



Timberland  
Regional  
Library

# News Release

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Timberland Regional Library; Website: [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org); Information: 704-4636 in Olympia area, or 1-800-562-6022.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Timberland Regional Library District presents**

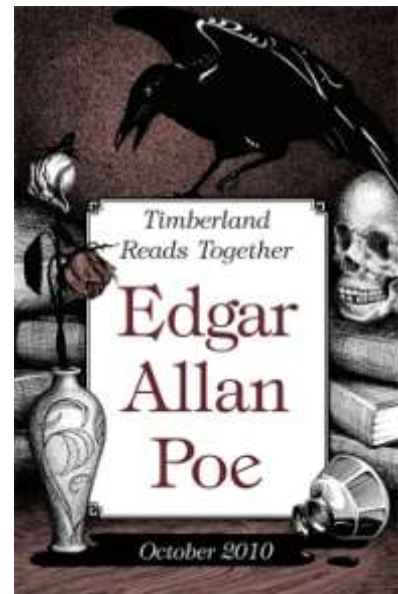
**Timberland Reads Together:**

*Tales & Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*

The Timberland Regional Library District announces its sixth annual [Timberland Reads Together](#) one book-one community selection: *Tales & Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*.

Timberland Reads Together is a month-long program held each October to promote and celebrate reading and community. Everyone in the five-county library district (Grays Harbor, Thurston, Lewis, Pacific, Mason) is encouraged to read the selection—this year the works of author Edgar Allan Poe—and to attend free book discussions, performances and programs throughout the month at local Timberland libraries. People are welcome to read any collection of Poe's works to fully participate. Many editions and copies—in print, including Spanish, and audio—are available at Timberland libraries. Many bookstores also carry inexpensive copies.

The kickoff event, [An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe: The Poet's Journey](#), by award-winning Washington playwright Bryan Willis and starring critically acclaimed actor Tim Hoban, will be at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts on Monday, October 4 at 7 p.m. The program will begin with the announcement of the 2010 Northwest Playwrights Alliance Poetry Contest winners who will recite their winning poems. The performance is a free public event.



Also free are over 90 other [Poe-related programs](#) at the 27 Timberland libraries and other venues, which will be presented throughout October. A few programs are being held on October 1 or 2, before the kickoff event, at local branches. Complete information about Timberland Reads Together 2010, including details about other performances by [Tim Hoban](#), enactments of *The Tell-Tale Heart* by award-winning storyteller [Christopher Leebrick](#), discussions of Poe's tales

and poetry, film screenings and poetry recitations and slams, is online at [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org). Program guides including the events and background on the author are in Timberland libraries now.

## **The author's contribution to American literature**

Poe is one of the great classic authors of American literature—a master of the short story and a magician of the short poem. Without Poe, the literary arts of horror, adventure, detective, and science fiction—and the form of the short story itself—would have developed very differently. Poe invented the detective story (*The Murders in the Rue Morgue*; *The Purloined Letter*), perfected the horror tale (*The Fall of the House of Usher*; *The Tell-Tale Heart*), and first articulated the theory of the modern short story as well as the idea of pure poetry (*Annabel Lee*; *The Bells*; *The Raven*). He practiced literary criticism as fine art, blood sport and, with a series of female poets, the highest form of flirtation.

Poe's work survives and thrives in print, cyberspace and celluloid. About 200 films so far have attempted to translate Poe's words. Two versions of "The Fall of the House of Usher" have made the Library of Congress's annual National Film Registry of movies worthy of preservation—the visually striking 1928 silent version and Roger Corman's 1960 version, starring Vincent Price.

## **Edgar Allan Poe**

Edgar Poe was born in Boston to an itinerant theater couple on January 19, 1809. Orphaned before age two, Poe was taken in by the Allan family but never legally adopted and was disowned by Allan for gambling debts in 1830.

Poe struggled for success, acceptance and happiness for the rest of his life. An admirer and contemporary, the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, wrote to Poe: "Your 'Raven' has produced a sensation, a 'fit horror,' here in England. Some of my friends are taken by the fear of it and some by the music." While wildly popular, Poe's "The Raven," still his most famous poem, netted him only \$9.00. He died in Baltimore on October 7, 1849 under circumstances that remain mysterious to this day.

Esteemed in France and England, Poe has never been entirely respectable to American critics because of his twin "faults": being too eccentric, and too popular among common readers. Nevertheless, Poe has remained popular internationally for more than 150 years to readers from childhood to old age.

Read. Discuss. Enjoy.

"Ye who read are still among the living, but I who write shall have long since gone my way into the region of shadows," ~ from Edgar Allan Poe's "Shadow — a Parable" (1835).

For more information, visit the Timberland Regional Library Web site, [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org), call 704-4636 in the Olympia area and 1-800-562-6022 from elsewhere, or stop by your local Timberland library for a copy of the program brochure.