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Local News
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FREE



WEEKLY

St-Barth

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Next Monday, January 15, is the launch date for the 40th edition of the Saint Barth Music Festival, the oldest continuous cultural event on the island. Founded by an American violinist, Frances DeBroff, who found herself twiddling her thumbs rather than fingering her bow in Saint Barth, she persuaded a few fellow musicians to make the trek to the island back in the 80s. And it grew from there. To the point where a galaxy of up to 65 musicians comes to the island each year and comprises top orchestra members, star soloists, and leading singers taking a brief pause in their amazing careers to play in the island's churches. This year as the festival celebrates 40, there is a new president, Corinne Hennequin and a new musical committee taking over the reins to ensure its longevity. But running such an event on a small island is no easy task, and it takes substantial funds, so if you are on the island from January 15-21, why not attend a concert or two, and if possible, make a donation.

As noted in this issue of *The Weekly*, funds are also needed by young Saint Barth surfer Tessa Thyssen. She is an Olympic hopeful and very close to winning her place on the French team for the summer games in Paris. How exciting would it be to see a formidable young athlete, who was raised in Saint Barth, ride the waves as she represents the island's Reefer Surf Club. She has started a GoFundMe campaign to help her balance her budget and get to Puerto Rico in February for the upcoming world championships. And hopefully onward to Paris... fingers crossed!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

Port Of Gustavia:

362 Boats On December 31

As the last day of 2023 dawned, the port authority of Saint Barthélemy reported the presence of 362 boats in the harbor on December 31. Of these, 227 habitable boats were visiting, with 135 having a year-round presence. Between December 27 and 31, the port office counted 265 entry declarations for recreational boats, including 66 just on the day of December 29 and another 73 on December 30. As of January 1, 94 of these boats cleared to leave the port, with another 82 departing on January 2, as reported by the port office.

King's Cake: Small Tiles Represent Protected Species On The Island



During the weeks around Epiphany in January, one of the principal pleasures is sharing a King's Cake, with friends or family. As one of its educational projects, the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE) entered into a partnership with La Petite Colombe bakery, which resulted in a series of small tiles used as the traditional feves found in the cakes. These tiles represent 10 of the island's protected species: the brown booby bird, the iguana, the Montpelier snake, the Suédois (a blue and yellow fish), the monarch butterfly, the Bahamas duck, the lemon shark, the green sea turtle, the sucker fish, and the grass snake. For each King's Cake sold, one euro will be donated to the ATE to be used for their educational area. The ATE explains that the "CM1-CM2 classes of Mme Teyras and the CM2 of Mme Galou at the elementary school in Gustavia are working respectively at Les Petits Saints and at Fort Carl to learn more about the species that share the island with us, our ecosystems, and to implement actions for the protection or increased awareness of these sites." The monies raised will also finance an excursion at sea, new moorings, and planting equipment.

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Brian Lewis: Saint Barth Concertmaster

Internationally acclaimed violinist Brian Lewis, Professor of Violin and the David and Mary Winton Green Chair in String Performance and Pedagogy at the University Of Texas at Austin, Butler School of Music, plays and teaches around the world, including St Barth, where he is the longest-serving member of the Saint Barth Music Festival orchestra and its concertmaster. He returns this year for the Festival's 40th anniversary, and as part of its new artistic committee. Ellen Lampert-Gréaux chats with Brian Lewis on the eve of the event, which runs from January 15-21, 2024.

How long have you been involved with the Festival?

This is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Festival in St Barth by Frances DeBroff. For the 10th anniversary, orchestra concerts and opera were added to the chamber music programs that had already been offered. This will be my 30th year in a row attending the Festival. I have the honor of being the longest-serving member of the orchestra. As concertmaster, it is always great fun to come back to this beautiful island to make music in paradise with dear friends for enthusiastic audience members.

Please explain the role of the new artistic advisory committee.

One of the ideals that the Festival was founded upon is musician involvement. It seemed a natural extension of this concept to have a group of the longest-serving musicians at the Festival help advise Corinne Hennequin



(the new president) about personnel and repertoire. The musicians at the Festival are like a family. Many of us collaborate together in other parts of our lives as well. We are all grateful to our founder and to the current leadership and supporters on the Festival committees. We are all thankful of the support from the president and the Collectivité. The musicians are all excited to welcome our new conductors to this celebratory season with some of our favorite repertoire from past seasons including Beethoven's 7th Symphony, and a concert version of the much-beloved opera *Car-men*.

Some of your most memorable moments or experiences at the festival over the years?

Some of my happiest days have been in St Barth. I have made many lifelong friends, both musicians and audience members. One of the concerts that stays in my memory is that of the premiere French performance of *Elements*, a violin concerto I

commissioned and recorded with the London Symphony. The audience had an incredible reaction to the work, and to play it in an open-air environment was very motivating to me. There of course have been a few lazy afternoons at Le Select on our down days. A ti punch over good conversation should never be underestimated!

What do you like best about St Barth?

St Barth is a magical place. I love the rugged, natural beauty of the island and its beaches, the excellent food (Eddy's is a favorite), and the interaction with the local community. Getting to make and experience world-class music in such a beautiful place is a great honor. We encourage everyone to come to our concerts and to experience the magic and power of world-class live music right here in St. Barth.

*Ellen Lampert Gréaux
Photo © Rosemond Greaux*

FESTIVAL DE *musique* DE ST-BARTHÉLEMY 40 YEARS



BOOK YOUR CONCERTS

**JANUARY
15TH TO 21ST
2024**



YOUNG TALENTS CONCERT WITH THE STARS OF THE FESTIVAL

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Piano : Olga Zado

OPERA NIGHT : CARMEN

50€ / \$55

Maestro : Stefan Blunier

CREOLE JAZZ CONCERT : AKODA 1

30€ / \$35

CREOLE JAZZ CONCERT : AKODA 2



MON. 15TH 6:30PM-8PM

Catholic church of Gustavia

TUE. 16TH 7:30PM-9PM

Anglican church

WED. 17TH 7:30PM-9:30PM

Lorient church

THU. 18TH 7:30PM-9:30PM

Catholic church of Gustavia

FRI. 19TH 8PM-10PM

Lorient church

SAT. 20TH 7:30PM-9PM

Anglican church

SUN. 21ST 6PM-7:30PM

Anglican church

Tickets sold on line on the Festival Website and at concert entrances. Programming may be subject to change.

www.Saintbarthmusicfestival.com

[f/StBarthmusicfestival](https://www.facebook.com/StBarthmusicfestival)

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Anti-Drug Controls Criticized

Visits by gendarmes with their sniffer dog during dinner in Saint Barth restaurants have been met with indignation by the Hotels and Villas Association, which has denounced this practice.

Hip music, well-dressed clients, beautifully set tables, the best food and wines: the perfect picture of a major aspect of the high tourist season in Saint Barthélemy. With one unexpected touch, the arrival of gendarmes and a dog handler whose four-legged “assistant” is there to detect the presence of drugs. The music is turned down to facilitate the canine inspection. At the end of a leash held by its master, the dog goes from table to table to detect any trace of drugs that are illegal to sell or use. This scene has unfolded several times since the beginning of the season in various restaurants on the island. Much to the surprise of the restaurants and hotels. By way of a letter drafted by Olivier Leroy, president of the Hotel and Villa Association, tourism professionals have expressed their concern and disapproval of this practice to Vincent Berton, deputy prefect for the Northern Islands.

Clients Are “Shocked”

In his letter, the president of the association alerted the French governmental representative “about the negative, if not shocking, feedback,” from clients who have witnessed these interventions by the gendarmerie and their sniffer dog “in two festive restaurants on the island right in the middle of

dinner.” Olivier Leroy notes that the controls comprised the clientele as well as the staff: “Videos were taken on cell phones and shared on social media. This type of operation seriously tarnishes the image of the destination. Saint Barthélemy is set apart from other “sun” destinations for its renowned security, which is appreciated by visitors throughout their stay.” In spite of his indignation about these controls, Olivier Leroy supports the overall goal of the prefecture in its fight against drug traffic.

His letter continues: “In terms socio-professionals, we fully support the political position to strongly fight against drug traffic and dealing in the streets. We collaborate as much as possible, raising awareness amongst our staff, working closely with the gendarmerie, and accepting zero tolerance by staff in violation of the law.”

Yet for the president of the Hotels and Villas Association, it is indispensable to note that “hospitality is the key” for tourism professionals. He also reminds the deputy prefect of his own statement made on December 5, when Vincent Berton confirmed in a communiqué that the quality of this island’s hospitality is a determin-

ing factor for its attractiveness and that “the behavior and shortcomings of certain establishments must not tarnish the work carried out on a daily basis by law-abiding professionals.” In his letter, Olivier Leroy asks the deputy prefect if it is not “possible to show more discretion” and “continue the fight against drugs without impacting the visitor’s stay”.

An “Intelligent” Fight

Questioned by Le Journal de Saint Barth, the deputy prefect for the Northern Islands confirmed his position. “The fight against drugs is a priority in Saint Barthélemy,” he repeats. “This traffic represents a danger in terms of public health, so it’s a primary objective.” To illustrate his point, Vincent Berton notes that a new dog specialized in the detection of drugs will arrive shortly on the island. But he points out: “This fight must be fought intelligently. I hear what has been said. The hoteliers and restaurateurs are our partners and they have a public responsibility. While the large majority of the tourism sector is convinced, the representative of the government insists: “We said what we were going to do, and we are doing what we said.” So as the season continues, so will the controls.

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émeraude st barth

Émeraude St. Barth - Community Driven

By collaborating with the local community, Émeraude St. Barth aspires to be the most sustainable hotel in the Caribbean – but one rooted in St. Barth's authenticity and values. Émeraude is being designed to align with the natural beauty and serenity of the island, reflect local values, and safeguard St. Barth's natural resources. By prioritizing local artisans and vendors, we are breathing new life into the iconic site of the former Émeraude Plage hotel, creating an authentic place that reconnects with the essence of St. Barth while steadfastly committing to sustainable development and preservation.

This is the new Émeraude.

Please engage with us to learn more and share your thoughts. We value your feedback.



www.emeraudestbarth.com

Surfer Tessa Thyssen Seeking Sponsors

Certain seasons count more than others in the life of a professional athlete. For surfer Tessa Thyssen, 2024 looks like one of those years. Selected for the French national team to compete in the world championships that will be held in Puerto Rico, February 24-March 2, this member of AJOE's Reefer Surf Club has only one goal in mind: to win her qualification for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. To do so, the junior world champion (2015) and relay champion (2022) is proving her determination every step of the way. However, the athletic side of things is not the only variable to be taken into account. In addition to the intensity of her physical, technical, and mental preparation, financial support is also essential. That's why Tessa Thyssen needs sponsors to complete her world championship and Olympic quest.

"In addition to my preparation, I work on my gear to be sure to have the best boards during the entire season," explains Tessa. "But we also look for partners for the year as to not have financial worries." Because a season competing on the professional circuit is expensive. Especially in a discipline where there are fewer spon-



sors since the pandemic. Considering travel, lodgings, registrations, treatments, and daily expenses, Tessa Thyssen's annual budget oscillates between 70,000 and 80,000 euros. Taking into account her ambitious goals, the champion decided to travel with her coach. "It's a luxury," she admits. "To travel to Australia, for example, represents more than 5,000 euros." A risky investment, because if she is eliminated in the first round of a competition, the cost would not be worth it. But in a world championship and Olympic year, and after five years of hard work and progress, Tessa is doing all she can to win.

To do so, she created a GoFundMe campaign—Get Tessa Thyssen to the Olympics— at www.gofundme.com/f/support-tessa-thyssen. The goal is to attract sponsors for this year as well as for the long-term, as the champion is only 26 years old, and in addition to the Olympics, she has many years of high-level competition before her.

At this time, the AJOE surfer is training at home, on the waves of Saint Barthélemy. But a month and a half before the world championships, Tessa notes: "I should already be in Puerto Rico and be training on site every day. But with my financial situation, it's not possible." As a result, she still needs to find generous donors to get her to her destination of Puerto Rico.

To date, no one from Saint Barth has competed in the Olympic Games. If Tessa Thyssen qualifies, she will be a pioneer.

Donate online:
www.gofundme.com/f/support-tessa-thyssen
Tessa Thyssen on Instagram:
 @tessathyssen



WIMCO



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New Year's Eve Parade: Sailing Into The New Year

December 31 is always the pinnacle of the holiday season in Saint Barth. The excitement builds for days as mega-yachts of all sizes fill the docks and the outer harbor, and beautiful sailboats float around the island. The festivities begin in the morning with the annual New Year's Eve Parade, an around-the-island pursuit race for sailboats of all sizes. This year there were five boats in the parade: 24' Look Up; 34' Maelia; 66' Phaedo; 96' Symmetry; and 111' Aurelius. Quite a range of sizes, all handicapped accordingly. The smallest, Look Up, with sailors Markku Harmala, David Guiheneuc, and Eric Lavergaun, won first place.

"Sunday, December 31, turned out to be a great day for sailing around the island," says yacht broker and captain Mark DelGiudice, who helps the St Barth Yacht Club organize the race each year since it was founded in 1995. "We shortened the course due to expected light winds, leaving Fourche to starboard and Beef Barrel to port."

The first boat to start was Malia at 10:55am, followed by Symmetry and Aurelius starting together at 11:00am. The two largest boats in the race enjoyed an exciting match racing start, neck and neck, with Symmetry winning the start by five seconds. "The boats stayed together all the way around the island with Aurelius taking the lead while reaching through the mega yachts anchored between Colombia and the finish line, beating Symmetry by 30 seconds," notes DelGiudice.



The 66' Gunboat, Phaedo, and the new 25' trimaran, Look Up, started out at 11:05am and had a similar race around the island, sailing close together the whole time with Look Up taking line honors by one minute over Phaedo at the finish. "We were really happy to participate and to be able to be the fastest boat around the island. This rally around the island is a very nice way to end the year. This time we (David Guiheneuc, Eric Lavergaun and me) were able to race in a very fast Diam 24 trimaran. The weather was perfect, nice wind, no big waves and very fun competitors. Once again the team SBYC organized the rally with

Mark DelGiudice with professionalism and a smile on their faces," states Markku Harmala.

"Winds filled in at 9 to 12 knots with flat seas which made for spectacular sailing around the island!," exclaims DelGiudice, who adds that "the magnificent 266' Sea Eagle did not participate but joined us at the finish line under full sail in support of the event." An annual tradition that marks the end of one year and escorts Saint Barth into the new one.

*Ellen Lampert Gréaux
Photo © Ed Gudenais*

MASTHEAD

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Les Mangliers, St-Jean - BP 602 - 97133 St Barthélemy - France

Phone. : +590 590.27 65 19

www.journaldesaintbarth.com • journalsbh@orange.fr

- Director: Avigaël Haddad avigaelsb@wanadoo.fr
- Editor: Thomas Fetrot redactionjsb@orange.fr
- English Texts & Translations: Ellen Lampert-Gréaux
- Print Worker: Prim Services

TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit? Listen to live music? Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party !

HANDI-COLOR: A WALK TO MINIMIZE DISABILITIES

The question of activities and support for people with handicaps remains a delicate issue in Saint Barthélemy. The lack of a dedicated facility does not make it easy for families. For the past several months, the Collectivity has been doing work, primarily in Gustavia, to make it easier for people to get around in wheelchairs. But there is still a lot to be done. On Sunday, January 14, the association Handi-Relais is organizing a long walk from the stadium in Saint Jean to Gustavia. The event has been dubbed "Handi-Color," with the goal of minimizing handicaps and highlighting differences," notes the association in its promotional materials.

The walk, intended to be festive, will start at 7am in front of the stadium in Saint Jean. Breakfast will be provided for those walking, and bags of colored powder will be for sale.

Profits from the sale of packs for the walkers and the bags of colored powder will help the association fund its activities throughout the year.

Cabaret

• Dinner cabaret show at 9pm @ Ti St Barth

Live Music

► **Thursday January 11**
-- Back to the 90', Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5pm - 7pm at Christopher Hotel

- Live Music by Soley from 7pm at Arawak

- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7:30 pm at restaurant Amis St. Barth

- Night under the stars by Maxime Cheval feat guest DJ from 9pm at Le Toiny Beach Club

► Friday, January 12

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel

- DJ Set "Apéro is French" by French DJ set Jeremy M. at Arawak

► Saturday, January 13

-- Live music by Stella & Laurent from 7pm at l'Arawak

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel

- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @ Arawak

- Musical weekends from 2pm to 5pm at Manapany Hotel

- Saturday Live from 11am to 7pm at Nikki Beach with the tunes of the resident DJ and Saxophonist.

► Sunday, January 14

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel

- Amazing Sunday. A journey through the rhythm of live music under the sun!

12pm - 7pm @ Nikki Beach

- Musical weekends with Sweet Pan SXM at Manapany Hotel from 2pm.

- DJ Set by Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 3pm on the beach, at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7:30pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

- Dreamy Pool Party by Dj Set by Luv from 2pm to 5pm at Tropical Hotel

► Monday, January 15

- Hora Feliz, come dance Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7:30pm @Arawak café

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel

- For an Italian Aperitivo, Soley will be entertaining us with lyrics and guitar like.

07.30pm-10.30 pm at Al Mare Ristorante, Sereno

► Tuesday, January 16

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, from 5 to 7pm at Christopher St Barth

- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm at Amis St. Barth restaurant

► Wednesday, January 17

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel

- Live Music with The Shamans Duo from 7 :30pm at Amis St. Barth restaurant

Night Club

@ Modjo St-Jean

@ Casa Night Club

Exhibitions

Focus on architect/world traveler Michael Zimmer and "Le Camp" at The Wall House Territorial Museum.

From December 22 to February 28.

- Something About The Sea by Tony Caramanico at Summum Gallery

- Kay Quattrocchi at Almosnino Fine Art, Gustavia

- Preserve the Heritage and

History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia.

- Winter Exhibition featuring major works by Simeti.

Takis and Tony Cragg along with a selection of photography and painting at Space Gallery in Gustavia.

- Group exhibition of painting by Giorgio Pasqualetti, Nadia Fanelli, Victor

Matthews and photography by Marco Glaviano and Isabelle Lindbergh at Jacques

Zolty boutique & Le Sereno by Space Gallery

- Paintings by Remy De Haenen and photography by Hugh Arnold and Dirk

Braun at La Kala by Space Gallery

- Paintings : Alain Le Chatelier, Karoline Arcana, Gery Langlais

at Les Artisans

► Art Galleries

- Antoine Heckly ArtGallery

- Camaruche Gallery

- Clic Gallery, Gustavia

- Eden Fine Art St Barth

- Fergus McCaffrey

- Galerie Asie, Gustavia

- Les Artisans, Gustavia

- Space Gallery St Barth

- Spirit Space Gallery

- Summum Gallery

► Artist's Collection

- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac

- Kay Quattrocchi, Pointe Milou

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