



Monique and Donny Winklaar, Maskarada at Kas di Kuido, Gonsalvo Goeloe  
 Photo Julie Morgan

## Bonaire welcomes 2023

Bonaire welcomed the arrival of 2023 in the traditional way with parties and with fireworks which exploded into the sky from most every point on the island. Unlike last year, official fireworks shows were held at Captain Don's Habitat, Buddy Dive, Karel's Beach Bar and Ocean Oasis. And Bonaire residents and guests contributed in lighting up the island with their own mini shows.

As in most cultures, fireworks aren't the only way to say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. Bonaire honors other local traditions. The island celebrates the Bari, a homemade musical instrument, and the Maskarada, a performance of music, dance and plays. Both traditions are rooted in Bonaire's Indian heritage and slavery.

The Bari, a barrel shaped drum, was traditionally played from the beginning of December to New Year's Eve when people would come together and share their good and bad memories through music. The Bari could only be played in secret and hidden places as it was associated with songs that were considered by the police and church to be political, gossipy and sexually suggestive. Anyone who played, sang, danced or was even caught listening could be arrested or ostracized.

The December 31 Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei focused on new year traditions. In his presentation about the Bari, speaker Gonsalvo Goeloe said, "My mother would take us as children to come and watch at the hidden place, Piedra Pretu. We never approached the event but would just listen and see from a far distance and hide beneath the tree of life, the Watapana. Our mother would watch and when the police would come, we would run and spread out in different directions."

Goeloe has been playing and constructing his own Bari since he was nine. He explained the instrument is usually made from the trunk of a cactus, mesquite tree or driftwood that washed ashore. When using mesquite, the green roots of the tree are taken three days before or after the full moon when it is dormant. The roots are soaked in water to make it flexible and easy to work. The top of the drum is made of goat leather that is tanned and molded over the instrument.

Goeloe first demonstrated the Bari's unique sounds and later played along with the local

band Los Cayonassos performing cultural songs.

The Bari is played with only selected songs. Bonaire's favorite cultural dance team, Monique and Donny Winklaar, performed a Bari dance and others during Nos Zjilea and enticed guests to join them on the dance floor.

On New Year's Day, Bonaire looks forward to seeing the Maskarada players and band performing at different locations on the island. The players go from house to house. No one really knows the beginnings of the Maskarada but it is traditional on Bonaire

and other Caribbean islands. The players are dressed in jester costumes with masks covering their faces to hide their identities. They dance and perform little plays to the music of the Maskarada band. Some writings say the plays show the struggle with nature and survival from the early days. Cultural themes that are played out include reeling in a shark from a little boat, riding a donkey and capturing a bull.

This year as always, the first stop for the Maskarada was the residence of Bonaire's Lieutenant Governor Rijna. Everyone was welcomed into his home to enjoy the Maskarada along with traditional food and drink.

Next on the Maskarada's day long agenda was Bonaire's Kas di Kuido nursing home. Everyone was full of smiles as the Maskarada players performed and interacted with the residents and staff. The players continued throughout the day performing at scheduled locations including individual homes where they were welcomed with food and drink by the owners and nearby neighbors.

If you missed the Maskarada on New Year's Day, the fun will continue with performances at several locations on Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8 (See schedule on page 10.)

The Bonaire Reporter wishes everyone the best in 2023.

*Story/photos Julie Morgan  
 (More photos of Maskarada and  
 Nos Zjilea will be posted on our FB page.)*



Musicians playing the Bari during a Bari Festival near the end of the year. Painting by Rincon artist Nochi Coffie on display in the Mangazini di Rei museum.



### Bonaire Fuel Terminals still a mystery, Dossier says

According to Dossier Kingdom Relations, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) continues to keep secret the exact business plan of Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BFT, aka BBT). The ministry is the company's creator, 100% owner, and source of government funding.

Over a year ago the editors of the investigative television program Zembla invoked the Government Information (Public Access) Act in an attempt to get information about the creation of BFT, which they found suspicious. Now, more than a year later and long after the documentary was broadcast—the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management has finally complied with the Zembla request by releasing 490 pages of government documents in response to the application.

According to Dossier, the documents that were made public reveal nothing about EZK's establishment of BFT, however. Their primary subject is the precarious state of Bonaire's fuel supply in 2017. That was when overdue maintenance and financial problems were closing down the Bopec facilities.

Initially EZK announced it was creating BFT as a vehicle for securing Bonaire's fuel supply. It granted BFT 10 million euros and stated the company would build a large fuel storage facility at the airport and construct a fuel pier for filling those tanks. BFT would also build a smaller storage facility at the Contour Global power plant near Karpata and construct a fuel pier there.

EZK also made a puzzling announcement. It would not grant

the 10 million euros to BFT directly. It would instead buy 10 million euros of BFT stock. Thus capitalized, BFT would be able to borrow money to fund its operations on the open market at good rates.

In the meantime, the OLB and Bonaireans generally were committed to developing renewable energy, not to building more fuel docks and larger tankage. WEB and Contour Global had already applied to EZK for funding to expand the island's infrastructure for generating electricity from solar and wind. EZK had sat on the application for two years however.

In the face of criticism originating both in parliament and from Bonaire, EZK apparently had a change of heart. The ministry announced that Bonaire Fuel Terminals was not primarily intended to promote the use of fuels. It's true goal was to support renewable energy. BFT then declared it intended to partner with WEB and Contour Global in building a renewable energy infrastructure that would reduce the island's dependence on fossil fuels to 20%.

In the meantime, there seems to be considerable opacity regarding who is going to benefit most, and how, from the disappearance into the financial market of the 10 million euros in government funding EZK choose to grant to itself. WEB and the OLB have suggested that Bonaire could already be powered at 80% sustainability today had the money been available to the project they were ready to launch two years ago. *DMR*

### The Netherlands only 255 improvements from good human rights

According to DOSSIER, ministers from the four countries constituting the Kingdom of the Netherlands—Aruba, Curaçao, St Maarten, and the European Netherlands—made presentations and answered questions for the UN Human Rights Council on November 15 in Geneva. The draft of the subsequent Rights Council report contains 255 recommendations the ministers proposed to improve the national human rights situation in the Kingdom.

DOSSIER says the recommendations cover a wide range of topics, including the ratification of international human rights instruments, discrimination and racism, hate speech, media freedom and the safety of journalists, human trafficking, the climate, the pay gap, violence against women, children's rights, rights of LGBTIQ+ people, and rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

In March the report will be officially submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for approval. The Kingdom of the Netherlands then will have to declare whether it accepts each recommendation or merely acknowledges receiving it.

*DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

### Parties gear up for March election

The election for a new island council is scheduled for March, 2023. Seven parties have registered: the Movimentu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB), the Partido Demokrátko Boneriano (PDB), the Union Patriotiko Boneriano (UPB), Frente Sosial Progresivo (PSP), Era Nobo, 1 Union pa Pueblo, and a first time runner, the party M21.

*DMR*

### Saba wants soft drugs, Bonaire and Statia say no

When the BES Islands were created as a municipality of the Netherlands, many on Saba assumed they would become subject to the relaxed Dutch rules regarding hemp and marijuana. But they discovered an old Antillean law still prevails. It imposes considerably stricter rules and higher penalties for possession and use of soft drugs.

The Island Council of Saba asked the Dutch Minister of Justice and Security to change the soft drugs policy and regulations in the Caribbean Netherlands to match those prevailing in the European Netherlands. The minister had to turn down the request because Bonaire and St. Eustatius would not agree.

*DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

**Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4**

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**Fight cancer. Join the  
 Ride for the Roses  
 January 29, 2023**



### New logos are touching down at Bonaire International

Air Belgium has scheduled four high season return flights from Brussels Airport this holiday season: December 23 and 25, January 6 and 8. Beginning in mid-February, Curaçao-based Jetair Caribbean will begin offering Wednesday and Friday service to Bonaire from Curaçao and Aruba. Bonaire's new flamingo logo now decorates one of Divi Divi Air's nine-seater aircraft. *DMR*



# Thank you to *The Bonaire Reporter* advertisers and readers in 2022

The staff of *The Bonaire Reporter* would like to thank our advertisers and readers for making this publication possible year after year. *The Reporter* will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2023. Publishing *The Reporter* requires a small army of talented writers, photographers, production, press, delivery people and web specialists. We promise to do our best to keep you informed, educated and hopefully entertained in print, online and on Facebook.

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## All social benefits have increased

On January first, the minimum wage and all benefits in the Caribbean Netherlands went up. The Minister for Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions announced the figures.

### Minimum wage

The minimum wage increased by 18.2 per cent on Bonaire, 14.3 per cent on St. Eustatius and 15.0 per cent on Saba. For a working person aged 21 or older, at a 40-hour work week, the minimum income is \$1,236 per month on Bonaire, \$1,446 on St. Eustatius and \$1,434 on Saba. Workers earning the minimum wage will gain about \$180 to \$190 per month. The hourly minimum wage varies with the age of the worker, ranging from \$4.63 per hour for 16/17 year olds to \$7.13 per hour for adults, 21 years and older. (See *The Reporter's* online update pages for the complete chart.)

### Child benefit

The child benefit has increased by about \$30 per child per month. Parents and caregivers receive \$131 per month on Bonaire, \$128 on St. Eustatius, and \$129 on Saba.

### Old age pension (AOV)

The old age pension (AOV) for senior citizens in 2023 has increased by about

39 per cent on Bonaire, 23 per cent on St. Eustatius and 31 per cent on Saba. A pensioner with full AOV accrual on Bonaire now receives \$1,047 per month. On St. Eustatius and Saba, the AOV is \$1,113 and \$1,175, respectively. That includes the 'duration allowance' paid to recipients in the Windward Islands to accelerate the AOV to the benchmark social minimum. AOV beneficiaries on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba have gained \$295, \$151 and \$204 per month. Couples have gained twice that amount.

### Social relief

The household situation determines how much the social relief has increased. Single persons living independently now receive \$413 per two weeks on Bonaire, \$487 on St. Eustatius and \$483 on Saba, an increase of about 35 per cent, or about \$110 to \$120 per two weeks. For couples living independently, the social relief is \$571 per two weeks on Bonaire, \$668 on St. Eustatius and \$662 on Saba, an increase of 36 per cent on average, giving couples around \$160 to \$170 more per two weeks. The basic social relief amount will be increased only by inflation and will come out at \$216 on Bonaire, \$254 on St. Eustatius and \$252 on Saba.

DMR

### Selibon rates have increased

The Executive Council of the OLB has approved the follow Selibon charges:

- The waste levy for household waste is now USD 14.50
- The waste levy for industrial waste is now USD 21.30

Customers will see the new rates on their monthly WEB bill. Until year's end, Selibon was operating on rates set in 2005.

### Two cyclists killed by cars over the holidays

A 66-year-old male cyclist died in the hospital after being hit by a car on Friday afternoon, December 16. The police have released no further information.

On Christmas morning a hit-and-run accident on Kaya Korona took the life of 41-year-old Paul Berezinski. A 32-year-old man with the initials E.M.T. later turned himself in. The police have charged him with manslaughter, wrongful death, serious bodily injury and driving after an accident. Investigation into the case is still ongoing. Police especially want to hear from a reported passenger in the car. (See also page 8.)

DMR

## Ask Bob

### Bonaire real estate advice



**How can I buy a place when I'm not on the island and they sell so quickly? I used to see homes that stayed on the market for months, now everything I see in my price range (under \$400,000) is sold by the time I come for vacation or I can't get an appointment to see them when I want to.**

Barry from Detroit

Hi Barry,

Yes, in this price range you are competing with many other buyers. Since we have a limited inventory of properties, this price range sells very quickly, often before it appears in our newsletter or online.

Here are some tips:

1) **Act quickly.** People will view a home they like and go home to think about it or talk to their accountant and find it sold when they call back two weeks later. Talk to your financial advisor BEFORE your next trip, so that you can make an offer while you are on the island.

2) **Make buying a property the purpose of your trip.** Don't try to combine a family vacation, dive trip and buying trip in one week. Be available to see a property any day, at any time. I've had clients turn down a showing because they wanted to dive that morning, and then we were unable to get another appointment.

3) **Keep in contact with your real estate agent.** When a new property comes on the market, I immediately contact my clients who are in that price range. I also ask clients to let me know two weeks in advance of their arrival on the island, so I can block time to work with them.

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](mailto:bob@bonairehomes.com) or call or WhatsApp me at +5990786-7362**

### Electrical subsidies extend into the new year

Into 2023, WEB will continue to bill Bonaireans for only their variable electrical usage, and 50% of that charge will be subsidized by the Public Entity Bonaire. Their fixed usage will be 100% subsidized by The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK). Increased fuel costs will raise the rate for variable electrical usage, but the subsidies will absorb much of that increase.

DMR

### BES Islands still learning financial management

The Financial Supervision Board says that, even after twelve years of supervision, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and (to a lesser extent) Saba are still struggling to put their financial management in order. State Secretary Van Huffelen has set the bar high. She says all three of the islands have yet to submit an unqualified auditor's report.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

### Electric vehicles coming to the islands

Fundashon Mariadal (FM) and STI-NAPA have teamed up to buy five electric vehicles (EV) for their fleet. Both organizations hope to inspire other organizations to take this important step to reduce their carbon footprint on the island by beginning a conversion to sustainable energy.

TIA has launched a project to install 55 charging stations for electric vehicles in the ABC Islands this spring (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao). Ten will be on Bonaire. The charging stations will be located at hotels, supermarkets, and popular tourist hotspots. Some will be car ports energized by solar panels and will be constructed at beaches and other more remote locations.

The charging stations are being funded by TUI's Fair Travel program. Every traveler who books a trip through Fair Travel contributes €2 to the fund, and TUI matches that contribution. The program has raised a large amount of money in the Netherlands and Belgium. The funds are being invested in making tourism more sustainable. A local company, Dynaf Group, will build the charging stations. Dynaf's D-POINT network currently has 70 active connections that deliver more than 240,000 KWh in three islands.

DMR



### Old playground revived in Rincon

An overgrown area at Colegio San Luis Bertran in Rincon has been transformed into a safe, welcoming and colorful playground designed to accommodate all children, including those with disabilities.

The playground was created via the collaborative efforts of Dave Ensberg-Kleijkers and Regiline Sambom.

Ensberg-Kleijkers is managing director of the charity Jantje Beton. Sambom is the Youth Care team leader at Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands, part of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). She has been involved in redesigning this playground since 2021. DMR



# 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.

## THINK OF A NAME

I am going to need for you to think of a name. Think about that friend or family member that either likes to ride his bicycle, or uses it as their main vehicle. What is his or her name?

Paul was a nice guy, but this last Christmas morning, Sunday December 25th, Paul was hit by a car and died there, next to the road.

Some people will call that a tragedy, and it is, but an even bigger tragedy is that he is not the first nor the last victim. This is a systemic issue; we live in a city that has prioritized cars over people. Bonaire is adding hundreds of cars every passing year; but where are the sidewalks? The street crossings? The bicycle lanes? The public transport options?

It seems that if you live on Bonaire the choices are either buy a car or risk your life on a daily basis. Not having a car on Bonaire should be an inconvenience, not a life threatening situation.

The other tragedy is that we have two government levels on the island that either have no plan, or no rush to fix this situation.

There are short term solutions that are cheap and easy to implement. Most of the road fatalities on Bonaire occur in two or three streets. Would it be so hard to have more transit police presence there? Would it really be so challenging to have proper bike lanes?

So on Christmas day, on a day that was for joy and celebration, Paul died, he died because on Bonaire, at least for now, bicycles and pedestrians are somehow less valuable than drivers (and even golf carts), at least judging it by the space they have on the roads (or don't have).

So, again, I ask you to think of the name of that friend or family member that bikes often, and pray for their



safety, pray you never have to read their names in the news, like we did with Paul.

But if you are reading this, and you work in the government, we need more from you than just a prayer.

Rest in peace Paul.

*Fernando Nava Bravo*

## SHAME ON THEM

To: The Office of Island Council and Executive Council

"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." (Dossier Kingdom Relations) The Bonaire Reporter, Dec 7-21, 2022, Issue 24, page 2.

I don't know how to say this to be politically correct. I have tried to keep my distance from remarking on local Bonaire politics as I am a newcomer to the island. But the above notice has me thinking "Shame on them" for abusing their local political power in this manner. If there is \$110,000 of money laid aside and not being used for the benefit of the citizens daily welfare, then shame on them for seeking funds for a frivolous celebration.

My understanding is the Island Council head officer is appointed by King Wilhelm Alexander and answers only to him. I have no problem with that process. It is spending taxes on such as the request above that 'raises my antagonism'. Does King Wilhelm Alexander condone this type of governing during his reign from representatives he appoints? If I had the means of contacting him,

I would ask him personally.

Your office has visiting dignitaries and other ceremonial obligations to perform and I understand this too. These ceremonies are a part of your daily job description and please remember; we consider what you do as a paid job to be performed. This does not mean the money is there to glorify yourselves and your job positions. The Office of Island Council and the Executive Council is looked upon for leadership for the betterment of the island. These positions influence daily life. It does not automatically come with an elevated status when selected to serve on the Council(s). It entails duty when you are chosen. The civil office employees receive paychecks for work done.

Learn to become a good listener to others' everyday conversations, gaining insight. There are numerous situations on Bonaire that need your upmost attention and sensible decisions regarding necessity improvements. A lot of chaos has occurred in recent years due to poor decisions. Spend the money where it is needed. Bonaire does not lack for year-round celebrations. Celebrate your 70th Anniversary, by serving cake and coffee in the various offices.

*Happy holidays, Earline Wasser*

## COVID – 19 Week 51 December 5 – 11

Translated from

<https://bonairegov.com/inwoners/update-covid-19>

In week 51, both the number of tests and the number of positive results fell. The decrease in the number of tests may be related to the holidays. However, the percentage of positive test results in the test lane of the Public Health Department remained high (76%). This high percentage indicates that the corona virus is still widespread on Bonaire.

In addition to the coronavirus, other viruses are currently also circulating on Bonaire that can lead to infections with respiratory complaints and fever, such as influenza (flu), adenovirus and other "winter viruses."

**Hospitalization and Mortality.** Last week, two new patients with Covid-19 were hospitalized for a short time. The 12 admissions in the past four weeks are therefore the same as the total number in the previous 22 weeks.

One patient died from the consequences of Covid-19.

**Vaccination.** Vaccination protects against serious illness. With a repeat injection, the protection remains better and the chance of hospitalization decreases. People with reduced immune systems and the elderly are more likely to become seriously ill and be hospitalized. Vaccination is therefore particularly useful for the over-60s. Research in the Netherlands has shown that the chance of hospitalization is more than 2.5 times smaller after a repeat injection in the autumn round.

**New variants.** Most infections are currently (last data week 49) caused by the BQ.1 variants and XBB.1.

## TCB awards four tourism scholarships



Four students have been awarded a Tourism Scholarship. All four are studying Tourism & Hospitality at Bonaire's Gemeenschap School in the MBO department. TCB hopes to award additional scholarships as more students meet the entry requirements. 'The Bonaire Tourism Scholarship Program' was launched for the Bonairean community in August 2022, in partnership with Guardian Group Fatum (GGF).

The Scholarship Program helps fund enrollment in both professional development courses and full-time academic courses in all areas of Hospitality and Tourism Management for Associate (MBO), Bachelor and Master programs. The scholarship allows students and non-students to achieve their educational goals, meet their professional objectives and realize their dreams.

*TCB Press Release*

## Sunday, January 29



Ride



Sail



Swim



Walk

## ...for the Roses



# Reforestation San Jose



Bonaire will be hit hard by climate change if no action is taken. This is shown by recent research by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU). A fifth of the island threatens to be swallowed up by the sea due to rising sea levels and even in an optimistic scenario, coral reefs will disappear and heat waves will increase. Reforestation and reinforcement of mangrove forests can make an important contribution to climate adaptation.

In that context, we would like to introduce you to the La Montaña Foundation, a fully privately financed NGO. The Climate Table, recently set up on Bonaire, may benefit from the knowledge that this foundation has acquired in recent years. The foundation was founded at the end of 2016 and its main goal is the return of the original flora and fauna of Bonaire through reforestation. In that context, Kunuku San José (formerly Den Bon) was purchased in 2018. The reforestation of this 33-hectare site adjacent to Lac Cai (between Kaminda Sorobon and Kaminda Lac) not only significantly promotes flora and fauna, but also better protects the vulnerable adjacent mangroves. The project is managed by BonBèrdè, a highly skilled organization with which the foundation works.



In 2019 and 2020, the site was cleaned with the help of many volunteers and a fence was installed to protect against goats and donkeys. Subsequently, more than a



thousand native trees were planted. Due to the fence and the water supply (a sprinkling and drip system) installed via WEB's, unfortunately very expensive drinking water network, the recovery phase has started. This is clearly visible in the emergence of new seedlings, which now have a chance of life, because grazers are kept outside of the area.

Private donations made it possible to plant new trees in 2021. The maintenance of the fence to keep out the voracious goats and donkeys and the maintenance of the trees takes time and money. In addition, various dams were constructed in 2021 and 2022 with the main goals of retaining water during the rainy season and preventing sediment from flowing to Lac, which suffocates vulnerable mangroves. The first results are promising.

The purpose of the dams is, among other things, that the rainwater does not run off over the soil surface but is collected and drained as efficiently as possible over the site. The recent heavy rainfall has shown that the dams need to be further strengthened and that other innovative solutions are required.

All plants (young and old) on San José benefit from the moist soil. We are now seeing interested water birds exploring the new water kingdom. The American Avocet and White Heron are regular visitors. Recently, 150

(!) sleeping Loras were counted on San José. Birds of prey have also been spotted overseeing the area from the tree and cactus tops. The greatest benefit of reforestation, however, is that the rain no longer washes the scarce, precious, fertile soil into Lac Cai. There is no bare rock soil left, where vegetation is never possible again, and the roots of the mangroves in Lac are no longer choked by the sediment.

These projects have been carried out with the commitment and financial help of donors and sponsors, to whom we owe a special debt of gratitude.

For 2023, the foundation aims to plant new native trees, reinforce the dams and other solutions that contribute to this strategic private reforestation project. Do you want to contribute to this project? For example, we can plant one or more trees in your name or in your company's name. Or maybe you want to come and plant a tree yourself during our tree planting days. In any case we would gladly welcome you or your company as a sponsor.

For questions about the possibilities or additional information about the activities of the foundation, you can reach us via Facebook or [info@sanjose-bonaire.org](mailto:info@sanjose-bonaire.org)





# A Garden?

## Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Beautiful things happen on Bonaire. We hear about a lot of it from news media and on social media. But not all. Some people do things alone or in a group without making noise about it. They just do it.

**There is a group who call themselves The Wednesday Cleanup Group.** Have you heard about them? Four years ago, some people began spontaneous beach clean up every Wednesday morning. Over time the group has grown but 12 people come constantly while a few volunteers and a group of students join occasionally. The group name clearly states their purpose, cleaning beaches. They clean Playa Grandi, Klein Bonaire, the old shrimp factory beach, Playa Boca – they clean them all. Sometimes only a few cleaners show up and sometimes it's the whole crew. This beach cleaning group wants to make people aware that cleaning our environment is a must. Their cleaning action makes a statement, do something for Bonaire instead of only lying back and enjoying it. They say, "If everyone would spend at least one hour a week cleaning Bonaire, it would be the cleanest place on Earth."

The beach cleaners find a lot of plastic coming from the sea to the coast. From the beaches the plastic is blown by the wind all over the island and ends up in the mondi, in the bushes near the beach or disappears into small and tiny parts in the beach soil which is even worse. Sometimes there are good things that end up ashore and creative people make nice art from the stuff they find during the clean ups.

Selibon knows about the fantastic actions of the group and appreciates it very much. One can participate for free and support the goal to make Bonaire the cleanest place on the planet in 2023. Go for it, just do it!

**Do you recognize this story?** One morning I saw that the fruit of my egg-

### The Wednesday Cleanup Group



plant was ready to pick. It looked so nice purple and big. I got the idea to make a delicious Greek moussaka with it, so I cut it from the plant and laid it somewhere in the garden. I did some other things around and then looked for the eggplant fruit. But I couldn't find it. I kept on looking, I got stressed that I could not find it. It was such a disappointment that I lost my delicious eggplant fruit. And I never found it. At the same time I lost my sunglasses in the garden. I just forgot where I left them in my bushy, green garden but I finally found them under the mango tree. I'm sure all my busy gardener friends have had similar experiences.

**A gift of coconuts.** A friend leaving for Holland in December said she could take some stuff for me because her bag was almost empty. And yes, I had something rare. Coconuts for a dear friend in Holland who likes to make a special Surinam coconut cake for Christmas. The coconuts sold in Holland are often bad, but you don't find that out until you are home and open them.

I surprised my friend with coconuts wrapped in nice Christmas gift paper, which she didn't expect and she went crazy with her eight coconuts.



I made my own pickles from birambi and red onion in sweet sour vinegar, Indian chutney from mazana di oro (golden apple) and homemade syrup from the delicious Jamu grapes (druifi Surinam). Its dark red-purple color fits in the Christmas mood.

And I surprised a friend today who needed a smile with a big bunch of flowers from the yard. The bouquet looks like a piece of art.

**Today I got an email from my history teacher** from secondary school in Holland when I was 15 years old. Now she's 79 and wrote that she reads every article I write in the Reporter. She said she enjoyed the interesting information and nice writing and how proud she is one of her former pupils. This was a great surprise for me and made me feel good.

**Last but not least, I have the funniest story.** For years I have tried to catch an iguana on my roof. Different people assist me with all kinds of self made tools and smart iguana catching ideas, but none have been successful. Meanwhile the baby iguana on the roof has grown into an adult making a lot of noise which really stresses me out. I often see him on the roof watching me, so we watch each other - GRRRRRRR ! This week I asked someone to put a bird net in the gutter so the iguana will get stuck in the net and then I can catch him. I thought it was a smart idea. But until now I have no iguana in the net, a lot of noise on the roof and every day more of my plants are eaten. I'm out of creative ideas to catch him and asking for help. I'm distraught and want to live without an iguana above my head in 2023.

Hey garden friends, let's put hands together to make 2023 a great happy garden year on sweet Bonaire.

Yes we can, 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.*

## Making Bonaire

### Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

### Resolutions...

Three more days and the year 2022 will be over and belong to the past.

There are many of us who make resolutions every year. And that makes me wonder; do they make the same resolutions again every year? Do they pick new ones? What are their criteria?

Just now I had a message on my Facebook page. A friend sent me his resolutions:

"Let the world realize that we are all human and should be treated equally."

I loved that very much, because it is the rule I try to live by daily. And it made me realize that again I did not have to

make up new resolutions.

The thing I do practice is looking back at the year that ends, things that happened, friends and famous persons passing..... and that always makes me realize that all these people leaving this world are almost my age. Of course I know that everything comes to an end. But I feel my time has not come yet. Losing friends and family makes me sad though.

The last three weeks I have been bedridden by Covid and that was a scary experience. I am all by myself but it did not feel that way. Every day I received apps and messages asking me how I felt that day. Friends did come by, but stayed outside and brought me treats. Others asked what I needed and brought me goodies, went grocery shopping for me, cooked meals for me, came to sing Christmas carols by my porch. The only thing I had to do was take care of myself as much as possible and get well.

It made me realize how lucky a person I am. I always knew that I would end up alone and had peace with that. But I never thought that there were so many people out there that really care.

In the midst of all the sickness my buddy brought me the news that a friend from the crafting group of Hofi Kultural had passed away. She had fallen ill and landed in the hospital. And by the time my buddy heard about that and wanted to visit her in the hospital, she was told that Nel had passed away.

To hear this sad news I got so very sad. Here I am, being spoiled by so many.... There was Nel, leaving this world all alone.

This made me realize that nobody should die alone. There should always be somebody there to accompany you and wake for you when your time has come.

There should be a group of people who can be called in situations like this. Peo-

ple who come to see you and sit with you in the hospital, in the hospice or at home when you are dying. People who will organize a wake for you and help organize the funeral.

There are many of us. Baby Boomers who came to Bonaire to get old. A lonely death can happen to all of us.

I wish you all a safe end of 2022 and a special 2023.



*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.*

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29.1.2023**



# Forty-six take last ride of 2022

De Freewieler Oliebollen Fun Race from Te Amo Beach held on the afternoon of New Year's Eve attracted 46 cyclists on mountain bikes, street bikes and there was even an electric (city) bike. Frank Bohm of De Freewieler gave a short briefing about the race and led the group of bikers in a minute of silence to honor fellow cyclist and friend Paul Berezinski who was recently killed by a motorist.

The cyclists traveled either a short route of 25km or 60km. Coming in first on the long route was Paul Kawilarang and second was Virgilio Batista. The short route winner was Eric van den Keuken. The last riders to return were Joshua Blake and Phillip Blake on a city bike. After the ride the cyclists enjoyed 50 oliebollen, 50 apple turnovers with powdered sugar and wine and beer. The next Fun Race is scheduled on January 22, 2023

story/photo Julie Morgan



A tribute mountain bike race and dive were held January 1, 2023 in honor of the late Paul Berezinski who lost his life while cycling in a hit and run on Christmas day, December 25. Cyclists and diver friends rode to Karpata where many did a dive in Berezinski's honor. The group hopes to establish a Paul Berezinski Memorial Ride in his honor. JM

## Digicel brings eSIM to the ABC Islands

Digicel is the very first provider to offer every mobile phone user in Bonaire and the other ABC islands the latest of the newest: the option of eSIM. eSIM stands for an embedded SIM card, or a virtual SIM card integrated into your phone. Customers of any provider can now use this new technology, which is rapidly conquering the world, via Digicel - and while retaining their number. Digicel makes this possible because, in the words of Digicel's down-to-earth CEO Roeland van der Hoeven, "customers want it and Digicel listens to its customers. But of course, also because eSIM technology is the future, it's just that simple". The company thus continues to set the trend in the world of telecom.

Because Digicel is not only the first but also the only provider to offer this latest technology on Bonaire and the other Leeward Islands. And not only for its customers but also for those of other providers. Digicel also wants to allow them to benefit from Digicel eSIM, without having to give up their old number. "They can therefore benefit from LTE data from Digicel while retaining their original number, for example, to browse locally or roam internationally," says Van der Hoeven.

According to the CEO, eSIM works the same as the old, 'physical' SIM card. Van der Hoeven: "Once customers have set up their eSIM, they can use our network, upgrade it, or activate a data plan, just as they are used to with the traditional SIM."

The only requirement for using eSIM is a smartphone that supports this technology. "Digicel offers eSIM for any smartphone with eSIM capability," said the CEO, "regardless of where or who the phone was purchased from." If you are already a Digicel customer and want to have your old SIM card replaced by eSIM, you can do this free of charge at any Digicel store, and even at the

kiosk at the airport.

When asked for whom eSIM is mainly a solution, Van der Hoeven answers: "For anyone who travels regularly and who wants to use our network on other Caribbean islands, or who wants to take advantage of our advantageous roaming bundles. And tourists here, for example. They can have eSIM activated at any of our points of sale and then immediately use our data plans."

But the CEO thinks eventually everyone will move to eSIM. "It's the convenience. That SIM card thing is over. Again, it's the future." Van der Hoeven is proud to be at the forefront of this with Digicel.

### Bills have gone out for motor vehicle tax

Within the next few days, all car and motorcycle owners will have received a bill for payment of their motor vehicle tax. It will explain how much is owing and how and when it should be paid.

The motor vehicle tax can be paid in two equal installments, the first due before 1 April 2023, the second before 1 July 2023. From April 2 and beyond, Motorists who have not paid the first installment on time must pay the whole amount at once. The motor vehicle tax can be paid via internet banking or at a bank. The 'payment reference' field must contain the motorist's CRIB number, / (slash), the category identifier B23, and the license plate number. For example: 123456789/01B23B1234.

If a car is sold and the license plate is no longer in use or if a car is defective, the license plates should be handed in to the OLB Finance Department. (Go to The Reporter's online update page to see the tax chart for all vehicles.)



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# Van Huffelen explains “comply or explain”



State Secretary Van Huffelen (Kingdom Relations) Photo via: <https://english.vnacs.nl>

with the new law. Or they can choose to explain why the legislation is not suitable to their unique situation and try to negotiate changes.

Comply or explain seems to be an excellent tool for enacting efficient change. To begin with, comply or explain will help the parties modify vast reams of routine legislation that needs no discussion. The Caribbean Netherlands (CN) must be legally integrated into the Netherlands' international treaty relationships. Both entities should be enforcing the same laws of the sea, complying with the same international flight regulations, applying the same rules for citizenship and

residency, as examples.

A great deal of what Van Huffelen calls “deferred maintenance” needs to be taken care of. For instance, at the time they joined, the CN and The Hague agreed on many matters that still need to be enabled legislatively. “Framework legislation,” such as some parts of the Administrative Law Act, must be updated. When the CN was created, there was a general understanding that European-Dutch legislation and regulations should be declared applicable in CN. Now decisions need to be made about which acts, and with what modifications?

Some major matters must be legislat-

ed too. Thinking and attitudes change as time goes by, but on the islands the laws have sometimes been slower to evolve. Van Huffelen points to laws that need to be brought up to date: the Equal Treatment of Men and Women Act, The Equal Treatment on the Grounds of Age at Work Act, The Equal Treatment on the Grounds of Disability or Chronic Illness Act. She has also set as goals legislation opposing domestic violence and child abuse, laws assuring workers' rights, and better child care legislation.

Couples in the CN cannot choose to give both their names to a child, simply because no legislation allows the practice. NGO's cannot apply for government funding because the CN is not named in the legislation. Islanders will not be issued an identity card that everyone in the European Netherlands carries until The Citizen Service Number General Provisions Act (Wabb) is declared applicable to CN. Van Huffelen has a long aspiration list. *DMR*

## New Year's speech 2023 Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna

Dear Islanders,

I hope you can look back on pleasant holidays and a safe new year.

We are at the beginning of a new year. I hope that we will succeed in retaining and further expanding the positives of 2022. Such as the resilience and sense of community with which we managed to get through two tough corona years.

Thanks to the efforts of citizens, young and old, entrepreneurs, employees, professionals and volunteers, we have come out of the corona crisis stronger. The recovery of our economy is going amazingly fast.

We were still reeling from the pandemic at the beginning of last year when the horrific war in Ukraine began. The result was that the already high energy prices continued to rise and, partly because of this, our daily groceries and other things also became much more expensive. For some even prohibitively expensive. Fortunately, we are part of a financially healthy country. The Dutch government and local authorities came up with measures to limit the increase in the costs of water, electricity and fuel. There was a subsidy for schools to provide students

with breakfast.

Nevertheless, many islanders did not have it easy. I am glad that this is changing positively. The statutory minimum wage, social security benefits and the state pension have been increased as of today. Child benefit for parents with a care-intensive child has doubled. It won't be enough for everyone to keep their heads above water. So, just like in the corona time, let's look back at family members, acquaintances and neighbors who are having a hard time. And in general, let's be aware that we have to take each other into account and take our responsibility. Not only at home, but also on the street.

Halfway through the year we were alarmed by a report from the Free University of Amsterdam about the consequences of climate change for our island. We got a very annoying foretaste that the weather is becoming more extreme not long ago when streets and houses were flooded by heavy rainfall. Scientists warn us that rising sea levels could lead to flooding in just a few decades. Even before the publication of the report, the Executive Council decided to set up a

Climate Table to map all risks and devise the right measures to protect ourselves and the generations to come.

Former minister Nijpels will help us with that. You can be assured that what we can do now, we will do. Such as ensuring better drainage of abundant rainwater and collecting it in a smart way so that it can be used for agriculture and does not flow into homes or damage the coral. This is already taken into account when renovating roads.

A special moment towards the end of 2022 was the impressive way in which Prime Minister Rutte apologized on behalf of the government for the role of the Dutch state in the slavery past. His heartfelt words have touched many of us deeply. Me too.

By acknowledging what was done to our ancestors and how this affects our society and the relationship with the motherland, we can jointly embark on the road to healing.

Another path that, in my opinion, must be taken as quickly as possible is towards equal treatment of the inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands. That means we must work rapidly towards a decent so-

cial system. Equal above all means equal opportunities for everyone to develop themselves and to participate fully in society.

Dear islanders, we live in a turbulent time of which we do not know what it will bring. Fortunately, there is also a lot to look forward to. For starters, the royal visit. At the end of this month we can welcome King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima to Bonaire together with their daughter Princess Amalia. What makes the visit extra special is that it is the first time that the Crown Princess has visited our island. Let's provide a Bonairean warm welcome.

In March we will elect a new island council. I hope that out of respect for our voters, the participating parties will campaign honestly, with an open mind and on content. In other words: on the ball and not on the man/woman. Of course, this does not only apply to politics. Let's be kind to each other, including on social media. Bonaire is just a small speck in a turbulent world. We desperately need each other to build a good future for everyone.

## Dive Friends News

Dive Friends Bonaire, a PADI Five Star facility, has scheduled the first of their four Instructor Development Courses (IDC's) in 2023 beginning the end of January. Once completed, the new instructors have the opportunity to become a part of the Dive Friends Bonaire team working at one of their eight locations. Applicants for the IDC can sign up at any time. To see what is required contact by email, [coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com](mailto:coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com). Dive Friends is looking for Divemaster interns too.

And on January 21, Dive Friends has scheduled their first quarterly cleanup for 2023. Visit [www.divefriendsbonaire.com](http://www.divefriendsbonaire.com) or their Facebook page for more information.



### Maskarada, Saturday, January 7:

1-1:30 p.m. – Family Celestijn (Kaya Miguel Pourier 45, Rincon)

1:45 - 2:15 p.m. – Plaza Tavio Sint Jago (Rincon)

2:45 - 3:15 p.m. – Chichi Tan Museum (Kaya Milon 4, Rincon)

3:45 - 4:15 p.m. – Family Mercer-Thode (Kaya Kayena 13, Rincon)

4:50 - 5 p.m. – Family Margarita (Kaya Neerlandia, Kas di Chano, Kralendijk)

5:15 - 5:45 p.m. – Orlando Thomas (Kaya Azteca 5, Nrd Salinja, Kralendijk)

### Maskarada, Sunday, January 8:

9:30 - 10 a.m. – Family Ibi Tatíe (Kaya Turquoise 21, Republiek)

10:30 – 11 a.m. – Wilhelmina Park

1:15 – 1:45 p.m. – Steven Snack (Kaminda Tras di Montana)

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. – Raymunda Martis (Kaya C. Beukenboom 5, Antriol)

3 – 3:30 p.m. – Family Saragoza (Kaya Vicente F Gomes 6, Antriol)

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. – Family Soliano Bario Mexico 13

4:30 – 5 p.m. – Family Chon I Norma Theodora, Antriol

5:15 – 6 p.m. – Plenchi Noord di Kas di Chio Semeleer, (Kaya Caribe Nrd Salina)



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# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

## The Ignored Habitat



Southern stingrays cruise the sand for food, and also snuggle down into the sand when resting. (This photo was NOT taken on Bonaire.) Photo Dee Scarr

How much attention do you give to the area between shore and the dropoff? It's so easy to think of those areas as simply something to cross if you're a shore diver, and if you're diving off a boat you may not think of them at all.

And yet, that sand or sand-and-rubble is home to many creatures that divers might be happy to see.

The creatures who are best-known for being in that area are turtles and rays, and no one ignores them! But what other critters are there? What's bringing the rays and turtles there?

If you're able to watch a spotted eagle ray, you might get lucky and see its mouth actually extend, to get to those goodies under the sand.

The heart urchin, a brown, short-spined urchin, is the easiest sand dweller to find: look for a low mound of large pebbles. For a better look at the urchin, wave the sand away to bare the urchin's spines; the slightly taller spines on top are the ones that gather the pebbles. Sometimes you'll find little white pea crabs snuggled down between the urchin's spines during the day. At night, when the urchin comes up and walks along the surface of the sand, the crabs grab bits of food as they ride.

The most difficult sand dwellers to find (unless you're a ray, I suppose) are the snails. Over the years on Bonaire I've seen helmet snails, music volutes, moon snails, and different types of conch, all mostly or entirely beneath the sand. Last week I found a moon snail and the front of a music volute's body entirely out of the sand – because the music volute was eating the moon snail! Moon snails spend most of their time beneath the surface of the sand, leaving characteristic trails in the sand above them. Most of the other snails come up to hunt at night.

In addition to foraging there, conchs also come to the surface of the sand for group matings. In 2020, Mona and Gary Wirth discovered dozens of West Indian fighting conch gathered in one area, mating and depositing eggs. The gathering continued for weeks, although individuals may have partied for less time than that. More details about that event are in the Bonaire Reporter of June 17-July 1, 2020, Reef Glimpses.

My two favorite under-the-sand creatures are razorfish and snake eels. We have three different types of razorfish here, and in each type the males and females look different from each other, so they can be confusing at first. Still, all types and both sexes have the same reaction to perceived danger: they dive into the sand. Each razorfish has an area logical-

ly called its "dive site," where it removes any rocks or other obstacles, and frequently loosens the sand. When a threat looms, the fish dives, headfirst, into its sanctuary. After a few minutes, there's a little disturbance in the dive site, then the razorfish's head appears as it looks around; if all is clear the fish swims back into the water. If danger is still around, the fish dives back down and stays longer.

Hunting dolphins, and probably rays, can sense a razorfish below the sand's surface and dig down for it. The razorfish then goes to its backup plan, "swimming" through the sand to escape the threat.

Snake eels also "swim" through the sand. Have you ever seen a sine-curve-type valley on the sand? I've tried to follow those trails but they're so long and roundabout that I can never find the end! The maker is a snake eel who spends most of its life beneath the sand. We almost never get to see the entire eel; once or twice I've seen one peeking out, but that's about it. Our sharptail eels also burrow down through the sand, but they go tail-first - the value of that sharp tail - and only to rest.

Many sand residents emerge at night. Brittle stars and sand dollars seem to appear from nowhere. Tube anemones blossom from what look like crumpled paper tubes. The occasional snail glides past. Juvenile grunts hunt among the sand ripples. The razorfish and other wrasses are out of sight, sleeping beneath the sand.

Until morning, when the day shift comes on again.



Batfish never look very happy, unlike the divers who find them! Photo Dee Scarr



Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef* (for children); in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." The *Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through [touchthesea.com](http://touchthesea.com).

**Sunday, January 29**





# 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](mailto: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](http://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://terramarmuseum.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.)

Jan. <b>3 / 4</b>	<b>Quadrantids meteor shower</b> will peak with the possibility of sighting up to 110 meteors per hour. See <a href="http://Timeanddate.com">Timeanddate.com</a> .
Friday, Jan. <b>20</b>	<b>Meet the Artist, Joel Muzo:</b> 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 <a href="http://www.MoltenWolf-Glass.com">www.MoltenWolf-Glass.com</a>
Saturday, Jan. <b>7</b>	<b>Maskarada- see schedule page 10</b>  <b>Kids Beach Clean Up at the old shrimp factory. 9:45 a.m.</b> Garbage bags, hand alcohol and drinks are available. Gloves are limited, bring your own if you have them. You can buy food, the proceeds will go to charity. Route: From Kralendijk, on EEG Boulevard, take the exit to Kaya IR Randolph Statius van Eps, towards Sorobon. At the Sorobon exit, turn right. After a few hundred meters the old shrimp factory is on the left side of the road.
Sunday, Jan. <b>8</b>	<b>Maskarada- see schedule page 10</b>  <b>Boka Onima, 4-6 p.m. Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 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. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=-clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=-clean%20coast%20bonaire</a> .
Saturday, Jan. <b>21</b>	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends</b> Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>
Sunday, Jan. <b>29</b>	<b>Ride, Walk, Swim and Sail for the Roses.</b> Raise money for Cancer Fund Bonaire. For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit: <a href="https://www.ridefortheroses.org">https://www.ridefortheroses.org</a>

## Coming Up

**Lora Roost Count End of January (TBA)** The first roost count of 2023 is coming up. Twice a year, Echo holds a count of the yellow shouldered Amazon parrots, an endangered species on the island. There are multiple observation stations and each one needs two volunteers to observe.

**Kids' Story Workshop Jan 11 - Feb. 1.** Terramar after school workshop. Kids can learn the old stories of heritage and write them in their own newspaper. Two hours a week, \$20 for the entire workshop. Register: +599 701 4700 [terramarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:terramarmuseum@gmail.com)

**A royal visit to Bonaire** At the end of January, Queen Maxima, King Willem-Alexander and Crown Princess Amalia of the Netherlands will visit Bonaire. The royal couple and Princess of Orange will visit the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. They will travel to Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. The Royal House said that Amalia "will travel along and get to know the countries." The visit will be Princess Amalia's first trip to the Caribbean Netherlands.

## International Flights to Bonaire

<b>Amsterdam (AMS)</b>	<b>KLM</b> Daily flights connecting through Aruba <b>TUI</b> Daily
<b>Brussels (BRU)</b>	<b>Air Belgium</b> will fly to and from Bonaire on Dec. 23 & 25 and on Jan 6 & 8, 2023. Will also connect through Curacao.
<b>Atlanta (ATL)</b>	Currently <b>Delta</b> 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.
<b>Miami (MIA)</b>	<b>American's</b> 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.
<b>New York (EWR) &amp; Houston (IAH)</b>	<b>United.</b> Weekly flights with United Airlines from Newark, New Jersey, and from Houston, Texas on Saturday with return flight on Sunday.
See <i>The Reporter's</i> online update pages for TCB's chart of flights to Bonaire.	

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:peejeesee@gmail.com). See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.

**UW photography workshops at Buddy Dive Resort with Lorenzo Mittiga.** Jan. 7 – 14; Jan. 21 – 28. <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](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)



**Manta Monday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program. Presentations 7:30 p.m.: Jan. 9 Toucan Diving, Van der Valk Plaza Beach Resort; email: [Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org](mailto:Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org)



**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: [info@reefrenewalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenewalbonaire.org)



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

## Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. Jan. 4	CARNIVAL MAGIC	0800-1600	South	3646
	AMADEA	1200-2000	North	604
Thurs. Jan. 5	SIRENA	1200-2100	North	824
Fri. Jan. 6	EVIRIMA	1200-2200	North	298
Sat. Jan. 7	REGAL PRINCESS	0800-1800	South	4250
	ROTTERDAM	0800-2300	North	2668
Mon. Jan. 9	VOYAGER OF THE SEAS	0800-2100	South	3838
	ROTTERDAM	0800-2300	North	2668
Tues. Jan. 10	CELEBRITY EDGE	0700-1400	South	3200
	JEWEL OF THE SEAS	0800-2000	North	2501
Wed. Jan. 11	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0800-2200	South	4683
Thurs. Jan. 12	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0600-1300	South	5186
Sat. Jan. 14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	1200-2000	South	3660
Sun. Jan. 15	COSTA FASCINOSA	0800-2000	North	3800
Mon. Jan. 16	STAR LEGEND	0700-2200	North	214
Tues. Jan. 17	BRITANNIA	0700-1800	South	3674
Wed. Jan. 18	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-1600	South	2852
	CARNIVAL SPIRIT	0800-1600	North	2680
Thurs. Jan. 19	NORWEGIAN EPIC	0600-1300	South	5186
Sat. Jan. 21	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	0800-1900	South	3660
Mon. Jan. 23	VISION OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2435
Tues. Jan. 24	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-2000	North	2417
	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	0800-2300	South	3840
Wed. Jan. 25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683



# Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

## Getting back in shape

During the Christmas celebrations and the many end of the year gatherings, many people gain a little weight. As we age, that extra weight sticks to us and resists leaving. For this reason, the sooner we do something about it the better.

A painless way to lose weight is to restrict our eating hours to eight or 10 hours a day. This simple method does not result in a rapid and radical weight loss, but instead in a gradual weight regulation and other added benefits.

The basic change you need to introduce is timing. If you create a schedule where your main meals are taken within eight or 10 hours and you avoid eating for the remaining 16 or 14 hours. Keep in mind that about seven to nine of these hours are spent sleeping so you only need to delay breakfast a bit and dine earlier.

It was always believed that exercising on an empty stomach should not be done because the body would consume muscle for energy. There is some controversy about this belief because of a mechanism that precisely protects the muscles that are in action so the organism does not resort to this to generate energy. One of the benefits of exercising on an empty stomach is a spike in a growth hormone that keeps us slim, young and active. The recommended exercises to do on an empty stomach are not the long-lasting enduring type, but rather short and intense, such as High Intensity Interval training routines. Therefore, in some cases it would be convenient to delay breakfast until after having done a routine of this type. In other cases, the work schedule may be an impediment to delay breakfast. For example, those who work in the diving industry will benefit from a good breakfast before going out to dive as otherwise they will get cold more easily during the dives.

For the last intake of food, it is ideal eat at least three

hours before going to sleep. Keep this in mind to organize the schedule of your meals. It is also recommended that the first and second intake of the day are the most abundant and the last the lightest.

Taking care of the quality of what we eat is also important, but with this type of eating routine you don't have to make radical modifications if you already have a healthy diet. Such would be a diet with whole products, pure or as close as possible to their natural state. This means food with very little or no processing, a higher percentage of plant products than animal products, raw vegetables when easy to digest, fruits, healthy fats and oils, good quality animal protein, little or no refined sugar, little or no refined flour and little or no polyunsaturated vegetable oils.

At breakfast, whether it is eaten as soon as one wakes up or delayed, the best thing is a balance between proteins, fats and carbohydrates. Unless you do high-intensity exercises and want to prolong the growth hormone production time, in that case breakfast should be mostly protein, since carbohydrate intake stimulates insulin production and this one inhibits growth hormone production.

In addition to regulating weight, restricting eating times promotes autophagy, a mechanism by which the body destroys old and deteriorated cells, promoting the growth of healthy ones. The body needs a few hours of rest from continuous digestion to start its repair.

In general, most people can adopt this time restricted eating method but before you decide to start such a routine, check with your doctor in case you have any contraindication.



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

# Looking for space to practice tai chi



Ron Sewell writes:

After a break of many months, I am ready to start teaching Tai Chi again:

Does anybody know of a space, indoors or outdoors with some covering above, that I can use with 5 – 10 students at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. every day?

Preferably between Punt Vierkant and Hato neighbourhoods.

I do not charge for classes, so it would be preferable if any available space came without a cost.

Ron Sewell <ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com>

# Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

## Finish Strong!

### Reflection For Today

*Start fast. Pace yourself. Finish strong.*

### Tip For Today

Chichi felt miserable. Ever since Swinda told her that she found a new power walking partner, Chichi has been walking alone. And the Malecon Power Walks without her best friend were not the same. If only she had listened more and interrupted less when Swinda wanted to share something.

"I really miss my best friend! How can I make this right? We set our fitness goals together, we started our year together, and I want us to finish together!"

Here's what Chichi (and you too) can do to finish strong...

- 1. Recommit to your goals.** Sometimes we lose focus. In our busyness or when our energy is drained, it is easy to forget what we want to achieve, why we want to achieve it, and when we want to achieve it. Remember and recommit to the goals you've set for yourself this year, this month, this week, and today.
- 2. Accept your current situation.** Too often things do not go the way we've planned or want them to go. Assess and accept your current situation for what it is, not worse than it is.

- 3. Do your best.** Once you've recommitted to your goals and accepted your current situation, make optimal use of the time you have left to achieve your goals. Do your best...to the best of your ability!

Remember...

Life is like a roller coaster, with its ups and downs, twists and turns. Successful people acknowledge life's distractions and detours, yet they keep their eyes on their targets. They do their best, to the best of their ability...and finish strong!

Chichi mustered up the courage to reach out to her best friend and reconnect. She apologized for her behavior and committed to being a better listener.

Swinda also missed her best friend. She accepted Chichi's apology and confessed that she didn't really have a new power walking partner.

"I've missed you too, my dear. Let's recommit to our goals and to our friendship, and finish this year strong!"

### Affirmation For Today

Today I am focusing on my goals, one at a time. I am doing my best, to the best of my ability...to finish strong!

So...

Think, be equipped, feel empowered, and... **Live Inspired Today!**



*Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school,*

*at work and in life. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."*

# Finishing Strong

by Enobong Akpan

It doesn't matter how you start a race

What matters is the mettle to keep up with the pace

Through the travail your legs will burn out

But never let your heart be worn out

Every setback is just a bend

It doesn't necessarily mean the end

When your hopes keep on dying

Relaunch and keep on trying

The goal you want to attain

Needs an unflagging attitude for it to be sustained

Through the expedition you will encounter pains

Be rest assured it wasn't in vain

Success is for the persistent

Be goal oriented and

as much as possible be consistent

The finishing line is just a step away

For those who never went astray

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# POLICE REPORT

The Bonaire Reporter wants to thank the dedicated people at the Police Communications Department. They worked after hours and shorthanded to get the news to us during the holiday season.

### Property crime

**Dec. 26.** Around 11:42 p.m., the KPCN received a report of a burglary in a home on Kaya Grandi. The loot included an iPad, Bluetooth Speakers and various jewelry.

**Dec. 26.** Around 6:40 p.m., the KPCN received a report of a burglary in a tourist accommodation in Punt Vierkant. The loot consisted of a television and bed sheet.

**Dec. 24.** Around 1:30 p.m., the KPCN received a report of a break-in at a tourist accommodation on the E.E.G. Boulevard. The suspect took several pieces of jewelry. A woman, 26, has been arrested in connection with this case.

**Dec. 23.** Around 12:20 a.m., a 2007 silver Chevrolet Trailblazer was reported stolen from Boulevard Santa Barbara Abou.

**Dec. 6.** Around 1:30 p.m., the KPCN received a report of a stolen telephone. A video of the theft allowed police to identify and arrest a man, 53 on December 9.

**Dec. 6.** In the morning hours an attempted robbery took place in a “toko” on the Kaya Avelino (Abechi) Cecilia. A person entered the store with a covered face and a machete and tried to take money from the till. The attempt failed and the suspect ran away.

Arrests for	
violating BES firearms law	2
violating BES Opium Act	3
threat and vandalism	1
property crimes (see above)	2
driving under the influence	15

### Fatal traffic accidents (see page 4)

**Dec. 25.** Cyclist hit by hit & run car with fatal outcome

**Dec. 16.** Cyclist hit by car with fatal outcome

### Traffic accidents and violations

In the month of December, the KPCN handed out more than 43 fines for traffic violations and made 15 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI).

A majority of the DUI arrests involved collisions which resulted in damage to vehicles, property and people.

**Dec. 13.** A collision took place on the Kaminda di Rincon at around 7 p.m. A truck carrying an asphalt machine drove from Rincon towards Playa. A car traveling in the opposite direction lost control of its steering wheel and collided with the truck and ended up across the road. A third vehicle then crashed into the car parked across the road. Because of the collisions, several people were trapped in one of the cars. The Caribbean Netherlands Fire Brigade was able to remove the people from the car and the two drivers of the cars were both transported by

ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment.

**Dec. 3.** At around 5:40 p.m., a single vehicle took place on the E.E.G. Boulevard. For reasons unknown, the driver lost control of his vehicle and ended up in a ditch. An ambulance transported the driver to hospital for medical treatment.

### Public safety

**Dec. 12.** Around 4:45 p.m., the KPCN central control room received a report of a diver in trouble on Boulevard Julio A. Abraham. When the police arrived, a civilian was providing first aid to the victim. An officer soon took over until paramedics arrived on the scene. Despite many resuscitation attempts, the victim a 76-year-old man with initials H.V.D.P. died.

**Dec. 6.** At around 9:10 a.m. the central control room received a report from concerned neighbors who had not seen their neighbor for some time. Once on the scene, the officers knocked on the door but received no answer, but they had heard noises that indicated that someone might be in distress. Officers broke down the door and found the victim in critical condition inside the home. The ambulance on scene, assisted the person and transported him to hospital for medical treatment.

### The Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub Bonaire (MMHB)

**Dec. 17.** In the late afternoon hours, the Coast Guard detected a suspicious vessel sailing towards Curaçao that was probably carrying narcotics. The Maritime Operations Center (MOC) immediately launched the Dash aircraft to locate the craft and dispatched the Metal Shark-01 (MS-01) patrol boat to conduct the interception. In the meantime, the suspicious vessel had changed direction and was sailing towards the southern coast of Bonaire.

The Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub Bonaire (MMHB), a collaboration which includes KPCN, KMAR, OLB, KWCariib and Customs, then sent out the Customs patrol boat. The Customs boat had a Coast Guard patrol on board to assist in the interception. The patrol boat was used for the first time and was successful in this first attempt. After a chase in Bonaire’s territorial waters, the Coast Guard decided to aim fire at the vessel’s engines to disable it. The suspected vessel was then brought to the coast of Bonaire by the Metal Shark-01.

As soon as the vessel arrived at the coast, KPCN found 1280 kg of cocaine which was seized and immediately destroyed. Four men have been arrested in connection with this case.

# Pet of the Week



Pascal

If you are into big laughs and having a good time, Pascal is your perfect buddy. This little fellow of seven months old, is always looking for your attention. Sometimes he likes to play with you and sometimes he just wants to be in your arms begging for some cuddles.

Pascal will actually jump from the floor right in your arms!

He has been at the shelter for six months now and it’s time for him to go to his own special family.

Let’s start the new year right!  
Come and visit Pascal and find out that you are a purrfect match!

Of course, Pascal has been tested for FIV and leukemia, had his vaccinations and is chipped and neutered.

Story: Monique Degenaar  
photo: Yolanda

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](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

## Shelter News Looking back to 2022

Animal Shelter Bonaire wishes everyone a healthy and happy New Year 2023! Looking back on 2022, the Shelter had its share of ups and downs, but the “ups” more than made up for the “downs”.

Our gratitude to the many individual donors and foundations who contributed to the Shelter in 2022. Their support made it possible to make much needed improvements to accommodate our increasing numbers of residents and to alleviate the major flooding issues due to this year’s unprecedented rainfall. In the coming weeks, look for an update on what we were able to accomplish with the generous support. In addition, your support helped us to continue our mission of caring for Bonaire’s abandoned and unwanted animals.

**A NEW ALL TIME RECORD FOR STERILIZATIONS - 722 dogs and cats were spayed/neutered through the Shelter’s Free Sterilization Program in 2022.** The highest number since we began the program in 2004. Animals have come in from individual pet owners and from the FKK (Fundashon Kunuku Kakelvers). This number does not include all the pet guardians that responsibly sterilized their animals with their own means. It was a very good year and the Shelter aims to increase that number in 2023 to further stem the tide of the island’s animal overpopulation problem.

In 2022, 412 animals entered the Shelter (282 dogs/puppies and 130 cats/kittens), a 20% increase over last year in

the number of animals surrendered to or abandoned at the Shelter. While 163 lucky Shelter residents found their “fur-ever” homes, that number is a 11% decrease in adoptions compared to 2021. With the record number of sterilizations in 2022 and a new neighborhood sterilization campaign that will begin in 2023, the Shelter is hopeful that we will see a decrease in the number of surrenders/abandons in this new year and an increase in adoptions. If you are looking for a furry companion to bring joy to your new year, please come and choose one (or more) of our healthy, vaccinated, and sterilized furry friends. As of January 1, 2023, we have 165 dogs and 63 cats just waiting for the chance of a loving home.

Last, but certainly not least, Animal Shelter Bonaire is deeply grateful to all our super volunteers that carried us through 2022. The volunteers of our Pakus di Pruga, Cruise Market, Money Boxes, IT Support, Social Media, Shelter Animal Care, Board of Directors, Accounting Services and so many more are the lifeblood of the Shelter. We stand on the mighty shoulders of our Volunteer Army!

Again, Animal Shelter Bonaire wishes everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and gives thanks for your support in the past and future. We hope you make a New Year’s “resolution” to visit us and maybe lend a hand as a volunteer or supporter of one of our many programs.

Jane Disko



# Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat (Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses) from November 28 to December 3.

H.E. Samir Addahre, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Morocco to UNESCO, chaired this annual gathering attended by representatives of 129 States Parties, 111 non-governmental organizations, cultural institutions and other stakeholders from across the globe. Amongst these was a delegation comprised of the State party of the Netherlands and the leader of the UNESCO Workgroup of Bonaire, Liliane de Geus.

The delegation attended the sessions regarding the convention and the meetings of the accredited NGO's of UNESCO for the ICH Convention which ran parallel to the general sessions.

Files presented at the general session were: 24 reports on an element inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List (item 6.a); 42 reports on the implementation of the 2003 Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List by States Parties in Europe (item 6.b); Four nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List (item 7.a); 46 nominations to the Representative List (item 7.b); Five proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (item 7.c) and One request for International Assistance (item 7.d)

On Friday December 2, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Dutch Center for ICH hosted a side event with the theme: The Inventory as an inter-active safeguarding tool. The panel was moderated by Mark Schep, Researcher at the Dutch Centre for ICH who promoted an open discussion with the participants to share the experiences from around the world. The panelists were Liliane de Geus, Leader UNESCO Workgroup Bonaire



**Sitting (L-R):** Susanne Bergwerff-Verburg, Sophie Elpers, Mark Schep, Marco van Baalen-(Director Dutch Centre for ICH), & Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Morocco Jeroen Roodenburg. **Standing (L-R):** Staffmember at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Gábor Kozijn (Dutch Ministry Education, Culture & Science), Liliane de Geus, Carlien Schrijvershof (Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands), Staffmember at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Prof. Dr. Léon Buskens (Director NIMAR, Attaché for Education Affairs at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands).

and Susanne Bergwerff-Verburg, researcher at the Dutch Centre for ICH.

De Geus elaborated on participatory inventorying and the lessons learned on the island of Bonaire. In Bonaire the inventory was composed through community participation, focus groups and various oral history projects. The results of which are presented on a website which serves as an essential tool for education, research, and safeguarding.

Bergwerff-Verburg explained that part of the Dutch inventory system is training sessions on safeguarding plans and meeting days for knowledge exchange and networking amongst heritage bearers. In the 10 years this system exists, The Netherlands came across several lessons and challenges that she shared.

Coming from two very different situations and con-

texts these experts from the Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean Island Bonaire shared their experiences, challenges and lessons learned in working with ICH inventories. The session was introduced by Prof. Sophie Elpers, Researcher Ethnology at the Meertens Institute, Amsterdam and Professor ICH & Ethnology at the University Antwerp, Belgium.

Aside from attending the conference the delegation was invited by the Dutch Ambassador to the Dutch Embassy in Rabat where they paid a courtesy visit and discussed the relations Netherlands and Morocco, Netherlands and Bonaire in the areas of culture and research.

*Liliane de Geus,  
Leader UNESCO Workgroup Bonaire*



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