

The libraries of Orange County:

Chester:
Chester Public Library

Cornwall:
Cornwall Public Library

Florida:
Florida Public Library

Goshen:
The Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

Greenwood Lake:
Greenwood Lake Public Library

Highland Falls:
Highland Falls Library

Middletown:
Middletown Thrall Library

Monroe:
Monroe Free Library

Montgomery:
Montgomery Free Library

Newburgh:
Newburgh Free Library

Pine Bush:
Pine Bush Area Public Library

Port Jervis:
Port Jervis Free Library

Tuxedo Park:
Tuxedo Park Library

Walden:
Josephine Louise Public Library

Warwick:
The Albert Wisner Public Library

Washingtonville:
The Moffat Library of Washingtonville

Woodbury:
Woodbury Public Library



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**ORANGE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PREPARES TO KICK OFF THE 2010 BIG READ:
A CELEBRATION OF THE WORKS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE**

In October, Orange County's literary heritage will be spotlighted through The Big Read as the county's 17 public libraries celebrate the short stories and poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. The Orange Library Association (OLA), sponsor of Orange Reads Poe, is the recipient of a \$17,050 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. OLA also raised matching funds to conduct the program. OLA previously received a Big Read grant in 2008 to conduct a reading of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

"Edgar Allan Poe is an excellent choice for Orange County's Big Read because of his connection to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point," says Lisa Hewel, president of the Orange Library Association. Hewel adds, "Poe appeals to readers of all ages, so let us underestimate him nevermore."

Poe was a cadet at West Point from July 1830 through February 19, 1831, when he was dismissed. Although he did well academically, he was not suited for the West Point life. He was expelled for failing to attend class and skipping mandatory chapel services.

The Big Read kicks off with a weekend of free events at the Lycian Centre Pavilion, Kings Highway, Sugar Loaf. David Keltz appears as Edgar Allan Poe in a performance of Poe's poems, short stories, essays, literary criticism, letters and reported conversations at 7:30 p.m. October 1. Annmarie Paoli directs a production of Jeffery Hatcher's play "Murder by Poe" at 8 p.m. October 2. The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library Inc. will sponsor the keynote presentation, "Edgar Allan Poe: Mysterious as a Cat" with Anne Sandor, a professor at SUNY Orange, at 3 p.m. October 3.

The Big Read in Orange County includes a variety of other free activities, including book discussions, three radio programs, four art exhibits, lectures by literary scholars, blood drives, outreach to schools, poetry readings, a Black Dirt Storytelling Guild program as well as dance and musical presentations. In addition, a murder mystery dessert theater performance and costume party are planned.

Activities are open to all and are scheduled to run through November 7. A copy of the calendar is included with this release, along with The Big Read FAQs. More details are available at OLA's The Big Read Web site. www.orangereads.org.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

Interviews with the kickoff performers can be arranged by calling Laurie Angle at 986-1047. Photographs of kickoff performers are available from Lisa Hewel at 496-5483

For more information about The Big Read in Orange County, call Laurie Angle at 986-1047.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is The Big Read?

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The program provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Big Read grantees comprise a variety of organizations, including libraries, municipalities, colleges, and arts, culture, and science organizations. To date, the NEA has funded more than 500 The Big Read programs in the nation's towns and cities.

2. Why has this program been organized?

The program was created in response to the National Endowment for the Arts report *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, which identified a critical decline in literary reading among American adults. With communities across the country as partners and by awarding grants and by improving access to the art of literature, the Arts Endowment is working toward reversing the decline in reading. *To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence*, the NEA's 2007 follow-up report to *Reading at Risk*, reported that not only are Americans reading less, they are also reading less well, and these declines in reading have civic, social, and economic implications. *To Read or Not to Read* assembled data on reading trends from more than 40 sources, including federal agencies, universities, foundations and associations.

3. What is the Orange Library Association?

OLA is an organization of library staff, trustees and friends of the library from the 17 public libraries in Orange County. These libraries serve a population of 376,000 in a county bounded by the Hudson and Delaware rivers and the New Jersey border. OLA's mission is to promote library service, to encourage access to materials among all county libraries through cooperation and exchange of information, to promote state and national guidelines for library service, to educate the public about library services and funding issues, to provide regular programs, meetings and publications to educate members, and to oppose censorship and pledge active support in local areas where freedoms are attacked. OLA is interested in promoting programs and projects in which all 17 libraries can participate, which utilize our county funding and which will promote literacy and reading. Our principal activities are meetings, training for members, and the Books for Babies program.

4. How was the Orange Library Association selected to participate in The Big Read?

Orange Library Association is one of 75 nonprofits participating in The Big Read 201-2011. Community organizations are selected by a panel of experts based on each organization's experience in building strong local partnerships, reaching and engaging new and diverse audiences, working with educators, involving local and state public officials, working with media, and excellence of plans to develop and implement a community-wide reading program.

5. Why did our community choose to read *The Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*?

"Edgar Allan Poe is an excellent choice for Orange County's Big Read because of his connection to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point," says Lisa Hewel, president of the Orange Library Association. Hewel adds, "Poe appeals to readers of all ages, so let us underestimate him nevermore." Poe was a cadet at West Point from July 1830 through February 19, 1831, when he was dismissed. Although he did well academically, he was not suited for the West Point life. He was expelled for failing to attend class and skipping mandatory chapel services. OLA is pleased that the novel's availability in Spanish will allow greater outreach to our rapidly growing Hispanic community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

See www.orangereads.org for detailed program information.

Before October 11

Faux Poe Contest poetry submissions accepted from Chester residents only, Chester Public Library

September 8

“A Tell-Tale Tale Is Told,” 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

September 14

“Poe Performances” film of Poe’s work, 1:30 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

September 15

“The Power of Poe’s PoeTree,” 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

September 21

“Poe Performances” film of Poe’s work, 1:30 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

September 22

“The Power of Poe’s PoeTree,” 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society

September 24

Manga Mania for teens with Debbie Lane, 5-6:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library

September 28

“Poe Performances” film of Poe’s work, 1:30 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society
“Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Mystery” with Mary Makofske, 7 p.m., Middletown Thrall Library

September 29

“The Power of Poe’s PoeTree,” 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society
“Sound Plus Sense: The Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe,” 7 p.m., Josephine-Louise Public Library

October 1

“Dark Art” Student Exhibit, through October 31, Greenwood Lake Public Library
Countywide Art Exhibit, through October 29, Orange County Government Center, Goshen
Student Art Exhibit, during library hours through October 22, Newburgh Free Library, Newburgh
Art Exhibit of works by students and Debbie Lane, through October 6, Lycian Centre, Sugar Loaf
David Keltz as Edgar Allan Poe, 7:30 p.m., Lycian Centre Pavilion, Sugar Loaf

October 2

Laurel Grove Cemetery Walk with Peter Osborne sponsored by Port Jervis Free Library, 1 p.m.
WTBQ AM/WTBQ FM “The Tell-Tale Heart” with Chris Godwin commentary, 3 p.m.
“Murder by Poe” theatrical production, 8 p.m., Lycian Centre Pavilion, Sugar Loaf

October 3

“Edgar Allan Poe: Mysterious as a Cat” keynote address, 3 p.m., Lycian Centre, Sugar Loaf

October 4

“Tea and Terror” Book Discussion, 2:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library

October 5

“Poe Performances” film of Poe’s work, 1:30 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society
Book discussion, 1:30 p.m., Highland Falls Library
Poe Art for teens with Debbie Lane, 5-6:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library

October 6

“The Power of Poe’s PoeTree,” 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society
Scary Stories and Craft for grades K-1, 4:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library
“Spooky New York” with Eileen Stelljes, 7 p.m., Moffat Library of Washingtonville

October 7

Scary Stories and Craft for grades 2-5, 4:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library
“Close Encounters with Birds of Prey” with Bill Streeter, 6:30 p.m., Cornwall Public Library
Adult/Teen Book Discussion led by Gaspare Perello, 7 p.m., Tuxedo Park Library

October 8

“The Big Bleed for The Big Read” blood drive, 1-7 p.m., Greenwood Lake Library
Friday Afternoon at the Movies for adults, 2 p.m., Monroe Free Library
“The Big Bleed for The Big Read” blood drive, 2-7 p.m., Middletown Thrall Library
Teen Movie Fright Night, 6 p.m., Monroe Free Library

October 9

WTBQ AM/WTBQ FM “Purloined Letter” broadcast with Chris Godwin commentary, 3 p.m.
“Murder by Poe” play, 8 p.m., Hudson Hall, Mount St. Mary College, Newburgh

October 12

“The Big Bleed for The Big Read” blood drive, 4-7 p.m., Cornwall Public Library
Movie Night: An Evening of Edgar Allan Poe, 6:30 p.m., Greenwood Lake Public Library
Greg Giblin reads Edgar Allan Poe poetry, 7 p.m., Port Jervis Free Library

October 13

Great Beginnings Adult Book Discussion Group Reads Poe, 7:30 p.m., Moffat Library
Book Discussion with Dr. Jessica Gerson, 7:30 p.m., Newburgh Free Library

October 14

Scary Reader’s Theater for grades 2-5, 6:45 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library
“The Gold Bug of Farrow Point” discussion, 10:30 a.m., Greenwood Lake Public Library
“Black Cats, This and That: The Fanciful Creatures of Poe,” 4 p.m., Josephine-Louise Library
Based on Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher” film, 7 p.m., Middletown Thrall Library
Adult Book Discussion with Wendy Dembeck, 7 p.m., Monroe Free Library
Black Dirt Storytelling Guild in “Ravens and Wraiths,” 7:30 p.m., Florida Public Library

October 15

“The Big Bleed for The Big Read” blood drive, 2-6 p.m., Florida Public Library
Coffee House of Usher Open Mic for teens, 5:30 p.m., Monroe Free Library
“Murder by Poe” play, 8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Port Jervis

October 16

“Encrypting and Secret Codes” for grades 3-6, 10:30 a.m., Greenwood Lake Public Library
Movie Matinee with Edgar Allan Poe, 1 p.m., Highland Falls Library
“Words to Pictures” video interpretations of Poe’s poetry 1 p.m., Greenwood Lake Public Library

October 16 (continued)

WTBQ AM/WTBQ FM Poe's poetry broadcast with Chris Godwin commentary, 3 p.m.
Silent film: "The Phantom of the Opera," 2:30 p.m., Port Jervis Free Library
Murder by Poe" play, 8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Port Jervis

October 17

Book Discussion with Wendy Dembeck, noon, Greenwood Lake Public Library

October 18

"The Big Bleed for The Big Read" blood drive, 4-7 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library
Poe T-shirt silk screening, 6 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library, Warwick
Ghost detective Michael Worden, 7 p.m., Newburgh Free Library

October 19

Book Discussion of selected Poe short stories, 7 p.m., Cornwall Public Library
Greg Giblin reads Edgar Allan Poe stories, 7 p.m., Port Jervis Free Library

October 20

Book Discussion, 10:30 a.m., Pine Bush Area Library District
Mystery and Suspense Book Discussion Group Reads Poe, 7:30 p.m., Moffat Library

October 21

Make Your Own Tombstone, Craft, 6 p.m., Goshen Public Library & Historical Society
"Close Encounters with Birds of Prey," 6:30 p.m., Greenwood Lake Public Library
Edgar Allan Poe's Detective Stories Discussion, 6:30 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library
Scary Reader's Theater for grades 2-5, 6:45 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library
Readings from Edgar Allan Poe with Ken Tschan, 7:30 p.m., Moffat Library of Washingtonville

October 23

Old Town Cemetery Tour with historian Mary McTamaney, 2 p.m., Newburgh Free Library
"Poe"try in the Evening, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 74 Wallkill Ave., Montgomery

October 24

Murder Mystery Dessert Theater, 2-5 p.m., Middletown Senior Center, \$15 tickets
Pop Music in the Age of Poe with Lydia Adams Davis, 3 p.m., Newburgh Free Library

October 25

Book Discussion with Wendy Dembeck, 7 p.m., Port Jervis Free Library

October 26

"Every Picture Tells a Story" for teens with Debbie Lane, 5 p.m., Monroe Free Library
"Edgar Allan Poe at West Point & in the Military" with Tony McGowan, 7 p.m., Cornwall Library

October 27

"The Horror: A Tribute to Edgar Allan Poe," 6:30 p.m., Albert Wisner Public Library
Edgar Allan Poe Lecture with Douglas Ridgeway, 7 p.m., Highland Falls Library
"Spooky Guy, Spooky Story: Poe & 'The Tell-Tale Heart,'" 7 p.m., Josephine-Louise Library

October 28

“The Big Bleed for The Big Read” blood drive, 1-4 p.m., Josephine-Louise Library
“Monster Mash” make your own monster craft, 6:30 p.m., Goshen Public Library
ABC Book Club: Detective Stories by Poe with Mary Langton, 6:30 p.m., Florida Public Library
“The Pit and the Pendulum” film screening, 7 p.m., Middletown Thrall Library

October 29

Movie Night with Edgar Allan Poe, 7 p.m., Highland Falls Library
Monster Bash Costume Party, 7-11 p.m., Golf Club at Mansion Ridge, Monroe
Spooky Halloween Tales with Montgomery Free Library, 7:30 p.m., Montgomery Senior Center

October 31

Faux Poetry Contest winners announced, Chester Public Library

November 3

“Into the Pit” staged reading of “The Pit and the Pendulum, 7 p.m., Goshen Public Library

November 7

Pop Culture in the Age of Poe with Homespun Community Dance, 3 p.m., Newburgh Library