bonaire against the rising sea level and Greenpeace is therefore filing a lawsuit against the state together with the residents for more climate policy and research in the Caribbean Netherlands. The conservation of the area is in line with the United Nations Prudence principle for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) management.

A sustainable solution for a nature reserve such as Plantation Bolivia is to give this area rights, as recently happened with the Spanish lagoon Mar Menor in Murcia, which was so polluted by the surrounding (agricultural) industry, among other things, that massive fish deaths occurred. Instead of waiting for a natural disaster to occur, it is better to take preventive action by giving rights to the area.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



How can I be the first person to know about a property when it comes up for sale? Jim in Minnesota

Hi Jim – Since Bonaire doesn't have an MLS keeping up with the real estate market here can be difficult, but here are some hints:

1) Visit our website and do a search using your budget parameters and then save the search. Our website (www.bonairehomes.com) has a feature allow-

ing you to save your search and then the system will send you an email anytime there is a new listing that meets your search criteria.

2) Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by sending an email to info@bonairehomes.com and ask us to add you to our email list.

3) LIKE us on Facebook. That's one of the ways we notify our customers about new listings, price reduction and island news.

4) Stay in regular contact with one of our professional sales agents and remind them that you are looking to buy a property.

We are happy to help you find your dream property on Bonaire!

*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

In that case, a governance structure is being set up in which various stakeholders have a seat: local residents, including any indigenous people present, companies with an interest in the area, government agencies and regulators, and researchers who can monitor the ecological quality of the area.

An earlier precedent for this has also been set in New Zealand, where indigenous peoples claimed territory. This was solved by making the area 'its own', a notion that is propagated by indigenous peoples who only know the right to use the earth. This is in stark contrast to Western man's notion that man is above nature, has control over it, can make it property and use it in the name of development and civilization.

Different relationship

We need to move towards a different relationship with nature that recognizes its intrinsic value. When granting natural rights, the area must be respected in

its natural cycles. [no development] In conjunction with this, the use can be determined.

This is different from a protected nature reserve where no human activities are allowed to take place. This new view can teach humans to live in harmony with nature again and increase nature's biodiversity, rather than harm nature. Make Plantation Bolivia an area where the rights of all life are respected. This is to protect people against natural disasters, climate change and the urge for endless multiplication of property.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dorine van Norren is public servant and researcher at the Van Vollenhoven Instituut voor Recht, Bestuur en Samenleving [Institute for Law, Governance and Society]. Wilma Nijland is spokesperson of the Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia.



Parking rules to be enforced at airport

The Royal Marechaussee (KMar) has been issuing warnings to drivers who have improperly parked at the airport, and citations are soon to follow. The airport has also installed new signage to clarify where parking is possible and allowed. Some motorists have been parking their vehicle in the 'kiss and ride' lane, which is meant to drop off and pick up passengers quickly and easily, and on the drive and taxi lanes. Parking on the airport grounds is only allowed in the designated areas, namely P1 (short-term parking) or P3 (long-term parking). DMR

The Bonaire Reporter Dec. 7- Dec. 21, 2022

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.

Subject: Two suggestions

Recently a question was asked where to find an article regarding a matter and Julie Morgan gave a couple of reference issues to research and find the articles. This joggled my memory that once upon a time, I was reading a publication (name forgotten now) that once a year published an index listing article by topic and what issue it could be found in. Possibly you have some such reference in the office itself that assist employees to do just this?

I am thinking possibly this might be a summer-hire youth project to begin inputting such data into a file that The Bonaire Reporter could also send out once a year to readers? Headings could be by subject matter; acronyms are so prevalent here using KVK, OLB, TCB being some of the headings. You may want to broaden the topic by common subject; Cadushy Distillery, Selibon, Water and Energy Bonaire, et cetera. Then there are columns headings too. Just Do It, Making Bonaire Accessible, Flotsam and Jetsam, et cetera. Most of the articles are so informative it is worth refreshing memories from time to time regarding facts of public interest. They contain contact information for departments one may be interested in.

My 2nd suggestion would be to consider having a youth column. You have articles mentioning activities of youth but what about something from their perspective. They might want to cover an event or happening at a school; a sports activity, or a project happening in the school or interview one of the school's staff. Since there are several schools on Bonaire, possibly a guest reporter from each school on a rotating basis. Or, there could be a roaming potential young journalist budding in the community that could represent all the schools? This would give them a wonderful opportunity to learn the craft.

Just some thoughts for whatever they are worth.

Happy holidays, Earline Wasser

Fed up with Bonaire's roads.

A petition has been created to present to commissioner James Kroon who is responsible for roads. If you would like to have your voice heard please sign the petition. (The link will work in our online edition.)

https://secure.avaaz.org/community_petitions/nl/openbaar_lichaam_bonaire_we_zijn_het_zat/?fTZQlsb&utm_source=sharetools&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=p1658812-we_zijn_het_zat&utm_term=fTZQlsb+nl&fbclid=IwAR3BErMrFWLYaLSUDh8b-2VmXc3b2KcFXqr1GqmlViPJUHfV4Sle1B7jpn4&mib-extid=Zxz2cZ

Ham radio continued from page 3

He bought a Heath kit radio and an antenna and joined the radio club.

Rakitsky said, "I liked being able to talk to people all over the world; it was really cool."

Rakitsky holds a Phd in chemistry and an MBA from Wharton University and currently works for Checker-spot. The company works with micro algae to form sugar into vegetable oil which is used in making plastics, cosmetics or anywhere vegetable oil is used.

Story/current photos Julie Morgan



Walt and Dave in 1972, a decade before they brought their expertise to Bonaire

Bonaireans want growth slowed

The OLB used a questionnaire to determine how the people of Bonaire perceive the carrying capacity of the island. The result: many people think the population is growing too fast, that too many people are relocating to the island, and that tourism is growing too rapidly.

The OLB has responded to these findings proactively. The OLB, the Ministry of Justice, and the IND are exploring how growth can be moderated by applying stricter limits to residency. And a temporary measure has been extended another year: only 4 or 5 star hotels that will attract high-quality tourists will be allowed to be built on the island.

Vote Now! Cadushy nominated for USA Today Award

Cadushy Distillery has been nominated for USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice travel awards as a contender for the Best Caribbean Rum Distillery. This is great exposure for the destination. Please cast your vote in support of Cadushy at:

www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-caribbean-rum-distillery-2023/

And help spread the word! A person can vote once a day for the run of the contest. Voting ends Monday, December 19th and the winners will be announced on 10Best on Friday, December 30th. (See also page 7.)



Miss Bonaire candidates visited Mangazina di Rei's Nos Zjilea on November 16. The three candidates who were presented to the crowd had fun dancing and posing for photos. The candidates L-R: Ruby Pouchet (Miss Playa Pariba), Caroline Porras (Miss Antriol), Michelle Emerenciana (Miss Nikiboko) are accompanied by Izain Mercera, Experience Coordinator at Mangazina di Rei.

Election for the candidates was held December 3 resulting in new titles for Miss Bonaire, Ruby Pouchet, and Miss Bonaire Tourism, Caroline Porras. Photo Julie Morgan

POLICE REPORT

Property

Nov. 24/25. In the night thieves took a PlayStation and cash, among other things, from a home on Kaya Chikucha. It is not known how they entered the house.

Nov. 20. Thieves broke into the house on Kaya Korona between 4:30 and 9:30 p.m. and stole a purple and a gray Apple iPad, a dark blue JBL speaker, a gray Huawei tablet, cigarettes and a Chanel shoulder bag.

Arrests

Nov. 23. Three young men aged from 17 to 18 were arrested on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham for violating the BES Opium Act. During a regular traffic check, police

took a closer look at the car, and found two bags containing various articles for processing drugs and presumably hashish. All three youths were arrested for violating the BES Opium Act. The 17 year old was also charged for not being able to identify himself. The car was seized for further investigation.

Traffic accidents/violations

Nov. 29. Around 7:15 p.m. on Kaya Internashonal a scooter driver fell when a car tried to overtake him. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Nov. 29. Around 4 p.m. two cars collided on Kaminda Gurubu. One of the occupants was taken to hospital by ambulance. The

fire brigade was informed because gray smoke was coming from the hood of one of the cars.

Nov. 27. A hit & run with injury and damage was reported. On E.E.G. Boulevard a scooter driver braked to cross at a resort when he was hit from behind by a car. The declarant rolled over the roof of the car and fell to the ground. Then the car continued to drive south. The declarant had injuries to his knees and shoulders.

Nov. 24. Around 9:20 p.m., two cars collided in the Central Area. The driver of the car in front was checked on the spot by the paramedics and did not have to go to the hospital.

Nov. 22. On Kaya Nikiboko South the driver of the car was turning left when the cyclist who was cycling in front of his car panicked and fell off his bicycle. He was

taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Nov. 20. In the afternoon hours a man was hit by a car on roundabout that connects Kaya Nikiboko South, Kaya Betico Croes and Kaya Kanari. The man was checked at the scene by paramedics and then allowed to go home. The driver of the car stated that he had not seen the pedestrian because the edge of his windshield caused a blind spot.

Public safety.

Nov. 24. Around 2 p.m. the police station received a report about a male cruise ship tourist in trouble while swimming on Klein Bonaire. CPR was immediately started while the victim was taken to the coast of Bonaire. Here the paramedics took over and the victim was taken to hospital. The victim died shortly afterwards.

“Trippin’ Tuna” creates awareness



Artist Fred Ros with a “Trippin’ Tuna” on permanent display at Hilltop restaurant and bar soon to be open Photo Julie Morgan

For years Bonaire has been home to more species of fish than any other Caribbean Island, and now there is one more. It’s known as the “Trippin’ Tuna.” On your next venture into the water you might be able to see it.

Artist Fred Ros and sculptor Ron Moret of the Netherlands have collaborated on the “Trippin Tuna” project. Moret has built seven stainless steel spot-welded tuna, the largest being 5 meters long. While the larger tuna is headed to go on a documented tour in the Netherlands and Europe from April to September in 2023, it will eventually end up on Bonaire’s reefs along with the smaller tuna.

Ros said, “This is monumental art not for one month or two months but for years. This is a new reality underwater.”

During that time the tuna will become part of the reef as coral, tunicates, sponges and other marine life make it a part of the ocean environment.

Moret is the sculptor on this project while Ros is giving it motion, life and a new context.

“The Tuna comes to life through the

interaction with people and nature. People young and old quickly form a friendship with animals whether they are real or not...” said Ros. “Something unreal underwater creates a new experience.”

A few lucky people were able to view the first Tuna sculpture of the project last week. The presentation by Ros was hosted by Ronald Gravesteijn at the Hilltop restaurant and bar now under renovation.

Currently one Tuna is stationed at Oil Slick for snorkelers and divers to enjoy. The tuna’s eyes are cameras that record those who visit it.

Fred Ros has been living on Bonaire for over 16 years. He is known for his art: “The enlightened obsession with space,” “A hundred feet above the mudflats,” “A day of 480 hours,” “40 feet underwater,” “That must you do” and “336 hours in Quarantine.”

“I think the tuna is the most beautiful fish on Bonaire,” said Ros.

For more information visit Thetuna.nl or Trippintuna.com.

Photo/story Julie Morgan



The five meter stainless steel “Trippin’ Tuna” in Moret’s studio in the Netherlands

Ini book launch



Ini Statia signs copies of her book during the intermission of her book launch

“In the Name of Love,” a book of poetry chronicling over 40 years of Ini Statia’s life was launched at Plaza Resort on November 30. A full room of friends and acquaintances enjoyed readings from the book. Each poem is published in three different languages, Papiamentu, English and Dutch. Readers of the poems were Ini Statia, Delno Tromp, Tica Nicolaas and Navimar Statia. Two teenagers, Noa van Voorn and Xamaw Henricus, did a

dramatic reading of several of the poems with Statia.

Children Ziva Blanca and Benjomar Henericus presented the book to Statia. Soft jazz and popular music was performed before the launch and at intermission Chaira Borckerslee sang, accompanied by Giovanni Mercere.

Story/photo Julie Morgan



CHRISTMAS TIME WITH DIGICEL

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The Bonaire Reporter Dec. 7- Dec. 21, 2022

A Garden?

Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover



Some time ago I visited a friend who had a plant in her garden with beautiful blue flowers. I asked her what kind it was and she gave me some information and some seeds. I was very happy with the seeds because the blue flowers can make delicious tea. I planted the seeds and looked for more information. Wow, there is a lot written about it because it's a very healthful plant.

It grows so nicely in my garden that I got the first flowers already and I made a nice pot of delicious tea. And the tea is a rare blue color. Since it's such an easy growing plant I thought I should write about it.

Let's start with its strange name, ClitorJa, and that is because the flower looks like a clitoris. Hmmm, it's also known as Clitor Ternatea or butterfly pea.

Look at the picture, how beautiful the flowers are. But that is not the only good thing about it, as I said, it is good for your health. Blue tea is caffeine free.

- It's a plant full of health-boosting antioxidants. One such antioxidant is proanthocyanidin increases blood flow to the capillaries of the eyes. Blue tea is effective in treating retinal damage, glaucoma and blurred vision.

- Blue tea is effective for weight loss.

- Effective for diabetes. Taking a cup of blue tea between meals has been shown to regulate blood sugar and lower blood glucose levels.

- Good for the heart. It lowers high cholesterol levels, fights heart diseases.

- It's effective against stress, anxiety and depression. To destress after a long day of hard work, blue tea is the best. The antioxidants in blue tea lift moods and give a good night sleep.

- Blue tea is good for anti-aging.

- It is good for the brain because the antioxidant can increase memory, cognitive skills and boost the nervous system.

- Extract from Blue tea is good for the nails, skin and hair growth.

- Blue tea has anti-inflammatory properties, helps protect against chronic diseases, relief from pain and swelling, treats both external and internal inflammations and infections and staphylococcus aureus.

- It's also used as natural dye for foods, drinks and even textiles.

How to grow it.

The plant is native to Asia but grows perfectly on Bonaire. ClitorJa seeds are easy to grow. I put the seeds in some black dirt in cups or other small containers. Soon after that the young plants pop up. Keep an eye on them because the lizards are fond of young plants. When bigger, they can be replanted in bigger containers. The plants need some support of a small trellis to lean on or against a wall. When bigger, the plants grow as a kind of a vine and will climb into trees if they are planted under a tree. I also support them with little pieces of iron mats which one can find where there are building activities. They need sun as well as shade and water every two days. It's a beautiful plant with small round leaves with amazing deep blue flowers. And you can enjoy the healthy delicious Blue Tea from ClitorJa.

Start now, it's great weather for gardening. 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.

TCB stats confirm tourism has more than recovered

The TCB has announced the visitor data for November. Stay-over guests totaled 14689 for the month, an increase of almost 10% from the 13400 stay-over visitors in November 2019, the pre-pandemic benchmark year. As usual, Dutch visitors predominated. They numbered 7,539, or 51% of the November visitors. Americans totaled 3,337, or 23%. Arrivals from Curaçao numbered 7,539, or 11%. Visitors also came from Germany, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

The average length of stay in Bonaire was seven nights for US visitors and 14

nights for Dutch visitors. The majority of Bonaire's visitors are in the 46 - 65 age group.

Veroesjka de Windt, CEO of Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA), said in her speech at TCB's quarterly meeting that the average hotel occupancy is back to 66 percent, the pre-corona level of 2019. The average price of an overnight stay on Bonaire has increased from \$194 per room per night in 2019 to \$234 this year.

In October nine cruise ships visited, carrying a total of 21,352 passengers.

DMR

Tromp releases "Marka Indjan"



Most everyone is fascinated by the Indian drawings or markings in the caves of Fontein, Pos Kalbas, Spelonk and Onima. Delno Tromp has taken his interest to a new level by creating a book of the drawings, "Marka Indjan." The drawings were created by the indigenous people, Indians, or first people of Bonaire. Delno or "Denchi" has colored the drawings using simple and childlike motifs and presented them in a new book "Marka Indjan."

A book launch was held at Bonaire's public library November 25 where he explained the drawings and a bit of the history.

Delno, with Indian ancestry of 29.8%, displayed photos of 39 people he had photographed from Noord Salina where the indigenous people thrived at one time.

Delno writes in the book, "Here, I wish to share with you some of the indigenous markings in a new and modern way, while doing my best to maintain the original forms of the markings...We rightfully dedicate relatively a lot of attention to the trafficking and enslavement of our African ancestors, it is also important to not forget our indigenous and the valuable legacy they have left us."

The book is not for sale but was free to everyone attending the book launch. It will be distributed to children in Bonaire's schools Group 5-8 to educate and interest them in the island's beginnings. "Marka Indjan" is available to view at the library. Made possible by financial support from OCW Caribbean Area and RCN.

Story/photo Julie Morgan



The Cadushy Distillery, Rincon, has a new distillation plant to meet increased demand for exports to Europe. The plant is set up on the stage of Cinelandia Theater and the bottling takes place in the theatre. The photo shows part of the Cadushy Team, which now consists of 15 members, in front of the new distillation plant.

Eric Gietman said, "Who would have thought in 2009 that we would have produced and sold more than a 100,000 bottles of Cadushy of Bonaire Liqueur? And now, with the export to Europe, we are going to conquer the world with our authentic Bonairean products." (See also page 5 for how to vote for Cadushy's rum.)

Car takes a dive

A male driver of about 60 took an unexpected dive with his Hyundai Creta into Bonaire's waterfront at Playa Pabou last week. Photographer Mirando Hooley Roberts saw the event from her balcony and rushed down to help. She said the driver supposedly was reversing the car and inadvertently hit the accelerator, not the brake. The car sunk pretty quickly and a lot of people jumped into the water to help. The driver was visibly shaken but was okay. STINAPA removed the car within a couple of hours. (Miranda Hooley Roberts photo)



Ride for the Roses board: L-R Charles Lont, Marga van Lieshout, Jursi Marshall, Anne-Marie Mercera, Coen van Gennip and Patricia Gerritson Veen Photo Julie Morgan

January 29, 2023 is the date of the sixth annual Ride, Walk, Swim & Sail for the Roses. As with the past five editions, Orco Bank organizes 'The Ride' to raise money for the Cancer Fund Bonaire, adding its own donation to the monies raised by the participants. Ride for the Roses consists of four parts with lots of choice. Walkers can choose to walk 7 or 9 kilometers. Bikers can ride 13 or 20 kilometers. Swimmers enter the water at Kas di Regatta and leave it at Spice Beach, a distance of 700 meters. The Sail (in anything that floats) starts at Atlantis Beach in the

south of Bonaire. If you are really sporty, you can combine the Walk and Swim or the Ride and Swim. Tickets can be purchased at various places on Bonaire: Gas Station Rincon, Freewieler Bonaire, Yogarriba or from the board members of the organization. You can also purchase tickets online via the website of Ride for the Roses Bonaire. The cards cost \$20 per person, per activity. If you want to participate in several parts, a combination ticket costs \$25. <https://www.ridefortheroses.org>



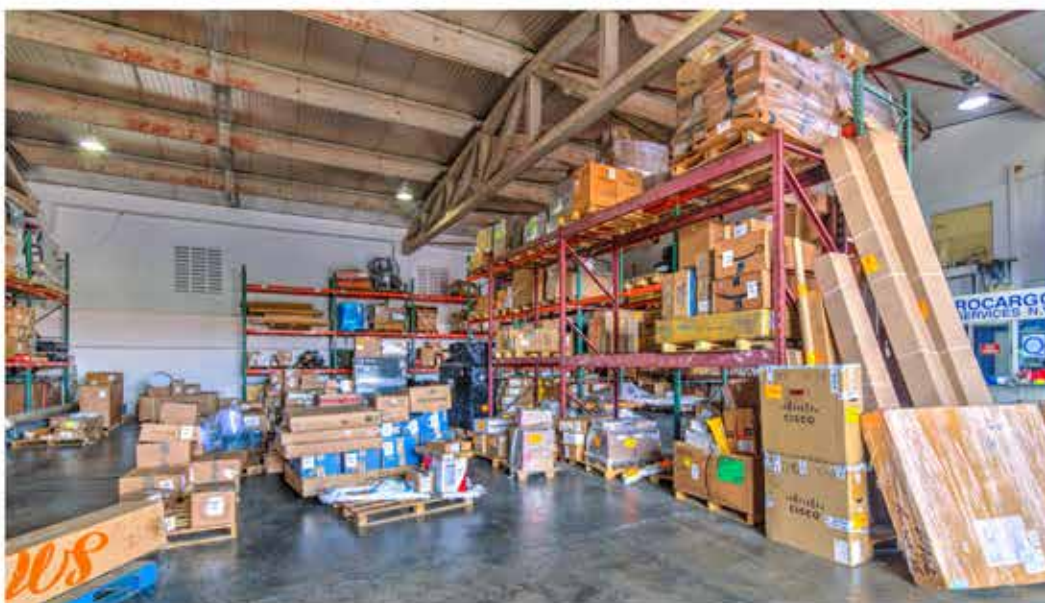
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Felicia Schutte – architect and portrait photographer. She does personalized makeover portrait service. She was named accredited Portrait Master Fellow in 2021. Facebook.com/felicia.schuette

Jandy-Ann Curie – creates acrylic paintings and souvenirs inspired by Bonaire’s beautiful nature. Facebook – jandy-ann Curie

Jose Smit – ceramic and mosaic pieces made from broken tiles, plates. Her studio is Jo-Sea art Bonaire, also on Facebook.

Juan “Nochi” Coffie – local artist known as ‘Nochi’ from Rincon who has painted various island murals and smaller paintings. Facebook.com/juan.coffie

Reginald de Palm – known for his painting and poetry. He won the ‘People’s choice Award’ during the Caribbean Jazz Music Festival. Facebook.com/urs.feneta

Adrie van de Ven – Former art teacher at SGB, his work included painting, etching, collages, lino and silkscreen.

Meade Lowance – Painter with a focus on seascapes and the abstract. Facebook.com/meade.lowance

Laurie Smith – works primarily in acrylic resin on canvas, makes and useful items including key chains, wall hangings, cutting boards and even insulated cups. Items for sale at Multishop or at her studio. Facebook.com/laurie.a.smith.16



Vanessa Peralta, talented artist and singer, displays her wearable art. Photo Julie Morgan

Rosaly van Dansik – painter and digital artist behind Sharking Daily to show people the beauty and necessity of sharks. Instagram@sharkingdaily

Naomi Emerenciana – painter of Bonaire’s people and nature. Facebook.com.

Loes Praagman – works as a mural artist on Bonaire, involved in the Street Colors project. Murals are her thing but she also works on canvas, surfboard and recycled material. Facebook.com/oes.hak

Hedy Voets – mosaic artist in 2 and 3-D art. She also has a creative catering business. Facebook.com/hedy.voets.

Quincy van Arneman Zimmerman – art by QVAZ. Express

Making Bonaire Accessible by Ria Evers-Dokter December

The last month of the year. For many this is a normal month, except for those who celebrate Christmas.

But did you know that December has a lot of other special days to offer, especially for persons with disabilities?

Dec. 2 is Special Education Day. A very special day because special education is very important for those children who are not able to attend general schools. On Bonaire we used to have special schools, but to many it is not really clear why children who need special education have to go to regular schools.

Dec. 3 is the special International Day for All with Disabilities. There are families and care facilities that celebrate this day. It should be a day to celebrate, but on Bonaire there is not much to celebrate, because Bonaire did not sign this act:

The rights of individuals with disabilities are grounded in a human rights framework based on the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, international covenants on human rights and related human rights instruments.

Persons with disabilities are entitled to exercise their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights on an equal basis with others under all the international treaties. The full participation of persons with disabilities benefits society as their individual contributions enrich all spheres of life and this is an integral part of individual’s and society’s well-being and progress for a society for all - with or without disabilities.

So, there is much work to do to reach that goal.

Dec. 5 is the International Volunteer Day. Volunteers are to be celebrated because they are such a big help in every way: to persons and to organizations. Most organizations could not function without them.

Dec. 10 is Human Rights Day. Where would we be without human rights? What are the five basic human rights?

Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

Dec.11 is UNICEF Day for Change. That is, inclusion for every child. World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day and

Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa Stand up to live longer & healthier

This article is based on the works of Joan Vernikos, former director of NASA’s life science division. She was in charge of the astronaut’s health condition. Vernikos discovered that when astronauts were out of the gravitational field of the Earth during their missions, processes associated with aging were accelerated. After 20 years old, we all suffer some natural loss of bone density, loss of aerobic capacity and decrease in blood plasma values. She observed that astronauts during their missions were losing all those values much faster. The explanation she found is due to the elimination of gravity. We evolved subject to gravity. It is by counteracting its effects with our movements that we strengthen our muscles, our bones and our circulatory system. When we sit many hours a day, in front of our phones, computers or our giant plasma TV, we minimize the beneficial effects of gravity in our body.

When we think about ancestral populations or present blue zones, we realize that these people don’t exercise artificially. What they did and still do, is move on a regular basis during the day by being involved in routine

activities that demand a moderate physical effort. In the past, these activities involved hunting, gathering, building temporary shelters, etc. In the present moment, in the blue zones, these activities involve, cleaning, working the land, harvesting, herding animals, walking around to visit friends and family. There is nothing wrong with exercising, when it is not in excess, but exercising alone is not what will improve our general health. In fact, the most important movement that will keep us autonomous is to stand up. So, leave that couch or that comfortable desk chair regularly. Introduce some tricks in your life to stimulate movement for example, by setting the printer far from the desk, standing up regularly to get water, doing favors for your work mates when they are too lazy to move and pick up stuff. This could also increase your popularity.

Joan Vernikos also advised to stretch regularly. If we observe our pets, mainly cats, they will hardly ever start a movement if they don’t stretch first. Stretching prepares the muscles and aligns the bones making movement more effective and reducing the chances of injuries.

Another way to enhance the benefits of fighting gravity is to keep a straight posture, avoiding slouching. This can be achieved by being mindful of our body position, while walking, standing or sitting. As an added benefit

his thoughts and ideas in painting. Facebook.com/quincy.vanarnemanzimmerman.

Pam Teitel – acrylic resin art on recycled wood products converting them into tables and wall art. She uses the left over resin to make useful things like dominoes. Facebook.com/pamela.teitel.

Madeline Hooi – known as “My D,” she is currently painting Bonaire’s flora and fauna.

Gregory Hooi – wood artist making decorative pieces including boats, and Christmas décor.

Delno Tromp – artist in photography, painting and digital art capturing Bonaire in a fundamental bright colors. Facebook.com/delno.tromp

Jozee Tjoa – abstract artist of mixed media painting that evolves as each layer is added. Facebook.com/jozee.tjoa

Liliana Jaraillo Rendon – charcoal, pencil ink and acrylic.

Mercera Nash – candle maker and owner of Zendles Bonaire where artistic candles are made. Facebook.com/zendle.bonaire

Jeff & Valerie Wolf – owners of MoltenWolf Glass. The Wolfs fuse glass into a bouquet of creations of art and jewelry. Facebook.com/MoltenwolfGlass

Bart van Oost – known for the Escape Games, Bart has developed a self-guided tour for your phone of the murals on Bonaire.

*Story/photos Julie Morgan
More photos on our Facebook page*

is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children’s welfare.

As long as there are children who cannot attend school or children who go to school hungry, there is something very wrong. That should change.

Dec.30. This is why it is good to have a National Resolution Planning Day. It is better to start thinking of your resolutions ahead of time rather than wait for January 1 to come around, as by then it is probably already too late to decide on them. If you plan your resolutions on December 30 then you’ll be good to go when the New Year arrives. A hot tip for our decision makers.

On December 2 we laid to rest the treasurer of our foundation MiVaBo’s Ditta Morrison. She will be sorely missed. We will never forget her. R.I.P. Dear Ditta.



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.

of mindful body position, we will also create a positive cascade of internal substances that improves mood.

It is also important for your mindset, that is, what you say to yourself while you are moving. Ellen Jane Langer, professor of psychology in Harvard University, made a famous study involving chambermaids. They were divided in two groups; one was doing their daily chores without any special instruction and the other were told that their working activity was physical exercise. Under this new concept, after a few weeks the members of the latter group that were cleaning reduced their blood tension, waist to hip ratio and weight.

Exercising regularly is a good option, as long as it is not excessive. One needs to find the right balance. But some of the most important habits to stay young and healthy are to keep moving, avoiding sitting for long hours, being mindful of body position and stretching frequently.



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.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr



This blackline fireworm, photo'd at the Blue Heron Bridge, moves more quickly than I expected, using the bunches of bristles as paddles. Photo Julie Morgan

When I see WORMS! the first image that comes to my mind is a little girl shrieking and running away from a little boy who is chasing her with a garden worm.

I don't run shrieking from garden worms anymore, but I still consider terrestrial worms pretty yucky.

Underwater is a different story.

The first worms people notice on tropical Caribbean reefs are the colorful ones, especially the Christmas tree worms. In fact, guides and instructors always used

to enjoy pointing out Christmas trees; once their students saw the pretty whorls, the guides would move their finger closer until the whorls retracted. Surprise!

Remember, though, that every time the worm closes up, its breathing and feeding mechanism – those beautiful whorls – is deactivated. Check out the tube into which the whorls retracted. The opening is protected by a sharp protrusion which would be tough for any predator to pass. Next is the operculum, a door that closes the tube like a snail sealed into its shell.

Sometimes the worm tube runs along a living coral head, and the coral continues to grow right over the tube. One of the best places to see the worm from the tips of its whorls to the end of its tube is on the sides of our mooring blocks.

Batwing coral crabs also know that Christmas tree worms like mooring blocks. These crabs don't worry about the disappearing whorls, though, or the protective points or doors. They just break the entire worm tube right off the block with their powerful claws. Whenever I see a cluster of destroyed Christmas tree tubes, I look around for a batwing coral crab. Sometimes they're still at the scene of the feast.

I'd admired Christmas tree worms for months before the "worm" part of their name registered on me. "Everything is more beautiful underwater," I concluded, unsurprised.

Then I met bristleworms. The ones we see most often off Bonaire are called bearded fireworms, and they always had a prime position in "Dangerous Marine Animal" presentations. When the worm is calm the bristles along its side look small, but if the worm is agitated the bristles fan out and imbed themselves into anything around.

Reef Glimpses, continued on page 15



These larval Christmas tree worms probably settled on what was already a dead spot on the starlet coral, then moved onto the living coral. Photo Julie Morgan



Christmas Dinner - Dec. 24 & 25

APPETIZERS

(choice of)

- Cream of lobster | Caribbean rock lobster | Fresh herbs | Lime crème
- Terrine of fresh salmon | Smoked sturgeon | Caviar
- Crème fraiche | Dill | Roasted fennel crisp
- Fire roasted pumpkin & sweet potato cream | Truffled crème | Smokey - salted - toasted almonds & pumpkin seeds (Vegan/Gluten Free)

MAIN COURSE

(choice of)

- Veal picanha | Red port, duck liver reduction | Star anise | Carrot | Vanilla pumpkin | Sweet potato
- Caribbean rock lobster | Catch of the Day | Green asparagus | Zucchini | Smokey saffron citrus hollandaise | Potato leek mousseline
- Spiced "stampot" | root celery | potato | Bon Terra rucola | crispy onions | Vegetable herb jus | Szechua infused Portobello | Marinated red onion rings (Vegan/Gluten Free)

DESSERTS

(choice of)

- White chocolate Rom Rincon vanilla ice cream | Nutty chocolate fudge brownie | Caramelized pineapple | Red pepper coconut relish
- Assorted cheeses | Apple prickly pear compote | Oberlander
- "Reese's" peanut butter pie (Vegan/Gluten Free)

USD 58.50

Dinner is served 5:30 - 10 p.m. - reservations@rumrunnersbonaire.com

Dec. 26 - Famous Monday night "all you can eat" BBQ

Rum Runners is located at Captain Don's Habitat)

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. Anyone 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.)

Nov. 28 - Dec. 4 & Dec. 17 - Dec. 30	Longer opening hours for Bonaire's shops. Shops during these two periods are allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. On Sundays and public holidays, the shops are allowed to remain open until 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 9	Talent showcase 8 - 9 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. See below.
Saturday, Dec. 10	Terramar Children's Art Exhibition: 2 p.m. 'I can do everything.' Inspired by Bonaire's culture. \$5 entry fee. terrarmuseum@gmail.com Barrio Festival Rincon - 6 p.m. - midnight at Antonio Trinidad Stadium Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products. Listen to the music groups Ritmiko Timon, Grupo Kariño, Grupo di Tambú Sababa and Jom Gaiteros; also Fenty Music and DJ Geffy.
Dec. 13 / 14	Geminid Meteor Shower will peak with the possibility of sighting up to 150 meteors per hour. See Timeanddate.com .
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. 18	Christmas Sax Concert. 5 p.m. Wilhelmina Park
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	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. New Year's Eve Fireworks
Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023	New Year's Day. A public holiday. Most businesses and government offices are closed.
Sunday, Jan. 29	Ride, Walk, Swim and Sail for the Roses. Raise money for Cancer Fund Bonaire. For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit: https://www.ridetheroes.org

Young talents can sign up for a showcase and mentoring

In collaboration with ACE Foundation, the program 'Gang di Arte' offers young people stage time to demonstrate their talents. After introductory help, young talents who sign up will perform during a showcase Dec. 9 at Jong Bonaire 8 - 9 p.m. for the public and a jury. Gang di Arte is a long-term process. The participants will receive feedback from the jury. They will then work with professionals to develop their talents through workshops, presentations, competitions and exchanges with countries in the kingdom. Young people can contact Gang di Arte via Whatsapp: +599 7013960, or by sending an email to: gangdiartebonaire@gmail.com. The project is made possible in part by the Banco di Caribe and the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB.)

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.

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>.

Underwater photography workshops at Buddy Dive Resort with Lorenzo Mittiga. Dec. 10 - 17; Dec. 17 - 24. <https://bonaireisland.com/events-calendar/buddy-dive-resort-x-lorenzo-mittiga/>



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.: Dec. 12 & Dec. 19 both at VIP Diving, 77 Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. Dec. 26 - Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine, email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org



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
Wed. Dec. 7	CARNIVAL MAGIC	0800-1600	South	3646
Fri. Dec. 9	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	0700-1700	North	3000
Sat. Dec. 10	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0630-1600	North	3400
Sun. Dec. 11	AIDAPERLA	0600-2000	South	3286
	SEA CLOUD SPIRIT	0830-2300	North	136
Mon. Dec. 12	VISION OF THE SEAS	0700-1800	North	2435
Tues. Dec. 13	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	South	3840
Wed. Dec. 14	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
	ROTTERDAM	0800-2300	North	2668
Thurs. Dec. 15	MARELLA EXPLORER 2	0630-2030	North	2253
Sat. Dec. 17	VENTURA	0700-1800	North	3597
Tues. Dec. 20	BRITANNIA	0700-1800	South	3674
	WORLD VOYAGER	0700-2100	North	172
Tues. Dec. 20	VOYAGER OF THE SEAS	0800-2100	South	3838
Wed. Dec. 21	NIEUW STATENDAM	0800-2300	South	3152
Thurs. Dec. 22	SEABOURN ODYSSEY	0800-1800	North	462
Fri. Dec. 23	SKY PRINCESS	0800-1900	South	4250
Sat. Dec. 24	SEABOURN OVATION	0800-1800	North	638
Sun. Dec. 25	COSTA FASCINOSA	0800-2000	North	3800

Nos Zjilea explores Bonaire's future

Visitors to the November edition of Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei were given a look into Bonaire's future by the Wageningen University research team. Researchers Peter Verweij, Jenny Lazebnik and Cora van Oosten have spent the last four years delving into the nature of Bonaire, its history, policy and future challenges. They have brought this all together into a report titled "Bonaire 2050 a Nature Inclusive Vision." The project, done with no government funding, focused on research into investments in biodiversity that are likely to work for Bonaire.

Their report includes a timeline of policy changes and development from 1992-2020 that maps how we got to where we are today and the challenges we face.

The ongoing report proposes we do things that are nature inclusive. We would strengthen conservation activities by, for example: planting more cactus fences to provide natural protection from goats and donkeys, and harvesting rooftop water for watering gardens. We would also plant more trees to create natural shade, provide homes for our birds and other animals, and also decrease land erosion into our sea.

Charts and illustrations depict population growth and movement on the island: "In 1961 Bonaire had a population of 5,800, which tripled to 15,000 by 2010. After Bonaire became a special Dutch municipality in 2010, the population increased to 20,000 in ten years time, mainly due to immigration."

The report explains that with an economy dependent on tourism, Bonaire should be looking to a more diverse



Washington Slagbaai National Park manager Albert Crestian; Pieter Verweij, WUR; Julianka Clarendia, Echo; Izain Mercera, Mangazina di Rei; Jenny Lazebnik, WUR and Cora van Oosten, WUR. Photo Julie Morgan

economy to avoid economic collapse as was evidenced during the Covid-19 pandemic. The research suggests development of financial, IT services requiring high-speed internet faculties or engaging in bio-pharmaceutical industries (algae and aloe).

Verweij said, "Water, population and

climate are the big problems; [these] along with the big influx of immigrants put stress on the island. What we are trying to do here is with implementation of the landscape."

The report concludes with a hopeful look at 2050 where the population has stabilized, urban expansion is restrict-

ed, cruise ships are reduced and tourism has shifted to high-end eco-tourism with family inns, boutique hotels and country retreats. Energy is either from wind turbines or solar and rainwater is collected on rooftops. Any new construction will for the most part keep natural vegetation intact with no rapping of the land. Fresh local produce from kunukus, community gardens or schools is sold to local restaurants, hotels and supermarkets. A food forest at Rincon is developed to attract eco-tourism and other activities.

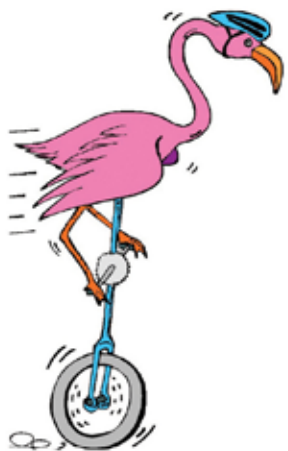
The report is available from Library. WUR.NL.

In addition to Verweij's presentation, Nos Zjilea featured a local vegetarian cooking workshop and, of course, great local music with dancing, crafts and food. Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of every month at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, the best place to see, feel and taste the culture of Bonaire.

Photos/story Julie Morgan



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Pets of the Week

At the moment we have FIVE real black cats at the shelter. There's something strange about black cats. Not only are they really smart, they truly love their person. Here are some facts about black cats:

- * Black cats are half as likely as other cats to be adopted from shelters.
- * Black cats are considered bad luck because of ignorance and superstition by people.

- * Black cats are often passed over because they don't photograph well, but they are beautiful in person.
- * Black cats are just as lovable and deserving of homes and families as all other cats.

Please consider adopting a black cat, they really deserve you.

We have Xiomara, Ushi, Scotty (pictured), Poema and Chanel ready to be adopted. Come and meet them! You will fall in love...

Story/photo Monique Degenaar



Scotty



Missy

Hello sweet people,

My name is Missy. I'm a happy girl a little over 6 months old.

My very early life I spent it on the streets, and then finally I was picked up from the road and taken to the shelter along with my sister when I was 3.5 months.

I love to play with fluffy toys or run after a ball.

Cuddles are my favorite, but I will never skip a nice belly rub.

I'm good with other dogs, young and old, and I will always find a way to lay on top of them for a nice nap.

I also like kids a lot, to play and cuddle with. I hope to see you soon !!

Photo/story Sanne Attevelt

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

Shelter News Fireworks season



It's December... Florence Ditlow's Pet Stress Remedy is now available at a variety of locations. It is important that you begin giving this natural stress reliever several weeks in advance so it will have full effect by the time the stressful firework season begins. So the time to start is now! Pet Stress Remedy will be available as of December 14 at: Animal Shelter Bonaire, Just for Pet, Antillean Wine Company, DA, and Shelter booth at Cruise Ship Market. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Shelter.

Please have your pet microchipped as soon as possible before fireworks season begins. Due to their fright and stress, many pets also go missing during fireworks activity. Animal Shelter Bonaire, both Bonaire's veterinarians and all the local animal welfare groups recommend that all pets be micro-chipped as an aid to reunite with their owners if they become lost. If your pet is already microchipped please be sure their chip number is registered with the island veterinarians and the Shelter so we can locate owners of dogs/cats that are found. *Jane Disko*



The Shelter Christmas Book Fair and Market was a nice success! Even the weather cooperated! Thank you to all who visited and made purchases which help us continue to care for our animals. And also a big thank you to the hardworking volunteers who spent two days setting up and managing the market and those who created a festive environment and provided food and drinks for our visitors on market day. *J.D.*

Reef Glimpses, continued from page 11

Of course I learned this from experience. The philosophy of *If you don't stress an animal, it won't use its defense mechanisms against you* had served me well with sea snakes, moray eels, scorpionfish, and even fireworms. On this day I put my hand in the worm's path; it climbed up and began to crawl along. Everything was comfy for both of us until the worm, crossing the underside of my wrist, bumped into the sleeve of my wetsuit – and bristled. Wow, did that hurt! When the bristles broke apart under the very sensitive skin there, they were astonishingly painful. For an astonishingly long period of time: I went to

bed thinking I wouldn't be able to sleep ever again, but woke in the morning with no pain other than a sore wrist.

That fireworm was not defending itself against me, but against my wetsuit, which had victimized us both. My philosophy was amended to: *If you don't stress an animal, it won't use its defense mechanisms against you – but watch out for other stresses!*

Fireworms quickly detect and devour any kind of food lying on the bottom. On other occasions, they can be found on a gorgonian or staghorn or fire coral branch: the branch extends about an inch and a half into the fireworm's body; its living tissue is absorbed by the worm, who then backs off, leaving an inch and a half of skeleton. Doesn't seem very nice.

But the nastiest freemoving worm I've ever watched was probably the black-line fireworm, near the Blue Heron Bridge in Florida. When I squeezed a piece of shrimp near a mantis shrimp burrow, black liners popped up from under the sand and headed toward the scent. Another time, I saw one trundling along the sand. It bumped into a fanworm tube. The fanworm retracted. The bristleworm reared up (really!) and dived down into the fanworm tube, and now I understand why I see so few fanworms at that site.

Their cousins, the fireworms, are snacking on them.

What do we learn from all this? We now know that, unless mischievous merchildren have armor-plated fingers, they're probably not chasing oth-

er merkids with worms. Not more than once, anyway.



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.

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