

“A Dynamic Year”

Philipsburg Jubilee Library

2017 Annual Report



Philipsburg Jubilee Library 2017

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 will go down in history as the year that St. Maarten experienced the two most devastating Hurricanes in history: Hurricane Irma and Maria. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library did not constitute as an exception. The library suffered major damage to her structure, the consequences were enormous. However, despite the damage, the library still moved forward for her community that she faithfully serves.

Vision and Mission

The ***Vision*** of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library is to be the gateway for information in St. Maarten society and to provide basic conditions for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of individuals and social groups in our society.

The following ***key missions*** are at the core of the service of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library:

1. Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
2. Supporting both individual and self-conducted education, as well as formal education at all levels;
3. Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
4. Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
5. Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
6. Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
7. Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity;
8. Supporting the oral tradition;
9. Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
10. Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
11. Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
12. Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programs for all age groups and initiating such activities, if necessary.

Board members 2017

As of January 1st, 2017, the Foundation Board consisted of the following persons:

Board Members as of December 2017

President (ad interim)

Mr. Clayton Holiday

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Treasurer	Mr. Sunny. Khatnani
Secretary	Mrs. Monique Hofman
Vice-Secretary / Vice-Treasurer	Mr. Udo Aron
Commissioner	Ms. Valerie Brazier
Commissioner	Ms. Luz-Marie Tuitt

The composition of the board would later change as of July 1st, 2017. The former board member had been sitting for a period of 10 years instead of 8 which are stated in the foundation's by-laws. New members were appointed as follows:

Newly instated members as of July 1st, 2017

President	Mr. Paul Martens
Vice President	Mr. Jimmy Challenger
Treasurer	Joseanne Peterson
Commissioner	Peter Aarsen
Commissioner	Martin Zschuschen

However, after the passing of Hurricanes Irma, September 6th, 2017, Commissioner Martin Zschuschen stepped down making his position available. In Addition, as in previous years the board meetings were held at set times.

STAFF

Staff Developments

In the year under review the composition of staff members remained unchanged.

Staff Members as of December 31, 2017

Mrs. Monique Alberts	(Director)
Mrs. Irmin Hughes	(Manager Information services)
Mrs. Lucille Kolf	(Librarian)

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Ms. Joy Lambert	(Librarian/ Financial Assistant)
Ms. Maryland Powell	(Public Relations Officer & Activity Coordinator/ Children's & Teen's Librarian)
Ms. Shirley Richardson	(Secretary/ Selection & Acquisition Coordinator/ Circulation Head)
Mr. Daniel Helligar	(Circulation Assistant Head / Technical Assistant)
Ms. Francia Housen	(I Systems Administrator/ Circulation Clerk)
Ms. Melackia Spencer	(Circulation Clerk)
Ms. Rhianna Boirard	(Circulation Clerk Assistant)
Mr. Lubencito Woods	(Security Guard)

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Operational Results 2016-2017

Table 1. Library Membership

Library membership	2016	2017
Adults	1839	1995
Teenagers	2049	2076
Children	5736	5949
Staff, Non residents	28	32
Grand Total	9,652	10,052

Table 2. Library Visitors

Library visitors	2016	2017
	45938	24469

Table 3. Circulation

	2016	2017
Number of checkouts in library building		
Adults' books	5739	5917
E-books	424	354
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	32735	28248
Grand Total	38.898	28.875

Table 4. Collection

Items	No of Items added in 2016	Collection totals 2016	No of Items added in 2017	Collection totals 2017
Books Adult section	665	29,480	361	28.200
Books Youth section	543	22,512	552	21.312
DVD's	22	1405	12	1393
Grand total	1,230	53,397	925	50,905

Table 5. Circulation Bookmobile

Number of Bookmobile check-outs / Book boxes	2016	2017
	6655	4860

Table 6. Information requests and Library visits by school classes

Philipsburg Jubilee Library 2017

	2016	2017
Information requests	1176	720
Library visits (not of school classes)	42938	24469

Total of damaged books due to Hurricane		2500
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Table 7. Websites	2016	2017
Number of Hits on Library Website	14433	13835
Total of likes on Library Facebook	4129	4127
Total of likes on Baby and Toddler Facebook	164	168
Total of Follower on Twitter	64	86

Reading Promotion:

Reading promotion deals with promoting and developing a reading culture in our community with the strategies that develop literacy activities that range from providing opportunities that create readers, reading pleasures, and provide a diverse collection to all.

Story Time

As of Saturday January 21st, 2017, and every Saturday thereafter the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted their “Dutch is Fun” Story Time reading sessions for children. “Dutch is fun” is a Story time program that is full of stories, songs, and games in the Dutch language. The Story Time is aimed at young children aged 6 to 11. The object of “Dutch is Fun” Story time is to show how much fun one can have while reading and listening to Dutch stories in an interactive manner while at the same time learning to be fluent in the language.

Reading in any language is very important in the development of every child; thus the library regularly encourages parents to come out with their children and prove their active participation in the development of their children, and encourage not only reading, but also future usage of their library.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library welcomed various community minded persons who volunteered their time to give back to their community. 2017 story readers were Elsje Bosch (Museum); Stephanie Deerveld (Teacher); Beverly Nisbeth; Mr. Hatzman; Mr. Neil Henderson; and Sarah van Dam (Teacher).

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Figure 1 Each week young library goers look forward to the Story Time/ Dutch is Fun activity

Literacy Program “SXM Reads”

Low literacy is a considerable social problem in our society. In 2017 our library continued the program aimed at creating awareness and finding support for persons with low literacy skills. Together with the COME Centre, UNESCO and the Rotary Sunrise Club, our library created the SXM READS platform in 2015. The Department of Social Services and Section Labor Market (SOD/SLM) supported SXM READS as well.

The three pillars of the ongoing literacy program were family reading nights, an adult literacy course and a recently added motivational reading and book giveaway.

Adult literacy Course:

The adult literacy course aims at helping persons with low literacy and language skills. This program spearheaded by Pattie Maier, Pamela Sims and Merlese Lake continued throughout 2017.

Motivational Reading and Book Give Away:

The SXM Reads platform embarked on a successful “*Motivational Reading and Book Give Away*” event during the month of January for the Dutch Quarter Community at the Plantz property; February Month in Cay Bay at Lucky Stables and Seaside Nature Park ownership of Roderick Halley and Ph.D. Alexandra van Luijken – Halley; and during the month of April for St. Maarten Senior Citizen Recreational Foundation under the leadership of President Marva Henson. The programs were filled with storytelling & folk tales by Papa Umpo aka Garfield Young; comedy by Relick Narcise Beauperthy ; Sher’s Puppet Theater by Sherida Max, reading by Maryland Powell; poetry by Roberto Celestino Arrindell ; music by Carlson Velasquez and Faith – “Fefe” Hyman, and handing out of books. These events were

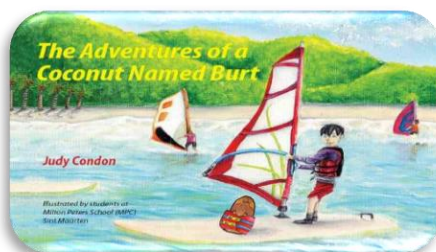


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additionally sponsored by Windward Roads Infrastructure and Sjorensly Valies of Dworkshop Graphic designs.

Family Reading Night

In February, Lionel Conner Primary school participated in the Family Reading Night 2017. They enjoyed nice and cozy family reading nights that were scheduled at the library where parents were welcome to attend with their children. Students of Lionel Conner Primary, their Assistant School Manager Mrs. Alia Matthew- Young, and their parents were treated to a pre-presentation of “The Adventures of a coconut named Burt” by children’s book author Judy Condon.



Family reading is a fun way to promote literacy. SXM Reads recognizes this and encourages reading as well as family participation. Investing in reading and making good reading choices while bonding with persons who understand the need to read is important.

Family reading night is a fun way to promote literacy and lifelong learning while supporting each other. Reading together creates a positive learning environment and helps children develop language skills, reading comprehension and a love for books that can last a lifetime.

Family reading nights help families learn what a wonderful resource the library is for their families. Children, as well as their parents, invested in reading and making good reading choices while bonding with SXM READ’s tutors, family, friends and the librarians.

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Black History Celebrates “Passing on the legacy 2017” Week



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library highlighted during its annual Black History celebration one week of activities under our annual theme “PASSING ON OUR LEGACY”. The primary focus of the Black History Week of activities were the achievements of St. Maarten’s elders and their continuous passing of our island’s history, culture, and legacy. The week events commenced on Saturday February 18th, 2017, and draw to a close on Tuesday February 28th, 2017.

The goal was to highlight, inform, and educate the general public of our St. Maarten history, our culture and our legacy as well the influence of international aspects of Black History Month world wide to continue passing legacies to the younger generations and to the generations to come.

On Saturday, February 18th, a workshop was given by instructor of National Institute of the Arts (NIA) Rudolph Davis teaching the steps of our local African Dance which included the St. Maarten Emancipation Dance “The Ponom”.

On Tuesday February 21st, and Wednesday February 22nd, at 6pm, the general public was invited to the viewing of the documentary “The March”: a documentary about the stand the African Americans took for human and economic rights. This was one of the largest political rallies ever in the history of the United States, the library also displayed “Slavery by another name”, a documentary that challenges the belief that slavery ended with the Civil War.

On Thursday 23rd, the program also included the Readers are Leaders platform (RAL) a collaboration of secondary school book club supported by the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and Rotary Sunrise Club. The Readers are Leaders club hosted its 7th annual Black History Month celebration featuring “BLACK IS THE NEW GOLD SHOW”. Various high school and the University of St. Martin students performed original pieces of our African Ancestry and Heritage in skits, dance, song, and all poetry lovers showcased their talents via the love of the spoken words.



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Jubilee Library Ar
Date: February, 2018

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On Saturday February 25th there was another similar one hour workshop with the dancer of Funtopia exposing the youngsters to modern aspects of African dance.



As an extra indulgence, the youngsters were treated to invited guest performing artists/musician and Sound Storyteller Mr. Ernesto Arrendell with his assistant Christel Klein, who conducted a free musical performance and workshop.

Ernesto Arrendell, an Arubian native, makes use of numerous instruments, found & daily objects and materials to create an artwork of sounds. Mr. Arrendell is a renowned percussionist and highly sought after musician throughout Europe.

The week of activities concluded with the screening of the documentary by Laura Bijnsdorp "BACK IN THE DAY: SINT MAARTEN"; a documentary about the lives on Sint Maarten sixty years ago. At the end of the viewing a panel discussion which included the following panelist speakers: Leonidas Friday, Chester York, and Carlson Velasques. Their experiences came alive as they took the audience to St. Maarten then and included the aspects of the current St. Maarten of today. After being inspired the audience promised to remember our local heroes who pass on their legacy to the next generation of people. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library is always looking for new and entertaining ways to educate, via "Passing on our legacy" there was no difference. We are creating a better future to understand the past.



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Easter egg Literacy Hunt:

On Saturday, the 15th of April, the annual Easter Egg Literacy Hunt event was hosted for 60 children ages 1-10 years at a cost of \$6. The event like the previous year (2016) took place at the Vineyard Estate (one of St. Maarten's monuments) in Philipsburg, from 10 am to 12.30pm.

The Easter Egg Literacy Hunt program was a fundamental educational interactive event that exposed the children to "Sher's Mak Puppet Theater" by Sherida Mak; where they learned the importance of reading in the context of the slogan "Reading together makes us stronger". This slogan, which is taken from the PJJL's SXM Reads theme represented by Story teller Maryland Powell Children's librarian & Teen's Librarian and student of the University of St. Maarten's EDU- 350 Children's Literature Spring Semester year 2017; retelling her created true story of " Mr. Cucolee's Pig". As soon as the Easter bunny arrived, the egg hunt could begin with such activities as:

- Face painting
- Various games:
 - Pin the tail on the rabbit.
 - Jumping in the potato bag race
 - Egg in the spoon
- Grand Egg Hunt.

Participating Children were provided with refreshments and a special "goody" bag.

This event was sponsored by "Winter Garden" who provided the refreshments; the "Dedicated Brothers" for providing the usage of tents and chairs; and Caroline Mac-Illroy-Buncamper, the owner of the "Vineyard Estate" who donated the usage of the estate grounds; Shop for less: Easter bunny, and Funtopia's face painters.

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Read to Me: Baby and Toddler Campaign

The library has been providing the Read to Me activities since 2010 to motivate parents and caregivers to read to their baby or toddler as often as possible and to visit the library and register as a library member.



Throughout the year, as part of the “Read to Me: Baby and Toddler” activities there was storytelling, fun, and games for babies and their caregivers.

During Rhyme Time on Wednesday mornings, babies and their parents, or caregivers, sang along to many of the classic nursery rhymes.

Additionally, during story time babies could listen to age-appropriate learning concepts through storytelling, while cultivating an enthusiasm for books and reading.

On April Wednesday April 12th, 2017 as part of the library’s “Read to me” campaign, instructor Melackia Spencer organized an educational, exciting interactive Rhyme Time Easter Special egg hunt for the babies and toddlers ages 0 to 5 years. Besides the Easter Egg Hunt the children were also treated to storytelling, arts & craft, and games.



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Aside from the ongoing Babies and Toddlers activity schedule, the library, in connection with the Babies and Toddlers Rhyme Time, was invited to participate on May 14th, 2017 at 3.15 pm for a fun day with the family at the first Annual Kids Expo; Play, Learn and Discover by 37 Adventures.

The Kids Expo was organized for the discovery of local, regional and international companies and organizations that provide products and services designed to enrich the lives of families.

The library staff members Daniel Helligar and Maryland Powell, along with Teacher Sharon B. Hassell presented a Readers Theater play: *"Beauty and the beast"* for ages 8 to 10.



Also featured that day was the University of St. Martin's (USM) aspiring students of EDU 350 - Children's Literature Class 2017.



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USM Puppet Show

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), in collaboration with the University of St. Martin (USM) hosted their annual puppet show for children ages 4 to 10-year-old at the library on Wednesday May 10th, 2017, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.



Five (5) aspiring University students of USM's EDU 350 - Children's Literature Class were assigned by the University of St. Maarten to prepare and execute a puppet show in front of a live audience as a part of their teaching certification. Their performance met the requirements for their Children's Literature course, as they worked towards obtaining their Bachelor's Degree in Education.

The event consisted of two (2) shows. Both shows were performed by all the students.

- "Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham"
- "Anansi goes fishing".

The aspiring five (5) student's teachers which performed in alphabetical orders are:

- Reshaline Carty
- Bianca George
- Children's & Teens Librarian Maryland Powell
- Jamila Ruan
- Lorraine Sweeney

Literacy on all levels is the library's core component, thus it joined with the university in a collaborative effort to ensure that all children on St. Maarten are exposed to puppet shows that effectively reinforce existing knowledge and to communicate new information through interactive performances, which combat illiteracy and to reach children from an early age. Over 30 encouraged children came out and enjoyed a wonderful and educational event which fostered learning through storytelling.



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Book Sales

There was one grand book sale in the library in 2017, held on Saturday November 4th, in the former PJJL Café Lounge area. Hundreds of books for all ages were selected with a special selection of romance books, children's books, educational, cook books, and more.

The book sale was intended to bring back normalcy to the library's faithful patrons and all the book lovers in mind. With, of course, the added goal of encouraging reading among the community of St. Maarten, after the passing of Category 5+ Hurricanes, 2017, Irma and Maria.

The library staff and management were heartened to see the friendly faces. Many came out to support their library by purchasing books from their favorite author or topic.

Despite the catastrophe Hurricane Irma brought to our beautiful island and library we were able to raise NAF 733.62. Staff members handed out cupcakes as a token of their appreciation. There was a delightful ambience for all ages. The appreciation that was displayed in the patron's faces when they purchased their books for their reading pleasure was indescribable. The book sales were truly community events. All of the money raised was to be used to fund library programs.



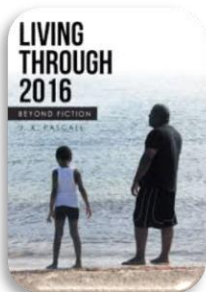
Book Launchings:

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted a total of 4 book launches and 1 magazine presentation in the year 2017, which gave authors the opportunity to showcase their writing

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skills. Reading sessions and book signings are a great way to generate publicity and interest among readers and brings potential patrons to the library.

“Living Through 2016: Beyond Fiction”



On Thursday, January 19th, 2017, the first of the year’s book launches was done by Trinidadian native and inspirational Author J.K. Pascall, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL). The book presented was entitled “Living through 2016: beyond fiction”.

“Living Through 2016” presents itself as a soul’s expression of compassion. It is a partial memoir, and a time capsule as it recognizes 2016 as pivotal in our development, in his own pivotal year, the year Mr. Pascall turns 40. The book “Living Through 2016”, the authors first publication, is an inspirational guide to the seeker who is encouraged to take the long view of their own epiphany as an alternative route to unlocking one’s own gifts and heightening awareness and consciousness.

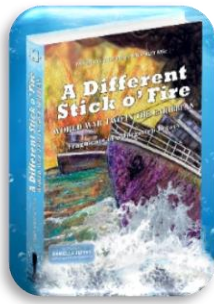
Author J. K. Pascall, who studied Sociology, promotes self-reliance and self-confidence needed to capture the flavor of our lives.

In addition, Mr. Pascall also managed to conduct a visit with the students of the Readers are Leaders Platform Board. Readers are leaders is a reading program organized and supported by the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise. Our collaborative goal is to promote literacy, specifically among high school students, and encourage readers to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas through writing.



“A Different Stick O’Fire: World War Two in the Caribbean, 4 Fragments of a forgotten Legacy”

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On Friday May 12th, 2017, Mulberry Egstorf-Pantophlet (Author), in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), presented her book “A Different Stick o’ Fire: World War Two in the Caribbean”, Fragments of a Forgotten Legacy, to the general public of Sint Maarten/St. Martin at 6 pm.

The publication was realized with the support of the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied (PBCCG).

Egstorf- Pantophlet’s motivation for writing the book is that oral reports, narratives and memories of the role played by the Caribbean in the global fight for “Freedom from tyranny” during World War Two, are gradually fading, as more and more informants are passing away. This compels those of us who have had any form of oral history pertaining to the war handed down to us by senior West Indians, to capitalize and expound on it, for the sake of future generations.

“A Different Stick O’Fire: World War Two in the Caribbean, Fragments of a Forgotten Legacy” was written for an audience of ages 12 to 80 and is a Read-Out-Loud book.

Mrs. Mulberry – Egstorf can recall during her childhood years on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten in the 1950s that she and her brother would occasionally hear elders (who had observed both world wars) speak about *“when Hitler had sen’ submarines all de way down here”* They would also relate how *“dey had try to bomb Aruba!”* and end with *“Germans were out to rule de wurl, and down here too!”*

Throughout Mrs. Mulberry – Egstorf _Pantophlet’s presentation, she gave an overview of her book which indicated that the Caribbean region has its own authentic and compelling war-related narratives to tell. They too are positioned against the background of the looming threat of Nazi domination, which was the concern of every democracy-loving society at the time. Overseas territories and colonial rulers alike, were both up against a ‘common enemy’ who could only be defeated with combined efforts. In that respect the legacy of World War Two is a shared legacy.

This is the reason why the narratives in verse, are supplemented with quotes in the Dutch language. Together they form an introductory “mosaic” for a Caribbean approach to World War Two.

Mrs. Mulberry _Egstrof – Pantophlet presented complimentary books to the following institutions:

- Representatives of the Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds Caribisch Gebied

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- Philipsburg Jubilee Library Director Monique Alberts & Public Relations Officer & Mistress of Ceremony Maryland Powell
- Sint Maarten's National Heritage Foundation Museum; Representative: Sharine Baptiste
- Sint Maarten's Academy Academic Section; Representative Mrs. Sharon Warner
- Milton Peters College; Representative: Symone Halley – Arnz

The following persons were thanked for the courtesy of contributing towards the writing of “A Different Stick of Fire”, *World War II in the Caribbean*, *Fragments of a forgotten Legacy*”.

The Family of Leon C. Bell

Ms. Elsje Bosch

Mr. Cedric James

Ms. Barbara Cannegieter

Mr. Mathias Voges



“Walking by Faith”



On Thursday, May 18th, 2017 Daniel Collins, one of 10 experts co-authoring “Walking by Faith” by Mike Rodriguez, presented his story “Goodbye, Mr. Mediocrity”, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library at 6pm.

Collin’s story documents his personal life-changing journey that began in August 2011, which altered his perspective transforming his life and bringing inspiration to others.

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Daniel Collins' motivation for writing his story is to assist people in recognizing that being like everybody else or being mediocre is not your own personal reality.

During his presentation Mr. Collins indicated that many times we as human beings do not get what is desired because we do not ask. Via his story "Goodbye Mr. Mediocrity", Mr. Collins hoped to reach and play a positive part in other people's lives assisting them with their growth.

The Author holds a Bachelors Degree in finance and economics from the Hanze and State University of Groningen. He is skilled in public speaking, training, coaching, leadership, budgeting, and writing. Collins keeps himself busy with various responsibilities which include overseeing the youth, finance and enjoys teaching classes at church where he serves as a deacon at the Good News Baptist Church.



"Tips for our Youth"



On Friday June 1st, 2017, Sergio Sno (Author) in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library presented "Tips for our Youth" to the youth of St. Maarten.

"Tips for our Youth was born from the Authors personal experiences as he worked with young people in his native country Suriname and also here on St. Maarten. Remarks were given during the program by Vice Chairlady of the Council of Advice, Marvis Brooks Salomon and Pastor, Wycliffe Smith. The evening was a cultural and inspirational event.

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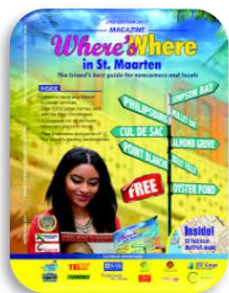
During his introduction speech, Sergio Sno told his audience about losing his mother at the tender age of thirteen, how he took care of himself and still attained an education despite his circumstances. “Life was very hard for me”, he informed the youth, and however, he never gave up. He always had the belief that he could make it in life.

Sergio went further to reflect to his audience about his passion for music, his singing in several bands and choirs and how he eventually ended up directing several choirs, with which he traveled and won many awards. His continuous message to the youth was concerning his own life story, how he faced adversity as a teenager, faced with many temptations that could have led him down a road of self-destruction. Sno has attributed his success and his positive attitude to his relationship with God whom he got to know in a very personal way at the age of twelve. It was God who inspired him to collate these life-tips and to put them in this book “Tips for our Youth”.

Before settling in St. Maarten some ten years ago, Sergio lived and worked in Trinidad. However, wherever he went he found a church and usually ends up directing one of its choirs and working with the youth, giving them positive advice and helping them to find their path in life.



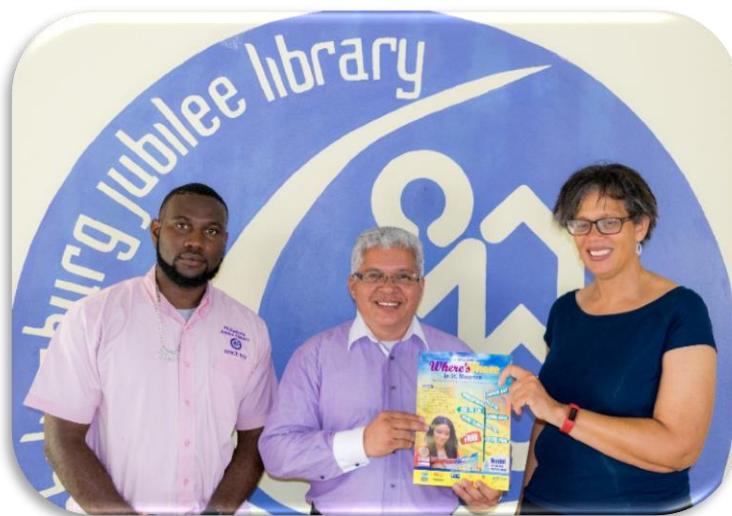
“Where’s where in St. Maarten 2nd Edition 2017: the islands’ best guide for newcomers and locals”



On Friday August 18th, Robert Espitia launched the much anticipated 2nd edition of “Where’s Where in St. Maarten (WWSM) to the public in a collaborative launching held at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. The first copies were offered to the Director of the library and Assistant Circulation Supervisor and Facility Manager, Daniel Helligar. To highlight the community aspect of WWSM, several community leaders spoke at the event such as Rhoda Arrindell, Cassandra Richardson and

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vice president of the University of St. Maarten, Pastor Wycliffe Smith. These speakers all related how important community connections are, which is promoted through the information provided within the pages of the magazine. Robert Espitia described his labor of love and explained how best to use the maps and list of street names to find any location quickly and easily. Armed with a deep understanding of the community of St. Maarten and its important places, Espitia, who first arrived in St. Maarten 43 years ago, emphasized that the 2nd edition was aimed at empowering the locals of St. Maarten with valuable information and helping newcomers navigate throughout the Island –literally through the intricate full color Area Maps in the publication as well, the many monuments displayed throughout its pages as well as the 140 + important places with photos in the magazine. 250 magazines were given to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library to be made available for distribution to the library's patrons. As "Where's Where in St. Maarten hits the streets, the 2nd edition promised to be in the hands of the locals for a very long time to serve as a tangible link to our community.

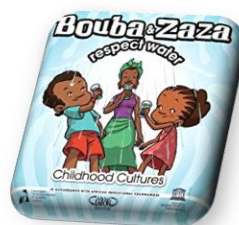
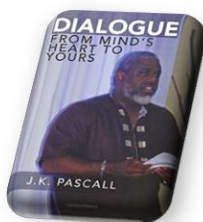
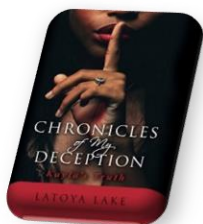


Book Presentation:

There were three book presentations during the year 2017:

- "Chronicles of my deception: Kayla's truth"
- "Dialogue from mind's heart to yours"
- "Childhood Cultures series: Bouba & Zaza"

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“Chronicles of my deception: Kayla’s truth”



On Friday August 25th, 2017, “**Chronicles of my deception: Kayla’s truth**” by adult fiction author, Latoya Lake, was presented to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library by Windward Roads Infrastructure Assistant Head of Finance and Administrator and former Librarian of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Annelies Starreveld, to the avid readers of St. Maarten for their reading pleasure. Chronicles of my deception is the author’s second fictional writing. The book was sponsored by Windward Roads

infrastructure.

“Dialogue from mind’s heart to yours”

On Monday, August 28th, 2017, Trinidadian native and inspirational author of “Living Through 2016: Beyond Fiction” J. K. Pascall presented to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library his newest book entitled “**Dialogue from mind’s heart to yours**”; a book of poetry where Pascal shares parts of himself in the collective consciousness of his written words. The book was donated to be circulated among the St. Maarten community.



“Childhood Cultures Series: Bouba & Zaza”

On Friday December 1st, 2017 UNESCO, Secretary General of St. Maarten National Commission, Ms. Marcellia Henry presented in connection with the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (November 20th, 2017), 12 books from the book series “**Childhood Cultures: Bouba & Zaza**” to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library to circulate to the community at large.

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The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and UNESCO's Regional Office in Dakar describes the book series Childhood Cultures as "an intergenerational African series of children's books". Through the experiences of the main characters "Bouba and Zaza", the series seeks to develop life and socialization skills outside the family context among children. It is also aimed at parents, teachers, care takers and mentors.

The lesson and concepts include various topics as the issue of water resources and environmental protection; the HIV/AIDS pandemic; saying No to sexual advances; and moral values.

The Series are designed to assist communities and their children to discussion and find proper solutions for these problems. Addressing these spoken and unspoken topics will help the community and children to better adapt to their environment. The books assist with the improvement of children's communication skills, their sense of responsibility and their ideas of justice.

These topics are affecting lives worldwide in the nearby Caribbean and of course Sint Maarten. As our cultures are entwined we can relate to some if not all these issues that the series "Childhood Cultures" discusses.

As we stay abreast of current events on our island, promoting literacy and knowledge and reaching children from all walks of life this series was gratefully received and was made available to the public.



Book Tour:

"De donkere tranen van zijn moeder" / *"The dark tears of his mother"*

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From Monday 15th – Monday 29th May 2017, Children's book author Hillie Arduin, author of the award winning books, "Ik neem je mee" and "Aboikoni", in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library did a book tour of her newest book "De donkere tranen van zijn moeder". The book tour has been realized and supported by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied (PBCCG).

The author Hillie Arduin was born in Suriname and raised in Curaçao. She has lived and worked for almost 40 years in the Netherlands; maintaining ties with the Caribbean by being there regularly and taking part in the Caribbean society by working in education and literacy. Mrs. Arduin began her educational career in Curaçao at the Akademia Pedagogika (PABO), as an accomplished teacher. In 1973 she continued her studies in clinical remedial education (special education) and psychology. She obtained her doctorate in both disciplines at the University of Amsterdam, VU University and the University of Leiden.

A natural storyteller of fairytales and folktales, Hillie Arduin takes her listeners into a world of imagination when bringing her stories to life for her audience. The personalities, situations and illustrations are chosen so that children of the Caribbean recognize themselves in the stories and can relate to its characters. Hillie Arduin has been writing children's stories since the 1980's. In her previous books, such as for example: *"Princess Ivana; the princess who did not want to comb her hair"* a fairy tale helps Caribbean Children accept themselves and break free from the stereotypical ideal image that exists, and embrace the empowering motto "I am black, I'm proud", and "Black is beautiful".

The book of the year of 2013 in Suriname *"Aboikoni"* is a book where children express their hopes for the future, a future of freedom. The moral of the story "Aboikoni" being that they can pass on to their children and their children's children their freedom, their pride, and their strengths. Her stories and poetry chronicle the lives of children who, although born into slavery, pursue freedom and a future beyond their chains.

"De donkere tranen van zijn moeder / "The dark tears of his mother" is a quasi-autobiography and a true story; A story that tells about the tragedy and the survival of the last three years of a dying young man. The character "Deston" (18) suffered from the disease, sarcoidosis, from which he dies at the age of 21. The book showcases the struggles of this young man who was too young to die, his family and his environment, and the struggles of his mother and their relationship. His mother "Florence" struggles with her own feelings as a protector even against the disease, death and the acceptance of the loss of her son.

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The story breaks taboos and lends itself to bring about discussions with young people about incurable illness and death.

Between 15th – 30th May, 2017 Mrs. Hillie Arduin conducted several visits to present her stories to the primary schools. She read from *“Princess Ivana”*, *“Aboikoni”*, and recited several poetry pieces. For the secondary schools she recited *“De donkere tranen van zijn moeder”*. The visits were interactive sessions where students enthusiastically participated in a discussion of life, future and death.

- Hillie Arduin participated in Saba’s Queen Wilhelmina Library Children’s Book Week on Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th;
- Primary Sessions: Methodist Agogic Center (MAC- Campus 1) Browlia F. Maillard on Wednesday 17th, for Cycle 1 gr 4. (Princess Ivana);
- Via St. Eustatius Gertrude Judson Bicentennial Public Library made arrangement of several primary schools and one afternoon school youth program on Thursday 18th
 - Lynch Plantation / Seventh Day Adventist
 - Governor de Graff School
 - Methodist School
 - Mega D Youth Foundation.
- Milton Peters College Secondary: HAVO & VWO was presented with *“De donkere tranen van zijn moeder”*;
- Primary Session: Oranje School Tuesday 23rd for Cycle 1 gr 4 (Princess Ivana); Zr. Borgia School Wednesday 24th Cycle 1 gr 4 (Aboikoni);
- Readers are Leaders (RAL) book club for Teenagers of all secondary schools on Wednesday 24th at 4.30 pm.
- Dutch is Fun Saturday 25th at 11 am for all visiting primary patrons of the PJJL.
- Sint Maarten Academy Academic Dutch section Monday 29th.
- Closing with a PJJL staff presentation & farewell brunch at 11.15 am.

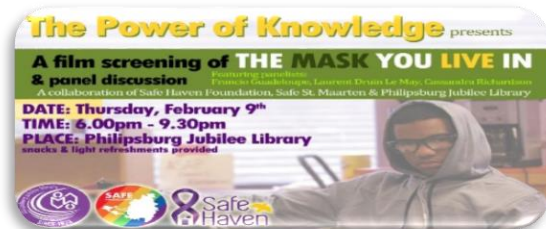


The Power of Knowledge Information Sessions:

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The Power of Knowledge Series deals with topics that bring awareness and an alternative perspective through the presentation of various subject matters to encourage members of the community of St. Maarten to become critical thinkers in how they think about their community, health, surroundings, environment and things that affect their everyday lives.

Documentary Film Screenings: “THE MASK YOU LIVE IN” by Jennifer Siebel Newsom



On Thursday February 9th, 2017 at 6 pm, Safe Haven and Safe St. Maarten / St. Martin, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, hosted the informative and motivational screening of the documentary “the Mask you live in”.

The critically acclaimed film- the Mask You Live In, shed light on the experiences of young boys and older males growing up in a society and community that facilitates an insecure sense of masculine identity. Too often are our males confronted with phrases such as: “Be a man”, “grow some balls”, “don’t be a fag”, “don’t let your woman run your life”... on a daily basis in our households, on the street and practically everywhere in the community.

The documentary film screening and panel discussion was held to address the issues of masculinity, insecurities, and help empower our boys and men; especially in relation to partner violence, drinking, homophobia, depression, bullying and the stigmatization of male intimacy, as well as crime. The screening also addresses how we should raise a healthier generation of boys that will become men, who will learn to be emotionally connected and respect other human beings.

Following the screening there was an interactive panel discussion segment with guest panelist: Social & Cultural Anthropologist and Development Sociologist by training and President of University of St. Martin, PhD. Francio Guadeloupe. Dr. Guadeloupe gave a critique on the toxic masculinity, in the hopes of broadening the conversation about masculinity towards a more positive intent and as a tool which salvages and assists men to overcome these negative and harmful views and at the same time developing and celebrating masculinity.

Representative of the board of St. Maarten/St. Martin Alliance for Equality (SAFE SXM) Mr. Laurent Druin Le May, in his speech, provided the perspective of gay men’s masculinity and how toxic machismo is, as well as it being detrimental, discriminatory, and dangerous to the alternative of male masculinity, values, emotion, and compassion), and

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Managing director, MSc. Cassandra Richardson headed a panel which touched upon a wide array of issues that are important to the context of our island, such as: alcohol, homophobia, depression, bullying the stigmatization of male intimacy, and crime. The idea was to bring in a positive discussion with the community about the toxic views of masculinity, the kind we see perpetuated on this island, the causes and effects and the solutions. The abovementioned was followed by a question and answer segment.

Pertinent questions were posed which spoke about the standards that we force upon men and boys. The answers provided remained within the scope of the goal to get to the heart of the issue and find solutions for the betterment of our community. With this topic, presenters and panelists aimed at shedding light on the current situation in our community, – the unhealthy relationship between men and women and the impact that domestic violence has on country St. Maarten.



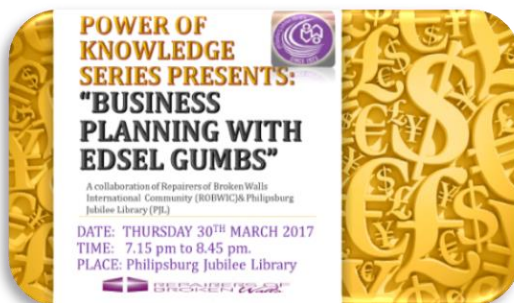
Business Planning with Edsel Gumbs



The Power of Knowledge series continued on Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at 7.15 pm with the collaborative efforts of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the Repairers of Broken Walls International Community; Mrs. Napolina Richardson – Gumbs. The evening's session was an informative and interactive presentation on "Business Planning" with guest speaker Edsel Gumbs.

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Repairers of Broken Walls International Community (ROBWIC) is a humanitarian organization that was founded in St. Maarten in 2010 with the purpose to serve communities and uplift people where there is a need, in addition to providing other training initiatives.



ROBWIC guest speaker Mr. Edsel Gumbs small business representative and banker holds a Bachelor's Degree (UOC) and Associate's Degree (USM) in Business Management & Marketing. He was also the winner of St. Maarten's Chamber of Commerce business plan writing competition (1st place best business planner +1st place best marketer) with the topic "thinking globally while acting locally 2016. Edsel Gumbs has been recognized as "Man of the year 2016" for his services as a ROTERACT member. Mr. Edsel Gumbs, in his presentation, brought forward his knowledge and expertise in business efficiency and innovations, which enthused the audience. This interactive session touched upon how one can start a business and apply for loans and funding. In addition, Edsel Gumbs delved into how one can structure, put a business plan together, and run a successful business.

Our joint objective informed and stimulated entrepreneurship within our community and educate people on writing business plans, structuring, what goes into a business plan, and what banks and funding agencies look for in business plans.

The Journey of Christel Horst

The final item of the year for the Power of Knowledge series on Thursday June 15th, 2017 at 6.30 pm consisted of the journey and testimony that Christel Horst discovered after the benefits of oils assisted her with her lifestyle changes in and around her home.

"Change your life style: Essential Oils in and around your home"



Philipsburg Jubilee Library Annual Report 2017

Date: February, 2018

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Christel Horst, a mother of three, and a social worker by profession currently working as an activity coordinator at the White and Yellow Cross Care Foundation who took a journey with Young Living Essential Oils. Her journey began exactly a year ago in June 2016. Christel is by no means a doctor, nor could she treat or heal anyone. However, she felt the need to share her experience and acquired knowledge about Young Living Essential Oils with the community at large.

Horst shared her testimony that when her twin boys, who both had a reflux and eczema their whole lives, turned 4, she noticed that the effect of the medicine they got was minimal, while the amounts of chemicals and hormones were very high. She did not feel comfortable giving it to them anymore after doing some research. They also had a very hard time falling asleep and sleeping through the night. After 4 years of non-sleeping kids, Christel was ready for a life style change. After being introduced to Young Living Essential Oils it changed her life and her sons' lives. There is no sign of eczema and her twin are sleeping much better.

The presentation was to empower and educate the community about the most powerful part of the plant, tree shrubs etc. Over 100 natural organic compounds that can support one's body with hormones, brain health, healthy weight, emotions, stress and more. In the presentation Christel went further to say that one doesn't need to be an aroma therapist to use oils.

The information on the effective methods and usage from ingesting, applying topically diffuse, and inhaling that will be most beneficial to you and your home was relayed.

The audience at the presentation was quite enthusiastic and eager to learn all about how one can change one's lives for the better with the use of essential oils.



New Collection:

American University of the Caribbean (AUC) launches Health Section Collection Body Smaart

On Saturday, April 8th, 2017, The Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the American University of the Caribbean (AUC) launched their brand new collection “Health Section: BODY SMAART” of over 50 health books for a range of ages.

The invited guest speakers included the Honorable Minister of Education, Youth, Culture, and Sports, Silveria Jacobs, Honorable Minister of Health Emil Lee, and representing the Collective Prevention Services was Department Head, Dr. Virginia Asin. Also invited was Assistant Dean of Services Learning and Community Affairs PhD. Golden Jackson and the AUC’s students along with Aukje de Jong OrganWise Guy library presenter.

The unveiling showcased a display of a life-size human skeleton, a life-size human torso with exposed and removable organs; a brain model; and a heart model.



AUC’s Assistant Dean of Services gave an overview of the AUC’s love for our community and our library and stated that they are really committed to developing a lasting strong relationship with the St. Maarten community.

The “Body Smaart” program is an innovative program of activities, fresh air exercise, and a walk through of our anatomy and is seen as a great opportunity for the University’s students

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to enhance their learning and be able to apply their knowledge while giving back to the young people who frequent the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

The “Body Smaart” program was made possible due to a grant by Hillary Daughterty, after winning the 2016 Karl Stockhausen Award. This scholarship fund was established to help medical students who are driven to help others in their future profession or who may be facing obstacles in relation to becoming physicians.

Both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, along with the Collective Prevention Services, welcome this newest addition, congratulated the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) and the American University of the Caribbean(AUC) on helping this project take flight, and render their 100% support to the AUC and the library.

During Minister Jacobs’ address, it was said exposing children to things in a healthy interactive way encourages children to retain what they’ve learned and make sound choices in their lives. Encouraging families to come into the library makes a difference within their lives and the life of their community. The Minister went on to say that the library plays a very important role in educating the community. And also, having tangible literature and materials at hand for the very young and all ages is the key to keeping our community growing and developing.



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Summer Program

Summer Camp: Kid's; "Summer Express" & Teen's: "Awesome Summer"

This year the annual Summer Programs would merge both the kid's and the teen's program for children ages 7-12 & 13-17 years. The camps were coordinated and executed by project coordinator Maryland Powell. The extraordinary merger brought both age groups to interact, relate and inspire each other. The youngsters got a chance to take part in a variety of educational and enjoyable activities that the Philipsburg Jubilee Library offered. The program took place from the 10th of July to August 5th 2018. The price for the entire program was NAF135 / \$75.00 dollars for the four weeks. A total of 62 youngsters (**32** ages 7-12 / **30** ages 13-17) took part in the activities that varied per age group. Both groups were distinguished by name and age groups.

The project was executed with the assistance of Daniel Helligar (PjL-Tech), Alejandro Lewin-Espinal (PjL-IT), and the 6 students (ages 16-19) from the Business Outreach & Placement Program (BOPP), coordinated by the Social Cultural Department of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports.



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The activities for student's ages 7-12 aka the "Summer Express", took place from 9 am to 12 pm, with the exception of the excursion which was planned for earlier in the day to avoid the summer sun and the visiting of AUC's Medical students.



The Summer Express students were engaged in a number of exciting programs, such as the *Meditation introduction course of positive thinking, building of self-esteem, and freedom from anger workshop* given by Sr. Devki Ramsahai; *Poetry , Meditation and music* by Nkosazana Esther Ellis where they learnt self-love and appreciation; *Art & Craft ; A.R.T.* by Coach Tom Burnett where they learned anger management (Anger replacement Training); a Media Lab session on *Makie Makey Makey and Hour of code* by Daniel Helligar ; *Body Smaart: Muscles and Bones workshop* by AUC's Medical Students (*American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine*), *Game Day, Gaming with the Professionals* done by "For The Win Gaming Foundation's" Sjorensly Valies ; *Reading and Book Report Presentations*, and *Puppet Show Practice and Presentation*. Their activities also included out-door excursions to French St. Martin Bastille Day Celebration, Sports Day with the Department of Education, Culture Sport & Youth, Sports' Director of Sport Academy Les Brown, which also included a water balloon fight. Campers also learned about Going Green in the St. Peters Community garden Spaceless Garden presentation by Denicio Wyatte. There were also excursions to the Bird Park & Museum; St. Maarten Zoo; the Police Station; a Nature Walk with hiking, picnicking and swimming at Happy Bay (French Side, Friars Bay); Beach Day at Pinel Island, and the exploration of the underwater planet on the Adventure of the Sea: Sailing on a glass bottom boat in Grand Case and a movie night at Caribbean Cinemas Mega Plex.

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The Awesome Summer youngsters, ages 13 – 17, were engaged in A.R.T. as well ; 3 days of MANGA book creation and presentation by Oshane Clement; the Media Lab sessions: Arduino, Animoto, and project introduction by Daniel Helligar and Alejandro Espinal, Poetry; Painting with Dennis Timothy Dowling, Gaming with the professionals, board games and movies, and a Book Discussion of “Everything Everything” by Nicola Yoon and “The Alchemist” by Paolo Coelho.

The Awesome summer program’s activities included Bastille Day, Tri-Sport: Hiking Guana Bay & Kayaking Snorkeling Tour; Hiking in Happy Bay done by experienced Hiker & Historian Emile Louisy of the Collectivity of Saint Martin Tourist Information Center; Workshop and visitation of honorable Member of the House of Orange – Nassau Dame Ruby Bute Art Studio at Friars Bay; Sports Day at John Cooper & Jose Lake Ball Park; Sailing on the Catamaran Blue Peter Coastal boat ride to Mullet Bay Beach for picnicking, swimming & snorkeling, and movie night at the Caribbean Cinemas Mega Plex.

The students received donated meals from Gyko King formerly known as Abu – Ghazi Shwarma, Buccuneers, Quiznos; Carl & Sons Unique Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Winter Garden.

The students were treated to a show by local entertainers Young Dow Jabari York and Kenyo Baly with “Who Yuh Fuh”, “Good Vibes”, and “Island Kid”, and Steel pan music from students of Dow Musical School Foundation DMF.

The program provides a great opportunity to broaden one’s horizons, make new friends and share a wonderful experience with other children. And after a month packed with activities and learning new skills the program for both groups came to a close with a compilation documentary of all the activities that they participated in for their parents and themselves.

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Media Lab

The Media Lab is an initiative by Foundation Kultuurkameleon and is part of the larger Digikidz project of the Foresee Foundation in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. Digikidz was also made possible through funding from the Windsong Foundation and the Kultura Fund.

Digiworkz has been active with workshops, summer camps and activities engaging the students to stimulate them to be more interested in the educational material by making it hands-on, inspirational and motivational. Throughout the year the workshops for schools took place with lessons in programming, clay animation, internet safety, Kahoot quizzes, Padlet, Green Screen, an hour of code, Makey- Makey and more.

The Media lab was housed at the Philipsburg Jubilee library where youth and senior citizens are inspired and can harness innovative skills in information technology. The abovementioned workshops were spearheaded by Media Coach Francia Housen, Media Coach Joy Lambert and their assistant coaches, Technical Administrator Daniel Helligar and Information Technician Alejandro Espinal – Lewin.

Primary and Secondary Workshops

During 2017, a total of 27 workshops were offered to 550 students from group 6 & 7 of various primary and secondary schools.

Workshops for foster kids.

In addition, workshops were also provided to 40 children ages 13 -17 from K1 Britannica Foundation. Those students were offered: Introduction to computers, Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet and Online Safety.

K1 Britannia Foundation focuses extensively on a variety of maritime and other charitable projects in St. Maarten, with a major focus on the social issues faced by troubled youth on the island and the surrounding areas.



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Senior Workshops:

As in previous years with the high demand, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library provided senior internet classes. These classes have been in effect since 2015 and are open for people ages 50 and over who are looking for assistance in learning new computer skills and/or enhance existing computer skills.

Many seniors gained access to computer technology that can enrich their lives. The classes enable them to share their skills while keeping in contact with friends and family members at large. During the year 2017, 222 seniors were privy to 28 workshops.

Back by popular demand, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library resumed senior internet classes as of February 2016. The senior classes were held in the library's Media Lab every Friday morning and afternoon, from February 5th, 2016 to June 24th, 2016, time: 9 am to 12.00 pm and 2 pm to 5pm. After a summer break the senior internet classes at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library recommenced on September 2nd, 2016. The classes again took place every Friday morning and afternoon at the same times.

The Senior Internet course consists of a beginner's introduction to computers, use of e-mails & Typing, Animoto, Facebook, Skyping, how to surf the web and Internet safety. Advanced courses offered Pinterest, Evernote



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Digikidz Summer Camp

A Digiworkz summer camp entitled “DigiSummer Time Summer Camp 2017” was on the program of the Medialab as well. Over 48 students from various primary and high schools ages 11-18 were given the opportunity to experience computer, designing and gaming skills; they participated alternatively for two weeks; 24 students per group. The camp was held at the library for 2 weeks, from July 3rd to the 15th, where the students learned the fundamentals of 3D modeling, lighting and animation. Create games, Arduino, Photoshop, Graphic designs, and laser cutting.

In addition, students were taken on a tour to our local Telecom provider: UTS antenna houses, where the technology of theory and practice come together. It was an exciting in-depth look into how technology works in practice.

On the last day of the summer camp Digiworkz held an open house for the parents and guardians to see and interact with the projects that were created. The students explained how each of the projects were built and how they work.



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Hurricane Irma's Impact



In 2017, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library was severely damaged after the passing of Hurricane Irma. Irma was the most devastating hurricane in history to present that has made land fall on the island of St. Maarten and also dealt the library's building a catastrophic blow on Wednesday, September 6th, 2017.

Besides the devastation to an already aged structure, there had been an outcry for a new building several years ago. To add insult to injury, looters gained access to the building and wreaked havoc to make away with electronic equipment.



The library is the pillar of St. Maarten's foundation; it is a private foundation that receives 1.2 million guilders in subsidy on an annual basis from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports; which covers the salaries and the purchasing of books. Special projects are funded by outside sources.

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In the aftermath, the staff busied themselves with cleaning and sorting out of books from the collection of 60,000 books that the library had in stock before Hurricane Irma.

In total, 2000 books have been lost, while many other books are in bad condition. The building had never been the ideal environment for the housing of books, however, under the current conditions and also with passing of Hurricane Maria on September 9th, 2017, the rain fall and the humidity the unfavorable conditions are causing the books to further deteriorate.



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library was able to open her doors to the general public on Tuesday October 24th, 2017 with new opening times and adjusted opening times from 9 am to 5pm. It had been two challenging months to allow the staff and volunteers to complete the necessary clean up and repairs.

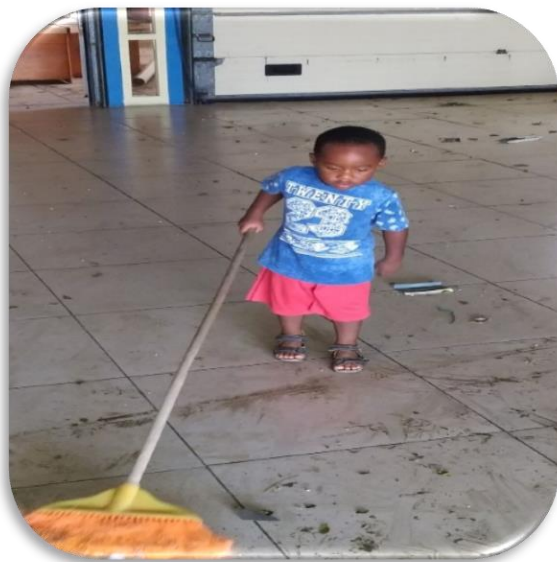
As a temporary solution to accommodate the loyal patrons, the entrance hall was turned into a library hall with a limited capacity, showcasing a sample of all collections. This was created, because the rest of the library had to be closed off due to the damage.

Support & Donations

Assistance came from near and far, Rotary Sun Rise, Foundation for Secondary Education, SVOBE, and additional volunteers participated by either cleaning or offering a temporary office space for the staff to meet;



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International and Regional Assistance:

Various Librarians and library organizations in the Netherlands and in the United States sprang into action to collect money to rebuild the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

A group of librarians in the Netherlands, with past and present ties with St. Maarten with a warm heart for the island, started the initiative called “Book Storm for St. Maarten”. The initiators of the fundraiser are Information Specialist at Tilburg University and former Librarian of Gertrude Judson Bicentennial Public Library of St. Eustatius, Mrs. Petra Ploeg ; Senior Advisor at Rijnbrink . Deventer and former librarian Philipsburg Jubilee Library; Library Director in Southeast Utrecht Mariet Wolterbeek; former (acting) Director at Jubilee Library Ans Koolen ; and Manager Marketing and communication at GO- Education Eric Kokke. Heleen van Manen on behalf of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek ~ Royal Library in the Hague and former Netherlands Library Forum FOBID Marian Koren along with library sector organization VOB and UKB ~ Joined forces held a donation drive at the Bijlmer Park Theatre in Amsterdam, money and books were collected in aid of St. Maarten.

IN In the United States the American Library Association (ALA) started a fundraising campaign for libraries in the Caribbean that were affected by the hurricanes. DLOC Digital Libraries of the Caribbean from Florida started collecting computers for our library. All funds raised by these initiative will have used to replace equipment, inventory and reading materials that were destroyed by Irma. Part of the funds will be used to organize activities for traumatized children. Saba’s Queen Wilhelmina Library organized under the leadership of Joanna Simmons and the Saban Community a donation drive and raised \$900. The funds were donated towards purchasing the much needed equipment.

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A fundraising action called the “Actie Boekenstorm” was established in The Hague provided the library with much needed monetary donations.

ENGAGE Foundation and the Coffee Lounge teamed up to support the library with a 10 hour read-a-thon. The Brain child of the Engage Foundation, strongly believes in the power of literature and its importance in building our nation and empowering its people. The fundraiser took place on Saturday December 9th, 2017. Throughout the day there were new and used books on sale as well as book signings by international and local authors.



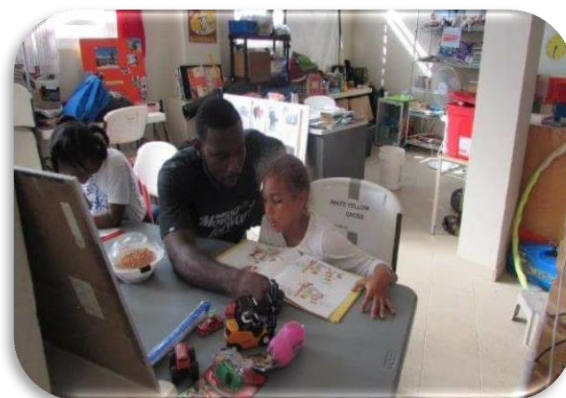
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Grace period

The library granted an additional grace period for the year 2017, the previous is normally scheduled for the last week of June to first week in July. Due the passing of the Hurricanes the second additional grace period lasted until the end of 2017 in solidarity of our shared plight. No penalties were issued for overdue items or damage. Persons were asked to come in to inform the staff how they as well as the books fared after the storm.

Post Hurricane Irma Outreach Services; theme “Book Talk”

On Wednesday, November 22nd, 2017, the library embarked on a program providing outreach services under the theme “Book Talk” to Day care centers. Afternoon programs took place at Players Development Foundation and continued with their book box program. The outreach program was in the form of Story Time, puppet theatre, rhyme time, reading games and multimedia sessions.



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In addition to abovementioned activities, the library had been invited to participate in the Methodist Agogic Center (MAC) Browlia F. Mallard Campus Literacy Week in November. A story time session was done with Cycle 2 Group 5 where the students listened to the story *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen and Cycle 1 group 1-4 was treated to Readers' Theatre of *Beauty and the Beast* done by Daniel Helligar, Maryland Powell and Teacher Sharon B. Hassell and a Puppet Show; *Dr. Seuss's Green eggs and ham*.



St. Maarten Day

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On Friday November 10th, 2017, the library hosted a pre in house St. Maarten Day celebration; patrons were treated to board games, cards and dominoes.



On Saturday November 11th, 2017 the Philipsburg Jubilee Library participated in the Cultural Parade under the theme “#SXM STRONG- Rebuilding Our Nation” which best reflects the strength and resilience the people of St. Martin have shown in these trying times. The activity was spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Mr. Urmain Dormoy of the COCAAE Foundation, and the resilient people of St. Maarten. The SXM Strong Cultural Parade began at 2pm and made its way around the capital of Philipsburg.



Philipsburg Jubilee Library Celebrated its 94th Anniversary

Philipsburg Jubilee Library 2017

On Thursday November 23rd, 2017, despite our difficult situation of the setbacks caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library's staff celebrated 94 years of service to the community of St. Maarten. Staff members celebrated to commemorate the library's founding on November 1923, her goals that we together have seemed to accomplish and will continue to, for the community of St. Maarten. The miniature celebration was held with the director Mrs. Monique Alberts and her staff at Coffee Lounge located on Front Street, Philipsburg.



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Christmas Market

The library hosted its annual Christmas Market on Thursday, December 21st, from 10 am to 8pm in the library's parking lot and the hall. The event was a huge success.

The Christmas Market, a community event, which offers an ambience of familiar Christmas aroma throughout the parking lot hosted 28 stall holders. Past and present Christmas Market stall holders came out with new original ideas and products adding to and creating a greater market for 2017.



As in previous years, individual decorated stands offered; gift baskets & boxes, Christmas cards, bird feeders, homemade costume jewelry, bottle décor, various cakes and homemade punches and Caribbean homemade eggnog.

The Christmas Market was officially opened by the director of the Philipsburg Jubilee library, Mrs. Monique Alberts, followed by Mr. Carlson Velasquez and John aka "Faith- Fefe" Hyman singing Christmas carols. Children from Alexander's Early Stimulation and Development Center performed lyrical dance and sang Christmas Melody, Generation New Status Band drummed and Santa Claus made his appearance." Rare Diamond", a teenaged dance group of students representing the Sundial School, from the Chinese community "Tage Classical" dancers and the Indian Community, Malaika Advani dancing "Bollywood Fusion" performed, the event was closed off by Psalm 100.



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Participants also included book authors and local producers, among which the Island's very own Dennis Timothy Dowling from Art House St. Maarten, with his very first book "The truth about Monsters". There was also Loekie Morales from Beyond Writing Foundation with her newest bilingual book (Dutch and English) "Chella and the Weird woman" / "Chella en het vreemde vrouwtje" and Atahlia Daye- Rogers from Write the Vision Production Foundation with 3 DvD's: "Mother Knows Best". The event also featured a separate panel discussion dealing with the issues derived from "Mother Knows Best" and the sage play "The Wedding".

In addition, the library sold copies of our picture book "S'Maatin Then and Now" and hosted a presentation of our latest innovative tool "Libby", which is a user friendly app, since Overdrive in 2013, which makes it possible to download e-books in less than a minute by following a few easy steps.



Philipsburg Jubilee Library 2017

Staff Training 2017 & Local Contacts

Staff training

In 2017, the staff received two (2) in-house training courses by Certified Media Coach Francia Housen. The workshops were on Evernote and Libby.

On June 26th, 2017 Evernote, the App designed for note taking, organizing a task list, and archiving; followed by Libby e-book reader, on August 24th, 2017.

University of St. Martin EDU – Children’s Literature:

In January to May 2017, the library’s Children’s Librarian Maryland Powell participated in a University of St. Martin Education EDU 350- Children’s Literature class. The purpose of the course was to enhance the book selection of the children collection for student teachers as well as their students.

Rotary District 7020

Youth at Risk: finding Solutions together

On Thursday June 29th, 2017, Rotary District 7020 in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library held a consultation meeting of peace and conflict resolution at the Library in the Media Lab by Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise. The meeting was a joint collaborative effort of the youth group stake holders throughout the island.

The focus groups were there to collectively determine the disadvantages, challenges, provide solutions, and assist parents, guardians, care takers and teachers in providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children who are left alone to “fend for themselves”. And also to create positive activities for the children. To prevent them from getting involved in delinquent behaviors.

Presenter Tom Burnett aka Coach Tom promoted A.R.T. ~ Anger Replacement Training. A training that is geared toward assisting children with controlling their anger, learn social skills, and moral reasoning. In addition, a documentary on A.R.T was viewed on preparation to providing skills to assist children with methods that helps reduce anger/ anger management skills such as thinking before they reached to the final action, to think about something that calms them down and deep breathing and counting backward from 20 to 1 which assists in the slowing of the pulse.

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Caribbean Well-Being Conference:



In 2017, the library's Children's Librarian attended the Caribbean Well-Being Conference (CWBC) in St. Maarten that took place from 6-8 August.

The CWBC seeks to promote the positive development and well-being of children, parents, families, schools and communities. The CWBC aims to inform and educate on best practices to promote children's well-being by looking at the important role that parents, families, teachers, schools, and communities play in the promotion of well-adjusted, socially and emotionally competent youth.

The CWBC will offer workshops, and conferences that bring academics, practitioners and families together to discuss best practices in addressing the current needs of youth and families in the Caribbean and those of Caribbean descent.

St. Dominic High School "Think Globally, Act Locally" Volunteer Fair:

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library's representatives Director Monique Alberts and Public Relations Officer & Youth Librarian Maryland Powell attended the St. Dominic High School's "Think Globally, Act Locally" Volunteer Fair.

Our representatives encouraged students to sign up either to volunteer to teach in our newest innovation Senior Cyber Café (Students would first attend a workshop given by Media Coach Francia Housen to assist senior citizens with information technology.); and to Reach out and Read (reading program for children with low literacy skills)

The purpose of the volunteer fair was to increase service learning awareness through education and action; which they believe will provide a valuable service to the foundation and the community.



Philipsburg Jubilee Library 2017

Regional and international cooperation

Support to the libraries of Saba and St Eustatius

In the year under review our library continued its consultancy services to the libraries of Saba and St Eustatius. Questions from the library staff of these two BES islands about cataloging and related issues were answered by our staff. There was also cooperation with the two islands as part of the Hilli Arduin project.

International relations:

Acuril



The Director participated in the Acuril conference 2017 that was held in Puerto Rico from June 4 to 7. Acuril is the association of Caribbean libraries of which our library is a proud member since the 1970's. The theme of the conference was "Multidisciplinary research in the Caribbean". A presentation about the Sustainable

Development Goals was organized by the Director on behalf of our library. At the end of the conference the Director was installed as Vice-President of Acuril.



ALA



Valuable contacts with American libraries and companies offering products for libraries were laid at the ALA conference and exhibition 2017 which took place in Chicago in the last week of June. ALA is the Association of American Libraries and the oldest library association in the world. The Director actively participated in ALA's annual event as a member of a delegation from the Dutch Caribbean islands.

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Credits

- Come Centre
- UNESCO St. Maarten
- Rotary Sunrise Club
- Department of Social Services & Culture
- Dutch Quarter Community & the Plantz Family
- Cay Bay Community & the Halley Family
- St. Maarten Senior Citizens Recreational Foundation
- Repairers of Broken Walls International Community (ROBWIC)
- American University of the Caribbean (AUC)
- Department of Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sports (BOPP)
- Engage Foundation
- Players Development Foundation
- K1 Britannica Foundation
- Foundation for Secondary Education (SVOBE)
- Saba ~ Queen Wilhelmina Library
- COCAAE Foundation
- Chinese Community
- Indian Community
- Parotte Ville Bird Park
- Graphic designers
 - o Dworkshop ~ Sjorensly Valies
 - o Artistic Drive ~ Loic Bryan
 - o Sign Tripple Nine ~ Michel Hunt
- Fast Food Restaurants
 - o Gyro King
 - o Quiznos
 - o Kentucky Fried Chicken
- Dow Musical School Foundation (DMF)
- Windsong Foundation & Foresee Foundation
- Schools
 - o Lionel Conner Primary School
 - o Methodist Agogic Center (MAC)
 - o St. Dominic High School
 - o Day Care Centers
- Authors
 - o Judy Condon
 - o Hilli Arduin
- Musicians
 - o Carlson Velasquez
 - o Faith Hyman
 - o Jabari York

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- Kenyo Baly