

Friends of Poe – Bicentennial Calendar of Events



Saturday November 22, 2:00 PM

Former Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site volunteer, now Park Ranger at Longfellow Historic Site, Rob Velella, will talk about Poe's "Longfellow War" and sign and discuss his Poe biographical 2009 calendar.

Saturday January 10 (Time to be announced)

On January 10, 2009 the Free Library of Philadelphia (<http://www.library.phila.gov/>), Central Branch, will feature internationally renowned Poe actor David Keltz as Poe. Also appearing at the library that day will be Park Ranger Helen McKenna-Uff as Poe's fiancée Helen Whitman.

Friday evening, January 16, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

The Official Friends of Poe bicentennial birthday party! Festivities will take place at the German Society, 7th and Spring Garden Streets, across the street from Poe. Actors and Park Rangers Paul Campbell and Helen McKenna-Uff will perform an original piece, "Doppelganger Poes". There will be a wine-tasting of vintages mentioned in Poe's works and a preview of the new exhibits.

Saturday, January 17, 2:00 PM

Official public opening for new Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site exhibits, Daniel Hoffman, poet and Poe scholar, will offer a talk on Poe's influence on women writers like Joyce Carol Oates.

Saturday, March 28, 2:00 PM

19th century literature expert, David Reynolds, author of *Beneath the American Renaissance*, biographies *Walt Whitman's America* and *George Lippard, Prophet of Protest* and professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will discuss "Poe in his Times" and sign copies of his new book *Waking Giant: America in the Age of Jackson*.

Friday April 3, 2:00 PM

Cultural historian, Karen Halttunen, author of *Confidence Men and Painted Women*, and a professor at UCLA, will discuss her book *Murder Most Foul*, a fascinating investigation into how Poe's Gothic horror was shaped by shifts in philosophy and reading tastes.

Saturday, May 23, 2:00 PM

Tony McGowan, a West Point English professor, will speak on Poe's military experience, which included a stint at West Point, and how it influenced Poe's writing.

October (exact date to be announced)

Kevin Poe, Park Ranger from Bryce Canyon (no relation) will give a fascinating and entertaining illustrated talk which reveals the science behind Poe's major work, *Eureka*, a largely unknown and misunderstood work that explains the origins of the universe.

Speakers and events confirmed to participate, dates to be announced:

Hal Poe, professor and descendant of one of Edgar's relatives, will discuss the most famous member of his family tree.

Edgar the Raven will fascinate children and adults during a demonstration by the Audubon Society of Sharon Connecticut. Park Rangers will discuss Poe's poem about the bird.

Other Philadelphia Events**October 1 through February 13, 2009**

"Quoth the Raven"; an exhibition of the Colonel Richard Gimbel Collection of the works of Edgar Allan Poe, commemorating the 200th year of his birth. Included are rare and rarely seen autograph manuscripts, first editions, and Poe family heirlooms. Among the manuscripts: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Raven," and "Annabel Lee." Also on view is "Grip," Charles Dickens's pet raven, and inspiration for Poe's most famous poem.

Rare Book Department, Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Tours of the Department at 11 a.m.

Special Saturday hours: Saturday, January 10, 2009 9 - 5 p.m.

Tuesday January 13 (Time to be announced)

The Free Library of Philadelphia will host a "Great Poe Debate", brainchild of journalist and Poe expert Ed Pettit, featuring representatives from various cities where Poe lived to prove why their city deserves Poe's remains. The debate will be emceed by local comic, media personality and Poe performer Grover Silcox. Ed Pettit will have a chance to represent Philadelphia during the debate.

Friday January 16, 2009

Our favorite media personality, Grover Silcox, will appear with Fox 29's Dr. Mike at the College of Physicians Mutter Museum (www.collphyphil.org) on January 16, 2009, offering "Beloved Physician", a look at how medical issues, such as his wife's tuberculosis, influenced Poe's life and writing. Somehow, Grover manages to make us laugh while discussing these dreadful things.

October 8 -11, 2009

The Third International Poe Conference will meet in Philadelphia Oct 8 to 11, 2009, at the Hyatt Hotel. At the conference, Poe scholars will present new scholarship, participants will attend a premier of a musical composition, inspired by Poe, and written by Augusta Reed Thomas and see a performance by Norman George as Poe.

Friends of Poe

Friends of Poe supports the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site in its efforts to interpret Poe's life. Membership benefits include free attendance of special events, books, tours and an opportunity to meet with other Poe admirers. We invite you to join. If you join, among other benefits, you will receive the twice-yearly Friends of Poe Newsletter. For more information, go to www.friendsofindependence.org or call the Friends at (215)597-7919 or call EDAL at (215) 597-8780.