



# BONAIRE The REPORTER

April 8 to April 22, 2026. Year 33, Issue 7

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

Sargassum Volunteer Chris Lincoln at work  
Photo Julie Morgan



## The Sargassum monster is back

For years the Sargassum Sea, a 2 million square mile area, the size of the United States, off the coast of Bermuda and Florida of floating seaweed, just sat there with its four swirling currents (gyres) keeping it in place. No one thought much about it until about 2011 when large rafts of sargassum invaded the shores of Florida and the Caribbean.

Though the Sargassum Sea is for the most part contained by the gyres, portions do break off occasionally and are released into the open seas and Caribbean. Scientists have found that the Sea is not the only source. Independent sargassum rafts are coming from Brazil's Amazon and the Congo's delta. We no longer have the Sargassum Sea to solely blame. Sargassum has exploded with growth as runoff from agriculture and mining carry fertilizing nitrates and phosphates into the three largest rivers of the world, the Amazon, Orinoco and Congo. They then flow into the oceans and feed the sargassum mass.

Adding increased ocean currents, increased ocean salinity and ocean temperatures from Climate Change we have major sargassum growth. A single cut piece of seaweed can grow into what many call the Sargassum Monster if it's added to this mix.

On Bonaire we have been fighting the monster since the spring of 2015 and it continues today. The east coast, Lac Bay and Lagun are affected the most.

Back in 2018 STINAPA engaged volunteers to fight the fight to prevent the monster from invading the delicate mangrove eco-system on the east coast. The volunteers manually raked, shoveled and pitchforked the stinky stuff into huge piles along the beaches to be carried away. Cargill loaned oil booms to place just outside the mangroves to deter the seaweed. Be-

cause of the strong waves, the barriers could only be placed at the entrance of the bays.

Chris Lincoln, a member of the Mangrove Maniacs, joined

STINAPA's volunteer efforts back then. He has become a sentinel for incoming sargassum because he lives across the street from a site where it first shows up. He alerts anyone willing to pick up a rake to come help.

In 2018, the impact was so significant many juvenile flamingos and fish became casualties. In 2018, the sargassum inundation killed many juvenile flamingos and fish. The stinking brown carpet of decaying seaweed kept tourists off beaches, suffocated mangroves, and depleted fish stocks. If the floating sargassum is not removed it sinks to the bottom and covers the reef and mangrove roots. Rafts of sargassum can extend from the surface down to 23 ft (7 m). In 2022, the impact was so severe, STINAPA removed 10-15 truckloads per day of sargassum during the 23-day cleanup.

In recent years, STINAPA has purchased their own sargassum booms that are equipped with a net and weights below the floats to block the sargassum at depth. Earth moving equipment to scrape the beaches of the piled up sargassum was also purchased for the ongoing fight.

Bonaire experienced its latest input of sargassum on the evening of April 1. Jibe City was cleaned up with 25 front loaders removing the weed. Some 20 people went to work with rakes and shovels to move the monster to shore in front of Foodies and STINAPA came in to remove it with heavy equipment. Chief Bonaire Marine Park Ranger Edwin "Din" Domacasse told us three booms are currently in place to protect the west side of Lac Bay. More will be input if it becomes necessary.



I Sargassum, the Anti Hero  
[Caribbeansargassum.com](http://Caribbeansargassum.com)

The Sargassum monster  
to page 4

### Bonaire has new government coalition and Executive Council

Coalition leader and Deputy Clark Abraham (PDB), facing a motion of no confidence submitted by the new coalition in the Island Council, resigned, along with his colleague Peter Silberie.

The new coalition has appointed a new Executive Council consisting of three professional (as distinct from political) deputies. The two Councils, Island and Executive, which are both chaired by politically neutral Governor John Soliano, are now tasked with creating a new Government Entity (OLB) for Bonaire which is competent, responsible, and ethical. *DMR*



### New members of the Executive Council / Bestuurscollege

(L-R) Joselito Statia, who has been a deputy before, Deputy for Space and Development; Jennifer Joenoes, a long-time career at the MCB bank, Deputy for Finance; Timoteo Silberie, head of the Culture department at the OLB, Deputy for Care and Society

### Nine member Island Council / Eilandsraad

### Five member new government coalition in the Island Council



The new five-member governing coalition on the Island Council. (L-R) Benito R. Dirksz (Faction Leader UPB), Simeona B. Chirino-Felida UPB, P. J. Kroon UPB; Elvis Tjin Asjoe MPB (replaced Hennyson M. Thielman, who chose to resign from the Council); Salma Serberie, Ex-PDB

### Four noncoalition members in the Island Council



The four non-members of the coalition: (L-R) Rolanda M. Hellburn-Makaai (Faction Leader PBD); Daniel M. D. Crestian PBD; Desiree E. Coffie, M21; Cyrill D. Vrolijk, Frakshon Vrolijk

### This Issue's Stories

Sargassum	1
Nature's volunteers: Meike Breedveld	3
Curoil at Hato Depot	5
Statia partners with GWU	5
Surrender Firearms-last week	5
Poetry wins STINAPA Arte di Palabra	7
This is my Bonaire (Fisher / TCB)	7
Larry Stern Thank you	8
STINAPA Nature Platform Meeting	9
Dia di Rincon / Sende meche	10
Culinary Team Fundraiser	12
Chess Club News	12
Kas Flamboyen Hospice open house	12
Hosts needed for Hofi Kultural	15
Nos Zjilea Toys	17

**Our Facebook page** brings you news that arrives between issues

### Columns

Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Island News:	
• New Executive Council & coalition	2
• Van der Burg will visit; Dayer nominated for Tegel; Construction Pelican School; 2025 lowest market prices; BONLAB re-accredited; Chikungunya from Suriname; Bank guarantee; KLM & Island cope with fuel costs ; Jolien Kuitert appointed CBP BES; WEB water trucks	6
Police Report	4
Ask Bob: Finance contingency	4
222 million euros added to budget	4
Letter: Illegal fishing at Salt Works	5
Optimal Health: Brain & Emotions	9
Corjan recipe: Fried Pickle	10
Foodies' Dining Guide	11
Reef Glimpses: Fish stress	13
What's Happening: Events; Cleanups; Cruise ships	14
Public Service; Funding; Churches	15
Garden: Worms	16
Accessibility: Forgetting	17
Business Directory	18
Pet of the Week: Cat-Snoepje.	19
Yoga with cats	19
Animal Shelter: Easter Market	19

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**Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:**

Phone (+599) 786 4055

Email: [bonairereporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:bonairereporter2019@gmail.com)

Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

### The Bonaire Reporter Staff

*Publisher:* Julie Morgan

*Production:* Barbara Lockwood

*Website:* Michael Copini

*Contributors:* Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Don M Ricks, Alan Zale, Irene de Cunda Costa, Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, George Buckley, Bo Attevelt, Ginny Knight, Carmen Toanchina, Elesiër Angel, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, MacKenzie Clipard

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*Island news ...to page 6*

The online version of the March 25 to April 8, 2026 issue #6 of Bonaire's favorite English language newspaper received 13,694 views

# From Land to Reef: Caring for Bonaire's Water

For Meike Breedveld, caring for Bonaire starts with water.

She grew up surrounded by it. As a child in the Netherlands, water was where she played, explored, and felt at ease. Later, she also learned how fragile it can be. Stories of acid rain and lifeless lakes made one thing clear to her early on. Nature can be damaged by people. But it can also be protected by them.

That belief shaped her path into water and environmental work.

Bonaire matters to Meike because it is both beautiful and vulnerable. The island is small, low-lying, and has limited freshwater. Climate change brings longer dry periods, higher temperatures, and rising seas. What happens on land does not stay on land. It moves. It flows. And eventually, it reaches the sea.

Much of Meike's work focuses on reducing pressure before it reaches the reef. Untreated wastewater can seep into the ground, carrying nutrients that stimulate algae growth. Algae thrive on this. Coral does not. Coral needs clean, nutrient-poor water to survive.

By collecting and treating wastewater, that pressure can be reduced.



At home, Meike lives this principle every day. Treated wastewater is reused to irrigate fruit trees, saving precious drinking water. The same approach supports agriculture and green spaces across the island. More greenery helps retain water, cool the land, and strengthen Bonaire against a warmer, drier future.

For Meike, protecting Bonaire is not about one big solution. It is about many practical choices, made consistently. Choices that protect the reef, strengthen nature, and help keep the island livable.

For today. And for the generations that come next.

*Nos ta biba di naturalesa.*



- **Location : Sabadeco**
- **Lot size : 2,271 m2 / 24,442 sq. ft. owned land**
- **3 bedrooms / 2.5 bathroom / storage / garage**
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# POLICE REPORT

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

## Property crimes

**Apr. 2.** Unknown persons gained access to a company on Kaya Watt and took telephones, laptops, tools, a quantity of cash, and safes. Additionally, a grey Suzuki Ecco cargo van with license plate B-18478 was taken from the company premises.

**Apr. 1.** License plate V-6620 was stolen from the front of a pickup truck that was parked outside the grounds of a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

**Mar. 31.** The screen and remote control were stolen from a fatbike parked on the grounds of a school on Kaya Frater Odulfinus.

**Mar. 30.** Unknown persons gained access to a container on Kaya Washikemba and took a paint ball gun.

**Mar. 28.** An unknown woman took two Seac brand diving masks without paying from a dive shop on Kaya Prinsès Marie.

**Mar. 28.** Two apartments were broken into at a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. An 'Apple MacBook Pro' laptop was stolen from one apartment and two HP laptops, a car key, and an amount of cash from the other.

**Mar. 27.** A blue 'Spyder Wheels' electric bicycle was stolen while parked near a restaurant on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

**Mar. 24.** Police received a report that parts of a scooter had been found in the mondi in the vicinity of Kaminda Gurubu. The scooter was completely dismantled. The engine block and various other parts were missing. The scooter is likely one stolen in 2024.

**Mar. 23.** At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) on the E.E.G. Boulevard the battery from a fatbike was stolen while the owner was fishing.

## Arrests

**Mar. 26.** 9 p.m. A woman, 56, was arrested on the E.E.G. Boulevard for vandalism of a car and public drunkenness. She obstructed traffic by standing in the middle of the road and at one point even sitting down while cars were still passing.

## Traffic accidents

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

**Apr. 1.** 7:30 p.m. A collision was reported on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid, near Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia. Upon arrival, officers found an injured man on the road who had fallen from his scooter. Additionally, two pickup trucks were at the scene that were presumably also involved in the collision. The scooter driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance. An investigation into the exact circumstances of the collision is currently being conducted by the traffic department.

**Mar. 25.** 3 p.m. Two cars collided on Kaya Industria, causing traffic to come to a standstill. One of the vehicles was reversing and collided with the other car. The one driver complained of pain and was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## Driving under the influence

*Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test when requested to do so by a police officer.*

**From Mar. 21 to Mar. 30.** Police reported that six drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The drivers were tested after: colliding with another car 3x; driving dangerously 1x. hitting a person in a wheelchair that was in the road 1x and driving into a catering establishment 1x. Two driving licenses were confiscated and driving bans were given of one- and three- hours. Two drivers were driving without a valid driver's license and insurance.

## Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

*The speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside.*

**From Mar. 22 to Mar. 25.** Police conducted traffic controls on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar, Kaya Amsterdam, Bulevar Miguel A. Pourier in Rincon, Kaya Korona, and near Kaminda La Union. Police checked over 70 vehicles and issued 18 fines. Violations included driving without valid insurance and/or a license; driving without a front license plate; and driving without a seatbelt.

**Mar. 25.** On Kaya Amsterdam a speed check was held and seven fines were issued for exceeding the maximum permitted speed.

*The fine for traffic violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.*

## Fire

**Mar. 22.** 11 a.m. A fire of various types of waste was reported on the grounds of a home on Bulevar Miguel A. Pourier. The fire department managed to control it. The Supervision and Enforcement Department of the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) was also present at the scene. Animals were on the property and presumably were also suffering from the smoke and the stench of the fire. The owner of the property will receive an official report for burning waste without a permit.

## Public order

**Mar. 29.** During the night preventive searches were carried out at several locations under the authority of the Public Prosecution Service (OM). During the check, two minors aged 15 were arrested for firearm possession after a replica firearm was found in the car in which they were located. Additionally, a stabbing weapon was found in the vehicle. According to the BES (Fire) Weapons Act, possession of a replica firearm is also prohibited and can lead to criminal prosecution. In another vehicle, a digital scale was found and seized. Such scales are typically used for weighing narcotics.

**Mar. 22.** The police received several reports of noise nuisance in the vicinity of Kaya Balau. Extremely loud music was coming from a car with a large speaker system which was parked at a hospitality establishment. The police spoke to the owner of the vehicle and issued a warning. Shortly afterwards, the police received further reports regarding the same situation. The day before, reports of noise nuisance near the airport were also received that involved the same vehicle. Because several reports of noise nuisance involving the same person had by then been registered, the police seized the car and the sound system. The file is being transferred to the Public Prosecution Service for further action.

# Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,  
I want to buy a property, and my bank says I am pre-approved. Do I still need to make a finance contingency in my offer?

Regards, Jennifer

Hi Jennifer,

That is a good question and the answer is yes, it is still advisable to include a finance contingency in your offer, even if your bank has pre-approved you.

Pre-approval from a bank is not a guarantee that you will get the mortgage. It means the bank has reviewed your current financial situation and is likely to approve a mortgage, but the final approval can still depend on the property and your updated financial information.

Also, keep in mind that the bank will usually require you to take out life insurance as part of the mortgage approval process. These costs will added to your monthly mortgage payment.

A finance contingency protects you by allowing you to cancel the purchase if the bank does not provide you the mortgage. Without it, you could risk losing your deposit or being forced to buy a property you cannot finance.

In short, pre-approval is helpful, but a finance contingency gives you legal and financial protection.

Regards, Bob

**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](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).**

**Bonaire: +599-717-7362.**

**Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362**

## The Sargassum monster is back from page 1

After over 15 years of fighting the monster in the Caribbean, the question is always, what happens to the sargassum after it is removed and what can we do with it? Despite the high levels of hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and some arsenic, sargassum is not toxic, but can be a health hazard once it rots. Many countries have found a purpose for the rotting seaweed. Once treated, various products are produced: cardboard that absorbs heavy metals, papers, paste, plates, industrial fertilizer and even biofuel. In Mexico, after much work Omar de Jesus Vazquez Sanchez created the business, Sargablock. He produced over 2 million bricks in 2024 to build schools, community center and low-income housing, all with government funding. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4rxSz8Oze0&t=304s>

Sargassum levels are already at a high throughout the Caribbean and Atlantic for 2026. Satellite images from the University of Florida and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) reveal another major year of record high numbers by summer 2026.

If you would like to volunteer to fight the monster in Bonaire join Chris Lincoln and the Mangrove Maniacs Sargassum Removal messaging announcement for volunteers on WhatsApp +1 (212) 753-0888.

Julie Morgan

REF: [CaribbeanSargassum.com](http://CaribbeanSargassum.com); [sargassumhub.org](http://sargassumhub.org)

## Curoil Bonaire facilities at Hato Depot modernized to meet permit requirements

*In the coming weeks, the installations will be tested and staff will receive training.*

Kralendijk — In March 2025, Curoil Bonaire initiated the process of modernizing its installations at Hato Depot in accordance with the latest safety regulations, before the current temporary nuisance permit (hinder vergunning) expires on April 1, 2026. As planned, the construction and modernization works were successfully completed to meet the latest safety standards.

Initially, Curoil Bonaire had intended to relocate terminal operations from Hato Depot to a new terminal at Airport Zuid, originally known as Brandstof Terminal Bonaire and later as Bonaire Bon Transition (BBT). From the moment Curoil Bonaire received confirmation that the new terminal project at Airport Zuid would not proceed, the company initiated the necessary works to meet the requirements for modernizing its facilities at Hato Depot within the stipulated one-year timeframe. During this period, a total of USD 6 million was invested in the Hato Depot facilities to continue guaranteeing fuel supply to Bonaire.

The works included, among other things, various adaptations to the tanks to ensure operations that are more environmentally sound, the construction of a new foundation for several installations on the site,

the installation of a completely new electrical system, and a new fire suppression system which was successfully tested this past Monday and Tuesday.

In anticipation of possible follow up actions that may result from these tests, Curoil Bonaire has proactively submitted a request to Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport (ILT) for an extension of the grace period (begunstigingstermijn) until July 1, 2026. In the coming weeks, the modernized infrastructure will be brought into operation, various staff training sessions will be organized, and relevant documentation related to the processes and procedures of the adapted installations will be finalized. At the same time, Curoil Bonaire will continue with the modernization of additional tanks at the Hato terminal.

Curoil Bonaire wishes to express its gratitude to all stakeholders for their tremendous collaboration, in particular OLB, Rijkswaterstaat, ILT, WEB Bonaire, Brandweer Korps Caribisch Nederland, and Ruimte en Ontwikkeling Bonaire.

Curoil Bonaire remains committed to guaranteeing a safe and reliable fuel supply to our community.



## Letters & Opinions

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



### PEOPLE FISHING ILLEGALLY IN CARGILL SALT WORKS

Letter to the Editor

I talked to the lady fishing, and she said they have lived here for a long time already. They said Cargill told them they could bone fish there. The Ramsar Site is protected and has signs saying: NO TRESSPASSING CARGILL. Who can I call when it happens because Cargill does not pick up the phone and even when they did ten years ago the lady would say they do nothing because by the time they are there they will be gone. Cargill does nothing to protect the area. They have no park rangers and they should. I would like to help protect but I need help from Cargill. Could you place the picture because these people were disrespectful.

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Thérèse Rosier, Taxi 36, 7859900

*The Reporter spoke with Cargill Facility Manager Daniel DeAnda Jr. and he said no one is allowed to fish on Cargill property. Cargill removes people all the time.*

*DeAnda explained, that they all say they have a letter of permission but can never produce the said letter and the people are asked to leave.*

*The entire area of Pekelmeer/Cargill Saltworks is private and a protected RAMSAR wetland, where trespassing and human activities, including fishing are strictly forbidden. For more information about fishing legally on Bonaire read: (Reporter Archives: Regulating Bonaire fishing for the future Issue # 9, Apr 27- May 11, 2022)*

### Statia partners with US university to improve tourism service

George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. is going to help Statia become a more service oriented tourism destination. GWU projects pair graduate students with regional destinations to design frameworks that strengthen tourism policy, operations, and customer service. Statia will focus on the development of standards for taxi operators, short term rentals, and restaurants — sectors considered essential to the island's visitor experience.



**Maya Pandt, director tourism at St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation (STDF)**  
photo via EA News

The collaboration is part of a regional programme supported by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO). Maya Pandt, the director of tourism at the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation (STDF), said "Establishing clear, measurable

standards across the tourism value chain will uplift professional performance and create a more seamless experience for our guests." *DMR*

## State Secretary Van der Burg now visiting islands

State Secretary Van der Burg will soon see with his own eyes the crisis that has developed at the Lagún landfill site over the years. He is presently visiting the Caribbean part of the Kingdom from April 7 to 17. While on Bonaire he will inspect the landfill and meet with local residents who are most affected by the smoke and pollution. *DMR*



Eric van der Burg, State Secretary Kingdom Relations

## Curaçao journalist recognized for scooping U.S. warplane near miss

Dick Drayer, journalist of *Curacao.nu*, has been nominated for the annual Tegel, the most important journalism award in the Netherlands. He scooped the story of the near-collision between a JetBlue aircraft and an American military plane over Curaçao during the U.S. attacks on Venezuela.



Dick Drayer, journalist  
Photo Tim van Dijk

The American military tanker was flying without a transponder and was therefore invisible on radar. The JetBlue pilots had to avoid a collision. The Curaçao to New York flight had approximately 150 passengers aboard. *DMR (Source, Curacao.nu)*

## Construction of new Pelican School to begin

The construction of the new Pelican elementary school has moved from the planning phase to the execution phase. The new school will be built on the grounds of the former Colegio Papa Cornes, a more spacious site at a more central location. *DMR*

## Lowest food price supermarkets in 2025 named

Fundación Tienda pa Konsumido Boneriano's 2025's independent survey determined that three supermarkets on Bonaire had the lowest food prices during ten months of visits.

**Caribe Nobo** topped the monthly list five times: March, May, July, August, and September. Consumers could have saved \$527.27 on their cheapest items if they shopped there.

**Bondigro** ranked lowest four times: in April, October, November, and December.

Food purchases at **Warehouse** were the least expensive in June. *DMR*

## BONLAB is re-accredited

The Raad voor Accreditatie' (RvA) has again reconfirmed BONLAB's accreditation for its clinical chemistry and hematology laboratory tests. RvA determined BONLAB performed its testing in accordance with the international quality standard ISO 15189. In addition the RvA expanded the lab's accreditation for tests performed on behalf of the Municipal Health Service (Gemeentelijke Gezondheidsdienst GGD). RvA complimented BONLAB staff for the quality of the laboratory and its performance. *DMR*

## Traveler to Suriname believed infected with Chikungunya

A resident of Bonaire was diagnosed with a suspected chikungunya infection when the resident returned from Suriname on March 20. Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne illness. Suriname has been dealing with a sharp rise in cases since the beginning of this year. Other countries in the region, such as Cuba and Guyana, are experiencing chikungunya outbreaks as well. *DMR*

## Jolien Kuitert appointed to CBP BES

The Commission Supervision Personal Data Protection BES (CBP BES) announces that Ms Jolien Kuitert has been appointed as a member of the committee, effective April 1, 2026. Throughout her career, Kuitert has held various positions within the justice chain, particularly within the Public Prosecution Service, where she has worked extensively on complex (international) cooperation and legal protection. The committee looks forward to further strengthening the protection of personal data on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.



## Coping with skyrocketing fuel prices

The disruptions and uncertainties resulting from the U.S. attacks on Iran are driving up worldwide fuel costs to roughly \$150–\$200 per barrel or more. The increases are forcing nations and business to adapt.

**KLM has already added one fuel surcharge to its fares**, but its revenues can no longer cover the increased costs. The airline will temporarily stop hiring new employees, will reduce business travel by its own employees, will suspend its use of consultants, and will temporarily halt any spending not essential to its operations. The war has also disrupted some of KLM's intercontinental flights. Civilian flights into the Middle East are potentially endangered. In addition, the region is facing fuel disruptions of its own. The airline personnel cannot be sure they will be able to refuel plains so they can return home.

**Island Fuel Costs** The Executive Council of Bonaire is asking the Dutch government for immediate help in coping with the increases. Bonaire is especially vulnerable because it is largely dependent on products from abroad. The Executive Council is asking the central government to temporarily reduce the excise duty on gasoline from USD 31.86 to USD 15.00 per hectoliter, and to temporarily adjust the General Consumption Tax (ABB) so that it is temporarily calculated based on the product value only and not freight costs as well. *DMR*

## Government increases bank deposit insurance

The Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DGS) manages a fund of 12 million dollars to protect depositors against bank failures. The money is contributed by local banks. The central government will now provide an additional guarantee of 30 million euros in case the 12 million dollars turns out to be insufficient. *DMR*

## WEB working to solve water delivery crisis



**WEB owns only two water delivery trucks and one is broken down. While waiting for the needed parts to arrive, WEB drivers are working around the clock and during holidays with a single truck to supply its many customers who depend on delivered water.**

**WEB expects to put a third, new truck in service by the end of April. By then the truck presently being repaired should be back in operation too. *DMR***

# STINAPA presents Arte di Palabra award

As part of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of STINAPA this year, the organization teamed up with Arte di Palabra asking all the young participants to base their writing submissions on a nature theme.

Arte di Palabra is a yearly Papiamentu written word contest in which pupils from the last elementary school class and high school students participate. They write a poem, short story or act out a spoken word performance in Papiamentu. Their recitation may be self-authored or by another writer as long as it is in Papiamentu, the native language of Bonaire.

STINAPA director Melissa van Hoorn presented a special award to the author, 12-year-old student Nishanthalie Molina for her poem on nature.

*Story/ photos Julie Morgan*

Photo: STINAPA director Melissa van Hoorn presents award to Nishanthalie Molina



## ***“In your nature, your wealth lies”***

*In the lap of Venezuela, the sea cradled you.  
Indigenous people were the first to walk your land.  
Followed by the Spanish and Africans, so many died  
and left you behind.  
They labeled you a “useless island,”  
Under the name Bonai they baptized you,  
but what they never imagined,  
was that your wealth lies within your nature.  
Your flora and fauna, the life beneath the sea.  
For more than four decades, STINAPA has  
stood guard.  
And though many citizens might have ignored  
the rules,  
They are enforced for the well-being of our  
beloved isle.  
Through every advancement and hurricane forecast,  
Our elders say your salt pyramids were what*



*saved you.  
As a diver’s paradise and the island of the  
flamingo,  
Tourists recognize you and hold you in  
their memories.  
Oh Bonaire, my beloved island.  
Together with the tourism office, I believe  
and declare  
That within our nature, our wealth and treasure  
are found.  
Citizens, rise up!  
With a loud voice and pride, let us shout:  
“I am Bonarian, born and bred!”  
Because...right there, in that nature, is where  
your riches lie!*

***Nishanthalie Molina***  
***Eiden bo rikesa ta.***



*He grew up on these waters, learning from the island and the sea that surrounds him. Today, he continues that way of life, living off the island’s resources, guided by the rhythm of the ocean.*

*Out here, the sea feels like home, and every day carries purpose.*

*Meet Carlos, a local fisherman*

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is launching a new storytelling campaign, “This Is My Bonaire”, designed to bring the island to life through the authentic voices and lived experiences of its people.

This community-driven initiative invites global audiences to discover Bonaire beyond its natural beauty by connecting with the stories, culture, and perspectives of those who call the island home. Through personal storytelling and local ambassadors, the campaign offers an intimate and meaningful look at Bonaire’s identity, rooted in its community.

The goal of the campaign is to highlight Bonaire’s authentic culture and lifestyle, strengthen emotional connections with international travelers, and position the island as a destination defined not just by place, but by people.

*JM, TCB release*

# Dia di Rincon begins with Sende mecha

of the past fashion show at their monthly Nos Zjilea presentation. A folklore parade is April 29. On April 30 the day begins early with a blessing from the pastor of Luis Bertrand Church and raising of the Rincon flag, followed by numerous parades, local food and drink in celebration of Dia di Rincon. For the full schedule visit the Reporter extra pages online or visit us on Facebook.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



The oldest village in the Dutch Caribbean initiated the beginning of the biggest cultural festival on Bonaire, Dia di Rincon, on March 28. For the last three years Sende Mecha has marked the celebration of a full month of cultural events in Rincon leading up to the big day of celebration, April 30. From the four points of Rincon, North, South, East and West, people came wearing the cultural dress of their ancestors, playing music and bearing a torch. They converged at the intersection of the statue of the founder of Dia di Rincon, Francisco Broertje Janga, who started the event in 1987. Sende Mecha and the raising of the Rincon flag signify the

start of the cultural month. Throughout the month of April there are numerous events for everyone to enjoy. Kanto Krioyo, April 8 – 11, a song, poem and performance competition puts the musical talent of the people of Rincon and Bonaire on display for all to enjoy. The winning song will be played in the big parades on April 30. A Washington Park trail run is held on April 19 and Sena na mesa largu, a dinner is April 23.

The parades begin on April 24 with the elderly. On April 25, Mangazina di Rei will feature a cultural dress

## Thank You

Larry Stern's family would like to acknowledge the kindness and caring of everyone we met in Bonaire. Larry's untimely and unexpected passing found us suddenly on this island that Larry loved but we were not very familiar with. Special appreciation to Yhanni, of Yhanni's Arepas for her overwhelming generosity and delicious food that Larry loved. Also, to Jurgen Pfalz of Reef Divers Bonaire for his assistance with Larry's business, Bonaire Scuba. Please patronize these two businesses who know how to give from the heart, and tell them Larry's mom sent you!



Larry Stern  
July 23, 1974 to March 5, 2026



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# STINAPA holds first 2026 People for Nature meeting

Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA Bonaire) is a non-governmental non-profit foundation that manages Bonaire's protected areas for the government of Bonaire. The Mission Statement: STINAPA Bonaire is dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural, cultural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources.

STINAPA Bonaire's first People for Nature Platform meeting for 2026 entertained an almost standing room only crowd of interested nature enthusiasts on March 31 at Captain Don's Habitat.

After an extensive search STINAPA has filled the three major management positions of the organization and they were introduced to the crowd.

Belgium born Melissa van Hoorn came on board at the end of January as Director of STINAPA Bonaire. Van Hoorn is a graduate in environmental toxicology from Wageningen University. She has been involved with water quality, climate adaptation and environmental pollution. Van Hoorn was a member of the Provincial government in the Netherlands and worked in the national government ministry of agriculture and nature.

Demis Nicastia has been the new Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) manager since January. From the Netherlands, with roots in Curaçao, Demis served in the Dutch military for 15 years.

Demis said, "I have always had a love of nature and I'm proud and happy to be a part of the STINAPA team. My vision is to make the best of nature in the best way to save it for the next generations."

Joining the team in March, Judith Bakker from the Netherlands is the new Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) manager. She is a marine scientist with studies in molecular and eDNA shark research.

Judith said, "For the first couple of months, I'm exploring things we can do to start implementing the conservation of our marine park, and see how we can improve the balance of our marine environment. Anything marine park related, contact me. Hopefully I'll get to know all of you at some point."

STINAPA biologist Paulo Bertuol began the meeting with information on the invasive lionfish. From when they were first identified in 2009 to 2011, the first measures were put in place for capturing lionfish at 24 locations on Bonaire and 12 locations in Curaçao. The most recent survey was done in 2023 and another one is scheduled for this year. For the surveys, transects of 15, 25 and 35 meters are made covering approximately 31,200 sq meter of reef. Not only lionfish within the transects are surveyed, but other species: barracuda, carco, and lobsters.

Lionfish density is higher in deep water, below 35 m (135 ft). Bertuol explained that deep water surveys take time and we are considering employing non-human monitoring with ROV. But with this type, there is no sustainable or reliable way to capture the lionfish at that depth. The cost are prohibitive and not suitable at this time.

Another invasive species to watch out for is *Unomia stolnifera*. It is an enveloping coral that has affected 50-80% of coral reefs in Venezuela. The *Unomia* has the ability to spread via small fragments, similar to a weed. Its dense mats can completely smother reef structures. A single polyp of this feathery soft coral can start a new colony. It looks similar to the *Erythropodium caribaeorum* or encrusting gorgonia on Bonaire reefs, but the *Unomia* polyps open and close or pulse. If you see this coral, note the site, take a photo or video and report to [Research@stinapa.org](mailto:Research@stinapa.org).

Van Hoorn explained the STINAPA vision as: Nature is recognized and treasured as the main resource of Bonaire's sustainable development. The community is dependent on having a healthy reef system with healthy



Unomia



Encrusting Gorgonian

fish. Eco tourism is very important for the economy of the island. Divers and nature lovers and the local culture are the reason why we do our work. We must promote biodiversity on the island.

She discussed the challenges: growing tourism numbers, cultural heritage housing restoration, managing

**STINAPA, People For Nature meeting to page 16**

## Creating Optimal Health

### Training the Brain to Recover Faster from Emotions by Irene da Cunda Costa

Why do some people recover quickly after a stressful or upsetting experience while others remain affected for hours, days, or even longer? Modern neuroscience suggests that the answer lies in how the brain regulates emotions. Research by neuroscientist Richard J. Davidson, a pioneer in the study of emotions and the brain, offers a useful framework for understanding this process.

Davidson introduced the concept of "affective chronometry," which refers to the amount of time an emotion lasts in the brain after an emotional event. According to this idea, emotional health is not determined by whether we experience negative emotions, everyone does, but rather by how quickly we recover from them.

When something upsetting happens, a small almond-shaped structure in the brain called the amygdala becomes active. The amygdala plays a central role in detecting threats and triggering emotional responses such as fear, anger, or stress. However, another region of the brain, the prefrontal cortex, located behind the forehead, helps regulate these reactions. The prefrontal cortex can calm the amygdala and bring the brain back to a balanced emotional state.

In people with strong emotional resilience, the prefrontal cortex regulates the amygdala more efficiently, allowing them to recover faster after emotional challenges. The encouraging news from neuroscience is that these regulatory networks are not fixed. Thanks to the brain's neuroplasticity, they can be strengthened

through regular practice.

One of the most studied methods for improving emotional regulation is mindfulness meditation. Even short daily sessions, focusing attention on the breath and gently returning attention when the mind wanders, can gradually strengthen the brain's capacity for emotional balance.

Another important strategy is reframing how we interpret events. For example, if someone does not respond to a message, an immediate reaction might be to assume rejection or disrespect. Reframing the situation, considering that the person may simply be busy or distracted, engages the prefrontal cortex and reduces emotional reactivity. Over time, this habit helps the brain respond more calmly to uncertainty and conflict.

Cultivating positive emotions also plays a role. Davidson's research suggests that people differ in how long they can sustain positive feelings such as gratitude, joy, or curiosity. Practices like writing down three positive experiences at the end of the day can help reinforce neural circuits linked to optimism and well-being.

Physical activity contributes as well. Regular exercise increases levels of brain chemicals such as serotonin and endorphins while supporting the growth of neural connections. Even a brisk 20-minute walk can help regulate mood and reduce stress responses.

Finally, slow and controlled breathing can directly influence the nervous system. Techniques that extend the exhalation, such as the physiological sigh or simply breathing in for four seconds and out for six, activate the body's calming parasympathetic system, helping the brain shift out of a stress response.

Emotional resilience is not simply a personality trait we are born with. It is a skill that can be trained. By practicing attention, cultivating positive perspectives, moving the body, and regulating the breath, individuals can strengthen the brain circuits that help them recover more quickly from life's inevitable emotional challenges.

This doesn't mean disturbing emotions should be ignored or suppressed. Emotions carry important information and are a natural part of being human. But in a fast-paced and often stressful world, the ability to regain emotional balance may be one of the most valuable skills we can develop, for ourselves and for our communities.



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



# Island Life Is Simple. Your Taxes Can Be Too.

Living in Bonaire should feel easy... clear water, warm evenings, and a slower pace of life. Between US filing requirements and Bonaire's evolving tax rules, it can be difficult to navigate your true tax position. Recent changes mean Bonaire may tax worldwide income, foreign tax credits must be coordinated with US filings, and assessments can arrive years later.

Bernice helps Americans understand their tax exposure now and plan accordingly so your time in Bonaire can stay focused on the things that matter most.

**Bernice Stephens**  
*On-Site Tax Advisor*  
 599-701-2207  
 bernice@bnctax.com



Stars of the future perform

Thanks to the Classical Music Board Bonaire, a mix of ages, musical instruments, and musical styles, all under the capable direction of Claudia Cassier performed on Sunday March 29th in the packed hall of the Protestant church on Wilhelminaplein.

CMBB

## Fried Pickle with Gado Gado and Bacon by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



*Garlic Joe pickle, drained and patted dry • 75 g (½ C) flour • 1/2 egg • 2 tsp pickle juice • Splash of (Polar) beer • Bonaire sea salt • Pinch sambal • Pinch ginger powder*

Make a smooth batter from flour, gherkin juice, and flavorings. Beat entire egg until fluffy, (using only the egg white often results in a somewhat lumpy texture) and fold into the batter. Lightly roll dry Garlic Joe pickle in flour so that batter adheres better. Now dip pickle in batter and deep-fry at 180 degrees until golden brown.

**Garnish for serving:** 1 Tbsp gado gado sauce (or peanut sauce) • 1 slice of fried bacon • Fried onions • Sprigs of samphire or banana di rif • Small cubes of pickle • Serve fried Garlic Joe on Gado Gado and garnish for the crunch.

carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This creates small bubbles in the batter, making it lighter and crispier.

**Fry until crispy faster** - Alcohol in beer evaporates faster than water. As a result, the batter dries out faster in the hot oil is an extra crispy crust.

**Taste differences** - Beer adds subtle flavors: Lager - mild and refreshing; IPA -slightly bitter and aromatic; Dark beer - slightly sweeter and fuller

**Reduced gluten** - Alcohol inhibits formation of gluten in flour. Less gluten = less tough / more crispy.

**Whipped egg white (airy foam)** gives: Extra volume and airiness; Slightly thicker, soufflé-like crust; Less "hard crunch", more soft crispy.

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



Lightness due to carbonation - Beer contains

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## The fundraiser

The Bonaire Culinary Team invites you to meet their 2026 team during an exclusive fundraising evening on April 18 at Café Koló, located at Delfins Beach Resort. Guests will be treated to a unique walking dinner and get a first taste of the team's creativity and passion. Diners will sample the flavors the team will bring to the international stage when they compete in Barbados for the prestigious titles of Best Chefs and Bartenders of the Caribbean.

Date & Time: April 18, 2026, 5–9 p.m.  
Location: Café Koló, Delfins Beach Resort

Entrance: \$65 per person includes: four beverage tokens and 10 bites prepared by the Bonaire Culinary Team.

Seats are limited, and early reservation is highly recommended.

Tickets can be bought via the official website of the team:

[www.bonaireculinaryteam.com](http://www.bonaireculinaryteam.com).

Join us to meet the chefs, celebrate Bonaire's culinary talent, and support the team on their journey to Barbados.

## The team

The Bonaire Culinary Team is proud to announce the addition of two new chefs to its lineup. Quincy Karijodikromo will compete in the Beef Competition, while Chelsie Agunday will represent the team in the Seafood Chef of the Year category. Their inclusion marks an important expansion of the team.

Returning is last year's Best Chef of the Caribbean, Jake Kelkboom, whose Caribbean expertise continues to inspire excellence. The team's talented bartender, Christian Silva, is also returning and is determined to go for gold once again.

In the pastry division, Elise Weerstand will take on a mentoring role this year, coaching new pastry chef Akira Cecilia, further strengthening the team's depth and future potential.

One position remains open: the Junior Chef. This spot will be decided during the team's first fundraising event, where three enthusiastic young professionals will compete for a place on the team.

*Culinary Team Release*

## News from Bonaire's chess clubs

Bonaire's chess clubs, BSV and BJSC headed up by Serapio Pop welcomed a gift of new chess materials from FIDE-America in late January. Carol Perqueira of the Aruba Chess Federation made the allocation to Bonaire possible.

Overseeing the delivery to Bonaire was Riangelo Goes of Fedako Korsow and Charles Lont along with Eugenio De Jong of Don Andres. These materials will enable the schools to provide chess sets and instruction for students to play in their spare time or in a class. Three teachers from ISK, Shining Star and Rayo di Solo have already taken ownership of the materials for the kids. Kas di Futuro, (Bonaire Schaak Vereniging) headed up by Paul Ruiz, received chess materials on loan for his international,

tutored and summer school students.

February's 10 students who completed their chess course played in a tournament. Luis Fernando Rodriguez won all his games and finished undefeated in first place. Patrick Martinez battled with Rodriguez to come out in second followed by Jeronimo Fernando Rodriguez in third. All 10 competitors received medals and a prize. Many of the students will continue learning to develop their chess skills.

Pop said, "Chess is a mind sport that has worldwide recognized didactics and theses analyzing the benefits of chess in the development of a young person. This applies not only to arithmetic/mathematics but also to language. My wish is



to see chess as a subject in school or after school."

Students who would like to participate

in chess and teachers who would like to receive materials for their schools should contact Serapio Pop at +599-786-4055.

*JM.*



Hospice Kas Flamboyant Bonaire welcomed guests to an open house on March 28 for a tour and look at the new fifth room.

Hospice director Danny Rojer and Governor John Soliano spoke and the Hofi Kultural Band played as guests experi-

enced the atmosphere of the hospice. For more information about Kas Flamboyant visit [kas-flamboyant.com](http://kas-flamboyant.com) or visit them on Facebook.

Photo: Governor John Soliano addresses the gathering.

Photo Julie Morgan

# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## Love Without Stress Underwater

Back in the 1970's and 80's, Jim and Cathy Church were the premier underwater photography instructors in the United States. In their week-long photography course, the first diving day was spent without cameras, working solely on buoyancy control so the students could take pictures without hurting the reef.

And yet, Jim once sent me a letter on which he had printed a photo of an inflated pufferfish.

Pufferfish only inflate when they believe their lives are in danger; I knew that, why didn't Jim? He was a published, premier underwater photography instructor, and I was just beginning a dive guiding service on Bonaire. What if he hated what I had to say and thus also the messenger?

Ah well, I wrote him anyway and asked him why he headed such a nice letter with a photo of a stressed fish.

His response was quick and in character: he hadn't thought about the fish being stressed; he'd only thought about the image itself. He never used that photo again unless it was to illustrate a stressed fish.

Another time, in the '90's at a dive show, a non-profit group had a photo of a puffed puffer among other decorations in its booth. I asked, "Why do you have a photo of a stressed fish?" She replied, "How else would people know it's a puffer?"

The puffers don't have much to worry about anymore, and divers don't deliberately stress undersea critters to show their reactions anymore, either.

The problem now is too much love.

Here's one way I know: last week I was shown a small male frogfish whose mate had been nearby the day before. From about 10' (3m) away, thanks to our clear water, I saw the larger female frogfish looking straight at me from atop an orange sponge. I signalled my buddies and moved slowly toward the frogfish. Before I got as close as 6' (2m), she turned her back to me in one swift motion. It broke my heart.

Did you know that bony fish have no eyelids? No membranes to protect their eyes, no nothing. So when a photographer comes along and fires a strobe light...

Well, think about it. From 4' (1.1m) or more it's not so bad, but the poor frogfish probably had more than



This scorpionfish and Brad were fascinated by each other; I don't think either of them noticed the flash.

Photo Dee Scarr

one flash going off, much closer than that. I once saw one diver taking photos of a frogfish while three other photographers politely hovered nearby, waiting for their turns. How many flashes did that poor froggie suffer that single day?

It's worse at night, because the contrast between ambient light and strobe light is much greater than in the daytime. At night, even a dive light shone onto a fish's eyes is a shock and probably painful. The kindest procedure for divers is to use only the dimmer edges of their light beams, not the most intense center sections, to observe critters at night.

If you question this, get someone to photograph your face with strobes, or to shine a light directly into your eyes, from closer than 1' (30 cm) away.

I saw another symptom of too much love one day when quick movement at the very edge of my vision caught my eye. A pair of flying gurnards, just at the limit of visibility, was boogeying as quickly as they could go, away from me. Ironically, it was their movement that caught my attention. Some diver(s) had really chased those gurnards around. I dive that site all the

time but have never seen those gurnards again.

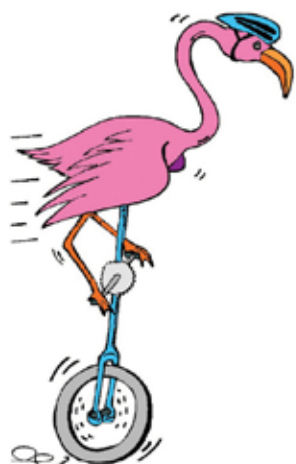
So – and this seems incredibly obvious – a major sign that you're stressing a fish is that it moves away from you. Most of the time a frogfish or seahorse will only swim a short distance, and it's oh-so-tempting to swim in front of it again for that perfect portrait. Maybe satisfying for you, but hurtful to the fish.

The most vulnerable creatures to over-loving are the ones who don't move quickly or far. Frogfish, seahorses, and batfish are especially vulnerable because they're very challenging to find, they can't move quickly, and they're fun to show to non-divers as well as other divers. Slender and pygmy filefish often keep a gorgonian plume between themselves and divers, not a coincidence.

Another sign of stress includes opening the mouth wide, something both frogfish and morays do. Morays stop opening and closing their mouths to breathe, and

**Reef Glimpses: Love without Stress to page 16**

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# 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](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

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

**Animal Shelter's 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).

**Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe.** Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

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

**Becoming Movement Club** Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/becomingmovementclub/).

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels welcome. Info: 795-0128 (Whatsapp text), [bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto: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).

**Cultural activities for the elderly at Höfi Kultur** Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: [manon@culturalplatform.com](mailto:manon@culturalplatform.com) or call +599 7708437

**Diver Safety.** Jason Buttenshaw 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 Thursday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

**JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire.** ALL WELCOME. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. [jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com](mailto:jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com) or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

**Krese Radio program** focusing on the development of Bonaire over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. The program is in Papiamentu; A recap is provided in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**Live Music** Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

**Museum Night, Terramar museum.** Free access to galleries last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION** Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

**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. Social play and beginners from 8 – 10 a.m. Advanced Competitive play from 10 a.m. - Noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

**Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire** Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, [abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com](mailto:abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com)

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

**Tennis Eddie's courts.** Everyone (18+) is welcome. **Free Kid's Clinics at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** Register: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts.



**Manta Monday** Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Mon. April 13 @ Beyond the Corals at Bloozz Resort; Mon. April 20 @ To be confirmed. Mon. April 27 & Mon. May 4 @ Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto: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. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: [info@reefrenewalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenewalbonaire.org)



**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reserving on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/monitoring-patrols/>

# 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](mailto: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: Hours changed through April 12. See page 15.** 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](http://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/>

*Each month: Family Saturday*, March 7 Pay a "family" fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. March 21. 10 - 12 noon. We will be making piggybanks. Register via [terramarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:terramarmuseum@gmail.com) or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 25. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

**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, April 18	<b>Bonaire Culinary Team Fundraiser (Walking Dinner)</b> Café Koló, Delfins Beach Resort \$65 pp- 4 beverage tokens and 10 flavorful bites. 5 - 9 p.m. Reserve and tickets: <a href="https://www.bonaireculinaryteam.com">https://www.bonaireculinaryteam.com</a> See page 15.
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Cat Lady Day Sunday, April 19	<b>Kite Contest</b> 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kids in the morning, adults in the afternoon. At the old airport on Rincon road. SEE PAGE 17.  <b>Feline Flow -All levels yoga class with the Animal Shelter Cats</b> 3 p.m. See page 19.
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Monday, April 27	<b>King's Birthday</b> Public Holiday. Much is closed.  <b>Rotary Feria</b> Giant flea market Wilhelmina Park
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Thursday, April 30	<b>Dia di Rincon</b> National holiday. Rincon is wide open. All else is closed. <b>See Lead-up cultural events</b> in online Reporter page 20+ See also <i>Facebook: Dia di Rincon Pagina Oficial</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon">https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon</a>
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Friday, May 1	<b>Two final activities Dia di Rincon: Biking for everyone. Saka Raton (Taking out the mouse)</b> Music, dancing, and street parties in Rincon cap off weeks of cultural activities.
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## COMING IN MAY

**May 1: Labour Day / May 14: Ascension Day / May 15 & 16: BON DOET, Bonaire's Volunteer Weekend**

**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:**

- Fridays 3 - 5 p.m. After School Art. \$20. Ages 8+. Studio Muzo. Materials included.
- 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](mailto:sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)

## 2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. April 8	0630-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Sat. April 11	0800-1800	GRAND PRINCESS 3006 guests	North
Wed. April 15	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. April 16	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN EPIC 5186 guests	South
Fri. April 17	0700-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	North
Tues. April 21	0600-1400	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	South
	0700-2000	SCENIC ECLIPSE II 237 guests	North
Thurs. April 23	0600-1700	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Wed. April 29	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Mon. May 4	0700-1600	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS 3622 guests	North
Wed. May 6	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. May 13	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. May 27	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Fri. May 29	0630-2200	HEBRIDEAN SKY 120 guests	North
Wed. Jun 3	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. Jun 10	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. Jun 18	0500-1300	SEVEN SEAS MARINER 730 guests	North
Wed. Jun 24	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Sunday, April 12	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month.</b> 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
Saturday, April 18	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>
Saturday, April 25	<b>The Beach Boost</b> collects trash washing up on Bonaire's shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.

## Funds Available

NEW

**Kingdom Scholarships** Starting April 1, students can apply for the Kingdom Scholarship again. The Kingdom Scholarship is for students who are registered at one of the educational institutions mentioned on the RCN website and is following education in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, or the Netherlands at SBO/MBO level 3 or 4, or at HBO (Higher Professional Education) or WO (University) level.

With this scholarship, students can participate in an internship or educational exchange for a period ranging from 21 days up to a maximum of six months at an educational institution or an organisation or company elsewhere within the Kingdom.

The internship or exchange must be an integral part of a recognized degree program. The assignment of the Kingdom Scholarships is conducted via a lottery system.

**From April 1 to May 14, 2026, students can submit an application for exchanges starting between the August 1, 2026 and January 14, 2027.** Visit the link below for more information. <https://english.rijksdienstcn.com/education-culture-science/kingdom-scholarship>

### Reading Promotion Scheme.

The Dutch Foundation for Literature supports projects in the field of reading promotion that supplement projects currently existing. Organizations can apply for a subsidy for a diversity of activities for young and old, from reading clubs to digital projects, and from creative writing workshops to performances. Also for new projects that will stimulate reading.

Cultural institutions, organizations or legal entities that are active in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and that produce and/or implement literary-educational activities are eligible to apply. Schools, universities and local government bodies cannot apply for a subsidy under this scheme. The applicant can apply for a minimum of €25,000 and a maximum of €50,000.

**Deadlines for the last funding round of this year:**

- **May 15, 2026** for projects due to start from December 2026 onwards

[https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion\\_english-2026.pdf](https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion_english-2026.pdf)

### DCNA's Conservation & Restoration Key Habitats Program

is open for funding applications. If your organization is based on one of the six Dutch Caribbean islands and works on nature conservation or restoration, this is your call. **Submit your project proposal before April 13 to apply.**

The Key Habitats Program funds practical, on-the-ground conservation projects that deliver measurable ecological results. Stand-alone research projects are not eligible.

To apply, your organization must meet at least these three criteria:

- You are a non-profit or for-profit NGO legally registered in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Your project takes place on one or more of the six Dutch Caribbean islands.
- Your project addresses one or both of the 2026 priority strategies: 1. Reduce Free-Roaming Grazer Impacts, and/or 2. Address Climate Change Impacts

How to submit:

<http://dcnanature.org/projects/keyhabitatsprogram/>

### New round of Museum Grants is open.

Museum employees can apply for grants for short-term in-depth scientific research related to the museum or its collection. The results must benefit museum research practice and be recorded in an open access publication. Employees of a museum may act as the main applicant. Each application must involve one researcher affiliated with a research organisation as a supervisor of the research.

Budget and deadlines: The total funding ceiling for this Call for proposals is €700,000. A minimum of €10,000 and a maximum of €50,000 in funding can be requested per project. **The deadline for submission is Tuesday 12 May 2026, before 2 p.m. CEST.**

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/museum-grants-0>

## Public Service Announcements

### Library hours adjusted to April 12

Open: Mon.: 2 – 5 p.m. Tu. W. Th.: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fri.: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sat.: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Internet consultation until April 23, 2026: Omnibus Law SZW 2027

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) will soon publish the law proposal for the Omnibus Law SZW 2027 (Verzamelwet SZW 2027). This law is issued annually and is intended to maintain and optimize legislation.

Key changes relevant to the Caribbean Netherlands are proposed for Childcare Law BES, Child Benefit Provision Law BES, and Labor Law 2000 BES. For the specific changes see [The Reporter's online edition](#), page 21.

Anyone can respond to [the internet consultation](#) up to and including April 23, 2026 (5:59 PM local time) via: Internet consultation. The input received will be used to improve and supplement the draft where necessary.

### Abuse Workshop for Professionals

Workshop: "Violence and Abuse in Children's Lives"

Educational professionals in Bonaire are invited to an intensive workshop on "Violence and Abuse in Children's Lives." The workshop is aimed especially at professionals who work with children and young people in sports, arts and recreation. The workshop is in Papiamentu. It is held in two sessions in Avanti, Antriol. 6 - 8:30 p.m. Tues. April 14 and Thurs. April 16, 2026. Participants must follow both sessions. The cost: \$40 covers 2 workshop sessions (total 5 workshop hours), study materials and certificate. Facilitators are: De-

siree Manuel-Eliza and Vaughan Astwood. For more information and registration, email [seob.bestuur@gmail.com](mailto:seob.bestuur@gmail.com). Give the name and candidacy of the person registering and if relevant, which organization they represent.

For a full description of the workshop see [The Reporter's online edition](#), page 21.

### Income tax time.

Your 2025 income tax can now be filed either on paper or online. The deadline is May 18, 2026. In the last week of February, the Belastingdienst CN started sending the invitations for filing the return both by post and to your digital mailbox (berichtenboxcn). Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland encourages everyone to file online via <https://www.mijnncn.nl>. See: [English.mijnncn.nl/create--activate](https://www.mijnncn.nl/create--activate)

### 2024 business survey

In the coming months, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) will contact businesses on the three BES islands to complete the annual business survey for the 2024 reporting year. The survey aims to map economic development on Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba. The results of the survey will be published in the last quarter of 2026.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) is legally obligated to treat all collected data as strictly confidential. For questions, information, or assistance with completing the survey, please contact the Statistics Netherlands office on Bonaire.

CBS Caribbean Netherlands

Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 67, Unit 9, Kralendijk

Telephone: +599 717 8676 Email: [economie.cn@cbs.nl](mailto:economie.cn@cbs.nl)

## 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

## DONATE to Rotary's Feria

*Tidying up and helping others*

**New and used items, household goods, tools, toys, art, decorations, kitchen appliances, electronics, etc etc.**

**Donate your items to the Rotary Club and sustain good causes on Bonaire.**

**Contact us and we will pick it up. +599 785 0809**



## Looking for hosts for cultural activities for the elderly

Cultural Platform Foundation is looking for more volunteers to guide their well-attended cultural activities for the elderly. There are activities on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday both morning and afternoon. There is a small volunteer compensation.

Under the umbrella of Hòfi Kultural, Plataforma Kultural organizes several activities for adults in Bonaire who like to make music, dance, paint and do creative activities together. Do you also like to welcome visitors and create a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere? Now this is something for you! As a volunteer at Plataforma Kultural you help our participants feel at home. You will welcome people with open arms, serve coffee and tea and create a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere during our activities. Occasionally you help with the preparation of the activities.

### Curious if this is something for you? Feel free to drop by!

You are welcome to our creative morning on Friday to experience the atmosphere and get more information.

**Location** Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n

**When?:** Every Friday from 10 a.m.-12 noon

**More information** about Cultural Platform Foundation: [manon@culturalplatform.com](mailto:manon@culturalplatform.com) or call +599 7708437

# A Garden? Just Do It! - Worms - by Angliet, Nature Lover



Photo: Angliet

Soil burrowers live in the top soil layer about 50 cm deep. They process organic material into nutrients for plants and also keep the top layer aerated. As a result, roots can grow easily and absorb water and nutrients better.

Litter worms, such as compost worms, live in the top 10 cm of the soil and pull organic material like leaves into the ground. Together with other soil organisms, they break down the material into

worm compost.

Earthworms ensure, through their tunnels: better air and water flow; nutritious compost;

stimulate the growth of beneficial bacteria and fungi and space for roots. Here are some special characteristics of earthworms: they are deaf and blind; have 10 hearts; they move by contracting and stretching and their poop can be recognized as small grainy piles of sand on the

ground and is good fertilizer for plants. When it rains, the worms come up and you can see them lying in the puddles.

At the request of one of the visitors, Saeed gave a clod of earth to anyone who wanted to have a closer look. An incredible number of soil creatures and worms could be seen in this clod. This means that the soil is richly supplied with one of the crucial conditions for creating healthy soil for plants, namely these indispensable organisms in the ground.

Should you ever visit Saeed's garden on the LVV grounds, ask him to scoop up a clod so that you can look in amazement at the teeming life of all that earth.

It's a nature miracle. Just love it.

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.



## Reef Glimpses: Love Without Stress Underwater from page 13

instead hold them super wide open: they feel threatened and they're threatening you back.

A sign of discomfort, the beginning of stress, is the raising of the dorsal fin, an action used by scorpionfish.

Norine Rouse, the "turtle lady" of Florida, would tell her scuba students who were worried about aggressive marine animals: We are in the ocean by virtue of technology, not biology, therefore we are neither the natural enemy nor the natural food for any creature in the sea.

But there's another facet to our being in the ocean by technology: The creatures are not prepared for us. We teach them with our behavior. Do you want to be the one who teaches fish to avoid humans at all costs?

Of course not! So please remember that the critters are living beings and treat them with courtesy: if they're stressed, all we have to do is back away until they're not stressed. That part is so simple! The trick is taking the time to

recognize their reactions.

*[A note to photographers: Since it can be tricky to look for signs of stress while considering photographic technique, here's a simple guideline: when your strobe/flash/flashlight is within two handspans of the fish's eye, take no more than 3 shots. If other photographers are waiting, take fewer and hope – for the sake of the critter – that they read this note too.]*

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.



**Did you pay your Nature Fee?**  
All conservation, research, education and work we do are funded by the nature fee you purchase.



Available online at [STINAPAbonaire.org](http://STINAPAbonaire.org)

## STINAPA, People For Nature meeting from page 9

safety of tourists in the park, maintenance of roads, hiking trail and vegetation regrowth. The major threats are erosion, invasive species on the reefs, water quality which is the responsibility of the government and the declining coral cover on the reefs.

The nature fee is not being paid by 50% of the people using the parks and we need the funding to carry out our work.

### In the question and answer period:

A complaint was made on the condition of a ladder at a dive site. This is the responsibility of the owner of the land, not the BNMP to maintain.

The last Financial Statement was in 2022, when will that be updated? Finance manager Kerenza Rannou explained they will be online soon. The annual plan and financials are online in a search for documents on the website.

When will WSNP be open for divers again? Van Hoorn said this hasn't been decided yet. Our aim is to preserve the different species that were affected by SCTLD and bleaching. We are looking at what kind of measures we need to take and discussing the options.

Why don't we close different dive sites to give them a break from divers as we did in the past? We are looking at the balance between the people that enjoy nature and the impact. We are determining the limits

and what the acceptable changes would be.

A film of sunscreen and lotion floats on the water from snorkelers. Why are we allowing the use of non-reef safe sunscreens? The local government has had the intension of banning these products but have not followed through.

Suggestion for a mineral based sunscreens dispenser at various sites to deter the use of non-reef friendly products was voiced. Van Hoorn explained this was a good idea.

A suggestion was made to run an infomercial on the airlines for incoming passengers about payment for the marine park tag. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Will STINAPA be working with the Dutch government on Greenpeace's Climate Justice? Van Hoorn responded, we are ready to have a discussion about what we can do, but there is no plan yet.

There were many more comments by the guests. Invitations were sent to the representatives of the Public Entity (OLB), but no one attended.

Julie Morgan

# Toys and games of the past featured at Nos Zjilea

Everywhere in the world kids play with toys. We can think back and remember our favorites and a few were similar to those our parents or grandparents had. Today, toys have evolved a bit more, but no matter what, toys develop imagination, motor skills and creativity in children.

At the most recent Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei on March 28, Charlton Thomas gave guests some insight to the toys and games of the past on Bonaire. Everything was homemade. Parents did their best to produce toys from materials available on the island. Boys would play with the rims of broken bike tires by pushing them with two sticks to roll down the road. They made a little trolley with one or two wheels made from wood or sometimes the tops of powdered milk cans would become wheels. A mechanism made with wires would make the trolley steerable. They made a spinning top from the dried fruit of the calabash tree. A few holes were made in the fruit and a stick was attached. To make it rotate a piece of rope and a small piece of wood was added. How's this for imagination? Old socks or discarded cloth were rolled up into a ball to play football, soccer or baseball. Dolls were made of old cloth and bottles. The museum at Mangazina di Rei has several of these toys on display.

With all the wind on Bonaire kites became popular toys that were easily made and they are still made today.

Lionel Cicilia and Gerald Martinez demonstrated how to make a star kite. In the old days the trunk of a Century plant cactus was split and dried for the frame. The Coco tree was also used. Today the wood is purchased.

The wood is cut to the correct lengths for your kite. In the past string or line was used to fasten it together but today a zip tie is used. A small cut is made at the end of each stick to run the line through to connect the sides. Where wrapping paper was once used for the body, today kite surfing material is used. The paper or cloth is cut to fit the kite and Bison glue is used to hold it together. Line is connected to the middle of the star frame and top which is later connected to the kite string.

Lionel and Gerald will be competing in the 44th edition of Kontest di Fli Bonaire (kite competition) on April 19, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tra'i Montana (the old airport). Kids of all ages are invited to come fly a kite. In 2025,

Lionel's 21m (68.9 ft) kite was the winner. He hopes to break his record this year with a 30 m (98.4 ft) kite.

In addition to the presentation on toys, local band Hashtag entertained with music, local crafts, local food and drinks were available.

Nos Zjilea is a free event held the last Saturday of the month at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon. For more information visit Mangazina di Rei on Facebook.

See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire

*Story / photos Julie Morgan*



A handmade top on display in the Mangazina di Rei museum  
Photo Julie Morgan



Lionel makes a kite Photo Julie Morgan



Trolley and bike rim toys can be seen in the Mangazina di Rei museum  
Photo Julie Morgan



## Make Bonaire Accessible

**Oeps.... I forgot ..... by Ria Dokter**

It is very easy, every now and then, to forget something, and everybody does it. Almost every time this "forgetting" is connected to somebody: forget a birthday, forget to pick somebody up, etc. etc.

But, when you get older, you tend to forget more often. And it is a good thing there are things like phones, diaries and good friends to help remind you. When an elderly person forgets something, there is always, in the back of your head, the fear of dementia. And it is very reassuring that this is not always the reason.

When it is about appointments at the doctor's office, hospital for specialist consultation or treatment then forgetting becomes a whole other thing. Hospital appointments are important for the patient because a lot depends on it. But appointments are made with a reason. Doctors see many patients and order specific tests and treatments for those patients. Strictness is in order here. When one patient does not show up, the next patient in line can step in, but it always means that there are adjustments to make. Not every patient needs the same kind of treatment or attention of the doctor/specialist.

When the elderly patient depends on help with transportation, things get more complicated. They sit at home, waiting to get picked up for the appointment. When the transportation does not show up, something goes very wrong; you have a nervous elderly person now who thinks they had made a mistake, the schedule at the doctor's is affected and preparation for the next patient needs specific attention. Often a simple phone call can help in getting things reorganized again, things may calm down, but the effect is devastating.

And even worse, the elderly person becomes even more insecure. They feel forgotten and that is the worst feeling there is. All alone in this world and feeling forgotten. And this is not only the elderly living by themselves but the elderly living in a home. They all have exactly the same needs whether living at home or in an institution, everyone can feel lonely.

These situations must at all times be avoided. The elderly do not ask for help and assistance for nothing, they still count in our community and have their rights to depend on decent care. They must know that they can

always depend on somebody or on some organization.

It would be ideal if all organizations that work with elderly appoint employees who will function as personal informal caretakers. People need people, always. Not every person has the same character or personality. Please do not make that mistake. Every elderly person needs to be approached personally. There is nothing wrong with a bit of fun, but there has to be that respect, always. And when you manage to help in a way that makes the elderly person smile, you have done a good job.



*Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she 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.*

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**FELINE FLOW**

April 19 • 15:00 • Kaminda Lagun 26a

Donations - Reservations Required - 599.785.6151

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Call/What's App 701-4989 [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

## \*Feline Flow\*

*A playful, feel-good yoga experience for everyone. No cat lady status required*

In celebration of **National Cat Lady Day**, join us for a one-of-a-kind yoga experience at the shelter April 19 at 3 p.m., where mindful movement meets curious whiskers. Flow through a gentle, all-levels yoga class while surrounded by adoptable cats. Expect a relaxed, playful atmosphere with plenty of opportunities to connect; with yourself and maybe even your future furry companion.

This event is designed to: Support the shelter through donations; help socialize the cats and boost adoptions and offer a grounding, feel-good yoga session guided by a certified instructor

Contributions are welcome and appreciated for both the shelter and the instructor. Spots are limited to keep the experience comfortable for both humans and cats.

Come stretch, unwind, and maybe leave with a new best friend.

Animal Shelter Bonaire,  
 Kaminda Lagun 26a  
*MacKenzie Clippard*

## Pet of the Week



**Snoepje**

**This is Snoepje.** She is a seven year old white and orange cat surrendered to us in March. Snoepje means candy in Dutch so we named her that because she is so sweet. She is a little shy, but very gentle and calm. Even though she might not come to you, she loves to be petted, especially above the tail.

Snoepje had a loving home for seven years, and really needs a new one. She is not very comfortable with all the other cats around her, so we hope we can find her a calm and loving home. Snoepje is good with children as long they don't chase her around. Will you give this sweet girl a second chance?

*Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

## EASTER MARKET



Animal Shelter Bonaire's Easter Market on March 29 proved to be fun for the crowd, vendors and even the dogs and cats. The Cat Palace was full of guests checking out the felines and dogs and puppies were getting a lot of attention. The vendors were busy with the many guests and a few people just dropped by to take home lunch from Mama Annekes Keuken, sweets by Ivory & Elena and goodies from Island Preserve Company. Great offerings were available from over 10 booths

including Kazoo Rose Glass. Lionfish Creations Bonaire and Blaf Bonaire. Kids had fun in the bouncy house, playing games and getting their face painted while their parents shopped.

Thanks to everyone visiting the market, some \$2800 was raised to support the Shelter animals. Thank you to everyone for supporting Animal Shelter Bonaire. *Julie Morgan*



## The World's Finest Food Products, **on Bonaire**

Renowned for importing only the most exquisite and sustainable food products from Canada, Europe, USA, and the Caribbean. Purveyors of high quality Epicurean food stuffs for key restaurants on Bonaire and a new dedicated shop for the home cook enthusiasts. Whether you are seeking specialty meats, fish, seafood, international cheeses, the finest oils, vinegars, plant based food and more, **Canarbo has it all.**

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(from page 15)

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) will soon publish the law proposal for the Omnibus Law SZW 2027 (Verzamelwet SZW 2027). This law is issued annually and is intended to maintain and optimize legislation.

### Key changes for the Caribbean Netherlands

**Childcare Law BES:** Current legislation already provides a basis for appointing independent experts to whom suspicions of criminal offenses in childcare—such as abuse or mistreatment—can be reported. However, what is still lacking is a legal basis for the processing of (special) personal data between these experts. This will be addressed in the draft Omnibus Law SZW 2027.

**Child Benefit Provision Law BES:** Under the regulation implementing the double child benefit for intensive care BES, three advisors are designated to provide the minister with advice based on medical data. A textual amendment to the law will make it possible to designate advisors that do not have legal personality, such as the executive council.

**Labor Law 2000 BES** At the request of the public entity Saba, the draft bill provides for an exchange of official public holidays. For Saba, this means Whit Sunday will be replaced by Emancipation Day.

### Editorial amendments and correction of omissions

Editorial changes and corrections of omissions will be made in the Civil Code BES, the Cessantia Law BES, the Collective Labour Agreements Law BES, the Accident Insurance Law BES, and the Sickness Insurance Law BES. These changes do not affect the substance of the legislation.

Internet consultation: Anyone can respond to the internet consultation up to and including April 23, 2026 (5:59 PM local time) via: [Internet consultation](#). The input received will be used to improve and supplement the draft where necessary.

(from page 15)

Academy Support for Excellence in School Career (of Bonaire Educational Support Foundation) invites educational professionals in Bonaire for an intensive workshop on the topic “Violence and Abuse in Children’s Lives” The workshop is based on a holistic definition of violence and abuse, and an integrated focus on its impact on child and youth development. It will particularly deepen the impact of violence and abuse on the school career of children and young people in Bonaire.

Violence in children’s lives does not occur in one place. Violence and abuse can take place in all places and places where a child spends time: at home, at school, in sports and recreation centers, on the street, etc. In addition, there are different forms of abuse: physical, psychological-emotional, verbal, sexual, “on-line”, neglect, cultural and institutional. The impact of violence on children can be profound and can hinder the child’s school career and life for a long time.

### During the workshop three central questions will be answered:

• **Question 1:** What is violence and abuse, and how does this manifest itself in our community?

It will review different theoretical definitions of “violence” and “abuse” and create a real panorama of this in the lives of children in Bonaire together with the participants.

• **Question 2:** How do violence and abuse affect children?

Both in a general sense (cognitive, social, emotional, neurological (brain) and physical) and specifically in their school journey (for example how abuse can weaken study skills and motivation to go to school). In addition, the workshop addresses the way our history of slavery has and continues to affect violence and abuse in our community: we need to understand our history in order to understand the forms of abuse and violence in our community today.

• **Question 3:** How can children and young people living in violence and abuse be supported for greater academic success?

The workshop discusses ways in which an educator can recognize if the child is suffering from violence or abuse. Also, what educational strategies and methods can be used to effectively support children who grow up in violence and

abuse. Bonaire Educational Support Foundation has developed an integrated model of support (the Wayaká Model) that focuses on 6 areas of development, 5 methods of support, and distinguishing 5 age stages. In addition, the workshop delves into “protective factors” that help a child (or adult) heal, recover, and build resilience after experiencing abuse, neglect, or trauma.

**The workshop is aimed especially at:** Mentors, Teamleaders and Care Coordinators” in secondary education, Primary teachers, Remedial teachers and other professionals who work with children and young people in sports, arts and recreation.

### The workshop is:

• 2 sessions which are on Tuesday 14 April and Thursday 16 April 2026. Must follow both sessions

• hours: 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

• takes place in Avanti, Antriol.

• In Papiamentu.

• cost: \$40 (which covers 2 workshop sessions (total 5 workshop hours), study materials and certificate

Facilitators are: Desiree Manuel-Eliza and Vaughan Astwood.

**For more information and registration,** interested parties can contact our organization by email address: [seob.bestuur@gmail.com](mailto:seob.bestuur@gmail.com). Give the name and candidacy of the person registering and if relevant, which organization they represent.

The situation is serious. Children who grow up in situations of violence and abuse in Bonaire need our immediate attention, our serious commitment, deep dedication, and well-founded professional support.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children in Bonaire.

Board of Directors of the Bonaire Educational Support Foundation. School Career Excellence Support Academy

Sponsors: MCB Bank, Banco di Caribe, Curoil, and WEB NV Bonaire



**Sunday, 19 April 2026**  
**Vèlt Tra'i Montaña**  
**8:00 - 18:00**



## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026  
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri. & Sun. 2 daily flights - Dec.19, 2025 - Mar. 15 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed   Thu   Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO   SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun   Tue   Thu
CURACAO   ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO   ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

2026 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 8th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 10th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 14th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 9th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

# STUDIO MUZO

## Creative Color Lab - Afterschool Art

### at Sobremesa

J.A Abraham Boulevard 10

**15:00-17:00**

**Starting**  
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\$20,-

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- Paint on different surfaces
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- Lets have fun in a supportive group

\*Materials included

Contact via whatsapp : +599 700 7115  
Email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com



# Kalendario Luna Kultural 2026

## Month-long Cultural Activities prior to Dia di Rincon 2026

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 24:00	Folk Song Competition	Antonio Trenidad Stadium
9 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 24:00	Folk Song Competition	Antonio Trenidad Stadium
10 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	Youth Folk Competition	Antonio Trenidad Stadium
11 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 3:00	Folk Song Competition	Antonio Trenidad Stadium
17 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	“Den Trin” pop-ups with music and food	Southern green area
17 di aprel 2026	16:00 - 19:00	Folk March IKC Rincon	IKC Rincon
18 di aprel 2026	18:00- 24:00	Let's meet family	Kaya E.B. Saint Jago/ Commerce
19 di aprel 2026	5:30 - 12:00	<b>POSTPONED</b> Washington trail run	Washington Slagbaai National Park
19 di aprel 2026	17:00- 21:00	Chikitin Krioyo / Chichi ku Bubu	Mangazina di Rei (King's store)
23 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 22:00	Dinner at the long table	Kaya C.D. Christiaan
23 di aprel 2026	20:00- 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (komedia)	UPB Headquarters
24 di aprel 2026	17:00 - 20:30	Elderly Simadan (Harvest)	In the streets of Rincon
24 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	“Den Trin” pop-ups with music and food	Dori's boards
24 di aprel 2026	20:00- 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (comedy)	UPB Headquarters
25 di aprel 2026	18:00 - 21:00	Nos Zjilea:Historical Fashion show	Mangazina di Rei (King's store)
25 di aprel 2026	20:00- 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (comedy)	UPB Headquarters
26 di aprel 2026	10:00 - 18:00	Let's Revive Shon Cain Simadan (Harvest)	Kunuku Shon Cain
26 di aprel 2026	12:00-18:00	Children's Festival Culture 2026	Pastor's yard (Rincon church)
26 di aprel 2026	20:00-22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (comedy)	UPB Headquarters
26 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 22:00	Kopa Broertje Janga	Antonio Trenidad Stadium
26 di aprel 2026	21:00 - 03:00	Kings of Krioyo	Plenchi Cocari
27 di aprel 2026	4:00 - 7:00	Djuvedam - Pre-dawn parade	In the streets of Rincon
27 di aprel 2026	10:00- 24:00	Let's Revive Shon Cain Simadan	Kunuku Shon Cain
28 di aprel 2026	16:00 - 20:00	Antesala - children's parade	In the streets of Rincon
28 di aprel 2026	18:00 - 3:00	Meet me in Cocorobi	Cocorobi
29 di aprel, 2026	17:00 - 24:00	Folklore Parade	In the streets of Rincon
30 di aprel 2026	6:00 - 24:00	<b>DIA DI RINCON</b>	In the streets of Rincon
1 di mei 2026	11:00 - 24:00	Biking for everyone <b>Saka Raton (Taking out the mouse)</b> Music, dancing, and street parties cap off weeks of cultural activities	In the streets of Rincon

See next page for calendar in Papiamentu

# Kalendario Luna Kultural 2026

Fecha	Orario	Aktivitat	Luga
28 di mart 2026	17:00 - 24:00	Sende mecha	Bustu di Broertje Janga
2 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 21:00	Reunion tokante stènt	FKPD Rincon
2 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 22:00	Luna yen	E splendor (ser'i suit)
6 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	Simadan di Pastor	Kura di misa
8 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 24:00	Kanto Krioyo	Stadion Antonio Trenidad
9 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 24:00	Kanto Krioyo	Stadion Antonio Trenidad
10 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	Kanto Krioyo hubenil	Stadion Antonio Trenidad
11 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 3:00	Kanto Krioyo	Stadion Antonio Trenidad
17 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	DEN TRIN	Area vèlt pariba
17 di aprel 2026	16:00 - 19:00	Marshe krioyo IKC Rincon	IKC Rincon
18 di aprel 2026	18:00 - 24:00	Ban topa famia	Kaya E.B. Sint Jago/ Commerce
19 di aprel 2026	5:30 - 12:00	Washington trail run	Washington Slagbaai National Park
19 di aprel 2026	17:00 - 21:00	Chikitin Krioyo / Chichi ku Bubu	Mangazina di rei
23 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 22:00	Sena na mesa largu	Kaya C.D. Christiaan
23 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (komedia)	Sede di UPB
24 di aprel 2026	17:00 - 20:30	Simadan di grandinan	Den kayanan di Rincon
24 di aprel 2026	19:00 - 24:00	DEN TRIN	Plenchi di Dori
24 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (komedia)	Sede di UPB
25 di aprel 2026	18:00 - 21:00	Nos Zjilea: Show di moda di antes	Mangazina di rei
25 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (komedia)	Sede di UPB
26 di aprel 2026	10:00 - 18:00	Ban Rebiba Simadan di Shon Cain	Kunuku Shon Cain
26 di aprel 2026	12:00 - 18:00	Festival MUCHA! Kultura 2026	Kura di pastor (misa di Rincon)
26 di aprel 2026	20:00-22:45	Di Rincon pa Rincon (komedia)	Sede di UPB
26 di aprel 2026	20:00 - 22:00	Kopa Broertje Janga	Stadion Antonio Trenidad
26 di aprel 2026	21:00 - 03:00	Kings of Krioyo	Plenchi Cocari
27 di aprel 2026	4:00 - 7:00	Djuvedam	Den kayanan di Rincon
27 di aprel 2026	10:00 - 24:00	Ban Rebiba Simadan di Shon Cain	Kunuku Shon Cain
28 di aprel 2026	16:00 - 20:00	Antesala - parada di mucha	Den kayanan di Rincon
28 di aprel 2026	18:00 - 3:00	Topami den Cocorobi	Cocorobi
29 di aprel, 2026	17:00 - 24:00	Parada Folklor	Den kayanan di Rincon
<b>30 di aprel 2026</b>	<b>6:00 - 24:00</b>	<b>DIA DI RINCON</b>	<b>Den kayanan di Rincon</b>
1 di mei 2026	11:00 - 24:00	Kareda di Baiskel / Saka raton	Den kayanan di Rincon

BOINAIRE

DJADUMINGU

26 APREL 26

21:00 - 03:00

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## OPRUIMEN EN HELPEN?

Nieuwe of gebruikte spullen, huisraad, gereedschap, speelgoed, kunst, decoratie, keuken apparaten, elektronica etc etc. **Doneer uw spullen aan de Rotary Club Bonaire en steun daarmee goede doelen op Bonaire.**

*Neem contact met ons op en we halen het op!*

New and used items, household goods, tools, toys, art, decorations, kitchen appliances, electronics, etc etc.

**Donate your items to the Rotary Club and sustain good causes on Bonaire.**

*Contact us and we will pick it up.*

## KAS LIMPIO, YUDA SERKA!

Artíkulonán nobo òf usa, artíkulonán di kas, hèrmèntnan, ko'i hunga, arte, dekorashonnan, aparatonan di kushina, elektróniko, etc **Duna na Rotary Club pa sostene bon causa na Boneiru.**

*Tuma kontakto ku nos i nos ta buské.*



**DIA DI REI - APRIL 27**

**CONTACT US**

For donations & info



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# No dogs on beaches

## STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
- Playa Chachacha
- Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
- Fòm'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
- Sorobon and Cai
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
- Tolo
- Klein Bonaire





# BONAIRE FRIENDS

*CELEBRATING THE BEST PART OF BONAIRE*

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING  
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**SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US**

We're celebrating the wonderful people of Bonaire and want to hear your stories! Have you met a local who made your visit unforgettable, maybe by showing you a hidden gem, helping you try something new, or simply lending a kind hand?

Share your experience and tell us about your Bonaire Friend, they could be recognized with a special prize!



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