

FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone/WhatsApp (+599) 786-4055,
www.bonairereporter.com email:bonairereporter2019@gmail.com



Photo Julie Morgan

Road to Art reveals strong Bonaire art community

One of the more innovative events held on Bonaire in recent years is the Kaminda di Arte (Road to Art) organized by Sobremesa Gallery and Art Center. This was the second year for the two-day running art show giving art lovers an opportunity to follow a map and visit participating local artists at work in their studio or in galleries. Approximately 35 artists and crafts people were plotted on the map for the road to art. *The Reporter* loves this event because it is actually more of an art treasure hunt because you never know what you will find and the journey is sometimes a bit challenging with Bonaire's road signage. All in all we loved it.

Organizer of Kaminda di Arte, Karine de Wit, owner of Sobremesa, said she was happy with the results and received many positive reactions from the artists and the visitors. "I think it's a great way to get to know the

artists of our community and give them an opportunity to present themselves, show their work and discuss what they are doing. Most artists and galleries had a continuous stream of people all weekend," said Karine.

Karine told us the majority of art visitors were local but hopes to involve tourism guests in the next few years to acquaint them with the many working artists on Bonaire.

Of the 35 participating artists in the two day event, 15 work in the fine art fields of painting, sculpture, watercolor and lithography. Many of the craftspeople work in glass, mosaics and repurposed materials which is important when living on an island. We were surprised to find a number of fabric artists working in needlework crochet and macrame.

For this article we focused on nine of the artists we visited..

Work shown in top row, L-R:

Ghislaine Monte – Ghis Arts is always broadening her range of mediums from painting with juice of aloe on linen to broad palette knife painting. The colors are either bright and fanciful or subdued, realistic stylized portraits with social commentary

Josephine Ebing has been a sculptor for 45 years. As any dedicated sculptor would do, when she came to Bonaire 30 years ago she shipped alabaster to sculpt. Her stone heads are sculpted with three faces and have a tone of mystery. Josephine is still working at 80 years old.

Eris Cremers was an art teacher in Holland for 28 years. He lets himself be inspired

by the materials he uses which comes from nature. The little houses he builds usually don't contain people but only evidence that they reside in the little houses. If there are people, then they have no faces to let the viewer use his imagination. Eric explained, if it isn't challenging then I get bored.

Loes Praagman – Aloha Bonaire Loes' work can be seen all over the island on wall murals. Her work is colorfully bright and fits perfectly on Bonaire. Her portraiture is her portraiture is spot on in capturing the personality of the subject.

Work shown in bottom row, L-R

Hendrik Wuyts, a well-known videographer on the island for many years is working in lino or woodblock printing. He carves into a

Kaminda di Arte to page 19



Meet the artists of the work shown above. L-R top row: Ghislaine Monte, Josephine Ebing , Eric Cremers, Loes Praagman.
L-R bottom row: Hendrik Wuyts, Lize van de Ven, Nienke Hartog, Babbette Loos Photos Julie Morgan

The island won't become poorer on January 1 after all

Until this week the prospects for Bonaire's economy looked grim. The general consensus was that, despite the minimum wage coming into effect on January 1, the purchasing power of Bonaireans, already weak for the most needy in the population, would also drop that day by 10%. The reason: a slew of spending reductions and tax increases introduced by the Schoof cabinet would also take effect. The tax increases had been declared non-negotiable.

In a sudden turn around though, The Hague announced in several press releases issued on December 6 that the threatened subsidies would be restored. And it turned the tap back on for other support funds the island had been receiving. An explanation follows. It is not brief.

When the Schoof cabinet (with Gert Wilders watching in the background) first turned its attention to BES, it immediately began announcing the elimination of several subsidies and its intentions to reduce much support spending that had become the norm during the Rutte years. That spending has long been a thorn in the side of the conservatives, some of whom have openly declared their opinion that all the island governments are inept and corrupt.

They apparently haven't noticed that little Bonaire has changed. A condition of joining of the Netherlands as a municipality was that Bonaire's governing style had to become more Dutch. The island politicians had adapted to responsible government, implement budgeting and financial reporting, and adopt transparent governance that complied with rules and laws. Accepting the condition, Bonaire's leadership took reform seriously and made steady progress. The Rutte governments responded generously, funding many upgrades in life on the island. But the last contributions of the Rutte Four government will expire at midnight on December 31.

With the year end approaching, the Schoof government had to move expeditiously on making new expenditure decisions

and passing new financial legislation, including a planned tax increase. The new taxation laws, which The Hague declared non-negotiable, would take effect on January 1.

The Central Dialogue, the local consultation platform on Bonaire that includes the Public Entity, unions, employer representatives, and the Chamber of Commerce, filed a reasoned and data supported protest. It argued that such important changes should be based on economic data and reasoned analysis and discussion.

The Executive Council and the Island Council objected as well. On the other hand, according to State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Zsolt Szabó, the Executive Council and the Island Council did encourage the passage of an amended version of the tax plan. The Cabinet pressed ahead and successfully convinced Parliament to pass the tax legislation.

The ink was hardly dry when the Schoof cabinet discovered they had passed legislation that, as of January 1, would start taxing those earning the new minimum wage on their income and benefits. Bonaire's supporters among the other parties in the shaky coalition were outraged.

The Cabinet immediately moved to delete the tax increase. However, legislation once passed is complicated to change, especially in a hurry. Shortcuts would be required that would need the full support of the other coalition parties. That support apparently did not come cheap. On December 6 the Schoof cabinet issued several press releases which cumulatively promised "to focus on strengthening the livelihood security of residents with lower and middle incomes in the Caribbean Netherlands in the coming years... We also aim to align the social security system on the islands more closely with that of the European Netherlands."

Their specific promises are summarized in the accompanying story, *On December 6 the cabinet announced promises.* DMR

On December 6 the cabinet announced promises

As late as November 28, State Secretary Szabó was still announcing island subsidies the cabinet would allow to expire on January 1. Then on December 26 the government released a flood of press releases that promised "to further enhance the livelihood security of residents in Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba in the coming years." The reason for this change of heart are explained in the accompanying story, "The island won't become poorer on January 1 after all." A summary of the promises follows.

- To align the social security system on the islands more closely with that of the European Netherlands. This includes introducing parental leave, short-term care leave, and unemployment benefits."

- A port in Saba, food security initiatives, and road construction."
- Investments in sustainable energy, the introduction of public transport, and the construction of affordable housing.
- €2 million for island services related to poverty and debt.
- Continued funding school meals in both the European and Caribbean Netherlands.
- "A further elaboration of the additional resources" that this cabinet has reserved for improving subsistence on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba when the cabinet addresses these issues in the spring. DMR.

ZJCN increases benefits for older patients

Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) announced new coverage that will take effect on January 1:

- Exercise therapy for COPD
- Exercise therapy in cases of severe rheumatoid arthritis
- Geriatric rehabilitation care
- Right to a second companion for medical transfers
- Suitability assessment for companion during medical transfers
- Abolition of the 'best ear' criterion

Also, the premium rate charged to employers will be reduced from 11.7% to 9.3% as of 1 January 2025. DMR

Contractors and KvK object to permit delays

Recently, contractors and project developers gathered at a meeting organized by the Chamber of Commerce (KvK) regarding delays reported in issuing permits. BES legislation (BES Building Decree) requires a building permit application to be decided within sixteen weeks. According to reports, permit applications are presently taking two to three times longer. Such delays increase the costs of building significantly.

The KvK calls wants all parties – from contractors and project developers to local governments and policy makers – to solve the problem. It offers to facilitate the meeting. The KvK also encourages contractors and project developers to unite so they can effectively speak as a single voice. DMR.

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599) 786 4055
 Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Publisher: Julie Morgan
Production: Barbara Lockwood
Website: Michael Copini
Contributors: Ginny Knight, Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Jane Madden-Discko, Don M. Ricks, Alan Zale, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Marissa Lamers, Amy Bowen, Kaj Schut, Wilma Nijland, Izain Mercera, Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, George Buckley, Frank Böhm, Paul Ruijs, Pam Teitel, Mel McCombie, Sara Matera, Bo Attevelt, Malcolm Wilson, Nancy Persad, Sander van Lopik, Chantal Hulst
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Island News
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Rhashindra's wins celebrated at Krioyo Fusion



Rhashindra Donge, recently named best Chef of the Caribbean and gold medal winner at CHTA's Taste of the Caribbean in Miami, was celebrated at Krioyo Fusion on November 29.

Donge is head chef at the new seaside restaurant in Isidel Beach Park. Owner and co-chef Robertico Bernabella wanted to make sure everyone knew of Donge's accomplishments so he held a special happy hour to congratulate her. A DJ entertained the crowd while cham-

pagne, drinks and special bites prepared by Donge were served to the guests.

This is the second time Donge has won the best chef honor at CHTA. In addition, she won Best Use of Beef, sponsored by Certified Angus Beef.

If you missed the party, drop by Krioyo Fusion at Isidel Park to congratulate the best chef in the Caribbean and taste her cuisine.

Story / photo Julie Morgan

'Artistic Journey' opens at Terramar

Artistic Journey, a collaborative art exhibit by long time friends and artists Delno Tromp and Gabrielle Wilson, is now on display at Terramar Museum. The show opened and to an overwhelming response from local art lovers on December 6.

Delno and Gabrielle's art creations featured individual work by the artists and

several collaborative efforts. The colorful show of work is strictly Bonaire with bright colors and views of the island's nature. Artistic Journey will run from now to February 28. Terramar Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Terramar Museum will be open for Bonaire Shopping Night December 20, 6 – 9 p.m. *Photo Julie Morgan*



FOR SALE Kaya Kuarts 9 Spacious Home in a Desired Location



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Have you discovered Canarbo Epicurean Market?



red, white and rosé from Domaine Ber-son and an Italian bubbly called Durello and a fine Champagne from the House of Ruinart. And there is a nice selection of Hoop IPA beer from Holland.

In the next few weeks, Canarbo is expecting new items especially for the holidays. Gift baskets can be the perfect holiday gift, especially when you can personalize the baskets by selecting the items from the many products available. And just for the holidays, turkeys and hams are available for pre-order.

Customer service is big at Canarbo. And if Zachary isn't available, Mary Maestroni, a talented chef, will be there to assist you.

Zach said, "I like helping people find what they want, and experience new things and our chef Maria has a wide knowledge too. For me, that is one of the highlights of the store, recommending and helping, because we care and both love food."

Canarbo Epicurean Market is located at 23 Kaya Industria, Unit L1, open Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. +599-701-0527. For more information call +599-701-0527, visit their website <http://canarbofoods.com>, or visit Canarbo on Facebook and Instagram.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

dira expanded again. In addition to the wholesale business, they opened the Canarbo Epicurean Market for anyone who loves specialty food items.

Brian's son Zachary has become the face and go-to person for answers about every item sold in the market. Working in the background for several years on orders and management remotely from Canada, he would visit Bonaire two or three months at a time to get hands on knowledge before finally moving to Bonaire.

Zachary said, "I enjoy food and I'm knowledgeable. I've tried most everything so I can give an accurate description and make recommendations directly to the customers."

If you are wondering about products, you will have to see for yourself as there are hundreds of items available for retail and many hundreds more for the wholesale part of Canarbo.

Shoppers will find Canadian and US beef, Wagyu beef from Japan and Australia, Wagyu burgers, Canadian and American pork, veal, lamb, shellfish, Canadian salmon, Corvina, mahi, wahoo, oysters, poultry, duck and for the

holidays there will be rabbit and other specialties.

A wide selection of salami and charcuterie products are available along with pesto, tapenades, jarred vegetables, pastas, fresh truffles and truffle products and a wide selection of extra virgin olive oils.

Wine lovers will find French wines in



Zachary Battah Photo Julie Morgan.

If you love to cook and your appetite leans toward the gourmand, then you should know Canarbo Epicurean Market. Walking through the door for the first time you'll immediately sense Canarbo knows food and your mind will begin to think of all the options for amazing dishes you can make.

Canarbo was started back in 2014 by Brian Battah of Montreal, Canada and Indira Charles of Bonaire. With Arturo Charles, Indira's brother, they began with one freezer at the former Sand Dollar grocery in Hato to hold the imported salmon from Canada and sold wholesale to the restaurants. Within a few short years the business evolved from a one freezer operation to nine to satisfy the growing restaurant requests of more items including Canadian beef and seafood.

With the list of wholesale items ever expanding, word was getting around and Canarbo became not only a wholesale shop for restaurants, but residents discovered it too. More and more people would come in to find that elusive ingredient or to shop for that special meal at the wholesale shop on Kaya Industria.

Until finally last year Brian and In-

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Letters & Opinions

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Challenging a purchase threshold for housing

**Public letter to the Executive Council of Bonaire
December 4, 2024**

Dear Executive Council, Island Council,

Following the publication on *Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties* of November 28, 2024 (appendix 1) about your proposal to introduce a purchase threshold for newcomers of \$533,750 to protect the housing market, I would like to express my concerns. It seems that this measure is being introduced quietly, without broad consultation or clear explanation to the Bonairean community. I refer to the start note (appendix 2).

Why the proposed threshold is absurd

According to figures from the CBS (2022), the average income of a household on Bonaire is \$36,100 per year. (appendix 3) Based on these figures, a household can obtain a mortgage of approximately \$171,000 according to calculations by Crooij & Flipse (appendix 4). Even with your own savings or help from family, a home of \$303,000 (NHG amount) usually remains out of reach. Let alone a home up to \$533,750.

At the moment, several homes in the price range of \$400,000 to \$500,000 have been for sale for more than six months. These homes are not being bought by the local population because they are financially out of reach. It is unrealistic and absurd to expect that these would suddenly become accessible to Bonaireans with a threshold of \$533,750.

In addition, owners of homes between \$400,000 and \$533,750 will be hit hard by this measure. These homes, which have often been on the market for a long time, will probably remain on the market for even longer. Due to the restrictions imposed on potential buyers, the market for these homes is being restricted even further. This will result in a loss of value and financial pressure for the owners, who may have to sell their homes at a loss.

With a threshold of \$533,750, all apartments in resorts such as Caribbean Club, Resort Bonaire or other similar locations, that are offered well below this threshold, would also no longer be allowed to be purchased by investors. This means that these apartments would become exclusively available to the local population. However, this is completely unrealistic. In addition, high monthly HOA (Home Owners Association) fees make these apartments even less attractive.

It raises the question whether the Executive Council has properly considered the broader consequences of this policy.

Instead of helping, this threshold actually works to the disadvantage of the local population, because:

- **No solution to the shortage of affordable housing:** The proposal only focuses on excluding certain buyers, without addressing the core of the problem – the lack of affordable housing.

- **Negative impact on homeowners:** Homes between \$400,000 and \$533,750 will become less marketable, leading to loss of value and financial damage to their owners.

- **Similar policies elsewhere have failed:** In Vancouver, Canada, a similar measure was introduced to protect the housing market from foreign buyers. The result was minimal: prices hardly dropped, but homes were still for sale for a long time and investment in new construction dried up, which only increased the housing shortage.

Introducing a purchase threshold does not address the real problems of the housing market on Bonaire. A structural solution requires:

1. Investments in affordable new construction. Build social and middle-class homes that match the financial possibilities of the local population.

2. Subsidies and favorable mortgage conditions. Stimulate first-time and local buyers with financial support, such as subsidies or lower interest rates.

3. Government initiatives for affordable housing. Ensure that the government itself realizes housing that is focused on the local community.

Conclusion

The proposal to introduce a purchase threshold of \$533,750 is not only unrealistic, but does not solve the housing shortage for the Bonairean population. In fact, it increases inequality, does not stimulate new construction and can cause economic damage. I therefore call on you to review your plans and focus on policies that actually help the local population. Only by working together on structural solutions can the housing market on Bonaire become fairer and more accessible.

Kind regards, J.S.R. Spoons

Government not listening to the fishing sector

**Piskabon sent this letter to the government
Monday, December 9.**

Dear Executive Council,

Piskabon asks for your attention to this urgent letter.

On many occasions Piskabon has tried to stay in communication through different channels with the Government of Bonaire, pointing out topics of urgency and importance, giving and requesting information, but this has been in vain in our opinion.

Piskabon feels that the cooperative is not taken seriously and the local fishermen are the ones who are harmed in this situation.

Piskabon has not yet heard what is going to happen with its zorgcontract for 2025, the only information is that \$150,000 has been budgeted for 2025 again. With

this amount Piskabon cannot serve its membership properly and Piskabon is not getting an answer on e.g. questions about our budget adaptation for 2025, submitted to the Island Council at the end of last October.

Fisheries is one of the most basic economic sectors of Bonaire and that for years has been neglected. Security of human existence, is the level at which he can provide for his own food which makes him less dependent on factors outside his influence. The choice for sustainable development for Bonaire is not possible without giving its own food production the place and attention it deserves. And in this we as organized fishermen in Piskabon demand the Executive Council's attention urgently.

Hoping that the Executive Board realizes the urgency, we conclude.

Sincerely, Ernest M. de Lanoy, Piskabon President

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Since there is no MLS (multiple listing service) on Bonaire, if I list my house with one real estate agency, will other agencies be able to show and sell it? Thanks, Jill

There are two important questions to ask any real estate agency/broker before listing your property for sale on Bonaire.

- Do you permit buyers working with other real estate agencies to view my home? and
- Do you share the sales commission you're charging me if another agency brings the buyer?

Some real estate agencies only sell their own listings to their own clients. This means that if another agency has a potential buyer for your property, some listing agencies may not agree to show the property or may not share the commission you pay. They want a buyer working with another agency to pay a separate commission to the agency the buyer is working with. That makes two commissions for one home, which reduces the price you receive for your home as the buyer has less money for you.

To ensure that all possible buyers see your property, list with an agency that works cooperatively with all other agencies on the island. At RE/MAX, we are happy to work with any established real estate agency to sell your home. Our primary goal is to sell your property as soon as possible for the best possible price. That's why we cooperate with other brokers, so your home can be shown and sold to any and all interested buyers.

We also share the selling commission with other renowned and established agencies if they bring the buyer. This ensures that every possible buyer sees your home, and that they're not penalized with any additional costs if they want to buy your home.

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

**If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire,
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POLICE REPORT

You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

Property crimes and arrests

Dec. 7. A man, 19, was arrested on Kaya Karpitan on suspicion of theft of a scooter.

Dec. 6. An apartment on Kaya Mamore was burgled between 12:45 and 6:15 p.m. Stolen items included Apple AirPods Max, a Go Pro Hero 11, jewelry, a Dell Chromebook laptop with charger, a Lenovo laptop/notebook and a Seiko watch.

Dec. 6. A black Bikers Choice fatbike which the owner had parked behind a car on Kaya Kuarta, was stolen within ten minutes, 6 - 6:10 a.m.

Dec. 4. A report was filed of attempted theft of an electric Giana Smart 3500 microcar that was parked on a property at Sabadeco Crown West. Unknown persons cut wires and tried to take the vehicle.

Dec. 4. A dark blue Sym Mio scooter license plate MF-3492 was stolen between 11 p.m. Tuesday and 8:45 a.m. Wednesday while parked in a parking lot at Kaya Yuma.

Dec. 3. Two backpacks were stolen at Te Amo Beach around 3:30 p.m. while the owners were snorkeling. They contained two Samsung A52 phones, a watch, sunglasses, clothing, and a wallet with cards and cash.

Nov. 27. Around 11:15 a.m. a patrol on Kaminda Djabou saw two people were riding a scooter without helmets. The driver was immediately recognized by the officers. After the scooter turned right into Kaya Patachi, the passenger got off the scooter and ran away. The driver of the scooter stopped when signalled by police to stop. During the check, the driver could not show a valid driver's license and insurance documents. He did hand over his passport. Police investigation revealed that the scooter was stolen. When the driver was confronted with this and told he was arrested, he fled on foot and disappeared from sight. The scooter was confiscated for further investigation.

Nov. 25. A home on Kaminda Djabou was burgled between 10 a.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. Sunday. A washing machine, a refrigerator, two mattresses, two air conditioners and a "42 inch" LG television were stolen.

Nov. 25. At the Angel City diving site between 10 and 10:45 a.m. a Paddle People bag with contents was stolen while the owner was snorkeling. The bag contained two Rayban sun glasses, a pair of Rayban prescription reading glasses, a Xtrom Powerbank, clothes and diving gear.

Nov. 25. A company on Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas was burgled between 4 p.m. on Sunday and 8:30 a.m. on Monday. A Vacmaster vacuum cleaner and a Karcher pressure washer with its motor were stolen from a container.

Nov. 25. A company on Kaya Industria Pariba reported the theft of cash, various tools (including saws, a handsaw, drills, batteries with chargers and a case with various hand tools).

Arrests

Dec. 6 & 7. Around 7 p.m. Friday two people were reported fighting at a catering establishment on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. The two men, aged 44 and 52, were arguing about money. Both men were arrested for assault. On Saturday around 9:55 p.m. a report came in of someone injured in a fight between a number of people at the same catering establishment. The victim, who was recognized by the officers from the fight the day before, initially refused to talk. The other people involved had already fled. The man was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Dec. 3. Around 1:45 p.m. a man, 22, was arrested at the police station for vandalism. The man is suspected of vandalizing a security camera at a home.

Nov. 27. Around 11 p.m. a man, 64, was arrested on Kaya Aurora for assault.

Traffic accidents / Driving under the influence

According to the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers involved in accidents.

Dec. 8. Around 8:40 p.m. police received a report of single-car accident. The driver, a woman, 34, stated that she tried to avoid a hole in the road and ended up in the 'mondi.' After

testing she was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and her driver's license was confiscated.

Dec. 8. Around 1:05 a.m. a single-vehicle collision was reported at a bend on Kaya Grandi and Kaya L.D. Gerharts. A scooter driver was unconscious when the police and ambulance arrived. According to witnesses, the victim had lost control of his scooter and drove straight into a pole from the wrong direction. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance and the scooter was taken to the police station.

Nov. 29. Around 3:15 a.m. a vehicle was reported to be parked in the wrong lane on Kaya Piedra Presioso at a bend that was very dangerous for traffic from the opposite direction. When the police arrived, they first tested, then arrested, the driver, a man, 52, for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was given a 5-hour driving ban and his car keys were confiscated until the end of the driving ban.

Nov. 29. Just after midnight a man, 55, was arrested on Kaya J.N.E. Craane for driving under the influence of alcohol. He had almost caused a collision by reversing. When an officer spoke to him about this, he drove forward and ended up partly on the pavement. Based on the breath tests, he was given a 1-hour driving ban.

Nov. 28. Around 7:30 a.m. three vehicles collided on Kaya Korona. A driver who was not paying attention crashed into the back of the car in front of him, causing it to also crash into the back of the car in front of him. Because a minor in one of the vehicles complained of pain, he was medically checked on site by the ambulance personnel. He did not have to go to the hospital.

Nov. 26. Around 11:05 p.m. after a collision between two vehicles on Kaya Korona, a woman, 34, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and her driver's license was confiscated.

Nov. 23. Around 7:15 p.m. a woman fell from her scooter and injured her head when she tried to leave the road to go to the beach. She was taken to the hospital by ambulance.



DCNA Receives Over €1.7 Million Extra from the Postcode Lottery

At the end of November, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) received an additional financial contribution from the National Postcode Lottery. Jonne Arnoldussen, Managing Director of the Postcode Lottery, presented a symbolic check to DCNA Director Arno Verhoeven on Bonaire.

The funding is in addition to the lottery's annual €500,000 multi-year contribution. With the additional €1.7 million, DCNA can focus on multi-island projects such as initiatives aimed at restoring mangrove forests and terrestrial vegetation in collaboration with DCNA's partners on the six Dutch Caribbean islands: Aruba Conservation Foundation, CARMABI, STINAPA, Saba Conservation Foundation, St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) and Nature Foundation Sint Maarten. Wereld Natuur Fonds-Nederland (WWF-NL) will also support this program with expertise and funding. *DCNA release*

Orco announces the Ride for the Roses 2025



Ride for the Roses announced by Ride for the Roses board members, Orco Bank officials, Hospice Kas Flamboyan and Ambulans Deseo Boneiru. Funds this year will be appropriated to Hospice Kas Flamboyan and Fundashon Amulans Deseo Boneiru, both of which provide services to the cancer patients of Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan



SHORT WALK 5.5 km

In less than two months on February 2, residents and visitors will take to the streets and ocean to raise awareness and raise funds in the fight.

Long time sponsor, Orco Bank, announced the event in a press conference on December 2.

Orco's country manager Judy Diaz, said, "Since its beginning in 2016, this event has grown into a symbol of hope, resilience, and community spirit... It is a testament to the strength of our island. Every participant, every volunteer, and every supporter is a reflection of the unwavering commitment we Bonairians share in the fight against cancer. We are dedicated to initiatives that directly benefit our neighbors—raising awareness, supporting families affected by cancer, and fostering a sense of solidarity."

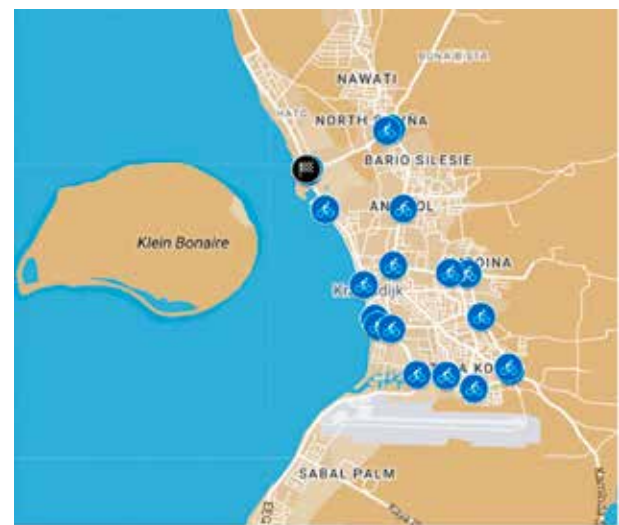
Many of the particulars will be familiar to those who have joined the fight for the last several years but there is one important change. Home base and start and finish will be Bonaire's new Isidel Beach Park.

- 7 a.m. - Start of Walk (Run)
- 7:05 a.m. - Start of Ride
- 8 a.m. - Arrival first walk participants
- 8 a.m. - Start entertainment
- 8 a.m. - Registration swim event at Registration Desk at Isidel Park
- 8:30 a.m. - Bus departs to "Kas di Regatta" from Isidel Beach Park for the swim
- 9:15 a.m. - Yoga for arriving participants
- 9:30 a.m. - Start of swim event at "Kas di Regatta"
- 10 a.m. - Arrival first swimming participants at Isidel Beach Park
- 12 noon - End of event

Participants can choose to join one of two walks: 5.5k or 8.5k and two bike routes: 13k or 26k. Anyone wishing to join the swim from Kas di Regatta to Isidel Park after a run or bike is encouraged to do so. Every participant receives a traditional rose at the end of their ride / walk / swim.

Tickets are \$20 for a single event or \$25 to add on the swim. They may be purchased at the Gas Station Rincon, BonBida and Freewieler. T-shirt and bag pickup and late registration will be at Orco Bank January 30/31, 5 – 7 p.m. and February 1, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



SHORT BIKE RIDE 5.5 km



WALK 8.5 km



BIKE RIDE 26 km

JICN sale a success once again

Once a year around Christmas time the Caribbean Netherlands Judicial Institution (JICN), otherwise known as Bonaire's detention center and prison, invites the public for a big sale. All year long the detainees are busy making crafts, furniture, clothing, artwork, and linen goods. They also grow plants. The goods are put up for sale on this one day and it's always a great time for the public to pick up items for the home or Christmas presents.

People always come early for the best stuff and ride away with pickup trucks full

of homemade and reasonably priced items. This year's big sale was November 30 and the parking lot sale was overflowing with the prisoners' handmade items.

The detainees at JICN originate from Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Their days are filled with educational and technical classes where they learn skills. Classes incorporated into the prisoner's days are sewing, cooking, yoga, woodworking, painting, crafts, mechanics and other self-improvement classes.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Ocean Oasis host fundraiser for Fundashon Ambulans



A fundraising lunch held at Ocean Oasis Beach Club Saturday, November 2024 raised \$7,500 for Fundashon Ambulans Deseo Boneiru. The foundation was established to fulfill free (last) wishes for immobile and terminally ill people on Bonaire. Inspired by the Dutch Ambulance Wish Foundation, which has been making a difference for 17 years, the Bonaire branch hopes to achieve the same.

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Tera Cora market



Tera Cora Ranch was buzzing with the Christmas spirit at the yearly holiday market December 6 and 7. Booths featured Christmas crafts, jewelry, clothing, plants, books and even specialty foods were available to purchase for gifts or for yourself. The crowd enjoyed karaoke, food, drinks and catching up with old friends. Grinch earrings – The Flying Mermaid • Painted rock – MiVaBo • Poster – Studio Nice Photos Julie Morgan

Process of enforcing environmental permits has begun

Every business on Bonaire must now qualify for either an environmental compliance permit or proof that they have been inspected and exempted from needing one. New companies are required to qualify at startup. A program to bring established companies into compliance kicked off in November. Initially only catering and construction companies are being registered. Companies in other sectors will receive notice later.

The Establishments & Activities Decree BES has been in force since April 1, 2024. This decree regulates what operating provisions companies have to make in order to protect the environment. As a legal requirement, every company doing business on Bonaire must register their existence with the OLB. They will be visited by an inspector from the Supervision & Enforcement Directorate who will determine whether the nature of their business requires a permit. If company needs a permit, a permit issuer from the Spatial Planning & Development Directorate will contact them and initiate the application process.

To get started, companies can contact the website of the OLB (www.bonairegov.com) or the website with environmental information (www.infomilCN.com).

Airport to upgrade arrivals area

Bonaire International Airport (BIA) has announced that an overhaul of the arrivals area is coming. The new baggage carousel, which was installed last year, will be further upgraded. A large fan will cool the baggage claim area. New signs and queue barriers will help arriving passengers find their way out of the baggage area to the taxis, car rentals, and waiting family and friends.

Electronic gates to be installed by the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) will improve traffic flow through the visitor tax checks. *DMR.*

OLB wants to make houses too expensive for immigrants

The Executive Council has proposed to discourage immigration, and to make more housing available to Bonaireans, by requiring anyone who wants buy a home on Bonaire for less than \$533,750 to acquire a housing permit. Housing permits would be issued to only those people who have a “social connection” with the island or who have lived here for at least five years. A self-occupancy requirement will also be introduced. The Council is assuming the restrictions will reduce the price Bonaireans have to pay to own their own homes.

Most people who are already here seem to agree that the population is growing too fast. And all agree that the need for affordable housing is dire. But there doesn't seem much support for the notion that the Executive Council can solve either problem by arbitrarily fiddling with the market for half-million dollar homes.

Critics point out that, according to the law of supply and demand, when supply goes down, prices go up. Therefore restricting the supply of houses newcomers are allowed to buy would predictably increase the value of higher end residential properties available, including those below the \$533,750 threshold.

The law of supply and demand also says that when demand goes up, prices go up. Therefore builders would be even more motivated to build more expensive houses than affordable houses.

As to the proposed self-occupancy requirement, if people who own houses have to live in them, those houses will not be available for anybody to rent. *DMR.*



Statia to build care center

A new Integrated Care and Living Center is in the final planning stages on St. Eustatius. The new center will consolidate high-quality preventive, medical, and geriatric care in one location. The care will be tailored to the specific needs of the Statia community. The Center is expected to be completed within 3 to 5 years.

The Steering Committee overseeing this multi-functional care center comprises of the island's four healthcare partners: the St. Eustatius Auxiliary Home Foundation, the St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF), the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport (VWS), and the Department of Public Health (GGD) of the Public Entity of St. Eustatius (OLE).

DMR / Photo via RCN

Executive Council forfeits \$30 million

Thirty million dollars will disappear from the OLB budget at midnight on December 31. Because the Executive Council did not spend the money, it will be declared “underspending” and will be forfeited to The Hague. According to the Financial Supervision Board, the OLB is failing to spend money allocated by the European Netherlands partly because of “the lack of administrative decision-making by the Executive Council.” *DMR*

Make Bonaire Accessible

December's challenges

by Ria Evers-Dokter

The last month of the year is always different

It's always a bit stressful; strange things will happen and more people than ever pass away. Everyone's life is more hectic with more to do than they normally do. All your batteries seem to go empty and the gas goes out.

Last week I lost my phone. This phone is always in the same place and then it was not. People could not reach me, and I couldn't reach anyone.

This was scary for me, but also for others. Most people have habits of doing things the same way and I am one of those people. I decided to trace back what I had done and where I had been after participating in the Christmas market. I had a ride to get there, and everything was packed in the car. I sat in the front and usually have my bag on my lap. But this time I remembered putting my bag on the floor in the car. A friend who was very worried about me came by to see me. She was happy to see me alive and kicking. I told her about the bag on the floor and she called my phone and there was my bag and phone on the floor.

This proves that habits can be very useful. But it also proves that it is extremely important to have friends who really care.

And it shows that we should have some kind of S.O.S. button functioning on the phone. When immediate help is needed, one just pushes this button and help will be on the way.

I have had high hopes that this S.O.S. alarm button system would already be in place, and I do not understand why it is not yet. The only reason I can think of is money!

Misplacing my phone illustrates how necessary it is to own one. One can always call or receive a call, when in need and people can call you. However, it is important to always have the phone charged and have extra batteries in the house.

This time of the year is always packed with a wide variety of activities. So, pick your battles. Do not wear brand new clothes. The ones from last year are just fine.

Only choose different accessories, pay special attention to your hair and nobody will know you are wearing something old.

Pick activities that are not late in the night. You will be very tired and want to go home. Choose festivities around dinner time and you will be sure of a nice meal and won't be home too late.

If you have no form of transportation, try to go with one or more friends. You can organize transportation together, because it will be cheaper and easier.

Make or buy some little Christmas cards that fit in your purse. Take them when going to an activity and hand them out. Such a personal wish makes it very special.

Be prepared and have as much fun as you can stand

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.



'Discover the Bay' inspires Bonaire youth



Reef Renewal Bonaire (RRFB) hosted its first-ever Discover the Bay event on December 20 at Sorobon Beach. The 30 participants, ages 10 to 20 joined the RRFB team for an exciting day of ocean education and fun.

The kids enjoyed a snorkel tour observing the wild branching corals and learned about RRFB's coral nursery in the Bay. Onshore, they competed in interactive activities, including a coral quiz, "Who Am I: Reef Creature Edition," and lively rounds of Coral Olympics.

Caitie Reza, Communication & Development Officer for RRFB said, "Our goal is to get more young people in the water to see the reef up close and learn why restoration is needed, so they can feel connected to these ecosystems and become

involved in ocean stewardship!"

One of RRFB's main goals is to engage young people on Bonaire and empower them to take an active role in coral restoration. Through partnerships with programs like Jong Bonaire and STINA-PA Jr. Rangers, they certify young Reef Renewal Divers at no cost. RRFB also partners with MBO and SGB schools to host regular snorkel tours of nursery sites, give classroom presentations, and a 6-week coral restoration course for high school students. Free public presentations are hosted by RRFB staff, instructors, and volunteers every Sunday at 5:30 at Buddy Dive Resort. Discover the Bay was made possible thanks to the generous support of World Wildlife Fund and STI-NAPA Bonaire. *RRFB*



Pink rice risotto with merguez sausages, mixed mushrooms, raisins and parmesan

Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant



For 2 persons

Ingredients 150 g ($\frac{3}{4}$ C) pink risotto rice • 1/2 shallot, chopped • 1 clove garlic, minced • dash of white wine • 2 dl (7 oz) vegetable stock • 100 g ($\frac{3}{4}$ C) mixed mushrooms (Shitake, Chestnut, beech mushroom, oyster mushroom) • 1 tablespoon cream cheese • 25 g ($\frac{1}{3}$ C) Parmesan cheese • 20 g ($\frac{1}{4}$ C) raisins • 1/2 sprig rosemary, finely chopped • 4 merguez sausages • 10 slices of fuet hard sausage • 10 pistachio nuts, coarsely chopped • Oil • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt

risotto is cooked, then add the raisins. Stir in the tablespoon of cream cheese. Fry the sausages until nicely brown all around. Fry the coarsely chopped mushrooms and season with rosemary, salt and pepper.

Spoon the risotto onto a plate and arrange the sausages and mushrooms on top. Garnish with the pistachio, fuet sausage and parmesan.



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



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The Sint Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) has a vacancy for:

Manager Operations

We are seeking a dedicated professional to step into the role of Manager of Operations at SEHCF. In this position, you will lead our operations team and play a crucial role in overseeing the daily operations of our healthcare facility.

This position requires a strategic thinker with strong leadership skills, a keen eye for detail, and the ability to manage multiple priorities. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of operational excellence in the healthcare sector. Your leadership will be important in guiding the various departments under your charge to ensure smooth operational processes. The work of your departments will ensure that our healthcare professionals have a work environment wherein they can deliver good service with the highest quality of patient care.

You will lead various departments such as cleaning, kitchen, technical service and facility. Working closely with other management team members is vital to achieving our strategic goals. In this role, you contribute to the overall success of the healthcare facility by providing a good and safe environment of care that aids in treatment outcomes as well as patient satisfaction.

You will be responsible for:

- Leading and mentoring the operational departments, fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.
- Overseeing the maintenance and improvement of healthcare facilities and medical instruments, ensuring a safe and efficient environment for patients and staff, and focusing on the development of new health care facility.
- Improving operational processes such as patient registration and consultation, home care services, admission, and administrative processes in close cooperation with the Manager Care and the Medical Manager.
- Planning, managing, and staying within the investment budget, ensuring effective project management and realizing plans as budgeted.
- Continuously evaluating work processes and implementing necessary corrective actions through operational policies and procedures.
- Providing strategic guidance and recommendations to management for continuous operational development, ensuring alignment with organizational objectives and the annual plan.

Who are we looking for?

- A minimum of an HBO bachelor's degree in health care management.
- Experience supervising more than 15 staff members.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in a senior operational position within a medical center/ hospital setup.
- Evidence of relevant budget and financial management experience.
- Strong managerial and team-leading skills, with the ability to stimulate and lead through coaching and guidance.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity.
- Analytical skills and the ability to utilize data for decision-making.
- Fluency in both English and Dutch languages.
- Residency on St. Eustatius or willingness to relocate to St. Eustatius.

About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) manages the island's premier and only medical facility. Our dedicated team of 65 professionals includes nurses, doctors, supporting administrative staff, a midwife, a physiotherapist, a gynecologist, and specialized Practice Nurses for chronic care, ensuring comprehensive primary care services for our community.

At SEHCF, our commitment to excellence is reflected in our diverse range of healthcare services. From outpatient services featuring general practitioner care and visiting specialists to community (home) care, emergency response, inpatient care, physiotherapy, and advanced diagnostic services in our laboratory and X-Ray departments. In short, we deliver primary care+. We work hard every day to be a good primary care + medical center, continually enhancing the quality of care for the local population.

We work closely with various stakeholders in our daily operations. For elective specialist care and emergency referrals we maintain strong partnerships with medical centers in St. Maarten and hospitals in Bonaire and Curaçao. Additionally, we work closely with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport and local public health organizations like GGD and GGZ.

What we offer

- A full-time position of 40 hours p/w
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- A competitive benefits package in line with our Collective Labor Agreement.
- Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Pension plan and the Zorgverzekering BES health insurance plan.

Interested?

We invite you to submit your resume with a cover letter, copies of your diplomas and certificates, and two references to SEHCF to Mr. Philip van Woerkom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, via email: hr@sehcf.org. Mr. Philip van Woerkom can also be contacted for questions via tell: +599 319- 7279.

Closing date: January 3, 2025

508 lionfish caught during Lionfish Derby

Saturday, November 30, STINAPA's 10th annual Lionfish Derby took place at Washington Slagbaai National Park.

Although the park is temporarily closed for diving, STINAPA made an exception for the lionfish hunt because of the noticeable increase in the lionfish population within the park. Lionfish are an invasive species with no natural predators. They reproduce quickly, so can rapidly become a threat to the ecosystem in the marine park. The Lionfish Derby is one of the ways to help control the growth of the lionfish population. Thanks to the efforts of the participating teams, a total of 508 lionfish were removed during the derby.

STINAPA thanks all participants, volunteers, partners, and our STINAPA team for their contributions to preserving the health of our marine park. *STINAPA release*



Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr Changes

Things are changing. Oh boy, are things changing.

In the 1980's we had a spiny urchin die-off from some urchin disease; urchins stumbling along like zombies for a couple of days and then perishing, leaving their spines everywhere. Next it was spotted morays, who used to be seen on every Bonaire dive, being found dead; the moray population is just beginning to come back. Then it was our sharpnosed puffer population, which increased so drastically the overpopulation caused a die-off, and dead sharpnosed puffers were all over the reefs for a few days.

The reefs were still our glorious Bonaire reefs, though.

Until Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease arrived, dissolving entire coral colonies in hours like some monstrous science fiction pestilence.

So, other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you like the play?

When I worked on San Salvador, in the Bahamas, the mostly vertical dropoff got little sunlight so it never had much stony coral growing on it. Morays were not common, but we did see spotted morays and greens on occasion. I don't remember sharpnosed puffers or long-spined urchins, but I'm sure they were around.

When we fed the fish on San Sal (in the late 1970's), the fish who came in were mostly groupers, especially Nassau groupers and coney -- but there was one occasion when a 4-5' reef shark cruised in for a snack. Sharks were more likely to be seen out in the blue water, but only occasionally.



Diving with a Nassau grouper off San Salvador; in the background is one other grouper and maybe a black surgeon.

Bonaire's reefs don't seem to be following the same pattern, but even I am seeing slight changes, mostly because I'm trying to do REEF fish surveys on each dive. (Note that most of my dives have been off town, between Karel's Beach Bar and Something Special, and between 1 and 5 p.m. [1300-1700].) One of the first differences I noticed was seeing yellowtail snappers again. Okay, they're small -- maximum 12" (30.48 cm) but I've seen three at once, which is a significant change over the months in which I saw not a single yellowtail!

I've also been seeing small schools of blue runners between shore and the dropoff, and on one dive saw six rainbow runners cruising in the blue water. On another dive I saw four morays! Two were purplemouths and two were spotted, the purplemouths and one spotted were at different block-moorings, and one spotted was on the reef slope.

β

As for the invertebrates, have you noticed all the banded coral shrimp? At least off town, I see several pairs on every dive -- definitely more than formerly.

So, obviously, climate change and other human-produced issues are causing reef habitat changes as well. One of the easiest ways to check fish populations is REEF's website, reef.org. They -- farsightedly -- began sponsoring Caribbean fish surveys in the early 1990's for hundreds of locations, including all of our dive sites on Bonaire. You can choose a site and a date and see all the fish which were reported then and compare that with another location or date.

How things will turn out is something that scientists must be working on, even as you read this. What are your own observations and predictions? Clarify them now, record them in some way with the date, and wait to see how accurate you were.

(Note: REEF has been holding REEF Fish ID classes at Trans World Radio every couple of weeks. Check The Reporter for notices.)



Since 2022 Scarr has been trying -- and failing -- to get justice for Bonaire from Silversea cruise lines, whose ship dumped more than 485 pounds (220 kgs) of broken glass and other debris on Bonaire's reef. There was a partial success in that most of that debris has been taken out of the ocean, by volunteer divers.

Calling all ocean lovers



For the last few months, divers and snorkelers on Bonaire have become a bit more fish savvy thanks to the REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) fish ID presentations by Carmen Toachina. Toachina, an avid member of the REEF Volunteer Fish Survey Project is heading up the Bonaire program to get ocean lovers out on the reefs of Bonaire to see what's there.

So far, Toachina has held three different sessions since the classes began in October at Trans World Radio (TWR). The crowd has ranged in size from 15 to 50.

They've covered a series of topics from how to identify local fish species to what it means to be a citizen scientist and the 25 most common fish species on Bonaire.

The next session is scheduled January 28 at 7 p.m. All of the fish ID sessions are free to everyone.

What is the REEF Volunteer Fish Survey Project?

REEF protects marine life through education, service and research. This is

Reef fish survey, to page 19

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Crossfit 24 Hour challenge show their strength

Organized in the Netherlands, 28 teams from all over the world participated in the 24 Hour Crossfit experience on Saturday, December 7. For the third year Bonaire Crossfit enthusiasts and Crossfit Palms took part in the endurance challenge.

All participants worldwide began at the same time 7 a.m. and challenged themselves with

the non-stop exercise regimen for 24 hours until 7 a.m. the next day. Every hour the Crossfit participants get three new movements to be done in that hour. It's a minimum of 500 reps to stay in the competition. All different kinds of movements, squats, push ups, pull ups, box jumps, barbell lifts, but also some other fun stuff like in the photo, pressing someone against the wall for as long as possible. We

had volunteers from the Crossfit community help with the counting of reps every hour.

For the last three years, the Crossfit 24 Hour experience has raised money for organizations in need. This year the Food Bank Bonaire was the lucky recipient of the funds pledged during the challenge. As of Tuesday, December 10th, \$3,836.96 had been collected.

From left to right

Nuno Umbelino, Nikita Rutte, Pedro Umbelino, Hilde Blaak, Kelly Mettes, Jorieke Haarhuis, Cynthia Nieuwenhuizen, Ineke Knijp, Thijs Geerse, Liselotte van Boven, Martin Veenstra, Omar el Hage

Photo Julie Morgan

A Garden? Just Do It! Christmas, the rainy season and sustainability by Angliet, Nature Lover

Wow, so much is going on and I have to make sharp choices for all the different activities. But as usual during the writing of my column, things come up spontaneously in my mind and so the result becomes another story and the story has another result.

Of course Christmas is the first subject. I guess you have already prepared everything for a great Christmas holiday. A few days ago I saw a beautiful decoration to welcome your guests as soon as they come to your gate. The photo shows a great combination of Christmas plants together in a nice big pot in front of the fence. This is a cool decoration and it's not too late to do before Christmas. You can plant one big pot or a lot of smaller containers running along the length of the street fence.

For your friends in poor health, a healthy Christmas box would be a nice gift and you can make it yourself. Old wall paper, Christmas gift paper, old Christmas cards glued on a painted or cloth covered box can make a creative gift box. Decorate inside the box as well. Fill the box with fresh stuff from your garden such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers or dried herbal tea. I'm guessing that your friends will be very happy with such a great fresh and healthy Christmas gift.

Are you looking for Christmas placemats? Make them yourself. Cut out the size of placemats you want from boxes. Paint them and stick Christmas cards or dried flowers (bougainville, rose leaves, dried leaves) on them.

Meanwhile there might be some work to do in the garden because of all the rain. With so much water in the plant containers, there are rotten leaves to compost, fruit and veggies to harvest and trees and grass to trim.

First, check if plant roots in containers are rotting. Put a finger in the dirt and if you feel too much water, let the water drain out and remove the plant to a dry place.

Rain is great to rot dropped leaves and you can compost them. So don't take them to Selibon, but add this very healthy stuff to trees and in your garden. If you see mushrooms growing, that means a healthy ecosystem. So treasure the mushrooms for the good work they do in the soil as it leads to a balanced, healthy garden.

Collect seeds from your harvested vegetables and herbs. Participate in the project: Make Bonaire Green Again. With all the rain the soil is well soaked and ready for growing greens. Make use of this



concrete (made of cement) is a very bad product for nature, the scientists are looking for a new nature friendly alternative. The charred coffee grounds, called Bio-Char are used instead of sand and can provide a 30% increase in the strength of the material. (CNN)

The planet is in the highest need for changes in our behavior to nature. Research will lead to new life styles and changed human habits that can balance the relationship between humans, nature, and the planet. This new balance can be helped with a garden in your yard. Look for a place at your house to garden and start gardening. It's a urgent call.

Dear all of you, the jingle bells are ringing, Yes, Christmas is here. And so I wish you a Merry and Wonderful Christmas celebration with your dear ones, family and friends.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and 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.



opportunity now because as soon as the rainy season ends the young plants must be rooted and strong enough to survive the next drought.

Last but not least, some science news. Technology is researching sustainable and ecological alternatives in mass agriculture and urban agriculture.

There is a project to use charred coffee grounds to strengthen concrete. Because

As di oro a subi mesa - Dinner is served

Mangazina di Rei's Nos Zjilea has proved to be one of the most entertaining, educational and fun events on the island with a variety of presentations every month. If you really want to see, feel and taste the real Bonaire, Nos Zjilea is a must to visit.

This month's theme was "As di oro a subi mesa" or "Dinner is served," a phrase that was called out to the people laboring in the fields when it was time to eat.



Rudolph Thode grinds grains into flour on a hard stone (mula)
Photo Julie Morgan

The presentation led by Juliana Clarendo and translated in English by Lauriane Ammerlaan focused on funchi or polenta, one of the Islands's staple foods made from sorghum or maize.

Local Bonairean Rudolph Thode illustrated how the grains are pulverized into a type of flour on a hard stone (mula). The flour or 'maishi chiki' is then used to make polenta/funchi, pancakes, porridge or sweets.

Alex Plantijn demonstrated how handmade tools for cooking were made from local trees like the Palo di Boneiru. When the wood is cut from this hard wood tree two days before or after the full moon the wood is more durable. Tools are sculpted to the right size with a butcher knife or machete.

Plantijn explained the tools could last up to 100 years. The tools are totally organic and it's good to use natural products to reduce waste on the island and teach the youth to be more sustainable.

In addition to the presentations, Nos Zjilea always features great homemade local food from the kitchen, crafts, local music and cultural dancing.

To learn more about Mangazina di Rei, the second oldest stone building in Bonaire visit the website <https://mangazinadirei.org> and Facebook page, Cutlural Park Mangazina di Rei.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Interviewed by Juliana Clarendo, Alex Plantijn demonstrated how wooden tools were handmade for cooking Photo Julie Morgan

Creating Optimal Health by Irene da Cunda Costa

How to stay young at spirit.

Dick van Dyke will turn 99 on December 13th. He said: "You can't stay young forever. You can stay young minded forever."

Staying young in spirit as we age involves adopting behaviors that promote joy, focus, and a positive outlook on life. I will share here some behaviors that can help you maintain a youthful spirit.

One is by staying curious, staying a lifelong learner, exploring new hobbies, enrolling in new courses or just reading about science, art or actuality. You can also get involved in traveling and exploring and for this you don't necessarily need to book a trip to a faraway land, just try to visit new places that can also be close by. If you have the possibility to travel far and get to know different cultures, this will always enrich your outlook on life.

Laughter is a powerful remedy for stress and can enhance your overall well-being, finding humor in everyday situations and enjoying activities that make you laugh is one way to stay young at spirit.

We know from the blue zones that maintaining social

connections by staying surrounded with friends and family will boost your mood and provide support, helping you feel more connected, youthful, healthy and even help you live longer.

Regular practice of Mindfulness helps centering your thoughts, reduces stress, and increases awareness of the present moment. Mindfulness can also be seen as a mental gym, as it helps train focus and attention, two very important functions to preserve as we age. Together with this practice we can also engage regularly in gratitude and positive thinking. Bringing our focus on what we appreciate and the positives in life, practicing positive affirmations and challenging negative thoughts has been proven to enhance overall happiness.

Not only our intellectual capacities need to stay active, it is also important to stay physically active by engaging in enjoyable physical activity like walking, dancing, or yoga. Exercise boosts endorphins and keeps the body healthy. Group sports and games help us connect with others and also reconnect with our inner child.

Arts and crafts, whether it's painting, writing, playing music, performing or designing, stimulate the mind and can bring joy and fulfillment. Engaging in creative activities can enhance cognitive abilities, improve emotional well-being, and foster a sense of joy and accomplishment. Creative activities are tasks or pursuits that involve the use of imagination, originality, and innovation to produce something new or express oneself. These activities often encourage self-expression, exploration, and problem-solving. They can take many forms,

including: painting, drawing, sculpting, photography, playing instruments, singing, dancing, acting, knitting, sewing, woodworking, graphic design, fashion design, interior design and other forms of visual or functional design.

Having goals, whether big or small, gives you a sense of purpose and direction. It keeps you motivated and focused on the future. When you do that keep in mind the SMART framework for setting goals: these should be Specific and clear, Measurable, Achievable and realistic, Relevant and aligned with your personal values, and finally Time bounded, set a time limit to achieve them. This method will provide clarity and direction, motivation, accountability and focus making easier to achieve your goals.

Maybe you have other strategies to stay young in spirit, it would be nice if you share them with me so I can include them in a future article. If you want you can send them to iredacunda@hotmail.com, I am looking forward to hearing your comments.



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.

Events, Meetings, Sports

What's Happening

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 <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>
<https://beachtennisbonaire.com>

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (whatsapp text), bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>


Bonaire by Night Shopping night every month


Divers Drink & Dance Yhanni's Arepas. Wednesdays 5 p.m.


Diver Safety. Hosted by Jason Buttenshaw who holds presentations the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.


Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group. Every other Wednesday 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

Pickleball. *Chinese Assoc. Kaminda Sorobon, Blue Building:* Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$1 per hour. Ask for Henk or Richard. *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$2 per hour. Ask for Henk or Danny. **Beginners:** *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 9 - 10 a.m.. \$2 per hour. Ask for Esther. **Coming soon:** Indoor hall at Jong Bonaire every Wed. and Fri. from 5:30 to 9 p.m. - t recommended for beginners but all welcome to play.

 **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.** Dec 16 - Dive friends at Hamlet Oasis. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](#)..

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

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. Would you like to learn everything about what we do in the field during nesting season? Join us in the field! We go to Klein Bonaire Mon., Wed. and Fri. to search for nest activity and we sometimes have a few spots open. Sign up by email: cepa@bonaireturtles.org.

Animal Shelter: Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

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 Playa 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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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

Taxi Service Online: Bonaire-taxi.com is available for bookings. Tourists can easily reserve their taxi via the website or the dedicated app. Phone/whatsapp: +599 786 1786 Website: www.bonaire-taxi.com

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

Friday, Dec. 6 to Friday, Feb. 28	Artistic Journey Exhibit - Delno Tromp & Gabrielle Wilson Terramar Museum, Kaya Isla Riba 3, Kralendijk
Saturday, Dec. 14	Christmas Gift Market. Wilhelmina Park. Christmas Concert 7:30 - 9 p.m. Corallium Hotel. Christmas music and songs by local artists \$35 includes a welcome drink. Tickets at: Delmar bookstore, Lisa Convenience store and The Touch Kunuka Spa. Tickets for Rincon concert are also available at the gas station in Rincon.
Sunday, Dec. 15	Kingdom Day. A legal holiday. Much closes.
Saturday, Dec. 20	Christmas Shopping Night. 6-9 p.m. Evening shopping in downtown Bonaire. Christmas concert 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Rincon Church, San Luis Beltran. Christmas music and songs by local artists \$10. Tickets at: Delmar bookstore, Lisa Convenience store, The Touch Kunuka Spa and the gas station in Rincon.
Sunday, Dec. 21	Christmas lights dog walk 5:30 - 7 p.m. Magic! Stroll along the Kralendijk boulevard at sunset with the Shelter's pups. \$5. Register Dec. 18 & 19, 3 - 5 p.m. at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26a (see page 19)
Wed. Dec. 25	Christmas Day. A legal holiday. Much closes including Washington Slagbaai National Park and supermarkets.
Thursday, Dec. 26	Boxing Day. A legal holiday. Much closes.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Tuesday, Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Fireworks. The Island celebrates with fireworks. Some hotels throw special parties.

Coming in 2025

End of January (Date to be announced)	Annual Lora Roost Count. The first roost count of 2025 is coming up. Help count the parrots. Contact Echo at info@echobonaire.org .
Sunday, Feb. 2	Ride, Walk/Run, or Swim for Roses. Fundraiser starts at Isidel Beach Park 6:30 a.m. Tickets are available online and at Bon Bida, Freewieler and Rincon gas station. (see page 7) For information, visit www.ridefortheroses.org .

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat., 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/
Friday, Dec. 27	Christmas Cleanup. End of day cleanup 5 - sunset. Followed by a party at Vrijmibo Beach

Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: Mon,Wed,Fri, Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m. / 7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tues,Wed,Thur, Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m.

International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO): Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services are conducted in English.

United Protestant Congregation

- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
- **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8:30 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. December 11	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. December 12	0630-1900	EVIRIMA 298 guests	North
	0800-1700	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Fri. December 13	0700-1300	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2074 guests	North
Sat. December 14	1600-2200	EURODAM 2731 guests	North
Sun. December 15	0700-1600	CARNIVAL VENEZIA 5260 guests	South
	0700-2000	EVIRIMA 298 guests	North
Mon. December 16	0800-1900	COSTA FORTUNA 3470 guests	North
Tues. December 17	0630-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
Wed. December 18	0800-1700	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	South
Fri. December 20	0800-1700	STAR CLIPPER 180 guests	North
Sat. December 21	0800-1800	CARNIVAL MIRACLE 2680 guests	North
Mon. December 23	0800-1900	COSTA FORTUNA 3470 guests	North
Tues. December 24	1400-2100	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
Wed. December 25	0730-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. December 26	0700-1730	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3064 guests	South
Sat. December 28	0800-1700	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE 3013 guests	South
Sun. December 29	0600-1330	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR 530 guests	North
Mon. December 30	0630-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
	0730-2359	SEABOURN OVATION 638 guests	North
Tues. December 31	1400-2200	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South

LVV open day

Open Day at LVV (Agriculture, Live-stock and Fisheries) celebrated the holidays a bit early with a Christmas edition on November 30. The various booths were in decorated for the season and the LVV staff wore Santa hats. The many food booths offered Christmas cookies, candies and cakes while the plant sellers had beautiful Poinsettia in all colors for sale.

Christmas music rang throughout and young dancers from Dance and More offered some Christmas themed choreography for entertainment.

All the regular offerings were available with homemade BBQ, stobas, fresh coconut water, sales from the greenhouse for gardening and feeding goats, as well as a jump house for the kids.

Nature Cooking School Bonaire was open for business at their new home at LVV. Owner Saeed Lourens gave introductory tours of their new thriving

garden and served vegan pizzas with a choice of toppings and vegan burgers.

LVV director Maurice Adriaens served as tour guide on a bus tour out to the field where businesses can lease a plot for their own growing.

Bonaire Daily Fresh, now owned by the Van der Valt family, has almost completed expansion and is expected to start growing fresh hydroponic veggies in late January.

A goat farm with 400 residents is now in operation. Another LVV green house and field of crops are growing various peppers, warmas, assorted beans, yucca, avocado, okra, pumpkin, calabas and papaya to provide fresh vegetables for sale that don't have to be imported to the island.

And a fruit grove with banana, lemon, starfruit, tamarind, avocado, oranges and mangos is thriving. The trees are planted



Saeed Lourens of Nature Cooking School Bonaire shows off his garden at their new LVV location Photo Julie Morgan



Fruit trees flourishing at LVV orchard Photo Julie Morgan



LVV is producing 170 bales of hay every two months for LVV livestock Photo Julie Morgan

closer together than normal as “crowding” encourages the trees to produce more fruit.

hay every two months for livestock.

Lastly LVV is growing Buffalo grass, Mulatto from South America and Mom-basa from Africa. A demonstration was given to the guests with the different machinery for cutting, turning and baling the hay. LVV is producing 170 bales of

So many changes moving toward making the Island more sustainable.

Story / photo Julie Morgan

Dive Friends offers Avelo for less in December

As an Avelo Dive Center, Dive Friends is offering the future of scuba diving. Avelo is a new diving experience giving divers smoother and longer dives with lighter and safer gear. And in December Dive Friends is offering a huge discount.

This revolutionary dive system reimagines buoyancy control by using the tank itself to experience perfect neutral buoyancy without adjusting for depth. The Avelo System consists of two components, the Jetpack and the Hydrotank. When you add water to the Hydrotank, you become heavier. When you purge water, you become lighter because there is no compressible air volume. You are neutrally buoyant without adjusting for depth changes.

Learn how to dive the Avelo System by joining our Recreational Avelo Diver (RAD) specialty course. With this certification, you can shore-dive Bonaire with ease or dive Avelo on our boats and around the world at any Avelo Dive Center.

And looking forward to next year Dive Friends schedule for the quarterly cleanups are already on the calendar for 2025: January 25; April 26; July 26 and October 25. As always look for further notification for time and place and pre-register through the Dive Friends Facebook page, website or drop by one of Dive Friends seven dive shops: Yellow Submarine, Port Bonaire, Delfins Beach Resort, Hamlet Oasis, Sand Dollar / Den Laman and Dive Inn. And don't forget the retail stores: Retail & Dive, Reef Store, Dushi Store and Dushi Style and Sportswear. *Dive Friends*



La Birgen di Coromoto
Catholic Christmas Services
 December 24 - Christmas Eve
 English mass 8 p.m.
 Papiamentu mass 10 p.m.
 December 25 - Christmas Day
 Papiamentu mass 10 a.m.
 December 26 - 2nd Christmas
 Papiamentu mass 9 a.m.
 December 31 - New Year's Eve
 Papiamentu mass 7 p.m.
 January 1 - New Year's Day
 Papiamentu mass 10 a.m.
 Kaya Corona 126 - Antrio

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Animal Shelter News

Join the Christmas Lights Walk!



The evening includes:

- A heartwarming walk with wagging tails
- Christmas lights to decorate your dog
- A goodie bag to take home

The time and date is December 21, 5:30 – 7 p.m. We will meet in the new parking lot (Brion Park playa). Cost is only \$5 per person. Registration is December 18 and 19, 3 – 5 p.m. at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26a

Help us put the 180 dogs at the Shelter in the spotlight and give the pups and yourself an unforgettable evening. Spread the word and join us!

Chantal Hulst

Experience a magical evening strolling along the Kralendijk boulevard at sunset, where Animal Shelter Bonaire dogs will shine under the beautiful Christmas lights.

Pets of the Week



Gaston

Hello, my name is Gaston.

I am 5 months old now. I came to the shelter when I was only 1 week old with my two siblings. We were in foster care. Unfortunately I am the only one left.

I fought really hard to be here, and I look a bit small compared to my other cat friends. But my Christmas wish is that someone would take me home and give me all the love and attention I need. And I promise to give all that love back in return because I'm a really loving kitty.

Lots of love, Gaston.

Photo/story: Bo Attevelt



Yuki

My name is Yuki.

My name is Yuki. I came to the Animal Shelter Bonaire with my little brother Yuri when we were just 3 months old. While Yuri was adopted after just 5 weeks, I am still here. Now, I've grown into a beautiful dog with a unique appearance. My light-colored eyes make me not only handsome but also give me a lot of character. I'm a sweet, calm dog who loves attention from people. I enjoy playing with my best friend, but I'm also happy to entertain myself. I'm vaccinated, neutered and after spending a year and a half in the shelter, I think it's finally time to find my loving forever home.

Photo/story: Marissa Lamers

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

You can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Reef fish survey from page 13

primarily accomplished through the survey project. Since its launch in 1993, this citizen science program has generated one of the largest marine life databases in the world. In 2024, the database surpassed 300,000 surveys conducted at almost 18,000 sites throughout the world's oceans by over 18,000 volunteer divers and snorkelers worldwide.

The project allows volunteer Scuba divers and snorkelers to collect and report information on marine fish populations as well as selected invertebrate and algae species. The data are collected using a fun and easy standardized method, and are housed in a publicly-accessible database on REEF's Website. These data are used by a variety of resource agencies and researchers. To learn more visit REEF.org.

Julie Morgan

Kaminda di Arte from page 1

wooden block so specific areas and lines remain raised. The block is inked and is a type of relief printing. The print above is called Duality and was created as a protect against wars, oppression and injustices in our so-called modern world.

Lize van de Ven is a painter inspired by nature. She paints in layers with collage, text paper, sand and even coconut husks then finalizing in oil. Lize explained her work brings her closer to the maker, God as he is the ultimate artist. Creating art is a witness of God.

Too many Grey Mice – Nienke Hartog creates upcycled furniture and decorations. Her furniture pieces are colorful with intricate designs and handmade molds she has created to give the pieces a relief sculpture look.

Miss Manos / Babette Loos is a painter working in two styles and names. As Miss Manos she creates Bonaire themed pieces representing nature while Babette does freer more abstract pieces.

And also : **MEH – Sharon Bol and Wolter de Palm** create goods from goat hides. Wolter tans the leather and Sharon creates pillows, lampshades, belts, bags, shoes and more. You can buy a hide to make your own creation. A total sustainable product for Bonaire.

Here is a list of the artists and their mediums:

- Lize van de Ven – painter;
- Saskia Vermeer – author of Wind Water Waves;
- Aloha Bonaire – Loes Praagman, painter;
- Babette Loos – painter;
- Rosaly Van Dansik – Sharking Daily, painter;
- Moltenwolf Glass – Valerie and Jeff Wolf;
- Kazoorose Glass – Brenda Bultema;
- MEH: Sharon Bol and Wolter di Palm – goat hide products;
- Eric Cremers- sculptor;
- Jo-Sea Art – glass mosaic;
- Adrie van de Ven -painter;
- Pottery Bonaire – Monique Oijers;
- Ghislaine Monte – painter;
- Nochi Coffie – painter;
- Josephine Ebing – sculpture;
- GN Art - Germaine Nijdam – driftwood art – furniture;
- Artie de Vries – beach item re-purpose;
- MARZ – Judmar Emerenciana – graphic artist and abstract painter;
- Ilanos – painter;
- Micelle Lichtenburg (Mi mashin bo Tela – fabric art needle work;
- Studio Nijn and Co – Renee Cohijn - macrame – crochet, coconut husk, recycled plastic
- Inspouration Art by Laurie Smith– acrylic pour products; Too many grey mice - Nienke Hartog;
- Hedy Voets – mosaic;
- Omula– watercolor prints – dive art;
- Quaint & Quirky – Paul Turner and his wife - upcycling furniture and home decoration;
- Mr. Cheky – Bonairean art;
- Ruben del la Rosa– decorative art with coconuts;
- Mildred Plantijn (Midako)– craft jewelry;
- Hendrik Wuyts – wood block printing;
- Femke Franckerts- painting;
- Marea Art –Maria Clara Arboleda – painter and murlaist.

Photo and story Julie Morgan



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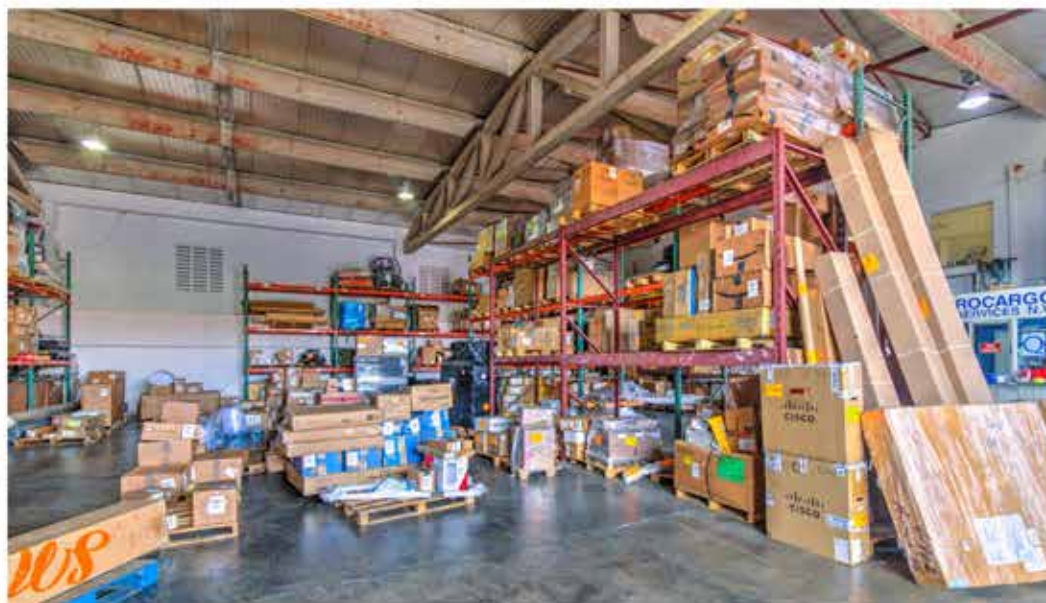


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