



Inside the entry of Landhuis Karpata
Photo Julie Morgan

What a history at Landhuis Karpata!

Divers and snorkelers know the name Karpata as one of the best dive sites on Bonaire. It is a rare day when the parking lot isn't filled with divers and their vehicles as everyone has the site on their 'must dive' list. Many are so anxious to head underwater they barely notice the old deteriorating buildings across the road that are the site's namesake, Landhuis Karpata.

Like most declining structures from Bonaire's past, the Karpata estate has colorful history with several metamorphoses. In Bonaire's early past a small fort occupied the site to protect the area between Kralendijk and Slagbaai. Divers might be able to find the only evidence of the fort, a small cannon underwater.

Karpata was originally called Borneo but later changed to Karpata for the castor plant that produces the laxative wonder oil that still grows there.

Built around 1870, Landhuis Karpata was a busy plantation that extended from the entrance gate on the tourist road to the country house with land reaching almost to Rincon. The plantation was an important trading center for charcoal, sheep, goats, goat skin, meat and manure, but the primary product was aloe. The plantation even had their own ships for transport.

Some 40 women would work the huge fields of aloe to produce a dark brown concentrate called raisin. From April to September, after the rainy season, they would use machete type knives to cut brown aloe leaves and stack them in special troughs. Payment was not from the number of leaves or by the number of troughs filled but the resulting aloe juice. To transform the juice into

raisin, the men took over to boil the juice in huge copper kettles with fires fueled by cactus. The cooked juice was poured into wooden cases and after a day it was hard as stone. In a good season, Karpata produced 400 cases each weighing about 120 pounds.

As late as 1955, the aloe was still being worked and exported, but in just a few years Karpata was abandoned by the workers for easier jobs and better money.

In the 1980's Landhuis Karpata was restored with funds from the Netherlands and converted

into an ecological center known as HM Queen Beatrix where marine biologists and students undertook independent studies and research.

Tom van't Hof, initial Bonaire Marine Park (BMP) manager and Eric Newton, assistant (BMP) manager, set up a study on black coral and attempted to plant the coral. In another study, Newton monitored tar on the beaches working with other islands and various programs.

Jules van Rooij from the Department of Marine Biology Groningen researched parrotfish and algae. Van Rooij explained grazers like parrotfish

are essential for the reef otherwise the coral will suffocate and die. Phase two of his study was an intense study on identifying parrotfish gender related to their activity.

Rik Pennartz and Geert-Jan Roebbers worked four and half months at Karpata researching cryptofauna, (hidden animals) and a different type of bryozoan. During their research they distinguished more than 250 different species.

In the 1990s the ecological center closed and the estate fell to ruin once again. In 2005 Mark Vermeij of the University of Amsterdam attempted to reopen a new research station at Karpata for the study of coral reefs.

Vermeij said, "Bonaire is a top location because of the well-functioning marine park and the local awareness to protect reefs. After all, they are the basis for the local tourism industry on which the island thrives."

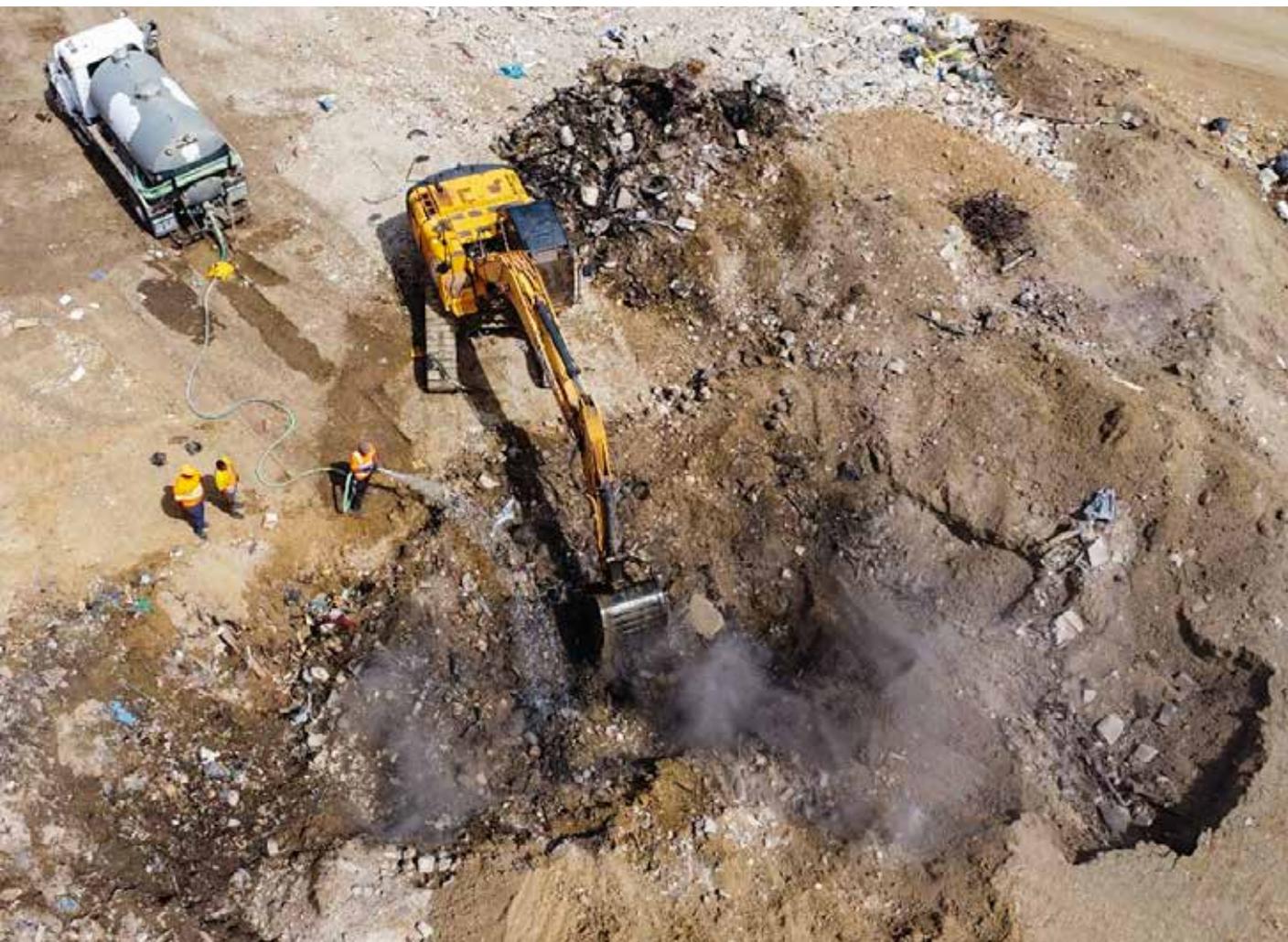
There are several ideas being considered to restore Plantation Karpata: a small-scale conference center; home for a hotel school; small scale catering for divers; a visitor center; and a boutique hotel. Other suggestions include: reviving aloe production and selling the products; producing sustainable organic food; or renovating the country house for a new program.

References: *And the Day Begins with Flamingos*, Bonaire Moments 1976; *Landschapsbiografie Bonaire*, 2024; *Beleidsnota Cultuur Bonaire 26810*, 2010; *Bonaire Exclusief*, May 2006; *Amigoe*, October 1987



Karpata is a must dive on every divers and snorkelers list.
They constantly come and go throughout the day. Photo Julie Morgan

Underground fires at the landfill being extinguished



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Dee Scarr's column "Reef Glimpses" will return soon.

Selibon and Afvalzorg, the Dutch company that specializes in Landfill operations, are methodically extinguishing the underground fires at the Lagun landfill. These fires are left over from the major fires of the past few months. The fires have been located using temperature measurements and infrared cameras. Approximately 15 have been found. Crews are digging down to each fire, extinguishing it with water, then filling the hole with diabase. DMR

On June 24 the OLB met with Lagun area residents and other stakeholders at a town hall meeting. After years of standstill at the landfill, the frustrations of the people living in the area have been building for several months. One area resident threatened, "If you don't close the landfill, we will do it ourselves." The OLB promised to take into account the area residents' feedback as it continues to develop its plans, which ultimately will include the remediation of the current landfill. DMR / Photo via OLB

Dutch climate group hopes to fund the unfundable

A group of climate researchers associated with universities in the Netherlands have formed an informal group called the Impossible Project. They are searching for "unfundable gems," which they define as, "The kinds of collaborative, imaginative, and transformative climate research that are deemed impossible to fund because they fall outside the constraints and expectations of current funding systems."

Established funding organizations have well tested procedures for identifying which research projects deserve funding. But there's no place on the applications forms to describe innovative initiatives that fall outside what the funding organizations are already looking for. Therefore the Impossible Project has invited funding requests for promising research that is too innovative to get funded. DMR

Power bills just went up a couple of bucks

An average household on Bonaire is now being charged USD 2 per month more for electricity. The rate is adjusted every July 1 in response to changes in the price of fuel. Only the variable tariff has changed. The fixed charge (standing charge) everyone pays will remain the same.

The Ministry of Climate and Green Growth subsidizes the fixed cost at the average European Dutch level. The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment also provide a purchasing power subsidy for lower income families. DMR

Apply for money for school supplies and uniforms

Parents/guardians should apply now for reimbursements for school supplies and school uniforms. Children in primary school and minor MBO students can receive up to \$400.00 for book money. Adult MBO students can apply for the reimbursement for book money themselves.

Apply at www.bonairegov/back2school Parents. If you need help, call 701 1055 from Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m. or email schoolbenodigdheden@bonairegov.com. The sooner parents/guardians apply—and send all requested documents—the sooner they will be reimbursed. Later applicants can expect longer delays. DMR

Pill machines coming

Soon clients of the Fundshon Mariadal pharmacy will have the alternative of picking up their prescriptions 24-hours a day seven days a week. The renovations about to begin at the pharmacy will include installation of a vending machine that looks like an ATM or a beverage machine, except it will dispense prescribed medications. The regular counter service will still be available, but with fewer counters. The renovations will take about ten weeks. During that time, waiting times will increase. DMR

Let's Celebrate Freedom

Huge banners with images of slavery on Bonaire enclosed the area at Wilhelmina Park for a commemoration and celebration of the abolition of slavery on July 1. Seating for almost 500 was set up before a stage backed against the Pasengrahn. The theme for the evening was Ban Selebra Libertad or Let's Celebrate Freedom.



The musical group Plataforma Kultural was seated on stage and government officials filled the first row. The official blowing of the conch shell signaled the beginning of the ceremony and MC's Nirvelli Gijsbertha and Ruthsaida van Heyningen led the crowd through the program.

Following the National Anthem, Deputy Acting Governor Ingrid Sealy spoke followed by National Representative Jan Helmond.

Hellmond said, "For more than 200

years, this beautiful island has been 'The White Hell' for a large group of people. Fellow human beings like you and me - but without rights. Traded and enslaved, because it made money. For over 200 years, this unfathomable injustice remained in place, as a custom."

Helmond spoke of the freedom that finally came for the enslaved 10 years after the official abolition date in 1863. That was 152 years ago and though things have changed slavery continues to have an impact.

"...we must above all look each other

in the eye. Seeing each other as fellow human beings so that we can move forward together," said Helmond.

Deputy Nina den Heyer spoke and Rudy Domacasse read his especially moving poem that was followed by a minute of silence and remembrance wreath ceremony. *(The poem is on page 4 and on page 18 of the online Reporter.)*

The ceremony was closed with a dance from the ACE dancers and the traditional Remalo which brought many to their feet.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Rudy Domacasse delivers his poem (see page 4 and page 18 online)

Photo Julie Morgan.

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POLICE REPORT

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

Searches and arrests for violation of Firearms Act

July 6. Around 10:20 a.m., a shooting was reported at a residence on Kaya Kuarta. Both the house and a parked vehicle in the yard had bullet holes. While police were still on scene, a second report came in regarding another shooting incident on Kaya Baracoa where a parked vehicle also showed signs of a possible shooting. **Police have launched investigations into both incidents and ask residents who may have seen anything or who have relevant information to contact the police. All tips are welcome.**

June 30. The Special Assignments Group (GBO) arrested two men aged 22 and 24 for violation of the BES Firearms Act. The man aged 22 was also arrested for threats. The men were arrested at a company on E.E.G. Boulevard. Two searches were conducted in homes located on Kaya Manuwa and Kaya Pos di Frances. Items of importance to the investigation were seized.

June 27. A young man, 14, was arrested at the police station for violation of the Firearms and Weapons Act BES.

June 27. Around 10 a.m. a man, 30, was arrested at Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund as part of the investigation into the shooting during the night hours of Sunday, June 8.

Arrests and searches in risk areas.

June 27. Friday evening the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) in collaboration with the Royal Military Police (KMar) checked both people and vehicles at 12 catering establishments in the vicinity of Kaya Grandi, Kaya Kòrsou and Kaya Bonaire. Suspected narcotics, objects for the preparation of drugs, a machete, a baseball bat and a knife were seized.

Around 11:30 p.m. a man, 23, was arrested in the vicinity of Kaya Kòrsou for violating the BES Opium Act.

June 28. Saturday evening checks were also carried out at various locations, including four catering establishments. A small quantity of suspected narcotics, objects for the preparation of drugs, scissors and a knife were seized.

Arrests.

June 29. Around 7 p.m. a man, 49, was arrested on Boulevard Miguel Pourier for assault.

Property crimes

July 3. Laptops, iPads, phones, cash and jewelry were stolen from a home in Sabadeco Courts.

July 2. Two reports were filed of theft at the dive site 'Andrea 2' at Sabadeco Courts. While the owners were snorkeling cash was stolen from a car and from a bag left on the beach. The first caller stated that she saw the unknown person red-handed at their car, after which the suspect fled on foot. Around 1 p.m. a man, 39, was arrested at the Sabadeco Keys, near the dive site 'Andrea 1.' A number of items that the suspect had with him were also seized.

July 1. Boxes of lighters, packs of cigarettes (Marlboro and Chesterfield), phone credit cards and cash were stolen from a catering establishment on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia.

June 25. Around 10:25 p.m. an armed robbery of a cash-in-transit company at a petrol station on Kaya Neerlandia was reported. A suspect threatened the cash courier with a firearm and managed to take the cash. The suspect then left the scene on foot and fled on a scooter together with a second suspect.

June 25. Cash was stolen from a home in the Mexico neighborhood.

June 24. A black Nike backpack and cash was stolen from a 'snack bar' on Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia.

June 18. A white Nissan pick-up was stolen while parked in front of a house on Kaya Breda. Around 11:30 p.m. the stolen vehicle was found at an abandoned building on Kaya Andino.

Driving under the influence

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

From June 23 to July 3 11 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. All drivers were given a breath test at their vehicles with a positive result, after which they were arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis.

Prior to testing, one of the drivers drove into a wall. Five of them were involved in collisions with other vehicles. Police stopped one driver because he was driving dangerously, and another for a routine check. The scooter driver was stopped because he wasn't wearing a helmet. Police signaled one driver to stop because he had only one working headlight. Initially this driver did not comply with the police order and drove on. When his vehicle was finally stopped by the patrol, the officers had to handcuff him and arrest him because he refused

to get out.

Police confiscated three driving licenses and gave out driving bans of 2 / 3 hours. Two people were driving without a license. One vehicle was confiscated.

Traffic control

June 28. During an evening traffic check on Kaya Korona 13 vehicles were checked. Two fines were issued: one for driving without a driving licence and one for driving without valid insurance.

June 27. During the morning police used a 'laser gun' to measure the speed of 35 vehicles on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. Eight drivers were fined for driving between 50 and 65 km/h in a 40 km/h zone.

The amount of a fine for traffic violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

Traffic accidents

July 2. Around 7:15 p.m. on Kaya Grand a child crossed the road from behind a parked car too quickly for an approaching car to brake immediately, causing the child to be hit and fall. The child then got up and ran to a house. The victim was taken to hospital in a private vehicle for a medical check-up.

July 2. A person fell from a golf cart and was injured around 1:15 a.m. on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

July 1. Around 5:40 p.m. a car overturned on the road to Rincon near Sabana Piedra Krus. The ambulance crew treated the driver on the spot. She was also fined for driving without a driver's license.

June 27. A scooter and a car collided at the roundabout on Kaya Internashonal.

Fire

June 25. Around 5:30 p.m. a vehicle was reported on fire on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. The fire department extinguished the fire. Initial findings showed that the fire originated from the battery. No one was injured.

Public order

June 30. Around 11 a.m. a lifeless body was reported found in a house on Kaya Jolanda. There were no indications that a crime had been committed or that violence had been used. The coroner found the death of a 48-year-old man with initials G.R.E.M., born on August 17, 1976 in Bonaire.

Selebrashon by Rudy Domacasse

Translated by Ria Dokter. For the poem's original Papiamentu language and format, please see page 18 of the online Bonaire Reporter.

One big day • Freedom for our people
• Freedom, freedom, freedom • Day for celebration

Stop, stop, stop • What big day? •
Which freedom? • Which celebration?

One more brush • One of many • One
more cry of abuse • One ongoing
• One more episode • One tragedy
without end

Hard work • Forced work • In the
fields • In the salt-plains • House of
slave-owner • Burn chalk • Work,
work • Work for slave-owner

Forceful • Cruel • Degrading • Threat-
ening • Hunger • Rotten food •
Sickness • Punishment • Pushing and
beating • Punishment • More punish-
ment • Give birth, keep on working
• Breaking up families • Enough •
Enough • It's the past • It's the past •

Forget it • Forget it

Forget it? • Here 's the slave-own-
er • In his suit • In the office • The
help running • Keep on pushing •

Push
Push

His own people • His own lan-
guage • His own culture • His own
manners • His own • His own

Forget • Here 's the slave-driv-
er • With his tie • Kneeling at the
master • Spitting with anger

Pushing • Stepping • Divid-
ing • Breaking

Forgotten? • Here we
are • Where? • How much? • For
how long? • Here we are • Ne-
glected • Undervaluated • Left

alone • Misjudged • Discrimi-
nated • Wounded • Threatened
language • Culture under threat

Shhhhhh, keep quiet • Don't
speak • Don't speak • Don't
see • Forget, forget

Forget? • Come behind the moun-
tain • Come to the fields • To the
waterside • Under the tree • At the
curb

Listen • Listen well • Listen to the
sound of the drum • Listen to the
song and answer to the words • Lis-
ten to the old tales • Listen,
listen • Listen to our people

There's inclusion • Dance a
simadan • Hold on and dance for-
ward • Enjoy till midnight

There is • Wealth • Songs, dances,

music • Kitchen and delicious
food • The smile and good-
ness • Of our people

There is • Strength • Skin
is hardened • With resis-
tance • Potato grew • Strug-
gling • Heart is swollen

There's • Worthiness • Hero-
ism • Break with the slave-driv-
er • Survive in the wilder-
ness • Cross the seas • Get
freedom • Stand up against the
slave-owner • Demand your
rights • Protest the injus-
tice • Get it right

There's • Knowledge • In-
clusion • Strength • Rich-
ness • Worthiness

There's • Hope.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



fill out a connection form and give them a security deposit.

• Set up TV and Internet: Go to either TELBO or Flamingo TV to arrange for Internet and TV service to your new home. Your mobile phone carrier, like

Digicel or FLOW also offer wireless internet service using the cellular network.

• If your home has a gas connection for cooking, you will also need to set up your own account for the gas tanks at CUROIL located at Kaya Aruaco.

• Set up Homeowners Insurance: A number of companies offer homeowners insurance on the island, including Ennia, Guardian and Nagico to name a few. There are also insurance brokers on the island who can shop for you at all of the insurers to get you the best price and coverage. You will need a value letter or appraisal that estimates the rebuild value of your property to make sure you have adequate coverage. Make sure you know what is covered by your insurance coverage: fire damage, storm damage/flooding, or a package for "all risk" which covers

most things. Confirm with your insurance company what damages are and aren't covered by your insurance policy.

• Although liability cases are extremely rare on Bonaire, they do occur, so you should also consider including personal liability coverage as a part of your homeowners insurance.

Congratulations on your new home and thank you for your question.

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

Hi Bob,
I just bought a house today, what do I do now? Thanks, Richard K

Hi Richard,

That's a really good question. Once you have purchased a property, here's what you need to do next:

• Get a copy of the signed transfer deed from the Notaris. You'll need to have this to start the utilities.

• Set up utilities: Go to the WEB office (Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire) on Kaminda Djabou to connect your electricity, water and trash services. If you make an appointment with WEB in advance, things should go faster. You will

Rotary Club Bonaire installs new board

The atmospheric ambiance of Macaroca restaurant was the venue for the Rotary Club Bonaire's annual board change-over last Saturday. After a welcome drink, master of ceremonies Jeaniro Balentien invited everyone to the table and welcomed the guests and partners of the members.

Between courses, the outgoing chairman and vice-chairman humorously gave an overview of the highlights of their board years. Jan Okhuijsen then handed over the chairmanship to Barbara Griot, who then installed her fellow board members Corine van der Hout and Rosalie Bierings as Treasurer and Secretary.

In an impressive speech, the new chairman presented her vision. She wants to revisit old habits with the members to re-

new things. Barbara wants to brush away the rust of routine, to give the club new impetus.

This festive evening could not lack the traditional spectacle. The new president had hinted beforehand that she wanted to de-rust the club. She could start right away when a blaring siren announced the stretcher on which her treasurer was brought in. A treatment with WD-40 got the patient back on her feet and the song Celebration by Kool & The Gang brought everyone to the dance floor.

The informal after-party gave the representatives of the local Lions and Kiwanis clubs and the Rotary Clubs Willemstad and Aruba the opportunity to strengthen contacts with Rotary Club Bonaire.

Rotary Release



(L-R) Rosalie Bierings, Corine van der Hout, Barbara Griot

JF Shireen youth group holds chess tournament



Coach Serapio Pop monitors two young competitors

Last Friday the young people of groups 6,7 and 8 of jf Shireen Coffy at Kolegio Strea Briyante completed the chess course and a chess tournament. Serapio Pop gave the course to continue popularizing the sport of chess which is a beautiful game for your free time and also to develop your mind. You learn to think logically, plan and evaluate. And in the game of chess one has no age!

Gregory Rosa Mojica became undefeated champion after five rounds with ten points from six rounds. In second place was Shuendrick Leonora with 7 points. In thirteenth place were three players with six points; Jordano Thielman, Mayrickson Vlijt and Marcos Fer-

rera Cepeda. Jordano Thielman came in third place with the best resistance score.

The girl with the most points was Reyllienne Vargas Loaiza with four points.

For the new school year we want to go to two schools and will look for sponsors to cooperate with the books of the prizes. The goal is also for more school children to participate in the qualifying games for ABC in 2026 and to popularize the game of chess which is the king of mind games!

For young people to become members of the BJSC club, please contact Serapio Pop.

Employment rate increases in BES

In the Caribbean Netherlands, the employed labour force (aged 15 to 74) increased to 17.5 thousand in 2024, an increase of 12 percent compared with 2022. There were more people in work in Bonaire, in particular. Saba saw a relatively modest increase, but in St Eustatius, the number of people in work decreased.

The number of local people in employment in the Caribbean Netherlands in-

creased by 1.1 thousand to 9.3 thousand from 2022 to 2024. This group is defined as working people born on any of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles - i.e. the islands of today's Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba) plus Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten.

A further 8.3 thousand working people were not born on one of these islands, an increase of 800 compared with 2022.

In 2024, 10.2 thousand people working in Bonaire were not born on the island, 1.5 thousand more than in 2022. Of these, 20 percent were born in Curaçao and 15 percent in the European Netherlands.

Three in ten working people in Bonaire were people born on Bonaire. They were relatively likely to work in public administration and government services, health and social care, construction and trade. Compared to native-born Bonaireans, migrants were more likely to be working in construction and the hospitality sector (ac-

commodation and food services).

Note

Before an employer in the Caribbean Netherlands can hire somebody who is not a national of the Netherlands or the U.S., they are first required to make demonstrable efforts to find a suitable local employee or an employee who holds Dutch or US nationality.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

San Juan and St Pedro featured at Nos Zjilea

Nos Zjilea, Mangazina di Rei's cultural event held on the last Saturday of the month, June 28, was perfectly timed for the celebration of the festivals of San Juan and St. Pedro June 24 – 29. As always, Mangazina di Rei was ready with a presentation on the traditional festivals.

Mami and son Juan "Nochi" Coffie explained that the early Bonaireans began the festival of San Juan as a plea for the blessing of rain. St Pedro was to ask for a good harvest and abundance. Many children were named in honor of the two festivals if they were born on the days of San Juan and St. Pedro. Mami explained that Nochi was not born on the day of San Juan, but she named him Juan anyway.

The most noted part of the celebration is fire jumping. And traditionally those who jump the three fires must jump only a sequence of odd numbers, jumping one, three, five times or more, but they must never attempt only an even number of jumps. To prepare for the jumping, participants drink shots of Don Pablo rum, a local beverage called Cocuy (rum with fruit and herbs). They eat sorghum pancakes and salted fish so they won't be too drunk when they jump.

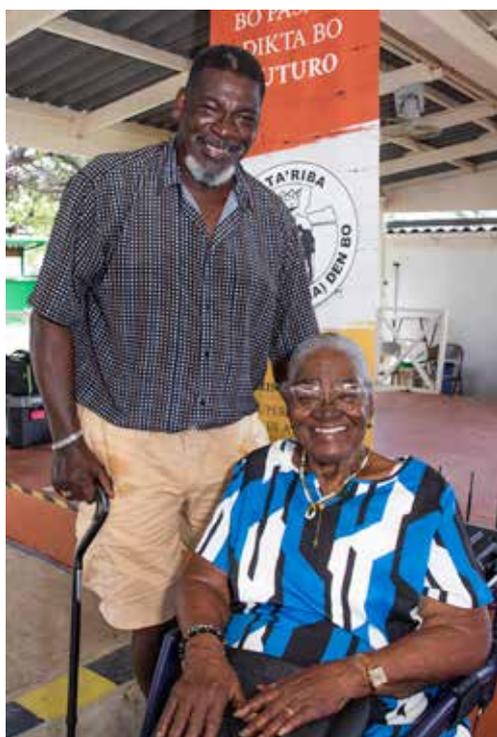
Traditional Bonairean music is played continuously. When the music ends, so does the fire jumping. One song called Dina Bara is played. It tells the story of a woman named Dina Bara who was wearing the traditional long skirt of the time. She jumped the flames, and her skirt caught fire.

In the presentation, participants learned the mini bonfires are made with pieces of dried cactus, wrapped in a tight bundle and then planted in the ground for jumping. Everyone was invited to enjoy rum shots and pancakes in preparation for the jumping.

In addition to the presentations, Nos Zjilea features traditional Bonairean fresh food, BBQ, local homemade juices, sweets, homemade crafts and plants for sale. June's featured musical guests were local band, the #Hashtag Band.

Admission to Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei is free, always entertaining, fun and educational. The next Nos Zjilea will be July 26. See Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook for more information.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Juan "Nochi" Coffie and Mami Coffie



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Creating Optimal Health

Guilt and Grudge by Irene da Cunda Costa

The poison is in the dose but be aware that sometimes the dose for an emotion to become poison is very small.

Both guilt and grudge are human emotions and up to a certain degree they serve a functional purpose. They both originate from a desire to protect from harm. Guilt is directed inward to protect others from any harm I might inflict in them and grudge is directed outward to protect myself from betrayal. But when guilt and grudge go unexamined, they stop protecting and start damaging.

Healthy Guilt is an emotional response associated with the belief that one has acted in a way that conflicts with personal moral standards. In its constructive form, guilt can encourage moral responsibility, apologizing or making amends, empathy and personal development.

Guilt Becomes Harmful when it's disproportionate to the situation, or when it becomes chronic, or based on manipulation or control from others or it morphs into shame ("I am bad" rather than "I did something bad").

People who are guilt-prone are more likely to be people-pleasers, over-apologizers, or self-sacrificing. Manipulators can weaponize guilt to control behavior, e.g. "I can't believe you'd do this to me," or "You owe me."

Holding a grudge is a form of ongoing resentment toward someone who has wronged you or who you feel has wronged you. Many times, it starts as justified anger or hurt, but it can soon become harmful when you mentally replay the wrong and keep the pain alive. When that happens, you become emotionally stuck in the past and taints your ability to trust or connect with others. Holding a grudge can even affect your health due to increased stress, anxiety and blood pressure.

Holding a grudge can feel like taking control or protecting yourself, but in reality, it binds you to the person who wronged you, blocking healing and growth. This pattern perpetuates feelings of victimization until you are able to relinquish the resentment.

The first step to letting go is becoming genuinely convinced that this will result in your own benefit.

In short, guilt focuses inward on your own behavior. When healthy promotes empathy and repair. It becomes toxic when perpetuating self-blame, self-sabotage and unnecessary suffering. Grudge focuses outward, on someone else's behavior. When it is functional it alerts and protects you from injustice and betrayal. But it becomes toxic when it makes your life bitter and you are unable to let go.

How to Break Free from Guilt: Ask yourself: Is this mine to carry? Differentiate between healthy remorse and toxic guilt. Set boundaries on how much responsibility you take on.

How to Break Free from Grudges: Acknowledge the hurt, then choose whether to confront, forgive, or let go. Remember: Forgiveness is not approval — it's emotional freedom. Reflect: Is this grudge protecting you or poisoning you?



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.



Varied classical and Caribbean concert



Photo via Classical Music Board Bonaire

Sparkling piano tones and melancholic sounds of the harmonica flowed over the Wilhelminaplein when, at sunset, Henk Roozendaal and Claudia Cassier performed their 'O grande amor,' 'My funny Valentine' and the well-known 'Bluesette'.

Bach would have been delighted to hear his music performed so melodiously on the classical guitars of Alex Jeffe and his young pupil Glen Burgers. Floran Damen once again played the stars from the sky in an arrangement of the Turkish march and other virtuoso music, and Caribbean guitar sounds by Rignald Kastaneer sounded completely at home.

Piano with 4 hands can sound very beautiful, as Claudia and Marian Passchier demonstrated in music by Mozart and Schubert, and much of the music was given its own Caribbean touch by the rhythm that Elvin Marchena gave it on cajon and wiri. A varied program by musicians from Bonaire itself, with all instruments united at the end in 'Summertime' by Gershwin. Now it's time for vacation!

On Thursday September 5th another grand concert is planned by the Classical Music Board Bonaire. Keep an eye on our FB page!

Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Dokter

Do you want to join the party?

In the last weeks there have been a couple of organized public events I have not been able to attend. But should I have been able to do so, it would have been difficult.

Why? I have the feeling that it would not be very safe for me and others with accessibility challenges. I also have a feeling that, when organizing these events, accessibility has not been taken into consideration.

Let us take for example the march against violence.... For anyone that can easily walk, the route was a good one. A long and easy road, but imagine if you were using a rollator for walking or are in a wheelchair, one could not have participated. Because not everyone using a rollator can walk easily over long distances. And how were those participants to get

there? If one uses an electric wheelchair, it is easy, but most people have to be pushed around in their wheelchair. So, if you do not have somebody to push you around, you simply cannot participate.

And at the end of the route how was one supposed to get back home? Look for event offered transportation or ask a friend or a volunteer to take you home again?

Of course, this looks like the accessibility challenged have to work hard themselves to travel the extra miles. The question is: has this been considered? Has anyone given this any thought?

For the activities in Wilhelmina Park, like the Ketu Kotu celebration, the location is large enough to handle quite a lot of visitors. The seating looked neat

with nice rows of chairs but no room for wheelchairs. Or were the wheelchairs supposed to park along the sides? There was no visible staff available for assistance.

The same goes for the Olimpiada for the Elderly. Was there any mention in the invitation that there was wheelchair accessibility? Or was the area tested to see if rollators could get around and not be an obstacle for others? And if there were guests in wheelchairs, how would they have been able to handle the catering? Were there accessible porta-potties available?

It seems that I want to be a whiny, but that is not the case. I simply want to draw attention on accessibility, because it seems like nobody does at events like these. And it gives those challenged with accessibility a feeling they do not count or have simply been forgotten.

We don't need to invent the wheel

again, the internet is full of information of how to organize events where accessibility is simply included. And I know for a fact that one can study how to organize big events, where everything is considered, and no one has been left out. I know for a fact that Special Olympics International makes use of this knowledge.

A little bit of empathy goes a long way. It does not cost a lot more, but it provides you with a huge amount of gratitude and that is worth much more than money.



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.

Can you help Bonaire's Food Bank?

Bonaire's Food Bank (Stichting Voedselbank Bonaire) began in 2012 in order to address hunger in the local population. Due to the current high cost of living food distribution to families in need is more necessary than ever. The Food Bank's mission is to ensure that no one on Bonaire goes to sleep hungry.

The food bank is only open the last weekend of every month and some 1400 people depend on it. Volunteers and contributions are the heart and soul of the operation.

Maarten Caljouw has been with the food bank for 10 years and president for the last three. Maarten told us that local companies donate surplus foods but more is always needed.



Volunteers unload donations Photo Julie Morgan



A few of the food bags ready for pick up Photo Julie Morgan

"The vegetables and fruit come from Venezuela and LVV if they have a harvest and sometimes a donation of plants for growing. Occasionally we receive fresh meat but we buy 90% of the food items from monetary donations. Only 10% of the grocery store donations make up our supplies. We receive baby stuff from the Mormons and other things for kids but we are not connected to a church."

Ann Oleana, coordinator for the food bank explained, the content of each food

bag is personalized depending on the size of the family. Some 40 volunteers organize, unpack the supplies and then pack the bags and label them to be picked up by the families.

Various people and organizations donate extra supplies and food. Last month Bagels and Bloom donated 185 breakfast boxes and Corjan Hoogerheide of Cook's Club (Klub di Koki) and Sorobon Reef Bar served two huge pots of delicious cheese soup to everyone picking up their bags or volunteering. Corjan told us he hopes other members of the Cook's Club will donate prepared foods or surplus ingredients to the food bank.

To qualify to receive a personalized food parcel and supplies, people must register with Fundashon Sentro Akseso Boneiru at +599 717 7300 or email: info@aksosobon.com / www.aksosobon.com.

If you are interested in volunteering call +599 785 8710 or email: voedselbankbonaire@gmail.com. Or connect through Facebook or Instagram.

If you would like to contribute food or other supplies, donation boxes are available at Van den Tweel, Warehouse and other stores.

For monetary donations: Banco di Caribe 32799701; Swift BIC BDCCBQBN RABO BANK (Holland); IBAN N LO8 RABO; 0318597381

Julie Morgan



Corjan Hoogerheid of Bonaire's Cook Club serves his homemade cheese soup Photo Julie Morgan



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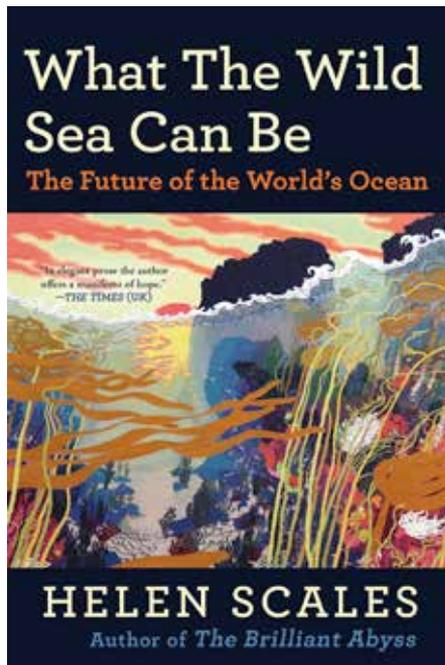
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Buckley's Books

by George Buckley



“What the Wild Sea Can Be - The future of the world's ocean” by Helen Scales

A Marine biologist, podcaster and writer, Helen Scales is based in Cambridge, England where she teaches about the world's oceans. *What the Wild Sea Can Be...the future of the world's ocean*, is the latest of her some dozen books about ocean topics. It takes readers on a journey investigating the past, present and future of the seas and their sea life with numerous chapter by chapter case

studies and examples.

The Prelude sets the stage for the world wide oceanic journey, defining today's Anthropocene oceans that are adapting in differing ways to the impacts of burgeoning human populations.

Scales begins the journey in the “Ancient Seas”, known largely from those organisms that left fossil evidence of their time on earth. Greatly improved chemical testing and imaging techniques have advanced the study of fossil sea life from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and other eras. The quest to find, identify, date and better understand the life that has gone before us and the conditions in those times has made the field of paleontology a very interesting one as scientists seek to learn more about that life and discern what we can learn from it. In the chapter “Remixing Seas”, she investigates the increasing issues related to invasive species, made worse by changing climate, imported fisheries products and ballast water from transoceanic vessels carrying marine larvae from ocean to ocean. Local species and environments are often severely impacted by invasives which can be very difficult to control.

“Ice Walkers” details the life of penguins, the majority of which inhabit Antarctica, and depend on a delicate balance of ice, krill and fish for survival. Their lifestyle and life cycle are highly evolved

for existence in unique conditions. Other varieties of penguins living in warmer climates are similarly dependent upon limited foods and habitats. These characteristics make penguins a living barometer for environmental changes. Declines in the population numbers of most species of sharks, skates and rays are the topic of “Missing Angels”. The cartilaginous Chondrichthyes are highly susceptible to overfishing, habitat and environmental changes, all of which have been implicated in the population declines. “Poisoned Hunters” uses the large, charismatic and highly intelligent Orcas as prime examples of ocean animals that are at the top of their food chain, accumulating a wide range of chemical contaminants that are ingested from and along with their prey. The often toxic mix of chemicals comes largely from run off from rivers, harbors and sewage treatment plants and build up in the world's oceanic food chains.

“Restoring Seas” looks at groupers, tunas and whales as examples of species that are being heavily researched and actively managed in efforts to restore their diminished populations with varying degrees of success. There may well be several approaches that work that vary by location and species. “Rebalancing Seas” studies the importance, creation, design and success of Marine Protected Areas with notes about the complexities of local as well as multi national management agreements. “Future Forests” demonstrates the critical importance of protecting and actively managing Kelp forests, Seagrass beds and Mangroves as vital components of coastal ecology,

providing numerous environmental and fisheries benefits. “Future Reefs” provides an overview of the ecology, importance and environmental issues impacting coral reefs and presents examples of ongoing and future research and aquaculture efforts to restore and improve coral reefs, providing great hope for the future. Scales brings her oceanic journey to a close with a spirited discussion of “The Future of Living in the Sea”, weaving together an eclectic mix of ideas, plans and projects that aim to utilize the oceans and others that are designed to protect and improve them.

A comprehensive Index and detailed “Notes” are provided to accompany and enhance this excellent, very readable and highly descriptive ocean journey.



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

ISLAND NEWS *continued*

Multidisciplinary inspections uncover cases of “undermining”

Criminals use legal companies and services for illegal activities. As a result, standards fade, and the feeling of safety and quality of life decreases. This effect is also called undermining.

The RIEC CN (Regionaal Informatie-en Expertisecentrum Caribisch Nederland) uses the term undermining to mean the use of legal companies and services as a cover for illegal activities. In June, the RIEC, along with its chain partners, conducted several multidisciplinary inspections at hospitality establishments, business areas, and other locations that led to legal actions against undermining activities.

A large-scale multidisciplinary inspection took place at two hospitality establishments on Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez. During the inspection the hospitality establishments were temporarily closed for a thorough check of both the people present and the premises.

A foreign national was found who did not have valid residency documents. The person had to leave the island because their period of stay had expired. Several other foreign nationals have to leave the island within four weeks. Unhygienic conditions were uncovered in one business and immediate surroundings.

These actions are part of a collective effort by the RIEC CN partnership to vigorously combat undermining in the hospitality sector, to gain insight into the current state of affairs regarding laws and regulations in the

hospitality industry, and to gain insight into the various business areas on Bonaire.

Another multidisciplinary inspection was conducted at an industrial park behind Kaya Hulanda. At a carpentry business, three apartments were discovered that violate zoning regulations.

A food truck had a vendors permit but the owner was not present, as the law requires. The food truck had to close.

All garage businesses on the island were inspected in March. Several irregularities found then have now been corrected.

Two hospitality businesses on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot were inspected. All employees had proper residency documents. Compliance with fire safety and other laws and regulations passed inspection. Several issues in the kitchen of one business will require further inspection.

The chain partners who conducted the inspections alongside the RIEC CN include: Labor Inspectorate CN, Dutch Caribbean Police Force, Belastingdienst CN, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, Immigration and Naturalisation Services Caribbean Netherlands, Directorate of Supervision & Enforcement (OLB), and the Fire Department. They will continue to conduct inspections at hospitality businesses, on industrial estates, and at other locations and objects. *DMR*

Advanced course on Kingdom Relations being offered

An advanced course on Kingdom Relations will begin in the European Netherlands on October 31 and run half-days every Friday for 18 weeks. Participants from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom will have the option of following the lectures online. Leiden University and The Hague University of Applied Sciences are launching the new post-academic course.

The course is a response to the increasing interaction between the Caribbean and European parts of the Kingdom and the growing need for education that links scientific insights to the everyday practice of Kingdom Relations.

The course will cover historical, political and institutional developments within the Kingdom, differences and similarities between the countries and public bodies, the different cultural and administrative characteristics, and policy challenges within the Kingdom.

The course will be delivered by an all-star cast of experts. They will include former State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Alexandra van Huffelen, former Member of Parliament Jorien Wuite, Dr. Glenn Thodé, Prof. Dr. Gert Oostindie, and Dr. Nelly Schotborgh. Leaders and experts from throughout the kingdom will meet and share their knowledge and experience.

The fee for the course will be €4,850 for participants from the European Netherlands and €2,450 for participants from the Caribbean. *DMR*

Captain Don Stewart's 100th birthday

On June 25, 100+ guests gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Captain Don Stewart, the father of organized diving on Bonaire, conservationist and founder of the first ever dive shop that owned a hotel, Captain Don's Habitat.

A one hundred day celebration began on May 2 with various specials and events and will continue throughout the summer for 100 Days of Captain Don. The actual birthday party was held in front of the one remaining original cottage from the 1970s where a mural was painted by artist Ghislaine Monte from an underwater photo of the Captain by Andy Martinez.

On Don's birthday, general manager Claire Sealy said, "Captain Don's Habitat was established in 1976 by Captain Don Stewart, a pioneer in underwater environmentalism. What began as a modest operation with only 56 accommodations has grown into a thriving dive resort, now offering 94 accommodations, five dive boats, and two swimming pools. Although Captain Don passed away on May 28, 2014, his legacy continues to guide everything we do. Captain Don's Habitat remains committed to his vision and proudly carries forward his mission—always remaining the home of diving freedom."

During the birthday celebration, invited guests enjoyed drinks and snacks while listening to the music of Ralph "Moogie" Stewart. Moogie is a musical tradition at Habitat, performing every Monday night since 1990. Before he became a solo performer, he first played as a part of the Kunuku Band at Habitat.

George, the "Clam" Buckley, Habitat Ambassador, and assistant Director of Sustainability at Harvard University has been coming to Bonaire since 1976. He is the director of Captain Don's prized Accolade Awards presented to individuals who have made contributions in reef conservation and diving. George presented new awards to Claire Sealy, Leanne Pinkerton, Ralph "Moogie" Stewart, Hendrick Wuyts and Julie Morgan.

Sealy honored Dr. Adhemir Hart, original developer of Bungalow Hotel Debonaire, which became Captain Don's



Cutting Captain Don's 100th birthday cake.
L-R: Janet Thibault, Ingrid Sealy, Claire Sealy, Eddy Statia, George Buckley and Al Catalfumo Photo Julie Morgan

Habitat, with a commemorative plaque. Ingrid Sealy, Deputy Acting Governor, offered congratulations and thanks were given to Lucille de Freitas Sousa and Maduro Holding.

Many notable guests were in atten-

dance including Captain Don's partner of many years Janet Thibault, former dive guide from the early days of Captain Don, Eddy Statia and Al Catalfumo of Black Durgen. Several members from the dive team were in attendance from Captain Don's dive shop, the heart and

soul of Habitat and the reason for the dive hotel. Notably dive manager Roger Haug, Wilco Landzaat and Ernesto "Netto" Bernabella all with 25 years at Habitat and other dedicated dive staff attended.

As part of the 100 days celebration, Captain Don's has partnered with STI-NAPA to invite 10 local youth to participate in a Discover Scuba Diving course. The hotel, the site where organized diving and dive tourism began on Bonaire, wishes to inspire the next generation of dive professionals.

100 Days of Captain Don will continue through August 31. To read more about the Captain read the Reporter's June 25th issue in our online archives. For more information about Captain Don's Habitat visit them on Facebook or Instagram and <https://habitatbonaire.com>

Julie Morgan

More photos on The Reporter's Facebook Page



Captain Don's Dive Shop, the heart and soul of Habitat, joins the celebration.
L-R: Wilco Landzaat and Carlos Santiago Photo Julie Morgan

Crème brûlée (burnt cream) of coconut and saffron

Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

3 1/2 dl (118 oz) cream • 2 dl (7 oz) coconut milk • 1 tablespoon crème fraiche • 5 egg yolks • 50 g (4 T) sugar • Pinch of Bonaire sea salt • 0.08 g saffron threads • 0.5 dl (1.7 oz) Licor 43 (Spanish liquor)

Soak saffron in some cold water. You can do this one day in advance (if saffron soaks in liquid that is too hot, it loses its taste and smell). Bring coconut milk, cream and crème fraiche to the boil. Beat egg yolks and pour the hot liquid over them, stirring well so that the egg yolks cook a little and thicken slightly. Let cool and stir in the soaked saffron liquid with swirls and



let it release its beautiful yellow color. If necessary add a few grains of Bonaire sea salt and liqueur 43, or another liqueur with citrus notes. Now pour the liquid into ovenproof dishes and place them in a pan of water, "au bain Marie." Place them in an oven at 135°C (275°F) and poach the crème brûlée until cooked in about 30 minutes. Let the set crème brûlée cool, then sprinkle with sugar and caramelize with a blowtorch.



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.

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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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)

Saturday, July 25	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. https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/
Tuesday, July 29	Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held last Tuesday of the month. See page 13. Check: https://www.reef.org/events/month

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	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
Saturday, July 26	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Check in: 9:30 a.m. Location: South Pier, Dive Inn. Dive Briefing starts 10am. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. Waiver: https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/e/eVX96Y4gHrKLTfFNqbeWCY/ https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

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

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. July 9	0648-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. July 15	1400-2200	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
Wed. 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
Tues. August 12	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Wed. August 13	0730-1800	ENCHANTED PRINCESS 3660 guests	South
Thurs. August 14	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. August 20	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

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>

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 Toanchina. 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. July 14 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; July 21 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden **Tuesday July 22nd** - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation.

Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.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 Sobremesa won't be open regularly from July 5 to August 20. That doesn't mean nothing will happen at the gallery. There will be workshops and there might even be an impromptu expo. If so it will be announced on our Facebook page and Instagram and if you are in the neighbourhood: open doors mean you are welcome to come in.

Summer rate to rent the gallery for a workshop is only \$40 (without using our materials). If you are interested in hosting something cultural at Sobremesa or need to contact us for anything else, these are the people to contact:

July 5 till July 25: Saskia Vermeer: +599 796 5212
July 25 till August 16: Louise van der Zwaag: +599 784 2127

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

Coming Up

Sunday, August 17	Animal Shelter Market Reserve your stall now.
Thursday, Sept. 4	Concert Classical Music Board
Saturday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day Public Holiday

Captain Don Stewart's underwater dive flag

As far as we know, there is no where else in the world where there is an underwater memorial to divers complete with a dive flag. In 1984 the memorial, designed by Captain Don, Frank Fennel and George Buckley was placed in the shallows with a commemorative plaque reading: "In memory of the underwater pioneers and explorers who have gone before us."

The plaque is long gone but the tradition continues of flying the dive flag and during Don's 100th birthday celebration a larger flag 8 x 6 ft was hoisted to fly in memory of Don and all deceased divers.

In the 1950s the dive flag was designed by Navy veteran Denzel James "Doc" Dockery and his wife, both avid divers, for the safety of scuba divers. In the 50's and 60's scuba diving was considered dangerous, and few people had much awareness of it. The Navy uses red flags to alert danger, so the Dockerys created



Habitat dive guide Carlos Santiago and Captain Don Hamlet owner Mel McCombie erect the new flag.

a red and white flag to alert boats to keep a safe distance from divers. The flag didn't receive much notice until Ted Nixon from U.S. Divers bought a few flags from Doc. In 1962, an accident involving a boat, a diver and the flag appeared in a court case and for the first time the dive flag was recognized as

the Diver Down flag for recreational diving.

The new mural by Ghislaine Monte on the wall of the old cottage at Captain Don's was painted from a photo by Andy Martinez that shows Don in front of the underwater flag.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Great Annual Fish Count ahead

Take part in the Bonaire version of REEF's Great Annual Fish Count, and a free fish ID class on July 29 at Trans World Radio (TWR) with expert REEF surveyor and marine life enthusiast, Carmen Toanchina of Biodiverse Bonaire.

The presentation will focus on the vital roles that certain reef species play in maintaining healthy ecosystems by grazing, cleaning, and regulation.

Carmen will highlight: Surgeonfishes & Parrotfishes – key algae grazers; Wrasses, Gobies, & Juvenile Angelfishes – symbiotic cleaners essential to reef health; Black Brotulas – offering a fascinating glimpse into lesser-known cleaning behaviors and Sharks – apex predators critical for reef balance.

Everyone who attends the class is invited to join Carmen for a snorkel fish survey session on July 30, 9 a.m. at Regatta House. The class is open to anyone and all experience levels!

For more information and to give Carmen an expected headcount, call +5997952436 or email info to: biodiversebonaire.com

Biodiverse Bonaire



A Garden? Just Do It!

Dinner at The Nature Cooking School by Angliet, Nature Lover

A few weeks ago I got an invitation to visit The Nature Cooking School by its founder Saeed Laurens. I've known Saeed for a long time as we have collaborated on a few projects in the past. Saeed now has a new project and garden at LVV and I hadn't been there.

It was great to see him at work in a new setting and making this place his own. On arrival, I was immediately impressed. The place was totally green, like a jungle. A huge tamarind tree full of fruit was responsible for a sweet breeze and a lot of shade. There is a big field with healthy looking vegetables growing: Yambo (okra), eggplant, peppers, pumpkin, giant zucchini, kalaloe, plantain, yuca, bontji, bembe and local cucumber. There were papaya trees full of fruit, sugar cane, watermelon, bacoba and maka pruum. And I was totally astonished to see chickens in a chicken pen.

It was wonderful to see rows full of vegetables and fruit, with no iguana problems, no birds damaging the papayas and no white fly. Together we harvested the stuff that was ready to cook and that was fantastic. I also got eggs and a huge zucchini to take home. It was over ripe already and the skin was very hard but the fruit inside was nice and soft. I eat zucchini often in a stew and share with friends. Needless to say, all that fresh stuff tasted so good. It is a big difference in taste when something is fresh from the land and hasn't been lying around for days or weeks before use. The fact that these veggies are not sprayed by pesticides or undergone any kind of chemical treatment, makes them so high in health value and their benefits are at their best potential and quality. It was a cool afternoon sharing interesting ideas and garden stuff and going home with a bag full of good stuff.

Because of the great vibration of our visit, Saeed came up with the idea to organize a workshop about gardening, local medicinal plants with dinner after the workshop.



Saeed Laurens, founder The Nature Cooking School
Photo Angliet Baidjoe

We did this on June 15 and I did the workshop under the tamarind tree with a nice group of people. Saeed did the cooking on an open wood fire in the garden supported by some helping hands. He prepared pumpkin soup, mashed sweet potato with vegetables, vegetarian burgers, passion fruit juice and I made sweet tamarind and tamarind chutney as a side dish.

During the talk about plants, I explained the local use of medicinal plants in the past. And also how to garden and prepare food with local vegetables such as kalaloe, parsley, okra, and how to prepare green papaya stoba and cactus soup. I had collected the plants from

the garden during the day so the guests could see, feel, smell, taste and touch them. I also shared cuttings and pots with decorative plants from my own garden. The people loved them. The yuca cuttings went fast and also the purslen plants, when I told them it had the highest omega 3 and magnesium.

As the sun set we enjoyed a delicious dinner and a cool successful evening. The people connected, sharing garden minds in a very sweet way. A few days later some guests contacted me and came to my house to see my garden. They loved my tamarind juice and freshly made coconut milk and even ordered some.

I told them, everything that grows here on Bonaire is free. Look how many dry coconuts lay under the trees. And look for the tamarind trees when they are full of fruit ready to pick. We also have the wild little reddish cactus fruits, that are so healthy and right now they are ready to pick in the mondi.

Kalaloe and vember grow in the wild. If you take a few seeds and spread in the garden in a few months you can enjoy these healthy vegetables forever. Once they're in your garden, they keep on growing. Iguanas might eat a little of it, but it grows year round and produces enough for both you and the iguana.

I love sharing these great and happy garden stories with you. I hope they touch you and you will start growing your own wild vegetables and make your own juices and jams from the goodies Bonaire offers you.

Don't waste time, start today.



Angliet Baidjoe 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.

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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



Gaia

Gaia was very afraid and it took a while before she started to trust people. Now Gaia is a talkative kitty that likes to make little purr sounds and mieuws at you when she wants some attention. And just like her name she does feel like a little goddess, and would like to be treated as such. Gaia loves to be petted and sit on your lap. She will fit in with other cats but would need some time to get adjusted.

After everything she has been through, she deserves to be loved and cared for like the little goddess she is! Will you give Gaia her forever temple home?

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Rainbow.

Rainbow came to us with her six puppies, after giving birth in the back of a pickup truck on the way to the animal shelter. Five of her little ones have already found their forever homes, but Rainbow and her daughter Rose are still waiting patiently for their happy ending.

Rainbow hasn't had an easy life, but through it all, she's shown nothing but love and strength. She was an incredibly sweet and devoted mama, and now she's finally had the chance to shine on her own.

She's gentle and kind, not just for her pups, but for everyone she meets. Rainbow gets along beautifully with



Rainbow

children and other dogs, making her the perfect addition to a loving family.

She truly deserves a second chance. Could you be the one to give Rainbow the home she's been dreaming of?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Animal Shelter Bonaire Thank You to Jam for a Cause

On Saturday, June 28, the benefit event Jam for a Cause took place at Valhall. It was a warm and joyful evening with live music by talented young performers, great food, and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

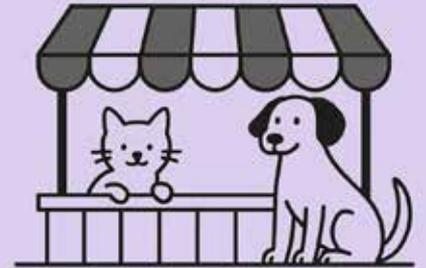
We would like to sincerely thank Rita Gemerts for organizing the event, as well as everyone who contributed; musicians, volunteers, and all who attended and donated.

Thanks to your generosity, Animal Shelter Bonaire received a donation of \$200, which will help support our animals!

Every bit of support made a difference. Thank you to everyone for being part of it!

Marissa Lamers

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 17 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



'Tales of Angliet' told at Bonaire's library

Angliet Baidjoe, nature lover, author and weekly columnist for *The Bonaire Reporter* introduced her newly released children's book *Tree Kumba* at Bonaire's Public Library on June 28. Like all Angliet's books, the story is presented in the three languages most widely spoken in the Dutch Caribbean: Papiamentu, English and Dutch.

A reading corner was set up with bean bag chairs for the kids aged 4 -12 to sit comfortably before the readers. Geraldine Dammers, translator for the book, read excerpts in Papiamentu while Heather Mercuur read the tale in English. Instead of reading from the book, Angliet told the story with animation using the images from the book to engage the kids.

Angliet's first book, *Little Donkey Bibi* was released in April and now *Tree Kumba*. Two other



books, *Kaki Cactus* and *Bonnie the Fish* should be released in September.

All books are colorfully illustrated with tales of caring and appreciating nature. Prior to the book publication, several of her stories were released in 10-20 minute cartoons in four languages on YouTube: *Little Donkey Bibi*, *Bonnie the Fish*, *Lio the Iguana* and *Kai the Cactus* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKdUJk-fOTfI>

The books are available at the Bonaire Public Library, St Maarten Public Library and soon to be donated to Saba and Aruba. They are available at Bonaire elementary schools and for sale in limited quantity at Brunos.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Angliet gives the children a close look at the book Photo Julie Morgan



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

Quality Manager

We are seeking a dedicated and experienced Quality Manager to join our team at SEHCF. In this position, you will lead our Quality team and play a crucial role in ensuring our organization's quality of care and services.

This position requires an action-driven, motivational expert in quality with strong leadership skills and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of improving quality in the health care sector.

As a Quality Manager, you will be responsible for developing, promoting, and optimizing our quality policy. You will work to transform protocols into practice through effective training and support. Your role involves close interaction with all staff members, ensuring they are fully engaged and making sure they are equipped with what is needed to deliver the highest standards of care. You will also advise and support the management team on quality-related matters, ensuring compliance with industry standards and regulations.

You will be responsible for:

- **Develop and Manage Quality Systems:**
Implement and oversee an integral (digital) quality system.
- **Lead Improvement Projects:**
Guide projects aimed at enhancing organizational processes.
- **Ensure Compliance:**
Coordinate with the Dutch Health and Youth Care Inspectorate (IGJ) to align quality improvement processes.
- **Advise Management:**
Support the management team within sights on quality policy and compliance.
- **Conduct Quality Audits:**
Plan, conduct, and coordinate quality audits, and draft audit plans.
- **Analyze and Report:**
Monitor, analyze, and report on business processes and quality data.
- **Initiate Enhancements:**
Propose and lead initiatives for continuous quality improvements.

Who are we looking for?

- **Educational Background:**
HBO bachelor's degree in health care management, policy, or quality.
- **Experience:**
Minimum of 5 years in a leading quality position within a medical center or hospital.
- **Knowledge:**
Staying current with guidelines, procedures, legislation, and developments in quality care.
- **Skills:**
Strong communication, advisory, and interpersonal skills with cultural sensitivity.
- **Languages:**
Fluency in English and Dutch.
- **Residency:**
Willingness to reside on St. Eustatius is highly preferred.

About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

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

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

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

What we offer

- **Comprehensive Benefits:** Competitive benefits package
- **Full-time position:** 40 hours per week; for a period of 1 year
- **Career Development:** Opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of healthcare services in a close-knit community.

Interested?

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

Closing date: August 5, 2025



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Selebrashon by Rudy Domacasse

Translated from Papiamentu into English by Ria Dokter

Un dia grandi
Liberashon pa nos hendenan
Libertad. Libertad, libertad
Dia pa selebra

One big day
freedom for our people
freedom, freedom, freedom
day for celebration

Stop. stop, stop
Ki dia grandi?
Ki liberashon
Kiko selebra?

Stop, stop, stop
What big day?
Which freedom
Which celebration?

Ta un chapara mas
Unu di hopi
Ta un grit'i abuso mas
Uno kontinu
Ta un episodio mas
Un tragedia sin fin

One more brush
one of many
one more cry of abuse
one ongoing
one more episode
one tragedy without end

Trabou duru
Trabou forsa
Den kunuku
Na salina
Kas di shon
Kima kalki
Traha, traha
Traha pa shon

Hard work
forced work
in the fields
in the salt-plains
house of slave-owner
burn chalk
work, work
work for slave-owner

Brutu
Kruel
Humilia
Menasa
Hamber
Kuminda putri
Malesa
Kastigu
Hala I sota
Kastigu
Mas kastigu
Hana yu , sigui traha
Habri famia foi otro
Basta
Basta
Ta pasado
Ta pasado
Lubida
Lubida

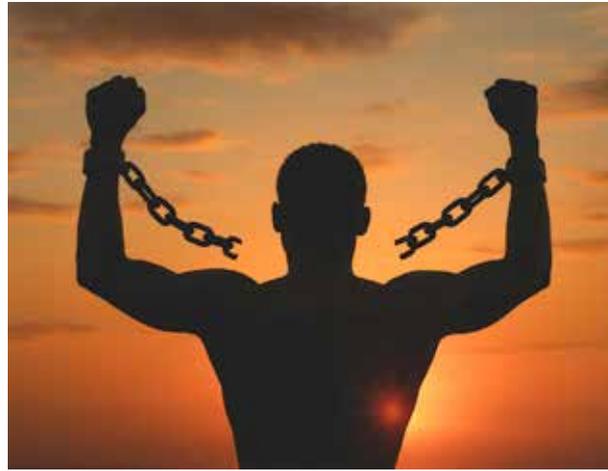
Forceful
cruel
degrading
threatening
hunger
rotten food
sickness
punishment
pushing and beating
punishment
more punishment
give birth, keep on working
breaking up families
enough
enough
it's the past
it's the past
forget it
forget it

Lubida?
Ata shon
Na flus
Den ofisina
Kria na pia
Sigui impone

Forget it ?
here 's the slave-owner
in his suit
in the office
the help running
keep on pushing

Impone
Impone

Push
Push



Su mes hendenan
Su mes idioma
Su mes kultura
Su mes manera
Su mes
Su mes

His own people
his own language
his own culture
his own manners
his own
his own

Lubida
Ata bomba
Ku dashi
Na rudia di shon
Ta skupi rabia

Forget
here's the slave-driver
with his tie
kneeling at the master
spitting with anger

Pusha
Trapa
Dividi
Kibra

Pushing
stepping
dividing
breaking

Lubida?
Ata nos
Na unda?
Kuantu
Pa kuantu tempu ?
Ata nos
Neglisha
Menospresia
Bandon
Balota
Diskrimina
Herida
Idioma menasa
Kultura bou di preshon

Forgotten?
here we are
Where?
how much?
for how long?
here we are
neglected
undervaluated
left alone
misjudged
discriminated
wounded
threatened language
culture
under threat

Stttttt keda ketu
No papia
No papia
No mira
Lubida, lubida

Shhhhhh, keep quiet
don't speak
don't speak
don't see
forget, forget

Lubida?
Ban tras di seru
Ban kunuku
Kant'i awa
Bou di palu
Riba stupi

Forget ?
come behind the mountain
come to the fields
to the waterside
under the tree
at the curb

Skucha
Skucha bon
Skucha zonido di bari
Skucha kanto I responde di boka
Shucha storianan di pasado
Skucha, skucha
Skucha nos hendenan

Listen
listen well
listen to the sound of the drum
Listen to the song and answer to the words
listen to the old tales
listen, listen
listen to our people

Tin inklushon
Wapa un simadan
Brasa bai dilanti
Gosa huntu te marduga

There's inclusion
dance a simadan
hold on and dance forward
enjoy till midnight

Tin
Rikesa
Kanto, baila, musika
Kushina I plato delisioso
E sonrisa y bondat
Di nos hendenan

There is
wealth
songs, dances, music
kitchen and delicious food
the smile and goodness
of our people

Tin
Forsa
Kueru a kurta
Ku resistensha
Batata a krese
Ku lucha
Kurason a span

There is
strength
skin is hardened
with resistance
potato grew
struggling
heart is swollen

Tin
Balentia
Heriosmo
Kibra ku bomba
Sobrebibi den mondi
Krusa laman
Buska libertad
Lanta kontra shon
Eksigi derecho
Protesta inhustisia
Hanja rason

There's
worthiness
heroism
break with the slave-driver
survive in the wilderness
cross the seas
get freedom
stand up against the slave-owner
demand your rights
protest the injustice
get it right

Tin
Konosementu
Inclusion
Forsa
Rikesa
Balentia

There's
knowledge
inclusion
strength
richness
worthiness

Tin
Speransa

There's
hope.



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HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

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

Freelance Interim Policy and Strategy Advisor

Temporary project assignment

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) is seeking an experienced Interim Policy and Strategy Advisor to help strengthen the strategic capacity of its Management Team (MT) and Board. In this temporary assignment, you will play a central role in structuring, supporting, and advancing the organization's strategic priorities.

You will work closely with the Managing Board and MT members to enable effective planning and decision-making by providing high-level policy input, in-depth analyses, and robust project coordination, without holding formal decision-making authority.

About the position

As Interim Policy and Strategy Advisor, you will help shape and organize SEHCF's strategic agenda. You will also gather and analyze relevant information for decision making by MT and board.

This role demands a strong strategic mindset and analytical ability, and proven experience. While you will contribute significantly to the quality of decision-making, your role is explicitly non-executive and has no decision-making power.

Responsibilities

- Support and advise the MT in drafting annual plans, quarterly reports, and the annual report.
- Assist in developing strategic policy frameworks and priority projects under the direction of the MT.
- Conduct in-depth research and prepare draft policy briefs and internal discussion notes.

- Contribute to defining services and establishing key performance indicators aligned with organizational priorities.
- Organize strategic meetings and internal planning sessions with Management.
- Provide structured project management support and advice for cross-team projects as requested by MT members.
- Assist in producing the non-financial annual report for stakeholders.
- Facilitate alignment between MT members on key strategic priorities.

Profile

- Bachelor's or master's degree, preferably in a relevant field (e.g., health policy, public administration, organizational sciences).
- 7 to 10 years of experience in a strategic executive, or policy development role within the healthcare or public sector.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Proactive, well-organized, and self-directed work style.
- Experience with project coordination and strategic planning.
- Familiarity with healthcare systems and relevant policy frameworks is a plus.
- Willingness to work on-site in St. Eustatius or in a hybrid setting. If not residing on the island, the candidate should be willing to conduct regular work visits and be able to collaborate effectively remotely.

Practical information

- Temporary assignment for a period to be determined.
- Freelance assignment (ZZP/self-employed); not an employment contract.
- 8-16 hours and compensation to be agreed upon.
- Start date: as soon as possible.
- Work location: Oranjestad, St. Eustatius (hybrid work possible).

Interested?

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

We look forward to receiving your response! Please note: This role is temporary and intended to perform specific tasks within a project.

Closing date: August 8, 2025

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