

# Rauch

Continued from Page C1

Although opera's roots are in popular entertainment, it has developed an unfortunate reputation for being intellectual and hoity-toity, Williams said. So he's grateful that in 2014, Rauch, along with a cadre of fellow opera enthusiasts, launched the Collins Opera Outreach Committee, or COOC. During the week before each scheduled performance, one of the "kooks," as they call themselves, leads a free, 90-minute discussion of the featured production — including historical context, plot, characters, musical highlights, performer biographies and other information — at each of three different sites in Greater Bangor. The group is in its third season.

The goal of the committee, according to this year's COOC chairwoman Beth

Brand of Orono, is to demystify opera, explode common misconceptions and pique the public's interest in the stories and the art form.

"We all know that the better prepared you are going into an opera performance, the more likely it is to be a successful experience, an enriching experience," Brand said. She credits Rauch's enthusiasm, deep knowledge and passion for opera with keeping the committee focused and organized. COOC talks at Dirigo Pines in Orono, the Orono Public Library and the Brewer Public Library have generally drawn 10 to 15 people, she said, and most who come also attend the opera itself.

Rauch, who earned a doctorate in 17th-century literature from Ohio State University, is an educator at heart. When she and Chick lived in northern Virginia, she managed a team of researchers at the Center for Naval Analyses in Arlington. But

after they relocated to Maine in the late 1980s, she taught English literature and composition at Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Maine and Husson University (then Husson College), as well as fulfilling a three-year stint as vice president of the now-defunct Bangor Theological Seminary.

"I love to teach," she said, crediting her academic inclinations to her college-educated parents. Her father, an Anglican clergyman who graduated from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and her mother, who graduated from Arlington Literary Academy, also in Alabama, raised their eight children in a financially secure household with a commitment to serving less fortunate families in their community.

"Of those to whom much is given, much is required," Rauch said, quoting from the New Testament Gospel of Luke. "We were raised on proverbs and maxims."

Opera, Rauch said, is nothing more than life stories set to beautiful music. Many popular tunes, including the theme from "The Godfather," the popular "Here Comes the Bride" wedding march and the rousing theme from "The Lone Ranger," are drawn from opera.

"People have always loved opera without realizing it was opera," she said. Now, if they would just come to the COOC's talks, she said, they'll discover a new level of enjoyment.

For her dedication to promoting opera and the arts, Rauch will be presented the 2016 Wilma Award, given by the Collins Center for the Arts to an individual or business for contributions to the center and the promotion of cultural activities in Maine. The award is named for longtime community leader Wilma Bradford of Bangor.

The Met: Live in HD will broadcast Richard Wag-

ner's "Tristan und Isolde," its first live broadcast production of the new season, at noon Sunday, Oct. 16. COOC president Beth Brand will lead a discussion of the opera from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 at Dirigo Pines in Orono; from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the Brewer Public Library; and from

5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Orono Public Library. Information about this and other Collins Opera Outreach Committee talks can be found by visiting the website of the Collins Center for the Arts and clicking on each upcoming opera or by calling the box office at 207-581-1755.



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# Haskell

Continued from Page C1

All this week, we've looked for her, called her, called her again. We've left the light on and the barn door ajar. The older cat isn't saying anything, but she's been sticking close and seeking more attention than usual.

We feel miserable about losing Madeleine and we hate to think of her in fear or pain. There's a diminishing hope in our hearts that she'll come wandering up the driveway some afternoon as if nothing had happened. But she probably won't, and it probably won't change our approach to cat-keeping. Like all animals, even humans, our cats have a place in the natural world. We feed them, we play with them, we protect them to a certain, undefined point and we love them. And sometimes, sadly, we lose them.

Read more of Meg Haskell at [livingitforward.bangordailynews.com](http://livingitforward.bangordailynews.com).

# Wilde

Continued from Page C1

So he accepted a job at Unity College, where he met Bonnie, who was working as a secretary in the English department.

"I fell completely into the deep end of the pool in love with her," he said. "She was the quickest-witted person I had ever met, with unreal charisma."

Plus, he said, she had the most beautiful hair and eyes he had ever seen. They moved into a log cabin on 9 acres in Troy and bought the place a year later. It is still their home.

Wanting to pursue a serious career in academics, Wilde returned to SUNY Binghamton completing a doctorate in creative writing, modern literature and contemplative literature in 1995. His dissertation was a collection of creative essays about outer space, informed by his early and ongoing interest in science fiction. Those essays are the basis of his 2012 book, "Nebulae: A Backyard Cosmography."

Wilde spent two years teaching English at American University in Bulgaria, which is affiliated with the University of Maine. He applied for a Fulbright fellowship and spent a more than a year teaching in China. Another Fulbright sent him back to China and then to South Africa. He got a grant from the National Endowment and studied Sufi literature in North Carolina for a year. He picked up adjunct teaching jobs at UMaine, USM and Eastern Maine Community College and published some articles in academic journals.

"All this time, I was still thinking I was going to be a professor someday," he said. "I was qualified in spades, but I was getting too old; it was as simple as that."

With his wife holding down a full-time job teaching high school English, Wilde found behind-the-scenes work at the BDN, first on the copy desk and then, in 2007, as an editor. He left the BDN in 2012 and now works part time at the Kennebec Journal, laying out pages and writing his Backyard

Naturalist columns.

It leaves him plenty of time to observe, think and write about the natural world that fascinates him. He'd like to write a whole book just about spiders, and he is thinking about a full-length science fiction novel.

"Now that I'm not working five days a week, I have more time to think about it," he said.

Asked about the writer who has influenced him the most, Wilde is quick to name Thoreau. An undergraduate class in the work of the Massachusetts Transcendentalist "changed the course of my thinking," he said, opening him up to the work of other contemplative writers who have encountered "full-on experiences of unity with divinity or the cosmos."

Wilde paused.

"I've never had that experience myself," he said, with a broad smile, "but I've been near the edges."

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**Autumn Gold**  
September 22-26 CELEBRATION

**Autumn Gold Calendar of Events 2016**

- Autumn Gold Decorating Contest Judging: September 19-21
- Thursday September 22**
  - Business After Hours: The Moore Community Center 5-7 sponsored by Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Downeast Family YMCA. Members and guests
  - Winners of the Decorating Contest will be announced
  - The Grand: NT Live: The Three Penny Opera musical 2pm \$18/16/15/13
- Friday September 23**
  - Go for the Gold: Chamber Retail businesses will have Go for the Gold Bags at their locations for customers to enter to win great prizes.
  - Friends in Action Senior Day: Moore Community Center 9:00-12:00
  - Autumn Gold Golf Tournament: Lucerne Golf Course 9am contact Lucerne Golf Course at 843-6282, Registration starts at 8am.
  - Downtown Association: Music "The Crown Vics" 6-8 Acadia Realty Parking lot
  - The Grand: Live Music The Masterstons 7:30 pm General Admission \$18
- Saturday September 24**
  - Firehouse Breakfast: 6am-10am Trenton Volunteer Fire Dept. \$7/\$3.
  - Rotary Pancake Breakfast: 7am-10am Ellsworth Middle School \$7/\$3
  - Roger Willey Road Race: 5K and 10K. 7am registration 8am start \$20
  - Sponsors: Downeast Family YMCA, Willey's Sport Center
  - 33rd Annual Car Show: 8am registration Home Depot Featuring Busch National Champion Andy Santerre Shriners NASCAR unit, The Elks Club food truck. Admission is free. Corporate Sponsor: NAPA Auto Parts Registration Sponsor: PCT Communications
  - City Car Cruise: immediately following awards/travels down High to Main St.
- Monday September 26 th**
  - Jumbo Jackpot Drawing: 11am 50/50 tickets available now thru Saturday the Ellsworth Chamber Office. The 33 rd Autumn Gold Car Show and All Waterfront Events: Union River Boat rides, Chowderfest and Autumn Gold Beer and wine tasting.

For more info and a complete list of events, visit [ellsworthchamber.org](http://ellsworthchamber.org). Events Subject to change. More activities can be found at all areas!

**HERMON REC Harvest & Homecoming CELEBRATION**  
**SEPT. 9-18**



**Sunday, Sept 11**  
12:30-2:30pm - Pies & Politics in the Park.  
@ the Veteran's Park Gazebo at Hermon Elementary

**Saturday, Sept 17**  
8:30am - Danforth's to Dysarts 5k Road Race.  
12:00-4:00pm - Hermon Rec Carnival with inflatables and games, live music, and fun activities for all ages.  
6:00pm Evening Street Dance featuring The Allison Ames Band

For more information and a full schedule of events visit [www.hermon.net](http://www.hermon.net)





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Oils	Sept 15	6 weeks	\$180
Drawing	Sept 17	1 day workshop	\$ 75
Pleinair Painting	Sept 24	1 day workshop	\$ 75
Mandalas	Sept 26	6 weeks	\$150
Understanding Color	Sept 28	8 weeks	\$200
Watermedia Montage	Sept 28	8 weeks	\$200

More adult classes starting in October in Pastels, Collage, Acrylics, Tole/Decorative Painting and many others. Also classes for Seniors in Oils/Acrylics for all skill levels. Childrens classes being developed.

Check out our website for details and to sign up:  
[LighthouseArtsCenter.com](http://LighthouseArtsCenter.com), or call 207-469-7340