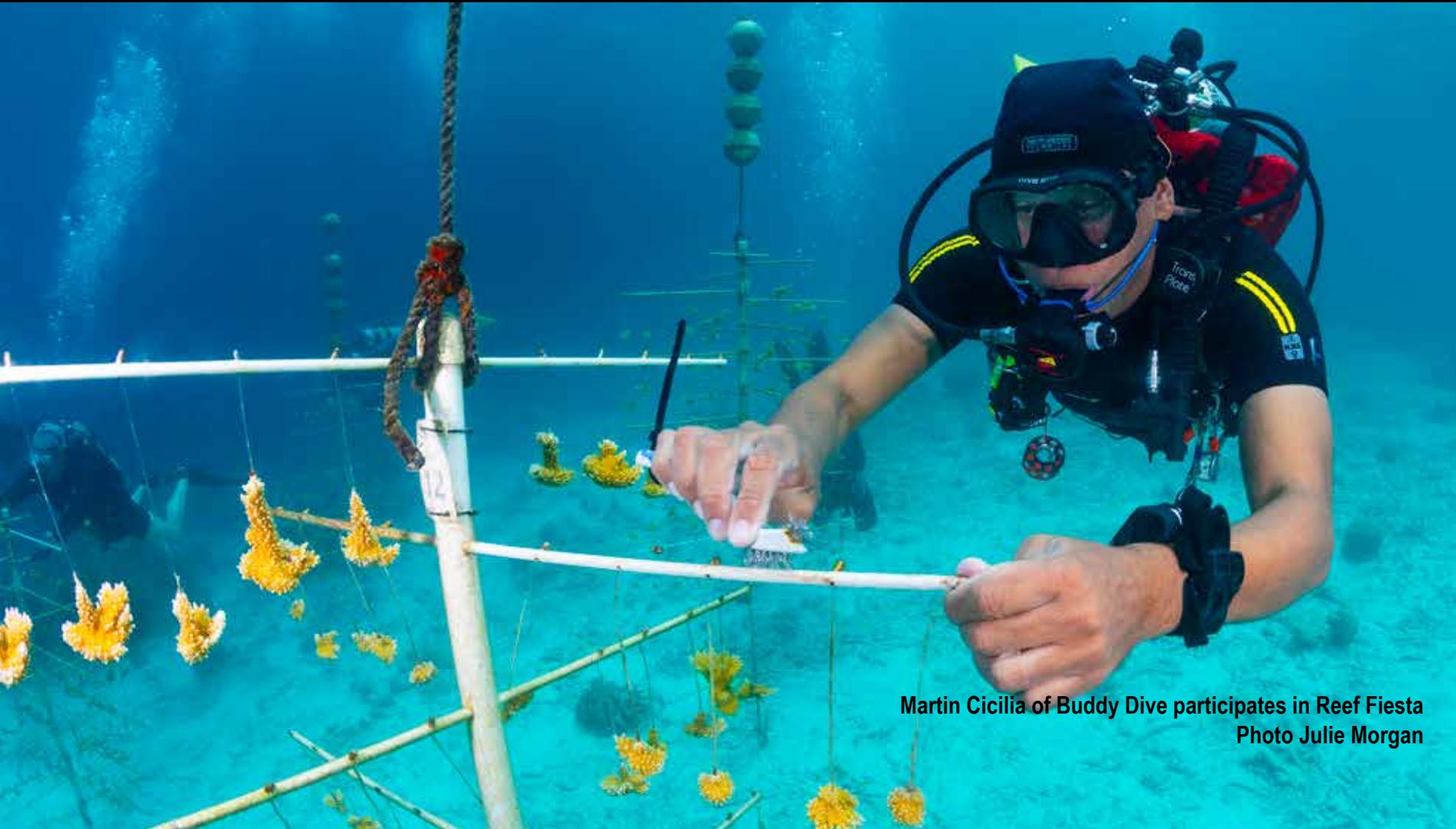




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Martin Cicilia of Buddy Dive participates in Reef Fiesta
Photo Julie Morgan

Hope is the theme on World Reef Awareness Day

“Bonaire’s reefs are the roots of the island as well as an ecosystem that must be protected by us all.”

Reef Windows – Captain Don Stewart

When we look at our reefs today it’s difficult to believe but millions of years ago fluctuating sea levels wiped out the reefs several times worldwide. But the corals kept coming back and the marine life regenerated. Today we are faced with losing the coral reefs and marine life again from climate change and higher ocean temperatures, but the problem stems from us this time.

On World Reef Awareness Day, June 1, individuals are urged worldwide to pay attention and do something to protect our fragile reef systems before it’s too late.

Reefs act as barriers to our coastlines from storms and erosion, they filter particles to maintain water quality, support sea life, tourism and the fishing industries that feed us. According to STINAPA, Bonaire’s reefs are home to 57 species of soft and stony corals and 350 recorded fish species, and we need to do our part to protect them.

Bonaire’s many nature organizations are working to protect our reefs and marine life and it’s easy for anyone to take part. Helping our reefs may be as simple as joining a weekly or monthly cleanup on land or underwater, cleaning sargassum from our coast or clearing a mangrove channel. All these actions help support the health of our ocean reefs.

But one organization, Reef Renewal Foundation Bo-

naire (RRFB), has a direct impact on restoration, and anyone is able to join although it requires a little training.

RRFB recently held their seventh annual Reef Fiesta on June 1 to bring awareness to divers and snorkelers about their work and participants could actually become a volunteer for the day. Reef Fiesta 2025 was the most successful ever with a total of 200 participants including divers, snorkelers, instructors, RRFB staff and sponsors. Sixteen partner dive shops participated giving presentations to the divers and snorkelers before heading out to 13 nursery sites on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. The participants cleaned algae from the coral growing trees and even replaced growing coral fragments.

In the evening everyone celebrated the day at a closing party held at Plaza Resort with drinks and snacks, a raffle with some great prizes, a slide show of the day and a fun quiz about RRFB. The theme of many of the short speeches by the board was hope.

Chief Operating Officer Ernst Noyans said, “All of us here want to protect the reef. The reef hasn’t been doing too well in the last few years, but today we have a reason to celebrate. We have hope for a new generation. Two weeks ago, a brain spawn collection resulted in our producing 236,000 grooved brain coral larvae. And there is hope to keep the reef alive.”

Since SCTL (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease) wiped through many of Bonaire’s stony corals, RRFB became even more aggressive and expanding in their

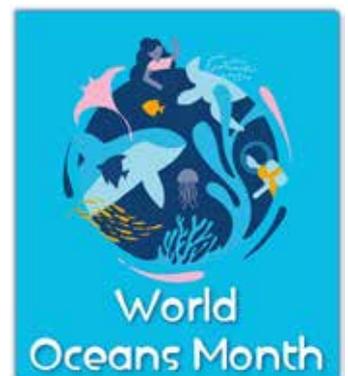
coral regeneration. They even began a breeding program to assist the corals in spawning.

RRFB has been in operation since 2012, initiated by Francesca Virdis after meeting Ken Nedimyer former president of Coral Restoration Foundation and founder of Reef Renewal International. (see story on pg 10)

RRFB has grown through the years from two coral restoration sites to 20 sites and 15 coral nurseries. Partner dive shops are: AB-Dive, Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive, Carib Inn, Dive Friends Bonaire, Divi Dive, Harbour Village, Scuba Elite, Technical Diving Services, Toucan Diving, Tropical Divers, VIP Diving, WannaDive, Xpro Divers, and 4Wheel Diving.

For more information about RRFB visit their website or Facebook page. Reef Fiesta was sponsored by Orco Bank, Cargill, MCB and WEB.

Julie Morgan



Boy murdered outside club, arrest made

A 15-year old boy has died of a gunshot wound inflicted outside the Club Rush nightclub, located on Kaya Prinses Marie, around 3 a.m., Sunday, June 8. He showed no signs of life and police began resuscitation. The ambulance arrived and the boy was taken to Foundation Mariadal, then evacuated to Curaçao where he died in the hospital. The boy, with initials C.C.D., was born June 27, 2009, on Bonaire

A police patrol that was directed to the hospital Sunday night noticed that there was a second victim of the shooting on the Kaya Prinses Marie. He had arrived at the hospital on his own.

The police investigation has led to an arrest. The Special Assignments Group (GBO) took into custody a 20-year-old man with the initials Q.B.d.P. on Kaminda Lac on Monday, June 9, around 6:30 p.m. for violating the BES Firearms Act.

A third person was shot Sunday morning shortly after the shootings at Club Rush. The police were called to an address on Kaya Hohokam in North Salina, at which one person had been shot. The victim was taken to the hospital with the help of bystanders and the police for treatment of his injury.

Police are reportedly investigating the possibility of connections between the three shootings.

Around 4:40 a.m. Sunday the central control room was notified that more shots had been fired at a house on Kaya Karpitan. No one was injured. *DMR*

Regarding the 15-year old who was fatally shot at the Club Rush Sunday night, club management and the police were apparently concerned about the crowd that night's entertainment would draw. The club published attendance rules in advance. These rules can be seen page 21 of the online Reporter.

Governor John Soliano's statement regarding the shooting June 8 [redacted]



It is with deep sorrow that Governor John Soliano learned of the fatal shooting incident that took place in the early morning of Sunday, June 8, outside a nightlife venue in the center of Kralendijk. "A young man lost his life in the incident," Governor Soliano said. "My heart is heavy. A young life has been violently torn away from us. I deeply sympathize with the family and loved ones of the victim. No words can soften the loss, but I wish you all strength, love and support in this incredibly difficult time."

"This affects us all. It is not just a crime - this is an attack on the trust, safety and coexistence on our island. The sense of peace that we cherish so much on Bonaire is under pressure. And we cannot let that happen." ... "When there is shooting in our streets, we as a society must say: this far and no further."

"Don't stand on the sidelines. If you have seen, heard or know something, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, report it. We need each other now more than ever. That is why I urgently appeal to you: use the anonymous tip line."

On June 6 Governor John Soliano spoke on the security situation on Bonaire [redacted]

Dear people, in recent months I have noticed an increasing unrest among our residents about the security situation on our island. Due to various incidents, such as robberies with the use of violence and firearms, violence on sports fields and a lack of respect for rules in general, more and more residents experience a feeling of insecurity. Many no longer recognize the Bonaire of the past: the society where values such as respect, honesty and humility formed our foundations. As Governor, as mayor and above all as a resident of Bonaire I want to be very clear: violence and crime are not acceptable and have no place on our island!

The crime figures have shown an increase in the number of violent incidents for several years. The number of suspects among young people in particular is alarming. The police and other partners in the judicial chain are continuously working to identify and bring to justice those guilty of violence. These efforts have already borne fruit, with the arrest of several suspects and ongoing criminal cases in court." This shows that crime does not pay.

I have taken various measures to better control the security situation. I have designated security risk areas where several

preventive actions have been taken to check for the presence of illegal weapons. Recently surveillance cameras have also been deployed at major events to help maintain public order.

Together with the Executive Council and other authorities, I have once again called on the Minister of Justice to continue to strengthen our police force and the judicial chain in general, so that we can continue to maintain order and safety. I have also started the process of drawing up an integrated safety policy for the coming years. In consultation with partners in the judicial chain, we will go through this process to arrive at concrete and realistic plans to help prevent crime and insecurity.

Safety is our shared responsibility. We all have a part in it. That is why I ask for your help, dear residents. Let us all contribute to a safer island, starting in our families and in our neighborhoods. As parents, let us show our children positive behavior without negativity and aggression. As neighbors, let us treat each other with respect. Let us adhere to the traffic rules and take each other into account. Together we can create a society that can be stronger and more resilient against the temptations of crime. Let us REJECT evil!

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Our Facebook page brings you news that arrives between issues

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**Happy
 Father's Day,
 June 15, 2025**

The Kalabas Tree

If you love Bonaire, then Mangazina di Rei's monthly Nos Zjilea event is the perfect place to learn about the culture, history of the people, and island traditions while enjoying freshly made local food and listening and dancing to the music of Bonaire.



Ruben Ross Photo Julie Morgan.



Guests taste the cough syrup with (right) Filomena Beaumont and (far right) Julianka Clenda Photo Julie Morgan.

In May, the presentations were all about the Kalabas tree or Calabash tree.

The trees are huge, growing to 6 m (18 ft) high). They bear a hard oval fruit that throughout history was transformed for everyday use like bowls, ladles, musical instruments. It is also good to eat, when it's ripe.

Local artist and craftsman Ruben Ross showed a number of items he has made and exhibited. He gave Nos Zjilea guests a short lesson on how to make a maracha. Ruben explained how to remove the inside or meat

of the dried Kalabas, cut it and make a handle for the instrument. The seeds are reserved and dried to place in the maracha to achieve the perfect sound. Ruben then paints or engraves the maracha. The fruit is also used for decorations and wind chimes.

One of Rincon's most noted natural medicine healers, 80-year-old Filomena Beaumont, shared her much sought after recipe for Stropi Kalbas or cough syrup

Nos Zjilea - the Kalabas - to page 7

FOR SALE! Bonaire Oceanfront Apartment 7 Walking Distance to Town



- Located on the boulevard
- Facilities: swimming pool, tropical garden, parking, on-site rental office and on-site dive shop

- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- Unobstructed ocean views

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$449,000 US Dollars

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 f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



POLICE REPORT

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

Property crimes

June 1. Unknown persons gained access to a school on Kaya Frater Odulfinus and took a safe with an amount of cash.

June 1. A dark grey Toyota Vitz with license plate B-4180 was stolen between 11 p.m. on Saturday May 31 and 7 a.m. on Sunday. Later that same day, the car was found on Kaya Veronica.

May 29. Around 5:45 p.m. a 15-year-old minor was arrested on Kaya Mohicano for receiving stolen goods. A patrol stopped two young people on two fatbikes for inspection. One of the fatbikes matched a fatbike that had been reported stolen between April 10 and 11 from Kaya Inglatera. The stolen fatbike was confiscated.

May 29. A black Sym Fiddle scooter with license plate MF-2301 was stolen while parked in front of a house on Kaya Akwamarin.

May 28. A pink and light blue AGM Retro scooter with license plate MF-4430 was stolen while parked with a steering lock in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Niagara.

Arrests

June 4. Around 6:05 p.m. on Kaya Tapajos a patrol stopped a scooter because the passenger was not wearing a helmet. The passenger was fined. The driver, a minor aged 15, was arrested for violating the Identification Obligation Act BES. He did not have a driver's license, could not show any insurance documents and could not hand over any identification.

May 31. Around 4:25 a.m. a man, 30 was arrested for assault. The central control room received a report of a fight between a group of people on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. When the patrol arrived, a woman stated that she had been beaten by the man during a fight with other women.

May 29. Around 11:25 a.m. a man, 41, was arrested on Kaya Flamboyan for assault.

Driving under the influence

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

From May 29 to June 6 four drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. One driver was uncooperative.

One driver was stopped for a routine check. Another was stopped for driving a vehicle without rear lights. One driver collided with a passing car while reversing.

Three driver's licenses were confiscated. One driver was given a six-hour ban.

A man, 44, was arrested after he crashed his vehicle into another car on Kaya Nikiboko South. Earlier this year, after which his driver's license was confiscated for driving under the influence. He was able to get his driver's license back a few days ago, but it was confiscated again.

Traffic violations

June 5. During a traffic control on Kaya Korona, 20 vehicles were checked, and eight fines were issued: 5x for driving without a driver's license; and 3x for driving without valid insurance.

The fines for traffic violations vary between \$30 and \$225.

Traffic accidents

June 1. Around 7 p.m. the central control room received a report of a collision on Kaya IR. Randolph Statius Van Eps involving a quad/raptor and an injured

driver. When the ambulance and the police arrived, the injured driver was found on the road. The vehicle was not found and bystanders did not want to make any statements. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

June 1. Around 5 a.m. at the intersection of Kaya Papa Cornes and Hanchi Amboina a vehicle hit a car, drove through a fence, and hit two other parked cars. The driver was taken to the hospital and for medical reasons a breath test could not be taken from her. Her driver's license and insurance documents were in order. The cars involved suffered a lot of material damage.

May 31. Around 3:10 a.m. a car driving on Hanchi Amboina drove straight through the bushes at the intersection and stopped was lying on its right side. Bystanders and the police managed to get the driver out of the car so that the ambulance crew could treat her then take her to the hospital.

May 27. Around 12:15 p.m. a scooter and a car collided on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The car turned off in front of the scooter, causing the scooter to collide with the car and leave the driver of the scooter injured on the road. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Because a number of witnesses stated that the driver of the car was on the phone while driving, the Public Prosecutor has ordered the phone to be confiscated.

Fire

June 2. Around 7:40 a.m. a house fire was reported on the Seru Zuid. The residents together with the neighbors managed to extinguish the fire before the fire brigade and the police arrived. An air conditioner in a bedroom had caught fire, probably due to a short circuit. There were no injuries.



Police crack down on hospital parking

The morning June 5 the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) found about 15 vehicles illegally parked in the immediate vicinity of the hospital. Some were parked on sidewalks, others on the roadway. The police called the tow truck services. Some of the offending cars were towed at the owner's expense. Other owners showed up before their vehicles had been towed but were required to pay the towing charges anyway.

KPCN explains how the 9310 anonymous tip line works

Tips can be submitted completely anonymously via the anonymous tip line. You call 9310 and leave your message on a secure voicemail. This means that no employee is involved. Only three specially designated officials, who report directly to the chief public prosecutor, can listen to the message. They only receive the audio – your telephone number, location or other contact details are not recorded or stored.

Your privacy is paramount. The original message will be deleted as soon as it has been listened to.

We understand that it can be frightening to report something, but your information can really make a difference. Even a small detail can mean a breakthrough.

Call now! Via 9310 - you will always remain anonymous.

KPCN Release



Law says electric bikes and scooters are mopeds

The recent proliferation on Bonaire of bikes and scooters powered by electricity has revealed a blind spot in the Road Traffic Ordinance 2019. The operation of the vehicles is not recognized in the law. The safety triangle (Public Entity Bonaire, Public Prosecution Service and Caribbean Netherlands Police Force) has therefore decided, as of July 1, to categorize electric bikes and scooters as mopeds and make their use subject to the laws that apply.

According to the law, mopeds are powered bicycles with pedal assistance that cannot drive faster than 30 km/h. So according to the new interpretation, electrically powered vehicles that cannot go faster than 30km/h are subject to the same regulations as mopeds.

Therefore the driver must:

- wear a helmet;
- be in possession of a valid driver's license for the type of vehicle;
- and be at least 16 years old.

As well, the vehicle must have a license plate, be insured, and meet certain technical design requirements.

The police can:

- Impose a fine for not wearing a helmet or driving without a driver's license,
- Seize the vehicle if it is not insured or registered,
- Or draw up a report in the event of repeated violations that may have consequences for the driving license.

News Release.

Don't open suspect QR code, police warn

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force warns the population of Bonaire of a suspicious flyer that is currently circulating on the island. The flyer contains the title "Security Survey" and a QR code, as can be seen in the image. Do not scan the QR code

The origin of the flyer is unknown. Scanning the QR code can lead to the download of malware or other malicious software. The code might also be used to collect personal data or set up criminal activities.

Those who have already scanned the QR code should pay attention to the following **warning symptoms**:

- Unknown apps that suddenly appear on your phone
- Pop-ups or advertisements that you did not receive before
- A noticeably slower phone
- Unusual battery or data usage
- Websites or apps that open automatically
- Notifications of login attempts on your accounts
- Changes to settings or passwords without your permission

If you notice these signals:

1. Temporarily put your device on airplane mode
2. Install a reliable anti-virus app
3. Remove unknown apps
4. Change the passwords of important accounts
5. Contact an IT specialist or report to the police

DMR



Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
I want to rent out my property. What do I need to keep in mind before I rent it out?

Kind regards, Diane

Hi Diane –

Thank you for reaching out. If you're considering renting out your property, here are a few key things to think about:

1. Rental Duration

Decide how long you want to rent it out. Do you want to reserve time for yourself a couple of times a year, or are you looking for a long-term tenant?

2. Zoning Regulations

Check the zoning for your property. Some zones allow vacation rentals (short stays), while others may only permit rentals for 3 months or longer. Knowing this helps ensure you stay compliant with local rules.

3. Self-Managed vs. Professional Management

Are you ready to handle searching for tenants, making a contract, arranging cleaning, maintenance, and tenant communication yourself? If not, our property management service might be the way to go.

Best of luck with your rental journey and do not hesitate to contact us if you wish our assistance with managing your property for you!

We will have more about our property management services in our next Ask Bob column in *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Regards, 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

New class of firefighter recruits begins training



Ten new recruits have recently joined the Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department (BKCN). They were selected following an intensive process that included physical fitness tests, screenings, and several rounds of interviews.

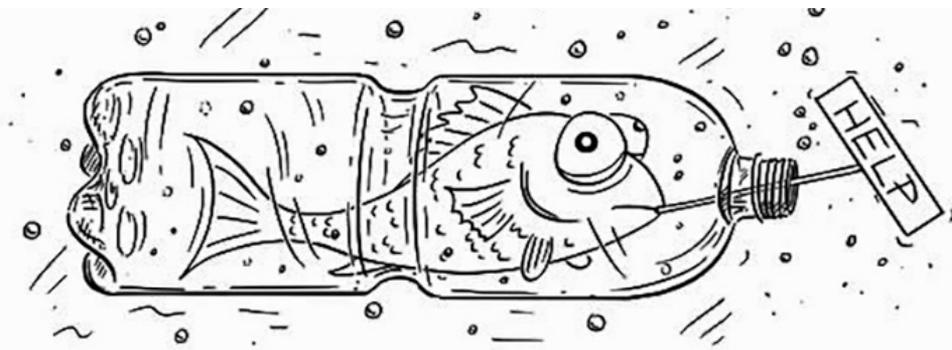
In September, they will begin the one-year firefighter training program that prepares them for a career as a firefighter on our islands.

Two recruits from St. Eustatius and one from Saba will also be joining the group soon, ensuring that emergency readiness is maintained across all three islands.

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.

Putting an End to Plastic Pollution: Stop Passing the Problem to the Next Generation



World Environment Day 2025 (June 5th) carries the theme: **“Putting an End to Plastic Pollution.”** It’s a powerful message – but one that has been repeated so often, it’s hard not to feel that the words ring hollow, even as plastic continues to flood our oceans, landscapes, and food systems. The truth is, while global awareness is rising, action still lags far behind the urgency of the problem.

According to recent figures, **19–23 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into aquatic ecosystems each year**, polluting lakes, rivers, and seas. More than **half of this is single-use plastic**—bags, bottles, wrappers, and containers—used once, then thrown away. And once it’s in the environment, plastic doesn’t disappear. It breaks into **microplastics**, which contaminate our oceans, our food, and even our bodies.

We’re warned that **by 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by weight**. It’s a horrifying prediction—and yet, instead of sparking urgent action, it’s often treated as a distant problem for someone else to solve. That kind of thinking is dangerous. By setting far-off goals and delaying responsibility, we’re not solving the crisis—we’re **pushing it onto future generations**, while marine ecosystems are being damaged right now.

I live on the island of **Bonaire**, and here the problem feels personal. Despite the island’s natural beauty and protected marine areas, it’s disturbingly normal to see people throwing garbage into nature. Plastic bottles, food wrappers, and cans are casually tossed out of car windows without hesitation. It’s not shocking—it’s routine. That makes me feel both sad and deeply pessimistic.

This isn’t just careless—it’s heartbreaking. It makes me wonder: how can we speak of change when basic

respect for the environment is missing? How can we talk about cleanups when so few are willing to stop littering in the first place?

We often hear that **“local communities are stepping up”** through beach cleanups and environmental initiatives. But that’s not always the case. On Bonaire, these efforts often rely on a small group of dedicated volunteers—while many others look the other way or continue polluting without a second thought. Environmental education is lacking. Waste infrastructure is limited. And enforcement is practically nonexistent. In truth, **many people don’t see a reason to care**—and that’s the heart of the problem.

That leaves me not hopeless—but frustrated. Not because change is impossible, but because we continue to treat it as optional.

We can’t fix plastic pollution by placing the burden on a few individuals or by making promises for 2050. We need **real change now**—stronger local policies, meaningful environmental education in schools, ongoing public awareness efforts, deposit-return systems for plastic bottles, and laws that are actually enforced. Systemic change will only happen when environmental care is seen not as charity work or a tourist PR campaign, but as a basic **civic responsibility**. We need to treat pollution not just as a future threat, but as a present crisis.

World Environment Day should be more than a date on the calendar. It should be a wake-up call. If we keep waiting, there may come a time when the damage is too great to undo. The longer we delay, the more we risk leaving future generations not just a burden—but **nothing left to save**.

FSPB

Parents Sound the Alarm on Education Crisis in Bonaire:

*Call for transparent, inclusive,
and urgent action*

Concerned parents on Bonaire are raising their voices over the growing crisis in the island’s school system. Overcrowded classrooms, a lack of transparency in student placement, teacher shortages, and logistical safety concerns have created mounting stress for families, and the cracks in the system are only widening as the island’s population continues to grow.

Last week, a group of parents met directly with representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), and school board officials to express their concerns and demand a clear path forward. The meeting, held on May 27th at the OCW office, marked an important first step, but parents say the time for promises has passed. Now is the time for concrete action.

“Many of us are left scrambling to find schools for our children, being told to ‘call around’ after being rejected or waitlisted,” said one parent. “It’s deeply frustrating and completely unsustainable.”

During the meeting, government officials acknowledged the severity of the issue. They confirmed that as of the meeting date, most schools are operating at or near capacity. OCW and OLB have committed to developing at least 80 new primary school placements by 2030 and expanding key facilities, including a temporary relocation of Het Koraal School to Rincon and a new site under development in Belnem.

But for many families, these long-term plans don’t address their immediate challenges. Parents also raised urgent concerns about:

- **The lack of transparency** and fairness in the school placement system.
- **Unsafe transportation** conditions, particularly for younger children and those with special needs. The road between Rincon and Playa is notoriously dangerous during peak traffic hours, with cars often speeding through tight curves and narrow stretches. Families worry about the daily safety of bussing children, some as young as four, across the island twice a day. The risks are even greater for children who require additional supervision or support.
- **Inadequate communication** from school boards and government bodies to the general public.
- **Staff shortages** that make meaningful, individual attention in the classroom nearly impossible.

While OCW and OLB have promised a joint public statement and improved outreach, such as multilingual materials and neighborhood information nights, parents remain wary. Many feel their children’s futures depend on faster, more coordinated solutions, and stronger oversight from The Hague.

We are calling on all parents and caregivers who share these concerns to sign the petition and add their voice to the growing call for accountability and planning. The petition can be found here:

<https://chng.it/tYyTVvQd4k>

We remain committed, united, and hopeful, pushing for the education the children deserve and our island needs.

Parents Press Release

Evelain Marchena retires after 34 years of dedicated service at TCB

After a remarkable 34-year career with Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Evelain Marchena is retiring, closing an important chapter in the organization’s history.

Evelain was the first employee hired by TCB, October 1st, 1991. Over the decades, she became integral to TCB’s growth and evolution, wearing many hats and contributing to Bonaire’s tourism development.

Elesiër Angel, CEO of TCB, thanked Evelain for all her years at TCB. Furthermore, she said, “We will all miss you, but now is the time for you to enjoy your well-deserved retirement.”

TCB Release



Szabó's job here ended June 3rd

Geert Wilders announced that the Party for Freedom (PVV) is leaving the coalition of the Schoof cabinet and instructed all his ministers to resign. The other coalition parties – the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), New Social Contract (NSC) and Farmer Citizen Movement (BBB) – were taken by surprise. Best prediction seems to be that they will not be able to form a new coalition and the cabinet will continue in a caretaker capacity until new elections are held. *DMR*

Penalty on Executive Council revoked

In October 2024, the Commission Supervision Personal Data Protection BES (CBP BES) fined the Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) \$105,000 for structural and ongoing shortcomings in compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act BES (Wbp BES). Among examples cited, the physical protection of personal data was inadequate, clean desk behaviour was lacking, and there were risks related to unsupervised printing.

In February, in response to an Executive Council objection, CBP BES concluded that the measure had been justified but granted OLB a tailored recovery period until the 5th of May 2025, conditionally reducing the fine to USD 15,000.

Based on OLB's progress report dated May 5, 2025, and follow-up inspections on May 14 and 15, 2025, CBP BES determined that OLB had implemented most of the required recovery measures. Workspaces were cleaned and secured, a 'follow-me' printing system was introduced, archive spaces were reorganized, and a structural improvement in privacy awareness was observed. *DMR*

Beer cheaper at local supermarkets

Bonaireans can save over \$6.50 per case of 24 if they shop around for beer. Generally speaking, the smaller local supermarkets sell beer for less than the major supermarkets. *DMR*



Closing coming on Curoil purchase of Bopec

Following its designation as preferred bidder on the sale of Bopec last September, Curoil Bonaire has performed an extensive due diligence and completed negotiations with the bankruptcy curator and the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). On May 27, a first agreement with the OLB was signed, then on June 2 Curoil Bonaire signed the Sales and Purchase Agreement. Change of ownership is expected to occur in September. *DMR / Photo Julie Morgan*

"Not Pregnant Now" started on Bonaire

The *Not Pregnant Now* program, well-established in the European Netherlands, will officially start on Bonaire on June 2. It has been given a Bonairean name to adapt it to the island: *Mi futuro, mi eskoho konsiente*. (My future, my conscious choice.)

Not Pregnant Now, coordinated by Public Health/ GGD Bonaire, is a family planning program intended to help clients of childbearing age, women and men both, decide whether they want to become parents. If they decide they are ready to have children, the program helps them prepare for a healthy pregnancy. If they are not ready, the program assures they protect themselves so they are not surprised by an unplanned pregnancy. *DMR*

More hurricanes expected this season

June 1 marked the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. The U.S. weather agency NOAA anticipates between 13 and 19 tropical storms this year, six to ten of which could develop into hurricanes. Three to five of them could potentially turn out to be major hurricanes with wind speeds of category three or higher.

According to NOAA, sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic region and the Gulf of Mexico are above average, providing more energy for storm formation. Neither El Niño or La Niña are present weather phenomena. Neither favors storm development. Wind shear—the difference in wind speed at different altitudes—is also relatively low, so storms are more likely to intensify. NOAA says the West African monsoon, which generates tropical waves, will also be a reinforcing factor. *DMR*

Nos Zjilea - the Kalabas tree

from page 3

from Kalabas. Filomena instructed the crowd how to make their own syrup and urged everyone to carry on the tradition. Filomena's knowledge of healing plants was passed down from her grandmother and mother. The Kalabas must be very ripe and black in color, a green one is too sour. Like so many home recipes the ingredients are never measured but estimated. Once the Kalabas fruit is removed from the shell it is placed into a saucepan with about a cup of water, heated and stirred constantly. For two Kalabas, five licorice drops are added along with some anise seeds, brown sugar and the mixture is brought to a boil. As it thickens the fruit from a skinned aloe leaf is stirred into the mixture. When it reaches a thick syrup consistency, the mixture is strained to remove any seeds. The cough syrup can be refrigerated to last longer.

The last Saturday of every month Nos Zjilea features presentations similar to this one. There is always something to learn. See, Hear and Taste the culture of Bonaire.

For more information about Nos Zjilea visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook. *Story / Photos Julie Morgan*



WEB opens new headquarters



Photo Skyview Bonaire

After two months of settling into the new Water Energy Bonaire headquarters, a grand opening party and ribbon cutting event was held on June 3. But it wasn't just a celebration of the new energy efficient edifice but also two important energy achievements for the island.

from 7,200 to 9,600 cubic meters per day. Upgrades to the waterplant were 9 million dollars.

The WEB NOBO substation in Antriol for electricity distribution is a sustainable expansion and most necessary to meet the requirements for Bonaire's increasing population. As of May 2025, the transmission station is fully operational at a cost of 3.5 million.

Planning for the realization of WEB's new headquarters began in 2017 with the ground breaking in 2022 and was completed two years later in late 2024. The 4.5 million dollar building is owned by WEB making it far more economical than the previously rented facility.

WEB CEO Joanne Balentien said, "Monthly costs are less than we were paying in rent at the other building. The ventilation system is a good one and we are 80% green. We are evaluating the use of solar panels but they are not in the planning for now."

Employees were consulted regarding the interior atmosphere of the building, and the consensus was that the headquarters design should bring nature into the building with a lot of natural light and calming, peaceful colors. The

customer service area has an updated customer call system, information desk, comfortable waiting lounge seating, two private consultation offices, free Wi-Fi, coffee and tea and rest rooms.

The building is equipped throughout with labeled recycling bins to re-educate people about the importance of recycling. There are employee canteens on both levels, a large open desk finance office, information operational technology department, call center, executive offices and board rooms.

Skyview Bonaire created three videos from start to finish of the three expansions. Each was shown at the grand opening. Here are the links to the videos:

Headquarters- <https://vimeo.com/987763808/01aa4befb2>
 WEB Nobo- <https://vimeo.com/988109223/ade479c01c>
 Hoofd Gebouw- <https://vimeocom/1068929526/21a1d3e666>

WEB employs 161 people with 60 at the main headquarters. To encourage advancement within the company, education and training are available for employees through WEB advance and WEB academy for both technology and management development.

Julie Morgan



Emelie Martijn, chair of the supervisory board and Joanna Balentien- Nicastia, CFO. Photo Julie Morgan

Addressing the crowd WEB CEO Raymond "Roy" Silberie said, We are gathered here to celebrate three milestones in the history of WEB: "First, the expansion of our drinking water facility in Hato and second, the successful completion of the WEB NOBO Reinforcement Project. And finally, the moment we can all be proud of: the official opening of our new headquarters."

In 2021, WEB's dependence on a third party ended and the desalination plant began producing 100% of the drinking water. They installed a modular design for water demand increases and in 2024 the design was put to the test successfully when WEB scaled up production capacity



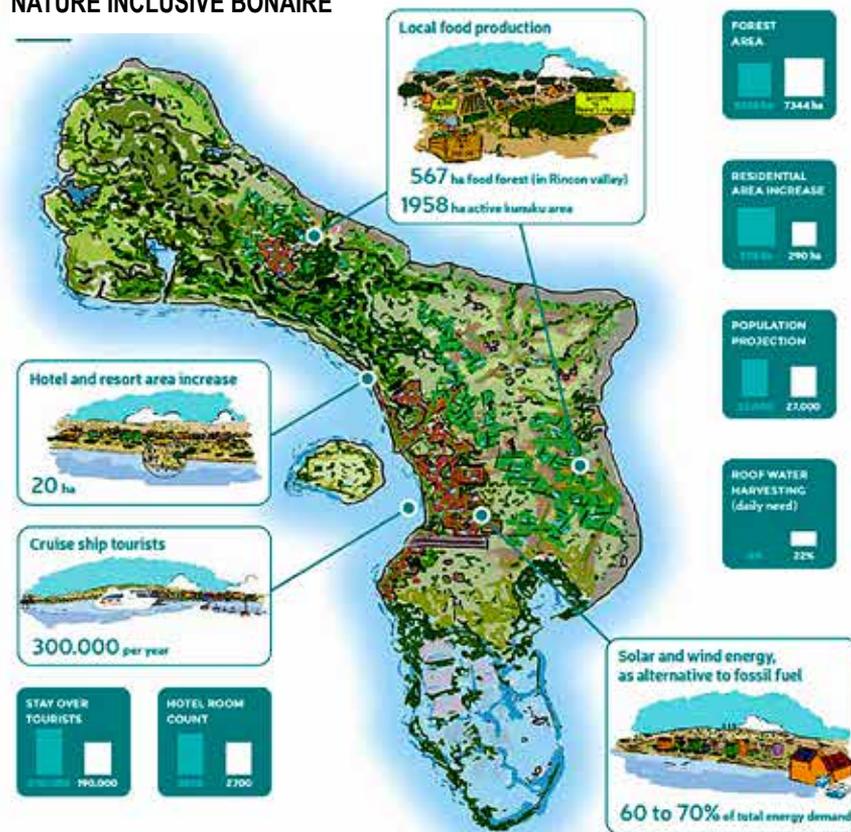
(L-R) Gerrit Scharrenberg, Joanna Balentien-Nicastia, CFO, Governor John Soliano and Raymond "Roy" Silberie, CEO Photo Julie Morgan

Executive Council proposes to adopt 33-year-old land use report

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“We don’t need to reinvent the wheel,” the Executive Council says. Given the recent failures to adopt a development plans for the island, the Executive Council proposes that the “Pourier Report” should become Bonaire’s “development vision, 2050.” Informally known as “Growth with the Preservation of Nature and Culture,” the report was issued in 1992 by the chairman

of the Commission of the Integrated Socio-Economic Approach to Bonaire, Miguel Pourier. Though widely praised at the time, the report was never formally adopted. Pourier, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, was from Rincon.

According to the Executive Council announcement, “the Pourier Report offers more than sufficient basis to formulate a Vision 2050 together with stakeholders, and after adoption by the Island Council, to have it translated into implementing regulations.” DMR

The report can be downloaded from online. Search: [verweijetal-2022-bonaire2050-anatureinclusivevision_flapmapinclud](#)

GreenPeace Research: Minister Hermans’ climate package does almost nothing for the climate



Research commissioned by Greenpeace Netherlands and Milieudefensie states that Minister Hermans’ climate package will only deliver a third of the promised CO2 reduction. The package will deliver a maximum of 4 megatons of CO2 reduction in 2030, while Minister Hermans stated that her package would deliver 10 to 12 megatons of CO2 reduction.

The Netherlands is legally obliged to reduce emissions by 55 percent in 2030 compared to 1990. Last year, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) concluded that an additional 24 megatons of CO2 re-

duction are needed to achieve that target with certainty. With only 4 megatons of additional reduction, the legal target remains far from sight.

No reduction for major polluters, but more fossil subsidies

What is striking is that there is virtually no reduction in emissions among the major emitters in heavy industry, while Minister Hermans assumed a significant additional reduction in industry. By abolishing the tax on plastic, lowering the CO2 levy, and reintroducing a previously abolished fossil subsidy (IKC scheme), the industry will also pay much less for emissions.



Greenpeace Netherlands activists have painted a 25-metre message for minister Hermans at the intersection between the Parliament and the Ministry for Climate & Green Growth in The Hague. On the day of the climate debate, the pavement reads: ‘Hermans: Minister for Fossil’. With the action, Greenpeace wants to make it clear to Hermans that her climate package does not even meet her own statutory climate targets. © Tengbeh Kamara / Greenpeace

Catching up with Francesca Virdis of RRFB

After 13+ years of initiating, organizing and heading up Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB), Francesca Virdis left Bonaire in August 2024 to try something different. She left RRFB to take on a new challenge, to be the Restoration Strategy Lead of the world's largest coral restoration project ever for KAUST (King Abdulah University of Science and Technology) in Saudi Arabia.

Rather than heading up RRFB as director she is now in a world of planning coral restoration strategies for a project that could hold the answers to saving coral reefs worldwide.

She is still very much involved with RRFB as she still serves on the board. And just a week ago Francesca and husband Augusto Montbrun returned to Bonaire to be a part of the seventh RRFB's Reef Fiesta. The event was originated by Francesca to raise coral restoration awareness and is always held on June 1, World Reef Awareness Day.

Back in 2008 when Francesca first came to Bonaire, she had left a corporate environmental consultant job and was ready to explore.

Francesca said, "I didn't even know where Bonaire was, but some friends had told me about it. My parents were like, what are you doing? They didn't get it."

Francesca went to work as a dive instructor at Buddy Dive and taught Fish ID and did REEF surveys. When Anna and Ned DeLoach were in-house for their month-long Marine Education Week, they introduced her to Ken Nedimyer, former president of Coral Restoration Foundation and founder of Reef Renewal International.

Francesca said, "It's funny how life brings you what you need and offers the opportunity."

Inspired by Nedimyer, and supported by Buddy Dive, Francesca developed the coral restoration project in Bonaire. The following year, Harbour Village wanted to be a part of it and even offered some financial support. Then Wannadive came on board in 2015. Six months later Francesca was formally hired by the foundation, known today as Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire. During that time, Ramon de Leon served as STINAPA Bonaire Marine Park manager, and he helped RRFB acquire a 10k grant which funded the first coral trees and materials.



Francesca Virdis growing coral off Bonaire
Photo Lorenzo Mittiga

RRFB started with staghorn and elkhorn coral trees and over the years has expanded to include coral propagation on vertical lines, corals on trays, horizontal lines in the shallows and larva settlement under tents and floating pools.

With the massive loss of corals from SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease), the healthy corals that remained on the reef and could spawn are often too far apart and a little help is needed to get the eggs and sperm to make contact. Francesca explained the only way to get them together is to collect the eggs and sperm and assist fertilization, otherwise the entire coral population would be lost.

This critical work of joining the spawn is being carried out in a makeshift lab/hotel room. They are also doing some pretty sophisticated work with asexual and sexual reproduction to create stronger and more resilient coral genotypes and strains.

Francesca's work in KAUST Coral Restoration Initiative (KCRI) new coral nursery is on the coast of

FRANCESCA VIRDIS
to page 15



Francesca Virdis in Saudi Arabia.

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BlueCorridors.org: a new digital platform for whale conservation

In a big step forward for ocean conservation, WWF and a global coalition of scientists, civil society groups, governments, and tech innovators have launched [BlueCorridors.org](https://www.bluecorridors.org). This new digital platform maps the migration routes of whales alongside threats they face and solutions to protect them. For the first time, the ocean “blue corridors” that whales travel across the globe are digitally mapped and publicly available to guide science, policy, and marine protection efforts.

Research for whale conservation

The platform brings together more than 30 years of satellite tracking data from over 50 research teams worldwide, including Oregon State University, the University of California Santa Cruz, and the University of

Southampton. These maps reveal the “superhighways” whales use to travel between feeding, breeding, and social areas — paths that are critical not just for their survival, but for the health of the oceans.

But these essential routes are under growing pressure. Despite years of conservation work, seven out of 14 great whale species are still endangered or vulnerable. Ship collisions, fishing gear entanglements, underwater noise, plastic pollution, and the effects of climate change all threaten their survival.

Mixing science with practical solutions

[BlueCorridors.org](https://www.bluecorridors.org) provides a timely and practical solution. It’s an interactive, easy-to-use tool that helps

visualize whale movements, threats in their environment, and priority areas for conservation. These help experts and decision-makers work across borders to protect these ocean giants.

“Blue corridors are more than migration routes—they’re lifelines for the ocean’s giants and the ecosystems they support,” said Chris Johnson, Global Lead for WWF’s Protecting Whales and Dolphins Initiative. “This platform transforms decades of science into a tool for action—showing when, where, and how to protect whales in a rapidly changing ocean.”

News Release

Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Dokter *Oh, those phones...*

The telephone has grown into something that no one can or wants to live without.

I remember so very well the day we got to be connected with the rest of the world. It was a device hanging from a wall in the gangway. And when it rang, we all fell silent, ran towards the telephone and stared at it too scared to answer it. The telephone company had given all phone-owners strict instructions: how too and, more important, how not to. It was also pretty expensive to make calls. When you were on the phone there was always somebody there yelling to hang up as fast as possible.

It grew to become a pretty important apparatus over the years, but my mom did not own a phone when I moved to live in Curaçao. One had to order up an international call and when the connection was finally there, one had to share every word with the other callers in the giant hall. But it was fun.

Nowadays things are so much different: it looks like everyone has a phone in their hand, glued to the ear, or

nearby at short distance. Everyone can hear what the conversation is about.

Since phones offer more possibilities, things have changed for the worse. Sitting in the doctor’s office one can listen to the conversation of the person next to you and across the room. One person is making a phone call, another person is listening to the news, the next one is watching reels and the other person is playing music. And everything is LOUD.

Having a normal get together is dominated by phones. These phones are on the table, to be able to grab asap. When it rings, it is answered right away, conversation with others at the table or not.

At every social gathering, workshop or otherwise, people are asked to switch off their phone or at least have it on airplane mode.

To keep a child busy, it is handed a phone. Little kids walk around with word pads in their hands. It seems that the phone has become a babysitter. Little children are sitting or lying for hours with the phones in hands, imprinting all kinds of stuff in their little minds they do

not really need. Phone addiction begins here.

And all those pictures, they are taken almost every second. It does not matter what or why. So your own phone is overfilled with somebody else’s pictures. One has to change settings for somebody else’s pictures to not be saved in your phone.

On the other hand, these phones are great for accessibility, like it or not. When living alone, or having a handicap, the phone is excellent for direct communication: call a doctor, an ambulance, get instant help. I need my phone for all that, but I am also in great need for direct communication, person to person. That will always stay important.

So, when you need me, call me. Better yet, come by and have a coffee with me.



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.

Creating Optimal Health - Socratic dialogue

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Socratic questioning is a philosophical debate technique that uses open-ended questions to guide the individual toward deeper understanding and critical thinking. This method works both in an informal setting and in work or therapeutic settings. It is used in Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Rational Emotive Therapy to push the person out of their comfort zone, allowing the patients to reflect on their thoughts, behaviors and feelings. It develops awareness and their capacity to challenge irrational beliefs, and in turn, allows them to feel more in control.

Over two thousand years ago, Socrates wandered barefoot through the bustling city of Athens, engaging in philosophical inquiry. He approached citizens and posed questions regarding justice, virtue, love and the soul. He didn’t provide answers, but rather fostered skepticism by asserting, “I only know that I know nothing”, and with this, he created a truth-seeking method still in use today.

He mentored many young people, including Plato, who left the only written testimony of his dialogues. But his influence and impertinence also earned him enemies. In 399 BC, at the age of seventy, he was put on trial for corrupting the youth and disrespecting the city’s gods. He was sentenced to death. His friends tried to help him escape, but he refused. He accepted the sentence calmly, saying that a true philosopher does not fear death. He drank hemlock, a

deadly poison, conversing until the end about the soul and its destiny.

Socratic questioning uses open questions that require more than a simple “yes” or “no” answer, prompting the respondent to elaborate and clarify their ideas. The objective is to help individuals identify and examine the assumptions they make, which can lead to a deeper understanding of a topic. Socratic questioning involves examining beliefs through logical inquiry. By asking probing questions, it encourages the respondent to critically evaluate their own beliefs and assumptions. The overall aim is to thoroughly explore a topic or issue to achieve a more complete and well-founded understanding.

Socratic questioning begins with general questions about a topic to understand the person’s initial understanding. It is important to make specific questions to clarify the meaning of the person’s statements. Sometimes, even “obvious” questions can reveal new information. Examples include: “What do you mean by...?” “Could you expand on that point...?” “How does this relate to our discussion...?” “What is the purpose of...?” Skipping this step may lead to confusion and misinterpretations.

Once the subject is clear, questions come that challenge assumptions and seek evidence to explore the reasons behind beliefs and claims. They test the validity and ratio-

nality by asking for supporting or contradicting evidence (e.g., What evidence supports this? Why is this assumption true here? How often have you observed this occurrence?).

Also questions that consider different perspectives are stated, which encourages exploring various viewpoints and counterarguments. (Why did you choose this perspective? What would be the consequences if it were different? Is this always the case? Can you look at this issue differently?)

In a therapeutic setting the personal consequences of the old and the new beliefs are also explored. Examples include: “What are the short- and long-term effects?” “How might this belief influence your actions?” “What could happen if you continue to believe this thought?” “How does this belief affect your relationships and self-esteem?” “In what ways might this thought impact your career goals?” Understanding these impacts can motivate clients to consider different perspectives and find alternatives to dysfunctional beliefs.



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

Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

Everywhere* But the Reef

**everywhere marine that's warmer than 75F (24C), with visibility over 20' (6 m)*



One thing I love about this weird little sole is that I am the one who found it at the Blue Heron Bridge in West Palm Beach.

Photo Julie Morgan

for navigation... Now that I see this in writing, (after more than two decades, I finally) realize our problems could have been solved with a compass! And, more than two decades later, our non-adventure seems more funny than frustrating.

What we managed to see was mostly sea grasses, which hosted tiny stinging anemones and other stinging growths. I'm sure they host other creatures, but we didn't find any that night. I'm looking forward to hearing about what Ed and Bernadette DeJong find there, if they accept the challenge -- or what you find if you do.

In contrast, another warmwater site with seagrass beds has been explored by thousands of divers, who have found giant sea stars, huge mantis shrimp, octopuses, flying gurnards, batfish, and other unusual creatures there. That's the Blue Heron Bridge, a shore dive out of a Phil Foster Park in Riviera Beach, Florida. The Blue Heron Bridge also has sandy/silty areas, a fishing pier, and bridge pilings to dive around, everything but reef. It's nearness to the inland waterway and to a cut to the Atlantic results in unusual creatures -- Anna and Ned DeLoach saw a

manatee there once on a night dive, and the occasional shark is seen.

The BHB has downsides totally missing from Bonaire, thank goodness: the only time to dive there comfortably, and safely, is within one hour before high tide to one hour after. Too early or late and you're dealing with reeally strong currents and possible visibility of zero. Plus, finding parking space is difficult,

especially on weekends, because of the many users of the Park -- boaters, swimmers, etc. Plus, diving after sundown is by special permit only and even with that you have to be out of the park by 10 pm.

Everywhere* but the Reef (E*BR) includes wreck dives, of course, and the areas around wrecks. It includes the rubble along Bonaire's shoreline, and the area between the shore rubble and the reef, and even the area beyond the reef. Have you seen triton's trumpet snails there? A pipehorse? A frogfish?

They've been there.

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award ("the Emmy of the diving world") in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



My favorite places to dive have been piers ever since my first dive beneath Bonaire's North Pier (formerly called the Old Pier and then the Town Pier), in 1981. Since then, I've dived our Old Pier more than a thousand times.

Underwater filmmaker Stan Waterman was also a fan of pier diving. He once called our Old Pier, "... a massive dump with debris that defies description." Since we don't dive piers solely for their underwater beauty, he continued with, "Home, for a marine animal, is where it hangs its hat and finds shelter."

And under a pier, there is generally a selection of debris that can provide shelter for enterprising critters. And, under a pier, there is often more room for divers, or snorkelers, to see the animal. Would you rather see a moray on a reef, by looking at just the right angle through just the right crevice between coral heads, or under a pier, by looking directly across a(n apparently) barren bottom at moray who's looking back at you from a pipe or a tire?

Yes, an apparently barren sea floor -- "apparently" because the sand or silt or rubble occasionally covers a spotted spoon-nose eel, or an umbrella snail, or another creature we're equally unlikely to see on a reef. Sometimes the creature isn't even covered: while snorkeling off Deerfield Beach, Florida, I saw pipefish at least 7 or 8in (17.78-20.32cm) long, hanging out in the valleys between ripples in the sand. The pipefish weren't even sand-colored, they were dark brown, and I saw two that were really close to people's feet.

Another non-reef area of Bonaire is Lac Bay. Years ago, my friend Sue Weller and I decided to check out Lac at night. It turned out to be so frustrating we never tried it again. The currents confused us, the bottom didn't give us any natural navigation clues, the moon was so high when we went in that we couldn't use it



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAPTAIN DON!



Don teaching Photo Julie Morgan

Don welcomed dive groups and clubs by the dozens as word spread about him and Bonaire's fish-filled turquoise waters. Members of the Boston Sea Rovers flocked to Bonaire then, and still do now. They were the group to present Captain Don with his first International Award, their prestigious Diver of the Year Paul Revere Silver Bowl in 1984. Many more awards and recognitions followed including the Reaching Out Award from DEMA (Divers Equipment and Manufacturer Association) which can be seen in the airport departure lounge, thanks to the support of Littman's Jewelers. And in 2005 he was inducted to the international Scuba Divers Hall of Fame.

Don became a leading proponent of sound coral reef management and protection and wrote and talked about it regularly, putting words into action by banning spear-fishing and the wearing of reef damaging gloves and donating the land for Bonaire's first marine laboratory.

Don's idea of creating permanent dive moorings to limit anchor damage on the coral reef has been adopted worldwide. He also wanted to recognize the work of others. With the help of Frank Fennell and myself, an underwater memorial plaque honoring those underwater pioneers and explorers who have gone before us, was designed. I had it cast in marine bronze and brought it to Bonaire. Don created a cement base including an underwater dive flag and we put it on the reef. That scene is immortalized on the cover of Reef Windows in a photograph by Andy Martinez and now in a beautiful new mural on a cottage at Habitat. The flag staff remains to this day, with a new flag raised by Dee Scarr and other divers when it shows signs of wear.

Don built his own pyramid as a final resting place at the Bonaire cemetery, where his amputated leg preceded him. Ralph "Moogie" Stewart has done a masterful job with its upkeep! The good Captain with Janet's great help also created the Accolade Award to recognize environmental action and achievement. It was his pride and joy to present medals to deserving individuals and groups. Janet and I have been actively working to continue those efforts with the recent recasting of the Accolade medals.

Captain Don had two notable sayings that he repeated often: "We are Pioneers of Earth's Last Frontier" and "Bonaire is to Reef Conservation as Greenwich is to Time.. I have had them made into colorful 4 x 6 inch stickers to help raise money for the Accolade project. They are available at Vista Blue/Habitat and in the US for a donation to the Marine Ecology Project, PO Box 189, South Orleans, Mass 02662

**WE ARE PIONEERS
of EARTH'S
LAST FRONTIER**

Captain Don/Bonaire

**BONAIRE is to
REEF CONSERVATION
as GREENWICH
is to TIME**

Captain Don/Bonaire

Captain Don, Donal Stewart, a good Scot, would have been 100 years old on June 25.

The founder of Captain Don's Habitat was a pioneering SCUBA diver, hotelman, coral reef conservationist, horticulturalist, inventor, writer and storyteller extraordinaire.

After taking to the seas as a wandering Bohemian sailor after a business and US Navy career, he arrived in Bonaire in the early 1960's on his beloved schooner, Valerie Queen, which soon sank at the pier after decades of damage from wood eating marine borers. To earn a living, Don began giving SCUBA lessons and guiding people on dives. He always wanted his own hotel and got it by purchasing a group of cottages, right by the water not far from Kralendijk. The rest as they say is history. He designed and built offices, boats, docks, restaurants, a bar and named his establishment Aquaventure Habitat, soon to become Captain Don's Habitat.

Constantly tinkering, engineering and re-engineering, Don worked to create very serviceable flat top dive boats, sturdy docks with strong ladders and landscaping with native plants and water saving drip irrigation. He had several ideas a day, often engaging Habitat guests, like me and dozens of others, in his efforts. He named and described many of the reefs around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire with related stories told in his book Reef Windows. His lady, Janet Thibault, soon joined him in his adventures as he regaled guests with stories that became his numerous "Rings of Memory" weekly black and white slide programs. With the slide shows success he soon encouraged Dee Scarr and myself to give presentations of our underwater adventures and discoveries.

Offering a firm bed and diving to underwater photographers and film makers, marine scientists and fellow writers, Don drew them to Bonaire from near and far. The list includes Stan Waterman, Eugenie Clark, John Stoneman, John Fine, Paul Zimoulis, Geri Murphy, Billy Gleason, Betsy Royal, Skin Diver Magazine, Frank Fennell, Timothy O'Keefe, Michael Lawrence, Andy Martinez and others.

Please send me your own stories of when you met Captain Don, how he helped you, how his work inspired you, your adventures with Captain Don etc. Several of us are thinking of a book..

Best,
George Buckley
Accolade Foundation
gbuckley@fas.harvard.edu



Captain Don, his daughter Gwen and the author George Buckley Photo Julie Morgan

Did you pay your STINAPA Nature Fee?

Our conservation projects, research, education and the work we do are made possible by the nature fee you purchase. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication to preserving our nature. Thank you for purchasing your nature fee. Available online at STINAPAbonaire.org

NEOM on a little island called Shusha that has more than 300 species of coral and 1000 species of fish. Her job is to define the strategy for a project whose goal is to produce 400,000 corals annually. The main goal is to produce and outplant two million corals by 2030 to create a thriving reef by 2040. KAUST's plan is to become a global hub for coral reef protection and revitalization efforts.

Francesca said, "We have no historical data. We analyze the reef and set up trials to know what we want to do. Should we populate the corals that are stronger or save the ones that are already there? We've planted about 20,000 corals from a large list of species, prioritizing 30 among which some are endangered or endemic species."

Fortunately, SCTLD has not spread to the Red Sea, but there are other coral diseases, and they recently experienced a coral bleaching.

The KCRI team of 100 is using a number of ways to strengthen the coral on the reef: using probiotics by inoculation, spraying the reef through a type of garden drip system and even placing lights on the coral to attract food. This is also done in the labs on a timer.

Regarding implementation of some of the processes used at KCRI to other reef programs, Francesca said, "The solutions being pioneered at KAUST could certainly inspire or be adapted for use here or in other reef restoration projects

globally, especially in areas like process optimization, planning, and scaling operations."

The KCRI project is funded by NEOM and KAUST. RRFB survives on a few private donations, grants, WWF, Bloomberg Ministry and the Dutch Nature Environmental Policy Plan. Two completely different projects with essentially the main goal: to ensure coral reefs continue to live and thrive throughout our ocean.

Julie Morgan



Francesca Virdis



Recently, the Rotary Club Bonaire organised its tenth annual Slagbaai weekend for children. Every year with the help of Shaedra Baromeo who organises volunteers to accompany the children, the Rotary gives around 30 children an unforgettable weekend.

On Friday, the 33 children and their chaperones arrived at Slagbaai in the late afternoon. After a warm welcome, the children were given a backpack with supplies for the weekend. They then got to work setting up the dormitories. It soon became clear that the facilitators had prepared excellently. While the Rotary group was busy preparing the meal, the facilitators had brought games and musical instruments for the children. They immediately played the recorder, wiri, triangle and drums to their hearts' content. A lot of noise, but what fun they had! And how they ate afterwards! Not only the hamburgers and sausages, but also the vegetables went down clean.

Rotary members provided breakfast, lunch and dinner. And like last year, the children's own pizza preparation was a great success. The facilitators had a full programme for the whole weekend. Between meals, there was swimming, painting, playing and walking. Not a moment of boredom for the children. After a tiring day, the children were surprisingly quick to go to sleep on Saturday night.

As every year, the party ended after lunch with a 'soldachi' race. For each team, the children had collected hermit crabs on Saturday evening, which, marked with a colour on the shell, were able to show each other who was the fastest on Sunday afternoon, heavily encouraged by yelling children. After the presentation of medals, it was time to leave. At the farewell, the guides and the children had a surprise: a massive big hug for the Rotary team.

Rotary Release

A Garden? Just Do It! *Father's Day*

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Father's Day brings back my memories of the special connection my father and I formed with our shared passion for gardening. Gardening has been a lifetime subject of our conversations and it began before I could walk.

During my young years in Suriname we lived in small houses but the gardens were always big because my dad was a passionate gardener. Living in the jungle and in the later years in town, we always had a garden. We also had chickens, ducks, birds, dogs and cats. Almost all food waste and the animals' manure went into the garden and nothing was lost.

My father was a teacher and everyday in his free hours of the afternoon and weekends he was in the garden. He would be making rows for the vegetables, watering plants, adding compost and manure, removing grass and wild plants, planting new crops and young plants and trees, trimming fruit trees and picking fruits and vegetables, irrigating the plants with selfmade watering systems, fighting plant sickness, refreshing with new dirt, raking, recycling and removing plants that needed to be in another

place. He made green houses, repaired tools and fought off the iguanas and lizards. There was always work to do in those big gardens.

As long as I remember, I was always there with my dad. As a child of two years, I was not able to plant but as soon as my dad put on his garden clothes and gathered his gardening tools, I was ready to go with him. He told me that I liked to play with the dirt and water making mud. I put any kind of plant or leaf in the mud imitating his activities and watering the plants from a bucket or can. When I grew older, I became a serious gardener supporting my dad with a lot of garden work.

At 7 I had my own little garden in my dad's big garden. I liked to plant the easy growing flowers such as Cana sunflowers, dahlias, roses, lily's, croton, trinitaria, magdalene and more. In front of the house I had flowers and different ferns planted. The front yard was filled with colorful plants and it was my pride.

I used to climb in the trees to pick the fruit. We had mango, cacao, birambi,

appeldam, mispel, papaya, guyaba, avocado, coco, passion fruit, lemon, pineapple, watermelon, bacoba and delicious sweet sugarcane in the yard.

In the garden were string beans, bitter melons, tomatoes, hot peppers, spinach, tajerblad, sweet pepper, tjav tjoy, eggplant, plantain, pumpkin, green beans, onions, corn, cucumber, herbs and more.

We used to share our stuff from the land and eggs with our neighbors and they gave us what they had too.

When we lived in Holland my dad became friends with some gardeners and they shared a plot of garden land so we always had fresh stuff in the pot. The many times my parents visited me on the island, my dad always was quick to help in the garden and we had the garden connection again. I remember my dad in the most precious and best way: our passion for gardening.

Remembering the sunflowers my dad loved so much in our yard in Suriname I give you a bunch of sunflowers for Father's Day. I know, he would smile with this gift.



So, make your beloved dad happy with flowers from your garden and share a Happy Father's Day.



Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

What's Happening

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. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 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.): Kaya Gilberto F Croes, just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 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/terramuseumbonaire/>

SACA Art Center Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

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

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

Until June 14	Group art exhibit SACA Art Piano Gallery Free. Kaya Korona 74. Sun.- Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Artists: Marianne Brooks; Leslie Tucker; Allied Lippinkhof; Jozee Tjoa; Eric Cremers
Wed. June 11 last day	Export the Goats art exhibit SACA Art Front Gallery Free. Wed 3-10 p.m. Artists: Dillon Rannou; Darwin Luna Colorado; Rimmon de Vries.
Until June 12	Bonaire Culinaire Spring Edition. Use this 15-day event to discover the wide variety of restaurants Bonaire has to offer. Bonaire's culinary hotspots create a 3-course menu for a reduced price. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Saturday, June 14	Olimpiada pa Grandinan (Elderly Olimpidad) Jorge Nicolaas sports center. see page 19.
Saturdays June 14 & June 21	Kids Art Studio at the Library ages 10-13. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Free but spots are limited! Bonaire Children's Museum pilot. Find QR code to sign up at https://www.facebook.com/kindermuseumbonaire/?locale=nl_NL
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day Nature Cooking School Bonaire. Plant medicines with Angliet Baidjoe. 5-8 p.m. \$65 includes healthy snacks & dinner: LVV. Kaminda Lagoen 32 A. Reserve +599 701 7723.
June 15 - 22	Pride Bonaire. Events will include a film, pub quiz, Latin night Pink Edition at Cuba Companie and a great closing party at Tera Kora Ranch. see page 17
Saturday, June 21	International Yoga Day Free. 5:30 p.m. Seru Largu. A short meditation walk, then sunset yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire. see page 17
Sunday, June 22	Washington Park Trail Run 24KM (15 mi) 10KM (6 mi). Bus transport from Antonio Trenidad Stadium. Register online trailrunbonaire.com see page 17.
Tuesday, June 24	FREE REEF Fish ID course 7 p.m. TransWorld Radio. Learn to identify local fish species: featuring Damsel fish and Chromis. Explore what it means to be a citizen scientist. Gather with fellow ocean lovers! All are welcome!
Saturday, June 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. Jam for a Cause – A Night of Music and Giving Jam sessions from 5 p.m., BBQ. from 6 p.m. Dancing from 7 p.m. Donations to Animal Shelter Bonaire, FKPD and Music 4 All. At Valhall Kaya Princes Marie 8. see page 19. Classical music in a holiday atmosphere Protestant church Wilhelminaplein 6 - 7 p.m. \$ 20, available Delmar Book Store and Lisa Convenience Store.



Seven year olds Lucas and Diana Batista Dinu are the newest and youngest to become REEF surveyors from Carmen Toachina's monthly REEF Fish ID class.

Carmen said, "This is a remarkable achievement and I feel incredibly honored to be part of their journey."

The next class is June 24, 7 p.m. at TWR. The focus will be on Damsel fish and Chromis.

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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

Beach Tennis Bonaire Free. Everyone welcome. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

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>

Comedy at Yhanni's Aprepas Saturdays 7:30 p.m. \$15 includes a welcome drink and snack. June 21

Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

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.

Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toachina. All welcome. Held last Tuesday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME to this very social sport. We play PETANQUE (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Happy's Food & Drinks (road to Sorobon). We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

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 Lac, Blue Building: Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com

Sunfish Race Days: Barring inclement weather: June 15. Visit BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association on Facebook.

Tennis Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome to join. Register with the association: email info@bonairetennisassociation.com or app with 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Free Kid's Clinics 8-12 for beginners.



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. June 16 - Dive Friends Yellow Submarine; June 23 - No presentation; June 30 - Beyond the Corals; July 7 - T.B.A. July 14 - Divi Resort; July 21 - Divi Resort Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@manta-trust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. Come to an informative presentation on restoring Bonaire's coral reefs. Questions? email: info@reefrenwalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> **2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. Join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

Sobremesa Kas di Arte View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**

- Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
- Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, July 13	South pier fishing line clean up for Green Turtle Day. 9 a.m. at the Dive Inn. Dive Friends Bonaire will kindly sponsor our air tanks (INT). To join please e-mail to cepa@bonaireturtles.org
Sunday, July 13	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Next quarterly clean up in July	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

Everyone is welcome at Bonaire's third Pride Week

Pride Week Bonaire has a slogan every year. The 2023 slogan was *Nos t'ei (We are here)*. In 2024 the slogan was *Huntu (Together)*. This year the slogan is *Amor or Love. Nos t'ei, huntu, djis Amor*. Especially in these times, where the world is becoming grimmer, love for each other, our fellow human beings, is more important than ever.

- Sun. June 15. Opening Pride. Popup Expo - Get Together.** Wilhelminaplein/Cuba Compagnie – 4 p.m.
- Mon. June 16. Movie Night.** Film: Layla. open air Empire Cinema. Cash only. 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. June 19. Cuba Pink Latin Night.** Cuba Compagnie. 9.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m.
- Fri. June 20. Pride Loves Pub Quiz.** Hillside Resort – 7 p.m.
- Sat. June 21. Love to windsurf.**
 - Clinic for beginners (\$20). Bonaire Windsurf Place - 2 to 4 p.m.
 - **We LOVE to PARTY.** Terra Corra Ranch – 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
 - **Symposium: No more masks.** Plaza Resort -- 8:30 a.m. walk-in. 9-12 noon.
- Sun. June 22. We love to chill.** Sunset drinks. Grand Windssock Ocean Club – 5 p.m.
- Full Pride. Love to read.** LGBTQI+ reading table. Bilioteka Públiko

Fundashon EQ Bonaire is a small non-profit organization that strives to improve understanding of the LGBTQI+ community and thus create a safe space for all of us within the Island's community.

Free Community Event International Yoga Day Summer Solstice Celebration

Walk a short mindful meditative loop with us followed by sunset yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire
17:30 for 17:45 start

**21st June
2025**

What to bring:
Mat or towel
Water
Walking Shoes
Insect Repellent
Sundowner for afterwards!



Seru Largu

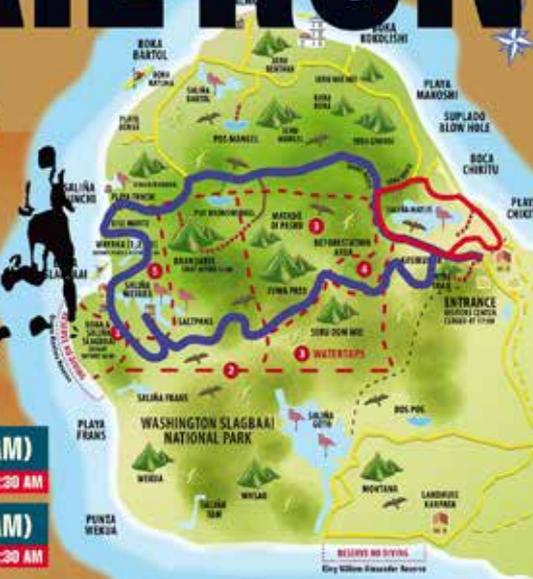
More information and RSVP contact Kelly: +599 701 0110



WASHINGTON PARK TRAIL RUN

E PROME EDISHON DI

22 JUN



24 KM (STARTS AT 6:00AM)
BUS LEAVES AT 5:30 AM

10 KM (LO START 7:00AM)
BUS LEAVES AT 6:30 AM

Location: Washington Slagbaai National Park
Parking: Stadion Antonio Trenidad

Register Online at Trailrunbonaire.com

You can pick up your race number on **Friday, June 20** in the afternoon from **5:00 PM to 8:00 PM** or on **Saturday, June 21** in the morning from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at **Jorge Nicolaas Sports Hall**.

BUS TRANSPORTATION BACK TO STADION ANTONIO TRENIDAD



International Yoga Day celebrates an ancient practice

For International Yoga Day, people around the world are all set to take out their yoga mats and start exercising, but some might not be aware that yoga goes back centuries.

Yoga is considered to be an ancient practice that originated 5,000 years ago in India. Yoga was developed as a way to interconnect the mind, body and soul to step closer into enlightenment. As the practice became popular in the west, it became popularized as an exercise and relaxation method, with claims to help the body's general well-being, alleviate physical injuries and chronic pain.

The idea of International Yoga Day was first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2014, during his speech at the UN General Assembly, where a resolution to establish

June 21 as International Yoga Day was introduced by India's Ambassador, Asoke Kumar Mukerji. The date of June 21 was chosen as it is the Summer Solstice, the day where there is the most sun out of every other day of the year. Overall, it received support from 177 nations, the highest number of co-sponsors for any UN resolution, proclaiming June 21 as the International Yoga Day.

On June 21, 2015, nearly 36,000 people, including Prime Minister Modi, and many other high-profile political figures from all around the world, performed 21 asanas (yoga postures) for 35 minutes in New Delhi in what was the first International Yoga Day, and the day has been celebrated around the globe ever since.

Yoga International Press Release

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. June 11	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. June 18	0900-2100	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. June 19	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. June 25	0700-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Sun. June 29	0500-1600	SEVEN SEAS MARINER 730 guests	North
Thurs. July 3	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. July 9	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. July 15	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. July 16	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. July 17	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
July 23	0630-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. July 31	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. August 6	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

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: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
 - **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. 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 in English.
- United Protestant Congregation**
- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
 - **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

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Kaya Dr. J.G.Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
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Pets of the Week

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



Meet the siblings Vaiana and her brother Vinny

Who said cats are aloof?

Meet attention-loving Tiger

Meet Vaiana and Vinny

Vinny and Vaiana are a lovely brother and sister, both 3 years old, who have been living at our shelter for over two years now. One night, someone threw them over the fence. Luckily, they've been safe and cared for with us ever since. They're happy dogs who love being outside in the sunshine. They enjoy playing, keeping an eye on things, and getting lots of cuddles.

Vaiana is the silly one. When it's time

to go back to her kennel, she always rolls on her back for belly rubs. Vinny is more calm and smart. He listens well and likes to take things a bit slower. Even though they're siblings, they don't have to be adopted together. They both get along with other dogs and would be just as happy in separate homes full of love.

They've been waiting a long time, maybe you're the one they've been waiting for?

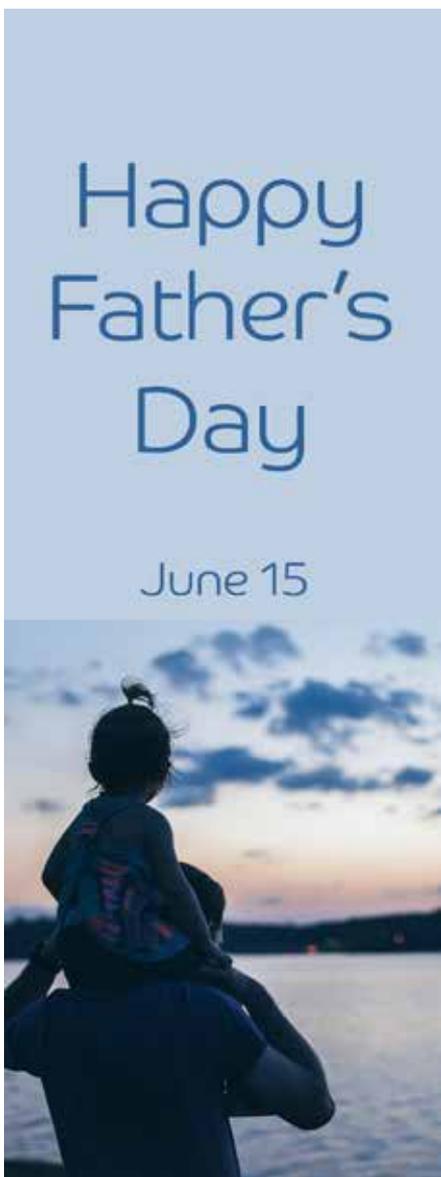
Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Tiger

Tijgertje (little tiger) is around 3 years old. The person who brought him to the Shelter two months ago said he was very aggressive to her cat and could not keep him but he is the sweetest boy. It is true that he can get a little sassy, because he prefers not to share when he gets attention. Tiger wants all the love and attention for himself, so it might be better for him to be the only cat in his new home. Other than wanting all the love he is perfect.

Tiger has a beautiful grayish brown coat with white, and of course some tiger stripes. Tijgertje loves attention. When you walk in he is the first to greet you, and stands up for pets. So be prepared to be overwhelmed with love from our Tijgertje when you come to meet him! Come meet Tiger and let's find him a second chance in a loving home! .

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt



Animal Shelter News

Jam for a Cause – A Night of Music and Giving

Get ready for a heartwarming, soul-lifting evening of live music, community spirit, and great food, all for a fantastic cause – Animal Shelter Bonaire. It's happening June 28, beginning at 5 p.m. with a jam session featuring Rita Gemert's talented vocal students and the amazing young musicians from Music 4 All.

Delicious, juicy, mouthwatering BBQ will be served beginning at 6 p.m. and will be open all evening to keep you fueled for dancing to the music all night long. At 7 p.m. the island's most beloved and popular artists will take the stage for an unforgettable Big Island Jam.

This isn't just about music, it's about making a difference. All proceeds go to: Animal Shelter Bonaire, FKPD and Music 4 All. Come for the music, stay for the mission. Open your hearts and your wallets. Every note, every bite, every donation counts.

The *Night of Music and Giving* will be held at Valhall located at Kaya Princes Marie 8.

With heartfelt thanks to Rita Gemerts for organizing this wonderful benefit event.

Marissa Lamers

Goat cheese filo rolls with Tera Barra honey sauce
Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

The goat cheese filo pastry rolls:
 3 tablespoons soft goat cheese • 5 shelled pistachios, coarsely chopped • 2 tablespoons cream • 1 slice of fried breakfast bacon, finely chopped • Freshly ground pepper • 3 sheets of filo pastry • Coconut oil

Allow goat cheese to soften at room temperature so that you can mix it well with the cream, pepper, pistachios and bacon. Lightly brush filo pastry sheets with coconut oil. Now spread a thin layer on all the sheets and roll them up tightly and place them on a baking tray. Bake the filo rolls until nice and crispy, in oven and serve with honey sauce.

Tera Barra spicy honey sauce:
 1/2 dl (1.69 oz) honey (Tera Barra Bonaire) • 1 tablespoon of butter • 1/4 red onion, finely chopped • 1/4 spring onion, finely chopped • 1/6 red chili pepper, sliced • 1 clove garlic, finely chopped • Freshly ground pepper • Bonaire sea salt • Pinch of sambal



Fry vegetables lightly in some butter, then add honey and let it cook for a while. Reduce heat to low and stir in rest of butter until you have a nice smooth and slightly thick sauce. Season further with some sambal, to your liking in terms of spiciness, freshly ground pepper and Bonaire Sea Salt.

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares the recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan is currently working as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



Miss Universe visits Bonaire



Ruby, Zahira, Donnie and Izain dance to Remalo with Miss Universe Victoria Kjær Theilvig

Miss Universe 2024 Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark is visiting Bonaire this week and if you are lucky you might see the 21 year old on her very busy tour around the island. Victoria was crowned in November 2024 in the Mexico City pageant in which Bonaire's beautiful Miss Universe Bonaire Ruby Pouchet competed.

Victoria arrived June 8 and has already hit several of the highlights including Mangazina di Rei where she tried cactus soup, helped bake some homemade bread, was entertained by the ACE kids and danced to Remalo with cultural dancers Monique and Donnie and a bevy of Bonaire royalty including Ruby and Miss Bonaire 2024 Zahira Avila.

During her visit Victoria's schedule includes meeting gov-

ernment officials at the Passangrahan, visiting STINAPA, FKPD and meeting some of the kids, attending a youth seminar, visiting the salt pans, going on an island buggy tour, enjoying a sunset beach event, taking part in a sushi workshop and possibly scuba diving.

Addressing the crowd at Mangazina di Rei, Victoria said, "I'm so excited to be on Bonaire and feel the love and warmth of the people. My country is far away and much colder so I love the weather here. I would really like to go to the beach and try scuba diving as I know Bonaire is known for it."

Prior to visiting Bonaire, Victoria enjoyed Curaçao and her next stop is Aruba.

Photo / Story Julie Morgan

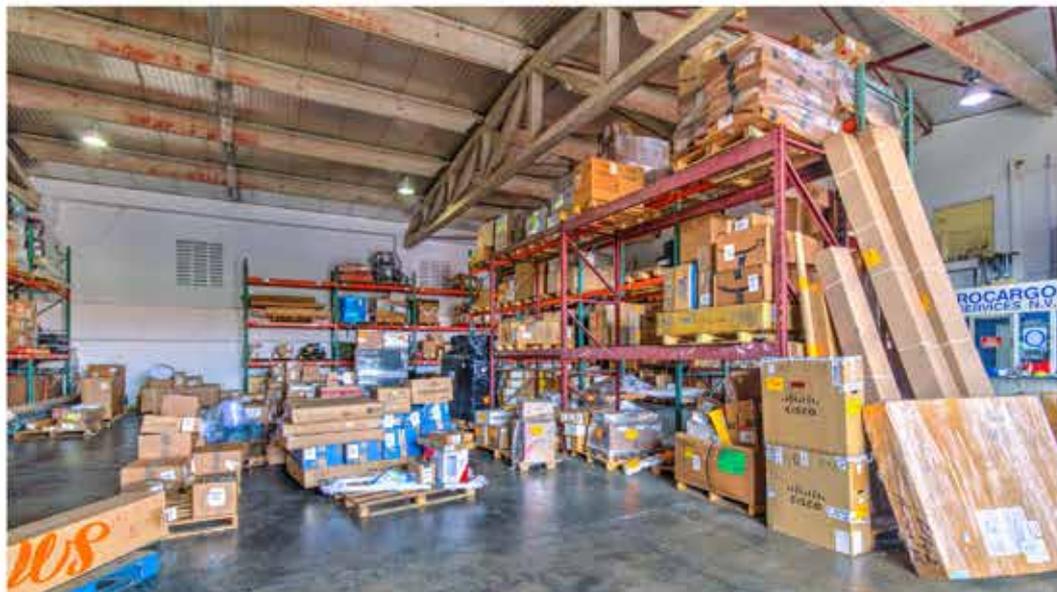


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Regarding the 15-year old who was fatally shot at the Club Rush Sunday night, club management was apparently concerned about the crowd that night's entertainment would draw. They published these attendance rules in advance.

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Club Rush Bonaire – Pariba 4 Life Event Security Notice

Club Rush management has held an official meeting with the Bonaire Police Department regarding the “Pariba 4 Life” event featuring Dindi Spray, scheduled for Saturday, June 7th.

Following discussions with the local authorities, we wish to inform the public of the following:

⚠️ Teens Event Cancellation Notice:

The teen event previously scheduled with artist Dindi Spray has been canceled by the authorities due to safety concerns. All ticket holders for the teen event will be contacted directly regarding refund or transfer options.

✅ Adult Event Will Proceed:

The adult event at Club Rush will proceed as planned with reinforced security protocols in place to ensure the safety of all guests.

Enhanced Security Protocols:

- **No bags allowed for male guests, including side bags.**
- **Weapons and illegal substances are strictly prohibited. Possession will result in denied entry and possible legal action.**
- **A Zero Tolerance Policy will be enforced with thorough screening at all entry points, in collaboration with law enforcement.**

We urge all attendees to respect these guidelines and cooperate fully with our security personnel. These measures are designed to maintain a safe, controlled, and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to seeing you at Club Rush this Saturday for an unforgettable night.

– Club Rush Management

