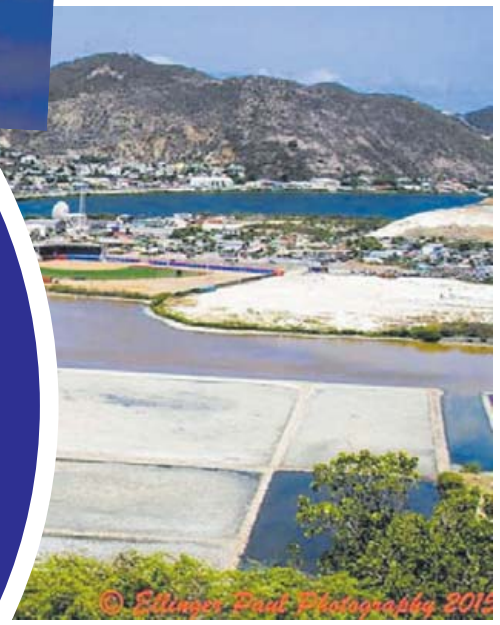




# Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day 2024





# SXM Day is 65

Monday, November 11, will mark the 65th edition of Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day.

Unlike last year when the holiday fell on a Saturday, most people can enjoy an extra day off and a long weekend this time, while commemorating the sense of being one community, although consisting of two countries. It's the French side's turn to host the annual joint ceremonies, but there are related activities on either side of the open border.

The Daily Herald wishes both residents and visitors a happy holiday, celebrated in the spirit of togetherness and unity that characterises "The Friendly Island" already for over three-and-a-half centuries.

Have a good one!

The Publisher



**SAINT-MARTIN'S DAY PROGRAMME**  
NOVEMBER 11 2024, FRENCH QUARTER

**CÉRÉMONIE OFFICIELLE**  
OFFICIAL CEREMONY

**81100** Cérémonie œcuménique à l'église Méthodiste du Tabernacle, Quartier d'Orléans  
*Ecumenical Service, Tabernacle Methodist Church, French Quarter*

**91130** Dépôt de gerbes au monument de la Frontière de Quartier d'Orléans  
*Wreath Laying Ceremony, French Quarter Border Monument*

**101100** Défilé traditionnel du 11 novembre, RN7  
*Traditional Saint-Martin's Day parade*

**111100** Allocutions et vin d'honneur, parking du stade Thelbert Carti  
*Official speeches and luncheon, Thelbert Carti Stadium parking lot*

**ANIMATIONS**  
Parking stade Thelbert Carti  
En collaboration avec ORLÉANS RISING SUN FÊTE COMITEE

**121100** MC PHOXX – DJ LIL CUZ

**141100** DJ KIMANIE

**151100** GAMES WITH FUNTOPIA

**161130** DANSEUSE KISHEYA

**171100** DJ BIG SEXY

**171115** SXM MAJORETTE

**171130** BOTTLE NECK CREW

**181130** AFRICAN DANCERS

**181145** TODAY BAND

**191145** MADD CREW DANCERS

**201100** FASHION SHOW

**201130** RYTHM AND GROOVE DANCE GROUP

**211130** NUFF RESPECT BAND

**UNITY & FRIENDSHIP**

**HAPPY ST. MARTIN'S DAY**

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COLLECTIVITÉ DE SAINT-MARTIN OUR N

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## Pre-holiday events held on the Dutch Side

**Smaatn National Cultural Parade**  
Foundation SMNCP will once again host the Smaatn National Cultural Parade, this year under the theme: "Smaatn...One Culture...One people".

The parade will bring to life the pride of our shared national holiday, with a flurry of colourful costumes, in strictly local themes, such as traditional clothing, flags, and national symbols. The family-friendly event will feature costumed troupes as well as bands and DJs playing local music that pays tribute to the island.

The Parade takes place on Sunday, November 10, from 2:00pm.

The route is as follows: Welgelegen Road (Shop 4 Less Plus) – A.J.C. Brouwers Road Church Hill roundabout – Bush Road – Prins Bernhard Bridge – W.J.A. Nisbeth Road – Salt Pickers Roundabout – The Jocelyn Arndell Festival Village.

**Jouvert Jump Up & Breakfast Fest**  
Sunday, November 10, will also kick off with a Jouvert Jump Up, followed by a Breakfast Fest, hosted by Kalaboom. Find Kalaboom

Events on social media for participation details.

St. Maarten Police Force KPSM is implementing road closures for the route: Starting at 12 midnight Saturday at The Jocelyn Arndell Festival Village, the Jump Up will continue through several streets, including Arch Road, A.Th. Illidge Road, Bush Road, and L.B. Scott Road, before reaching its final destination at the Jose Lake Ball Park around 4:00am. The Breakfast Fete starts at 5:00am on Sunday at the Emilio Wilson Estate.

The St. Martin/St. Maarten Day Special 2024 is a Special Publication of



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# Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day Messages

## From Louis Mussington

### President of the Territorial Council of Saint Martin

Dear fellow citizens,

*This year, it is the turn of the French side to organise the official program of the Saint Martin Day festivities. We will be in French Quarter on Monday, November 11, to celebrate the fête of our island together with our counterparts from Sint Maarten.*

November 11, 2024, is a special day as it marks the 65th anniversary of the commemoration of Saint Martin Day, which was initiated by Dr. Hubert Petit and Dr. Claude Wathey on November 11, 1959.

Saint Martin Day is dedicated to our history, culture and heritage. It unites us and makes us stronger together through the attachment to our beautiful island and our strong identity. For all these reasons, we are all involved in this celebration and I am happy to share it with the entire population in a spirit of harmony and unity.

The island of Saint Martin has a rich historical past; our identity is built on the love of our land and our heritage. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful and welcoming country.

I continue to believe that the island of Saint Martin is a land of opportunities; its inhabitants are endowed with unfailing resilience and always emerge stronger from adversity. Let us remain confident in the future and continue to build in cooperation the future of our children.

May the celebration of Saint Martin Day bring you joy and serenity with your family and loved ones. Let us take advantage of these important moments to strengthen ties and cherish our culture.

Happy Saint Martin Day!



## From Dr. Luc Mercelina

### Prime Minister of Sint Maarten

*On behalf of the government of Sint Maarten, it is my honour to extend heartfelt wishes to the people of our beautiful island as we celebrate Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day. This is more than just a holiday; it's a celebration of our culture, our shared history, and the profound unity we hold as two nations, one island. Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day is a time when we reflect on our past, renew our commitment to one another, and embrace our future with pride, resilience, and a steadfast determination.*



This year, as we honour our island, we also honour the strength of our people. In the face of adversity – whether natural challenges, economic shifts, or the everyday obstacles that come with building a nation – we have shown the world our resilience. We have rebuilt, stood strong and, most importantly, we have done so together. This unity is the lifeblood of our island, a reminder that no matter what may come, we are stronger when we stand side by side, rooted in love for our land and each other.

Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day is also a call to action, a call to remember the legacy left by our ancestors and the responsibility we carry to shape a brighter future. Our vision for Sint Maarten is clear: A thriving, sustainable, and inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to prosper. We are taking steps to strengthen our economy, protect our environment, and build resilient infrastructure to withstand the challenges of a changing world. Every project, every policy, and every decision we make is a step toward building a Sint Maarten that generations to come can be proud of.

To our citizens, both here and abroad, I encourage you to celebrate our unique heritage, our diversity, and the natural beauty that makes our island a gem of the Caribbean. As you gather with family, friends, and loved ones, let's keep alive the spirit of togetherness that defines who we are. Let this day remind us of the deep ties we share, and the incredible future we are building – together.

On this Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day, let us stand tall, united, and proud. Let us honour our past, celebrate our present, and embrace our future with hope and optimism. May our island continue to shine as a beacon of resilience, strength, and unity.

Happy Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day to all!

## From Lyndon Lewis

### Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of Education, Culture, Youths & Sports of Sint Maarten

*Today, we celebrate Sint Maarten – a place that many of us, like me, proudly call home. I stand before you as a product of our public schools, humbled and proud to serve as your Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education.*



This journey from the classrooms of our community to a seat in government is one I could not have envisioned without the support of our people and the opportunities this beautiful island has afforded me. St. Maarten is indeed a place where dreams come true.

On this Sint Maarten Day, we honour not just the journey of those born here, but also of those who came to our shores seeking a better life. Our island has always been a welcoming place; embracing new faces and helping people from all walks of life find a place to belong, to grow, and to thrive. This is our strength and our legacy as a people – unity, resilience, and the shared desire for a better tomorrow.

As we gather with friends and family today, I encourage each of you to take a moment to give thanks for all that we have and all that we continue to build together. St. Maarten is not only a destination; it is a promise – a promise of hope, progress, and prosperity.

As a member of this government and as your incoming Member of Parliament, I am dedicated to fulfilling the trust you have placed in me. I am committed to doing what must be done and what you expect me to do. Together, let us contin-

ue to work toward a future we can all be proud of – a future where every citizen can find success; every family can live in peace; and every child can believe that they, too, can achieve their dreams.

Let us celebrate Sint Maarten with love, gratitude, and unity. Happy Sint Maarten Day!



**Happy St. Maarten Day**

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# When I think of St. Martin, Sweet S'Maatin

By Clara Reyes, Director of Culture, Sint Maarten

*When I think of St. Martin, Sweet S'Maatin, I think of the true spirit of jollification, the traits and characteristics that have brought us forward in time. S'Maatin was born out of a volatile history, out of the violent collision of the coming together of Africa, Europe, and First Nations people.*

Despite the violent beginnings, the S'Maatin people themselves have willed themselves to create unity and, indeed, this unity perseveres. It's something that I feel. There is this constant yearning for and pursuit of the right to realize our own sovereignty in the face of political constraints that we have been living under.

There is this perpetual pursuit of unification – that what makes St. Martin whole – the kinship ties, the family connections and even more important, jollification; that S'Maatin people have through the test of time, still managed to insist, demand, and pursue. The idea that what keeps us whole is not the idea of the state and Kingdom which governs us, but the unity found in the survival of a violent birth and the insistence of the S'Maatin people finding their wholeness.

For me, St. Martin Day is an honouring of the vision, the finding of the space where the storytellers celebrate the voices and traditions that have unfolded over the years:

- The songs
- The poetry
- The visual arts

The things that allow us to dive deep into the core of the experiences of the S'Maatin people, the violent collision of the coming together of Africa, Europe, and First Nations people, to bring forth our unique experience. It is heralded in songs by King Bobo; it is celebrated in Lino Hughes' song, St. Martin Is My Home; it is celebrated in the poetry of Ruby Bute, Deborah Jack, Lasana Sekou, Esther Bradshaw, Moreland Leblanc, Faizah Tabasamu, to list but a few. It is celebrated on the canvases of Roland Richardson, Bevil Byam, Mika Solomon, NicaBel, Loic Brian, and Mosera. The multiple artists that insist on capturing this beautiful essence of what it means to be a dual nation, but drawn together by a shared history.

St. Martin Day is a day of reflection; it is a day of remembering those that came before us, who worked hard to build this nation – the women that picked rock stone to build the airport runway, those whose hands built stone walls, the women and men that would walk from Colombe to Great Bay to sell their wares. It is remembering the gatherings under tamarind and sandbox trees to tell stories of yesteryear, of grief, of accomplishments.

There is no uniform fabric, no S'Maatin-mould. S'Maatin is the multitude of cloth patches stitched together, gathered through experience. S'Maatin is the patches in Ya-ya's frock, showing the multifaceted ways to create grace, form, and elegance from dissimilar fabrics, telling a story from the scraps and pieces of shared stories, creating Our-story, the fragmented S'Maatin story, telling us who and what we are, coming together and forming one beautiful, significant dress. We still compose this dress while we wear it, mostly unconscious of its grand and overall mesmerizing appearance, which is indeed hard to see while wearing it. As we grow, we must alter the dress to fit, repair the tears, and include new fabrics for comfort and strength.

S'Maatin Day is a reflection and the celebration of the complete and genius pattern, the sophistication of the design, the God-made diversity, fitting together creatively all the stories, the songs, the poetry, and the images of hardships, of growth, of wisdom, of ideas, of love that we are – that we, S'Maatin, are.



**As we celebrate Sint Maarten Day, let's honor the vibrant culture, resilience, and unity that define our beautiful island and its people.**

From our stunning beaches to the rich traditions that make Sint Maarten unique, **we're proud to stand together in the spirit of community.**

**Happy Sint Maarten Day!**

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# Grand Dame of Art, Ruby Bute, leaves island an enduring legacy

By Alita Singh

*"Being a woman with pride, I would rise against the storms, and continue on again." These words were strung together in the now extinct handwriting of the island's Grand Dame of Art, Ruby Bute, who rested her paintbrush and stilled her words in eternal silence on November 5.*

Bute, a beloved cultural icon and pioneering artist, has left behind an extraordinary legacy in Caribbean art, poetry, and education. Known for her deeply expressive style and vibrant depictions of Caribbean life, Bute captured the heart and soul of this island of her heart in her artwork and writing.

Born in Aruba on January 13, 1943, to St. Maarten parents, she started painting as a child, developing her unique voice as an artist inspired by the vibrant colours and natural beauty of the Caribbean. Her paintings often focused on local landscapes, women, and



daily life – and she used these themes to reflect the beauty and resilience of Caribbean culture.

Throughout her career, Bute exhibited widely, including at the once famed Nanette Bearden Fine Art Gallery on Front Street

in St. Maarten, where her work captivated audiences from around the world.

In 2009, she founded the Silk Cotton Grove Art Gallery under a historic silk cotton tree on her property in Friar's Bay, St. Maarten. This space became a



cherished community hub, where Bute celebrated local talent, taught workshops, and inspired the next generation of St. Martin's artists.

Beyond her visual art, Bute was an accomplished poet. Her poetry collection – Golden Voices of S'maatin (House of Nehesi Publishers 1989) – captures

her profound love for her homeland and her heritage. In one of her best-loved lines, she wrote, "Art will be the medium to take us into discovery, adventure & independence – art makes our dreams come true," a sentiment that underlines her belief in art as a unifying and transformative force for St. Martin.

Bute was the first local woman to publish a volume of poetry. Her poems – collected in her first book, a seminal work – are fundamental to forming a body of "S'maatin" literature.

Her second book of verse with illustrations – *Floral Bouquets to the Daughters*

CONTINUED ON PG. 7

The Management and Staff of SZV wishes everyone a safe and happy

## St. Martin Day

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**SUPER U WISHES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY A HAPPY ST. MARTIN/ST. MAARTEN DAY!**

# Ruby Bute CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

of *Eve* – was published in 2000, by Columbia Publishers, San Francisco, California. This book was re-published again in 2000. It is a tribute to women of all walks of life.

Daughter of *Eve*, as the book is referred to, came at a most appropriate time, according to Bute at the time of its publishing. Delving further, she had explained that was a time

when women have somewhat lost the true sense of their values.

This volume of verse is as diverse as a bouquet of flowers, but the central theme is what manner of woman we can be. Bute celebrated life in its most trying forms – struggles can be redeeming. The autobiographical flavour of her analysis adds sincerity and profundity to the real-

ity which depicts the truth and forcefulness.

In recognition of her cultural contributions, Bute was knighted in 2005 by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and awarded the Order of Orange-Nassau. This honour highlighted her role as a cultural ambassador and her commitment to preserving St. Martin's traditions through both art and mentorship. Her knighthood serves as a testament to her lifelong dedication to elevating Caribbean culture and history.

Tributes have flooded in from around the community, attesting to her influence. Sabrina Charville, president of the Coffee & Soda Biscuits Association, hailed Bute as "Our S'maatin Golden Icon", not-

ing how her work elevated the island's cultural identity. In her honour, the association organized a tribute concert featuring local groups, such as The Gunslingers Steel Band and the Jolly Boyz, to celebrate her impact on generations of islanders.

Bute's legacy lives on in her art, poetry, and the lives she touched with her warmth and creativity. Her work continues to evoke the spirit of St. Martin, preserving its beauty and cultural heritage for generations to come.

The announcement of her passing on the Silk Cotton Grove Art Gallery Facebook page described the beloved matriarch as a SXM icon, an ambassador of culture, a cherished soul, an artist, a



poet, and a friend to many. "Ruby touched countless lives with her warmth, creativity, and spirit. Her loss leaves a void that will never be filled, but her legacy and memories will live on in our hearts."

While celebrating her legacy, but mourning her loss, her family members have extended their deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, calls, and mes-

sages from the community: "Your support is truly appreciated. However, we kindly ask for privacy and a moment to mourn... We thank you for your understanding and compassion as we navigate this period of loss."

In accordance with the family's wishes, there will be no visits until further notice.

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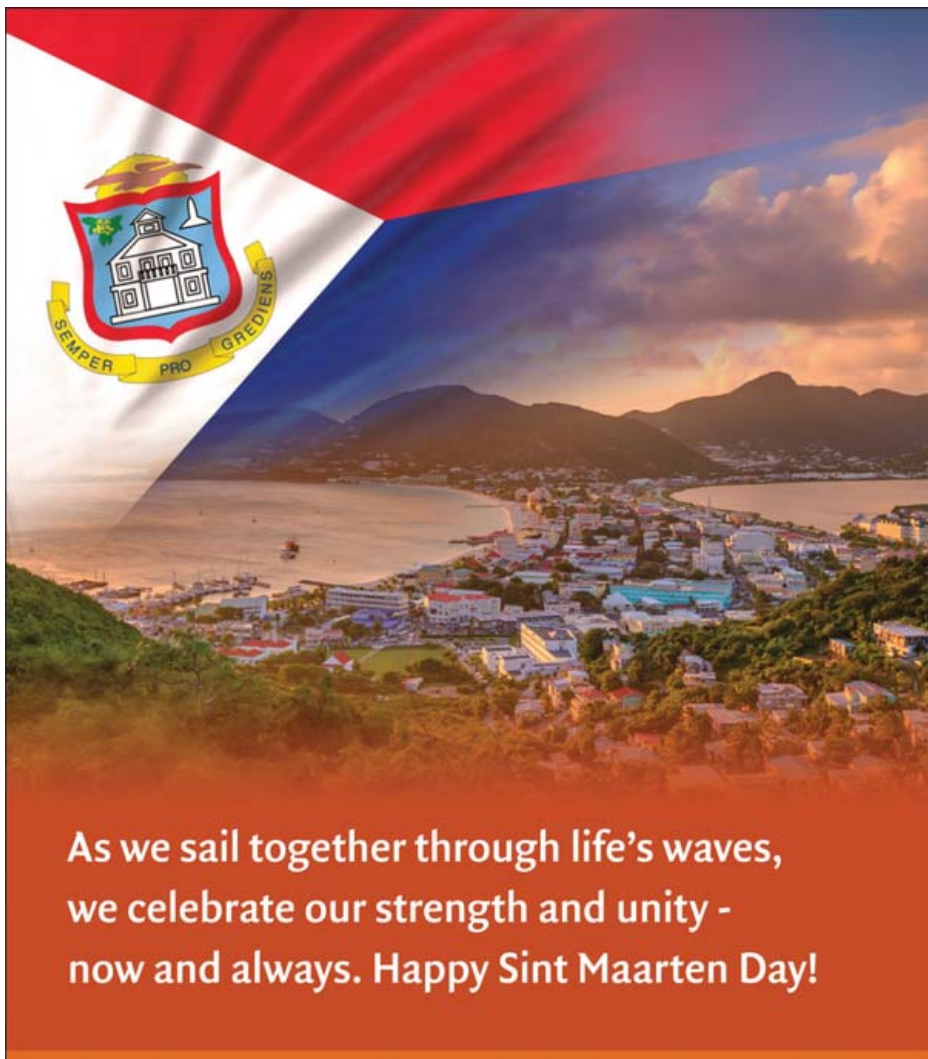
Happy Sint Maarten / Saint Martin Day!



On this special day, we celebrate the spirit, culture, and unity of our Beloved Island. May everyones day be filled with Happiness, Togetherness, and Unforgettable Moments.



The Indian Merchants Association of St. Maarten wishes you a Happy and Joyous St. Martin/ St. Maarten Day!



As we sail together through life's waves, we celebrate our strength and unity - now and always. Happy Sint Maarten Day!



Safe Cargo Services wishes the entire community a Happy and Safe St. Maarten/St. Martin Day





By Foresee Foundation



## “Soualichi Stories” Season 3: A bridge between tradition and modernity

As Sint Maarten prepares to celebrate Sint Maarten Day on November 11 – a day honouring the island’s history, culture, and resilience – the Foresee Foundation’s “Soualichi Stories” is playing an essential role in preserving and sharing the island’s rich traditions. Now in its third season, “Soualichi Stories” brings the art of oral storytelling to the forefront, capturing the heart of Sint Maarten’s heritage through Caribbean folk tales and archiving local stories for future generations.

Season 3 of “Soualichi Stories” offers both fresh voices and familiar tales, capturing the diversity of St. Maarten’s cultural landscape. This season explores themes that bridge the past and present, inviting listeners to reflect on issues relevant to their daily lives. Stories like “Tale of Kushobi” and “Put Me Back!” transport audienc-

es into rich, culturally embedded narratives that address universal themes and local values.

The season premiered with “Bring Back My Comb”, written by local storyteller Ralph Cantave. This powerful episode follows a young girl named Amina, highlighting hair discrimination – a timely topic, as local schools and communities engage in conversations on cultural acceptance and identity. Through such responsive storytelling, “Soualichi Stories” has evolved from a simple oral tradition project into a platform for dialogue, fostering awareness and social change.

Beyond storytelling, the Foresee Foundation has expanded its impact through community engagement and cultural preservation. “Soualichi Stories” is broadcast weekly on local radio stations including Mix 94.7, Voice of St. Maarten 102.7,

Island 92, SXM TV 15, and SXM Gov Radio 107.9. This accessible media presence ensures that local culture reaches all – from schoolchildren to elders – who can listen and discuss these stories within their communities. The weekly broadcasts allow listeners to reflect on the tales’ meanings, share them with others, and keep the island’s stories alive in public consciousness.

In an era dominated by digital content, “Soualichi Stories” shows the enduring power of spoken word and collective memory. This season was made possible by funding from Fonds voor Cultuur Participatie – Memorial Year Slavery Fund, supporting projects that reconnect communities with ancestral history. The Foresee Foundation’s commitment to cultural continuity extends beyond radio broadcasts; it will soon release an interactive e-book



featuring the series’ most cherished stories. This digital collection will make St. Maarten’s oral history accessible globally, creating a lasting resource for young audiences to explore in their digital lives.

In the coming weeks, audiences can visit Foresee Foundation’s Facebook and Instagram pages for air dates and times for each episode, including “Bring Back My Comb”. The foundation’s YouTube channel also

hosts both current and past seasons, ensuring that “Soualichi Stories” remains available to all who wish to listen.

Through “Soualichi Stories”, Foresee Foundation keeps the spirit of Sint Maarten Day alive year-round, reinforcing storytelling as a powerful means of cultural continuity, bridging past and present to preserve the island’s legacy in an ever-evolving world.

**‘NPO Spotlight’ in collaboration with The Daily Herald offers you a glance into the varied and multifaceted world of Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) on St. Maarten. If you are a NPO and would like to be showcased please visit our website [www.npowersxm.com](http://www.npowersxm.com) to register.**

# Happy Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day!

**Signature Aviation SXM celebrates with you and wishes for continued solidarity, peaceful co-existence, strong family bonds, patriotism, and togetherness.**

**May this day bring joy and unity to all!**

**Signature Aviation SXM - Proudly serving the community with excellence and care.**



# CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT WITH DR. JAY HAVISER

Now officially retired, Dr. Jay Haviser has spent decades digging into the rich layers of Dutch Caribbean history, from indigenous settlements to more modern discoveries. With four decades of experience as an archaeologist and founder of the St. Maarten Archaeological Centre SIMARC, his work sheds light on the complex identity of the island of St. Martin.

Although St. Maarten remains his home base, Haviser's ar-



HAVISER DURING EARLY RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH SIDE AT THE HOPE ESTATE SITE IN 1993.

chaeological work spans all six islands in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. Besides SIMARC, Haviser also founded Bonaire Archaeological Institute BONAI in 2003, and Saba Archaeological Center SA- BARC in 2012.

## Connection

According to Haviser, archaeology is not just about finding artefacts – it is a way of connecting past and present, and understanding how history shapes contemporary cultural iden-

tity. "Heritage and archaeological research is about revealing who we are now in the perspective of who we were in the past," Haviser explains.

Central to his work is the belief that, first and foremost, archaeology should serve the community. For him, it's all about making history relevant to the people of the island. "After all, it's the community's heritage," he says, stressing the importance of ensuring that local people understand and appreciate the history that has shaped their identity. Haviser's work goes beyond academic discovery; it's about creating a sense of pride and awareness within the local community.

That is why, in recent years, his focus has shifted towards integrating community engagement with scientific research. "I'm trying to find a greater balance between the needs of scientific investigation to understand what happened in

history, and the values and interests of the community, because it is, after all, their heritage," he says.

## Education

In this regard, Haviser's educational initiatives have been the cornerstone of his legacy. Over the years, he has launched youth programmes on St. Maarten, Saba and Bonaire, aimed at teaching children and teens about the importance of archaeology and cultural heritage. Through hands-on fieldwork and active participation in scientific investigations, these young people become directly involved in uncovering their own history.

His work aims to instil in young people an understanding of their cultural heritage, not only to help them appreciate its value, but to encourage them to consider careers in the sciences. "Even if they don't become archaeologists, the goal is to foster an ap-



HAVISER FILMING A HERITAGE COMMERCIAL WITH SIMARC STUDENTS.

preciation for the value of science and the importance of their own cultural heritage," he says.

Haviser is very proud of the fact that many of his former students have become involved in the scientific field, whether in engineering, environmental studies, or other fields. That is really important to him because he believes our communities need more local scientists. "My role is to get young people to realise that things like heritage

have long-term value and are worth preserving."

In 2023, BONAI underwent a historic transition, as Haviser's former students, now grown into accomplished professionals within the community, including doctors and lawyers, became board members during the foundation's 20th anniversary.

The entire former board stepped down, including

CONTINUED ON PG. 11

## Eat, drink, and be merry!

Here are some adapted recipes from various households on the island. Have fun cooking and eating.

Happy Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day!

### STUFFED CRAB BACKS

#### Ingredients

Crab meat (if you don't have the actual crab shells to stuff, you can use small ramekins or imitation crab)  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 onion, chopped  
1 tomato, chopped  
3 tablespoons chopped chives  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
Dry bread crumbs (left over baguette)

#### Method

Preheat top grill element in your oven. Melt butter then add onion, tomato and chives. Cook until translucent; remove from heat. Stir in picked over crabmeat, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper.



Fill shells from crab backs or ¼-fill small ramekins with the crab mixture. Sprinkle with bread crumbs over the top then dot each one with some butter. Set crab stuff shells or ramekins on baking sheet and pop under the grill element until golden.

### PUMPKIN JOHNNY CAKES

#### Ingredients

1 cup cooked mashed pumpkin  
1 lb flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 teaspoons salt  
¼ teaspoon white sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
Warm milk

#### Method

Combine pumpkin, flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.

Add enough warm milk to make a stiff dough. Knead well until dough is smooth and all lumps have disappeared. Form into balls and flatten/roll out. Place on floured board; cover and allow to stand for 20-30 minutes. Heat oil in frying pan; gently slip a couple of the flattened balls into the hot oil. Don't overcrowd the pan. Cook till golden on both sides; watch you

don't want to burn the Johnny cakes. Split open while warm and spread with a tomato chutney and a slice of strong cheese.

### BAKED JOHNNY CAKES

#### Ingredients

3 cups flour  
1 pinch of salt  
1½ cups full fat milk\*  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
½ cup cold butter or shortening  
2 teaspoons sugar (optional)

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 375° F. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the sugar (optional). Using the butter straight from the fridge, grate it into the bowl. Use your (clean) fingers to rub the butter into the flour mixture; raising your hands high to allow air in. Carry



on until the mixture looks like bread crumbs. Gradually stir the milk into the mixture. You might not need to use all the milk – it's enough when the dough holds together when you press it into a ball. Put the ball of dough onto a clean floured surface and knead using the heel of your hands, for about a minute. Divide the dough into 12 pieces and form into balls. Place the dough balls onto your greased baking tray and flatten each one down with the palm of your hand so they are ½ inch thick. Prod the top of each cake

a couple of times with a fork and brush the tops with milk. Bake in the oven at 375° F for 15-20 minutes – the cakes should be slightly browned on top and cooked through. Test by sticking a knife in them; it should come out clean with no crumbs attached.

### PUMPKIN FRITTERS

#### Ingredients

1 cup flour  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
4 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
2 cups milk  
2 pounds pumpkin, mashed or pureed  
Oil for frying

CONTINUED ON PG. 12

# CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT

CONTINUED FROM PG. 10

Haviser, and although he continues to provide scientific guidance, this transition marks the foundation's evolution into a fully Bonairean-run institution. "That was a big step," he says, one he would love to take with SIMARC and SABARC, as it would allow the next generation of locals to take charge over their own heritage.

## SIMARC

In addition to its work with local youth, SIMARC plays a central role in preserving the archaeological heritage of St. Maarten. The centre houses a wide range of collections, and Haviser regularly hosts science programmes or visits schools to engage with young people.

However, since Hurricane Irma devastated the original facility, the centre has had to operate out of a small, temporary office space in Cay Hill. "We saved about 85 percent of the collections, but the space we have now is not sufficient; it's too small to host a full class," he says. Unfortunately, this means that SIMARC's consistent educational programmes have been scaled back, either by working with smaller groups in the small office space or going directly to schools.

## Vision

This unfortunate experience has further fuelled Haviser's desire for a more permanent solution – a local heritage centre that could house a museum, archives

and archaeological facilities. Such a centre would serve as a resource for both locals and visitors alike, offering a place where students could learn, the community could engage with their cultural history, and tourists could explore the island's heritage.

"We need a centralised heritage centre, one that brings everything together in one place," he says. Centralising all these resources would not only make them more accessible, but also create a platform for the different institutions to collaborate and develop together, the archaeologist explains. For Haviser, this centre is the most important thing the island needs right now.

Another such vision is the Salt Walk, a concept which would honour the island's most important heritage element as Soualiga, Land of the Salt. Years ago, Haviser handed in an official proposal to set up various walkways over the salt pans, leading to a wooden tower, which would serve as a viewpoint for the Great Salt Pond and its surrounding flora and fauna.

Haviser also emphasises the urgent need for con-

sistent signage to mark St. Maarten's historical monuments. Such signage would not only enhance the visitor experience but also instil pride and awareness among locals by making heritage sites easily identifiable.

Unlike in The Netherlands, where standardised signs mark monuments with uniform colours and patterns, St. Maarten lacks this cohesive system. Haviser has been advocating for this for over 15 years.

The introduction of short but informative signs – for example, featuring the monument's name, date, function, and optional description – would be a relatively simple and cost-effective, yet high-impact initiative to acknowledge and preserve St. Maarten's 50 registered monuments, he argues.

These three initiatives are what Haviser sees as "our immediate needs to develop a healthy sense of self-confidence as a country."

## Preservation

In his upcoming publication, set to be released in January 2025, Haviser em-

GREAT SALT POND, THE ICONIC SYMBOL OF THE HERITAGE OF THE ISLAND OF ST. MARTIN.



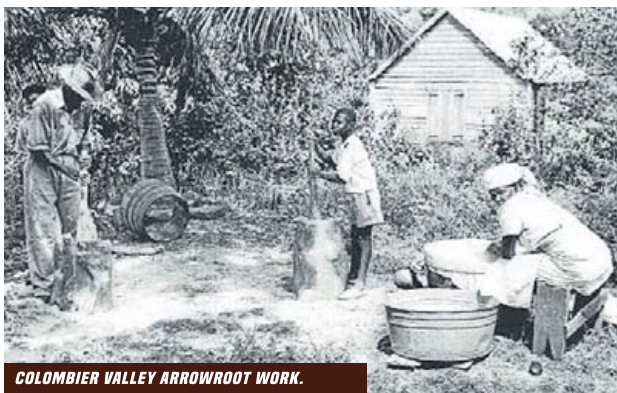
phasises the importance of preserving elements of society that define cultural identity – things like arrowroot, a traditional food crop that has been a staple of the Caribbean diet for centuries.

He argues that our "arrowroot values" are cultural elements that are deeply interconnected with the community's heritage and sense of self, and should be defended against the encroachment of globalisation. "These are things that we not only should not, but cannot give up as a community," he says.

According to Haviser, though technology allows us to be more interconnected with others, it has also influenced – and erased – our own cultural elements; highlighting global rather

than local perspectives. "If we do not define and defend our arrowroot values, then our iPhones will allow globalisation to gobble our culture up and turn it into globalised pulp."

Dr. Jay B. Haviser, who retired seven years ago, was the specialist for Monuments and Archaeology at the Ministry of VROMI of the Government of St. Maarten (2007-2018), after having been the Archaeologist for the Netherlands Antilles Government (1982-2007). He has founded and is currently helping to direct SIMARC on St. Maarten (since 2005), BONAI on Bonaire (since 2003), and SABARC on Saba (since 2012).



COLOMBIER VALLEY ARROWROOT WORK.

## Play, party and win @ Hollywood Casino

Celebrate Saint Martin / Sint Maarten Day in style with an event full of excitement, local flavours and big wins at Hollywood Casino! On Monday, November 11, the casino will honour the national holiday with the much-anticipated \$5,000 Bingo Blowout – meant to bring everyone together for fun, food and fantastic prizes.

The excitement kicks off at 3:00pm, as the bingo games start, leading to the grand finale \$5,000 game at 7:00pm. This is the perfect opportunity for seasoned players and

newcomers alike to test their luck and feel the thrill of playing for a top prize. Whether you're there to try your hand at bingo or cheer on friends, it's an experience that's sure to be unforgettable.

As the sun sets, the Hollywood Casino team will be serving up the flavours of Saint Martin / Sint Maarten with local favourites like Johnny cakes and more from 8:00pm, allowing guests to enjoy an authentic taste of the island as part of the celebration.

And the entertainment doesn't stop there! At

9:00pm, DJ Speed will take the stage, filling the casino with high-energy music that's sure to get everyone moving. Dance, mingle, and soak in the festive spirit as you feel the beats – and the vibes – all night long.

Beyond bingo, Hollywood Casino has something for every kind of player. Explore more than 140 slot machines that keep the excitement rolling, plus a range of table games where you can test your skill and strategy. For the poker fans, the casino hosts weekly Texas Hold'em tournaments that add even more opportunities to play and win.

Whether you're here to play, enjoy delicious food, or dance to the beat, Hollywood Casino will make sure you feel like a star! Hollywood Casino is located on Billy Folly Road #37 in Pelican. For more information, call +1 (721) 544-4463.



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# Eat, drink, and be merry! CONTINUED FROM PG. 10

**Method**  
Sift flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and cinnamon in a bowl.  
Mix eggs, milk and vanilla in a bowl.  
Pour over dry ingredients.

Blend the pumpkin in well. Heat oil in a deep pan until hot – not smoking. Drop 1 tablespoon at a time into the oil. Cook until golden brown on both sides.

Drain on a paper towel. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.

## COCONUT SUGAR COOKIES

**Ingredients**  
2 cups sugar  
2 cups grated coconut  
½ cup water  
2 drops almond essence

**Method**  
Boil water and sugar until sugar is dissolved. Add grated coconut, and almond essence. Stir over medium heat until mixture begins to look

granulated. Remove from heat, beat well. Press into a square cake tin and cut into squares, or form into small mounds on a prepared baking tray. Cool. Turn out carefully.

## WHIPPED SHORTBREAD

**Ingredients**  
1 cup softened butter  
1½ cups flour  
½ cup icing sugar  
½ cup glazed cherries

### Method

Preheat oven to 325° F. Beat butter, flour and icing sugar in mixer until light and fluffy. Drop by teaspoon onto prepared cookie sheets. Press a cherry into the centre. Bake for 15-20 minutes till just lightly brown. Dust lightly with icing sugar.

## EASY SCONES

**Ingredients**  
4 cups self-raising flour  
300ml heavy cream  
1 can lemonade

**Method**  
Add everything into a mixing bowl. Mix with a knife blade. When pulled together, turn out onto a floured board. Lightly knead dough. Pat out to an even lump of dough. Cut out scones with a cookie cutter or better yet a mug. Place on a greased lined cookie tray; keep them close together but not touching. Bake in a 200° C oven for 15 mins. Split open while still warm.

Add butter, jam and fresh whipped cream.

## MAUBY DRINK

**Ingredients**  
4-5 cups of water  
10 pieces of mauby bark  
2 cups sugar  
1-2 cinnamon sticks depending on size (optional)  
2 pieces of dried orange peel  
½ nutmeg (optional)  
3-4 cloves

**Method**  
Place all ingredients into a saucepan and on med-high heat and allow it boil. Allow the concentrate to boil for five minutes before turning off the stove and covering the pot. Leave the concentrate to steep for around five hours – let it sit longer for a more fermented and fizzy flavour. To prepare a glass of mauby, add two cups of water to every one cup of concentrate and sweeten with brown sugar. To add an extra kick, add a few drops of Angostura bitters, mixed essence or cinnamon and ice. Enjoy!



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# Celebrating the Unity Flag

The streets of Marigot burst with bright colours and island pride, when the Unity Flag Children's Parade took place, followed by a Unity Youth Concert held at the Jean-Louis Vanterpool Stadium. The Unity Flag and its colours and symbols were splashed across everything from dresses to T-shirts, in the vibrant celebration which included hundreds of schoolchildren.

The event was organised by the Collectivité, the school libraries (Bibliothèque Centre Documentaire BCD) and the extracurricular activities section of Caisse Territoriale des Oeuvres Scolaires (CTOS).

President Louis Mussington was present to welcome the children. The Collectivité thanked BCD coordinator Hélène Hanson, the CTOS after-school services and the Directorate of Cultural Action for the morning dedicated to showcasing cultural heritage and valuing the flag as a symbol of unity.

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COLLECTIVITÉ PHOTO



ROBERT LUCKOCK PHOTO



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# 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN'S DAY Around the Island Relay Race

Monday, November 11th, 2024



## Route Description:

- Leg 1:** Start at Belair Community Center parking lot and exit onto Welgelegen Road, turning left towards Belair and Divi Little Bay. Follow the road until the start of Front Street and turn onto the Boardwalk at Walter Plantz Square. Finish in front of Walter Plantz Square by the pier. **Total Distance 2.43 Km / 1.51 Miles**
- Leg 2:** Continue along the Boardwalk towards Pasanggrahan Royal Hotel, then towards Greenhouse Restaurant. Turn left into Kanaal Steeg heading towards the Vineyard building. Continue on W.G Buncamper Road towards the Freedom Fighter Roundabout and straight to Suckergarden Road. Finish just past Guana Bay Road intersection. **Total Distance 2.15km / 1.34 Miles**
- Leg 3:** Continue straight up the hill along Suckergarden Road towards Defiance, going down past Middle Region. Finish at the bottom of the hill before the Bishop Hill Road intersection. **Total Distance 2.52 Km / 1.57 Miles**
- Leg 4:** Turn left onto Bishop Hill Road towards the Belvedere Roundabout, crossing the border and following the main road through French Quarter, handing over at the Community Center near the big church. **Total Distance 2.89 Km / 1.80 Miles**
- Leg 5:** Continue through French Quarter, following the main road towards Orient Bay. Finishing at the view point of Orient Bay & La Galion: Paradise View. **Total Distance 2.44 Km / 1.52 Miles**
- Leg 6:** From the Orient Bay view point, follow the main road, passing Orient Bay entrance towards Grand Case. Go straight at the roundabout at French Cul de Sac, and turn right onto route L'Esperance towards Grand Case Airport. Finish at the parking lot of Discover Crossfit. **Total Distance 3.33 Km / 2.07 Miles**
- Leg 7:** From Discover Crossfit continue in direction of Grand Case Village, following the one-way road along the waterfront. Pass the church and exit onto the main road, N7. Continue towards La Savane gas station. **Total Distance 2.91 Km / 1.81 Miles**
- Leg 8:** Climb out of La Savane staying on the main road, passing Rambaud, then up Mourne Valois and down to Galisbay, turning right at the Agreement roundabout to Omni Stadium. Finish at the Galisbay gas station. **Total Distance 3.42 Km / 2.12 Miles**
- Leg 9:** Follow the road along the waterfront of Marigot, passing Le West Indies Mall, to the Cemetery. Turn left at the roundabout towards Marina Royale and turn right into St. James/Lowtown. Continue along Bellevue Road to the Border Monument. **Total Distance 3.68 Km / 2.28 Miles**
- Leg 10:** From the Border, turn right onto the Causeway. Cross the Causeway to the Simpson Bay side, using the pedestrian crossing, turn around and come back to Carrefour in Cole Bay. **Total Distance 2.64 Km / 1.64 Miles**
- Leg 11:** From Carrefour, follow Union Road to the Cole Bay roundabout, turn left and climb Cole Bay Hill. At the Indigo Bay roundabout, turn right onto Link One, and turn left at the One Tete Lokay Roundabout outside of Learning Unlimited School. Continue along Welgelegen Road and finish at the Belair Community Center parking lot. **Total Distance 4.17 Km / 2.59 Miles**



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