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"There were always really fun tidbits that we were unearthing. ... Some [historical figures] were easier than others, depending on the source material of course," Abigail Zelz explained about her research. "Cleopatra was difficult because there aren't exactly a lot of easy primary sources that are specific to her. You can find things on Ancient Egypt. Whereas some of these other people there's good material."

Eric Zelz worked closely with his wife, developing sketches and tweaking parts of them. Many of the images are whimsical, like the one of George Washington and his many pairs of dentures, but they're also careful of cultural connotations.

"We were having fun with it. But at the same time we were trying to retain a certain dignity or respect to the people and the cultures we were representing," Eric Zelz said. "With Victoria, I was kind of was thinking of a big locomotive — just kind of moving along - so I would have this expanse of her dress. And the way she ate very much was fast, if you can't keep up with me your meal's going to be taken away and onto the next thing. It was fun from an art perspective when Abby's research opened windows or helped create imagery for how to create this. while sticking to the tale.



Some of the bits of inspiration Eric Zelz used for his Neil Armstrong illustration for a children's book he collaborated on with his wife, Abigail.

What's next for the couple? This week, they'll be unveiling their book at book signings at The Briar Patch on Central Street in Downtown Bangor, scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, during the downtown Bangor Art Walk, and at 11 a.m. Saturday.

They're also already talk ing to their publisher about a potential second project.

And in case you're wondering, a pandowdy is a dessert, featuring a thick crust on top and an apple pie-like filling.

Editor's Note: Eric Zelz formerly illustrated this author's food column. Maine Course, for the Bangor Daily



MICKY BEDELL I BDN

Justin

Levesque (left, front

row) poses

featured in

LANDx207:

Container," a

shipping con-

tainer popup

show on view

in Portland

Sept. 27 to

Oct. 12.

"ICE-

with the crew

Scraps of paper used by Eric Zelz to dab his watercolors while creating illustrations.

Exhibit

Continued from Page C1

glimpse hardworking crew members, see their maps and legends, cramped quarters, even a rainbow on the horizon.

"The ocean is the 13th member," said Levesque, who is creating a self-guided multimedia exhibit including interviews with crew members that the public can access via their smartphones while viewing their portraits. The show dovetails with the 2016 Arctic Council meetings hosted by the Maine North Atlantic Development Office, which will be held in Portland from Oct. 4 to 6. The inter-governmental meeting brings senior officials from Arctic regions such as Finland, Russia and Canada to discuss Documentary Studies exhib-



COURTESY OF JUSTIN LEVESQUE

Maine's significant role.

This is not the first time a shipping container exhibit has popped up in Congress Square. The Salt Institute for

ited student work in a similar

vessel in the summer of 2013. "It feels current tapping into a conversation about transportation and shipping," Levesque said. "While 12.

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my interest began with Maine, it pivoted to the industry of shipping itself."

"ICELANDx207: Container" will be up through Oct

Buttery

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don't like that. We're just ordinary people," said Jack Palmer, who worked for the Bangor Daily News for years before retiring in the early 2000s. "Kids come up to me and say 'baked in a buttery, flaky crust' and then say 'Ha, I got it!'" I say it in my sleep now. And I still screw it up."

The couple eats at Dysart's most days per week, and since the video has gone viral for a second time — the first time back in early 2013, when the commercial first aired, and the second time just last week — they find themselves once again approached by people during their meal.

"Hundreds of people have come up to us," said Sonja. 'Some folks from Arizona called in to order a chicken pie, and they said it because of us... What amazes me the most is teenagers. I met four boys in their 20s here, and they come up to me and asked if they could have their picture taken with me. I thought they were kidding, but they said 'No ma'am, you're so popular. We really want to have our picture taken with you.' I couldn't believe it.'

Though it was the Dysart's video that brought the Palmers their unexpected fame, it wasn't the first time the couple had appeared in a TV commercial. Ric Tyler, the producer with Sutherland and Weston Marketing and Communications that shot the commercial, had asked them to be in a commercial for Maine soft drink Moxie, long before the Dysart's ad.

'That one did not come out very good, so I was surprised he asked us again," said Sonja. "We didn't do too good this time, either.'

"We murdered the Moxie one, so we thought we'd murder another one," said Jack. "She did pretty good, but I really messed it up. It was another tongue twist-

Despite their track record of marble-mouthed script delivery, Tyler approached the Palmers to star once again in a commercial of his — this time for their favorite local restaurant. On the day of filming, the Palmers were sitting in the busy, open for business restaurant, trying she deserves a medal."

to focus as people buzzed around them.

'[Ric] put a chicken pie in front of us, and I picked up my fork to take a bite, and he said 'Oh, come on. Take a big bite!" said Jack. "He said he was going to count down, and the cameraman is right in front of us... I got so screwed up when he was counting down, looking at him, looking at me. I knew he was about ready to flip his marbles with my foolish-

"We were sitting over there by the cash register, and there were waitresses around looking at us," said Sonja. "It isn't as easy as people think it is."

"I just couldn't remember my lines," Jack said. "A few more minutes, and it would have been murder. Every time I looked over she had that look in her eye.'

"I said, 'Jack, crispy means the crust is hard. Flaky means it's nice," Sonja said.

'Well, I'm crispy, and she's flaky," replied Jack.

Despite the frustration of trying to get the video shoot correct, Tyler knew he had something funny with the outtakes, and later edited them and put them on You-Tube. Jack and Sonja alike were amazed that the video went viral the first time but a second time was completely unexpected. They've received calls from "The Today Show" and from producers at Comedy Central to go on national TV, but Jack Palmer isn't interest-

"I said no. Mary Dysart said, 'Why didn't you ask me? I'd have been there in ten seconds," said Jack. "You do something smart, and they don't care. You do something stupid, and everybody knows it. I'm 78 years old, and I'm still waiting to do something right. I think I might go through this world not doing anything right, if [Sonja] doesn't speak up fast.

Though eventually this second round of the video going viral will calm down, for now, the Palmers are more than happy to say hello to fans of theirs that approach them at the restau-

"You really meet so many nice people," said Jack Palmer. "People ask me for my autograph, and I say 'You've got to be joking.' Let her do it. She's got good handwriting... She's put up with foolishness for so long.

Review

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Brad LaBree are equally fine with LaBree holding his own in a sea of estrogen as the photographer who snaps the calendar photos.

Scenic designer Tricia Hobbs and properties designer Meredith Perry cleverly created pastries, fake flowers and piles of Christmas presents to strategically cover breasts and the women's nether regions. Each new pose for the calendar is surprisingly delightful due to the work of these designers.

Kevin Koski's costumes help give depth to each character and Scout Hough's lighting design is kind and forgiving toward the mostly middle-aged and beyond cast. The sound design by Brandie Larkin helps move the many scene changes along and lets the show maintain an upbeat feel.

For many theater goers, "Calendar Girls" is a welcome change from the past three years of country-music themed opening shows at the Opera House. Fans of last year's Johnny Cash tribute will be able to get a dose of classic country Oct. 1 and 2 when Andrew Crowe performs "The Grand Tour — A Celebration of the Music of George Jones' at the Opera House.

"Calendar Girls" runs Wednesdays-Sundays through Sept. 25 at the Bangor Opera House. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 942-3333, visit the Opera House between noon and 5 p.m., or visit penobscottheatre.org.



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