



Two teenagers connected with the waning memory of World War II through survivors on Remembrance Day. From left: Riya Baharani Khemchandani, Elsje Bosch, Gerard van Veen, and Sara Bharwani.

## Teens connect with WWII experiences

PHILIPSBURG--Two teenagers connected with the waning memory of World War II in a very tangible way on May 4, Remembrance Day (in Dutch: "Dodenherdenkingsdag"), when they read excerpts from the lives of two St. Maarten residents who experienced the war as children.

Excerpts of the war-torn stories of Elsje Bosch and Gerard van Veen were read by winners of the 2020 Governor's Youth Award of Excellence Riya Baharani Khemchandani (Academics) and Sara Bharwani (Environmental Protection) respectively.

Well-known heritage activist Bosch lost her father prior to the end of World War II. He was murdered

by the Nazis for his active role in the Dutch resistance against their occupation of the Netherlands. Baharani Khemchandani shared Bosch's experiences with the audience.

Passages from Van Veen's autobiographical book *Schoolboy in Wartime* were read by Bharwani. Van Veen, a former Catholic priest and author, recounted in his book his childhood and experiences of his family during the Second World War in his native Alkmaar during the German occupation of the Netherlands.

The readings were added to the solemn ceremony held on Captain Hodge Wharf where the War Memorial stands. An honour guard of uniformed ranks, including the Dutch Ma-

rine detachment in St. Maarten, was present at the ceremony along with Governor Eugene Holiday, the Council of Ministers, Bosch, Van Veen and other invitees.

Remembrance Day focuses on all Dutch victims -

civilians and soldiers - who have been killed or murdered in the Kingdom or elsewhere in war situations or during peace-keeping operations since the outbreak of the Second World War.

## Islands 6,000 businesses got wage subsidy

WILLEMSTAD--Six thousand companies received a combined 117 million Netherlands Antillean guilders since April last year as part of the NOW payroll support scheme, reported caretaker Minister of Economic Development MEO Steven Martina.

The money was used to help pay employees. As a result, nearly 8,000 people retained their income while there was hardly any work.

Some 350 businesses also received a contribution towards their fixed expenses, for example to continue paying the rent. That cost government more than NAf. 30 million.

Both programmes were financed from Dutch coronavirus-related liquidity loans.

## New vaccination pop-up drive to be held this Sat.

PHILIPSBURG--The Collective Prevention Services (CPS) and the Vaccination Management Team (VMT) have planned another pop-up vaccination location set for this Saturday, May 8.

The pop-up location will be at Belvedere Methodist Church on Saturday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

This was announced by Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor VSA Omar Ottley during the live Council of Ministers press briefing on Wednesday.

CPS and VMT request all persons to walk with photo identification to allow on-the-spot registration to be vaccinated. Ottley said there is limited space and limited supply so all persons are encouraged, if interested, to contact 914.

The minister said undocumented persons are welcome to come out to be vaccinated. These persons are asked to walk with their passport and must have resided on St. Maarten for four months or longer. "At this time, the priority is the safety of the community from the COVID-19 [virus - Ed.]," he added.

"Please encourage persons, and bring friends, family members, colleagues, everyone to be vaccinated," said Ottley. "On behalf of CPS and VMT I would like to express a heartfelt 'thank you' to the minister and the congregation of Belvedere Methodist church."

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## COVID-19 drive-through testing remains open in Pointe Blanche

PHILIPSBURG--Collective Prevention Services (CPS) reminds the community that its COVID-19 drive-through testing remains open.

All persons are encouraged to come to the testing location in Pointe Blanche before the entrance to Dr. A.C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo Facility, 8:30-11:00am Monday-Friday.

Testing is free. However, CPS said this is not for travel purposes. Testing on the weekend remains by appointment only.

The 914 information line is still operational. Its hours are 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday-Friday; 8:00am to 3:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

The CPS vaccination clinic operating hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday-Friday.

For any questions about COVID-19 vaccinations, persons can call 914 or email [vaccination@sintmaartengov.org](mailto:vaccination@sintmaartengov.org).