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Lac Cai Photo Julie Morgan

## Preserving Lac and Sorobon

A work update presentation by the Mangrove Maniacs on October 20 at Foodies explained the ecological progress made by the 'Maniacs,' Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), Reef Renewal and STINAPA's Bonaire Marine Park (BMP). The four conservation groups are combining their efforts to protect the threatened Lac Bay and Sorobon areas.

According to Jessica Johnson, director of Coastal Dynamics B.V., the habitats are interconnected. Therefore, endeavors by the individual groups will result in improved seagrass, coral, water quality and ultimately the condition of the mangroves.

Financially, the Maniacs are working on the BEST 2.0+ grant targeted for the mangroves whereas STINAPA is funded by RESEMBID and a separate commitment by OLB known as the "Lac Pa Semper" project.

Each organization explained their status to date and a few upcoming plans.

### Mangrove Maniacs

Marine biologist and head of the 'Maniacs,' Sabine Engel, explained the four pillars of mangrove restoration: 1 – Improve water circulation in the mangroves. 2 – Build and maintain nurseries. 3 – Plant mangroves. 4 – Education

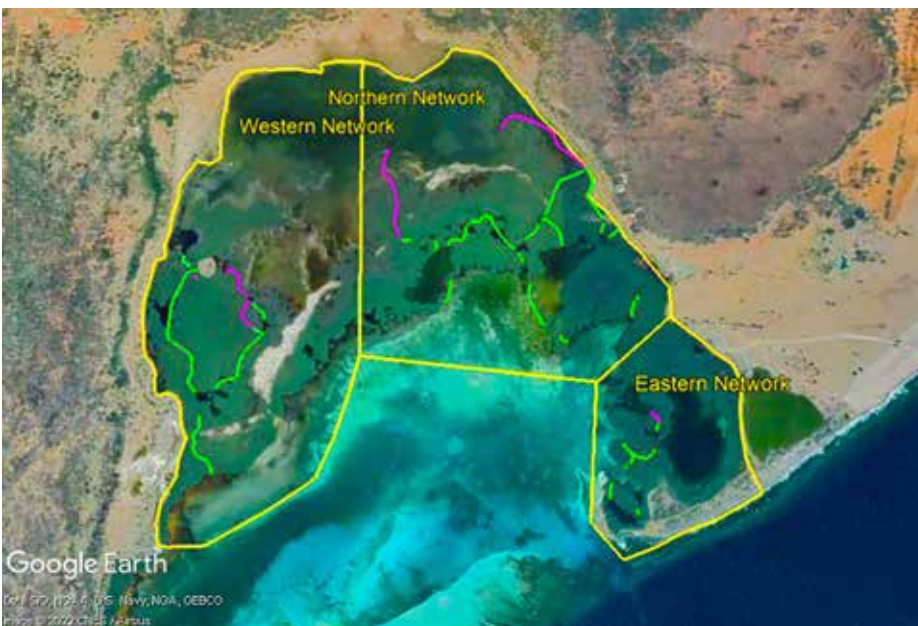
Outreach.

**1 – Improving water circulation** at Lac Bay keeps everything flowing. Currently 3.5 km of channels have been opened and must be kept clear to prevent over sedimentation from the back of the three designated areas (see map). A new channel is currently being cleared. After physically removing the mud, burlap and a material made of corn are placed to

help keep it open. The pond areas must be kept clear to allow movement of the water. Otherwise, the fish die in the stagnated water.

**2 – The nursery area of baby mangrove plants** are placed in biodegradable bags to give them space to grow and to give each plant what it needs to flourish.

**3- Coastal out planting** is creating a physical buffer between land and sea.



Yellow lines indicate the three designated areas the Maniacs are working. Green lines indicate cleared/open channels and pink lines are new channels to clear or where work has already begun.

The Maniacs are creating a green wall along the western southern coast which protects against storm surges and erosion. The first planting of 1250 plants was in 2021. This year the number was doubled to 2600 of both red and black mangroves. With patience overtime these plantings will create a buffer and create terra.

**4 – Education Outreach** – During covid restrictions, Maniac members more or less did their own thing going out on their own to continue the organization's mission. This year, in February, a World Biodiversity Fair was held at Lac Cai with Bonaire's individual conservation groups. The event was a success and will hopefully be repeated yearly. A kid's program is in place. Any groups who would like to take part in the Maniac's work is welcome.

The Maniacs receive interns from the Netherlands universities whose research benefit the Maniac's work. Each intern provides the data to the Maniacs and then publishes it at [www.dcbc.nl](http://www.dcbc.nl). Examples of the research are; Hydraulic circulation, sargassum, water level differences, flow velocities and sea grass research. Several of the intensive studies by the out-



### So this is what government transparency looks like

A recent article on the Dutch research platform **Follow the Money** alleged that Lieutenant Governor Rijna is involved in illegal coastal development by mainly Dutch entrepreneurs. Several levels of government on Bonaire and in the European Netherlands have reacted to the revelations by issuing press releases.

**An Island Council press release** announced that it had approved two motions at its October 13 meeting. The first motion declared the Island Council will investigate the issuing of permits and the enforcement of existing regulations by The Board (the Island Executive Council).

The second motion declared that the Island Council will investigate the integrity of Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna; and that Lieutenant Governor will be "sent on leave" for two weeks while that investigation is carried out.

**Lieutenant Governor Rijna issued a press release** acknowledging the Island Council intention to conduct an investigation and promising his cooperation. "I am confident," he said, "that the investigation will be conducted in a transparent and objective manner and I wish all experts all the wisdom and success in carrying out their work. . . . I think it is important to create clarity."

Rijna did point out, however, "that the appointment, suspension and removal of an Island Governor by law is not the responsibility of the Island Council, but of the King." Therefore he intends to continue functioning as the Lieutenant Governor until the investigation is ready to begin. Then he will voluntarily go on vacation for the projected two weeks while the investigation is conducted.

**In their press release, the Coalition parties** said they had no intention of suspending the Lieutenant Governor, nor did they have the authority to. They see the current crisis as an opportunity "to raise the process above the level of party politics" and create a realistic mechanism for dealing with breaches of government integrity, whether in fact or only in appearance, whether significant or only incidental. They said that in 2019 the Island Council of Bonaire approved an Integrity Agreement. But the members had agreed only to govern with integrity. There were no provisions for enforcement.

**Interim Lieutenant Governor Reynold (Nolly) Oleana** announced he will not lead the Rijna investigation, as the Island Council apparently assumed when they voted to authorize it. He said he was personally offended by that assumption. More important, he said, the mandated investigation is "an almost impossible task. . . . For example, it is not specified what exact research should be done, or what period it concerns." He also challenged how the Council vote was conducted.

**Willem Cecilia, former registrar of the Island Council**, announced that an Island Council Survey is not the appropriate

vehicle for investigating the administrative integrity of issuing permits and enforcing existing regulations. "Too heavy an instrument," he feels. He points out that such an investigation could be carried out pursuant to Article 160 of the Public Entities Act Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Meanwhile The Hague has been issuing press releases too.

**Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT)** announced that this year it will carry out a baseline measurement of all licensing, supervision and enforcement tasks within the Caribbean Netherlands. The ILT said the study was commissioned by the State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management at the request of the public body Bonaire "so that licensing, supervision and enforcement tasks in the Caribbean Netherlands can be carried out in an unambiguous and efficient manner."

**A Council of Law Enforcement release** claimed that, because of a faulty file transfer at the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of Justice and Security, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and the Public Prosecution Service BES have failed to create an action plan in the fight against corruption in the Caribbean Netherlands. "Before the end of this year, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will start an 'exploration' into the extent to which a whistle blower scheme is 'desirable and possible' in the Caribbean Netherlands."

**Secretary of State Alexandra van Huffelen** announced that she "does not interfere in the outcome of the motions of the Bonaire Island Council regarding the actions of Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna. It is up to the local government to follow up on this." She promised, however, to inform the House of Representatives about the results of the investigation and the follow-up process.

Van Huffelen said the motion of the Democratic Party PDB to establish a Council Commission of Inquiry will take considerably more than two weeks because of the necessary legal regulation will first have to be drafted and approved. Then the Council Committee would have to investigate the administrative integrity with regard to enforcement of existing regulations.

Van Huffelen does believe the process is on track for improving supervision and enforcement by strengthening the civil service. That is, the Board of Bonaire has asked the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to have the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate perform a visitation in the field of licensing, supervision and enforcement. That investigation will start soon. Presumably not within two weeks though.

DMR

#### Third corona repeat vaccinations available

The vaccination program for the third covid booster shot for citizens aged 12 and older is underway. People over 70, those with a specialist or GP referral, and all health workers have already been scheduled for vaccination.

Here's the coronavirus vaccination schedule for people aged 60 and older with chronic issues such as heart problems or diabetes, and for people with obesity or high blood pressure.

**Chinese Club**, Monday, October 24th and

Tuesday, October 25th, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

**Rucardi Lounge, Rincon**

Thursday, October 27th, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

**SGB, Kaya Frater Odulfinus**,

Saturday, October 29th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit [www.bonairegov.com](http://www.bonairegov.com) for more information about the repeat injection days or call 0800 0800.

#### Time for autumn flu shots

People from risk groups can contact their GP to make an appointment for the annual free flu shot. The risk groups are people over 60, people with a medical condition (such as diabetes, a heart, lung or kidney disease) or a reduced immune system. People in these groups run more health risks if they get the flu. Those between 60 and 80 years are also eligible for pneumococcal vaccination, which they can get at the same time as their flu shot.

#### Schiphol problems for KLM cancellations

Because of major shortages of ground service personnel at Schiphol, KLM has had to cancel one of its two daily flights to Curaçao from December 5 to December 18. The scheduled service between Amsterdam and Bonaire/Aruba will continue to fly, however.

The second daily flight between Amsterdam and Curaçao will be resumed during December 19 through January 8, then be suspended again until the end of March. (*Bonaire.nu*)

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#### The tourists are back

The number of tourists who landed at Flamingo Airport during the first half of 2022, over 85,000, was 10% more for the same period of 2019, the pre-covid baseline year. It was also more than three times the number who arrived during the first half of 2021.

In 2019 European Dutch citizens accounted for 35% of the tourists who arrived on Bonaire. That figure jumped to 55% during the first half of this year. American arrivals, at 22%, equaled their pre-covid levels.

DMR

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**Our Facebook page and The Reporter's Online Updates** bring you news that arrives between issues

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# Casa del Habano

***If heaven has no cigars, I shall not go there.* — Mark Twain**

Casa del Habano has been pleasing fine cigar lovers since 1990 with their first cigar bar in Cancun, Mexico. The franchise has spread all over the world from Shanghai to Amsterdam with 164 locations worldwide and now, the luxury cigar bar is right here in Bonaire.

Owner Steven van Buuren, originally from Curaçao, said, “Casa del Habano’ literally means House of Cigar. It’s a place to come together to enjoy a relaxed environment where you can have a nice cigar and a drink – more of a lounging area.”



Casa del Habano manager Eduardo Ulloa enjoys a drink and a cigar at the bar.

Casa del Habano is elegantly decorated with stuffed leather chairs and sofas against rich wood walls and flooring accented by warm lighting. The lounge invites guests to sit back, relax and enjoy a fine cigar with a glass of their favorite top shelf liquor. Three flat screen televisions are positioned around the bar for viewing special sports events. Overlooking the lounge is a large multi-media painting by the artist Bagira of a woman who van Buuren says takes care of the place.

A walk-in climate and humidity-controlled humidor holds 27 brands kept at the perfect temperature. Cigar lovers will find their favorites from Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and of course, Cuba. Habano features six different Cubans including Cohiba, the champagne of cigars. Habano has a line of cigars from Cuba made exclusively for them.

“Every brand has different sizes and tobacco combination and different strengths. Medium, strong and mild,” said van Buuren.

Patrons can become a ‘Habano’ member paying a monthly fee for a locker secured in the humidor to hold their cigars or fine liquors. Cigar accessories are available including pouches, holders, lighters, cutters and personal sized humidors.

Van Buuren explained that there is a certain etiquette to cigars.

“One of the main things I love is opening the box and the smell that comes out; it is mind blowing. You don’t stomp it out; you lay a cigar to rest. A cigar has two faces, the box and the inner part of the box, the cigars must line up. Five hundred people touched that cigar. It is craftsmanship. It is my passion,” said van Buuren.



Casa del Habano employees must go through a type of ‘cigar school’ passing two different courses, junior and senior. They are certified as cigar specialists to maintain the cigars and provide information for the guests.

In addition to the well-informed staff, general manager Eduardo Ulloa from the Dominican Republic will be available every day. Ulloa, has worked in the world of cigars since 2015 as brand manager for Habanos S.A., the company that makes the Cuban cigars.

A cigar smoker since 2010, Ulloa is excited about bringing a totally different experience about the cigar world to Bonaire.

Van Buuren said, “Casa del Habano is a place where anyone can enjoy a cigar and a drink and be at peace and puff in peace”

Casa del Habano is located at Kaya Grandi 31 and is open Mon. – Wed. from 12 to 10 p.m. and Thurs. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The lounge is usually closed on Sunday but will be open for the World Cup and Formula One. Outside seating is available.

*Photos/story Julie Morgan*

## FOR SALE Income Property (4 Units) Kaya Shauwnee / Kaya Anasazi



- Location: North Salinja
- Lot size : 366 m2 / 3940 sq.ft
- Total living area : 145 m2 / 1560 sq.ft



- 4 x one bedroom / one bathroom apartment
- 5 minute drive to downtown Kralendijk

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$230,000 US Dollar



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# Letters & Opinions

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

## The Little Red Mail Collection Box

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The best-kept 'secret' on Bonaire is the little red box attached to the front of Van den Tweel grocery that outgoing cards and letters can be deposited in for pickup. It has a lid, that when lifted, there is a slot just big enough to slide postcards and A6 size envelopes into. They are collected by FXDC and taken to the main Post Office in downtown Kralendijk.

Better yet, Van den Tweels sells the \$1.50 postage stamps at the front counter of the store along with postcards. I am always surprised how many times people tell me they are not aware of this. A well-thought-out arrangement. Everyone visits a grocery store.

I'd like to thank both Van den Tweel and FXDC for providing this convenience. I have mailed literally hundreds of handwritten cards in this manner since moving here. I am a volunteer for SOLDIERS' ANGELS in the United States supporting deployed US military and their families, and Veterans and their families.

I am wondering if these little red mailboxes are attached to other buildings on the island in neighborhoods and people have not learned what their usefulness is. They would be useful at the Flamingo International Airport and other locations. Have you noticed a box elsewhere. If so, please share the information.

Mushi Danki,  
Earline Wasser, Kralendijk

# DCNA works for conservation in CN

The Caribbean Shark Coalition (CSC) met for their first in-person summit in St. Maarten from September 12-16, 2022. The workshop brought together stakeholders from 14 different countries to provide in-field training and support for shark and ray science and conservation in the Greater Caribbean region. Photo credit: Drew McDougall, Beneath the Waves- all rights reserved



Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) has been actively promoting a nature focused agenda both within the Netherlands and internationally.

1. The implementation act for the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary was finally approved in the Dutch Council of Ministers on July 8, 2022. This was an important next step in protecting sharks, whales and dolphins in the waters of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.

2. In June, DCNA partner organization Blue Marine Foundation invited DCNA to London to meet Lord

Zach Goldsmith (Minister for the Pacific and the Environment) to discuss the UK's Blue Belt Programme, a support program for the UK's Overseas Territories to assist in fisheries monitoring and control.

3. In May, DCNA presented its Climate Action Plan for the Dutch Caribbean to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom relations (BZK) and to the Ministry for Climate with a plea for the Dutch Government to actively work with stakeholders on climate proofing the Dutch Caribbean.

## Lac and Sorobon from page 1

side groups required expensive research equipment that would have been out of reach for the group. Through the intern's work, the Maniacs gained knowledge as to what strategies could be the most beneficial for the mangroves. (For example – the best width of a channel).

Out planting studies revealed that carbon removed from the atmosphere increases biodiversity and mitigates effects of climate change and storm surges.

"We hope climate change doesn't take over. Hurricanes can really destroy the mangrove forest," said Engel.

### STCB

Field coordinator, Daan Zeegers, for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), reported the results of net capturing Bonaire's turtles for six weeks from June to December inside 24 random points of the Lac area. Using a 200 meter (656 ft) long by 5 meter (16 ft) deep net, STCB has surveyed 200-250 turtles with a 15% recapture rate. The survey gives them an overall estimate of population, their growth, movement and health. In the Lac area the growth rate in turtles is twice as much as in other parts of the island. STCB's population estimate of 355 turtles is based on counts inside the bay as there is no outside monitoring yet. The turtles feed in the bay then go out to the ocean side and come back again.

According to Zeegers, the biggest threat to the turtles is invasive sea grass. Additionally, the infectious Fibropapillomatosis disease, affecting turtles worldwide, has been found in a small percentage of Bonaire's green turtles. Other health concerns are fishery related scars.

### STINAPA BONAIRE MARINE PARK

Judith Raming, manager of Bonaire Marine Park (BMP), explained that the organization oversees all the water around Bonaire and Klein, as well as the conventional wetlands and the Ramsar area. With the RESEMBID funding, BMP is working to restore coastal marine habitats including the 50m2 of sea grass beds and BMP is moving their efforts forward in the Lac Bay area.

Reef Renewal will be supplementing the existing coral beds in Lac using small elkhorn coral trees to act as a barrier

against erosion. Currently Lac is eroding and Sorobon is getting more shallow.

Sustainable recreational rezoning is expected in January with the renewal of the current stakeholders in the area. But first a shallow water environmental study based on existing conditions must be completed so that a buffer zone can be built in the area. The hydrodynamic study is in the works. In the study, computer models will show how water moves in Lac.

Commercially the Lac area is successful and very popular with locals and tour-

ists. A special part of BMP's project is educating the commercial stakeholders.

Raming's plan to increase the number of BMP rangers will see the numbers increase from the original five to 11 on November 1. The rangers will be educated about the dynamics of the area, flora and fauna, the stakeholders, what the job is regarding rules and regulations and what they can or can't do. Watch towers will be constructed at Sorobon and Lac Cai with information areas. Two rangers will be stationed to monitor the areas and make spot checks to ensure people have purchased the nature fee tags. Water quality will be tested every week to establish a baseline and identify sources of pollution.

Regarding the Sargassum problem of the last five years, more booms have been ordered to block the incoming seaweed and the government has ordered new heavy machinery to move the stuff. The piled up Sargassum has to be removed in three days because it decays, stinks and gets heavy. The weight of the seaweed will be measured and monitored. Sargassum will not only be in Lac but also the Lagun area. This past year volunteers and rangers raked and shoveled for 51 days, a record from only 21 days in 2021.

Johnson is the project coordinator for the RESEMBID project (<https://resembid.org/>) and the BEST 2.0+ grant.

"The BEST money runs until February 2023 and RESEMBID money runs until July 2023. Since there was nearly complete overlap of these projects they have been kept separate but there is the intention to merge these two projects in the future. Until then, both the BEST and RESEMBID project are kept in close communication," said Johnson.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Sabine Engel, Mangrove Maniacs; Danne Zeegers STCB; Judith Raming, STINAPA; Jessica Johnson, Coastal Dynamics B.V. and project coordinator for BEST 2.0+ and RESIMBID ; Josien Hendricksen, Intern



# POLICE REPORT

## Property crime

**Oct. 16.** At about 1:50 a.m., thieves took a white Mitsubishi pick-up with the CICC logo from a construction site on Kaya Industria. In addition, a battery of a forklift and a battery of a compressor were stolen.

**Oct. 13.** Thieves broke into the house on Kaminda Lagun between 2.30 - 10 p.m. and took, among other things, a gold chain and two garden scissors.

**Oct. 11.** A tourist accommodation in Sabadeco was broken into. Thieves took, among other things, a Bose speaker, a black Samsung telephone and a glasses case containing prescription glasses.

**Oct. 11.** Between 11:45 p.m. on Monday and 6:45 a.m. on Tuesday, thieves took a white Sym Xpro scooter, with registration number MF-162 that was parked with a chain lock in front of a house on Kaya Oktaaf.

**Oct. 10.** Between 5 and 9:40 p.m. thieves broke into a house on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago and took, among other things, a Lenovo laptop, a JBL speaker, a blue Decathlon backpack and a passport.

## Arrests

**Oct. 19.** During the night hours a man, 39, was arrested on Kaya Sonmontuno for drunk-driving. The suspect was stopped after his vehicle was seen swinging on the road. The suspect did not cooperate when asked to take a breathalyzer. He was taken to the police station where he was subjected to a breath analysis. As a result, the suspect was banned from driving for 11 hours and his driver's license was revoked.

**Oct. 14.** In the night hours, a fierce fight took place in Kaya Grandi. The next day, the two men aged 33 and 19 were arrested for public assault, aggravated assault and attempted manslaughter.

*KPCN and Public Prosecution Service (OM) ask for help from the population following the fight last Thursday and Friday nights. If you have visual material other than the images that have already appeared on social media, you are asked to share this footage via the police email Politie@politiecn.com. All images sent will be treated in such a way that your anonymity is guaranteed. Did you also see or hear anything that could help the investigation further? You can report on 715 8000 or anonymously on 9310.*

**Oct. 14.** Two men aged 18 and 22 were arrested during the night hours at Kaya Boebi for violation of the Opium Act BES. The suspects were put in their vehicle for a check. A search of their car found drugs and items used to prepare drugs for sale.

**Oct. 11.** In the early morning hours two house searches took place, one in Tanki Matrimonio and one in Rincon. During the searches, two men, aged 30 and 42, were arrested in connection with threats and violations of the Opium Act BES. The 42-year-old man was also arrested in connection with threats and violations of the BES Weapons Act. A quantity of drugs and an air pistol were also seized.

**Oct. 7.** Two men, aged 24 and 20, were

arrested for stealing goats near Lagun. They were caught in the act on Oct. 3 but managed to flee the location.

## Traffic accidents/violations

**Oct. 18.** Around 8:15 p.m. a car rolled in the vicinity of Jato Bako. The driver of a car did not stop for a check by an on-duty patrol, tried to drive away and rolled over. The driver and passenger were both taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Oct. 16.** Around 7 p.m., a collision occurred between a quad bike and a bus on the Kaya Internashonal. The driver of the quad was taken to hospital by ambulance. The road was closed and traffic was temporarily diverted due to the accident.

**Oct. 12.** At about 7:00 a.m. at the roundabout near the church in Playa, a golf cart driver lost control and hit a lamppost. He stated that he lost control of the vehicle because the road was wet. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Oct. 11.** At about 9 p.m. on Kaya L.D. Gerharts a pedestrian crossing the road was hit by a car. The pedestrian was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

**Oct. 8.** On Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot around 2:15 a.m. a patrol saw a scooter driving without lights and in a prohibited direction. When a patrol ordered the driver to stop, the scooter drove at high speed towards Hato. While patrolling Hato, officers found the scooter lying in the middle of the road and two boys running away. They were caught after a short foot chase. The ambulance was called to take them to the hospital because they were covered in blood. The police called in the parents of the under-age boys, aged 17 and 8.

## Public order

**The KPCN bike team** has patrolled the Center area and several beaches when a cruise ship is docked in port. They have maintained order during events in the center of Kralendijk and the past Regatta festivities. One of the biggest advantages of a bike team is that they are very mobile; they can turn around quickly and can easily navigate between crowds, narrow alleys and streets. They are also highly visible and easy to approach.

**Several poorly parked scooters** were parked for days near an entertainment venue, in a location where parking is not allowed creating a nuisance and a danger for other road users. KPCN would like to point out that scooters that are poorly parked are taken to the police station. The owner will also receive an official report and fine. He can collect the scooter with the proof of payment.

## Regular checks of the following traffic rules will be held in the coming period.

- It is prohibited by law to transport passengers in the back of pick-ups. Although for years, it has been common practice to carry passengers in the back of pickup trucks it is also an unsafe and dangerous activity in the event of an accident. The KPCN will be closely monitoring this violation.

# Ask Bob

## Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob –

*I have decided to buy a property on Bonaire, what other costs will I have when I buy on Bonaire?*

When a property is bought or sold on Bonaire the seller normally pays the real estate fee and their prorated share of other fees like property taxes, leased land fee, and HoA/VvE dues. The buyer normally pays those costs related to transferring the ownership, also called the closing costs or “kost de koper” in Dutch. The total amount of the closing costs is usually about 7% of the purchase price of the property.

Those closing costs usually consist of the following fees:

- Government transfer tax:** This tax is always charged on the purchase price of the property excluding the value of the furniture sold (if any). This tax is collected by the Notaris and paid to the tax office. The transfer tax is calculated on either the purchase price of the real estate or the tax value of the real estate, whichever is greater. The purchase price is usually greater than the tax value.

- If you are buying an existing home, the tax rate that is charged is 5% of the purchase price of the real estate.

- If you are buying a NEW home, the tax rate that is charged is 8% of the purchase price of the real estate. The transfer tax is higher on new homes because there was no import duty charged on the materials used to construct the house.

- Notaris fee/legal fee:** This is the fee charged to the buyer by the Notaris to process the transaction and transfer the property to the buyer with clear title. The Notaris is responsible for checking the title of the property BEFORE the sale, and removing any existing mortgages or liens from the seller before the title is transferred to the buyer. Then the property is delivered to the new buyer with clear title, and free of any previously existing mortgages or liens. The fees charged by the Notaris and fixed by law and not negotiable. Those fees are calcu-

- A self-propelled ‘implement’ is a large, heavy vehicle that moves on its own, such as a Backhaul, Forklift, Loader, etc. A new law requires the driver to have a special driver's license to drive these types of vehicles. These large vehicles must also meet the same requirements as an ordinary motor vehicle. So the driver must also have a valid driver's license, valid insurance and the vehicle must have a license plate.

lated on a sliding scale that is partially based on the selling price of the property, so the Notaris fee is higher depending on the selling price of the property. The Notaris fee It is usually about 1% or less of the purchase price of the property.

- Kedaster fee:** This is the fee charged to the buyer by the Kedaster (Deed Registration office) to check the title of the property before the sale, and to also register the new deed in the buyer's name after the sale. This is usually about 0.5% of the price.

- Bank Costs:** This fee is charged by the Notaris to cover their bank costs when they receive money from the buyers, and when they transfer the proceeds from the sale to the seller

- Prorated costs:** These are the normal ownership costs that you incur each year from owning the property. As of the sale date, these costs are prorated between the buyer and the seller. The following costs are prorated between the buyers and sellers if they were paid in advance by the seller:

- Property taxes – If the property taxes haven't been billed yet they are normally settled at the Notaris.

- Leased land fees

- Home Owners Association/VvE fees

- Mortgage Deed:** If you are getting a mortgage from a bank the bank will normally require the Notaris to draft a mortgage deed giving the bank a right to take back your property if you do not make the mortgage payments. The Notaris charges the buyer a fee for creating and registering this deed. The cost for a mortgage deed varies depending on the size of the mortgage and it also includes the Kedaster costs for registering the mortgage deed. If you estimate this fee at about 1% of the mortgage amount for your budget, you will be close.

Keep in mind that all of the figures given above are only estimates. When you buy or sell a property both the buyer and the seller will receive a settlement statement from the Notaris showing all of the costs related to the deed transfer so both parties know all of the costs involved.

I hope you have many happy years in your new home

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**

## CN control room is upgraded

Bonaire's police station hosts the control room for the Caribbean Netherlands. On October 24 corps leader Monique Commelin officially opened the upgraded control room which now, with its new design and even more modern equipment, meets the standards of common control rooms in the Netherlands.



# Cleanup yields big results

Bonaire's first organized underwater cleanup was held back in June 1997 for 'International Year of the Reef'. Several large dumpsters teemed with refuse collected by the divers. Since then, the cleanups have been held more frequently, so not quite as much, but the composition of the trash has evolved from a lot of glass, which is still very prevalent, to all forms of plastic.

Dive Friends final quarterly cleanup for 2023 and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) fishing line cleanup held October 22 proved this to be true.

There were far fewer plastic bags and bottles than in previous cleanups and no straws or plastic food containers were found. We can thank Bonaire's ban on single use plastics for this decrease.

The cleanup attracted 95 divers heading underwater armed with shears for cutting fishing line and bags for collection. A whopping 675 kg (1488.12 lbs) was collected in the 100m2 area of Bonaire's North pier. Dive Friends won't have another cleanup until January 2023 but we hope STCB will continue with a monthly event for fishing line. Considering the number of cruise ships expected at the pier, we all shudder to think how much trash and fishing line will accumulate.

The dive brought out a lot of local divers and many had specific intentions. But not everyone was scuba diving. The free diving guys from Blue Classroom, Carlos Coste, Hugo Lampe, Brendan Best and Mathijs Hage were focused on bringing up tires. It was amazing to see as the guys brought up seven tires from approximately 8 meters (22 ft) or more on a single breath of air. They plan to return to pick up even more. On a previous cleanup, Dee Scarr discovered a huge mound of broken glass obviously dumped from a cruise ship. Dee, Susan Porter and Sally Simons made it their mission to remove the mess. A total of 40 kilos (87 lb) of glass bottles, china and other glass shards were bagged and there is still more to remove which they hope to do as soon as permission is granted.

Others concentrated on fishing line of



Blue Classroom freedivers collected seven tires during the cleanup at the North pier.

which 300 pieces of all sizes were collected. Trying to collect all the line accumulated around the North pier is virtually endless but necessary as marine life can become entrapped, strangled and die.

Much of the trash was plastic based including a few grocery bags, beverage bottles, bleach bottles, buckets, food containers, cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons, PVC pipe, tarps, toothbrushes, pieces of plastic, strapping bands and plastic rope.

There were 42 metal or aluminum beverage cans, 50 food tins, car parts, cutlery and more. A shocking 359 glass bottles and several glass jars and ceramic items were collected. Rubber items included tires, inner tubes, rubber sheets and pieces of rubber. Clothing, towels, bags, gloves, signs, flip flops, sandals and tennis shoes were also collected. The most unusual items were a handicap sign, an old dinghy and a diver's mask from perhaps 30 years ago.

To complete the day, Dive Friends held a pot luck BBQ at Hamlet Dive Friends raffling some great prizes: two Scubapro masks; Scubapro rashguard; two pair of Reef sandals; half day underwater photography course with Pieter; two yoga days with Gwen and an introduction to freediving with Hugo

Congratulations and thank you to everyone that participated in the cleanup. For more photos of the cleanup visit *The Reporter* Facebook page.

Photo/story Julie Morgan

# Daily Fresh Opens

Daily Fresh will open its 'showcase' greenhouse on LVV Open Day, Sunday, October 30. Owners Bob and Lauri Janssen were the first to lease a 3000 sq meter lot on LVV property to further expand their backyard sustainable veggie aquaponics greenhouse. And now, after over two years, their dream is realized.

Please visit page 11 in the Reporter to see the grand opening events that are planned.



Daily Fresh owners Bob and Lauri Janssen

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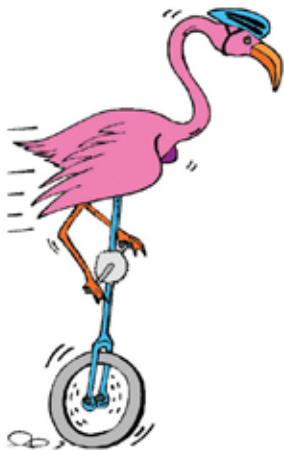


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# Time to plan for Slavery Memorial Year

The Dutch abolished slavery in its Netherlands Caribbean possessions on July 1, 1863. But slavery didn't actually end in the islands until ten years later, on July 1, 1873. A sizable proportion of those who had been enslaved had to continue working on the plantations under state supervision for another decade in order to mitigate the 'harmful effects of this measure' on plantation holders. That is why July 2023 - July 2024 has been declared Slavery Memorial Year.

The historic involvement of the Dutch in slavery is a very painful, significant, and - until recently - underexposed part of our shared history. During the Memorial Year, the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be reflecting on this embarrassing history as well as on how it still adversely impacts the lives of people today. The Government is supporting initiatives set up by or in partnership with the various groups and communities affected by our historical role in the slave trade. The Slave Trade Remembrance Year will thus be a year for the people and by the people.

Initiators such as museums, theaters and archives, as well as private initiators such as artists, creatives or organizers, can apply for funding to organize an activity during the Slavery Memorial Year. The Cabinet will make two million euros available, through the Mondrian Fund and the Cultural Participation Fund, to support events that help bring into sharper focus the history of slavery in the Caribbean. *DMR*

## Make sure your holiday gifts arrive in time.

**eZone is holding its second annual information course for clients, Saturday, October 29. English: 2 - 3:30 p.m. Papiamentu: 3:30 - 5 p.m. The whole eZone process will be explained**

**eZone now has three weekly shipments coming in from the U.S. (American Airlines, FedEx and Amerijet Don Andres).**



A cargo terminal equipped to load and unload containers will be built on the WEB site in Hato. The \$30 - \$40 million cost will be funded partly by the State and partly by the Public Entity. Work is expected to start "around" 2024, according to Commissioner Hennyson Thielman of Economy and Tourism.

Thielman acknowledged that many people are unhappy with the decision. But Bonaire, being dependent on imports and having grown rapidly, urgently needs to create its own modern facilities for handling containers. Having to transship everything imported into Bonaire via Curaçao is a financial burden to the island. The present seaside container facilities can longer handle the traffic. And the logistics of loading and unloading are overwhelmed. Containers are even being parked on public roads.

The abandoned facilities at BOPEC, the alternative site favored by many people, is not practicable. It is too exposed to wave action, so a deep breakwater would have

to be built. And the costs of making it serviceable would be excessive, as would the long term costs of transporting containers to Playa.

As Thielman points out, the Hato site has long been used for business purposes. "There is already a pier there and a boat moors there several times a week to bring fuel." The Curoil Depot will be moved in the future, so more space will be available for the container port.

Several steps will be taken to minimize the impact of the container port on the Hato neighborhood. The roads from the terminal will cross directly from the harbor to the Kaya Amsterdam, so containers will not be transported via Kaya Gobernador Debrot and past the hotels. A building, which will include the port office, will be constructed along the road in order to screen containers from public view.

Thielman says the port will belong to the Public Entity. If a separate port company is created, the government of Bonaire will own it. *DMR*



(L-R) Paul Coolen- General Manager at Buddy Dive Resort; Celine van Meer- General Manager at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort; Junny Janga – General Manager at Budget Rent a car; Claire Sealy – General Manager at Captain Don's Habitat; Luite Berkenbosch – CEO of The Bellafonte hotel; Veroesjka de Windt – CEO of BONHATA; Charles Vos – General Manager at Grand Windsock Bonaire; Michiel van Heusden – Owner of Epic Tours Bonaire; Casper Naber – Managing Director at Van der Valk Plaza

## BONHATA ELECTS NEW BOARD

Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) said goodbye to Bas Noij after his four years as chairman during the annual general members meeting that was held on September 27 at Delfins Beach.

Bas Noij handed over the baton to Luite Berkenbosch. Berkenbosch spoke about the mission of BONHATA, the future vision for tourism on Bonaire with

sustainable growth and how we can best work together as a sector in the future. Recently, a number of large accommodations have (again) become members of BONHATA. Under the motto: together we are strong, Berkenbosch called on the last accommodations to join as members.

Special guest Erik Wolf (founder of World Food Travel Association) gave an inspiring speech about cu-

linary tourism. CEO Veroesjka de Windt concluded the evening with a summary of BONHATA's achievements over the past year in the field of advocacy, and the collaborative projects with Tourism Corporation Bonaire, the Public Entity Bonaire and other strategic partners. She also announced upcoming events where BONHATA, together with TCB, will represent the accommodations and activity providers.



# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## The Magnificent Seven: Secrets of Marine *Homo sapiens*

In the years I've been diving, I've watched hundreds of other divers. Some were exploring, some loved to critter-watch; some were sport divers, some were professionals; but each of these groups contained divers who were obviously tourists (in the worst sense of the word), the Uncle Vernons who finned along the reef as if they were watching a movie, never making any connection other than the visual. It would be the Uncle Vernons who, after the dive, would recite an inventory, "I saw a scorpionfish, and a spotted moray, and two French angelfish, and ..." Uncle Vernon's diving was generally a lot deeper than his thinking.

At the other end of the spectrum from the Uncle Vernons were the divers who fit into the reef environment. Let's call them Marine *Homo sapiens*, or MHS. After a dive, the MHSs talk about things like, "Wasn't it cool to watch the wrasses spawn?" or "I love watching goatfish change color when they're at a cleaner station." MHSs get the most out of every dive – but, unfortunately, instruction on how to become an MHS is not exactly readily available.

To help fill this information void, I have put together the following Seven Secrets of MHSs for your enlightenment:

1. They know buoyancy control, the most important diving skill. Healthy fish don't flail around. Divers using their hands for finning (usually in order to maintain position), for example, send out annoying pressure waves to other fishes nearby, and appear like an injured fish to predators. Get your weighting right and, if necessary, shift the weights up or down until you can hover horizontally. Remember that the tank gains buoyancy as the air is used. If you don't want to do things by yourself, work with your buddy or take a buoyancy course.

2. MHSs understand that the most significant creatures on the reef are the stony corals, such as brain coral and star coral, because they are the primary builders of reefs. Unfortunately, they grow more slowly than everything else on the reef: Tootsie, the coral head I'm watching off

Captain Don's Habitat, began sometime after 1998 and is maybe 18" in diameter now, which is not quite one inch of diameter growth each year; coral colonies living under less ideal conditions grow even more slowly.

Also, regardless of whether the polyps (individual coral animals) are extended or withdrawn, contact with a coral colony cuts the polyps against their own sharp skeleton. A dead section of the colony is then available for encrusting growth, which may eventually expand onto the living coral and kill even more polyps. Every MHS can distinguish living coral from coral rock, the skeleton of dead coral.

Corals die easily from disease and damage. However, and this happens all year round, not just on Halloween, corals don't die of old age. Many colonies are hundreds of years old.

So, of course, MHSs understand why it's critical to protect coral.

3. MHSs know when to use the one-finger solution. They understand the importance of and have the skills to avoid contact with the undersea environment, but, unfortunately, that's not true of every diver. What do MHSs do when they see an out-of-control diver about to pin them against the reef?

They use the one-finger solution. (No, not raising a finger at the crashing diver.) Instead, they survey their probable impact site, place a finger (or two) on the least vulnerable area, and use that to hold themselves and the out of control diver away from the reef while the out of control regains control.

The least vulnerable places around, and thus the best places for the one-finger solution would be, first, a patch of sand; next best would be rock (if you're positive it's not living coral). Sponges are sturdy but probably not sturdy enough to hold off two divers, except maybe a touch-me-not sponge.

Areas to avoid for the one-finger solution include, most importantly, living coral.



Uncle Vernon might notice the sand diver, but do you think he'd notice it's at a cleaner station? Photo Dee Scarr

Also avoid the touch me not sponge, so named because bits of its skeleton get under and irritate our skin like fiberglass. Other areas not to place a finger are pretty obvious: onto a stingray, for example, or a sea urchin. The one-finger solution is not something to practice, but thinking about it makes sense.

4. MHSs consider the comfort of the reef creatures. The U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibits doing anything to cause a marine mam-

mal to change its behavior (in essence). The MMPA is also a great guideline for treating any wild animal, terrestrial or underwater.

Sure, it's impossible to swim along a reef without disturbing a single fish. It's easy, though, to avoid disturbing critters that aren't already swimming, such as lizardfish, or even lobsters. MHSs do what they can to avoid disturbing critters.

Reef Glimpses to page 10



This tropical Pacific shrimp's tunnels in the coral colony remind me of a stick figure. The shrimps keep their tunnels clear so encrusting creatures can't settle on them. Photo: Dee Scarr

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# Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

## MANTELZORG (Informal care)

If you care for a person with a chronic disease, a peer or sibling with a disability, you are an “informal care-giver.” Even if this care seems to be obvious, like taking care of your sick child or sick parent.

Informal care is all help provided for a person in need in your direct personal social surroundings. Even less intensive care, the help to people that live in the same house or help to persons living in homes or care-facilities belongs to this kind of care. Informal care goes a lot further than the so called usual care.

This special group of caregivers need understanding, help and assistance because everything they do is unpaid for. They provide this help because they care for their child, brother, sister, parent, grand-parent or friend. They are there

for them all the time. And if the situation changes and the need for more intensive care is obvious, they just go on caring.

Many people think that informal care and volunteering is the same. But no, these are two different things. When you are a volunteer, you choose to do this job and you can stop any time you want. You do choose to be an informal caretaker. But mostly there is no other choice, because the patient is almost always a family-member.

But nobody is an island. Everybody needs a bit of help, a bit of understanding or exchange of experiences. Every November 10, the “Day for the people that provide informal care” is organized.

On this day these special caretakers get spoiled a little. They get wine and

dined sometimes, receive special presents and they also get praised for their work which is very important. These persons need recognition. They need to get the chance to get together with others to exchange experiences and pour their hearts out to those who understand them because they are going through the same.

On this special day it is good to make clear to everyone involved what informal care really means. And to pay attention to all the visible and non-visible power of the care. It is a day where the gigantic value of these informal caretakers’ worth is revealed. Because their enormous dedication is priceless.

This year there is a special day planned again. The program is not yet made known to the caretakers, but you can be assured that it will be a very special event. The informal caretakers behind Mantelzorg Bonaire were distinguished last year by the MCB as an organization that has committed itself to a noble

cause.

Informal caretakers who are interested and want to take part in the event are invited to contact the organization: Mantelzorg Bonaire. They are on Facebook, take a look and send them a message.

It is also a good opportunity to contact the organization if you are an informal caretaker and not yet registered.

I hope that this year the event will be very special and that many informal care-takers can join the party.



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

# Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

## Assertive communication with ourselves

Most of the time when we learn about assertive communication, it is directed towards an external interlocutor. In this article I want to highlight the importance of using this same type of communication with ourselves.

Assertiveness can be defined as the ability to skillfully express opinions, intentions, postures, beliefs and feelings. This ability is even more important when what we want to formulate is a criticism to a behavior, an attitude or a result that is annoying or that does not live up to our expectations. Many times, we ourselves are our own worst critics through internal dialogues plagued with accusations, labels and sometimes insults.

Different psychological theories use different maps of the human psyche. For example, in psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud described three psychic instances: the id, the superego and the ego. The id, governed by the principle of pleasure, would embody an impulsive character, spoiled and doomed to satisfy his most extreme desires. The superego, directed

by the law, is the character that disciplines, represses and punishes. The ego, governed by the principle of reality, represents our rational aspect; it would be a measured, balanced character. Another author, Jeffrey Young, who developed schema therapy, speaks of modes: a vulnerable child, an angry child, an undisciplined child, a happy child, a punishing and critical adult and a healthy adult. Eric Berne’s transactional analysis considers three ego states: the child, the parent and the adult. These instances or internal characters generate tensions and internal dialogues and each one has its own script that characterizes it. Which-ever map we use, if we can recognize internal discrepancies and tensions, we can also recognize that there are internal dialogues where a certain type of language and a certain style of communication are used.

The way we talk to ourselves rules how we are going to talk to others and how we relate to our surrounding reality. That is why assertive communication

begins within us. We cannot be clear and gentle with others if we are not that way with ourselves.

Assertiveness allows you to exchange opinions or differing points of view with kindness, without anxiety and without aggressiveness giving room to reach an agreement but also accepting that sometimes agreement is not possible. This implies being able to accept differences and tolerate a certain degree of inconsistency. It is also essential to be gentle with oneself and recognize and accept one’s own inconsistencies. Where there is no conflict there is no growth, but conflict must be managed constructively.

Assertiveness is a communication style that allows us to feel free to express desires, interests and feelings, both positive and negative openly, without inhibitions or fears. In turn our interlocutor is given the chance to feel the same way. To assertive, it is essential to recognize and listen to one’s own needs as well as to recognize one’s own talents without false modesty and without showing off. This recognition is a fundamental part of our path of self-knowledge.

When we want to criticize both a third party or ourselves, it is important to be careful and consider the following rules:

- Criticism must be directed at a spe-

cific, concrete behavior. Labels should not be used towards the person, either towards oneself or towards a third party.

- Criticism must be constructive. It must generate information about what happened and contain an option for future change that favors improvement. Criticism does not have the purpose of punishing, humiliating or hurting the dignity of oneself or of the person who receives it.

- Almost all situations have a positive aspect. It is convenient that the criticism is preceded by, or contains a comment that recognizes this.

By practicing mindfulness, we can learn to identify our own internal dialogues and by using assertive communication internally, we can spread its benefits and generate more wellbeing around us.



*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 from page 8 Secrets of Marine Homo sapiens

**5. Synchronize vocabulary.** MHSs understand what “disturbing” an animal is. We all know that poking an animal or chasing it is disturbing it. But MHSs understands that subtleties like the partial raising of a dorsal fin, or a flared-out mouth – despite the fact that the fish didn’t change its location – are signs of disturbance. Once MHSs recognize that creatures are disturbed, what do they do next?

**6. Swim backwards.** If we disturb a critter by getting too close, actions like moving away by swimming over it, or backing away by finning with our hands,

are likely to disturb the critter even more. MHSs practice all kinds of underwater maneuvering, but especially pulling themselves backwards with fins, not hands, so that at the first sign of a creature’s discomfort they can easily back away.

**7. Use your imagination.** MHSs can imagine being the critters. Can you tell what that moray is thinking as all the divers gather around it? [My guess: “Yikes!” MHSs response: swim backwards.]

Why do tarpon swim with divers at night? [They’re hunting by the lights of the divers. MHSs response: consider avoiding shining light at grunts and other fishes their size.]

Uncle Vernon is merely an underwater visitor. It’s much more fun to feel a part of the underwater world.



*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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# *Bonaire*

• DailyFresh •



## GRAND OPENING at LVV Oct. 30

*We are so excited to share with everyone our new Showcase Greenhouse and we hope to inspire more people to join in creating a new economic pillar on Bonaire.*

*Bob and Lauri Janssen*

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**Free Tours - 9:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

**Kids Halloween costume contest 10:30 a.m.**

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**Salad samples and veggie sales**

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# What's Happening

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**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 9-4

**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://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.)

Starts September <b>29</b> Ends November <b>4</b>	<b>Terramar Museum exhibit</b> , BONEIRU BIBU:BOU DI AWA BY WORLD WILDLIFE FUND NI Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Entry \$10. \$5 locals. See page 7.
Saturday, October <b>29</b>	<b>Nos Zjilea Festival Traditional use of Medicinal Herbs</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 13.  <b>eZone Information Course.</b> Habitat (Aquarius room). Understand how you can use eZone to ship to Bonaire. English: 2 - 3:30 p.m. Papiamentu: 3:30 - 5 p.m. See page 7.
Sunday, October <b>30</b>	<b>LVV Open Day</b> 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kaminda di Lagun 32. Popular market. You can learn what others are growing, buy plants, purchase food, attend workshops, visit animals and tour the facilities. Lots of activities for kids too.  <b>Daily Fresh opens at LVV with a Halloween party.</b> See page 10. Fifteen minute tours of the aquaponic facility. Tour size is limited. Sign up at: <a href="https://www.dailyfresh.eco/tours">https://www.dailyfresh.eco/tours</a>
Saturday, November <b>5</b>	<b>Bario Festival Tera Kòrá</b> - 6 - 10 p.m. Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.
Monday, November <b>7</b>	<b>Manta Monday.</b> Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program presentation at VIP Diving, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November <b>8</b>	<b>Kids edition Big Live Nature Quiz.</b> See below.
November <b>9 - 30</b>	<b>Terramar after school workshop. Art Exhibition:</b> Create your own art and organize your own exhibition in the museum. Two hours a week, \$20 for the entire workshop. Register: +599 701 4700 <a href="mailto:terrarmuseum@gmail.com">terrarmuseum@gmail.com</a>
Friday, November <b>18</b>	<b>Meet the Artist</b> , 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 <a href="http://www.MoltenWolfGlass.com">www.MoltenWolfGlass.com</a>
Tuesday, November <b>19</b>	<b>Sinterklaas and his Pietsen will arrive in the harbor of Kralendijk 9 a.m.</b>
Saturday, November <b>26</b>	<b>Chamber of Commerce Art Show</b>
Sunday, November <b>27</b>	<b>Animal Shelter Holiday Book Fair and Flea Market.</b>

## CALLING ALL KIDS: Compete in the Big Live Nature Quiz

DCNA organizes twice a year a FREE Big Live Nature Quiz for people Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten.

The online Big Live Nature Quiz is created to educate citizens about nature conservation in a fun interactive way, to instill pride about the islands' nature, encourage eco-friendly practices, support the parks conservation projects, and to connect people throughout the Dutch Caribbean.

The Quiz is in English, with Dutch, Papiamentu and Papiamento subtitles.

*The Big Live Nature Quiz is generously funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and DCNA's activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.*

**Big Live Nature Quiz 2022**

Multi-lingual! Win a sailing & snorkel trip

**FREE QUIZ FOR Kids AGED 12-14 YEARS**

**TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2022 9:45-10:30 AM (AST)**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION: BIGLIVENATUREQUIZ.ORG**

# 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](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>.

**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. Next presentation at VIP Diving, Monday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m

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

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Clean up Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Sunday, Nov. <b>16</b>	<b>Piedra Pretu, 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> .

**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
Thurs. Oct. 27	<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	0800-1600	South	2680
Mon. Oct. 31	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	1300-2359	North	530
Tues. Nov. 1	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	0700-1800	South	3840
Fri. Nov. 4	<i>Borealis (Rotterdam)</i>	0800-2300	North	1825
Mon. Nov. 7	<i>Norwegian Prima</i>	0700-1700	South	3300
Tues. Nov. 8	<i>Enchanted Princess</i>	0700-1700	South	3660
Wed. Nov. 9	<i>Celebrity Equinox</i>	0700-1600	South	2852
Thurs. Nov. 10	<i>Royal Clipper</i>	1300-1900	North	246
Sat. Nov. 12	<i>Disney Magic</i>	0730-1700	South	2834

## 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> 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.



# Nos Zjilea: Traditional use of medicinal herbs

*In the past, when Bonaireans were sick, they were taken to a herbalist who worked with medicinal herbs. For example, you were given the medicine 'ranka slime,' gourd syrup, for stomach pain and 'manteka bela.' There are still people who can make these medicines.*

The next edition of the cultural event of "Nos Zjilea" will be on Saturday the October 29 with the theme: "Traditional use of medicinal herbs." Mrs. Leticia Beaumont, who has learned a lot from her ancestors about medicinal herbs, will share her knowledge with us. She will give a presentation about the making tea with local herbs and will explain their benefits.

Our eating habits influence our health And locally caught fish is considered very healthy. Mr. Julius Clar-enda, a fisherman with a lot passion who comes from a fishing family will give a presentation about our local fish species.

Don't miss the culture market with local, freshly produced natural fruit juices, locally made herbal teas, local delicacies, local art and much more. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with an assortment of delicious soups and a large variety of local creole dishes to enjoy.

All this in a cozy atmosphere with "LIVE" performances by "Farley's Entertainment" traditional classic music and the local band "JC & Friends". There will be a dance presentation by the youngsters ACE Kids Club under the guidance of director Segny Bernadina.

Experience 'Nos Zjilea', the monthly cultural event of Bonaire on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei.

For more information you can visit the Facebook fan page of Mangazina di Rei, [www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei](http://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei).



## "Bebe Bira Bon" launched

*Bebe Bira Bon, (Drink, Get Good)* a new book by Denise de Jongh-Rekwest was launched during "Kid's Book Week" on October 14 at Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP).

*Bebe Bira Bon* is based on herbal remedies that have been handed down from generation to generation on the island and will hopefully be passed to future generations, thanks to this book. The author consulted knowledgeable local women, Leticia Thielman-Beaumont, Philomena Beaumont and Petra Cecilia for much of the history and recipes for the book.

The book, with its colorful drawings by Gairo Tromp, explains how local plants like

Lemongrass, Oregano and Yerba can be used in drinks for medicinal purposes.

Students from San Luis Bertram were in the audience. The fascinated kids examined the wild plants as WSNP head ranger George 'Cultura' Thode and the author explained their uses.

Everyone in attendance had an opportunity to enjoy two of the herbal beverages, an oregano-based drink and yerba tea.

Daniel DeAnda Jr. represented Cargill, a major sponsor for the book, while Onnie Emerenciano served as padrino (godfather).

*Bebe Bira Bon* is in Papiamentu and is available for sale at Bruna and Del Mar bookstores. Photo/story Julie Morgan



The Bebe-Bira-Bon team Top L-R: Author Denise de Jongh-Rekwest, Onnie Emerenciano, Seated: L-R: Leticia Thielman-Beaumont, Philomena Beaumont, Petra Cecilia.

## A tugboat for Bonaire

Kompania di Tou Boneiru (KTB), a subsidiary of Kompania di Tou Kòrsou (KTC), has signed a concession agreement with the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) for towage services for the next five years in the ports of Bonaire. The KTB is located on Bonaire and the tugboat OLA will be stationed on Bonaire. The Bonairean company 'Captain Dime' will provide a Bonairean crew for the tugboat.

At the signing, deputy Hennyson Thielman, harbor master Günther Flanegin and lieutenant governor Nolly Oleana represented Bonaire. Curaçao was represented by the director of the Curaçao Ports Authority (CPA) Mr De Castro, Minister Cijntje, the supervisory director of the CPA/KTK Mr Candelaria, and the director of the KTK, Mr Rojer. Gov. press release



2022

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

November Corals

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	Tue 8-Nov	Wed 9-Nov	Thu 10-Nov	Fri 11-Nov	Sat 12-Nov	Sun 13-Nov	Mon 14-Nov	Tue 15-Nov	Wed 16-Nov	Thu 17-Nov	Fri 18-Nov	Sat 19-Nov	Sun 20-Nov	Mon 21-Nov
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	18:08	18:08	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> * (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral													16:57–18:17	
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral								18:17–19:17 (Expected every night until at least Nov 28: can you help us find the end date?)						
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								19:22–22:37						
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral								19:33–20:48 (Has been observed throughout Sept/Oct, we welcome new observations in Nov and beyond)						

Divers and snorkelers can witness the coral re-birth that keeps Bonaire's stunning reefs growing. The CARMABI chart gives a little insight into when the best times might be to see your favorite corals the most active. Spawning predictions are based on records from the previous years and aren't guaranteed. And times may vary in different areas of the Caribbean. Tips from CARMABI:

- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive in a place with high coral cover
- Enter the water before the predicted time
- Dive shallower than 50 ft for best bottom time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water column for clouds of spawn.

The Bonaire Reporter Oct. 26 - Nov. 9, 2022

**WARNING: Be wary of box jellies at the reef edge after sunset. The box jellies are also lunar driven and make their appearance 7-10 days after a full moon (Nov. 8) which is right when most of the corals will be spawning. As I can personally attest, box jellies are really beautiful and cool to see but they are beyond nasty to be stung by! Charles M. Baltayan**

For the full CARMABI schedule see our facebook page or the "Update" pages of *The Reporter's* online edition: <https://bonairereporter.com>



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Scott

Dear people,

My name is Scott and I'm a male of about 4 years old, I have a very nice and sweet personality, a good listener and a real teddy bear for kids, even the very tiny ones. I love them the most. I'm good with female dogs but the males are not a good match with me. I enjoy car rides, walks and I'm really good on a leash. I love to curl up on a blanket or towel but pillows I don't like that much because of their exposure risk!! Very dangerous. I hope you are the one who will fall in love with me. I'm waiting for you. *Story and picture Sanne Attevelt*



**Bonaire's sky park**  
See a double star cluster

**Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline:**

Bienvenidos Star Amigos. There is no wrong way to look at the night sky, but if you want to see \*more\* grab a pair of binoculars! This week a double star cluster is in a great spot for a look-see, so let's hit the darkness and find it.

If you head outside after midnight and look almost straight up you'll see Cassiopeia. To its right is Mirfak in Perseus. Between those is *h Persei* and *chi Persei* a.k.a. NGC 869 & NGC 884.

*h and chi Persei* is a double open star cluster. The cluster contains hundreds of blue-white stars which are about 7000 light-years away. Wikipedia tells us that: "Based on their individual stars, the clusters are relatively young, both 14 million years old. In comparison, the Pleiades have an estimated age ranging from 75 million years to 150 million years."

The double cluster was first spotted by Hipparchus in 130 bce. Hipparchus was a Greek astronomer, geographer, and mathematician. He is considered the founder of trigonometry, but is most famous for his incidental discovery of the precession of the equinoxes when he compared his notes with earlier observers. His realization that the points of solstice and equinox moved slowly from east to west against the fixed background of the stars was one of his most significant achievements.

## Pets of the Week

Dear Animal lovers,

If you are thinking about adopting one or two kittens then this is the right moment to do it. The shelter is flooded with 21 kittens of various colors and sizes. They are all as sweet as can be and some of them are a bit naughty, but that adds to the fun of the different personalities. We need to find all of them a nice family to live with.

Please come and pick the one (or better two) that is the perfect match for you and your family.

You can make the difference for these little babies' lives and yours too.

And if you aren't interested in a young feline, the shelter is also the temporary home of 48 adult cats that are waiting for their own special friend and furever home.

And remember if you adopt, you are giving a new life to the pet. Each adoption creates space in the shelter for another animal to be rescued. In this way, every adoption gives life to two beautiful animals

*Story Monique Degenaar*

*Photos Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof*



*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 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)*

## Shelter News

**Save the date!** Sunday, November 27, Animal Shelter Bonaire will have a Holiday Book Fair and Flea Market. Lots of books and treasures just in time for the Christmas season. Plus some special happenings. Mark your calendars now. More details in the upcoming weeks.

**Shelter improvements.** Thanks to the support of a variety of foundations, businesses and individuals, Animal Shelter Bonaire is busy with renovations and improvements on the Shelter property. The project includes the addition of a puppy quarantine area for new arrivals, renovation of our cat quarantine for new arrivals, creation of a cat boarding and surgery recovery area, improvements to and some expansion of the dog kennels, renovation of the wash station and education/meeting area, as well as a memorial mural to one of the island's legends. Once the project is complete, there will be a "big reveal" and we will acknowledge all those who have made this memorial project possible. Stay tuned!

**Reminder to our visitors:** We love to have people come and visit our cats and dogs. But just a reminder of the hours the Animal Shelter is open to the public. We are open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday Closed. These visiting hours allow our staff and volunteers to do the enormous tasks of feeding, cleaning, medicating and vaccinating our residents before and after we are open to the public. We are currently caring for more than 200 cats and dogs and the workload is huge. We also want to be able to spend time with our visitors, so we appreciate your consideration in respecting these opening hours and plan your visit accordingly. Hope to see you soon.

*Jane Disko*



Pien

**Happy Halloween!**



Daan



Pucca



# A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover



A few weeks ago there was a three day workshop at LVV on Syntropic Farming. Knowledge about Syntropic Farming reached Bonaire several years ago, but now LVV's setup has made it possible and a good number of people are interested.

Syntropic Farming or Syntropic agroforestry was developed by Ernst Gotch who lives in Brazil. He has educated others in farming in harmony with nature, a system learned from the Indigenous Indians of the Amazon. You go from an entropy system to a syntropy system or from simple life processes to complicated. In other words, going from a piece of land with a few plants to land with a great variety of plants that are in harmony with each other and the surroundings.

In 2019 a few of Ernst's Brazilian students went to Curaçao with this theory about farming and from there some enthusiastic young people brought this system to Bonaire.

Starting Syntropic Farming is a big project and a lot of work especially on Bonaire with a dry climate and so many rocks in the soil. But it can succeed if you follow the instruc-

tions closely.

When the system is in harmony with nature, a forest exists where the plants support and protect each other as they do in nature balancing water, nutrients, sunlight and wind. The big variety of plants keeps itself healthy with a highly productive result.

**To reach this goal, there are steps to follow:**

- Plow the soil.
- Make a system of five rows. Each row is 1 meter (39.37 in). For each meter you use 70 cm (27.55 in) for beds and 30 cm (11.8 in) for a walk path. In the path you add 'wood locks,' the parts of a big tree trunk or other thicker branches of about a half meter.

*You can not buy these wood locks. You have to go around and look where people cut trees and ask for them. Or ask at gardening companies because they will have them as garden waste. My friend who started this project at his house came to me to help him to find these cut trunks and we found a lot in yards, just laying there to take to the landfill. People are happy if they can get rid of them.*

The 'wood locks' store liquid and attracts fungi (bait), which is called mycelium. This is necessary to stimulate the growth of plants and make the connection between the plants allowing the plants to get what they need to grow and support each other.

On Bonaire the beds should be made from North to South to catch the most sunlight.

- Wind dries the plants. When we put a row of local trees like Wayaca first, we break the wind and protect the plants. The leaves of the wind breaking trees are also good as biomass for the system.

- Behind the protecting trees the first row is for fruit trees. Around the fruits one can plant vegetables and herbs which grow fast and protect the young fruit trees. After harvesting the vegetables, plant new ones.

- Mombassa grass is needed in this system. It grows fast and every two weeks the high grass should be cut and put on the soil so it can compost. The mombassa grass gives growth hormones to the plants which they need to grow fast and lead to the growth of the forest. Later, after the system gets going, the grass is unnecessary.

- Trimming is a must to stimulate plants to grow faster and healthier and to create more diversity.

In short, the above is basic knowledge for Syntropic Farming. For more information contact LVV. This system is a perfect way to grow sustainable food on Bonaire. It adds to a green Bonaire that fights the climate crisis.

**Composted black soil** Last but not least, because of the many questions I receive as where to buy good composted black soil (yes it's time to start planting again), contact Alsy at 785-1490 or 786-5558. He can deliver truck loads too. Start now, just do it.



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



Happy Halloween



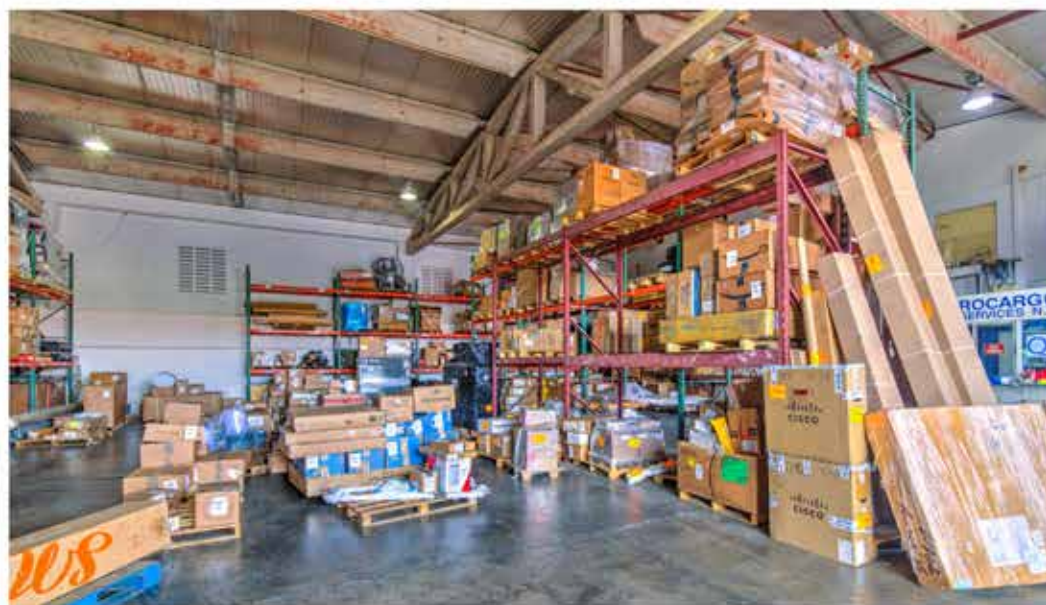
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