

Bangor Art Society turns 140

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

In 1875, a group of artists formed an association dedicated to the purpose of promoting art in Bangor. They started small with a shared intention of extending art education to the people of the area.

Years passed and the group acquired members such as Marsden Hartley, an American Modernist painter who conducted classes in the 1940s. Its name changed from the Bangor Art Association to the Bangor Society of Arts and finally to the Bangor Art Society.

One hundred forty years later, the Bangor Art Society holds the distinction of being one the oldest art societies in the United States, and though many things have changed since its inception, its purpose to promote art and encourage creativity remains constant.

For members such as Diana Young, the society ties the artistic community in Bangor together.

Young is the longest standing member of the Bangor Art Society, according to Teddi-Jann Covell, president of the Bangor Art Society. Young, an artist who has an exhibit on display at 11 Central in Bangor, joined the Bangor Art Society in 1974 after moving to Maine with her family.

"If this is the oldest art society in the country and I'm the oldest member, what does that say about me?" Young said with a laugh. Over the years she's watched the Bangor Art Society change locations and membership fluctuate, but it has always offered her something she believes is invaluable: friendship.

"Here I am in another new town, don't know a damn soul," Young said, recalling her first year in Bangor. As a native of New Haven, Connecticut, the area was unfamiliar at first.

"The art society had what I was looking for," she said.

During her years of membership, she has contributed art to the many shows the Bangor Art Society puts on.

"Bangor is the perfect city," Young said. "It's the perfect size. People aren't breathing down your neck, but it's small enough so people know each other. And there's plenty to do."

Covell, elected president in May, refers to Young as her mentor. With the support of members, Covell has taken on her role by carrying on the history of the society and providing some fresh ideas.

A retired air traffic controller who resides in Orono, Covell studied painting at Cornell University's Architecture Art and Planning College before transferring to the University of Maine where she received a bachelor's degree in art education. She has taught high school art at Washington Academy, East Machias and Calais High School.

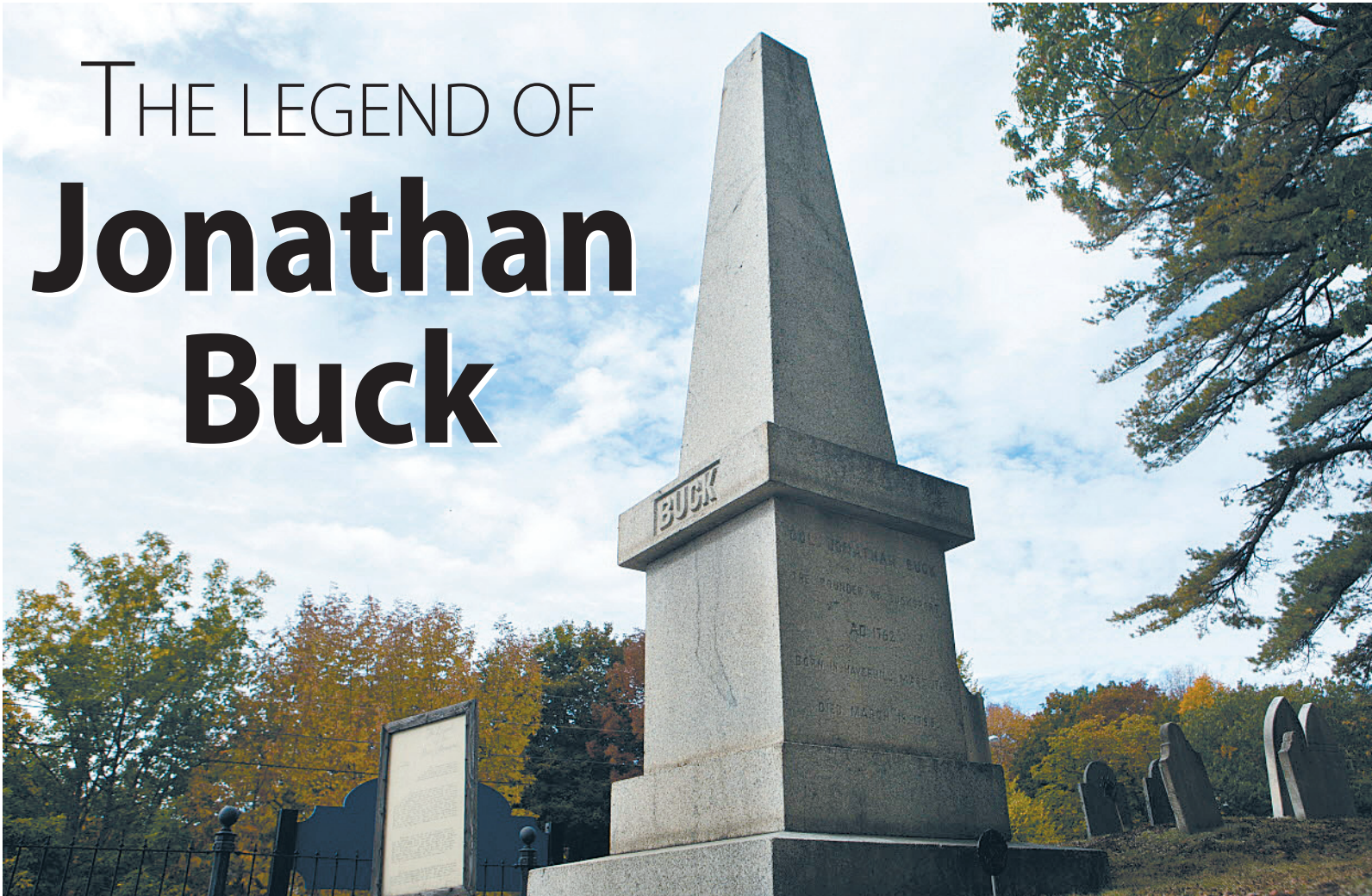
Under her direction, the Bangor Art Society has continued to promote art through programs and events in addition to scholarships to art students in the Hermon, Bangor, Brewer, Orono and John Bapst high schools.

The Bangor Art Society meetings often feature artist presentations and take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except during the summer. Some of the society's yearly events are the Bangor Art Society juried show in May and the recent "Wet Paint" live auction.

This year, Covell had the idea of using the varied skills of Bangor Art Society members for an adult coloring book.

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THE LEGEND OF Jonathan Buck



Bucksport founder's descendent gives a close look into the history

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

It used to be the Bucksport Railroad Station. The quaint, red building that now houses the Bucksport Historical Society Museum hints of a time long gone — one of rail passenger service and a thriving young town filled with promise. It's a bright, familiar reminder, sitting close to the cool October water. Ed Buck pushes the old white door open, steps inside, then takes a long look around.

"Here it is," he said, motioning to the small room packed tightly with glass cases and books filled with brittle, yellowing paper. The room is cold and dark. Buck wends his way through the space, thumbing the knobs of dusty lights, leaving a trail of illumination as he goes.

One display toward the back of the room holds items chronicling the life of Buck's ancestor, Jonathan. He carefully picks up a piece of paper with spidery handwriting — a list that traces back to Ed Buck's

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grandfather, though he's unsure how many "greats" should be attached.

Ed Buck has an easy smile and a good sense of humor. He has shown many people this space and entertained their questions. From individuals curious about the stories to television news stations, he's told the legend time and again with nothing more than a slight shrug of his shoulders, as though to say "I've done this be-



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Legend has it that Col. Jonathan Buck was cursed before he died after he burned a witch. As the woman was burning, her leg rolled out of the bonfire and she yelled a curse at Buck and his family before she died. Now an image of a woman's foot and leg appear on his memorial.

fore. What's one more time?"

The legend surrounding Jonathan Buck is well-known in town. It's an entertaining story — one that's easy to tell and fun to listen to.

It goes like this: Jonathan Buck, a founder of Bucksport —

called Buckstown during his lifetime — died on March 18, 1795.

In 1852, Buck's grandchildren erected a monument near his grave site on which an image appeared. According to popular be-

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Day of the Dead exhibit to open in Brewer

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

"Maybe this one?"

Adam Perkins points out an image on his computer screen to his brother, Eric, while Adam's wife, Jessie, curls her hair behind them.

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In front of the two are images of people with painted faces. Black around their eye sockets and noses creates a sunken, skeletal appearance, and their eyes are rimmed with floral patterns of bright color. They're meant to mimic "sugar skulls," representa-

tions of departed souls unique to the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, which is celebrated Nov. 1 every year.

After choosing a painting style to copy on their own faces, Adam and Jessie prepare for Rick Tardiff, a local photographer, to take their photos to include as part of their exhibition called "Día de los Muertos." The show is being hosted by The Gallery @ School Street, a space that can be found in School Street Picture Framing Inc. in Brewer, which Adam Perkins owns and operates.

"Día de los Muertos" will feature drawings, paintings and mixed media illustrations celebrating the Mexican holiday.



SHELBY HARTIN | BDN

Jessie Perkins paints her face to mimic a sugar skull, a traditional Mexican representation of a departed soul in Brewer on Saturday.

More than 15 new pieces, including Tardiff's photography, will be on display as well as a collection of the artists traditional works, including Jessie Perkins' illus-

trated pet portraiture and Adam Perkins' oil paintings.

Their exhibit is part of a relatively new undertaking that

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Technical wizardry fails to lift 'Doctor Cerberus' above script

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

It is 1983, and Franklin Robertson — a chubby gay teenager — finds solace and companionship in horror movies. He especially loves the ones hosted by Doctor Cerberus on a local television station and beamed over old-fashioned airwaves into his suburban

Washington, D.C., home.

His acerbic parents, Lydia and Lawrence, don't understand why he spends all his time watching horror movies, reading horror books and writing horror stories. Meanwhile, his athletic older brother, Rodney, pummels him with words and fists.

Doctor Cerberus, who apparently was named after the three-

headed dog that guarded the gates of Hades to prevent those who had crossed the river Styx from escaping, is his only "friend."

The production of "Doctor Cerberus," by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, who writes for the Fox network's coming-of-age comedy "Glee," is Penobscot Theatre Company's late fall offering. It's a technical triumph for director

Bari Newport and Magnus Stark, who did the projection design. Three dozen or so televisions on stage at the Bangor Opera House show clips of classic horror films during the show.

The projection onto the screens of Doctor Cerberus while Franklin is watching him is impressive, but technical wizardry does not

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