

Greendrinks is making Bangor better

My usual weeknight plans include going home and melting into my couch. I save my weekends for fun excursions, but lately I've realized that a lot happens in Bangor during the week. Last Tuesday I went down to the Bangor Waterfront and listened to the Bangor Band, and this Tuesday I attended another weeknight event to enjoy after work hours: Bangor Greendrinks.

I left the office at 5 p.m. and walked over to Verve in downtown to meet my friend Cassie, who reminded me about the event, which conveniently fell on her birthday. People were already milling about Verve, the host location of the Tuesday event, with cups of beer in hand and smiles on their faces.

I had heard of the organization before, but I wasn't sure what exactly it was, so I introduced myself to the Greendrinks organizers. Ethan Tremblay, the board chair of the nonprofit, told me what it was all about.

"It's kind of a movement and kind of an organization," Ethan explained. Greendrinks started in London years ago as a networking event for those interested in sustainability. People would gather for drinks, snacks and conversation. Bangor Greendrinks began six years ago.

"When it started out it was just a group of people who said, 'Hey, we can get people downtown to drink beer together and talk about sustainability, talk about businesses doing really cool things, nonprofits doing really cool things. ... It took off and got way hotter than anyone expected,'" Ethan said.

All the events focus on growing sustainable local businesses and also provide networking opportunities. Those who attend Greendrinks events can make a suggested donation of \$5 and get two local beers from whatever the organization has on tap that particular night. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own vessels to cut down on waste, but there are also bioplastic cups available for purchase. On Tuesday I refrained from beer drinking, but Cassie bought herself a cup and got it filled up first with Elwood Brown beer from Orono Brewing Co., which is owned by Abe and Heather Furth and Mark Horton. Verve, the host location for the night, also is owned by the Furths.

Because Greendrinks is about supporting local businesses, this particular event was to welcome Orono Brewing to downtown Bangor and raise awareness about the Bangor Land Trust and Pedal the Penobscot. Orono Brewing Co.'s new location on 26 State St. is being renovated, and Abe Furth told me their goal is to open in late July. The event included sneak peek tours of the inside of the new space, including the main floor of the business, the

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SHELBY HARTIN



JULIA BAYLY | BDN

Artist Monica Brooke Taney consults a digital image of her model recently at her studio in Fort Kent. Taney said the digital age has made it much easier for artists to quickly record a subject or a scene with an electronic image for later inspiration in the studio.

A place to paint

NY artist finds inspiration at northern Maine retreat

BY JULIA BAYLY
BDN STAFF

It's not Paris, but for artist Monica Brooke Taney, her 10 acres in northern Maine are the next best thing.

For seven years the parcel of land along the Perley Brook in Fort Kent has been her artist's summer retreat and her answer to having a studio in Paris.

"I came to Maine [in 2009] looking for land and bought this piece," she said. "It's the smartest thing I ever did."

From about May to October she calls a little travel trailer on the property home, and over the years, she has added amenities one by one.

"I only got running water two years ago," she said. "Before that, I had to walk a fair distance to the brook and haul water here."

She keeps an area around the trailer clear of brush and neatly mowed. Nearby is a small, wooden cabin that

serves as her art gallery and painting space. Taney also opened a gallery in Rockport in 2005 and is in the process of opening her "winter gallery" in Florida.

She studied at the Arts Student League of New York, the New York School of Interior Design and the Fashion Institute of Technology of New York and was heavily influenced by the works of the old masters.

She also was heavily influenced by American painter Reginald Marsh, who was known for painting gritty scenes of New York's street life during the Roaring 20s and Great Depression.

"Marsh painted in what we call 'The New York Ashcan School,'" Taney said. "My newest project is combining that style with that of the old masters."

That project came from a visit Taney made this past spring to New York City's wholesale flower district and



JULIA BAYLY | BDN

Paints and brushes used by Monica Brooke Taney can be seen recently at her studio in Fort Kent.

drew inspiration from her observations of day-to-day life in that neighborhood.

"I lived there in 1964," she said. "I had a real pull to go back and take a look at what is going on in 2016."

The faces have changed, she said, but the vibe has not.

"You have these big tough men arriving at [4 a.m.] in their delivery trucks, and they are shouting dirty jokes at each other," Taney said.

"You are upstairs under your electric blanket, and suddenly you are sitting up listening to them and laughing."

After the delivery men have come and gone, smaller trucks arrive to pick up flowers for local delivery and then, she said, it all falls silent except perhaps for the sounds of someone playing a piano or saxophone in a nearby apartment.

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'Orlando' dynamically explores gender identity

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

Orlando is befuddled, then, bewitched and, finally, bewildered by the life and times in which he, then she, lives.

Playwright Sarah Ruhl sends the character, created by British novelist Virginia Woolf, hurtling in Act 1 and Act 2 through the Elizabethan Age and the 17th century as a man. But after a night of debauchery, Orlando wakes up as a woman. She stumbles forward in time in the second half through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries trying to make sense of herself and society's expectations of women.

Meg Taintor, producing artistic director of Opera House Arts in Stonington, chose the play long before the word Orlando bore the weight of 49 killed and 53 wounded in a hateful and heinous act.

Director Natalya Baldyga wrote in the program that as rehearsals began, her vision of the play focused on "how Orlando explores the multiple identities we experience as we move from youth to maturity. I did not envision the production making a bold statement about same-sex attraction or relationships."

That changed on June 12, when she learned of the massacre at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, less than two weeks before the show



BRIAN LILIENTHAL | OPERA HOUSE ARTS

Elizabeth Anne Rimar as Orlando (left) talks about life as a woman as Per Jan-son (second from left to right), Bari Robinson, Jason Martin and Jade Guerra listen in Opera House Arts' production of "Orlando" recently at the Burnt Cove Community Church in Stonington.

was to open, she wrote.

"Virginia Woolf wrote [her novel] 'Orlando' as a love letter to Vita Sackville-West, who was herself a prominent writer," Baldyga said. "It is no longer enough for me that we merely accept this great love as a fact. Our

production, 'Orlando,' must embrace and celebrate that love.

"We cannot, and should not, erase the wrenching associations that the name now holds, but we can provide additional connotations. 'Orlando,' for

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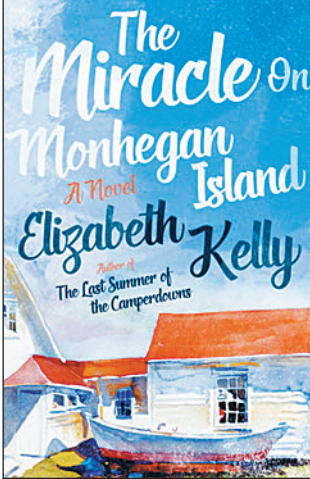
Dog narrates story of dysfunctional family obsessed with religion

THE MIRACLE ON MONHEGAN ISLAND by Elizabeth Kelly; Liveright (323 pages, \$25.95)

BY LAURIE HERTZEL
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

The title, the summery cover illustration and the dog narrator (yes, a dog narrates this book) might mislead readers. Elizabeth Kelly's third novel, "The Miracle on Monhegan Island," is neither light nor chick lit. It's serious and thought-provoking, shot through with dark humor and dark observations on religion and faith.

Years after the death of his young wife, Flory, prodigal son Spark Monahan returns to the family home off the coast of Maine. Here he is reunited with his father, a bombastic pastor; his brother Hugh, an artist; and



his own 12-year-old son, Hally (short for "Hallelujah"), whom he has not seen since Hally was a baby.

The family is slightly off-kilter. They are all still recovering from Flory's death and her profound mental illness. Meanwhile, Pastor Ragnar's church is breaking and everyone is broke.

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Colby College Museum of Art • Maine Film Center
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Waterville Opera House • Waterville Main Street

July 2, 8:00 PM / Waterville Opera House
WOH PRESENTS: A MULTIMEDIA CONCERT EXPERIENCE

The Waterville Opera House is thrilled to bring WOH Presents, a new multimedia, immersive concert experience, to Waterville. For the first installation of WOH Presents, the Opera House is having an official "Road to Great North" event featuring performances by Viral Sound, Chromotropic, and Merther, live painting by Ryan Kohler and Douglas Lakota, and projections by Little Village.

July 8, 9:00 PM / Castonguay Square, downtown Waterville

MAINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT PARTY Featuring exciting and innovative work spanning decades of moving image history, the Maine International Film Festival's annual opening night features MIFFONEDGE Volume 4, focusing on animation with special installation by VJ Suave of Brazil. MIFFONEDGE will be open on Friday, July 8 from 9 -11 PM and will be open daily from Saturday, July 9 through Saturday, July 16 from 2 PM - 9 PM

July 10, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM / Colby College Museum of Art

COMMUNITY DAY Join the Museum in celebrating its summer exhibitions at this family-friendly event including museum tours, art-making, performances by the Recycled Shakespeare Company, and live music by Ladies of the Lake.



MAINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
It's 10 days of 100 films featuring 50 filmmakers right in Waterville! During the 10 days of the festival, MIFF shows nearly 100 films, representing the best of American independent and international cinema and spotlights some of Maine and New England's most exciting and innovative filmmakers.
Schedule at www.MIFF.org