

FREE

BONAIRE
The REPORTER

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The School of Performing Arts dancers
Photo Julie Morgan

Slavery Memorial Year Ends

A year long commemoration of the history and abolition of slavery, July 1 2023 to July 1 2024 came to an end in a moving ceremony at Wilhelmina Park on July 1. The commemoration year was sparked by an apology in December 2022 by the then Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte for past actions of the Dutch State to enslaved people. Rutte's apology was a response to the Slavery History Dialogue Group's report 'Chains of the Past' released in July 2021. His apology was later ratified by King Willem-Alexander in a speech in July 2023, when he too apologized for the Dutch slavery.

The past year on Bonaire was marked with multiple programs to provide education, awareness and preservation of the cultural heritage and history.

Terramar Museum initiated several programs and exhibits in collaboration with Utrecht University, Fonds Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds and others. Most noted were: We Are, Making Bonairean Heritage Together and a Historical Overview of Slavery on Bonaire.

The July 1 ceremony opened with the Bonaire National Anthem and traditional sounding of the Karko. The School of Performing Arts Bonaire took control of the stage with the dancers as slaves working hard under bad conditions at the salt pans until they rise up and are free. They performed to the music of Nathan Lanier, Andra Day and Aizzy Beatz.

Several speakers offered their words.

Acting Deputy Governor Ingrid Sealy

"Today we commemorate the abolition of a system that for more than 240 years has perpetrated inhuman and cruel treatment for many people, but it is also an occasion for us to honor

those who through their resilience and their cry for freedom, have managed to survive oppression, abuse and exclusion... We must honestly acknowledge that the cruel system of



L-R Arthur Sealy and Maximiliano Theodora of the Bonaire Dialogue Group place a wreath.

. Photo Julie Morgan

slavery left deep wounds. Wounds that have not only made and continue to make an impact on different aspects of our lives, but also the way we function and deal with each other in everyday life. It is a fact that slavery had and still has an impact on our mental health. It is a fact that slavery has an impact on our physical health. But also impact of social nature such as inequality, discrimination and exclusion, backwardness and lack of economic opportunities, are among the examples that I can mention...And although we cannot change our past, we can determine how together we move forward."

Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond

The commemoration, as far as I am concerned, is also meant to share knowledge and create awareness about the colonial and slavery past.

If the community is not aware or has no knowledge of this past a society deprives its citizens... Continuing to acknowledge what happened allows us to better understand each other as a society.

The islands have become a diverse community in terms of composition and origin of residents in recent years. Bonaire is increasingly losing, the feeling of its unique charm and identity.

Looking back at the anniversary year we can say that several steps have been taken.

-Today marks the extension of the recognition of Papiamentu as an official and legally protected language within the European Netherlands.

-For the first time in the existence of this council [Council

Slavery Memorial Year Ends to page 3

Bonaire is facing hard political choices study says

An aging population and uncontrolled population growth are seriously threatening the quality of life on Bonaire, according to a report of the state committee on Demographic Developments in the Caribbean Netherlands 2050. Immediate and proactive political action is needed, both to provide for the special needs of an aging population and to restrict immigration in order to assure labor migration fills jobs in the essential functions and sectors. Tourist density must also be limited, the report says.

Untargeted population growth quickly puts pressure on the islands because of their small scale, the report says, and it creates shortages in functions that are important to the communities on the islands. Immigration policies aimed at filling specific positions in essential functions and sectors such as healthcare and education are needed.

The islands are especially susceptible to climate change. It is threatening the carrying capacity of public facilities and the physical environment. That magnifies the need for rigorous population control policies intended to achieve long term goals.

The quality of life on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba is under pressure because the islands are small-scale and require extra money and effort to keep up in a changing world. The islands are also

sensitive to economic setbacks, and the socio-economic situation of the Caribbean-Dutch population is already more vulnerable than that in the European Netherlands.

The commission emphasizes that aging on the islands will lead to further staff shortages in public sectors such as healthcare and education, and also to a rapidly increasing demand for care. The facilities and infrastructure must be ready as that happens.

Even targeted labor migration will place a greater burden on facilities, housing and available space. Intended migration can also put pressure on social cohesion and increase inequality. Some migrants will be better off financially, and others more vulnerable.

The island not only has to attract skilled workers, it needs to keep them here by assuring an attractive quality of life. Robust policies are needed, based on the demographic scenarios. More demographic knowledge and data on demographic developments must be improved. Clear political choices must be made, and they must be based on valid information rather than on political considerations.

The committee was chaired by Richard van Zwol and included Glenn Thodé, Luc Alofs, Arthur Sealy and Gerald Berkel.

DMR

Botika's goal: to become best pharmacy in the Netherlands

Medical manager of the Mariadal pharmacy, Alex Schwengle, announced that Bonaire's Botika intends to become the best pharmacy in the Netherlands at a press conference on July 3. As Mariadal continues to plan and invest, a number of innovative services are up and running.

More than 600 clients are signed up for the new repeat prescription service. They no longer have to renew their prescriptions with their house doctor every time they need refills. If they are registered for HHS, the pharmacy will keep track of their repeat medications, confirm with their house doctors when refills are due, then prepare a three months' supply and notify the client to come pick it up. The service is free.

Physicians now send prescriptions directly to the pharmacy electronically. Then the pharmacy notifies the customer when to come take delivery. Clients can check option C at the self-service desk and avoid having to wait.

In Rincon the Botika is piloting a home delivery service for clients who cannot come to the pharmacy on their own. "Medicine

rolls" are also being tried out. The patient's medications are packaged in transparent plastic bags that contain all the medications to be taken together at a specific time. Then the bags are tied together in long rolls in the order the patient should take them.

Not everything has gone smoothly, Schwengle acknowledges. But progress continues and Mariadal pharmacy's list of further improvements and innovations is long. Both current pharmacies, Playa and Rincon, will be renovated, the construction of a new pharmacy, botika Antriol, having been delayed. A self-service vending machine is planned.

Mariadal pharmacy's major immediate problem, long waiting times for service, will not be solved soon, and might even get worse for a time. Shortage of qualified staff is the bottleneck. Mariadal wants to train local pharmacy assistants itself. Those plans are on hold, however, because the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science wants the training to be incorporated into SGB's MBO programs. Therefore Mariadal will continue for now to focus on recruiting new staff wherever they can be found.

DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)

Dutch threaten Starlink, cause clamor

Public reaction was both strong and mixed. A dozen comments were posted to The Reporter's Facebook page, for example, 60% criticizing the government announcement and 40% defending it. A thoughtful submission to the comments page came from Gary Barrett, a reader who worked with fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in the mountains of Colorado. Starlink was vital to them. Cell systems did not have the bandwidth or coverage to handle the emergency traffic. (see page 5)

Peace can now be restored. Rich Schwertfeger filed an objection with the Authority and received "a very nice, clear, and open response." It ended by announcing that Starlink recently applied for a concession.

Some discomforts remain regarding government messaging. As Starlink satellites pass overhead, the only authority the Authority for Digital Infrastructure could claim was to "not permit" us to receive the signal. And Starlink has never accepted service applications from Bonaire. Why say they agreed to discontinue? DMR



Starlink antenna and modem ... Image via <https://gadgetren.com>

Last week the Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure sent out a press release that objected to people on Bonaire using satellite dishes to access the internet via Starlink. It said use of Starlink is not permitted because Starlink does not currently hold a concession to provide internet services under the Telecommunications Act BES. The release also said that Starlink had promised to discontinue the internet service.

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of Europe], an exhibition on the Dutch slavery past is opening.
 -Article 1 of the Constitution is embodied in a number of equal treatment laws, which prohibit discrimination. Those equal treatment laws apply so far only in the European part of the Netherlands. With the introduction of this legislation, the local anti-discrimination notifications and complaint handling by the College of Human Rights, the protection against discrimination on the basis of, among other things, race, skin color, appearance and surname is increased in the islands. The right to equal treatment becomes applicable and enforceable.
 - Social initiatives for the six islands is being published. It involves 33 million euros over the next five years...

Sedney Marten of Academia Papiamentu

Papiamento was born out of a need for people with different languages to communicate with each other. In our country... the language is in use of the entire population - even in the upper classes...

'Civilization Management 1.0' was introduced, to clearly establish the relationship between Papiamento and Dutch. In the education of Aruba, Bonaire and Corsou, it has been stipulated that Dutch is the language of instruction throughout the education system. With the goal, to make the population of the colonies as Dutch as possible

- 1-Dutch inspection has evaluated education in schools in Bonaire as "weak" and that students lack skills and knowledge;
- 2- Replaced Antillean education laws with Dutch laws (with Dutch as mother tongue and Papiamento as foreign language)
- 3) Dutch specialists recommended maintaining Dutch as



Melvin Meyers Photo Julie Morgan

- the language of instruction throughout the education system.
- 4) The local Bonairean native population is declining relatively at a very high rate
- 5) Promotes studying in the region, but does not accept diplomas obtained in the region.

...July 1, the act is delivered that Dutch Papiamento falls under Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Next step of Papiamento Academy is establish a Language Institute.

Arthur Sealy, Spokesperson of Slavery History Dialogue Group Bonaire

James Baldwin: A black, gay writer from the United States has said: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced".

On December 19, 2022, Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologized and on July 1, 2023, King Willem Alexander also apologized and asked for the Netherlands to be forgiven. Nowadays we talk about emancipation and it seems that we have only now heard about discrimination, racism and colonialism. It is appropriate to emphasize not only the history of slavery, but also discrimination and racism within our community... If we oppose discrimination and racism, let us also resist discrimination, racism and colonialism in our society. Let us sit down with the Netherlands and enter into dialogue to heal the trauma of slavery. Let us also oppose discrimination against the LGBTQ+ group in our society. Thank you and have a nice day of reflection.

* * *

Wreaths were exhibited by seven organizations in commemoration of the day. *Julie Morgan*

FOR SALE Kaya Tauro 3 Spacious Family Home



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POLICE REPORT

Arrests

June 21. Around 1 p.m., the central control room received a report about two underage boys who were riding a scooter recklessly and doing stunts. The boys were not wearing helmets, the scooter had no license plate and was not equipped with a fairing.

The officers spotted the boys and the scooter on Kaya Frater Odulfinus. The driver of the scooter ignored the police siren and lights signaling him to stop and increased his speed, evading the patrol.

A little later, officers saw the scooter driving in the opposite direction on Kaminda Lagun. The patrol tried to block the scooter, stopping the driver several times, but the driver then continued to drive on.

In the Lagun Hill neighborhood, the driver and his co-driver fell from the scooter in a sharp bend. They quickly got up and ran away. After a foot chase, officers managed to arrest the driver. The driver, a 16-year-old boy was arrested on the spot for failure to comply with an official order or demand.

The officers then started looking for the passenger, who fled the scene. They later found him in a container. Since the passenger was an 11-year-old boy, the officers decided not to arrest him, but let him sit down as he had abrasions. At one point, the 11-year-old boy got up and ran away again, after which officers chased him again on foot. They managed to arrest the passenger and took both boys to the police station. The scooter was seized for further investigation.

Driving under the influence

June 25. Around 2:05 a.m. a man, 34, was arrested for driving a scooter under the influence of alcohol. He was banned from driving for two hours.

Traffic accidents

June 28. Around 6:15 a.m. a cyclist was injured in a hit and run accident. The vic-

tim was cycling towards Karpata when a car suddenly drove from the opposite prohibited direction, hit him, then left without stopping. The victim was taken to hospital for medical treatment.

June 26. Around 1:45 p.m. a scooter crashed into a car on Kaya Korona. The scooter driver was injured and was taken to hospital by ambulance.

June 24. Around 2:45 a.m. a driver left the Rincon road at Kaminda Onima, lost control, drove into the bushes and over turned the car on its side. Both occupants were taken to hospital by ambulance. The car was towed away by a tow truck.

June 23. A single-vehicle collision occurred on Kaminda Tras di Montaña around 9:25 p.m. When the patrol arrived, it turned out that a car had driven into the bushes. The driver stated that she swerved in front of a donkey, causing it to drive into the bushes. This caused her to be injured. At first she refused assistance from the ambulance staff, but eventually she was taken by ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment. The driver could not show a valid driver's license or valid insurance papers and was fined.

Dogs

June 25. The central control room received a report about three dogs killing goats at Kaminda di Lac. The officers found six dead goats, four injured goats and a dead chicken on the property. Two of the three dogs were still on the property when the patrol arrived. One very aggressive dog's mouth was covered in blood. At one point the dog came towards one of the officers, after which direct shots were fired at the dog. This made the dog even more aggressive, causing several shots to be fired.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Bob, can you get an appraisal on Bonaire when you are buying a property?

Greg

If you are mortgaging the property through a Bonaire bank, the bank will require an appraisal prior to loan approval. If you are paying cash, an appraisal is not required but you can still choose to pay for one. There are three values on an appraisal - market price, rebuilding cost and execution value.

Market price is what the appraiser thinks the property can sell for in the current market.

The rebuilding cost estimates what it would cost to rebuild the home if it was damaged or destroyed. This figure will be used by your insurance agent to help determine how much insurance you will need. The rebuilding estimate does not factor the cost of the land into the total, just replacing the structure in case of fire or storm damage.

The execution value is the amount that the home is estimated to sell for at auction, if the house is put in default for non-payment of mortgage, taxes, etc. The execution value is usually between 15% and 20% of the market price.

The mortgage bank generally makes a mortgage loan up to the amount of the execution value, and in some cases up to the market price if you are a first time home buyer, or sometimes for other reasons. So you should expect to also use some of your savings mon-



ey when buying a house or investment property.

When you are purchasing a property you also need to remember that as the buyer you will also pay the deed transfer costs in addition to the purchase price. The transfer costs usually amount to about 7% of the purchase price. The 7% deed transfer costs are for transfer tax, which is 5% of the purchase price, and the Notaris Costs and deed registration costs are normally about 2% of the purchase price. For example, if you are buying a property for \$300,000 you can expect it to cost you about \$321,000 when you add the deed transfer costs to the purchase price.

Bob Bartikoski, Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at info@bonairehomes.com. Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

Unconditional dismissal of a police officer for severe dereliction of duty

The regional police force manager of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) has unconditionally dismissed a police officer due to severe dereliction of duty. The dereliction of duty emerged from a disciplinary investigation initiated after the force received information about the officer's improper use of the service weapon.

In the early days of 2024, the police force's management received information that the

officer in question had allegedly drawn his service weapon during an incident at a hospitality venue on Saba in the night from Sunday, December 31st to Monday, January 1st. The officer was off duty at that time.

This information led to both a disciplinary investigation by the KPCN's Internal Affairs Bureau and a criminal investigation by the National Investigation Department. *KPCN*

Google Translate now translates Papiamentu

Google Translate now recognizes more than 100 new languages, including Papiamentu. The expansion nearly doubles the number of languages Google Translate knows. Now people can translate Papiamentu into and from all of them. *DMR*



Text Images Documents Websites

Detect language Papiamentu English Dutch

Papiamentu Dutch English

Elsmarie Beukenboom, Presidente Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu: "Papiamentu riba Google Translate. Finalmente! Ku e lansamentu aki, e promé pasonan den tradukshon digital a wòrdu tumá. Aktualmente nos ta trahando riba un base di dato lèksikal pa Papiamentu/u a i ke sigui te ora por tradusí buki di lès kompletu for di kualke idioma pa Papiamentu i vise vèrsa."

Elsmarie Beukenboom, President of the Papiamentu Academy Foundation: "Papiamentu on Google Translate. Finally! With this release, the first steps in digital translation have been taken. We are currently working on a lexical database for Papiamentu/u a and want to continue until we can translate complete textbooks from any language into Papiamentu and vice versa."

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.

Starlink Internet Services to be discontinued in the Caribbean Netherlands

On shutting down Starlink

Before moving to Bonaire I worked with fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in the mountains of Colorado. In large emergencies requiring evacuation of communities due to forest fires we could always count on two things. Cell service [if it was available] would fail because cell systems do not have the bandwidth to handle all the people wanting to use their cell phones at the same time to find out what is happening and later, power would fail or be shut off and cell relay capability would go out along with internet. That left all our first responders with short range VHF radios only.

The answer was to procure some of the first Starlink terminals just coming on the market. They provided excellent internet access, voice over internet phone service via applications like WhatsApp. It also provided Email and collaborative networking with other emergency service providers using applications like Zoom. All that was needed was a small portable generator, a Starlink terminal, and a laptop.

The government will find out the hard way if a tsunami or hurricane ever makes it to Bonaire that stopping Starlink services to prop up local internet service providers was a very bad idea. I doubt the island communications infrastructure is robust enough to handle a big emergency or even a big power outage. What will be the local fall back for communications and internet in a big emergency? How good are government emergency communications off island? Can they function without power? What is the back up plan for airport air traffic management?

I also expect that this Starlink terminal stoppage will be overcome by events when Starlink cell phone service becomes available. The first direct cell capable satel-

ites are in orbit now and have been shown to work well with cell phone SMS text. SpaceX continues to launch more satellites every month. T-Mobile plans to provide the first Starlink-direct cell SMS text service in the US later this year and cell voice next year. I doubt that the government will be able to delay cell phone satellite access very long. The push back will be too great.

Remember long ago when we had to pay for long distance phone calls and then VOIP on the internet happened and long distance calls were free via an app on your laptop? ISP and cell providers need to think about how to adopt this new technology instead of trying to block it or they may go the way of the long distance phone call.

Starlink is authorized for use in the Netherlands so you have to wonder what is different about the BES islands when it comes to international frequency management and communications agreements. I thought BES islands were part of the Netherlands. Seems more of a turf fight than a real issue of frequency management.

Starlink is designed to be a single user system so at worst, or best, depending on your point of view, it provides a single individual an option to obtain personal internet services. It is not business competition for a 10 Mtr diameter ground station C/Ku band antenna connecting with MEO and GEO communications satellites used by internet and digital communications service providers to provide community wide services.

Starlink is a disruptive technology. Disruptive technologies make things change. Nothing stays the same once they come on line. Push back is normal.

Gary Barrett



Floating solar being tested by Dutch

According to a press release, the Dutch-Norwegian company SolarDuck, has installed an offshore floating solar project in the Dutch North Sea. The pilot project aims to test and demonstrate the structural, mooring and electrical designs. It also aims to acquire knowledge about manufacturing, assembly, offshore installation and maintenance methodologies required for large-scale commercial deployment of OFPV. Taking solar farms offshore requires technology that is able to withstand rough offshore conditions. DMR

R&O beautifies our Malekon



The Directorate of Planning and Development (R&O) is carrying out various maintenance works on the Malekon.

In the first quarter of this year, the wall at 'Chachacha Beach,' the recreation area overlooking Waf Nello Craane and the public space overlooking Waf Chicu Mercelina were painted with colors inspired by our conch. Benches were placed at these sites. Further maintenance was carried out in Plaza Machi Mimi, where the columns were repainted in the original colors.



In the second quarter of this year, balustrades were installed for the stairs at Chachacha Beach. Several endemic trees have been planted, such as holy trees, Spanish kohara, sea grapes and white mangroves. A local artist drew the slogan of Bonaire on the wall in front of the Port Office.

Later, in the first week of July, the recreation area near Kas di Regata was given life by placing concrete benches and palapa to create shade.

The goal of the project 'Beautify our Malekon' is to make Malekon safer and more beautiful. In the coming phases, traffic signs will be addressed, tree boxes will be maintained and trees will be planted in the empty boxes. To ensure that the trees receive constant water, a drainage system is installed and to conclude the project, maintenance is carried out on the trees.

With this initiative we are improving the functionality of our Malekon so that users can enjoy this space even better. Thank you for your cooperation while public entities Bonaire work for a better Malekon for us all.

OLB photos and press release



with BIA to offer a shuttle service to a car rental location outside the airport in an orderly manner, subject to conditions and with permission. *DMR*

Install your own digital mailbox in OLB computers

You can now download an app and create your own digital mailbox in the government computers. Your mailbox will send and receive, privately and safely, all your correspondence with the government and permanently store the messages in archives you can access.

Set up your mailbox today and you will have instant contact with, needless to say, the taxation department. Other government departments will be accessible in the near future.

Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland (taxation) will send you digital invitations to submit tax returns, tax assessments, payment requests, payment reminders, confirmations of receipt, requests for additional information, and rulings about objections.

In order to download the BerichtenboxCN app, you will need a MijnCN account (with one time verification), your CRIB number and a smartphone or tablet. The app is compatible with Android and iOS smartphones and tablets, including older versions of these systems. Visit www.mijncn.nl to find further information and to create and verify your account. *DMR*

Papiamentu recognized by European Charter

The European Charter has declared Papiamentu a protected language. The Charter is a Council of Europe convention intended to sustain the use of traditional minority languages. It affirms the importance of an indigenous language to the identity and cultural experience of its speakers and strengthens the position and status of the language.

Papiamentu has been given Part III recognition. Part III requires governments to agree to require the language be used in, for example, education, the legal system, governance, media and the cultural sector. *DMR*

CN purchasing power declined in 2022

In 2022 general purchasing power on Bonaire declined by 4.2 percent compared to 2021, partly because of inflation.

However, purchasing power of people receiving benefits declined less, as a percentage, thanks to increases in the benefits and an energy allowance. Their purchasing power was supported by increases in the benefits paid to pensioners (AOV), widows/widowers and orphans (AWW) and people receiving income support. The child benefit and minimum wage were increased too. *DMR*

Government to subsidize sustainable economic development

The government intends to invest €130 million in projects that contribute to sustainable economic development of Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES Islands. The BES Islands' share will be €30 million. A study is underway to determine the best projects to invest in. The study is now entering internet consultation.

Both Phase A and Phase B applications will be accepted for consideration. Phase A subsidies can be used to conduct, among other things, preparatory studies, feasibility studies or other activities required to define and develop a project. Phase B subsidies will fund the actual projects.

To be eligible for subsidies, projects must cover the following themes:

- the mitigation of the effects of climate change and the shaping of the energy transition;
- the strengthening of the quality of education and the improvement of the educational infrastructure;
- the improvement of the digital infrastructure of the government and the strengthening of the public services to citizens and businesses;
- the improvement of the basic infrastructure;
- the improvement of the cost efficiency in the food production; and
- the sustainability of economic sectors.

A market survey will take place simultaneously with the internet consultation. The results will help identify those projects that can make the greatest contribution to the sustainable earning capacity on the islands. *DMR*

Silberie named CEO of WEB

Raymond (Roy) Silberie has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of WEB Bonaire N.V. Born and raised on Bonaire, Silberie went to work for WEB immediately after graduating from the University of the Netherlands Antilles in 1995 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He has worked for WEB for almost 30 years, except for an August 2020 – January 2022 stint as COO of ContourGlobal (CGB) Bonaire and the French Antilles.

Silberie has served in various operational and leadership positions at WEB. He brings to his new job a deep understanding of WEB's corporate culture, strategy and future goals for sustainable energy and water development. Mr. Silberie is also familiar with the unique needs and opportunities within the local community. *DMR*

Our waste plastic being turned into building materials

Plastic waste is now being converted to building materials on Bonaire, then sold by Kooyman. Selibon is working with FUSE Caribbean, a company that has processed 56,500 kilos of plastic on Curaçao. Selibon already has 13,000 m³ of plastic waste waiting to be processed. A nuisance that needs to be eliminated is being turned into something useful, with more jobs and increased knowledge as a byproducts. In addition to Selibon and Kooyman, Bon Recycling, the HR Group and the Public Entity Bonaire are involved in the project

DMR

Airport concerned about unauthorized rental cars

Rental car providers who do not have permission to operate within the airport grounds are increasingly becoming a nuisance. When they collect and drop off customers they cause congestion, overload parking, and disrupt orderly passenger operations. Enough rental cars have been authorized collect and drop off customers within airport property to assure all visitor needs are met. BIA intends to begin monitoring these operations closely in August.

BIA owns and manages the airport grounds and parking facilities. No one can do business there unless permitted by BIA. Permission from BIA is also required for picking up and dropping off car rental customers outside the airport. Interested car rental companies can register



BES gets Association of Dutch Municipalities desk

The Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) launched a Caribbean Desk for the Caribbean Netherlands during the annual VNG congress in Groene Hart, the Netherlands. The BES islands are extraordinary members of the VNG, but due to their special status, they cannot make use of all services and products of the VNG. Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba indicated in meetings with the VNG and the various ministries that they can benefit from a larger access to the service providing and support of the VNG. Among other things, the VNG Caribbean Desk will support Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba to carry out a number of execution and legislation assessments.

More than 3,200 delegates attended the congress, including Bonaire's entire Executive Board. *DMR*

ACE WOOD was a dream performance



ACE Foundation (Art, Creativity and Education) displayed their musical theater talent in their latest production of ACE WOOD - A Step closer to Hollywood on June 4-5 at Jong Bonaire.

The 10 – 13-year-old actresses (tweens) sing, dance and act their way through a time traveling dream adventure. The dream of the young girl Yelena is about freedom, Mi ta Libre. In her dream her deceased grandmother visits and tells her the experiences of slavery in the past. And even though freedom is here now, the people are still chained by the past and enslaved in a society driven by social networks, cell phones and social situations. The show highlights the cultural aspect of Bonaire and the

bright future that awaits talented young people.

The nine multi-talented tweens captivated the crowd with the story, songs and dance. The young children in the audience jumped to their feet to mimic the dance moves in the performance and the adults moved to the music.

ACE WOOD was a work in progress with intense rehearsals for the last year. The production team for ACE-WOOD: project leader, Zoe Bernardina; dance coach, Damari Alonzo; acting coach, Bertie Komproe with music written by Xechell 'Bauco' Jacobs. General director for ACE Foundation is Segni Bernardina.

Funds from the performances will facilitate the ACE Tweens travel to Aruba for a cultural exchange with the Aruba Art Gang. They will participate in the Dream Art Gang culminating with Aruba and Bonaire competing together. ACE leaders will be responsible for several children's workshops.

The project was funded by OLB and Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied. To learn more about ACE Foundation visit their Facebook, Insta and TikTok.

Photo / story Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health

Benefits of journaling

by Irene da Cunda Costa

To fulfill the philosophical maxim "Know thyself", written at the Temple of Apollo in Greece, we have to become observers of who we are. If we want to seriously commit to this task we should follow some kind of scientific method. Any research involves registration, taking notes and records. As we are the subject and the observer, one of the best ways to do this is through journaling.

Journaling is the practice of regularly writing down our thoughts, feelings, experiences and reflections in a personal, private, or semi-private format.

It is not meant to be read by any other person. Except it can happen like with Meditations of Marcus Aurelius or The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank that later they become best sellers. But neither of these authors had that in mind when they did their journals, and neither should you. Journaling is something to be done with the purpose of personal exploration and growth. There's no right or wrong way to journal as long as you are as authentic as possible when you start pouring yourself on those pages. When you're writing, it's important to practice self-compassion and leave your inner critic at the door.

Journaling can help you work through emotions, especially when you are feeling anxious or sad by helping you improve your self-awareness. Journaling can also have specific purposes like improving creativity, setting goals, problem solving or finding and expressing gratitude.

When most people think about starting a journal, they think of writing. However, drawing can be just as powerful.

A journal can be done on a computer or a phone but there is something powerful about writing by hand. It's been shown that handwriting increases electrical interconnectivity across different brain areas responsible for memory, movement, vision and sensorial processing and also helps focus. All of these are necessary to keep the mind sharp as we age. Also, when we form letters and create words, we are activating the right hemisphere of our brain which is known for artistic creativity.

To start a journal, you can set time aside every morning after breakfast or every evening before bed, even if it's just for a few minutes. This time-blocking method allows you to prioritize journaling and incorporate it into your schedule.

Some ideas to start exploring could be personal or career goals, gratitude, inspirational quotes and your personal reflections about them or how they impact your life. A journal could include things to improve, what you've learned today, a dream journal, a mood journal, your most prevalent irrational beliefs and how to debate them, etc.

As a regular practice it will bring you many benefits. Freely writing about your thoughts and feelings brings a cathartic effect contributing to a feeling of calmness and stress reduction. You will also build up insight on repetitive patterns. Journaling can help you identify irrational thoughts and then you will be able to debate them. I wrote an article with tips on how to identify and debate irrational beliefs (Reporter issue Jan 3 -Jan 17, 2024). If you suffer from anxiety or feelings of depression, you can gain understanding on what triggers them and develop successful coping strategies. Keeping a record on how you succeeded will be a very useful resource to have handy, as humans we tend to forget our learnings. It is also a powerful problem-solving tool when you can take your time to analyze the problem, break it down into its many components and then feel free of any judgment to brainstorm any kind of solution that flows into your mind.

Journaling doesn't require special knowledge and costs as little as a notebook and a pen. You can do it at any time of day and in just about any setting.



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.

Gold Star Teens Find Bonaire an Adventure

by Mel McCombie



Years ago, NAUI instructor Patrick Duffy was working with an organization that helps service members who had lost limbs (SUDS.org), teaching adaptive scuba diving. He mentioned to his friend Kent Solheim, who lost a leg in 2007 in Iraq, that there was a place in Bonaire where the Wounded Warriors often came to scuba dive, a particular concern of Habitat's former manager, the late Jack Chalk, an Army special forces veteran himself.

Colonel Kent Solheim remembered Captain Don's Habitat after founding Gold Star Teen Adventures (GSTA) in 2013, an amazing organization that brings teens together to share adventures with others who have lost a parent in action in the military or as first responders. He realized after he was badly wounded in Iraq that had he not made it home, he would want his two children to know the kinship he had found in the Army and the adventures it offered him. Plus he realized how healing it was to spend time with folks who had gone through similar trauma.

This year, GSTA brought 39 young people to Bonaire for scuba training, and a lot of fun. I first encountered this group last year when they also came to Habitat for a week, and I saw familiar faces as well as new ones. GSTA helps these teens develop skills that will take them through life with wilderness and scuba training, teamwork, mutual responsibility and a lot of fun. In the words of Alison, a senior team leader, "It's not grief camp, but it's about growing."

I should add that I investigated this organization care-

fully, reading all their IRS 990 filings, and I have rarely seen a charitable organization so clean and with so little



Kent Solheim and Patrick Duffy

overhead. All their monies go to the teens, and every participant here is fully funded no matter their family finances.

Team leader Evan, age 19, lost his pilot father in a Coast Guard training accident when he was age 8. A friend of his mother's heard about GSTA and he enrolled in his first scuba training when he was 15. He is here now completing his NAUI Rescue Diver course, and just finished his first year at the University of Alabama. Evan told me that at first, he did not feel so connected to the program, but quickly realized what it offered. He told me, "Growing up without a dad made me really appreciate the male role models of GSTA." He felt connected to the other participants in a fundamental way; everyone had lost a parent in service, and it meant no explaining, no awkwardness. And he found GSTA was transformative for him. "The program forces you outside your comfort zone. I kept hearing 'if it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you,' and really grew."

When I asked Evan why he kept coming back, he said "I learned so much and my confidence grew, and I wanted to give back." This was Evan's first time outside the U.S., and Bonaire may have spoiled him!

I watched Floris van Loo, head chef/ owner of Rum Runners, bantering with the teens as he cooked up spe-

Goldstar teens to page 19

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Make Bonaire Accessible

What a special morning

by Ria Evers-Dokter

It promised to be a good morning, when I woke up. There were two items on my agenda today, go to the doctor for my vitamin B shot and spend the rest of the morning at Hofi Kultural.

Alas...my transportation was very late making me very worried about the rest of the day.

Things always look worse than they seem. Although I was late at the doctor, I met a lady I had not seen in quite a while, and we chatted and had a lot to talk about.

When it was my turn, the nurse and I also had a great conversation and when called, the transportation came not long after. The driver also appeared to be having a bad day, but we got along fine and he took me where I needed to be. I hope his day went as well as mine, later on.

Here I was at Hofi at last. I love to go to Hofi, be-

cause this is where I meet a great group of peers; a lot of elderly who need company and something to look forward to.

It started off as a get together where you could bring your craft and work on that. Mrs. Marjo is excellent at crafting and she always comes up with great things to make, crochet, knit or sew. There was a time when almost every group member crafted wonderful purses from little rings of soda cans. You don't have to join them in the crafting, but bring your own project and work on it.

I started off making a great dream catcher that I proudly hung in the living room. Since then, I always bring my own craft and work on it. But there are also days when you really don't feel like making anything. You just want to talk and enjoy the company because you have been alone almost the whole week.

We always have great coffee, water or juice and there are always cookies.

People color in their coloring books for adults and love it. There is a husband of one of our members who is a great singer and he sometimes comes along and entertains us with his music and songs.

We have an artist who paints huge works of art and has even had them in an exhibition.

If you have no craft to work on, you may join a group member to be of help. Or maybe play a game of chess or checkers.

This morning quite a lot of people were there. It was our last get together before the summer vacation, so this made all of us feel a little like the olden days.

A few group members brought something to celebrate the day. One lady had made delicious tuna puffs, there was a tasty juice and Mrs. M. had cooked up a wonderful pot of vegetable soup.

Too soon it was twelve o'clock and time to go home. Thanks to everyone for the company and friendship. See you again in August.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at 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.

Donate to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's 'Swim around Klein' Fundraiser

Daan and Kate will swim 11 km around Klein Bonaire to raise \$11,000 for two new research nets.

Donations can be made via STCB's local bank account at MCB # 101169209 or via its Dutch account at Rabobank # NL71 RABO 0313 2425 26. For more information please call (+599) 717 2225 or send an email to cepa@bonaireturtles.



STCB

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Humanure

Considering the suffering of plants these days, I was looking for manure that had a perfect Ph to suit the plants and to be added immediately. While I was busy with this research, during the extremely dry circumstances that we have now, I looked for more possibilities to support their survival.

This may seem extremely odd and weird and may turn your head but I still want to share the information I stumbled upon. This doesn't mean that you have to do it, but maybe consider it in the future as it already happens in some agriculture.

I'm talking about human waste. Researchers of the University of Wageningen gave the following information:

In practice, we hardly recycle nutrients and use them again. A four year research project of cycling nutrients out of waste water and processed water, gave an abundance of knowledge on the reuse of human waste. The purpose of the project is to bring down the use of artificial additives in growing from fossil sources in agriculture and replace with natural human waste. Ongoing research, especially focused on urine, which is rich in nutrients and nutrition, was found to make the crops grow faster.

This product actually has an official name "Humanure" which means "make compost with human poo." This mode of thinking was originally coined by Joseph Jenkins who wrote a book called "The Humanure handbook," which in a later edition was condensed in 2021 under the title "Shit in a Nutshell." Jenkins later went on to write "The Compost Toilet Handbook." Look for them if you're interested in further details.

Crops grow with phosphorus, calcium, nitrogen and there is a lack of availability worldwide. We consume plants with all



Locals say that plants beside the beerput (cesspool) are fat and healthy because of human poo there in the ground

of these nutrients which in fact pass through us and leave our bodies as feces and urine. By reusing our human waste, we support our plants with these nutrients. This completes a full cycle where all waste is recycled. Science is intrigued with this possibility and research is increasing. Instead of using nutrients from energy intensive artificial additives called "finish-

ing sources," we can use human waste and close the recycling loop. The bonus: we have unlimited sources of human waste which fits perfect with sustainable agriculture.

The researchers of the University of Wageningen find sustainability to be a high priority within horticulture. Their top considerations are to see if the results will really work for the crops and if this human waste can be used safely: free from heavy metals, medicines and drug residues. Long term use also needs further research on the effects on the soil. The waste should rest at least two years to be sure that the most harmful substances are no longer detected. For example in Germany, for the alternative reuse of human waste, they have two types of composting toilets from the manufacturers Trobollo and Trelino. Information is available online. It needs to be said, with these two toilets it is best to have them outside the house until better ones are available due to a bad smell. In fact, this type of toilet was used years ago in Saba and many cottages use this method of toilet in Canada.

Using human waste on larger levels has become a serious research topic due to climate crisis and sustainable agriculture.

Sound interesting? No need to look very far to recycle. Just do it and let me know how it worked out.



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.

Flocking to Gibi's



Harris Friedberg



Gibi Coffie



Mel McCombie

Seeing Bonaire's Yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot or Lora fly in flocks across the sky will trigger a "Wow, look at that!" from most people.

The birds were almost extinct on Bonaire due to deforestation and poaching. Because of their beauty and amazing colors, poachers would take chicks and sell them illegally internationally. Today there are about 1000 Lora on Bonaire thanks to Echo's reforestation of the dry forest habitat and

their work reducing poaching through awareness and fines.

During the dry season, the Lora struggle to find enough food and water. But they have learned over the years they can always count on one man in Rincon, Gibi Coffie.

Twice a day, morning and evening, the Lora flock to Gibi's house and wait in the trees until he gives the signal by holding

up his hands with peanuts and later a wild bird seed mix and fruit. About 130 Lora visit Gibi and it is an amazing event to experience.

Recently parrot lovers Reporter columnist Mel McCombie and husband Harris Friedberg stopped in to enjoy the feeding frenzy and were smiling ear to ear.

Mel and Harris said, "Idiot delight overcame us?"

The Lora know they can count on Gibi for a good meal during dry season and they disappear when the rains begin. Gibi goes through about \$300 worth of food every month because he's a Lora lover too.

If you would like to visit the Lora at Gibi's, give him a call and be amazed. Donations are appreciated. Contact Gibi on WhatsApp +599 9 5697636.

Photos / story Julie Morgan

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Want to learn about Tanki Maraka? Play the game



(L-R) Bart Oost and Jay Haviser Photo Julie Morgan

Jay Haviser to celebrate him and his efforts.”

The game, *The Spy of Maraka*, like all Bee Caribe games, is played on your cell phone. While walking through the park, players go back in time to how the island was affected by World War II. Players investigate the camp and defend the island from the enemy by following clues and solving puzzles within a set time.

Regarding the game, Haviser said, “This was a great collaboration between Lauriane and Bart. I was just helping. It’s a completely new approach to heritage education by engaging the gamer. It’s not just for youth but adults can learn while you’re having fun and challenging yourself... We have to keep up with what the youth

are doing. This is a way to reach them, so they actually learn.”

Haviser explained the original concept of the Tanki Maraka project was to highlight the important cultural development, not just that the soldiers came here. They brought new technology; children were born from the soldiers and local women and the lifestyle and economy were affected.

To learn more about Beecaribe Escape Games visit Beecaribe.com and play a short version of the game; *The Prologue of Maraka*. A youth version of the game will be ready around September.

Photos / story Julie Morgan

Like me, you’ve probably driven past the sign for Tanki Maraka dozens of times on your way to Rincon and wondered, what is that? I finally stopped, parked and walked around to discover an open-air park with remnants of a U.S. military base from World War II. There are paths winding through the free park with illustrated signs and information about what was there before the base was dismantled in 1947.

Tanki Maraka was opened in 2015 following extensive archaeological studies that began in 2007 by the Bonairean Archaeological Institute (BONAI) founded by archaeologist Jay Haviser.

On July 5, I was invited to visit Tanki Maraka for the launch of a new Bee Caribe game, *The Spy from Maraka*, based on the historical site. Jay Haviser, Bonai director Lauriane Ammerlaan and Bart Oost of Bee Caribe introduced the game with some information about the project. After a toast, everyone was invited to play a short version of the game.

Oost said, “To those of you who know my games, you follow clues to find a hidden location. But this is different. There is a dark side of the history and it’s important to tell the whole story. The game is designed to trigger people to use their own imagination and start a whole new way of thinking. The main character is a tribute to



Gamers find clues to solve the puzzle Photo Julie Morgan

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Undersea Angels



A juvenile french angel swimming behind a rope. Photo Julie Morgan

angel fluttering around, swimming continuously but never going anywhere.

Many other baby fish have no natural protection and spend a lot of time hiding from predators, darting out for food when the coast looks clear. French angelfish babies stay safe by displaying themselves to predators and they earn food at the same time!

As the juvenile French angelfish grows, its yellow bars disappear and yellow colors the filament at the end of the adult's dorsal fin and the outer edge of each scale. Without clearly-defined bars, young French angels are no longer properly garbed to be cleaners; instead they forage widely, nibbling on just about everything including the occasional sponge. Adult French angels have appealing faces and beautiful yellow-circled eyes. Two of them were the first fish Diane and I saw when we took a boat to Klein Bonaire. They swam right up to us, examining the new visitors to

their world.

French angel can grow to 18" (46 cm) in size and live in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and warm Western Atlantic waters, including of course Bonaire. Although as juvenile cleaners they work alone, adult French angelfish like to travel in pairs.

Queen angelfish can be found pretty much wherever French angelfish live. Like French angels they can also grow to 18" (46 cm). As befits their rank, Queen angelfish are less common than French angels, and more aloof than curious. But the most noticeable difference is that Queen angels are more colorful than French angels, oh boy, are they ever more colorful! Like the French angel they have lots of bright yellow, including a bright yellow tail. Elsewhere, their yellow is outlined with electric blue, which also highlights the fish's lips, and on its forehead is a round, electric blue circle -- the Queen's crown.

Juvenile queen angels are even more of a visual treat than the adults. The tiniest babies are dark blue, light blue and white, but they are extremely shy and are rarely seen. By the time they grow to about 2" (5 cm), they have their adult colors - electric blue, bright yellow and red-orange and in the juveniles these colors are brighter and more intense than they will ever be again. The effect is vava-voom striking. Juvenile queen angels are impossible to mistake for any other fish.

The Caribbean's third angelfish, the rock beauty, is smaller than the French and the queen, reaching only about 12" (30 cm) in length. Another difference is that juvenile rock beauties actually masquerade as another fish, the three-spot damselfish. Both are yellow with a black spot at the top of the rear half of their bodies. The rock beauty is a mild-mannered fish. Its juvenile resemblance to the feisty, belligerent, territorial damselfish would -- very conveniently -- make other fish steer clear of it.

As a rock beauty grows, its black spot grows as well, to cover most of its rear half. Its yellow baby lips turn dark though its tail remains yellow. Above and below each of its eyes is an arc of bright blue. Its top and bottom fins are trimmed with red-orange, as is the spine on the bottom of its gill covers.

That spine at the bottom of their gill covers is one physical characteristic shared by all angelfish.

Something else they all share is the ability to eat sponges safely. Believe it or not, sponges are very dangerous for most animals to eat including all human beings and most fish. Among the few creatures who can eat sponges safely are the angelfish, who gather around a large sponge and munch away at it. There is something in the surface of most sponges, even touch-me-not sponges, that angelfish don't like. But underneath the surface, the sponge is white instead of dark reddish brown and the angelfish take turns grabbing one bite at a time in the excavation site.

Of course they take turns -- they're little angels, aren't they?



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*; 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.

Guava Mousse

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant

Ingredients: 200 gr (7 oz) Guava paste (Iberia) • 2 dl (6.76 oz) pineapple juice • 2 dl (6.76 oz) cream • 50 grams (1/4 C) of sugar • 4 leaves of gelatin • 1/2 dl (1.7 oz) peachtree liqueur • 3 egg yolk • 3 egg white • 25 grams (1/8 C) of sugar • 200 g (1 C) fresh mango • Dried mango • Possibly chocolate ice cream and a sprig of mint



and a sprig of mint.



Each month Chef Corjan Hoogerheide of Lekker Thuis shares the recipe for one of his personal dishes created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients.

Heat the pineapple juice and dissolve the Guava paste in it. Stir in the egg yolks with the 50 g sugar and the liqueur in a bowl. Pour the warm liquid onto the egg yolk mixture and stir well. Now heat this while stirring constantly until the egg yolk starts to thicken. Pour back into the basin and dissolve the soaked gelatin in it. Let this mixture cool. Whip the whipped cream and chill. Beat the egg whites with the rest of the sugar until stiff. Now fold everything together and spoon into glasses containing some sliced fresh mango.

Chill and then serve with a scoop of chocolate ice cream and dried mango

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Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>)

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

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

Marshe di Pruga Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market.): Pakus reopened May 11 at new location Kaya Gilberto F Croes. Located just past Caribbean Laundry. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20.

Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700 <https://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

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Washington Slagbaai Park: Open Tues. - Sun. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

April 26 -July 26	Terramar: SALÍ FO'R LAMAN Free. Discover importance and beauty of coral reefs. Exhibit is part of community program 'Bou di Awa' which is powered by WWF Dutch Caribbean. Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. .
Art Exhibits May-July	SACA Art Center Antriol. Kaya Korona 74. Open Wed - Sat. 3 - 10 p.m. http://www.sacabonaire.com Jozee Tjoa, May 4 - July 28.
Saturday, July 20	10th Women's Dive Day "For women only" dives at three dive centers: Dive Friends, VIP Diving and Toucan Diving Bonaire (see page 15)
July 21	MoltenWolf Mosaic Workshops. We will demonstrate creating a mosaic wall project such as large and small turtles. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$175 pp. Second of three summer workshops. No experience necessary. All materials and equipment provided. 8 people per class. Email MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com .
July 22 - 23	U.S. Social Security - Federal Benefits Services Visit Curaçao. U.S Consulate General Gorsiraweg 1, Willemstad. 1 - 5 p.m.
July 25 - 26	U.S. Social Security - Federal Benefits Services Visit Aruba. U.S Department of Foreign Affairs, Schotlandstraat #49 Oranjestad. 1 - 5 p.m. <i>Schedule appointment by sending an email to FBU.Santo.Domingo@ssa.gov. include your name, SS number, telephone and service required. You must bring original documents as well as a photocopy of each document required.</i>
Saturday, July 27	Lora Roost Count. 6 - 8 a.m. see this page
Friday, August 16	Animal Shelter Bonaire Charity Dinner and Auction. Enjoy an evening of fine dining and philanthropy at Red Palm Village Bonaire. Ticket holders will enjoy a delectable four-course dinner paired with exquisite wines followed by an auction all proceeds to Animal Shelter Bonaire. \$175 (see page 19)

Events, Meetings, Sports

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

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

Art Gallery Sobremesa Bonaire View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Opening hours are Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. and Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10.

Beach Tennis Bonaire Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). 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 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All playing levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (only whatsapp text messages), bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

Diver Safety. Presentations with Jason Buttenshaw held the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

Pickleball. Chinese Assoc. Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m.; Jong Bonaire Weds 6-8 p.m. this week only; Sand Dollar at Eddy's almost daily 8 a.m. Come join the fun. A sport for all ages.

Racing / Fevering. The Onima fever platform is available every Tues. Thurs. Sat. and Sun. 4 - 7 p.m.



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



Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m. - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. For sessions before July 20 see [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation). No presentations between July 20 and Sept 7th. Email: Caribbean.Islands@manta.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@reefrenwalbonaire.org



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

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Thur. July 11	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Wed. July 17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630
Thurs. July 18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1800	South	3260
Wed. July 24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Wed. July 31	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0730-1830	South	3260
Wed. August 7	MARDI GRAS	0700-1600	South	6631
Thurs. August 8	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Tues. August 13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	0830-1800	South	3660
Wed. August 14	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630

ROOST COUNT VOLUNTEERS

When?

Saturday July 27, 2024
6:00 am - 8:00 am

What to do?

Count parrots flying off the roosting area

Introduction presentation

Monday 22 of July 2024

More information or sign up

Echobonaire@gmail.com

- No experience, no problem
- Kids friendly
- Count in pairs



You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, July 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Omina. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Climate Resilience Project

Have you been diving in the Bonaire National Marine Park in the last 2 weeks?

Fill out our short survey to help us gain insight into the state of our reefs!





Be a part of the global celebration of women divers right here on Bonaire on Women's Dive Day July 20. Three local dive shops have scheduled a 'for women only' dive and other activities to enjoy the ocean, marine life in the beautiful waters of Bonaire. Statistics

show only 35% of divers worldwide are women but are our numbers higher on the island of diving freedom? Let's find out... sign up for one of these local events.

Dive Friends is celebrating PADI Women's Dive Day for the 10th year and every woman diver is invited. They have scheduled a boat dive this year departing from Dive Friends Bonaire Port Bonaire location. Be there at 1 p.m. as the boat departs at 1:30 p.m. and returns around 6 p.m. The day includes the dive with tank, breathwork workshop, presentation about dolphins and drinks and snacks. Cost is \$40 (cash only) with 10 bucks going to a good cause. Sign up at Port Bonaire.

VIP Diving enjoyed such a successful Women's Dive Day in 2023, they decided to do it again. VIP has planned a free afternoon guided dive with tank, bubbles and snacks. Only 10 spots available so sign up today at info@vipdiving.com or drop by the shop.

Toucan Diving Bonaire at Plaza Resort will be headed to the amazing Klein Bonaire for a one-tank guided boat dive. The dive includes, air or nitrox tank, weights, drinks, some sweets and a little surprise for all the women divers. Cost is \$45. Places are limited so sign up now at diveshop@bonaire.valk.com or PM.

Regatta Bonaire 2024 announced

The island will be more than ready for Regatta Bonaire 2024 as the date October 6 – 12, planning and schedule are already in place. Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has taken the lead this year and only a few details remain. In the press conference on July 4, TCB's Miles Mercera told the press that even the invitations have been sent to the neighboring islands of Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten. And in the next week, presentations are set on those islands to encourage their participation.

This will be the 57th year of Regatta Bonaire's first run in 1967 as a bet for 27 cases of beer between Captain Don Stewart's boat the *Sislin* and Ebo Domacasse's *Vilia*.

Regatta 2024 is bringing back the fishing boats to the competition and of course Sunfish, windsurf, wingfoil, yachts, microboats, Optimist and kitesurfing. An exciting new addition is Caribbean Rampage freestyle windsurfing.

The week begins with the Swim to Klein benefiting Jong Bonaire on October 6. The Parade of Nations Flag parade is returning with representatives from all the different nations living and loving Bonaire walking from Kas di Regatta to the main bandstand on October 9. A microboats workshop and windsurf lessons will be held at Kas di Regatta and SKAL on October 10.

All activities will be held between Kas di Regatta and



the Harbor office. A boat party is scheduled on October 12 between Karels and the North pier.

TCB is introducing Bonaire Regatta Village which will extend from Kas di Regatta to the Harbor office. It will be filled with food trucks and supervised play areas for kids with bounce houses and other activities. And guests will be able to find 20 toilets cleaned every hour.

Selibon has agreed to pick up trash twice a day so no more overflowing klikos. A Bonaire Regatta drink bottle will be for sale, with drink discounts at vendors to help cut down on litter and recycling issues.

Bonaire can't have a regatta without music and the

lineup is both international and local: Tsunami, Luis Moka I Palu Grandi, Payola, Fenty, JC & Friends, FMK, Ritmiko Timon, Foyan Boys and ESO. A second list with a surprise act will be announced in August.

In two weeks, the announcement will be made as to who this year's Regatta is dedicated.

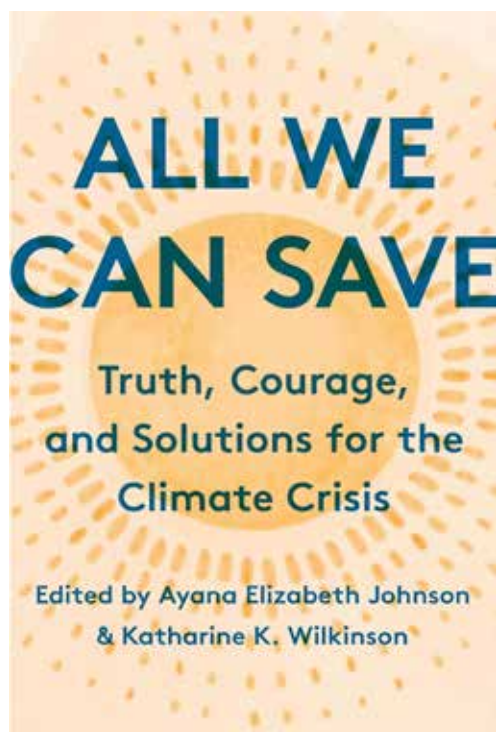
Sign up for the competitions is available for all the contests at: regatabonaire.com.

Regatta Bonaire's main sponsor is Guardian Group along with supporting sponsors: Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire (FWNB), OLB, TCB, Telbo, Enterprise, BMW, Corendon, Curoil, Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen and BIA.

TCB

Buckley's Books

by George Buckley



ALL WE CAN SAVE is a National bestseller that provides over 50 short essays about Truth, Courage and Solutions to the Climate Crisis. One scribe called it "a feast of ideas and perspectives." *The New York Times* noted that editors Ayana Johnson and Katharine Wilkinson created a "powerful read that fills one with, dare I say, HOPE."

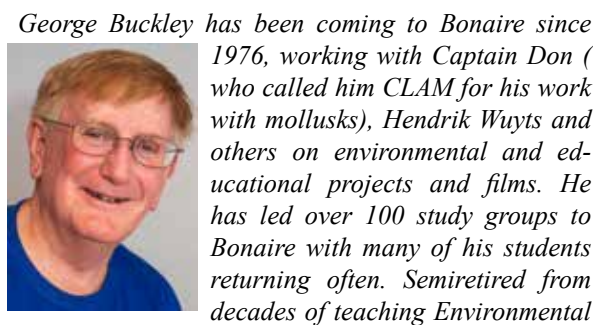
Indeed, Johnson and Wilkenson have brought together an assemblage of a great array of voices and thoughts, all from female writers who are concerned about climate change and the environment. The essayists are accomplished architects, artists, attorneys, conservationists, farmers, journalists, leaders of environmental organizations, poets and scientists. Together they create a wonderful, powerful and sometimes provocative message of climate change awareness, issues, possible actions, solutions and above all, HOPE. There is something for everyone here.

Dive in to read about how to talk about climate change, how to heal landscapes, public service, climate citizens, governance, policy, politics, solutions underfoot, solutions at sea, the bayou, water and dozens of other enlightening and engaging ideas, concepts and themes. You will hear about how everything is connected and that everything is complicated yet there are paths

forward. There are visionaries, there is a collective spirit and commitment to the concept of onward.

The editors include a detailed index of topics and writers and a comprehensive list of related sources as a guide for deeper study as well as an extensive list of environmental organizations.

The paperback version is a compact treatise that you can read anywhere, choosing to check off essay by essay or read straight through.



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

What you need to know about fisheries in BNMP



Photo Julie Morgan

In STINAPA's most recent Marine Park Platform meeting of June 27, Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) manager Judith Raming discussed fishing, regulations and management. Fishing is a part of the island's history, culture and tradition. Fishermen were the first to use the island's waters, long before the BNMP was established.

Rules and regulations in the Island Ordinance Nature Management Bonaire and Island Decree for Nature Management allow several exceptions for the traditional fishers in our 2700 hectare marine park.

Under agreement with OLB, STINAPA manages the marine park that extends from high water to 60m (200ft). It is located around Bonaire from high water mark to 60m deep. This includes the Ramsar sites of Lac and Klein Bonaire. The park is zoned into two marine reserves, Queen Maxima and King Willem Alexan-

der; two no fishing zones; two snorkel fishing zones; and a comprehensive zone of Lac (no fishing near sea grass beds).

Commercial operations. Article 14 of the Island Decree Underwater Park requires commercial operations to have a permit: dive companies, education/ instruction, transport or guides, rental boats/sports equipment and charter fishers. No permit is required for the traditional fisherman.

Moorings are for the public to use. More than one boat on a public mooring is not allowed. But three fishing boats with a maximum length of 4m can use a public mooring. Fishermen's boats smaller than 13m can stay on a public mooring for two consecutive hours.

Boats at permanent moorings must be longer than 4m and only one can stay at a time.

Fishing in Lac is allowed with no anchoring. Fishing boats up to 4m can anchor with the use of a coral stone/ cement block. This is only outside of the sea grass beds.

Spearfishing and use of explosives are not allowed for fishing. Fine is \$250. If the offenders are inside a no fishing zone then they are fined an additional \$200. Young people are frequently found using a spear to fish. If you see this happening report it.

The ELF spear is for lionfish hunting. The ELF spears are issued to residents who can prove they have been certified for lionfishing. STINAPA requires a contract for their use that can't be abused, otherwise the user will be fined. STINAPA hands out 30-60 ELF's per year. An ELF or spear brought to Bonaire via air or ship will be taken and not returned.

Traps, cast nets and trap nets are prohibited unless the user has a permit. Permits are dependent on the mesh size of the net. Trap nets are not allowed under the piers and within a radius of 20 m of the outer edge of the pier.

Use of a Reda (net) must be certified with a mesh size of 1-2cm max and the Reda is tagged. Fishermen must stay with the net and can't loan to someone else. Having a net is not an offense but using it without a permit is criminal.

Nets cannot be used in no fishing zones or sea grass beds. The Reda is typically used on bait balls. The owner must swim around the net every few hours to check for any other captured marine life and release them. The net may stay in the water for a maximum of 13 days with an inspection by STINAPA on the 10th day. If large marine life is found, the net may be opened to release them.

Fisheries in BNMP,
continued on facing page 17

Bonaire National Marine Park

Managed by Stinapa

- Established in 1979
- Under continuous active management since 1991
- Management agreement with OLB
- Surrounds Bonaire from high water to 60m (200ft) / located around Bonaire from the high-water mark to 60m deep
- Includes Klein Bonaire
- Water area: 2700 hectares
- Ramsar sites: Lac and Klein Bonaire

Zoning:

- 2 Marine Reserves
- 2 no fishing zones
- 2 snorkel fishing zones
- Lac comprehensive zoning

Snorkel fishing is not considered traditional fishing, but many young people are doing Snorkel fishing and taking reef and protected fish. It is prohibited to use a snorkel or diving mask to capture fish in the marine park. The fine is \$170. Snorkel fishing is allowed in two areas only: between Punt Vierkant and the entrance of Plaza Resort Marina, and between Chachacha Beach and entrance of Harbour Village Marina.

Lobster fishing is only allowed from November 1 – April 30 between Malmok in Washington Park and Willemstoren, the light house at the south of the island. Use of snorkel and diving gear is not allowed.

No fishing zones are between Punt'iWaya (Hato) to the entrance of Harbour Village Marina; and between the pier at Chachacha Beach and entrance of Plaza Resort Marina. Exceptions are bait fishing or trawling.

Queen Conch (Karko) is illegal to collect. The Karko is under stress from overfishing in past years. Importing conch is allowed but only with valid permits. Fine is \$500 or more. A scientific Karko project is underway in the Lac area to rejuvenate the species.

STINAPA biologist and senior conservation manager, Roxanne Francisca, spoke to the group saying, the fish population of Bonaire has shown significant decline especially in certain fish species. There used to be a more dense and diverse group of the large carnivorous species and they were bigger in size. The drastic decrease of coral reefs in the park and changing water temps have had an effect. She continued say that we need to figure out why it has changed to make sure we have a healthy fish population. The changing of ocean currents may have something to do with it. Activities of people are having an impact and we are trying to find answers to the problems.

STINAPA has been collaborating with Piskabon since



A diver takes a lionfish with an ELF Photo Julie Morgan

Raming took over the post of marine park manager in 2020.

Raming said, "Fishing is connected to our marine park. We have a strong relationship with Piskabon. Because of the trust we can ask for help when we see something happening in the marine park to see if together we can work something out. Our rangers are working now with the fishermen... In the past we didn't have a conversation going, now we have a solid working relationship."

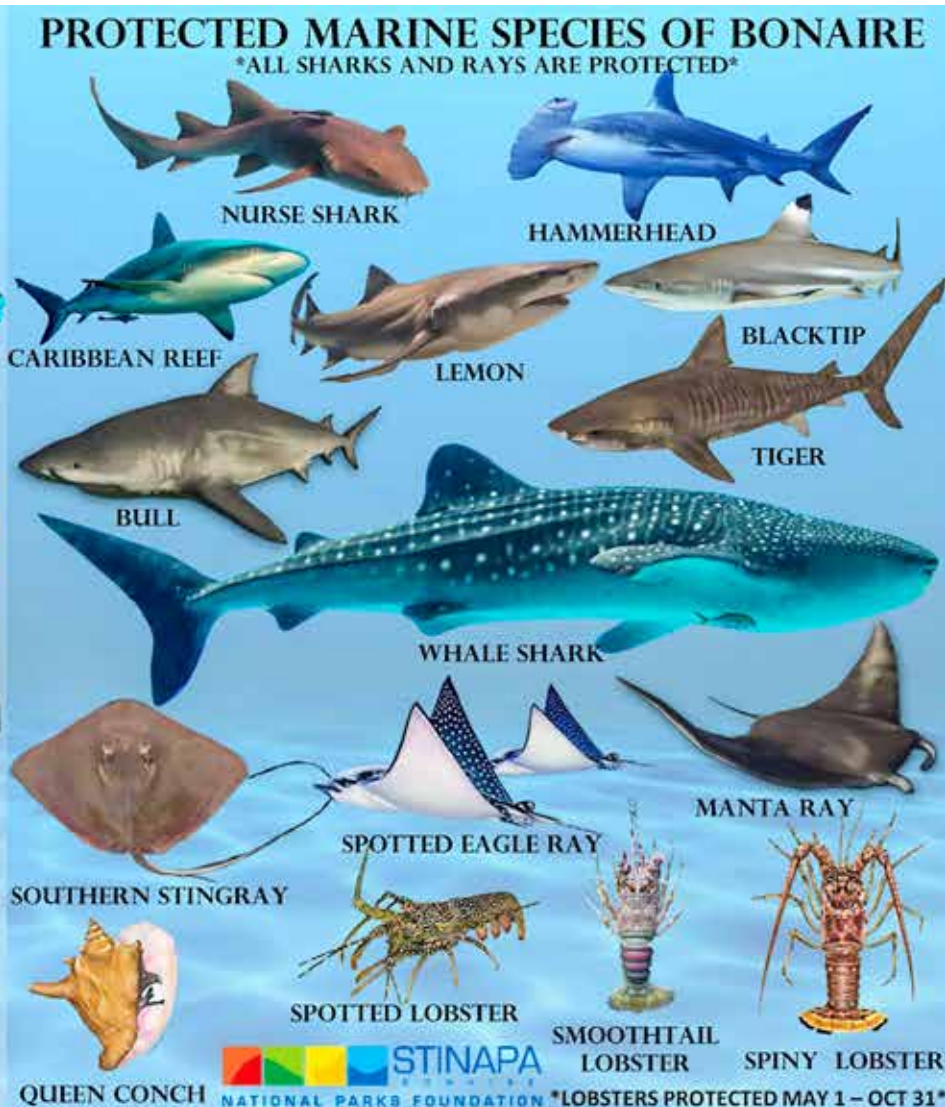
RoffaReefs is an organization that is exciting for the future of Bonaire's fish population. Before no one knew where the fish were coming from. Was it from the mangroves or on the reef? If it's known where they are spawning then those areas need to be protected. Roffa is

catching fish eggs, combining the DNA and following the cycle of how that 'fish becomes a fish.'

In January 2025 or 2026, a new law to regulate fisheries will be announced. There will be exclusive, economical zones falling into fisheries management of the Netherlands. Scoop nets, lines out on a boat, size and numbers will be regulated in fish zones. When it comes into effect there will be a local regulation combined with the fishery law. Necessary permits, fishing methods as to what you can and cannot do with certain species will be regulated. The new law is still under debate. It will affect fishing as we know it.

For more information visit STINAPA.org.

Julie Morgan



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cial order hamburgers. Jessica McCloskey, head administrator of GSTA, told me that the Habitat staff, from the office to the restaurant to the dive staff, bent over backwards to make the experience great. "And we are a big, messy group, but they have been amazing!" she said.

The group had its own buffet for each meal, with all dietary issues cheerfully accommodated by Floris.

Logan, a senior team leader, lost his Army dad when he was 5. He is now 23, a rising senior at Utah State. He told me that he began with GSTA's scuba program when he was 15, and it challenged him. "I was not a strong swimmer at first," he said, but he persevered, and today he is a NAUI Divemaster. When I asked him what he got from the program, though, it was not about scuba (which he loves) but inspiration. "GSTA exposed me to good leadership, particularly Kent Solheim. I learned to stick to my values, work through challenges, and be responsible to myself and to others." Now, he is paying it forward as he sees the younger group members grow and change.

And it's not just diving. Talent show, dance party, karaoke—these teens are always active. This includes daily 6 a.m. workouts that, according to their Instagram page, include 400 push-ups, 400 squats, and pushing a truck around the parking lot! I'm tired just thinking about it. During their last night on the island, the GSTA leaders convened an awards ceremony to recognize everyone's achievements, while Habitat dive manager Roger Haug DJ'd. Tributes offered included tongue in cheek awards for "most likely to set underwater speed records" and "most likely to push the red button." After awards, the teens danced around the pool to Roger's music.

Both Logan and Evan almost laughed when I asked if the discipline of GSTA programs made university life more manageable. "After GSTA, where you are responsible for other people in addition to yourself, college is easy!" Logan said.

It has been a privilege to be GSTA-adjacent this week. You can learn more about them at www.gstadventures.org.

Pet of the Week

Please meet our cat of the week, Bambi. Bambi is a female cat, calico or tri-color and is just lovely. She came to us about six weeks ago with three kittens, who are also ready for adoption. Bambi has been helping us socialize some of our other new kittens that came to the Shelter without mothers. Bambi is sweet and so patient with the little ones.

Bambi has done well with our other cats and seems to develop a nice relationship quickly. I believe she would do well in a home with other cats and children. She enjoys being held, cuddled and curling up on your lap. Once she is familiar with her new home and surroundings, she will do fine as an indoor or outdoor cat.

Come and meet Bambi and take her to her forever home!

Bambi is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen



Bambi

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Or call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Animal Shelter News

Save the Date: Charity Dinner and Auction for Animal Shelter Bonaire

Animal Shelter Bonaire is proud to announce an exclusive Charity Dinner and Auction on August 16 to raise funds for the welfare of animals on the island.

Guests are invited to join us for an enchanting evening of fine dining and philanthropy at the stunning Red Palm Village Bonaire. Ticket holders can enjoy a delectable four-course dinner paired with exquisite wines. The ticket price is \$175. A highlight of the evening will be our exciting auction featuring fantastic items.

This is a unique opportunity for guests to acquire special items while support-

ing a worthy cause. All proceeds from this event will go directly to Animal Shelter Bonaire providing care and shelter for animals in need.

We invite the community and all animal lovers to mark their calendars for this unforgettable evening. Further details will be provided soon on the website, The Bonaire Reporter and socials of Animal Shelter Bonaire.

You can register for this event through Animal Shelter Bonaire. Contact Marissa Lamers at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or call +599 7901622.

Marissa Lamers



STCB fishing line clean up

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) fishing line cleanup was held in the waters surrounding the North pier on July 7. Twenty divers made their way underwater armed with shears and mesh bags to remove fishing line that can be detrimental to turtles and other marine life. In a special moment, the cleanup crew saw a turtle cruising the depths.

Photo Julie Morgan



JUNE'S NOS ZJILEA

Let the fire of San Juan and San Pedro purify your soul

Mangazina di Rei's monthly event of Nos Zjilea on June 29 happened to fall within the dates for the famous fire jumping celebrations of San Juan and San Pedro, June 23 – 29.

Nochi Coffie described the traditional preparations which best evoke the special spiritual cleansing forces of San Juan and San Pedro.

The preparations begin at the end of April's harvest activities of Simadon. The kunuku must be purified and goats are brought in to free the areas of debris. Dried sorghum plants and Cadushy cactus are collected and made in to torches for the spiritual fire jumping.

The San Juan celebration begins on June 23, at 6 p.m. and continues to the next day. Food is prepared including arepas, chicken, baked polenta and fish and cabrito soup. A major part of the ceremony are shots of rum to purify the soul along with a special cake bread.

Guests at Nos Zjilea enjoyed the rum

and the cake bread before attempting to jump the flames.

Music was provided by local bands Tio, Ritjmiko Timon and cultural dance team. Duo Mirasol performed and danced with the guests.

For more information about Nos Zjilea visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook.

The next Nos Zjilea will be July 27 with great local food, crafts, music and cultural presentations about Bonaire. It doesn't get more local than this.

Photo / story Julie Morgan



Monique Winklaar of Duo Mirasol jumps the flames for the spiritual cleansing of the celebrations. Photo Julie Morgan



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