

Paint

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“It’s all so elegant and paintable,” she said. Taney took hundreds of photos of the flower district’s daily life and transferred them to her computer, where they will serve as her “models” in her Fort Kent studio. “I love how my knowledge of the ‘old masters’ style now pairs with technology,” she said. “Combining the two can be a really good thing for an artist.”

“There is such amazing space and wildlife up here. Series I have done based on that have all sold.”

MONICA BROOKE TANEY

That combination of old and new, she said, not only allows her to record images and scenes for later painting inspirations, it opens up the a myriad of online “galleries” and websites on which she can showcase her work. The more places an artist can show their work, the better, according to Taney.

“The economy since 2007 has been rough on artists,” she said. “And artists need to be able to survive rough times.”

Taney has survived the rough times by working part time for a lawyer and by downsizing her life half of the year.

“Up here [in Fort Kent] I live off the grid and off the land,” she said. “It’s been a beautiful experience.”

She joked she’d never be a “starving artist” thanks to her little vegetable garden and presence of local berries on her land.

She also is optimistic that art will never die, and she points to work she has done that has been inspired by the St. John Valley landscape.

“There is such amazing space and wildlife up here,” Taney said. “Series I have done based on that have all sold.”

Her paintings of northern Maine’s agricultural life, wildflowers, trees and hills have become her most popular work.

“They all sell,” she said. “I find constant inspiration from nature here, and I can live an independent life here half the year, [and] that is wonderful.”

Miracle

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Spark is a great character, cynical and defiant; his sidekick is Ned, a small red Shih-tzu that he stole from a parked car. Ned narrates the book. He is smart, wry, observant, thoughtful, curious, funny — and yet very much a dog. (He barks at inappropriate moments, sniffs everything, makes sardonic asides about other, lesser breeds.)

And then Hally sees a vision. Out on the bluffs overlooking the ocean, he sees the Virgin Mary, who tells him to pray and to love. Spark worries Hally is cracking up like Flory, who saw things and heard voices.

Green

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basement where brewmaster Asa Marsh-Sachs will be able to expand the company’s beer offerings and the rooftop deck overlooking downtown.

After the tour, which required a short jaunt through downtown to get to the State Street location, we returned to Verve and enjoyed some snacks.

Some attendees of the event were wearing shirts representing the Bangor Land Trust, which was founded in 2001 and owns and conserves over 800 acres of land in the Bangor area. Their annual Pedal the Penobscot Road Ride will take place on Sept. 11.

Perhaps the best thing about Greendrinks is what it does for the community. The funds raised by the events are given back through Green Grants, which support projects that make the community more sustainable. Greendrinks has provided grants that have brought public water fountains to the Bangor Waterfront and cigarette disposal receptacles and bike racks to downtown. Each of their projects has a distinctive look — you can spot them by looking for the organization’s Paul Bunyan logo. For example, they recently helped install green-topped recycling bins in downtown. They even provided a grant to help the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter purchase an industrial-grade dishwasher, which helped the shelter avoid plastic waste and saved them money, among many other ventures.

Orlando

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us, as come to mean choosing to love, always, even in the face of great odds, disaster and despair,” she said.

Baldyga dynamically mounts the play as theater-in-the-round at the Burnt Cove Community Church in Stonington. Her original vision is clearly and artfully staged. How much the recent events in Florida color how theatergoers’ experience the production depends on what they bring to it.

Ruhl’s play, like Woolf’s novel, is heavy on description and light on dialogue, which grows a bit tiring by the second act. Elizabeth Anne Rimar portrays Orlando as both a woman and a man, and a chorus of three men and a woman take on all the other roles.

Rimar creates a complex yet nuanced character. Whether a man or a woman, her Orlando is charmingly fickle, constantly in search of love, growing in self-awareness as the story progresses.

es. Hugh suspects confusion (“Are you sure it wasn’t DeeDee White?”) a local resident with “a penchant for pale togas, fey notions, and ethereal wanderings”).

But Pastor Ragnar smells opportunity. And the next thing you know, word is out, the church is packed, money is rolling in and fervent pilgrims appear, following Hally night and day, hoping for a miracle.

“The Miracle on Monhegan Island” builds slowly from a story about a dysfunctional family to a novel about obsession, religious fervor and mental illness — and the sometimes very fine line between them. Even with a canine storyteller, this is one of the meatier books of the summer.



SHELBY HARTIN | BDN

Abe Furth sits on the bar of the new location of Orono Brewing Co. at 26 State St. in downtown Bangor. He gave attendees of Bangor Greendrinks tours of the location on Tuesday evening. Bangor Greendrinks focuses on growing sustainable local businesses and provides an opportunity to network with professionals in greater Bangor.

Tuesday evening’s festivities were a “bonus” Greendrinks. The event usually only takes place the second Tuesday of every month, but this extra event raised money for a special cause: expanded bicycle infrastructure in downtown.

I wasn’t able to stay for the whole evening, but that’s what’s also great about it. The event was from 5 to 8 p.m., and anyone was welcome to stroll in or head home at any time.

Ethan explained to me that Greendrinks is a great event for anyone but especially for people who are new to the community — like me.

“It’s one of the easiest ways to meet people who are excited about the community,” Ethan told me.

“Everyone is open to meeting new people. Drinking beers doesn’t hurt, either,” Heather Furth said with a laugh.

The next Greendrinks event will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the waterfront concert venue and, as always, attendees can expect local beer, snacks and conversation.

Shelby Hartin writes about arts, culture and food. Read more in her blog Hartin Soul, which can be found at hartin.bangordailynews.com.



BRIAN LILLIENTHAL | OPERA HOUSE ARTS

Elizabeth Anne Rimar (second from left) as Orlando celebrates life as a man with cast members Jason Martin (left), Per Janson (right), Bari Robinson (second from right) and Jade Guerra in Opera House Arts’ production of “Orlando” recently at the Burnt Cove Community Church in Stonington.

Because of its literary style and language, “Orlando” could have been a bore — a stylized lecture on Virginia Woolf’s view of the

world. That it is not, is due in large part to Rimar’s magnetism. She also enfuses Orlando with a sense of adventure that is irresistible.

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