

BHS sophomore commissioned to commemorate former middle school

By Emily Burnham, BDN Special Sections

The transformation of the former Brewer Middle School into Somerset Place began in 2013 and was completed this past fall. The construction effort converted the historic school, which was built in 1926 and was vacant for three years before the project was announced, into 28 units of affordable housing for senior citizens ages 55 and older.

To commemorate the history of the former schoolhouse at 5 Somerset St., Brewer High School sophomore Abigail Bennett, a talented visual artist, was commissioned to create an architectural drawing of the former school. Bennett, who previously created the template for and worked on the mural at the daycare at the new Brewer Community Center, spent the better part of a year creating the architectural drawing.

“It was a great opportunity for her to showcase her talents,” said Sue Ann Gaitings, a teacher at Brewer Community School who taught Bennett and recommended her for the project. “They also had copies made of her drawing to give to the stakeholders in the building.”

Bennett’s drawing is on display in the lobby of Somerset House.



BHS sophomore Abigail Bennett stands in front of the architectural drawing she was commissioned to create of the former Brewer Middle School. Bennett’s drawing is on display in the lobby of Somerset House. Photos by Sue Ann Gaitings

SPANISH 3 STUDENTS HONOR THOSE LOST IN THE DIRTY WAR WITH PORTRAIT PROJECT

By Fred Ravan

This project started several years ago as an off shoot of Día de los muertos (Day of the Dead) which is a day in Latino culture which honors those who have died. We were working on Human Rights unit in Spanish 3.

One of the components of this unit is to look at the Dirty War, which took place from 1976-1983 in Argentine. Basically the government was inept and the military took over in a Coup. During the military government, 30,000 people were kidnapped, tortured and killed for disagreeing with the government. This group is called the disappeared.

It was during this time that I ran across a Pablo Nerudo quote which says, “You can cut down all the flowers but, you cannot stop

the Spring” As we discussed this quote, I got the idea to honor those who disappeared.

I asked Marion McEwen if she would be interested in working with me on this. She had the idea that students could draw portraits of those who disappeared.

Step one was to have Spanish 3 students research what happened. We used primary sources. These students then created a presentation that they shared with Art students to give them some background on the topic.

Spanish 3 students helped the art students translate the stories of those who disappeared. Art students then drew the portraits and in turn presented them to Spanish students.



Portraits created by Fred Ravan’s Spanish 3 students last year. Photo by Fred Ravan