

Greater Bangor's Weekly Community News Source

The Weekly

Thursday, June 16, 2016

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Reported by Emily Burnham

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

“Where is your favorite beach in Maine?”



“Old Orchard Beach.”
SHAWN BOOKER, HERMON



“Sand Beach.”
JOSHUA GUAY, BANGOR



“Seal Harbor, on MDI.”
KENDALL LAMBERT, BANGOR



“Popham Beach.”
ALEX MARSH, HERMON



“The one at my grandparents house in Brooklin.”
LEAH JENNINGS, HOLDEN



“Old Orchard Beach.”
LAURA SALISBURY, EDDINGTON

Next Generation Theatre expands Brewer school now offers brand new rehearsal space



EMILY BURNHAM/THE WEEKLY

Tracey Marceron, owner of the Between Friends Arts Center at Next Generation Theatre in Brewer, stands in the new rehearsal space on Center Street.

BY EMILY BURNHAM
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

For Tracey Marceron, it's not about the money. If it was, she wouldn't be in the business of running a small theater and art school for area youth.

“To me, all of it is worth it when a parent comes to me and says ‘My child has blossomed in every positive way I can think of after being in one of your shows. She's like a different person,’” said Marceron, who since 2007 has run the Between Friends Arts Center at the Next Generation Theatre on Center Street in Brewer. “All that hard work and struggle is worth it when we see the positive impact the arts have on kids.”

Marceron, who started the Next Generation Theatre with

her then-teenage daughter, Lexi, and Lexi's friend and classmate, Jamie Bartol, at that time had only hoped to make an investment in some real estate in Brewer by buying 39 Center St., and to operate a theater arts camp for local kids for a few years with Lexi and Bartol, both of whom are theater artists.

“I thought we'd do it for a few years, and I thought Lexi and Jamie would come back from college in New York [City] to help,” she said. “But of course, they are thriving in New York and are working in theater... and we've managed to keep going and even grow.”

She still remains a little stunned that nine years later they have more than 450 students throughout the year, they have expanded the facilities to include a brand-new, fully renovated rehearsal space across the

street at 72 Center St., and they purchased the dilapidated building next door to the theater, which was torn down over the spring to create on-site parking for students and patrons. And that's not to mention the vintage and antique shop, the Between Friends Gift Shop, that runs year-round in the front half of the theater building.

This summer, programming at Between Friends includes the five-week theater camp, which starts next week and will culminate in a performance of Disney's “The Little Mermaid” for two weekends, July 8-10 and 15-17. There's also two week-long dance camps — one from June 27 through July 1 that will culminate in a dance performance at the Bangor-Brewer

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