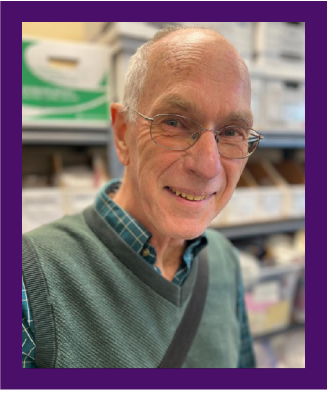


## Curiosity Leads to Community Connection



Boudewijn (pronounced Bow-de-vein) Boom's life is a vibrant tapestry woven with threads of unexpected opportunities and a deep-seated curiosity. During his teenage years in Holland, Boudewijn learned sewing basics from his mother. "My first pair of pants turned out much like a first pancake, but I wore them proudly," he remembers.

Years later, while perusing fabrics at The Legacy Craft and Resale Store to sew shopping bags, a hobby Boudewijn valued as part of life in Holland, and an ecological need here, he would regularly straighten the disarrayed shelves.

One day, while purchasing materials, he volunteered to straighten the shelves. "Of course, they loved that. It helps that I am tall and can reach things high up, and I was willing to help with technology, too," he smiled. While volunteering one shift a week, Boudewijn continued to sew shopping bags, donating some to The Legacy to sell.

While expanding his organizational skills into The Legacy's other areas, Boudewijn began to discover obscure donations. Curious, he researched them and learned their worth. Boudewijn offered to create The Legacy's eBay shop, believing it could expand their supporting circle financially. Cautious and skeptical, management agreed, and their success has been astounding.

Last year, when The Legacy closed for a six-week remodeling, Boudewijn offered to store merchandise in his garage. Curious to see what was in the boxes, he found a skein of yarn that sparkled. "This single skein was woven with Swarovski crystals in it. I listed it on eBay, and it sold for \$140!" he said. "Organizing is something I like to do. It is easy for me, and I like to be helpful, which has led me to be part of a wonderful community."



Boudewijn is soft-spoken and genuinely humble. With a subtle accent and European flair, a sense of wonder raises the question: What brought you to the Sebastopol area?

Boudewijn's early years were spent in Indonesia, where his father worked as a horticulturist on a tea plantation. After his sister was born and the onset of the war, his family moved back to Holland, where his parents were both from. "I had a wonderful childhood. We lived on the edge of the forest in Holland. I liked making things, especially playing with water and dirt," he reminisces.

A master's degree in civil engineering provided a solid foundation, but his path diverged from the expected trajectory when a book about an Indian spiritual community sparked his spirit. "The book stirred me in my heart, called me. A vision that compelled me. So, I had to go find out," he remembers. Boudewijn set out on a life-changing adventure.

He worked as a gardener in the plant nursery of the community he had read about, Auroville. A chance encounter with an American visitor presenting a slideshow on a similar community in Scotland and a vivid dream that night propelled him to his next journey. "I left soon after and followed my dream," he remembers.

Settled in Scotland's spiritual community at Findorn, Boudewijn worked in the maintenance department and added to his manual skills. Four years later, and newly married, he and his American wife decided to move to Sonoma County so she could pursue her studies at the university.

After a divorce, "I decided to stay here. I met my second wife, Amrita, and we have been happily married for 38 years, building a beautiful life," he shares. With a strong civil background and knowledge of how things are built, Boudewijn worked in Construction Analysis on large buildings such as hospitals, jails, and a steel mill. After the economic downturn in 1992, they moved to Eugene, Oregon. Working for an engineering firm, he oversaw the design and construction of equipment for sheetrock plants. His curiosity for technology eventually led him to manage the company's IT department.



Influenced by a lifetime of inquiry and later Sufism, Boudewijn reflects on his spiritual path. He emphasizes the importance of being open to life's answers and opportunities. "I am familiar with bobbins now," Boudewijn shares, remembering his inquiry into an old Singer sewing attachment he found lying around the shop. "I researched the attachment and successfully sold it on The Legacy's eBay store for \$460! I like the exploration of value."

Boudewijn's work with The Legacy Shop isn't simply a tale of organizing and online retail success. It is a narrative of serendipitous discoveries and community engagement. "The community at The Legacy is creative, explorative, and their hearts are open. This is their happy place; everyone smiles here. And I am lucky to have this place too," he shares. Boudewijn's contributions to The Legacy highlight his commitment to helping others and exploring life's mysteries. We are grateful to have him in our community at The Legacy.

**Thank you, Boudewijn, for all you do and bring to our community!**



To volunteer at The Legacy, please visit our website:  
[www.sebastopolseniorcenter.org](http://www.sebastopolseniorcenter.org)