



April 22 to May 6, 2026. Year 33, Issue 8

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Artemis II “Hello, World” April 2026 by NASA astronaut and mission commander Reid Wiseman

When Nasa Apollo 17 astronauts took the first ever photograph of the whole Earth in 1972, they called it the “Blue Marble”. The world was amazed, and that one photo became a kind of spark to the beginning of environmental awareness. The Earth Day movement, established on April 22, 1970, adopted the image as their symbol. Now 54 years later, the Artemis II captured another image of Earth and despite the difference in photo technology used, film vs digital, and time of day when the photo was taken, the effects of climate change are evident.

Our oceans are warming and over the last 20 years satellites show a color change due to the changes in ocean ecosystems. From space, land vegetation looks greener due to higher levels of CO2 and the size of glaciers and forests are shrinking.

We’ve all heard the phrase, “One picture is worth a thousand words” and perhaps this latest Earth image could be a wakeup call for all of us.

In the last few years, Bonaire has become more aware of what is occurring on our planet. The high cost of imported foods, a declining coral reef due to runoff and the warming ocean, power and water that can’t keep up with the growing population / visitors and an inefficient disposal of waste. Sargassum and plastic drift onto our shores and our streets are clogged with petroleum fueled vehicles contaminating the air.

Environmentalist and 45th US Vice President Al Gore said, “We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it”.

On the Earthday.org website we can all learn so much about what we are doing to Mother Earth and what we as individuals can do to prevent or at least slow down the effects of climate change.

Bonaire is making changes and adapting, but like everywhere else, people and government are slow to change. The single use plastics elimination project helped a lot on the is-

land, but more can be done. Worldwide billions upon billions of plastic waste clog our oceans, lakes and rivers and harm our plants and wildlife. The majority of people now carry their own refillable water bottle and still one billion plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide.

Imported food is almost a given on an island but in the not-so-distant past, Bonaire grew the majority of their own food, and



Saeed Louren in the garden at his Nature Cooking School
Photo Julie Morgan

many are doing it again. Regenerative (syntropic) agriculture is taking hold with many on Bonaire. Saeed Louren’s Nature Cooking School teaches others how to grow and prepare food to table.

Reforestation is being practiced and encouraged on Bonaire by STINAPA and Tera Barra. This is the perfect fight against reducing the temperature of the Earth and hence preventing climate change and greening our planet. Adding 10% more green cover could reduce the surface temperature by 2.2°C (36° F)

As for transportation alternatives, Bonaire’s rental companies and six dealerships are offering EV’s (electric vehicles) for sale. Charging can be done from your home or at one of the new charging stations. One dealership offers a car for as little as \$11k.

Solar companies, like Blue Sky Solar can outfit your home with solar to not only reduce your electric but charge your EV.

Coral Reefs worldwide have taken a beating from over development, non-sustainable fishing, chemical and sewage runoff and invasive species. Add a warming ocean due to too much CO2 caused by petroleum fuel use and we have diseased coral and a drastic drop in marine life. But Bonaire has made huge steps in regenerating the corals with Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and dedicated volunteers.

Earth Day can be practiced every day, visit Earthday.org.
“Change can happen if we all live like we’d like the change”
Al Gore

Julie Morgan
Earthday.org; orbitaltoday.com; BBC.com;
redsharknews.com; theconversation.com

Two parties are wary regarding Landfill solution



Three parties have a vested interest in seeing an early end to the deadly Lagun Landfill debacle: State Secretary Eric van der Burg, the members of Pro Lagun, and the newly installed island government. The first two have serious mistrust issues.

Following his recent visit to the island, State Secretary Eric van der Burg said the government wants to help Bonaire solve its landfill problems. However, he says, the Bonaire Public Body (OLB) has to want the government to solve the landfill problems. As the public knows, the previous executive council was reluctant to surrender authority and was an uncooperative partner. Therefore repeated ad-

ministrative agreements produced zero results. That, van der Burg implies, was because they were type-3 agreements.

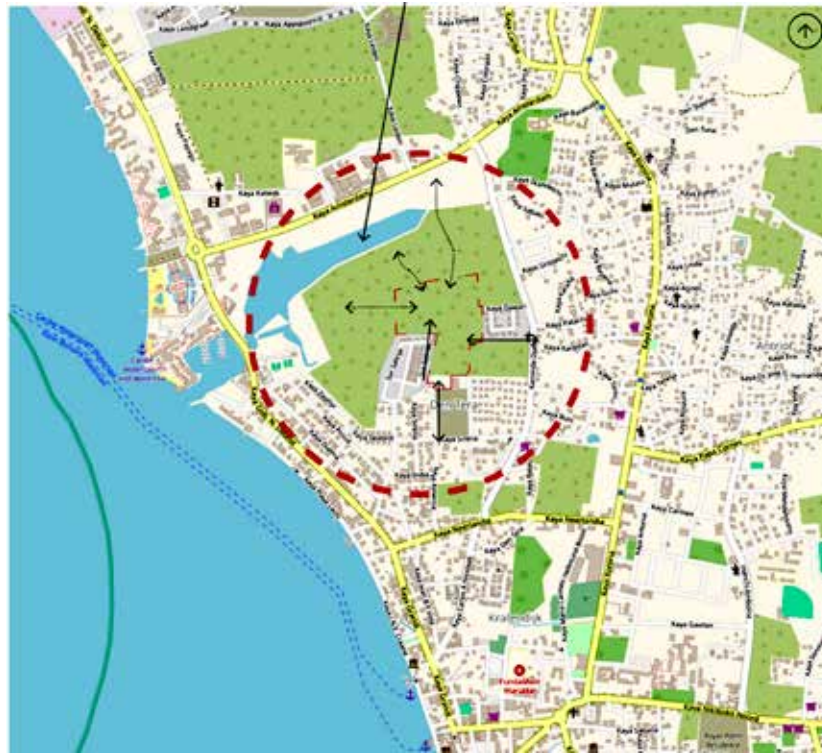
Type-3 agreements have to be pre-negotiated in detail and require mutual trust and cooperation to succeed. Therefore, van der Burg further implies he now can support only a Type-4 agreement, which would essentially turn the project over to the central government. Work could

proceed promptly, he says, and progress would be reported regularly to the public.

Jan Verbeek, chair of Pro Lagun, the group representing the area residents who for years have been living in the smoke and alongside the pollution, says: "For so long now, promises have been made that something would be done, yet absolutely nothing visible has actually happened." He indicated his group has already heard too many promises. They need to see some immediate and concrete action.

Now all eyes are turned to the new Island coalition and executive council. Will they seize the opportunity? *DMR*

OLB preparing tenders for the Dawari development



The comment period having ended, the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) is proceeding to prepare the invitations to tender for the planned Dawari development in the vicinity of Salina de Vlijt. Two related tenders have been announced: the preparation for construction and residential use of the Dawari development area, and the allocation of development fields A, B, and E in the Dawari area.

The preparations for construction and residential use works comprise: preparing the sub-base for roads and paths, including wildlife grids and other facilities; creating utility trenches, including empty conduits; creating niches; laying the final paving; and all associated facilities. This work will be carried out in accordance with the nature-inclusive area development approach.

Regarding the tendering for the allocation of development fields: full information, including the size and location of residential fields A, B, and E, the number

of homes to be realized, the urban planning and programmatic frameworks, the

tender rules, and the award criteria, is available via bonairewoondeal.com.

DMR

Dutch education system shortchanging Island schools, report says

Although schools on Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius are part of the Dutch education system, the Dutch education system is not meeting its obligation to provide students in the islands with the schooling they need, according to an advisory report published by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science. Legislation, policy, and implementation must be better aligned with the specific circumstances of education on the islands.

According to the Chair of the Education Council, Louise Elffers, "Children and young people on Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius have a right to good ed-

ucation. Providing education on these islands is accompanied by structural vulnerabilities that should not be left to individual schools. A targeted effort and additional investment by the Dutch government is not only necessary but also justified to truly realize the right to good education for all children and young people in the Caribbean Netherlands."

The report recommends several measures: • Doing a better job of adapting programs to the different career paths followed by young people from the islands. • Providing schools in the islands with the instruments, resources, and support which educational organizations in

the European Netherlands take for granted. • Better preparing island students who come to the Netherlands for further learning, especially assuring they have the language skills they need to succeed in the new educational environment. • Improving the level of instruction by doing a better job of recruiting and onboarding teaching staff, and by facilitating training and knowledge sharing within and between teaching teams.

The report further recommends increasing the quality and quantity of education administrators and school leaders on the islands.

DMR

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How to Find Us
 Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Also available in 77 locations on Bonaire
 Printed every two weeks

Next edition: May 6, 2026
Contributor's Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2026
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Distribution: Divi-Divi Airline
Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
Founders: George & Laura DeSalvo
 KVK # 12190 (SBI 58130)
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Growing Up Caring for Bonaire

For Ernest de Lanoy, caring for Bonaire comes naturally.

He grew up on the island, surrounded by its nature. The sea. The land. The quiet spaces in between. It is where he feels at home, and where he feels a responsibility to give something back.

That is what led him to the Junior Rangers program of STINAPA.

As a Junior Ranger, he learns by doing. Spending time outdoors. Paying attention. Understanding how small actions shape the island over time.

Ernest has seen that change happen. Beaches becoming cleaner. Less litter along the roads. More people paying attention to what they leave behind. Small shifts that add up.

He is also part of hands-on projects that protect the island. Helping prepare collection bins for discarded fishing gear at dive sites. Simple PVC structures that keep fishing lines and hooks out of the sea.



For Ernest, it all connects.

Nature provides. It gives calm, space, and meaning. It is something he wants future generations to experience in the same way.

Caring for Bonaire is not something separate.

It is something he chooses, every day.

Nos ta biba di naturalesa.

OUR POWER, OUR PLANET



- **Location: Santa Barbara**
- **3 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms / laundry room / garage / extra multi-use bonus room**
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Kultura celebrated for 45+ years at WSNP

If you want to know anything about Bonaire's 5600 ha Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP), your best source for knowledge is not a guidebook or even Fuhikubo, but Chief Ranger George "Kultura" Thode. He has been working at WSNP since he was a youngster back in 1970, a year after the park began in 1969. On April 1, 1981 at the age of 18, George began his lifelong career as a ranger and later chief ranger in 1999.

On April 13 "Kultura" was acknowledged for his 45 years of service as a ranger by family, friends, government organizations and park colleagues in a small celebration at WSNP.

The program was led by Papa Cicilia relating George's history with the park. Speakers included WSNP director Melissa van Hoorn, WSNP manager Demis Nicasta, head of Culture for OLB and Deputy for Care and Society Timeteo Silberie, historian Boi Antoin and author Frans Booi. Helen Mercera of Tourism Corporation Bonaire presented George a special recognition plaque for 45 years of preserving nature at WSNP, a TCB hat and TCB branded water bottle. Arde di Palabra winner 12-year-old Nichanthalie Moline read her poem "In your nature, your wealth lies".

Local band, Los Orgullos de Bonaire played several of Kultura's favorite songs and provided the music for some spontaneous dancing by the crowd. Snacks, drinks and two cakes were served in celebration of George's 45 years.



Biologist and WSNP ranger Paolo Bertuol bows to "Kultura" Photo Julie Morgan

After many years at WSNP, George says he is supposed to retire in about 14 months but may stay on a bit longer if possible. On retirement he will continue working for his organization Kadimo, which he began in 1983, that focuses on spreading knowledge to schools of Bonaire's flora, fauna and cultural stories. He is working to get the story of the park on paper for future generations.

Kultura said, "My greatest dream for STINAPA is to see the rangers and locals work together to care for the park."

To learn more about George "Kultura" Thode visit our online Reporter archives for cover story in our April 7 – 21, 2021 issue.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



George and his sister enjoy some cake and a laugh Photo Julie Morgan



Roxanne-Liana Francisca, WWF-NL Dutch Caribbean Lead

Our power, our planet. That is the theme for Earth Day 2026. Celebrated on April 22nd, this is a day for us all to reflect on how our actions, both

Earth Day 2026: Our Power, Our Planet

collective and individual, impact ourselves, our ecosystems, and our planet. On Bonaire, but also globally, conversations around nature protection, climate change impacts, climate justice, climate adaptation, and equitable transitions are making their way into daily discourse. For decades we have tried to convince ourselves that our actions had no real or lasting impact on the planet, but as extreme weather events become ever more frequent and more likely, this illusion is slowly being shattered.

It is well understood that climate change will not affect all countries and territories the same. And it is often those states that have least contributed to the crisis, and have fewer resources to adapt, who are hardest hit by this existential crisis. The slogan "1.5°C to stay alive" adopted by small island developing states (SIDS) was meant to underscore the importance of international collaboration and a true global commitment to capping CO2 emissions, limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C above

pre-industrial levels, and ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society. Unfortunately, despite some landmark international treaties such as the Paris Climate Accord, a global agreement on climate mitigation and climate financing, and the Glasgow Climate Pact, outlining global commitments to reducing the use of fossil fuels, being signed by more than 190 parties we see that global CO2 levels are still rising.

When talking about power, there are two ways to interpret this year's Earth Day slogan. We can think of literal power; the energy we need to power our lives and how this is generated. The use of fossil fuels has undoubtedly brought progress, but knowing what we know now, how long can we continue to cling to the old way of doing things, knowing the harm it inflicts on our planet now and in the future? From private citizens to civil society and governments, many are taking steps to accelerate the transition to more sustainable alternatives. With the first conference on the transition

away from fossil fuels being organized in Colombia at the end of April, co-hosted by the Netherlands, we can hope that meaningful steps will be taken.

Another way to interpret our power is through the power of collective action. The impacts of an increasingly unpredictable climate and declining biodiversity affect us all. That is why it is important to work together. And many already do! Civil society organizations locally and internationally band together to protect nature across borders. Initiatives protecting sea turtles, whales, and dolphins continue to gain traction, bringing together islands and territories across the Caribbean and beyond. The result? Populations of some species, like green turtles and humpback whales, are slowly increasing. But even closer to home, our actions can make a difference. Small local actions like being more conscious about our consumption, advocating with policy makers and public representa-

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POLICE REPORT

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

Meet KPCN's new community officer



Property crimes

Apr. 17. Unknown persons gained access to a hospitality establishment on Kaya Nikita and searched it. Presumably, only alcohol was stolen.

Apr. 10. An electric bicycle (fatbike) EB2 PRO was stolen while it was parked with a chain lock on Kaya Grandi.

Apr. 9. Cash was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle while it was parked on the grounds of a church on Kaya Korona.

Apr. 5. Cash was reported stolen from a bag in a car parked on the grounds of a church on Kaya Korona.

Apr. 2. An electric bicycle (fatbike) was stolen while parked near a catering establishment on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund.

Apr. 2. An electric bicycle (fatbike) OUXI was stolen while parked on Kaya Grandi.

Arrests

Apr. 19. 5 p.m. A man, 64, was arrested on Kaya Filomena for public drunkenness and obstructing traffic while under the influence of alcohol. The police found the suspect asleep in his vehicle, which was blocking traffic at the intersection of Kaya Filomena and Kaya Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez. When the officers woke him up, he refused to follow the police orders and became aggressive.

Apr. 15. 9:30 a.m. A man, 60, was arrested in the downtown area when he threatened a police officer, resisted arrest and failed to comply with police orders.

Apr. 11. 1:15 a.m. Patrol noticed a fight at a catering establishment on Kaya Grandi. In the presence of police, one man injured the other with a bottle. The injured man was taken to the hospital by ambulance. One man, 47, was arrested for assault with a weapon, and the other man, 49, for threat and violation of the Arms Act BES. A sawed-off shotgun (Stanleys) was also seized at the scene.

Apr. 10. 7 p.m. A civilian officer observed two individuals running back-to-back on Kaya Marcela, one holding a baseball bat. At one point, one of the individuals assaulted the other with the bat. The civilian officer knew to get between the two, separate both individuals, and seize the bat. While the officer was administering first aid to the victim and waiting for the ambulance, the other man returned with a large rock in his hand. He fired it up to two times in the direction of the officer and the victim, forcing the officer to draw his service weapon and fire a warning shot. Accordingly, the man, 27, was arrested for assault with a weapon and aggravated assault. The civilian officer also filed reports of attempted aggravated assault.

Apr. 9. 2:15 p.m. A man, 37, was arrested for violating the Firearms Act BES. The arrest is related to the investigation of a shooting incident that occurred on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at Kaya Princess Marie. Following the arrest, a house search was conducted at a residence on Kaya Pamper, where a firearm was seized.

Apr. 8. 2 p.m. A man, 70, was arrested for theft. The suspect allegedly took goods from a boat business on several days without paying for them.

Apr. 7. 11:00 a.m. A man, 24, was arrested in Wilhelmina Square for violation of the Opium Act BES.

Traffic accidents

'Botsen is blazen' (to collide is to blow) a breath test is given drivers who have accidents.

Apr. 17. 8 a.m. A car and a scooter collided on the E.E.G. Boulevard. The driver of the scooter was taken to the hospital by ambulance. The car driver tested negative for alcohol use. Due to medical priority, a breathalyzer test could not be administered to the driver of the scooter. The driver of the car was fined for driving without a valid driver's license.

Apr. 15. 11:15 a.m. On Miguel A. Pourier Boulevard a vehicle crashed into a concrete wall. Three occupants were taken by ambulance to the hospital. A blood test was given the driver, which revealed no evidence of alcohol use.

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 Apr. 3 to Apr. 19. Police reported that 12 drivers (including three scooter drivers) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. A breath analysis at the police station revealed that one suspect hadn't exceeded the legal limit, and he was released.

The drivers were tested after: driving erratically (3x), attempted hit-and-runs (3x), a collision between a van and a motorcycle (1x), a collision with only material damage (1x); driving a scooter without a helmet (2x), colliding with another DUI driver (2x). Four driver's licenses were confiscated and driving bans of two-, four- and six- hours were given.

In two separate cases, a scooter driver and a car driver were also charged with failing to comply with police orders and resisting arrest. The scooter driver tried to run away and was apprehended when he lost the foot chase. In the second case, the car driver drove away when signaled to stop. The patrol car pursued him through several streets before eventually managing to block his vehicle. During the check, this driver, age 32, stated that he had consumed alcohol and didn't have a driver's license. In addition, the other two occupants of the car, aged 36 and 17, could not identify themselves and were both detained for breaching the Duty of Identification Act BES. The vehicle was impounded.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

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

Apr. 18. During the afternoon and evening 11 trucks transporting cargo were pulled over and drivers were checked for a valid driver's license, a valid insurance, and license plates. Fines were given for driving without: valid license plates (2x); a valid driver's license (2x); valid insurance (1x). One false license plate was seized and four drivers were given warnings regarding license plates.

Apr. 12. After an event in Rincon police checked nighttime traffic on the road between Rincon and Playa. The check focused on traffic safety, and the possession of a valid driver's license and valid insurance. In addition, police vehicles were preemptively deployed at strategic points and patrolling was carried out. Of the 13 vehicles checked, all drivers had valid documents.

Traffic violation fines range from \$30 to \$225.

Fire

Apr. 14. 2:15 a.m. A fire was reported at Kaya J.E. Nicholas in the cab of a vehicle used as a food truck. Police evacuated buildings as the fire began to spread. Soon after, firefighters arrived on the scene and managed to extinguish the fire. Police are investigating arson.

Apr. 6. 7:40 p.m. Two vehicles were reported on fire on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. The fire department extinguished the fire. An investigation is underway to determine whether arson was involved. Shortly thereafter, around 8 p.m. a shooting incident was reported near the Mamparia Kutu neighborhood. At the scene police and detectives found shell casings. An investigation is underway to determine whether these incidents are related.

Apr. 3. 9:40 a.m. several cyclists found a burned-out vehicle near the caves at Onima. It was the Suzuki minibus, license B-18478, stolen from the premises of a company on Kaya Watt. The items stolen during the break-in at the company have not been found.

Public order

Apr. 19. 3:45 a.m. Police closed a catering establishment on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. Approximately 10 people were in the establishment after the permitted closing time. The business was closed immediately, and the owner received an official report for violating the BES Alcohol and Catering Act.

Apr. 7. Police received reports that narcotics were found on board a cruise ship docked at Nello Craane Pier during a check. The suspected narcotics, which came from three tourists on the ship were seized.

Street Races

Apr. 18. During the afternoon police received a report of fevering and illegal street races obstructing other traffic near Kaminda Yato Bako and the entrance to Amboina. As soon as the police appeared, the group riding scooters and fatbikes left the location.

Apr. 12. Police cracked down on illegal street racing and fevering that takes place during the weekend on Kaminda di Sorobon. Although it is common knowledge that such activities on the public road are illegal, a large audience, including the elderly, youth, minors and infants still choose to be present and participate. To ensure everyone's safety, police were on the scene preemptively. This action prevented the illegal activities from continuing.

Firearm surrender

Mar. 23 to Apr. 3. During the surrender action, two firearms, one sword and two pieces of explosive material were handed over.

Preventive searches

Apr. 8 to 11. The Chief Justice of the Public Prosecutor's Office authorized police to conduct preventive searches in designated security risk areas including Tera Korá, Nikiboko, Playa, Antriol, Nort'i Saliña and Rincon pursuant to the Firearms Act BES.

During the operation, suspected narcotics were seized and/or destroyed. In addition, several drivers have been issued warnings for having items in their vehicles that can be used as weapons.

KPCN bike team

Eight officers have recently been certified for the KPCN bike team. The team has existed since 2009, and mobility is seen as its major advantage. The bikers can easily move through crowds, narrow alleys, and busy streets. Therefore, the bike team is perfect for patrolling during the cruise season and at major events where many people are on the streets such as Carnival, Dia di Rincon, and the Regatta. If called, they can easily move to an area that has been cordoned off or where cars cannot reach quickly. In addition, the bikers are highly visible and easy for the public to approach.

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.

A dialogue with Indebon

An Open letter to Indebon and all it concerns

After reading how Indebon was advocating involvement/inclusion for all in sports activities, particularly beach tennis, and I am glad people are moving and exercising. However I was very disappointed to arrive at the beach tennis courts with three young people to find them totally filled for training with no available courts for public use. When the courts emptied for a break from the training, I asked if we could use the empty courts to try out the game and was told to come back over an hour later. This is unwarranted and definitely not in line with your advertised availability of courts and equipment. Further, it was definitely not a friendly or accommodating act of the trainer, who should have been more encouraging in trying to interest players into the sport.

In the future, when training takes place at least two courts should be made available should someone, not involved with the training, want to use one. Obviously, if no one wants to use them the training could use all the courts but it is rude, at best, to not make room for the public. Tournaments are different as they are advertised well in advance although, rather than add to the courts that are at Rudy Boezem, it would be wise to actually

put courts at beaches, Te Amo, Pink, Kite, Sorobon, and perhaps a land based one or two in Rincon, so more courts can be available for more people.

Further more, the state of tennis courts on Bonaire is atrocious. The poorly run Bonaire Tennis Association plays tournaments on the Sand Dollar Courts which have dangerous cracks in the surface and poor drainage but have improved lighting. The public court at Nort Salina is not properly enclosed and often used for purposes not intended, I.e. batting practice, bicycle tricks. The courts behind the MCB bank in Playa have cracks also, no working lights and are 'reserved' inconsistently and politically. There were four very good courts at Harbour Village that went into disuse and disrepair due to the inability of the government to work with the owners of Harbour Village. I understand there are courts made in Rincon and Tera Cora but I do not know their condition or status but suspect them to be multi-use and not conducive to serious tennis play,

A priority should be made to improve the public tennis facilities before any further improvements or expansion of Beach Tennis occurs.

Respectfully, Charles M. Baltayan

Indebon responds

Bontardi Charles,

Thank you for your message and for taking the time to share your experience and concerns with us.

First, we regret that your experience at the beach tennis courts did not reflect the open and accessible environment we strive to provide. Sports and physical activity should be available to everyone, and a welcoming attitude is an important part of that. We will raise this matter with the beach tennis organization to ensure that situations like this are addressed and improved where necessary.

At the same time, we would like to highlight that there are many ongoing developments within the sports sector on Bonaire. Over the past years, INDEBON has been working extensively on improving facilities, expanding activities, and supporting a wide range of sports. This

means that we are required to set priorities, as it is not feasible to address all needs and improvements at once.

We understand the concerns raised regarding tennis facilities and acknowledge that there are areas that require attention. These are part of a broader planning and development process, which takes time, coordination, and available resources.

We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to work step by step towards improving sports infrastructure and accessibility for the entire community. This is a shared responsibility, and we count on all stakeholders to contribute constructively to this process.

We appreciate your feedback and remain committed to improving where possible.

Kind regards,

Charles responds

Thanks for your response.

I understand the need for proper planning for fair and equitable distribution of resources but please be aware that Beach Tennis has received far more attention, many more times than tennis has. The courts that tennis tournaments are generally played on are disgraceful and frankly, dangerous. No real attention has been given to tennis in the 14 years I have been here save for the multi-use courts in the neighborhoods that do not properly serve tennis players. Tourists have come and advised that they get no replies from the Bonaire Tennis Association when seeking courts and/or information and are

appalled at the conditions. This is not in keeping with the goal of attracting 'quality/luxury tourists' or properly promoting/maintaining existing sports.

I appreciate that you will contact the BTB regarding the use and availability of the courts as I often mountain bike by during times when the courts are supposed to be accessible with available equipment and all appears empty with equipment inaccessible. That the courts were full was a surprise to me but that they were inaccessible, even for a quick trial, was inexcusable.

It was a much more fun game when it was at the beach but I am glad for its popularity.

Charles M. Baltayan

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
I'm in the process of buying a plot of land and I am not entirely sure where the exact boundaries are. Who is responsible for confirming that the property boundaries are correct, me or the seller? Regards, Eric

Hi Eric,

Good question.

The seller is required to provide all information known to him about the property, including the Kadaster details, and to disclose any known issues such as boundary disputes. However, in practice, what is on paper does not always match what you see. Fences, walls, or markers can be misplaced or could have been moved over time.

Surveying techniques have been improved over the past 20-30 years, so older boundary markings may not be as accurate as what can be determined today.

That is why it is important that you, as the buyer, do your own due diligence before closing. The safest way to be certain is to have a licensed surveyor mark out the exact boundaries, or you can request the Kadaster office to officially mark the boundary points. It is a small investment compared to potential problems you can avoid later.

My advice: do not rely on what "looks right." Make sure it is properly confirmed so you know exactly what you are buying.

Good luck with your purchase.

Regards, Bob

Bob Bartikoski,

Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

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info@bonairehomes.com.

Bonaire: +599-717-7362.

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Earth Day ..from page 4

tives, or even just talking to your neighbours all result in bigger actions that help to move the needle.

It is easy to get discouraged; at times the challenge looks almost unsurmountable. But we can do this. I know because we have done this before. When the hole in the ozone layer was expanding, we came together and worked together to fix this. When acid rain was impacting our forests, we passed legislation to remediate it. Now we get to do it again and this time it is to secure our own survival.

Roxanne-Liana Francisca;

Dutch Caribbean Program Lead at WWF-NL

Recommended reading: The Ministry for the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson

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Wines & More Lionfish Tasting a Hit

If you love beautifully prepared food with perfectly paired wine and want to protect our coral reefs, then you would have loved Wines & More's Lionfish Tasting Evening on April 17 and 18.

Chef Mathieu Savelkoul's and sommelier Annemarie Borst wow diners every day with their unique menu but this dinner was truly something out of the ordinary even for them. They joined forces for the second time with Private Divers who provided the lionfish from their hunts and assisted Mathieu in the kitchen to create an experience that made you feel good with every bite.

The first event held earlier this year sold out in 30 minutes. The second edition, announced back in March for the April 17 tasting sold out in 30 minutes too. Mathieu and Annemarie scheduled yet another dinner on the 18th to a sold-out crowd.

The three-course menu featured a starter of lionfish soup served with a rouleau of lionfish. The main was a tasting of different preparations of lionfish: lionfish ceviche on a tostada, lionfish wings, lionfish "kibbeling" (deep fried in beer batter with their special seasoning) and sushi with smoked lionfish, mango, avocado and Sriracha mayonnaise. No lionfish in the dessert but it was the perfect complement to the soup and main. Chef Mathieu created a tartlette with a mousse of passionfruit and chamomile, passionfruit curd and a foam of Earl Grey tea.



Shown Below: The Lionfish Chef Team - Sybrand van 't Oever, Mathieu, Annemarie Borst and Johan Berbeek



Annemarie perfectly paired the entrée's with wine. For the soup, a Domaine la Bergerade, la nuit d'Étang, grape varieties: Roussanne and Rolle from Languedoc France. The main was paired with a bolder wine, the Ca'n Verdura Viticultors, Supernova, grape variety: Moll from Mallorca, Spain. And the dessert was perfectly paired with a not too sweet Reserve du Ciron Sauternes AOC - Calvet, grape varieties: Muscadelle, Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon from Bordeaux, France.

As a diver and sometime lionfish hunter, Annemarie said, "We want to show that such an invasive species can be used in many different ways with using (almost) all parts of the fish..."

To bring that point home, Wines & More sells lionfish jewelry from Laura's Lionfish Creations.

Lionfish are an invasive species in Caribbean waters. They eat the algae eaters on the reef like parrotfish, surgeonfish and Long-spined Sea Urchins. Without a strong population of these herbivores the algae can grow out of control on our coral reefs.

Wine's & More Bonaire is hoping to return with this event every three months, to be announced on their socials.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

What on earth..... is happening to our Mother Earth?



L- R: Bonaire National Marine Park manager Judith Bakker and STINAPA director Melissa van Hoorn Photo Julie Morgan

Our planet is capable of serving all the different creatures living on it, including us human beings.

Many songs have been written about worshipping our beautiful blue green

planet. "Earth Song" by Michael Jackson is one of the most touching songs there is about worries and concerns on what we, human beings, are doing to the earth. As director of STINAPA I do share those concerns, but I also stay hopeful.

Because I believe in the resilience of our planet. Our Planet Earth has resemblances with an autonomous organism, like the Gaia theory by James Lovelock that proposes that the Earth functions as a self-regulating system. With an equilibrium in our Earth's layers, from soil to atmosphere, organisms live in a specific balance, keeping the livable aspect intact. It was one of the first books that holds between hard core science, that I used to read as an Environmental Science student, and a theory that wasn't yet at the state of a completely proven concept.

As STINAPA's manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park, I witness daily both the profound resilience and vulnerability of our marine environment. Mirroring the theme for Earth Day 2026, 'Our Power, Our Planet,' we aim to harness collective action to protect ocean health through policy, science, education, advocacy and community mobilization. While our marine environment's balance is threatened by a multitude of factors such as land erosion and warming waters, we can see nature's self-regulating power when supported by human stewardship.

Urging us to exercise our collective power to ensure that our underwater treasures thrive for future generations.

We believe in the resilience of our Mother Earth. She is the greatest. She is the best. Bacteria can clean polluted soils and eat plastic bottles, arid areas can return to fresh and green vegetation, locally extinct mammals are reentering central Europe and the hole in the ozone layer is reducing. Yes, we are optimistic. Because without optimism, there is not a goal to be reached. Although it's hard to estimate when which recovery will start, and which generation will benefit from it. One thing is clear: we, as human beings, are polluters of our own nest. And we need to stop doing that. Urgently. Meanwhile organizations like STINAPA take care of and maintain its values, protecting against further decay, managing improvements and creating awareness. It feels like a privilege to do that, but it would feel so much better, if it was not necessary.

Melissa van Hoorn, STINAPA director
Judith Bakker BNMP manager

Tomorrow is
growing here.
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naturalesabonaire.com

BES island councils to be expanded

Eric van der Burg, State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations, is moving forward with strengthening the BES government councils by increasing the number of island council members and commissioners. He aims to ensure the Increase Act takes effect in time for the island council elections in March 2027. This will improve representation for residents in the island councils. Additionally, the workload is too heavy for the present number of commissioners on the Executive Council. More will be added for the workload. *DMR*

The Netherlands and Venezuela to resume diplomatic relations

The interim government in Venezuela has announced it will lift restrictions imposed on Dutch diplomats eight years ago. Foreign Minister Berendsen has confirmed to the House that the Netherlands wants to reestablish diplomatic relations by appointing an ambassador and setting up an embassy in Caracas.

The Netherlands has been represented in Venezuela by a business agent since the controversial presidential election of 2018. When diplomatic relations deteriorated further in 2025, the Venezuelan government reduced the Dutch diplomats allowed in Caracas to three. The Netherlands retaliated by limiting the number of Venezuelan diplomats in The Hague.

Berendsen says the Netherlands wants more stable relations and to strengthen the commitment to democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.

DMR (Source: Hans Hofstra.)

No free dengue vaccination

The Health Council to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) for the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom has announced that no dengue vaccinations will be performed. According to the Council, there are still too many uncertainties regarding the vaccine's efficacy and safety. However, Residents can be vaccinated at their own expense. *DMR*

Cabinet challenges Greenpeace ruling

On January 28, 2026, a Dutch court ruled the Dutch State had violated the human rights of Bonaire's residents by failing to adequately protect them from the impacts of climate change. The case was filed by Greenpeace two years ago on behalf of eight dissident residents of Bonaire. The judgment has broad implications. The court ordered the Dutch government to implement a coherent climate adaptation plan for Bonaire by 2030, and to comply with the international requirement of net-zero emissions by 2050. The judgment could create future precedents for deciding similar cases brought anywhere in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The government feels the ruling was based on a questionable interpretation of the Paris Climate Agreement, on the use of extreme scenarios as factual expectations, and it failed to factor in international air and maritime transport.

Greenpeace's motives and tactics have been called into question. Filing an action in a complicated case on behalf of little BES has created a precedent that might be legally useful to Greenpeace in larger actions elsewhere in the future. *DMR*

Money coming for childcare in the Caribbean

The government will structurally increase the infant allowance by approximately 15 percent as of January 1st, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Hans Vijlbrief informed the House of Representatives. The increase is provided for in the Childcare Act BES.

According to Vijlbrief, the reimbursement paid to childcare organizations will include a surcharge for caring for babies. Babies are more expensive to look after than older children. Additional staff are required to comply with the BKR (Childcare Credit Regulation). Caregivers have to provide a separate sleeping area, diapers and food. Previously childcare organizations could ask parents to bring, say, their own diapers. Under the Wko BES legislation, that is no longer allowed. The new payments will help childcare organizations cover the costs of extra space, staffing, and supplies.

The baby allowance for full time care on Bonaire will increase by \$40 to \$306 per baby per month. For St. Eustatius the monthly allowance will increase from \$44 to \$340 per baby, and for Saba \$47 to \$362. An amendment to the BES Childcare Decree will be needed to allow for the increase.

Islanders can file civil rights complaints

Residents of the Caribbean Netherlands can now file an official complaint of a civil rights violation with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights. The Institute has launched a special multilingual website where complaints can be lodged.

<https://english.humanrightsincn.nl>

Creating Optimal Health

Why Negative Emotions Don't Have to Last: The 90-Second Reset. by Irene da Cunda Costa

In the previous issue I shared the concept of affective chronometry developed by Richard Davidson; his recommendations for regulating emotions include the practice of mindfulness, reinterpreting events, engaging in physical activity, and cultivating comforting emotions.

Neuroscience suggests that the body's initial emotional reaction may last only about 90 seconds. Everyone experiences moments of anger, frustration, anxiety, or sadness. Emotions carry important information and are a natural part of being human. These emotions should not be ignored or suppressed, but understanding how the brain processes them can give people more control over how long those feelings last.

For some people, once these feelings start, they are stuck with them for hours—or even days.

When an emotional trigger occurs, the brain releases a cascade of chemicals that produce the physical sensations of emotion, such as a racing heart, muscle tension, or a flushed face. That chemical response moves through the body relatively quickly, usually in about a minute and a half. This idea has been widely discussed in neuroscience and was popularized by neuroanatomist Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor.

So why do emotions often feel like they last much longer?

The answer lies in what happens after the initial re-

action. While the body may finish its chemical cycle in about 90 seconds, the mind often keeps the emotion alive by replaying the situation repeatedly. We think about what happened, what we should have said, or what might happen next. Each time we revisit the story in our minds, we reactivate the emotional response.

In other words, the original emotion may pass quickly, but our thoughts can keep it going.

Researchers studying emotional regulation have found that learning to pause and observe an emotion, rather than immediately reacting to it, can help the brain return to a calmer state more quickly. This process involves the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain responsible for reasoning and emotional regulation, which helps calm the brain's emotional center, known as the amygdala.

One simple technique sometimes called the "90-second reset" can help people interrupt the cycle of emotional escalation.

First, notice and name the emotion. Instead of saying "I am angry," try saying to yourself, "I am feeling anger right now." This small shift creates psychological distance and activates the brain's regulatory systems.

Next, shift your attention away from the story and toward your body. Notice physical sensations such as tightness in your chest, warmth in your face, or tension in your shoulders. Observing these sensations with cu-

riosity, almost like a scientist, helps prevent the mind from fueling the emotion with more thoughts.

Then focus on slow breathing. A helpful pattern is to inhale slowly for about four seconds and exhale for about six seconds. Longer exhales activate the body's parasympathetic nervous system, which helps calm the stress response.

Finally, allow the sensation to pass. Imagine the emotion as a wave moving through your body. Your task is simply to ride the wave without feeding it with additional thoughts or judgments.

Often, within a minute or two, the intensity of the emotion decreases noticeably.

In a world where stress and emotional triggers are everywhere, from work pressures to social media, learning to pause for 90 seconds may be one of the simplest ways to regain emotional balance.



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.

Bonaire Chef's Club



Corjan Hoogerheide CEO Klub di Koki di Boneiru/ sous chef Sorobon Reef Bar; Egbert de Vries, At Home Bonaire; Mark Tromop, Pastries Bonaire; Patrick Holian, Horeca blogger; Ragnhild Isabella, Simply Greens Bonaire; Marchel van Gilst, The Lake Friet; Bianca van Gilst; Isidoor van Riemsdijk, SGB; Richard Palsgraaf, SGB; Brandon Poort, De Smaakmaker Bonaire; Karin Suurland, Beer & Burgers Bonaire; Manouk Calkhoven, At Home; Nicolet de Jong, Landhuis Belnem and Wil Heemskerck, Flaming Flamingo Hot Sauce.

Marchel van Gilst brought three different types of fries from The Lake Friets, a company from the Netherlands originally based in the U.S. The potatoes, grown in the Netherlands, include skin-on, plain and crunchy.

During the presentations, the chefs enjoyed mojitos with microgreens made by Corjan and munched on some cheese and various Flaming Flamingo hot sauces provided by member Wil Heemskerck.

Corjan Hoogerheide prepared a dish featuring the Lake Friet skin on fries potatoes, micro greens arugula and radish, banana di ref, spring onion, fried onions, chili mayo, BBQ sauce, pickle, cheddar cheese and bacon.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan

If you are interested in being a part of Klub di Koki contact Corjan at cjhoogerheide@gmail.com



SGB student Suemerson digs into the fries and microgreens dish.



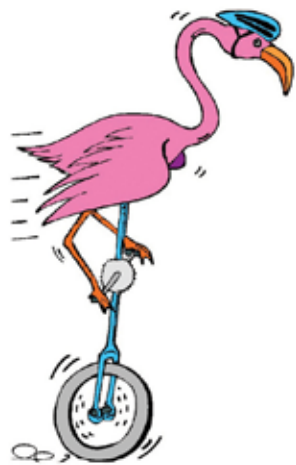
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What's Happening

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

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

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. <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 Hôfi Kultural Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: 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. **April's class is Wed. the 29th (to avoid Dia di Rincon on the 30th.)** Usually held last Thursday of the month. See this page. 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 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/1HPK6Y3Gm/?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

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 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 27 & Mon. May 4 @ Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanislandsmantaconservation/)

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefrenwalbonaire.org

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

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

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

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

Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

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

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

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700 <https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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 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 25	Team Bonaire Swimmers Fundraiser at Pelikaan School. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Photoshoot by Casper Douma Photography, porch sale, and a car wash are among the activities. Help the team get to Sonia O'Neal Memorial held in Barbados, May 19 -26. Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Monday, April 27	King's Birthday Public Holiday. Much is closed. Rotary Feria Giant flea market Wilhelmina Park Pop-up Market at Jong Bonaire 9 a.m. - 12 noon Kaya Simon Bolivar 16, Kralendijk,
Wednesday, April 29	Fish ID course. Free. "Wrasses: Masters of Many Phases" 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina & Dana Kowalsick. All welcome. Check: https://www.reef.org/events/month
Thursday, April 30	Dia di Rincon National holiday. Rincon is wide open. All else is closed. See Lead-up cultural events in online Reporter page 20+ See also <i>Facebook: Dia di Rincon Pagina Oficial</i> https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon
Friday, May 1	May 1: Labour Day Public Holiday. Much is closed. Two final activities Dia di Rincon: Biking for everyone. Saka Raton (Taking out the mouse) Music, dancing, and street parties in Rincon cap off weeks of cultural activities.
Friday, May 1	May 14: Ascension Day Public Holiday. Much is closed.
Friday & Saturday May 15 & 16	May 15 & 16: BON DOET, Bonaire's Volunteer Weekend Volunteers can sign up https://www.bondoet.com/nl/all-jobs https://www.facebook.com/bonairedoet/?locale=nl_NL
Saturday, May 16	Art & Justice. Art expo and Auction Fundraiser for Golden Meand Society (GMS) 5 p.m. At Sobremesa. See page15.
Sunday, May 17	OLB's Canon of Bonaire kick-off at Fontein. See page

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

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Saturday, April 25	The Beach Boost 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.
Sunday, May 10	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
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

Reef Glimpses - Open-Ocean Squid by Dee Scarr

The largest known living invertebrates are squid. The longest is the giant squid, and the weightiest is probably the stocky-bodied colossal squid. Since neither of these critters has ever been found alive and intact, the question remains unanswered.

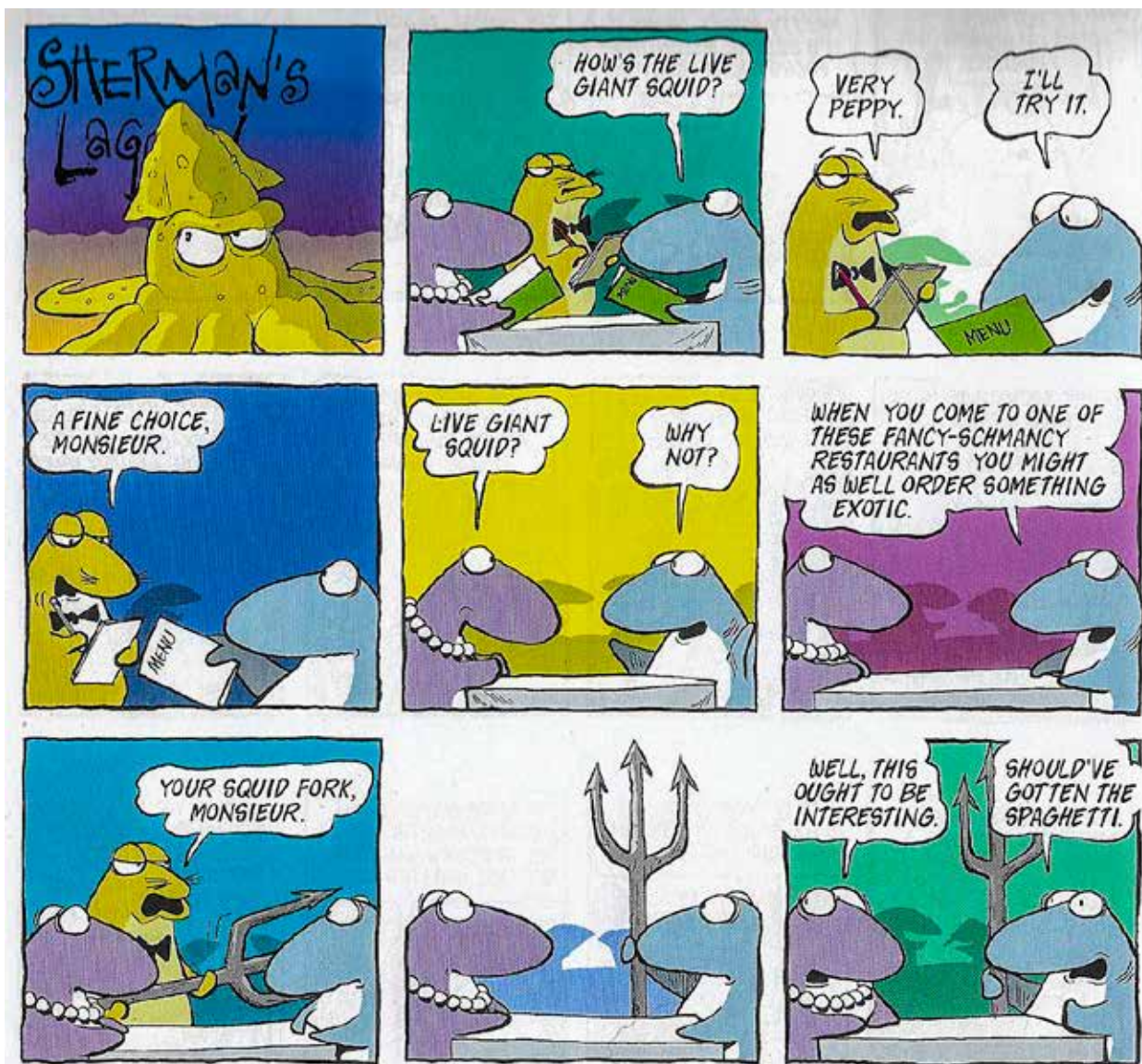
Squid are closely related to octopuses, and like octopuses, each squid has a parrotlike beak. A squid has eight arms, like an octopus, but in addition to its eight arms a squid also has two tentacles that can be extended to twice the length of its body. The squid sneaks up on its prey – just about any animal it can catch, including fish, crustaceans, and other squid – and thrusts its tentacles out to pull the critter into its arms. Then the prey is brought up to its mouth and, if necessary, torn to bite-sized pieces with its beak, for swallowing.

Some species of squid, particularly the larger ones, have a ring of chitin around the inside of each sucker on each arm. When the suction is engaged, for example on a whale's body or Alex Kerstitch's neck (more later), the chitin digs in like a ring of teeth, breaks the skin, and leaves a scar.

It's known that sperm whales prey upon squid, both by the scars of squid suckers on their bodies, and also by the squid beaks found in their stomachs; one source said a sperm whale could eat 800 squid a day (probably individuals smaller than the colossal and giant squids, though)! Other predators of squid include sharks and other fish, seabirds, seals, and just about any other open-ocean predators.

It's tough for me to imagine a squid succumbing to a predator. Although they have a beautiful fin going all around the sides and back of their bodies, they don't use it for propulsion. They don't need to, they have jet propulsion: they expand their mantle to draw in water, then squeeze it out forcefully through a tube called the siphon. The direction the siphon faces is the direction they travel. Some squid can even jet propel themselves out of the water like flying fish!

In the late '90's, a group of divers was in the Sea of Cortez shooting night dive footage for PBS. When fishermen reported "muy grande" squid being caught, the filming group went to check it out. When the squid didn't appear, they put bright lights and bait into the water, then biologist Alex Kerstitch jumped in to check things out. He returned before the cinematographers entered and went straight to his bunk. The others saw many squid below them and a few came up to where they were: Humboldt squid up to 5ft (1.5 m) long and weighing up to 100 lbs (45.35 kilos). The cinematographers enjoyed the squid and their rippling colors. It



Sherman's Lagoon by Jim Toomey. ©2026 Jim Toomey. Used with permission from the artist.

wasn't until the next morning they learned what had happened to Kerstitch:

Three squid had "mugged" him, taking his collecting gear, his dive computer, and even the gold chain from around his neck! Their quarter-sized suckers, lined with chitin "teeth", gave Alex a series of round red scars around his neck. His neck! Even worse, the squid dragged him down "very deep" while they were mugging him. Calling it a mugging makes light of it, Scott Cassell, also filming Humboldt squid in the Sea of Cortez, was also attacked by the squid and dragged downward. He too escaped, and he, too, was injured.

Since then, cooperative hunting by groups of Humboldt squid has been officially documented, but I sus-

pect Alex and Scott needed no persuasion.

Who's ready for a black-water dive in the Sea of Cortez?

(Next issue: Thank goodness for our squid!)

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.



Vegan Tomato Soup by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



For 1 liter (4 ¼ C): 200 g (7 oz) canned peeled tomatoes (diced) • 40 g (1.5 oz) tomato puree • 200 g (7 oz) tomato passata (paste) with onion and garlic • 200 g (7 oz) spicy tomato passata • 2 dl (6 ¾ oz) coconut milk • 2 dl (6 ¾ oz) vegetable stock • 30 g (2 T) butter (vegetable) • 12 g (1 T) flour •

1/2 onion, chopped • 1 red pointed bell pepper, chopped • 1 cm (3/8 in) fresh ginger root, finely chopped • 1 tsp paprika powder • 1 red chili pepper, chopped • a dash sweet soy sauce

Sauté in butter onion, bell pepper, and chili pepper. Add tomato paste and paprika. Heat through. Add flour and make a roux by stirring it well and cooking it lightly. Now add rest of ingredients and bring to a boil while stirring. Simmer gently for 15 minutes and puree with an immersion blender into a smooth tomato soup.

Whisk up some lightly warmed coconut milk to make the soup a bit lighter and add as a garnish, for example: croutons, polenta balls, mango cubes, grated coconut, jalapeno strips, bell pepper strips or chopped coriander.

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.



Official Results of the 2026 Kite Contest

The 44th Annual Kontest di Fli Boneiru, (Kite Contest) drew huge participation and crowds of locals and island guests from early in the morning to sundown on April 19 at the old airport. The wind cooperated most of the day bringing lift to the majority of kites with the exception of a 52m (170 ft) kite that needed a bit more wind. Children, adults, teams and families brought kites of all colors, designs and sizes. The creativity was boundless.

Bonaire's kite contest is a tradition and an important activity that helps preserve the culture of the island, stimulates creativity and strengthens the unity of the people.

Fundashon Kontest di Fli Boneiru president, Iris Semeler expressed her thanks to participants, volunteers, judges, media and sponsors that made the event possible.

*Fundashon Kòntèst di Fli Boneiru /
Photos Julie Morgan*



Final Results – Children

Largest Kite: Angel Julio Rodríguez – 5.40 meters; Smallest Kite: C'Jay Anthony – 13 cm; Most Beautiful Kite: Mariengelly Alberto; Most Unusual Kite: Mariengelly Alberto; Most Creative Kite: Eugendrea Albertus; Overall Winner: Mariengelly Alberto; Special Winner: Joshua Fluonia

Final Results – Adults

Largest Kite: Kursley Francees – 12.81 meters; Smallest Kite: Gilbert Martis – 28.5 cm; Most Beautiful Kite: Sanick Boezem; Most Unusual Kite: Patrick Thode; Most Creative Kite: Je- van Salmon; Overall Winner: Surrendel Statia; Special Winner: Janin Andrade



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Journey to Miss Universe has begun

Three finalists of Miss Universe Bonaire 2026 were formally announced during a ceremony at Macaroca Restaurant on April 11. The contestants will now embark on three months of training and preparation to strengthen their skills, confidence, and stage presence.

On June 27, one of these women will be crowned to represent Bonaire as Miss Universe Bonaire at the 75th Miss Universe in November located in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

L-R: Vivienne Vollebrect - Kralendijk; Caroline Porras - Antrio; Katherine Montero - Nor'i Salinja

A Mystery of the Walking Path in Hato

For much of the year they are hidden, below even the shortest of grasses along the path – and in numerous other places where people gather on Bonaire.

It is during our dry spells that they are revealed. They rest on dead grasses, dozens of them, each only about an inch in length. Like the lionfish who have invaded our waters, they are poisonous, and their numbers are increasing. Their lifespan, around 15 years, is about five years more than that of lionfish.

They differ from lionfish in a few significant ways. First, their poison delivery is passive rather than aggressive, leaking poison into the ground for the 15 years of their lives. Second, their numbers are increasing not from reproductive behavior, but due solely to human behavior – and thus their numbers can also be reduced by human behavior.

How can we keep these nasty things away from the natural world on Bonaire, and from our children and pets as they walk along?

The answer is so simple: place cigarette filters in appropriate disposal containers rather than throwing them onto the ground or road or pathway. The filters remove some of the poison so the smoker receives less; when the filter is discarded it leaches that poison onto the ground. Plus, the filters are made of plastic and don't degrade for around 15 years!

Please, help the health and appearance of our natural world by keeping cigarette filters out of it!

*Originally published in July 2015
Dee Scarr*

Funds Available

NEW

Renovation of private historic residences. From Sept. 1st to 30th private owners can apply for a subsidy for the restoration of their monumental residences. The preservation costs eligible for subsidy must exceed US\$ 25,000 and are subsidised up to US\$100,000. Monuments (historical buildings older than 50 years) without protected status are also eligible for subsidy. Eligible are buildings that are of general importance due to their beauty, artistic value, or historical meaning. It is only possible to apply for subsidy during September.

The National Agency for Cultural Heritage (RCE) handles the grant application. The latest information is available on the website: <https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/s/subsidieregeling-monumenten-caribisch-nederland>

DONATE to Rotary's Feria

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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



Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOI):** 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



From Sobramesa: We have a very special Art expo and Auction coming up. In cooperation with the Golden Meand Society (GMS) we are hosting an art auction Saturday May 16 at 5 pm. 85% of the proceeds will go to GMS.

The GMS subsidizes court cases for people who are not able to afford a lawyer when the cases involve a worthy principle. For more info visit: www.arcocarib.com.

We have named the event: Art&Justice and we have over 15 artists from the island who have very kindly donated art to be auctioned. All works of art will be auctioned at a minimum of \$100. From May 6 we will exhibit all these artworks at the gallery. Tues. till Fri. 2-5 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mark May 16 in your calendar and we welcome you at 5 pm. There will be some drinks, some bites, some music and lots of art. The auction starts at 5:30 pm.



WE NEED A NEW EARTH DAY COMMITMENT

by George Buckley, Director, Environmental Management Project

Be kind to Mother Earth, it is our only home. As we saw from the recent expedition to the moon by NASA Astronauts, our planet is awe inspiring when viewed from space, even more so when we think of all the myriad forms of life on this "Pale Blue Dot" as astronomer Carl Sagen posited when the first images of what became known as Earth Rise were published over 50 years ago. Ocean pioneer Jacques Cousteau called it the Blue Marble' in space and said that we should call Earth, Planet Ocean, as it is mostly covered by the sea. Astronauts still speak of the first time that they saw the breath-taking view of our home from space. Ron Garan called it profound. Nicole Stott noted how interconnected we are and that we should all live and act as crewmates not just passengers on the planet. Suni Williams called it extraordinary. Hopefully, the recent space explorations will inspire a new commitment to Earth Day.

In the disorienting and complicated world today, humans are beset with the daily travails of international as well as local violence, finances, health and more. It can be difficult to look beyond all that and appreciate the good being done by legions of people, the beauty of earth and the specific needs to help conserve and protect it. We do not lack guidance. Cousteau said that "we protect what we love"; Henry Beston noted that the animals amongst us are not underlings but other nations and that we need a wiser and more mystical view of them.' Rachel Carson said that "In nature, nothing exists alone". David Attenborough said that "Earth depends on our ability to take action". Walt Disney's The Land Pavilion



Photo Buckley Archives

at EPCOT implores us to "Listen to the land". Ocean explorer Sylvia Earle extols the virtues of Blue Hope, with example after example of successful environmental projects. Sy Montgomery, author numerous books about animals, implores us to "Go out into the world of nature". The above are just a tiny sampling of the many hundreds of authors of thousands of books about nature, the earth and its environments. Go forth and read and be inspired!

Making an Earth Day commitment is easy, but we have to follow through with action. As Sy Montgomery says, "We can all be better creatures". We all can work to have less impact on the Earth. Use less, waste less, recycle more. Most communities have reuse and/or recycling centers

of some sort. We all live somewhere and wherever that is has groups that you can volunteer with or join to help with local environments or environmental issues. There are thousands of small organizations involved with protecting, managing, educating, advocacy, fund raising etc. and they need assistance. That's where to get started if you are not already involved. You can choose your level of activity or engagement. There are also numerous local Governmental Committees that deal with environmental issues and need both members and citizen support. Additionally, there are legions of regional and National environmental groups that work on larger scale actions, legislation and/or major fund raising for advocacy. Be it time, membership, or money, we can all increase our commit-

ment in one way or another.

Environmental regulations, management and enforcement just don't happen. They can take years of advocacy and meetings. Depending on the locality or cause, active local, regional, state and national involvement are often needed. It takes a cohort of dedicated citizens to be actively engaged with elected and appointed officials. Groups of us came together on the first Earth Day, committed to reducing air and water pollution. It took some time but it worked. In country after country strong environmental laws were enacted. Over 50 years later they need strengthening and expansion as new issues arise. We need to add to the cadre of committed, dedicated environmentalists and conservationists to reinvigorate Earth Day!



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental

and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

A Garden? Just Do It! - My friend's garden - by Angliet, Nature Lover

I recently visited a friend whose garden of fruit trees and are always full of fruit so I was really curious as how it looks now with the drought.

And it was really wonderful. The papaya trees were full of papayas, birambi trees were covered in fruit, lots of fruit in the golden apple tree and the mango tree was in blossom. There was a huge, thriving cherry tree, bacoba trees, vegetables and herbs.

But my friend was deeply irritated because of the damage to the fruits by the loras and prikichis. And I shared his anger when my friend showed me the unbelievable damage to all the fruit in the trees, but mostly the five papaya trees. Even in this extreme drought, I have never seen the papaya trees so full of fruit here on Bonaire. Unfortunately, most of the fruit was damaged and rotten because of the birds.

My friend even tied plastic bags around a whole bunch of papayas and it didn't keep the birds away. They know that there is food under the bag and so



Birds damage all fruits these days.

Photo: Angliet

they damage the bags and hit the fruits. This leads to huge frustration, disappointment and demotivation for gardening. But, my friend is a hard core gardener and will not give up, and I admire

him for that. He told me that the more birds, iguanas and lizards eat his fruits, the better the fruit left behind taste. In the end that is the value of your own garden work. Everything tastes great because you grew it and the health value is way higher than any fruit of the supermarket.

I asked him what his secret is to get all his plants so fertile and vital. He said a few times a year he gathers horse manure that is mixed with chicken manure and some wood dust. All is fresh. He adds this to the soil in his garden and lets it stay for a while. He says, one can see the worms coming out of the horse manure, but that is ok as the birds and chickens eat the worms. When it is all dry and mixed well with the top soil he starts planting.

I asked if the horse manure is okay because I always thought that the pH of horse and donkey manure is bad for plants. My friend's explanation was that donkey pee in manure is bad for the plants while only horse poop and not pee makes the horse manure "lighter" for the plants. I haven't had this experience

with horse poop but my friends garden looks strong and has a lot of fruit.

Because of the heavy drought, hard core gardeners are trying a lot of systems and methods to fight the drought and the animals. My friend used to put nets over some trees like the cherry tree. But the birds get hooked in the net and he has to free them from the net.

They pick at your arms and face with their sharp and strong beaks and it hurts. An iguana even bit him while he tried to free him. So be careful in such situations. Wear a mask and thick garden gloves. But if you do get hurt, rinse the wound well with fresh water and drop the yellow liquid from an aloe leaf on the wound. If it is too deep, go to a doctor. Aloe is a very strong healer and one of the best cures for wounds. Everyone should have an aloe plant in their garden or in a container for first aid. It's your number one medicine for wounds. Aloe is also good for burns and sun burn.

A Garden...to page 19

Introducing Bonaire's 2026 Culinary Team



Bonaire Culinary Team 2026: L-R: Justin (junior candidate), Quincy Karijodikromo , Floris van Loo, Akira Cecilia, Sudi (junior candidate), Chelsie Agunday, Bart Tholen, Christiaan Silva, Elise Weerstand, Sherry (junior candidate), Jake Kelkboom Photo Flavio Maestroni

Bonaire's new culinary team staged a fun tasting fundraiser to help take them to the Taste of the Caribbean in Barbados later this year. Most every year Bonaire brings home the gold, and that was especially true in 2025.

Jake Kelkboom is returning to the team as senior chef. He hopes to bring home Best Chef of the Caribbean for the second year. Silver award-winning bartender Christian Silva is now looking for gold. Caribbean Pastry Chef of the Year

Elise Weerstand is stepping into a coaching, mentoring and management role for the team. Two new chefs are joining to compete in two new Taste of the Caribbean competitions: Quincy Karijodikromo in the Beef Competition and Chelsie Agunday in the Seafood Chef category. Akira Cecilia will compete in the pastry chef division. To complete the team three young chefs are vying for the Junior Chef position. Pulling it all together will be head team manager and coach Bart Tholen.



Jake Kelkboom and Chelsie Agunday Photo Flavio Maestroni



Christiaan Silva and bar back Photo Flavio Maestroni

At the fundraiser, some 100 guests experienced a variety of bites and drinks at Delphin's Café Kolo. On the menu were a gamut of unique tastes.

Award winning culinary chef and team coach for many years Floris van Loo starting the tasting with a ginger infused pumpkin soup. This was followed by a tuna tartelette with pumpkin by Jr Chef candidate Justin. Quincy delivered a beef quiche and Jr Chef candidate Suedayer served the guests a tortilla cup with ceviche. Jake presented

a chicken keshi yena with funchi and Jr. Chef candidate Sherry made shrimp, mango salsa tostones. Next up was kabritu bitterballs with a Caribbean spicy mayo by Bart, a papaya, coconut, snapper and lime sushi by Chelsie Agunday and a tamarind with coconut foam beignet by Akira Cecilia. And finally, for dessert, a spiced pumpkin cake by Elise.

To keep up to date on the team and enjoy team photographer, Flavio's images of the chefs visit and follow Bonaire's Culinary Team on Facebook.

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Jaxon

My name is Jaxon. I'm a very healthy, happy one and half year old boy. Before I became a shelter resident, I was living on the street for at least 8 months until a nice guy found me and brought me to the animal shelter.

I really like to play with toys, but another furry companion makes me very happy too. I'm good with kids of all ages, but with the little ones I need a little guidance because I can get a little overly excited. I like to go for walks and behave very well in the car.

Do you think I will fit into your life and family? Please come and meet me, or take me on a playdate.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt

This is Mama Frito, a beautiful tortie around two years old with quite a story. She was brought to Animal Shelter Bonaire in August last year. When she had her kittens her former owner thought she was too much to care for, and brought her to us with her three kittens Cheeto, Wokkel and Taki. At first she was very protective and not that social, but once she knew she was in a safe space and her babies were taken care of, she started to show her true colors. Frito now has a bit of a low hanging primordial pouch, because after her sterilization her stitches ripped. Luckily we were able to get her into surgery fast, and she made a good recovery. After that traumatizing event she got a bit cautious. But now she is living and loving her best life. When she wants attention she will come to you,



Mama Frito

and loves her treats. Frito will also let you know when she wants to be left alone and will walk away. We hope someone will give her the home she so deserves and where she is wanted all the time.

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

A Garden...from page 16

Aloe is a master for healing, leaving hardly any scars.

Did you know that an iguana won't come into your garden if you throw stones at him. I heard from a friend that they stay away because they feel unsafe in the area.

I don't know why this works but I did it, and I have not seen that iguana since. So who knows.

One thing for sure, the animals are suffering in this drought too. It is a tough time for nature on Bonaire.

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.



Animal Shelter still has some boarding available

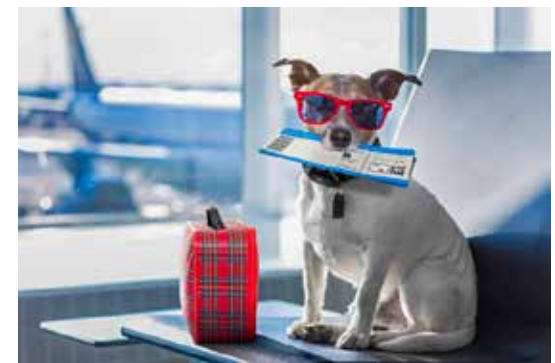
Dear people, It's almost that time of year again Summer Vacation !! Are you going on vacation, and don't have family or friends to watch your fur-baby?

Then contact us at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or visit our website for more information.

You are also welcome to come and see our pension. It has play areas, and nice kennels for your animals to stay. We have separate areas for the dogs and for the cats.

And we still have some kennels available.

Christmas season is still a few months away, but around June the spots fill up fast, and since we have limited ca-



capacity, don't wait too long, We hope to welcome your pets soon. *Story Sanne Attevelt*

Make Bonaire Accessible

If Mohamed cannot come to the mountain.... by Ria Dokter

There is no place like my porch. The porch is my favorite spot and to be honest, I spend my whole day outside, enjoy the sun, fresh air and I can see everything that's happening.

It is also a great spot to remember, especially when I have visitors. I love to share memories with my visitors and they love it. Of course, there are also Facebook pages where I can find all kinds of pictures, stories and chat. I am well informed about Ameland, the island where I was born and lived for a while.

Ameland built a brand-new home for the elderly and those who need special care. They share a lot with the world around them on Facebook and that is how I knew about the fashion show they organize twice a year.

Ameland is a small, Dutch island and the only way to get to the mainland is by ferry. There are a few stores where one can shop for clothing, but when you are elderly there is not much choice. The home organizes a fashion show twice a year and volunteers are the models. When you like the clothes they show, you can try them on in pop-up dressing rooms. And if the item fits, you can buy the clothes on the spot. Many islanders, not only elderly, come to see that fashion show.

Now, wouldn't this be a great idea for Bonaire? There are many elderly in Kas di Kuido as well as in other homes with accessibility problems who cannot really go shopping anymore. Maybe participants of the daycare facilities can also be invited. Store owners could be invited to pick a nice selection of clothes for various occasions depending on the time of year and season. The

homes can invite family members to enjoy and help their loved ones to make good choices. For extra help, a team from Z & W group staff can come and join the fun.

Now, the same thing counts for grocery-shopping, or other specific needs. It can be a cooperative project with staff-training projects, M.B.O. or comparable educational training-programs.

Our local fruit and vegetable vendors could bring fruits and vegetables to Kas di Kuido every two months and sell the products. The residents there rarely touch or see really fresh produce anymore. The veggie sale would only be for Kas di Kuido, with no visitors allowed.

This could turn out to be a nice program, where staff can sit with the inhabitants, talk and plan an activity of what can be prepared easily and what needs to be done. Make a list, check it twice, check the budget and go shopping. Later the prepared dish, cake or cookies can be enjoyed with the whole group.

Life can be so much more fun, even when you are living in a home. You still count and can still do things you enjoy. Happy shopping.



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.



Find TCB's full report in our online issue, page 22. <https://bonairereporter.com>



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Project Manager - Renovation Medical Complex & Non-Medical Staff Office

Organization: St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF)
Location: St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean
Reporting to: Operations Manager
Contract: Fixed-term, project-based (contractor/zzp agreement)
Hours: Part-time (20hrs / week)

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) invites applications for an experienced **Project Manager** to lead the renovation of the medical complex and the non-medical staff office. The role includes project preparation, coordination of temporary and permanent relocation of staff and equipment, and management of the renovation's execution and evaluation, ensuring continuity of healthcare services.

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead project preparation: define scope, planning, budget, and risk management.
- Coordinate with architects, engineers, contractors, and regulatory authorities.
- Identify and secure temporary spaces for healthcare operations and organize/oversee relocation of staff and equipment.
- Ensure minimal disruption to patient care and operational continuity.
- Monitor project execution: timelines, quality, safety, and budget compliance.
- Report regularly to the Operations Manager and relevant stakeholders.
- Manage project completion, handover, and evaluation, including documentation and final reporting.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent, demonstrated through experience in Project Management, Construction Management, Engineering, Architecture, or a related field.
- Minimum **5 years of relevant experience** in construction or renovation projects; healthcare experience preferred.
- Proven experience in project planning, contractor management, procurement, and budget control.
- Working knowledge of applicable building codes, permits/inspections, and contractor HSE (health & safety) practices.
- Strong organizational, communication, and stakeholder management skills.
- Ability to work independently and under pressure.
- Certification such as PRINCE2, PMP, or equivalent is an advantage.
- Fluent in English (Dutch is a plus).

About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

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

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

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

What we offer

- A challenging and socially relevant project in a healthcare setting.
- Fixed-term contract for the duration of the project.
- Supportive and collaborative working environment.
- Competitive contractor rate (USD 55/hour), depending on experience and availability.

Additional Information

- Expected start: as soon as possible (exact date to be agreed).
- Work location: primarily on-site in St. Eustatius, with availability to attend project and stakeholder meetings.
- Project duration: fixed term, aligned with the renovation timeline (details shared with shortlisted candidates).
- Background checks may apply (e.g., reference checks and/or certificate of conduct), depending on role requirements.
- SEHCF is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes qualified applicants.
- Applicant data will be used solely for recruitment and handled confidentially.

Interested?

We invite you to submit your resume/CV with a cover letter, including your availability and relevant project references to Mr. Elvin Henriquez, Operations Manager, via email: hr@sehcf.org and cc: elvin.henriquez@sehcf.org. Elvin Henriquez can also be contacted for questions via tell: +599 319-7676.

Closing date: May 12, 2026

H.M. Queen Beatrix rd. 25, Oranjestad St. Eustatius
E: info@sehcf.org | W: www.sehcf.org | T: +599-318 2211

BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE

MARCH 2026

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
19,869 **2026**

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
19,594 **2025**

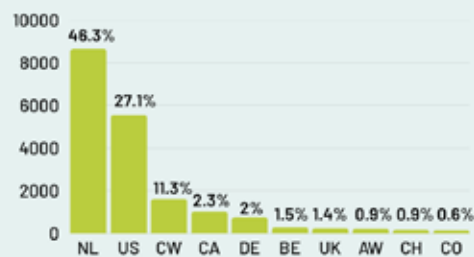
2026 COMPARED TO 2025

1.4%

Increase in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



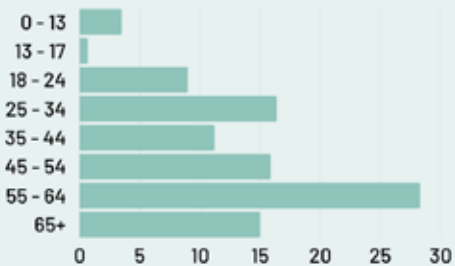
TOP STATES & REGION

US Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

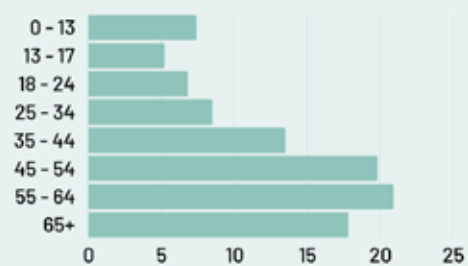
NL South Holland, North Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE | DUTCH



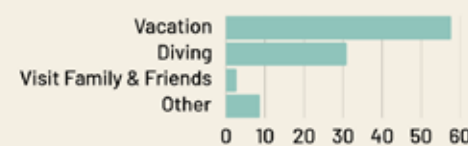
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH

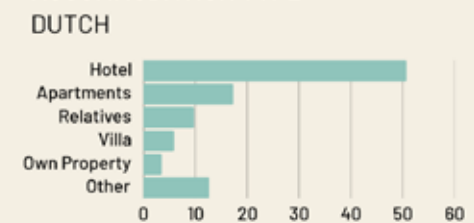


REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN

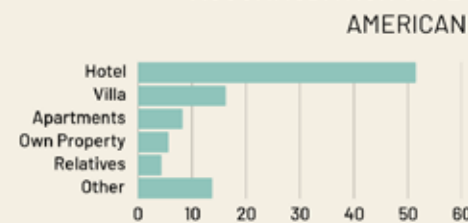


VISITOR BEHAVIOR

ACCOMMODATION TYPE | DUTCH



ACCOMMODATION TYPE | AMERICAN



LENGTH OF STAY



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- www.bonaireisland.com
- info@bonaireisland.com
- bonaire.portcall.com



Coordinator Outpatient Department

To further professionalize and strengthen our Outpatient Department, we are seeking a Coordinator Outpatient Department. In this key role, you are responsible for the daily coordination, alignment, and optimization of all outpatient activities within SEHCF. You ensure smooth care processes, efficient staffing, and a patient-centered service delivery.

The Coordinator Outpatient Department reports to the Manager Care and works closely with other coordinators and disciplines within the organization. During absence of colleague coordinators, you will act as their replacement, ensuring continuity of care and operational stability.

Responsibilities include:

- Coordinate and oversee daily operations of the Outpatient Department
- Plan and manage consultation schedules for physicians and specialists
- Optimize patient flow, waiting times, and overall service quality
- Ensure compliance with medical guidelines, protocols, and procedures
- Identify operational bottlenecks and drive process improvements
- Support and guide staff; promote effective multidisciplinary collaboration
- Act as a central point of contact for staff, healthcare professionals, and management
- Support staff planning, scheduling, and accurate administrative registration

Your profile

- Education at minimum MBO 4+ or Bachelor (HBO) level, preferably in Nursing, Healthcare Management/Administration, or a related healthcare field
- Relevant work experience within outpatient care, general practice, or a hospital setting;
- At least 4 years relevant working experience in healthcare, preferably in a coordinating or senior operational role;
- Good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Organizational skills;
- Quality oriented and patient/client centered;
- Team player and the ability to work independent;
- Computer knowledge and skills;
- Verbal and written communication skills in English, command of Dutch is an asset

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What we offer

- **Full-time position:** 40 hours per week, and will be asked to work on-call shift, with a one-year contract and the possibility of extension based on performance;
- **Compensation:** Starting monthly gross salary between USD 3,419.00 and 4,457.00 (based on full-time employment), depending on experience.
- **Competitive benefits package:** In accordance with our Collective Labor Agreement
- **Pension and health coverage:** Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Pension Plan and Zorgverzekering BES health insurance plan.

Interested?

We invite you to submit your CV/resume with cover letter, copies of diploma and/or certificates and two references to: St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation, attn. Mr. Pascal Gorissen, Manager Care, via email: hr@sehcf.org. Mr. Gorissen can also be contacted for more information via +599 319-1923.

Closing date: May 25, 2026

H.M. Queen Beatrix rd. 25, Oranjestad St. Eustatius
E: info@sehcf.org | W: www.sehcf.org | T: +599-318 2211

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	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	DIA DI RINCON	In the streets of Rincon
1 di mei 2026	11:00 - 24:00	Biking for everyone Saka Raton (Taking out the mouse) 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	Aktividadat	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
30 di aprel 2026	6:00 - 24:00	DIA DI RINCON	Den kayanan di Rincon
1 di mei 2026	11:00 - 24:00	Kareda di Baiskel / Saka raton	Den kayanan di Rincon



ART & JUSTICE

ART EXPO & AUCTION

MAY
16

5 PM

ABRAHAM BOULEVARD 10

SOBREMESA AND THE GOLDEN MEAND SOCIETY PRESENT THE ART&JUSTICE ART EXPO AND AUCTION. 85% OF ALL PROCEEDS GO TO GOLDEN MEAND SOCIETY. FOR MORE INFO: www.arcoarib.com



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KAS- DI ARTE



on view...

Group Exhibition

• IN THE PIANO & FRONT GALLERIES •
Tuesday-Saturday • 9AM - 3PM

José Smit

Ceramicist / artist

José combines reclaimed tiles with her handmade ceramics and found, given, and used materials. Cups, plates, and other treasures that lived a life before, she gathers in her studio. In her hands, by cutting, sawing and grinding, fragments come intuitive together. Slowly figures are born, playful, colourful and full of quiet surprises.



Dillon Rannou

Painter / artist

Whether depicting scenes from the natural world or abstract forms that evoke emotion and feeling, Dillon's art is always tuned in to the rhythms and energies of the island of Bonaire and its people.



Jozee Tjoa

Painter / artist

Jozee creates multiple layered abstract paintings inspired by her surroundings. They are an ongoing exploration of her feelings in nature, like diving into the sea and the beautiful colours that she sees every day around her. Colours of flowers, the sky, sunsets and of course the Caribbean Sea.



Carlos Porras

Painter / artist

Bonaire has many artists, many of whom are not well known. Carlos Porras is one of them. Born in Lima, Peru, Carlos has been living and working on Bonaire since 1993. Most of his paintings are abstract, though not all, and every one carries meaning. Look at them intently and carefully, let your imagination go, and the paintings will begin to speak to you.



Hilma Koelman

Painter / artist

Hilma, from our neighbor island Curaçao, is inspired by the beauty of nature and intuitively expresses emotions through abstract paintings. While her art occasionally depicts hints of seascape and flowers, she moves away from reality to reach a sense of feel. The movements and the comfort arising from her canvas allow your imagination to run free as the harmony of shapes and colours leaves space for you to create your own story.



Henk Roozendaal

Painter / artist

Roozendaal's work is recognizable from even a mile away. In his opinion having a style of your own is at the core of art itself. In the past he had several successful solo exhibitions on Bonaire: Portraits of Bonaire (2002 & 2006), Indians of Bonaire (2008) and Caribbean Queens (2011). In later work he focused more on landscapes.



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)
- Fòrn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
- Sorobon and Cai
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
- Tolo
- Klein Bonaire



The areas where dogs are not allowed on the beaches are marked in red



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

20 March 2026

\$20,-
EACH FRIDAY
AGE 8+

- Paint on different surfaces
- Learn color mixing & expressions
- Create unique and abstract art
- No "right or wrong" way
- Lets have fun in a supportive group

*Materials included

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





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