

FREE

BONAIRE
The REPORTER

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RRFB instructor at Buddy Dive Tina Wal
Photo Julie Morgan

If we take care of the ocean ...

"If we take care of the ocean, the ocean will take care of us," David Attenborough

Bonaire is an island that truly loves its beautiful surrounding waters. We play in it, swim, dive, snorkel, fish, windsurf or just sit along the shore and gaze, almost hypnotized by its beauty. People invest millions of dollars to live on its shores. But as much as we love it, there are some major problems. There are some problems beneath that beautiful blue caused by us: climate change, acidification, pollution and overexploitation.

June is World Ocean Month and opportunities and reasons to care for the ocean began on June 1 with World Reef Awareness Day.

On June 1, many people worldwide chose to say no to single use plastics that ultimately find their way to the ocean. Others held underwater cleanups, fundraising music festivals or as its founders intended simply started using a reef safe sunscreen. But Bonaire got a jump on the day of celebrating our coral reefs with Reef Renewal Bonaire Foundation's (RRFB) Reef Fiesta on May 31. The response this year to the Eighth Annual Reef Fiesta broke all records with a total of 250 divers, snorkelers, volunteers, partners, staff and community member sponsors.

Reef Fiesta is a free event to educate divers and snorkelers about the coral restoration process which is the goal of RRFB. The day began with an educational presentation by Reef Renewal staff on RRFB. Participants then either venture out on a guided snorkel tour of the underwater coral reef nurseries or head out on a

dive and help with maintenance on the nursery's coral trees. Initially the event was to hopefully engage volunteers and it is still working. But Reef Fiesta has become so much more than that. Reef Fiesta could easily be the biggest environmental event for coral reefs on Bonaire.

This year alone approximately 130 divers visited 11 coral nurseries cleaning and maintaining the coral trees. Many were longtime RRFB volunteers but some were first timers. And some 30 snorkelers cruised on top of the water guided by RR staff or volunteers to view the coral nurseries

RRFB was initiated back in 2012 at Buddy Dive but that lone dive shop has grown to include

17 partner dive shops: AB-Dive, Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive, Carib Inn, Dive Friends, Divi Dive, Flamingo Diving, Harbour Village, Scuba Do, Scuba Elite, Technical Diving Services, Toucan Diving, Tropical Divers, VIP Diving, Wanna-Dive, Xpro Divers, and 4Wheel Diving.

In the evening, it's time for the Fiesta part of the event to thank everyone for their participation and sponsorship. This year's event was held at Van der Valk Plaza Resort. Guests enjoyed a phone quiz on the morning's coral educational portion, a silent auction and raffle with prizes donated by the partner dive shops and recognition was given to deserving RRFB instructors.

As this was a fiesta, remarks were kept short by the nature organizations and leaders, and they seemed to echo the same message, we have to work together.

Speaking were: RRFB Executive Director Francesca Viridis, Director of STINAPA Bonaire Melissa van Hoorn, Dutch Caribbean Program Lead for WWF-NL Roxanne Francisca, and Executive Director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) Arno Verhoeven.

STINAPA Director Melissa van Hoorn said, "The work that Reef Renewal takes care of, is a good example of how things can get done. Don't wait for long term research or policies to be ready, because there is no time to waste, if it comes to coral conservation. Because coral forms the base for all life in our marine park. Hands on, practical work needs to take place. Reef renewal proves that."

Reef Fiesta 2026 was sponsored by Cargill, Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort, Orco Bank, Bonaire International Airport, Bonaire.com, Rocargo, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, Flamingo TV, Pier Dos, Telbo, WEB, and Van der Valk Plaza Resort.

To learn more about RRFB and their many projects to save coral reefs, visit ReefRenewal-Bonaire.org or on Facebook.

Julie Morgan



Bonaire nature organization and sponsor participants traveled to Klein Bonaire for a snorkel of an outplanted coral site: TCB, Cargill, STINAPA, WWF-NL, DCNA and RRFB Photo by Julian Beccari

For more photos see our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>

Dutch to take control of landfill

With the agreement of the Island Council, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (I&W) has taken over from the Executive Council supervisory responsibility for Selibon and the landfill at Lagun. State Secretary Annet Bertram informed the House of Representatives that initially I&W will continue to carry out the functions provided for in the existing administrative agreement that was signed with the previous executive. Now, though, I&W will have the full support and cooperation of the Executive Council. After a legally required waiting period I&W will become the full and permanent managing authority for waste disposal. "All parties involved recognize the seriousness and urgency of the problem and the need to find a solution," Bertram said.

Initially I&W and OLB will attempt to mitigate those landfill problems that can be dealt with under the old administrative agreement. A modern but temporary new landfill area will be opened at the present Lagun site. Bertram has waived the required Environmental Impact Assessment so work can begin immediately.

Other measures already adopted will continue. A waste compactor and new trucks are on order. A more effective covering material is being used to smother fires. Active monitoring is being carried out to assure new fires and other problems are spotted early and suppressed promptly.

In the meantime, a significant legal step will be taken. The BES Establishments and Activities Decree (IAB BES) designates Selibon as a Type 3 company. Selibon will be recategorized as a Type 4 company. I&W will then automatically assume authority over the island's waste management. I&W already manages Bonaire's fuel storage company, and others in the Caribbean, as Type 4 operations.

The shared goal of I&W and the Executive Council is to work together to create joint, structural, and sustainable long-term solutions to Bonaire's waste disposal problems. Bertram told the House that both bodies already have all the information they need, There will be no further delays while additional studies are conducted. I&W and Executive Council intend to take action.

Bertram also addressed the rulings the Ombudsman has issued regarding the Landfill crisis. She acknowledged his urgency and summarized his orders in three categories:

1: I&W should be actively involved in waste management on Bonaire. It should help the island move to a permanent and structural solution, and in the meantime take immediate interim steps to mitigate the problems.

2: Dumping should stop Immediately.

3: Any remediation operation should focus on the concerns and welfare of the local residents.

Regarding the third concern, Bertram said she intends to ask the Executive Council how they intend to follow up on the RIVM report "Environmental Pollution and Health on Bonaire," which the RIVM prepared at the request of the previous Council. She also said the State Secretary for the Interior has already promised to talk with the Executive Board about a possible relocation plan for Lagun area residents.

Regarding the Ombudsman's demand for immediate and radical action, such as closing the landfill immediately, Bertram said everyone involved is committed to working toward a carefully planned, structural and sustainable solution. "That is — as much as we would like it — not arranged overnight," she said. *DMR*



Oleana (center) presents plan to the Executive Council

Bonaire Climate Plan expresses community's will

"Our Island, Our Responsibility," the Bonaire Climate was released on May 26. Compiled by a project group under the chairmanship of Nolly Oleana, the plan is the result of an intensive and participatory process that began on August 1, 2024, and was widely supported by the Bonairean community.

"Our Island, Our Responsibility," emphasizes Chair Nolly Oleana. "This climate plan is a shared course for the future of Bonaire. It shows that the community is willing to contribute ideas, take responsibility, and work together on a livable island for future generations."

Throughout the process, active collaboration took place with residents, businesses, civil society organizations, and government agencies. Workshops were organized, conversations were held in neighborhoods and with young people, while farmers and fishermen also shared their experiences and concerns. In addition, a broad survey among the population yielded valuable insights that have been directly incorporated into the plan. The Climate Plan was developed with the support of Beyonder BV and Matribu BV. In addition, the knowledge chapter of the plan, based entirely on the input and insights gathered during the working sessions and participation moments with the Bonairean community. As a result, the plan serves not only as a policy document but also as a reflection of the experiences, concerns, and wishes of the community itself. *DMR / Photo OLB*

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Island news

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The simultaneous occurrence of events which appear significantly related is called synchronicity.

The story on the right announces the release of "Our Island, Our Responsibility," the Bonaire Climate Plan that expresses the community's intention to "take responsibility and work together on a livable island for future generations." The story below could also have been titled "Our Island, Our Responsibility." It announces Cabinet's declared intention to give the BES Islands first priority in climate mitigation spending because, in the entire kingdom, the islands are the entities most threatened by climate change.

DMR

CN tops priority list for climate change spending

The health risks from climate change are more serious and diverse in the Caribbean Netherlands than in the European Netherlands, the Health Council and the Scientific Climate Council have jointly warned the government. Their report blames the increasingly warmer climate, with its rising risk of infectious diseases and extreme weather. Social differences also magnify the risks. Many people cannot escape the health dangers due to limited basic services and low incomes.

The two councils recommend the adoption of preventive policies, proactive organization, and structural funding to better protect the population and prepare for new risks. They also say high-risk groups and the Caribbean Netherlands deserve priority care.

The councils propose concrete recommendations be started immediately. Making homes, residential areas, schools, and long-term care buildings resilient to heat and flooding, for instance, and starting with the places where people face the highest health risks.

The GroenLinks-PvdA parliamentary group in the House of Representatives is advocating for the establishment of an "additional multi-year Climate Adaptation Fund for the Caribbean Netherlands" from which, alongside "substantial investments in adaptation measures regarding water safety, measures concerning, for example, heat, health, and nature can also be financed in a timely manner." *DMR*

Klub di Koki meets Nature Cooking School Bonaire

Ten Bonaire chefs and members of Klub di Koki (Cook's Club) gathered under the big Tamarind tree at Saeed Lourens' Nature Cooking School Bonaire at LVV for a lesson in natural cooking last week.

Saeed's school is dedicated to connecting to nature. He practices syntropic farming, regenerative planting that mimicks a forest ecosystem with no need for chemicals. Saeed's garden is a jungle with over 100 species of plants of different heights and sizes. When something dies, it becomes mulch for the other plants. The different species are planted tightly together and their diversity discourages pests.

Cooking with food harvested directly from your own garden is not only healthier, but tastes better than imported veggies and fruits. And it cost far less. On the Cook's Club visit, Saeed led the chefs through the rows of plants in his garden speaking about the elements of syntropic farming. Guided by Saeed, the chefs selected the necessary ingredients from his expansive food forest for the various dishes they would prepare. Corjan Hoogerheide, head of the Cook's Club and sous chef at Sorobon Reef Bar noted, it was almost like an episode from Master Chef where everyone gathers their stuff and enthusiastically starts making their dishes.

The Cooking School's huge outside kitchen was big enough for all the chefs to do their prep and then start cooking. Saeed prepared a fire of local wood for the charcoal grill. Additional electric burners were needed as so many dishes were being prepared. Everyone knew what to do and like a well-choreographed dance no one got in anyone's way. All the utensils, pots, pans, bowls, knives, blenders and spoons were there, and the chefs used them all.



The feast prepared by the chefs. L-R - Corjan Hoogerheide: Sorobon Reef Bar; Richard Palsgraaf: SGB; Goos Baars: Kunukuklup; Willem Beelaerts van Blokland - amateur cook; Wil Heemskerk: Flaming Flamingo Hot Sauce; Mark Tromop: Pastries Bonaire; Isidoor van Riemsdijk: SGB; Floris van Loo: Rum Runners and Saeed Lourens: Nature Cooking School Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan

Watching these kitchen wizards was an experience. They made oatmeal and papaya pancakes, fried mini bananas with a delicious caramel/coffee sauce, sweet potato pumpkin soup with amsoy, tuna ceviche with passion fruit, tuna baked in a banana leaf over the grill, marinated okra cut length wise on the grill, polenta baked in banana leaf and a refreshing ice tea of lime

and a clitoria leaf or butterfly pea plant that resulted in a beautiful purple drink.

Cooks Club ...to page 5



- **Location: Kralendijk, just steps away from the ocean**
- **Groundfloor apartment with use of communal garden**
- **2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / laundry area**
- **Permanent residency, long term rental and vacation rentals allowed**

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POLICE REPORT

Contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or the anonymous tip line 9310.

Property crimes

May 26. Unknown persons gained entry to the lottery office on Kaya Pedro Luis Brion and took several bags of cash.

May 25. While the occupants were snorkeling, unknown persons took bags, three iPhones, wallets with contents, cash and sunglasses, from a vehicle parked near '1000 Steps' on the Tourist Road.

May 24. Unknown persons gained access to a dive shop on Kaya Playa Lechi and caused damage, but presumably took nothing. A security company presumably managed to thwart the theft.

May 24. 11:10 a.m. A man, 27, was arrested on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez in connection with multiple burglaries, theft, and handling stolen goods. Various items believed to have been stolen were found in the suspect's possession and were seized.

May 23. While the occupants were snorkeling, unknown persons took, among other things, a bag, two wallets with contents, cash, a Samsung phone, and Michael Kors sunglasses from a car parked near '1000 Steps' on the Tourist Road.

May 22/23. A grey Toyota Yaris car was stolen that was parked in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. Sunday morning, May 24, the police located the vehicle in question on Kaya Blenchi.

May 23. Unknown persons stole a black Ouxi, type H9 fatbike that was parked at a hospitality establishment on E.E.G. Boulevard.

May 22. Unknown persons took a black model V8 fatbike that was parked at a football field on Kaminda Lac.

May 22. Unknown persons gained access to home on Kaya Graciela and stole, among other things, a quantity of cash and a leather bag containing items.

May 22. 1:50 a.m. Police arrested a man, 25, on Kaya J.N.E. Craane for attempted theft. A security guard at a hospitality establishment caught the suspect as he was trying to make off with bottles of alcohol without paying for them.

May 19. 6:20 p.m. Police received a report of a number of young people in the bushes on Kaya Missouri who were tinkering with a scooter who fled when they were caught. When the police arrived they found a scooter in the bushes that had been stolen from a home on Kaya Sirena on Monday, May 11.

May 18. Three business premises on Kaya Industria Pariba were broken into. A quantity of cash and a Samsung tablet was stolen from one business, a baby seat from another business and four Samsung mobile phones and a quantity of cash from the third.

May 18. On Monday, May 18, a report was filed regarding thefts from service vehicles belonging to the Public Body Bonaire. Unknown individuals gained access to the site on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard and made off with 16 car tires, 16 car rims, 68 wheel bolts, and one car battery. The vehicles were left on blocks.

Arrests

May 27. 7:45 p.m. The central dispatch center received a report of a fight between several people on Kaya L.S. (Goi) Coffi, near the customs office. When patrols arrived, they found the persons involved at the scene, including an off-duty police officer. The fight was found to involve an act of public violence against the off-duty police officer. Four suspects have been arrested for, among other things, public violence, resisting arrest, failure to comply with police orders, threats, and assault. In addition, one of the suspects caused damage to a police vehicle. The suspects are three women ages 23, 21 and 25, and a man aged 31. All arrested suspects are tourists.

May 23. 2 a.m. A man, 32, was arrested on Kaya Grandi for violating the BES Firearms Act, vandalism, and failing to comply with police orders. The suspect's arrest took place after the police received a report regarding an aggressive person suspected of being in pos-

session of a firearm, near a hospitality establishment on Kaya Bonaire.

May 21. 1 p.m. A man, 21, was arrested on Kaya Piedra Pretu for assault and vandalism. The suspect was arrested in connection with a case involving the assault of a person and the vandalism of a vehicle, which took place on February 7.

May 20. 6:30 p.m. A man, 30, was arrested on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt for insulting a public official in the performance of his duties, vandalism, and disturbing the public order while under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was arrested after the police received a report of an aggressive person near a supermarket. When police tried to talk to the suspect, he pushed an officer. The officer then used his pepper spray to bring the suspect under control and arrest him. While the suspect was waiting for transport in the patrol car, he insulted a police officer and damaged the door and window of the police car.

May 19. 12:50 p.m. A man, 22, was arrested at the airport for attempted manslaughter. The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee carried out the arrest and subsequently handed the suspect over to the KPCN. He was arrested as part of an ongoing investigation into a fight that took place on October 11, 2025.

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.

From May 20 to May 27. Police reported that 12 drivers (including five driving scooters) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Three drivers were identified during a traffic check; one for not wearing a helmet; and one for driving in a prohibited direction. One driver caused a collision when he fell asleep. Another driver was found sleeping inside a car parked almost in the middle of the road with its engine running. Police also stopped four drivers for driving erratically.

Four drivers were given driving bans of 1- to 4 hours. Three driving licenses were confiscated. Four drivers were driving without driving licenses.

One driver was found to be staying on our island illegally. He was handed over to the Aliens Supervision Department of the KPCN and deported to his country of origin the same day.

Traffic accidents

May 26. 10 a.m. Two cars collided on Kaminda Gurubu. One of the drivers was injured and taken by ambulance to the hospital. The other driver was issued a citation for driving without valid insurance. The cars sustained significant damage.

May 20. A car collided with a scooter riding in front of it at the intersection of Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Maximiliana Rosaria. The scooter driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Additionally, he received a fine for failing to produce a valid driver's license and valid insurance.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

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

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

From May 19 to May 25. May 19 and May 25. Police checked 62 vehicles during traffic checks on Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Amsterdam. Fines were issued for driving without: • a valid driving licence (1x) • valid insurance (8x) • both a license and valid insurance (4x). A car was seized during the Kaya International traffic check. The driver could not produce a driver's license and insurance papers. On top of that, the license plates of the vehicle were registered with the police as missing and the driver did not want to disclose who owned the vehicle. During the Kaya Amsterdam check five warnings were issued for offenses including driving without

a seatbelt and driving with a licence that had just expired.

Fire

May 27. 9:55 p.m. A car was reported fire near the Antonio Trinidad Stadium on Kaya Bototé. Because several other cars were parked nearby, there was a risk that the fire would spread. The fire department extinguished the fire. The police are investigating the fire as arson.

May 20. 12:15 a.m. A house on Kaminda Djabou was reported on fire. When the police arrived, they saw that the flames had already completely engulfed the home and there was significant smoke development. The person present in the home managed to leave the premises in time. Ambulance personnel arrived on the scene to medically examine the victim. The police temporarily cordoned off the area surrounding the home to traffic. The fire department extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

Public order

May 17. 10 p.m. The police received a report of children causing vandalism and a nuisance in Barrio Santa Rosa. The youths threw stones and eggs at cars and houses, and damaged car tires. Upon the arrival of the police, the children found were sternly reprimanded, some of them in the presence of their parents. It was notable that a number of children were not under their parents' supervision, even though it was already late in the evening. Furthermore, some parents showed no interest in speaking with the police about their child's behavior. The neighborhood officer will continue to monitor the situation.

Impounded cars must be picked up before June 25

Owners of impounded cars must pick them up by June 25 to prevent them being destroyed. If your vehicle has been impounded, email ketenbeslag@politiecn.com. As the owner, you must present to the police a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

Police are cleaning out the warehouse of the police station on July 26. Vehicles for which there is a court order for destruction and/or which must be taken off the road will also be included in this clean-up.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Customer,

We hereby inform you that the total amount of invoices with a due date of June 30th may be slightly higher than normal. This is due to an extra week in our administrative cycle caused by operational circumstances.

In July, the process will again follow the regular schedule. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Art & Justice Auction: Impressive Success!

Comments about the Auction at Sobremesa Art Center & Gallery

It was a very windy afternoon and evening last Saturday 16 May at Sobremesa. But the open-air Art Auction went ahead anyway. After the introductory speech by the undersigned, Bonairean Art & Mythology expert, Mr. Frans Booi, gave a sparkling discourse as only he can. It was about mythological numerology, especially the number 47. This number typifies Bonaire, he says. There was no time to ask questions. But artists would do well to ask Mr. Frans Booi in private to tell them more about this. It will no doubt give them inspiration for new artworks.

We again thank all the artists who donated artworks for this event. There were many fascinating artworks for sale. Mostly local art. Without the artists, the Auction would not have been possible. When we started organizing it, we had no idea how this would work. But it did work. The artists did donate for Justice. We thank them very much for that.

Many thanks also to Sobremesa's manager, Ms. Karine de Wit, who accepted the challenge and worked hard to make it happen. Everything fell into place. It was well organized. Thanks also to all the Auction-bidders who kept us all in suspense, turning the Auction into an unforgettable and exciting evening.

Finally, many thanks to Mr. Albert Christiaan who acted as Auctioneer. Although he had never in his life done this work before, he acted like a professional and was very effective. Kudos!

To describe the evening is impossible. It was funny, festive and happy. At the same time serious, exciting and sobering. A real 'happening'. About 35 artworks were auctioned. Nearly all were sold. The exact financial results are not in yet, but the hoped for net proceeds (\$ 6,000.-) for the Golden Meand Society foundation ('GMS') was surpassed by a lot. GMS will use the funds to keep on subsidizing principled Court Cases. The final result will be more than \$ 8,000.-.

If you want to read the Opening Speech (with illustrations) you can find it here:

<https://www.arcocarib.com/articles/art-justice-auction/>

Bonaire, 18 May 2026
Michiel Bijkerk



Mark your October calendar for the 59th Bonaire Regatta



Plans for the 59th Bonaire International Sailing Regatta are underway. The organizers have scheduled the traditional event October 11 – 16, one week later than normal in hope of more wind for the participating sailors. Contests are scheduled to include: Sunfish, optimist, windsurfing/foiling, micro boats, yachts and the return of the fishing boats category.

Gerrald Victorina, director of the Regatta, related that invitations have been sent out to neighboring islands to elevate participation in the different events.

Sponsors and organizations involved in the planning are: Aquaspeed (windsurfing), Guardian Group (sponsor), Maduro & Curriel (sponsor), Indebon (sports assistance) and OLB. Story/Photo Julie Morgan

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Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Bob,

I sold my property and the buyer has signed the purchase agreement. I am already planning what to do with the proceeds, can I go ahead and make commitments to use the money before the transfer is completed at the notary?

Kind regards, Thomas

Hi Thomas,

Good question and an important one.

Even though a purchase agreement has been signed, the sale is not final until the deed of transfer is signed at the notary and officially registered. Until that moment, there is still a risk that the transaction does not go through. For example, financing can fall through, conditions in the contract may not be met, or unforeseen issues can arise that delay or cancel the sale.

For that reason, it is strongly advised not to spend or commit your expected proceeds before the deed has actually passed at the notary. Only once the transfer has been completed and the funds are confirmed in your account can you consider the sale final.

Also keep in mind that in the event you put a buyer in default, your option are often limited. In most cases, you may only be able to receive the security deposit (waarborgsom), which is typically around 10% to 15% of the purchase



price. This amount is generally insufficient to cover the expected proceeds, which is another reason to avoid making financial commitments too early.

On Bonaire, the process can take a bit longer. After signing, the deed must first be registered at the Kadaster office, and it can take up to around two weeks before the funds are released and transferred to your account by the notary.

Kind regards,
Bob

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner
If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at info@bonairehomes.com.
Bonaire: +599-717-7362.
Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

Cooks Club at Nature Cooking School

...from page 3



Two chefs and cooking instructors team up to roll the funchi in banana leaves for cooking; Richard Palsgraaf of SGB and Isidoor van Riemsdijk of SGB.

Photo Julie Morgan

Then it was time to eat. Everyone sat down for a feast of healthy, all natural food. As a gift of thanks for a great experience, the Cooks Club presented Saeed with two bottles of organic wine.

To experience Nature Cooking School Bonaire firsthand or to learn more, email Saeed at naturecookingschool@gmail.com, visit the Facebook page or call +599-701-7723

Klub di Koki members meet regularly to learn what new exciting food products are available on the island and experience new ways to bring good food to the tables of their restaurants on Bonaire. If you are a chef and would like to be a part of the Cook's Club Bonaire contact Corjan on WhatsApp: +31 6 51841061.

Julie Morgan

For more photos see our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>

Van der Burg promises, We won't do your buses but we'll nag

Cabinet is willing to take full leadership on solving the landfill, but it has explicitly delegated the task of bringing public transport to Bonaire to the OLB. According to State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eric van der Burg, the money has been waiting in the budget for a long time. The local leadership should start spending it. "Those buses must start running as soon as possible," van der Burg said, and he assured the Executive Council he would be asking for regular progress reports.

A great deal of governance will be needed. Far more is involved than buying some buses and hiring some drivers. Routes must be planned, permits applied for and received, bus stops designated and constructed. Decisions must be made about how many buses need to be purchased, how many drivers need to be hired and trained, how many supervisory and clerical positions need to be created and staffed.

The infrastructure is not ready yet either. The 25 kilometers of highway between Rincon and Belnem need to be improved. That planning and tendering has to be done before the work can start, then construction itself will take several months. The new island government hoped to have buses on the road by the first quarter of 2027. *DMR*

There are just more and more of us

On January 1, 2026, the population of the Caribbean Netherlands stood at over 33 thousand. That was an increase of 1,249 (4 percent) over the previous year. The increase was largely due to population growth on Bonaire, mainly as a result of migration. On St Eustatius and Saba, the population also grew due to migration.

DMR



Travellers can now use the new Kiss & Ride zone next to the car rental area at Flamingo Airport. Photo BIA

Islands increasingly self-sufficient in food production

The Kingdom islands in the Caribbean are far from self-sufficient in food production, but they are contributing more to their own sustenance than most people realize, and the percentage is growing. According to the research agency PRIVA, of all the islands Sint Eustatius comes closest to feeding itself, producing almost 14% of the food it consumes. Curaçao and Bonaire produce 8 - 9% of their food, and Saba just above 4.5%. Sint Maarten produces less than 1% of its food. For the product groups studied, all the islands together produced 13.87% self-sufficiency for vegetables, 52.32% for eggs, 1.48% for fruit, 0.26% for dairy, and 1.39% for meat.

PRIVA was commissioned to conduct the study to provide baselines for tracking the effects of the Cari-FoodFund, which will be established before the summer recess. The fund will provide subsidies and favorable loans to stimulate the agricultural sector on the islands. *DMR*

Slagbaai weekend Rotary Bonaire very successful

Every year, the Rotary Club of Bonaire organizes a weekend for children. On Friday, May 22, around 4:30 p.m., 33 children and their supervisors arrived at the Slagbaai country house. As always, the children received a bag containing a pillow, cutlery, a plate, a cup, a toothbrush, toothpaste, etc., to get them through the weekend. Looking back, we can say it was a very successful weekend.

Every year the Rotarians set aside funds for the Slagbaai weekend. This year though they can allocate that money to another worthy project. A former Rotarian who cares deeply about the children sponsored the weekend to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the company he owned.

Co-organizer Shaedra Baromeo introduced the supervisors to the children and explained the rules. As always, the weekend began for the children with setting up the dormitories in the Mangazina building. Meanwhile, the Rotarians were busy preparing the hamburger meal. It remained lively well into Friday evening.

After breakfast on Saturday, the leaders had organized all sorts of activities. There was swimming, playing, hiking, and one group even climbed the Brandaris! And for lunch, the children got to make their own pizzas, which were then cooked on the barbecue. This part of the program was a huge success again this year.

After dinner, the party really got going. The counselors organized a disco for the children. The evening ended with a search for soldachi for Sunday's race. With so many activities, it was no wonder that the dorms quickly quieted down.

Sunday morning, filled with swimming, walking, and playing, concluded with the traditional soldachi race. The soldachi were once again enthusiastically cheered on by their own teams. After the winner was announced, all teams received a medal, and it was time for lunch. The barbecue team had again been working overtime.

Before they left, the children shouted a loud "masha danki" to the sponsor, the Rotary, and the supervisors. The children's cries to be allowed to stay clearly showed that the weekend had been a huge success

Bonaire Rotary Club release



Mr. J.R. (Jocelyn) Levenstone will be the new Island Governor of Saba effective July 1. Born on Saba and trained as a police officer, Levenstone has served in several security and enforcement positions on Sint Maarten.

Leiden University to study kingdom relations

Leiden University intends to establish a new Knowledge Centre for Kingdom Relations at its Campus at The Hague effective this September. The center will strengthen research, education, and public debate concerning relations within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It will bring together researchers from the Caribbean and the Netherlands and focus on political, administrative, and governance-related issues. Socio-economic development, climate change, migration, security, and the division of responsibilities within the Kingdom structure will be researched.

Leiden University said the centre is intended to consolidate knowledge currently spread across different institutions and islands, while also creating opportunities for greater cooperation between universities, researchers, and policymakers throughout the Kingdom. The University of Aruba and The Hague University of Applied Sciences are among the institutions expected to collaborate with the new centre. *DMR*

Hospital tapping solar energy

A large number of solar panels are being installed on the roof of the Fundashon Mariadal hospital. Mariadal intends to further reduce its energy consumption and decrease its dependence on fossil fuels. *DMR*

Teams compete to design National Slavery Museum

The municipality of Amsterdam is building a National Slavery Museum. The design firm will be selected from ten finalists. The jury, chaired by State architect, Francesco Veenstra, evaluated contributions for, among other things: quality of design, motivation, cooperation, social relevance and the way design teams deal with the meaning of slavery's past and its impact on the present. In addition, the diversity in the composition of the teams, including the prospects from Suriname and the Caribbean, was analyzed. *DMR*

Endangered Bonaire Sabal Palm gets its own park



Sabal lougheediana

Quirijn said, “This is a dry and dusty hot spot. It’s the palms and the entire eco system here we’re trying to protect. The area is for education and research. We know locations from the youngest to the oldest palm thanks to some young volunteers locating them. People can explore and learn more about nature walking the 15km (9.3 mi) of trails.”

Patrick Griffith who has been with the project from the beginning explained, Cargill was crucial in making sure this happened and Quirijn with his vision and very hard work.

“This is different than any other palm, even the one in Curaçao. You cut open the leaves and see how the cells are arranged and it is totally unique and only occurs one place on the entire planet. Bonaire. It’s not related to any other species. The scientific success for this species is a model for other species,” said Patrick.

Patrick was part of the international team responsible for the identification of the Bonaire Sabal Palm.

The original 25 palms have dwindled to 18 due to the

grazing. But with the fencing and care the numbers will grow.

The park was created as part of the nature and Environmental Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands (NMBP/NEPP) commissioned by the Public Entity Bonaire. During the opening a symbolic key was presented to a representative of OLB. The park is located at the intersection of Foodies and Sorobon road. A parking area is visible along with a sign with park info and the three trails. The park can be accessed through a “hop over gate” allowing people to enter and still keep the goats and donkeys out.

The Bonaire Sabal Palm is grown at Tera Barra and planted in a reforestation project of Klein Bonaire where there are no grazers. For more information visit <https://bonberde.com/bonaire-sabal-palm-park>.

Julie Morgan

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



(L-R) Quirijn Coolen of Bon Berde, Patrick Griffith of Montgomery Botanical Center in Florida

Photo via Bon Berde

The Sabal lougheediana or Bonaire Sabal Palm was identified as a unique species to the island of Bonaire 2017. In other words, it is found no where else in the Caribbean or the world but on the island of Bonaire. And to ensure this endangered palm’s protection, on May 21, the Bonaire Sabal Palm Park opened. But it did not come without a lot of hard work and dedication from director Quirijn and director assistant Roos Coolen of Bon Berde, executive director Patrick Griffith of Montgomery Botanical Center in Florida and executive director Duane Silverstein of Seacology.

In the early years after identification, 25 Bonaire Palms were discovered living on the southern end of the island but were threatened due to grazing goats and donkeys. In 2021, the Bonaire government gave permission to fence the area where they can safely grow and finally in 2022 the fence was erected.

In a small celebration attended by most of Bonaire’s nature organizations, Quirijn Coolin thanked the many people involved including Daniel DeAnda Jr. from Cargil and Frank van Slobbe of OLB who in 2020 had the idea for the park.



PRICE COMPARISON May 2026

In May, FTPKB, Bonaire’s consumer group, compared the price of 174 basic products in 21 supermarkets. The savings difference on a full shopping basket was \$592.74. The average price difference between the cheapest and most expensive basic products was 38.4%.

TOP 3 CHEAPEST SUPERMARKETS

Caribe Nobo - (south side of the Nikiboko Zuid traffic circle) • Savings: \$159.73 • 43 cheapest products • Strong in: Baby items, Vegetables & fruit

Kadushi - Kaya Djabao • Savings: \$57.88 • 13 cheapest products • Strong in: Flour & grain, Baby items

Bondigro - 29 Kaya Industria • Savings: \$56.41 • 15 cheapest products • Strong in: Fruits & vegetables

<https://tiendapakonsumido.com/en/> More information also in The Reporter’s online issue, pages 21 and 22.



Food Bank Seeks Support from Local Businesses

For \$990 per year, your company can sponsor a monthly food package for a vulnerable family for a full year. More than 350 households on Bonaire rely on food packages from the Bonaire Food Bank Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Bonaire wholeheartedly supports this “Support a Family” project. The Rotary Club will sponsor food packages for one family and is considering supporting a second family. The Rotary Club calls on Bonaire business owners to sponsor a year’s worth of food packages for one or more families.

Maarten Caljouw, chairman of the Food Bank’s board, spoke at a luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Bonaire. The food packages are tailored to each family. In addition to non-perishable canned goods, household items such as laundry detergent, juices, fresh eggs, bread, and vegetables from Venezuela are included. For families with young children, the Mormons sponsor diapers and baby food. The food bank also provides “back-to-school” packages, and extras at Christmas.

Items are purchased as cheaply as possible. Some com-

panies allow purchases at cost. Companies also make regular donations. A minimum of \$361,000 is needed annually just to cover the cost of the food packages.

Currently 354 households are registered with the food bank. The composition of the households, totaling 1,400 people, is known. Families are referred through organizations or by people in the neighborhood. Akseeso makes the final selection and coordinates with Adra, the other food bank, to prevent misuse.

A well-known Dutch DJ raised a one-time amount of €130,000 in 2025. From 2025, the Food Bank will receive €300,000 from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The remaining amount comes from donations from individuals and businesses. The Tax Authority grants the Food Bank Foundation ANBI (Public Benefit) status.

The packages are packed by a core group of eight volunteers, assisted by a pool of 60 volunteers. The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, the Police, and young people from Bonaire Breakers make up a significant portion of this pool. *Rotary Club of Bonaire release*



The many guests visited the different nature booths housed under a large tent which provided plenty of shade from the sun. They enjoyed local food and drinks made from locally sourced plants and meat prepared by Nature's Cooking School.

STINAPA director Melissa van Hoorn said, "STINAPA has been advocating for the preservation of our nature on Bonaire for 40 years. Nature and culture form a single whole. That is why we are celebrating not only Bonaire's beautiful nature but also the island's culture."
story / photos Julie Morgan

For more photos see our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>



Shown above: STINAPA director Melissa van Hoorn and husband Diederik van Dullemen

Shown below: Mangrove Manics explain their work

DANKI marks 40 years of STINAPA

STINAPA Bonaire began the first of several celebrations for their 40th anniversary this past weekend with a DANKI event at Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP). DANKI not only means thank you in Papiamentu but it is an acronym for Dia pa Apresia Naturala Kultura Idioma or Day to Appreciate Culture and Language.

Antilles islands. In the late 80's each island created its own branch of STINAPA and this year marks the 40th anniversary.

The celebration held at WSNP entrance featured exhibits from FuHiKubo, Akademia Papiamentu, local music from FMK (Formashon Musikal Krioyo) and of course the islands' hard working nature organizations that collaborate with STINAPA.

STINAPA has been around since 1962 actively protecting nature on Bonaire and the other Netherlands



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Reef Glimpses - Quiz Time by Dee Scarr

It's been a year since the last quiz, so here's a new one about Reef Glimpses since then. I hope all the answers are easy for you (and you have fun). If the answers aren't easy, the quiz is open "book", so feel free to look into The Bonaire Reporter archives.

1. Manatees

- a. are aquatic mammals
- b. like dolphins, eat fish
- c. like dolphins, have fluked tails
- d. none of the above

2. Dugongs

- a. are native to the Caribbean
- b. like dolphins, eat fish
- c. like dolphins, have fluked tails
- d. none of the above

3. Frogfish are most easily noticed by their

- a. shape
- b. colors
- c. aggressive behavior
- d. none of the above

4. When Peter Benchley wrote, "... each one's mouth looked like a Swiss army knife open for display. Their eyes stared at us with the blank serenity of the invulnerable ... in their world, these creatures were supreme. They went where they wanted, ate what they chose, and feared no living thing." Benchley was writing about:

- a. polar bears
- b. sharks
- c. barracudas
- d. none of the above

5. Fish at a cleaner station may

- a. change colors
- b. open their mouths
- c. eat the cleaner
- d. all of the above



6. Snapping shrimp "snap" to

- a. stun their prey
- b. get the attention of their subordinates
- c. keep time with their internal melodies
- d. all of the above

7. Sperm whales have been known to

- a. attack ships
- b. protect other sperm whales
- c. eat squid
- d. all of the above

8. Are sperm whale teeth smaller than

- a. grizzly bear teeth
- b. gorilla teeth
- c. blue whale teeth
- d. None of the above

9. Arrow crabs are native to

- a. the Red Sea
- b. the Caribbean
- c. the Great Barrier Reef
- d. all of these places

10. The sex organs of sea spiders are located:

- a. inside the abdomen
- b. inside the thorax
- c. on their legs
- d. on the antennae

11. The common names of which of the following were likely determined from preserved specimens, not living fish in the water

- a. spotted scorpionfish & striated frogfish
- b. striated frogfish and brown chromis
- c. brown chromis and creole wrasse
- d. creole wrasse and spotted scorpionfish

12. Surgeonfish got their names from

- a. their color, just like surgeon's scrubs
- b. the masklike scale patterns on their mouths
- c. the "scalpel" at the base of their tails
- d. none of the above



13. "Thor" shrimp probably got their name from

- a. their huge size
- b. their behavior of rushing around
- c. they were initially described by a Viking
- d. none of the above

14. Which of the following is showing signs of stress

- a. scorpionfish with dorsal spine raised
- b. inflated pufferfish
- c. seahorse turning head away from diver
- d. all of the above

15. Squid possess:

- a. six arms and two tentacles
- b. eight arms and two tentacles
- c. two arms and eight tentacles
- d. none of the above



1. A • 2. C • 3. Usually B but D could be justified • 4. C • 5. D • 6. A • 7. D • 8. D • 9. B • 10. C • 11. A • 12. C • 13. B • 14. D • 15. B

Answers:

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



Creating Optimal Health

Every decision is a quiet funeral by Irene da Cunda Costa

Not dramatic, not loud, no violins, no black clothing, but something is always being buried, the life you didn't choose. The versions of you that never get to exist. The road that quietly seals itself the moment you step onto another. We tend to celebrate decisions as victories of clarity, confidence and direction. But hidden inside every "yes" is a small, sometimes imperceptible "goodbye."

And that's where the ego enters the room, uninvited but very loud. The ego hates funerals and wants certainty, perfection, the illusion that there is a "right" path that guarantees happiness, success, or at the very least, no regret. It whispers things like: What if you choose wrong? What if there was something better? What if this closes a door you'll wish you had opened? The ego doesn't just want a good decision, it wants the perfect decision, the one that proves your intelligence, your foresight, your control over life itself. Which, of course, is impossible.

Because decision making is not a math equation; it's closer to storytelling. You are not solving for the correct answer, you are choosing which story you're willing to live, knowing every other story dissolves the moment you commit.

Too many options create anxiety. When nothing is chosen for you, everything feels possible, and the responsibility is all yours. A fixed path may feel limiting, but it also feels safe. Freedom can feel less like liberation and more like exposure. More options don't always free us; they force us to face the fact that no one can guarantee we've chosen right. The real weight is not just the decision, but the authorship: this life is yours to write, with no drafts, no undo button, no omniscient narrator to confirm you're on the "right" track.

The ego naturally panics under this kind of pressure. It tries to regain control by demanding complete information, analyzing every variable, predicting every outcome and trying to remove all uncer-

tainty. But no one has access to every factor. That's where something quieter, yet often more dependable, comes in: the body.

In Descartes' Error, neuroscientist Antonio Damasio describes the idea of somatic markers, subtle gut feelings, tensions, or inclinations that arise before conscious reasoning catches up. They are not irrational impulses; they are compressed experiences. Your body, in a sense, keeps score. It absorbs patterns, past outcomes, emotional residues, and distills them into signals that guide you when logic reaches its limits. Because logic will reach its limits.

No spreadsheet can account for every future emotion, every unforeseen consequence, every shifting desire. The dream of a "fully informed decision" is just that, a dream the ego clings to in order to avoid vulnerability. But real decisions happen in the fog, not in perfect clarity.

This doesn't mean you abandon think-

ing, of course. It means you stop demanding impossible certainty from it. You let reason map the terrain, and you let the body whisper where it feels safe. And yes, even then, the doubt will linger. You'll still wonder about the other paths. You'll still feel that faint echo of the lives not lived. But that's not a sign you chose poorly. It's a sign you chose at all.

So, the next time you face a decision, see it for what it is: an act of creation wrapped in loss, guided by uncertainty and intuition. The ego demand guarantees. The world will offer none. All you can do is listen carefully, choose honestly, grieve lightly what you leave behind and move forward.



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 Field Hockey team competes in ABC Cup 2026



Bonaire's five field hockey teams competed in the ABC Hockey Cup 2026 on May 23-24. Photo by Max Rouwenhorst, Evoke Visuals

If you are into land sports, Bonaire just keeps getting better and better. Soccer, baseball, basketball, swimming, biking, landsailing, bocce, tennis, pickleball and even field hockey. Field hockey was a surprise to the Reporter, but it has been played on Bonaire for years. And on May 23-24 Bonaire's five teams went up against one team from Aruba and two from Curaçao in ABC Hockey Cup 2026.

The competition was played at Kra- lendijk Sports Field, formerly the stadium, on an astro turf type field with tarped bleachers available for spectators.

The teams play a 5s format: five play- ers per team with two 10-minute periods.

Overall winner for the tourney was Curaçao with Bonaire coming in second.

The ABC tourney was for the adults, but Bonaire has a youth team for kids too.

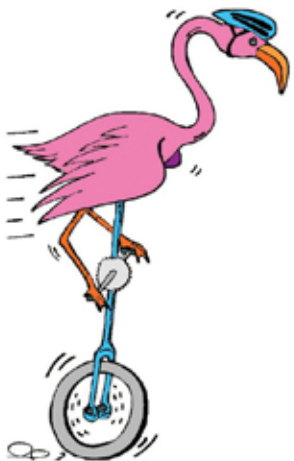
For more information visit Bonaire Hockey Foundation on Instagram and Facebook.

Julie Morgan



Aruba (blue) and Bonaire (pink) play for point Photo Julie Morgan

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Fish, Fish, Fish

Eric Riesch of New World Publications is on the island

Calling all fish geeks and fish geek wannabes! Eric Riesch, noted underwater photographer and managing director of New World Publications, is on the island until June 20. You know the fish identification books by Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach? New World publishes them, and it's a treat to have Eric here representing both New World and REEF (the Reef Environmental Education Foundation, www.reef.org).

Eric presented a fascinating overview of fish behavior, or as I call it, fish misbehavior this past Sunday. He will do so again on Sunday, June 7 and 14, 6 p.m. at Blennie's, the casual restaurant at Buddy Dive. He gave an overview of REEF's programs and then launched into a review of some often-seen fish and critters here on Bonaire. Eric's mantra is simple: dive slow; be observant and curious; and seek small.

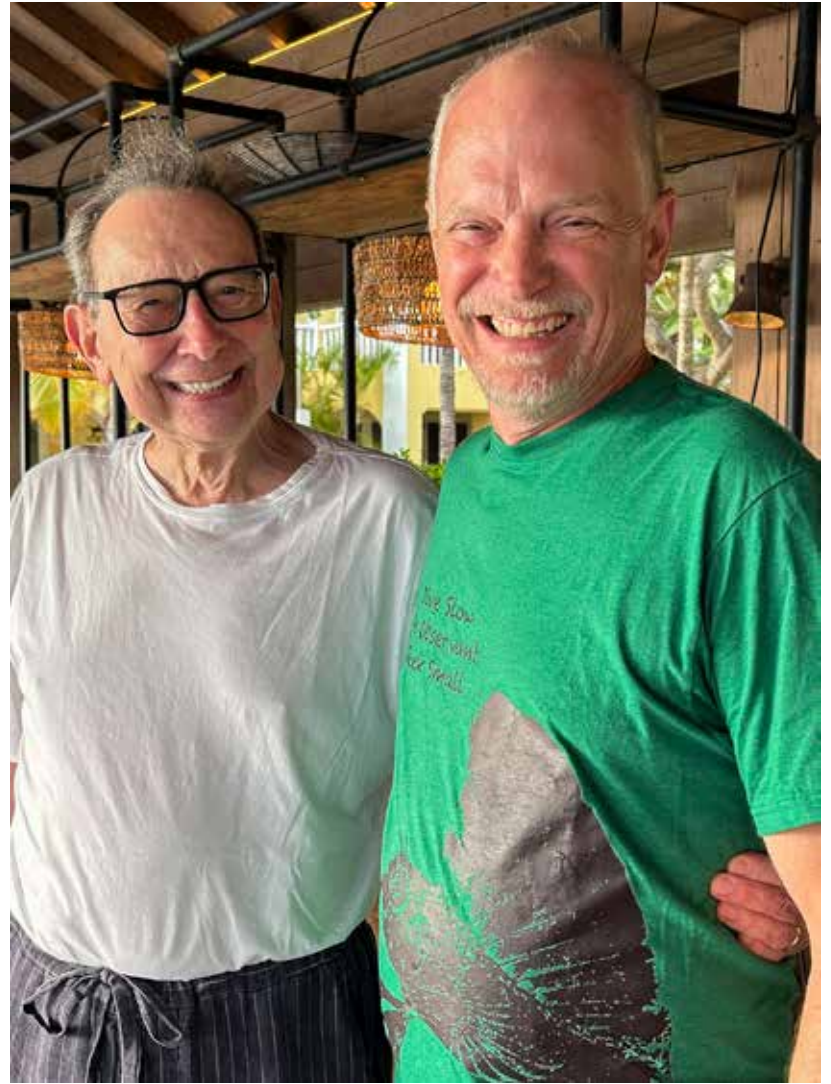
I learned something new about the feeding behavior of sand divers, a common lizardfish. Not only do they lurk and lunge, but they have multiple rows

of teeth plus teeth on the backs of their tongues! Pity the poor fish trapped in a mouth like that. And I did not know that when goatfish feed, stirring up the bottom with their barbels, they inadvertently ingest a lot of sand—25% of their stomach contents are typically sand. You have to wonder what a gastroenterologist would make of that.

Eric had many great tidbits of information. Barracuda can swim 35 miles per hour (56 km), and when they strike with their fearsome teeth, they can easily snap a fish in half. The escas, or lures, of longlure frogfish resemble shrimp, but the curly esca of the striated frogfish looks like a worm. An algae-chomping adult parrotfish excretes a ton of sand (2000 pounds or 907 kilos) per year, the by-product of crunched up coral heads.

Eric also handed out a list of fish and critters to find and log, and if you can complete enough of the list and turn it in, you can earn a mini fish ID book or a REEF sticker for your logbook.

Photo/ Story Mel McCombie



Eric Riesch (R) and show attendee Harris Friedberg (L) talk about fish

Junior Rangers start REEF Fish ID Training



The STINAPA Bonaire Junior Rangers recently participating in the REEF Fish Identification class, taught by Carmen Toanchina, REEF expert surveyor and Managing Director of Biodiverse Bonaire.

During the class, students learned how to identify many of the reef's familiar residents, from colorful parrotfish to shy blennies, and how to record their sightings using REEF's standardized survey method. This foundational skill set gives the Junior Rangers the op-

portunity to begin their journey as marine surveyors, contributing observations that help track changes in fish populations and overall reef health. Their participation supports a global database of more than 300,000 surveys, used by scientists, resource managers, and conservation organizations worldwide to monitor trends and guide conservation decisions. *STINAPA release*

BSSA christens new fleet



Sunfish Pastor Ramon "Yellowman" Martis christens the 11 new Sunfish boats

BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) received a new fleet of 11 self-funded Sunfishes recently and over the weekend, Sunfish pastor Ramon "Yellowman" Martis ceremonially christened them with a blessing for safe sailing and champagne.

The BSSA sailors in the Sunfish A and B classes now have top-of-the-line equipment at their disposal, and the Worlds team can prepare excellently for the World Championships later this year in USVI.

Since the launch of the new BSSA Youth Plan in early 2025, the association has partnered with Watersport Bonaire, an initiative led by former Olympic silver medalist Marcelien Bos-de Koning. Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the collaboration provides professional guidance and a multi-year budget for sponsored equipment to help expand grassroots water sports on Bonaire.

In the coming years, BSSA aims to grow to 200 youth members. From this large pool of local children, talented kids who wish to progress can choose the elite sports track.

New Sunfish fleet ...to page 16



Stuffed Banana Flower by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

Ingredients: 1 closed purple flower of the banana tree • 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced • 30 g (1C) bean sprouts, blanched • 2 tablespoons crème fraîche • 30 g (1C) cucumber, cut into small cubes • 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, chopped • 1 tablespoon soy sauce • Pinch of curry powder • 1/3 red chili pepper, finely chopped • 1 teaspoon browned sesame seeds

Batter: Chickpea flour • Pepper • Bonaire sea salt • Water or sparkling water

Preparation: Remove the purple leaves, down to the white petals, keep two, and keep the small flowers that are between the leaves. Remove stalks with the small piston from the

small flowers. Cut the white inside in half, cut it into fine strips, and boil them briefly in water with salt. Rinse with cold water and gently squeeze out some excess water.

Now make a salad by mixing all the ingredients together and seasoning with freshly ground pepper and Bonaire sea salt. Fill a purple leaf with the salad.

Make a batter from some chickpea flour by stirring in some water with some pepper and Bonaire sea salt, which sticks well to the product. Coat the plant in some chickpea flour, then dip them one by one into the batter and deep-fry until they are nicely browned and

crispy; you can also deep-fry a whole sheet this way for an extra crispy treat.

Place the fried flowers, seasoned with a little more coarse Bonaire sea salt, on the salad, optionally with some garden cress.

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.



Events, Meetings, Sports

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

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

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.

Field Hockey. Kids 6-12. Thurs. free training in May & June. Adults train twice weekly.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>

Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome.

Usually held last Thursday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

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

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 pp

Radio program "Krese" Bonaire's development over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month,

6 - 7 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. In Papiamentu; A recap is planned in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Radio program "Ban Lesa 2.0" Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. Multilingual; Guests in a

warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them.

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. 7:30 p.m. **June 8 & 15** at Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden. **June 22** at Plaza Resort Toucan Diving at the Scu-Bar. No presentations June 29th or July 6th. Back mid-July.

Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanislandsmantacconservation/)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free.

Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefnewalbonaire.org



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/next-monitoring-patrols/>

What's Happening

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

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. 1-5; Tues. & Thurs. 8-7; Wed & Fri. 8-5; Sat. 10-2. 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)

May 21 - June 4	Bonaire Culinary Week Spring Edition Discover the wide variety of restaurants on Bonaire. Most 3-course menus \$45. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Tuesdays, 24 weeks starting June 2	Ban Lesa 2.0 at 5:30 p.m. BonFM 102.7 The series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books. Multilingual.
Thursday, June 4	Airport emergency training exercise BIA is looking for actors. See page 15
Saturday, June 6	Olimpiada di Grandinan (Seniors Olympics) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sports Hall Food Truck Festival Isidel Park. 6:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free entrance.
Two Sundays June 7 & 14	Eric Riesch from New World/REEF will be doing a fish ID and photo session at Blennie's, Buddy Dive, 6 p.m. See page 12.
Saturday, June 13 - Sunday, June 27	Pride Bonaire See page 15. Sa. 13 Opening Pride Cuba Compagnie. From 4.30 p.m. Su. 14 Unity Hike. Seru Largu. Meet at 6.30 a.m. Mo. 15 Pride Movie Night. Tera Cora Ranch. From 7.30 p.m Tu. 16 Kofi ku te kolorido. Biblioteka Público Boneiru. From 9 - 11 a.m. Sports 2 unite. Parke Isidel. 7 p.m W. 17 Let's Talk. MBO Afternoon Break Session. 12.30 p.m (During break) Th. 18 Pink Cuba night. Cuba Compagnie. From 8 p.m Fr. 19 Pride Pub Quiz. Hillside Resort Bonaire. Registration from 7 p.m Sa. 20 Unity in diversity. An educational event. Eddy's Restaurant. 8.30 a.m. Pride Party 4 Unity. Tera Corra Ranch. From 8 p.m Su. 21 Pride Sundowner. Grand Windsock Beach Club. From 5 p.m
Wednesday, June 17	Culinary Team Fundraiser at Joe's Restaurant 6 p.m. \$75 pp — 4-course menu including an amuse and 4 beverage tokens— The chefs will cook from a mystery basket, so the menu will be a surprise. Reserve at https://www.bonaireculinaryteam.com/fundraiser-training-dinner-2/
June 17-19 June 22-24	Dutch Caribbean Research Week Free. Registration required. https://www.dcrw.nl see page 16
Sunday, June 21	International Yoga Day - Meditative walk and gentle yoga at Seru Largu 6: 45 a.m. FREE
Saturday, June 27	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.

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, May 30	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, June 14	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
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
Wed. July 1	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. July 8	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. July 15	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South

BIA is looking for actors

Bonaire International Airport (BIA) is looking for volunteer actors for emergency training “Rescue at sea.” Are you between 18 and 50 years old and in good physical condition? Join them as a volunteer actor for a large-scale multidisciplinary emergency and disaster response exercise.

Date: Thursday, June 4, 8 a.m. – 12 noon

Meeting Point: to be announced.

Drinks and snacks will be provided

Sign up via: info@bonaire-airport.com

Help prepare our emergency services and experience up close how a full-scale drill works

*BIA release
Pride Bonaire*

Unity - Pride Bonaire

From 13 to 21 June 2026, the fourth edition of Pride Bonaire 2026 will take place. This year’s Pride will center around the theme “Unity”, “uni” in Papiamentu.

Throughout the week, a variety of activities will be organized across Bonaire, including informational sessions, sports activities and festive gatherings. The program is designed to create space for connection, visibility, inclusion, and community engagement.

The Pride Bonaire team intentionally chose the theme “Unity” because it reflects what is needed most right now: greater togetherness, respect, and solidarity. In a society where everyone should be free to be themselves, the focus is on building an environment where people feel valued, respected, and connected.

The official opening of Pride Bonaire will take place on Saturday, June 13, at 5 p.m. at Cuba Compagnie. Everyone is warmly welcome to join and celebrate the start of Pride Week together.

More information and the full program will be shared in the coming period via the Facebook and Instagram channels of Pride Bonaire and EQ Bonaire.



Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

• **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.

• **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.

• **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m./10 a.m.

International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO):

Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children’s Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services in English.

United Protestant Congregation

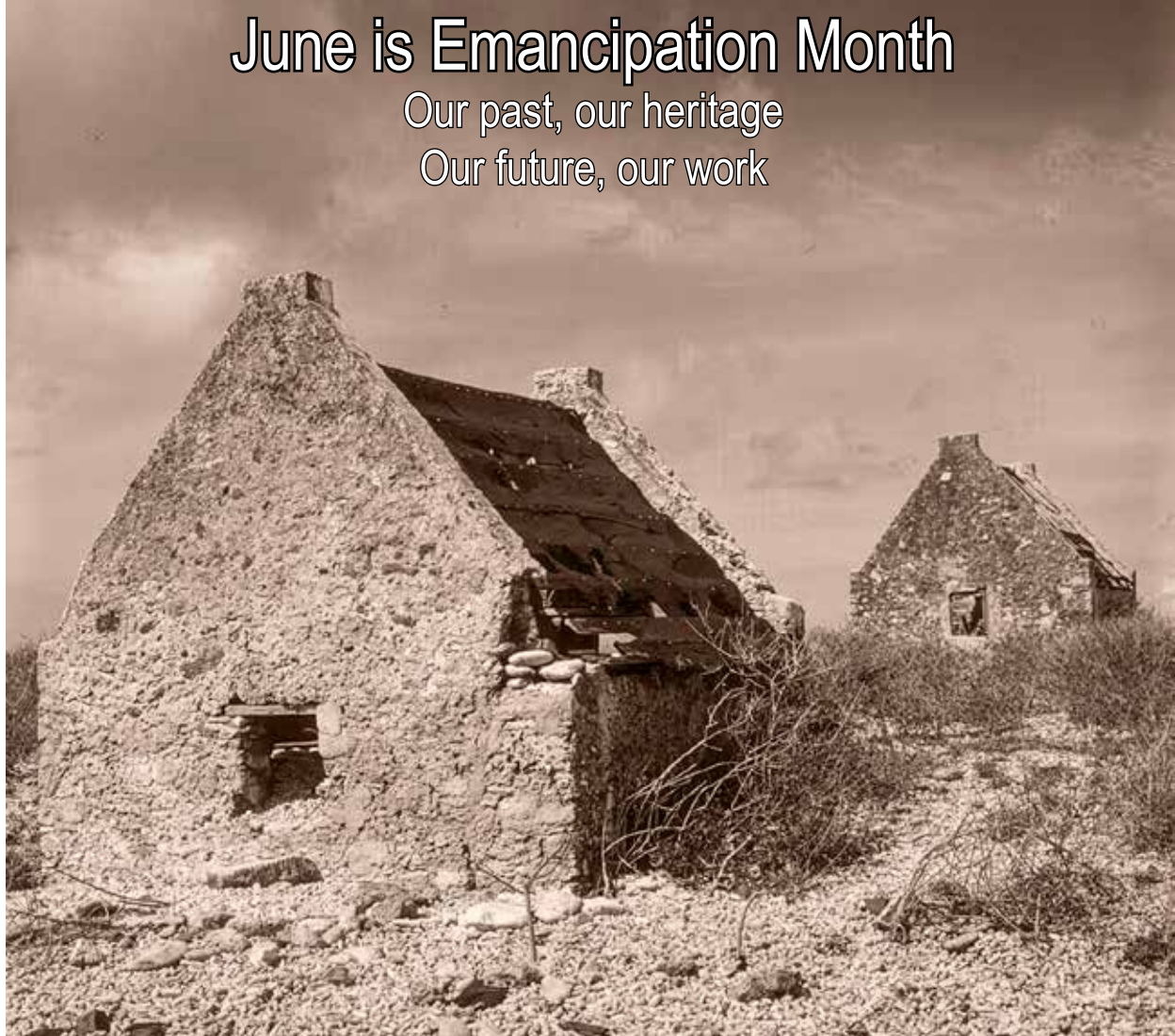
• **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m.

Services in Dutch • **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

June is Emancipation Month

Our past, our heritage

Our future, our work



July 1 is the annual Commemoration of Slavery Past, marking the abolition of slavery on July 1, 1863. On Bonaire, June has been designated Luna di Emansipashon (Emancipation Month) by a working group of the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) in collaboration with Mangazina di Rei.

Various activities have been organized for the community of Bonaire throughout June. The activities are dedicated to the broader process of emancipation: strengthening rights and opportunities within today’s society. The slogan of Luna di Emansipashon is therefore:

*Nos pasado, nos herensia (Our past, our heritage)
Nos futuro, nos obra (Our future, our work)*

The history of slavery remains an important part of our shared history and identity. By reflecting on this past and its impact on the present, space is created for awareness, dialogue, and further emancipation.

The calendar and more information about the activities can be found on the OLB website, <https://bonairegov.com/emancipatiemaand>. Keep an eye on this website and the Public Body Bonaire Facebook page, as

Emancipation Month Activities

The events have registration deadline (see <https://bonairegov.com/emancipatiemaand>) Register without delay via WhatsApp at +599 7011824 and state which activity you are registering for and for how many attendees.

Onwards from Bonaire’s climate case.

Fri. 5 Short film ‘How to Care for Bonaire,’ Terramar 6 - 8 p.m. Followed by a discussion of impact of climate case ruling. Film is in Papiamentu with English subtitles. The expert conversation following the screening will take place primarily in Papiamentu.

Sat. 6 Video Climate adaptation as shaped by colonial heritage, cultural differences & climate vulnerability. Mangazina di Rei 6 - 9 p.m.

Four showings of film

Tu. 9 & W. 10. Two viewings each night of film Changá (Double Game) Terramar Museum 6 - 7 p.m. and 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. The life of Antillean and Caribbean-Dutch people in the Netherlands.

Colorism in society

Mangazina di Rei invites all to a Dialogue Evening on colorism, a theme deeply rooted in our colonial past and our present reality.

Thur. 11 & Thur. 18 Library 7 - 9 p.m.

Research week

Fri. 19 The Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026 is a free multi-day online and live conference. Lectures, panel discussions, cultural interludes, poster presentations and networking opportunities. Terramar Museum 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Archeology

Sat. 6 New findings from Harvard genetic study on human remains at the Amboina site. Terramar Museum 5:30 – 6 p.m.

Field inspections of likely archaeological sites. Leave at 8 a.m. from SKAL. 8 a.m. -12 noon. **Sun. 7** Karpata • **Sat. 13** Gotomeer/Lagun • **Sun. 14** Kaomati • **Sat. 20** Fontein

Museum activities / exhibits

Sat. 6 • Saturday at Terramar. 9 a.m – 7 p.m. Take anyone you consider family and explore the museum for only \$10 per family.

Sat. 20. Children’s Workshop: Celebration of the Day of the Ocean Children make their own underwater animals and watch a movie about life in the ocean. \$10 per child, 6 to 12 years. Terramar Museum 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Young people’s exhibition: Kibra i Konstruí Mangazina di Rei 6 – 9 p.m. Young people show the works of art, music or creative expressions inspired by what they have discovered about their roots, identity, family patterns and healing process.



Yellowman christens the fleet
Photo Julie Morgan

The challenging ambitions pursued by BSSA cannot be realized without structural sponsorship and occasional donations from both private individuals and the business community. BSSA is very grateful to its current sponsors for their support: My Guardian, Xerox, BMW, Budget Marine, WEB, Indebon, VWS, Rocargo, GLE Caribbean Line, Don Andres, Roosdom Tjihuis, Boto Blanku, BMC and JG Equipment.

This growth of the sport of sailing is expected to inspire a new generation of young sailors on Bonaire to participate in club races and international regattas,

including the BonSailing Regatta June 12 to 14 and the Bonaire October Regatta in October.

BSSA, based at Kas di Regatta in Kralendijk, continues to strengthen sailing on Bonaire through accessible training, community partnerships, and investment in modern equipment.

Contact: www.bonairesailingschool.com • FB: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association • Email: sponsoring@bonairesailing-club.org • Tel/WA: : 599-7955225

Elizabeth Vos

Q1 Tourism update and 2026 forecast presented to over 100 stakeholders

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), in collaboration with the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA), Bonaire International Airport (BIA), and the Harbor Master (OLB), successfully hosted the first quarterly Bonaire Tourism Update for 2026 yesterday, May 21st, at the Van der Valk Plaza Resort Bonaire.

The joint stakeholder information session drew more than 100 attendees, including key industry partners, local business owners, and members of the press. The turnout and active participation highlighted the community's strong interest in the performance and future of Bonaire's economy.

During the presentation, TCB and its partners shared a wealth of data, key performance figures, and strategic insights. The session focused heavily on recent tourism numbers, detailing the performance of the island's stayover, cruise, and air passenger sectors. TCB also provided an extensive overview of the marketing initiatives, community engagement, product development initiatives, and promotional activities successfully executed over the last three months to position Bonaire at the forefront of travelers' minds.

In addition to reviewing past performance, the presentation offered a forward-looking forecast for the remainder of 2026. The co-presenters outlined the clear forecast for the year while highlighting the critical need to invest in infrastructure and diversify the island's economic and tourism offerings. These upcoming initiatives are designed to ensure sustainable economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and balance visitor traffic.

The successful briefing combined essential sector data from Veroesjka de Windt, CEO of BONHATA, who outlined the current hospitality trends and the importance of the sector; Giordano Molina, COO of BIA, who addressed the airport's recent passenger growth and essential infrastructure modernization updates; and Günther Flanegin, Harbor Master, who provided critical insights regarding cruise passenger traffic and marine port policies.

For additional information regarding the presentation data or upcoming initiatives, please contact marketing@bonaireisland.com.

TCB release

Funds Available

Strengthening Healthcare Healthcare organizations on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius or Saba can apply for grants for practical projects that strengthen the organization of healthcare on the ABCSSS Islands. ZonMw's call for grants has a total budget of €360,000 with a maximum of €60,000 available for each project. Projects must spend at least 75% of the budget on the ABCSSS Islands. The subsidy is not intended to flow back to the Netherlands.

Digital information sessions will be held on June 4 and June 23, 2026, 10 a.m. AST. The **mandatory pre-registration closes on July 7, 2026 at 8 a.m. AST**. The full application must be submitted by August 25, 2026. More information on the ZonMw website: <https://www.zonmw.nl/>

ZonMw programs and funds research and innovation in health, care and well-being. Together with partners, ZonMw works to identify and agenda knowledge needs.

Research conference: Bonaire's session is June 19 at Terramar

The Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026 (DCRW2026) is a free multi-day conference. It brings researchers from the Caribbean science community together. This event is packed with lectures, panel discussions, cultural performances and networking opportunities.

Register for DCRW2026

Participation is free but registration is required: www.dcrw.nl/registration.

Keynote speakers

- The keynote speakers will deliver addresses that frame each day's theme:
- **June 17.** Drs. Stephanie Croes (Aruba) *Education, Research & Technology in the Caribbean*
 - **June 18.** Dr. Soraya Verstraeten (Curaçao) *Health & Healthcare in the Caribbean*
 - **June 19.** Drs. Elly Rojer (Bonaire) *Social Behavioural Science in the Caribbean*
 - **June 22.** Drs. Oliver Klokman (Saba) *Ecology & Environment in the Caribbean*
 - **June 23.** Drs. Raymond Jesserun (Sint Maarten) *Culture, Literature & Arts in the Caribbean*
 - **June 24.** Island Governor Alida Francis (Sint Eustatius) *Governance & Law in the Caribbean*

Explore the full programme

The complete programme for all six islands is now online www.dcrw.nl/programme.

Communication SSO-CN

Free Community Event

International Yoga Day

Summer Solstice Celebration

Walk a short mindful meditative loop with us followed by gentle yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire

21st June 2026

06:45am for 07:00am start

Seru Largu

What to bring:

- Mat or towel
- Water
- Walking Shoes
- Insect Repellent

More information and RSVP contact Kelly: +599 701 0110

BonSailing hosts mini regatta this month



division for sailing and windsurfing. All types of boats are welcome, there will be windsurf and foil, kite surf and foil, wing and more. Optimists, Sunfish, RS Feva, Ilca (Lasers) yachts, micro boats, Bonaire fishing sail boats (Boto Piskado) and even land sailing. If you have a sailboat, dust it off and get out there!

Budget Marine is joining the activity, hosting a fishing tournament, to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

The registration and participant fee of \$25, captain's meeting and pickup of long-sleeve t-shirt for both sailing and fishing will be on the evening of June 12. On competition days, participants receive lunch. A pasta dinner will be held for all that register and anyone wanting to join the dinner may purchase a ticket in advance with funds going to the Sunfish World Championships team.

The landsailing will be at the Tras de Montana field, Microboats and fishing will be at Parke Tului floating pier and the main action center is Kas de Regatta. Sign up at Bonsailing.com

Shaded seating, music, food and a bar will be available for spectators to enjoy the competitions. Need to catch the football games? Kanti Awa Snack will have many screens next door, so you do not miss a thing. Come join us!

Pam Teitel



Sailing is deeply rooted in the culture and identity of Bonaire. BonSailing is dedicated to the responsible development of sailing and wind-driven sports on the island, with a strong focus on education, safety, accessibility, youth development, and environmental stewardship.

One Regatta per year is simply not enough, so BonSailing is organizing a Regatta on June 12-14. This will complement the Bonaire Regatta in October and the fast-growing wind driven youth

A Garden? Just Do It! - Protecting the garden - by Angliet, Nature Lover



Angliet and Saeed at the Nature Cooking School. Photo Julie Morgan

Summer vacation is on its way so we gardeners have to prepare our garden for our absence. More than in previous years it worries me to leave my plants in other people's hands. I see how much time, care, maintenance and patience it takes to support the plants survival. The hard, dry, blowing wind, the heat, the drought makes it a big job for caretakers. And who can do it the way you do every day? It's not easy to find someone who shows the effort. So it's the number one worry on my mind. A good caretaker can become your best friend.

While biking around, I see so many trees in yards and in the mondi getting dry and becoming lifeless without leaves. The green landscape has changed into a kind of a desert with thorny, bushy, dry stems. It's sad.

I water my plants more often but in a smart way. I start with two times a week with the hose for all plants. In between I water with a bucket and can for those plants which are in trouble. I add dry leaves around the plants

to keep the soil moist and cool. I trim them, remove yellow leaves and dry stems and make an edge of dirt and little stones around the trees so water can stay around them.

I also reuse old potting dirt. Because this old dirt often has dead roots and leaves, it is perfect to reuse in big pots or on top of the soil of plants in the garden. Some gardeners collect this old dirt in a heap or in a container. They add some manure and other nutrients and let it stay for a while. Mix it with black dirt with some coffee waste in it and use it again. The bugs and ants will move and the dead roots and leaves will keep the soil moist around the plants.

At the Nature Cooking School at LVV I saw that the owner, Saeed, has old potting dirt in a heap for reusing. I had a workshop at the Nature Cooking School about medicinal plants growing on Bonaire for a group of very interested people. Saeed gave us a tour in his

green garden. He explained that sensitive vegetable plants such as okra, peppers had died and fruit trees like papaya don't make it these days. But the garden still looked vital and lush with the plantain trees, yuca plants with the special grass and soil covered by layers of dead leaves. The big tamarind tree and mango tree gave enough shade to the green garden.

Shade for the plants, especially for the sensitive ones, is very important. I found a way to create shade depending on the need of the plant. Different plants have a different need of shade. Those that cannot stand a lot of sunlight are under big trees such as the mango tree. Those which need more light are in other places. I looked for an old table frame and laid some used 2 by 4 beams on the frame with space in between the beams, so water can drip out. I put the tables under the sour-sop trees where more light comes through. Some plants need 50 percent shade and 50 percent sunlight. The trees also break the wind reaching the plants. So you can create spots with recycled stuff for the best conditions for your plants.

Also our skin gets dry and the weather has no mercy for us. Because our face is exposed to sun, heat and air-co, one can use a fresh plant mask to prevent dry wrinkled skin. I chop the white part of watermelon and lay it on my face. I also use the skin of cucumber, avocado, mango, waste of tea bags such as chamomile, mint and ginger. These are all rich in vitamins, minerals and the liquid penetrates the facial skin. Lay down for 10 minutes with a fresh plant mask on the face. Rinse your face and see how your face turns into a vital looking, soft baby skin. Go ahead, use pure nature for your health, beauty and pocket.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa. Returning to the Caribbean, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



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Jeff



Mila & Moby



Elena cuddles Spot

Homeless pups, that's what we have at the Animal Shelter Bonaire. Sweet happy souls, innocent and full of love waiting to be adopted into their own home.

But yet these pups are forgotten, abandoned, unwanted, and we ask ourselves the question every day, why does this happen? When will it stop? But these questions will not get answers, what we need are good deeds, and for that we need you, and all the support we can get.

The most important thing is to sterilize your animals, so there won't be unwanted pups. There would be no need to let them suffer, dumped near the ocean, thrown out of cars or discarded somewhere in a box. Your help is one call away. Call the veterinarian of your choice

and have your animal sterilized for FREE: Klinika Veterinario at Kaminda Lagun phone number, 717-4255 or Flamingo Veterinary Center at Julio A. Abraham Boulevard 13 phone number, 717-3338.

Adopt a loving pup into your family, or foster one of these sweethearts and make it your mission to find him or her a forever home.

Come by the Shelter and spend some time with the pups by helping with daily tasks, cleaning kennels, helping feed them, playing and interacting with them. Bring your children and have some fun. The pups need to get used to human touch, feel loved and wanted.

Help us with your support by donating puppy food, dog toys or a monetary contribution. All help is needed and all help is wanted: Animal Shelter Bonaire; Maduro & Curiel's Bank account #10237800. For more information to donate, all check our website www.animalshelterbonaire.com

The pups are all different breeds with different personalities and ages. Some may still be nursing from their mom. But what they all have in common is they need a loving home. Come visit Animal Shelter Bonaire and maybe you will find your own furry best friend.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt



World Ocean Day

Did you know World Ocean Day is Monday, June 8 and it will be celebrated by millions of people worldwide? The observance is such a big deal that not one, but two international organizations are promoting the day with two different themes: The United Nations and the World Ocean Day global network.

The important thing is we celebrate and do what we can to bring awareness to this massive body of water that holds 97% of all Earth's water and covers 71% of the planet. The Ocean regulates climate, supports biodiversity, sustains life and livelihoods and provides at least 50% of the oxygen on Earth.

The United Nations theme is Reimagine: Beyond the World we know, a new relationship with our ocean. To move from passive inheritors of the ocean's generosity to active guardians of its future.

World Ocean Day global network theme is: Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet. World leaders have committed to 30x30 – designating and protecting 30% of the Earth's land, oceans and freshwater by 2030.

To learn more about what you can do visit: unworldoceansday.org and worldoceanday.org.

Julie Morgan



Pets of the Week



(L-R) Ice & Snowy

Hello. We are Snowy (right) and Ice (left), and we are now one year and three months old. Our mother passed away when we were very small so we only had each other for comfort. That's why we are looking for a home where we can stay together. We really don't want to be apart from each other. We are both very playful, sweet and love to cuddle. Snowy is a bit more on the shy side and it takes him a little bit longer to trust but he will come to you on his own terms. Can you give us both a loving home? *Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

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

Make Bonaire Accessible

An incredible feeling.... by Ria Dokter

When you can walk, ride, plan and do whatever you want, you will not be able to understand how it is for somebody who is elderly or someone with a disability who is dependent on others for everything.

Asking feels like begging. You do not want to be a burden to anybody. But often you have a right to do something or go somewhere and you cannot because you have to depend on friends or caretakers. I used to ride a bicycle, but my hands and right leg do not allow that anymore so with pain in my heart I had to get rid of my bike.

Often you will not be able to attend a function, a gathering, a meeting or just simply go out for a walk.

I applied more than four years ago for a scooter-mobile, but it was denied. Supposedly the vehicles were too dangerous for Bonaire. I did not understand this because in Holland my husband and I used to share a scooter-mobile and that went excellent.

But then came a message that I was eligible for another kind of vehicle, a wheelchair that you could click a motor on to. It looked a lot like a motorcycle and right away I felt very excited because I had rode a bike for so many years.

The day the physiotherapists came I was really excited. They came with two technicians who had been

schooled to work with these chairs. My tryouts were disappointing. My hands did not have enough force to connect the motor to the chair. They left and came back later with an excellent solution and I learned to get the rig ready by myself. Together with the physiotherapist I drove a few rounds around our block and I felt soooooo good. It all went very well and the next time we had a training session we rode to the boulevard.

The therapists were far behind me and I was alone, by myself "kantú di awa" (by the shore). I cannot begin to explain how I felt. Tears of pure joy and happiness rolled down my cheeks. After four years I was finally, "free at last." I enjoyed the view, the wind, the feeling. And it was also really awesome how traffic behaved towards me. I was waved at, given right way, was waited for patiently. I really felt very safe.

When we got home, I was beaming, and also tired because of all the excitement. But I knew that the therapist would come back for one more training session and then I could go out by myself.

Now I take the wheel whenever I feel like it and that is the best feeling ever. I also know that this kind of vehicle is not for everybody, but now we know that there are possibilities and that is good knowledge to have.

So, do not be shy or afraid. Talk to your therapist or social worker and ask them to look together for a good and responsible way to regain your freedom.



Photo Julie Morgan

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she used to work as a director at FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



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Consumer power is our priority

PRICE COMPARISON BONAIRE – 2ND WEEK OF MAY 2026

174 basic products | 21 supermarkets | FTPKB

This is a snapshot based on the monthly price survey of May 2026 –
(prices may change)

Maximum total savings compared to the highest prices on the list: \$592.74.

Average price difference between the cheapest and most expensive basic products:
38.4%.

TOP 3 CHEAPEST SUPERMARKETS

WAREHOUSE

Savings: \$96.74

31 cheapest products

Strong in: Baby products, flour and grain products, vegetables & fruit

CARIBE NOBO

Savings: \$84.76

29 cheapest products

Strong in: Vegetables & fruit, beverages

BONDIGRO

Savings: \$60.16

15 cheapest products

Strong in: Vegetables & fruit, Charcuterie

CONCLUSION

Warehouse, Caribe Nobo, and Bondigro together account for 40% of the maximum savings.

Large price differences between supermarkets remain visible.

Consumers can save significantly by comparing prices carefully.

ADVICE

Compare prices before making purchases.

Combine supermarkets where practically possible.

Focus especially on products with the largest price differences.

Special offers were not included in this price survey.

Your purchasing power lies in your own choices.

For a complete overview of prices, visit our website: www.tiendapakonsumido.com

On Bonaire, smart shopping choices in May 2026 can save up to \$592.74.

Supermarket	Number of cheapest products in basic list	Total amount saved compared to more expensive price	%
1 Warehouse	31	\$96.74	16%
2 Caribe Nobo	29	\$84.76	14%
3 Bondigro	15	\$60.16	10%
4 Rincon City	12	\$47.77	8%
5 Famoso	9	\$41.13	7%
6 Zhung Kong	12	\$35.71	6%
7 Wing Cheung	11	\$31.71	5%
8 Top	10	\$30.90	5%
9 Lucky	10	\$21.43	4%
10 Supermarket na Kaya Korona 56	4	\$21.22	4%
11 Van den Tweel	8	\$18.36	3%
12 Kadushi	9	\$16.33	3%
13 Tesco Supermarket	6	\$15.68	3%
14 Good & More	3	\$13.90	2%
15 Jai Xing (Kaya Korona)	7	\$12.32	2%
16 Xu-Sheng	6	\$11.05	2%
17 Jai Xing (kaya Salsa)	5	\$9.13	2%
18 Ideal	9	\$8.95	2%
19 Foodymark	6	\$6.52	1%
20 Sunshine	2	\$5.95	1%
21 New World	3	\$3.02	1%
		\$ 592.74	100%

Comparing prices May 2026

You can save over \$500 if you shop intelligently

For a list of the cheapest products scan



Supermarket	Number of most expensive products in basic list	Total amount of loss compared to cheaper price	%
1 Zhung Kong	20	-\$66.27	12%
2 Van den Tweel	14	-\$59.39	11%
3 Warehouse	16	-\$57.71	10%
4 Supermarket na Kaya Korona 56	18	-\$50.68	9%
5 Lucky	10	-\$41.32	7%
6 Foodymark	10	-\$40.91	7%
7 Jai Xing (kaya Salsa)	16	-\$36.87	7%
8 Jai Xing (Kaya Korona)	7	-\$36.54	7%
9 Famoso	8	-\$24.48	4%
10 New World	8	-\$22.84	4%
11 Sunshine	14	-\$20.33	4%
12 Wing Cheung	6	-\$19.15	3%
13 Rincon City	7	-\$18.03	3%
14 Ideal	5	-\$16.19	3%
15 Top	10	-\$15.36	3%
16 Bondigro	6	-\$10.66	2%
17 Good & More	5	-\$7.70	1%
18 Caribe Nobo	1	-\$6.00	1%
19 Xu-Sheng	4	-\$3.06	1%
20 Kadushi	1	-\$1.60	0%
21 Tesco Supermarket	1	-\$0.50	0%
		\$ (555.59)	100%

Comparing prices May 2026

You can save over \$500 if you shop intelligently

For a list of the most expensive products scan.








LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER ACTORS FOR

FULL SCALE MULTIDISCIPLINARY EMERGENCY TRAINING 'RESCUE AT SEA'

Are you between 18 and 50 years old and in good physical condition?
Join us as a volunteer actor for a large-scale multidisciplinary
emergency and disaster response exercise!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

-  **Date:** Thursday, June 4
-  **Time:** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
-  **Meeting Point:** to be announced
-  **Sign up via:** info@bonaire-airport.com
-  Drinks and snacks will be provided

BIA 
BONAIRE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT N.V.

Bonaire Food Truck Festival 2026

06 JUNE, 2026	ISIDEL BEACH PARK	START AT 18:30 — 01:00	ENTRANCE FREE
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BONAIRE *It's in our nature*

ENTIDAD PÚBLICA BONAIRE, INDEBON Instituto Di Deporte Bonaire, FUNDASHON WEGA DI NIÑEER BONAIRE

OLÍMPIADA PA GRANDINAN 2026

INVITASHON PERSONAL

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Apresiabel

Bo ta **kordialmente invita** pa e evento di olimpiada pa grandinan 2026.

FECHA	ORARIO	LOKASHON
6 JUN	8:00 AM 5:00 PM	INDEBON SPORTHAL

E EVENTO AKI TA DEDIKÁ NA GERALDINE GENOVEVA PINTO

Kids Trainingen Hockey

BONAIRE HOCKEY FOUNDATION ESTD 2022

- Kids hockey training - Ages 6-12
- Thursdays 4-5 p.m. free May - June
- Stadion Playa
- Signup->
- Gratis



CHANGÁ

TERRAMAR MUSEUM, KAYA ISLA RIBA 3, KRALENDIJK
9.06 & 10.06 | 1ST SCREENING — 18:00 | 2ND SCREENING — 19:30

A FILM BY MANPREET BRAR AND FRANCIO GUADELOUPE

KITLV   

The poster features a dark blue background with a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders on the right side. The title 'CHANGÁ' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, the screening location and dates are listed in white text. At the bottom, there are logos for KITLV, UKA, the Dutch Ministry of the Interior, and Re/Presenting Europe.

Four showings of Changa in June

Tues. 9 & Wed. 10. Two viewings each night of film Changa (Double Game)

Terramar Museum 6 - 7 p.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. The life of Antillean and Caribbean-Dutch people in the Netherlands.

Free Community Event

International Yoga Day Summer Solstice Celebration

Walk a short mindful meditative loop with us followed by gentle yoga overlooking Klein Bonaire

21st June 2026

06:45am for 07:00am start

What to bring:

Mat or towel

Water

Walking Shoes

Insect Repellent



Seru Largu

More information
and RSVP

contact Kelly:

+599 701 0110



WHAT IS 'BAN LESA 2.0?'

A new radio series about Caribbean books with a new episode every week!

Starting Tuesday, June 2, the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0 begins on BonFM. Every week at 5:30 PM, listeners will dive into the richness of Caribbean literature for half an hour. The series consists of 24 episodes of 30 minutes, divided across three languages: eight in Papiamentu, eight in English, and eight in Dutch. In this way, the versatility of the Caribbean language area will be made accessible to a broad audience.



BAN LESA 2.0



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.





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



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





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



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