Winter would not be complete without Edgar Allan Poe’s Birthday Bash at the Poe Museum, and this year’s was the biggest to date—featuring at least one performance, lecture, or tour every hour from noon until midnight as well as the new exhibit “Still Beating: ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’ Turns 170.” Hundreds of Poe fans flocked to the Museum for birthday cake (being served by Poe Foundation President Harry Lee Poe in the above photo) and performances (left). A group of true fans actually stayed until midnight for the champagne toast in the Enchanted Garden. Many thanks to all those who attended as well as to CultureWorks, Yelp, Fruit 66 and River City Rollergirls for making this event possible.
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Poe Museum Receives Gifts

When most people think of the Poe Museum’s collections, they envision the hundreds of artifacts and manuscripts on display in the museum’s galleries. Poe’s boyhood bed and even the author’s vest may be among the pieces that come to mind, but most of the museum’s thousands of objects never go on display. Accessible by appointment, the museum’s archives and reference collection contain a wealth of important material. Some of the most interesting collections are the papers compiled by Poe scholars and biographers. These include boxes of notes and source materials assembled by James H. Whitty, Mary Newton Stanard, Thomas Ollive Mabbott, Hervey Allen, Agnes Marcuson, and more. Last year, the collection grew with the addition of seventeen boxes of material assembled by former Poe Museum president Bruce V. English. Last month, the collection received yet another important gift of Poe material from former Poe Museum trustee Burton Pollin.

Dr. Pollin was one of the most respected and prolific Poe scholars of the twentieth century. Until his death a few years ago, Dr. Pollin regularly supported the Poe Museum with both monetary donations and gifts of his numerous articles, essays, and books on Poe. The present collection, transferred from the New York Public Library, consists of twenty-two boxes of material Dr. Pollin assembled while conducting research for his book *Images of Poe’s Works: A Comprehensive Descriptive Catalog of Illustrations of Poe’s Works*. As the title suggests, this book was a survey of illustrations of Poe’s works produced around the world from Poe’s time until the late 1980s. Although Pollin’s book contains very few illustrations of the artwork it lists, these boxes hold copies of several of the illustrations. We trust they will be an excellent resource for anyone researching the visual art inspired by Poe’s stories and poems.

In addition to this gift of documentation of Poe-inspired artwork, the Poe Museum also received the gift of an original illustration (above) to one of Poe’s stories in *Marvel Classics* from collector James Vacca, who also made generous loans to two of the Poe Museum’s exhibits. Last week, the Museum received from Eric W. Johnson of Richmond another gift, first printings of Poe’s story “The Oval Portrait” (printed under its original title “Life in Death”) and a number of Poe’s essays from 1842 issues of *Graham’s Magazine*.

Popular Comic Artist Visits Poe Museum

On March 14, the Poe Museum hosted a talk by one of the artists featured in its exhibit “Still Beating: ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’ Turns 170.” One of the world’s most popular comic artists Michael Golden (right) spent a few hours at the museum, signing autographs and answering questions from fans. During a brief talk, Golden mentioned that his first published artwork was an adaptation of Poe’s story “The Cask of Amontillado” for *Marvel Classics*. He found the story a welcome escape from the superhero comics he usually did. Upon his departure he autographed a print of one of his drawings for the Poe Museum.
The Unhappy Hour Returns

The Poe Museum kicked off its 2013 Unhappy Hour season with an evening devoted to Poe’s poem “A Dream Within a Dream” on April 25. Live music was provided by the piano-driven local band Ocean Versus Daughter. Returning to the Poe Museum after last summer’s thrilling performance as Berenice, Richmond-based actress Amber Boice (right) performed poems and stories by Edgar Allan Poe before and after the music, and the evening concluded with a screening of “The Persistence of Poe” a documentary by Quail Bell Productions. Throughout the event, the guests explored the museum and its new exhibit about Poe in popular culture. As always, the Poe Museum’s Unhappy Hour provided a cash bar and complimentary food. The bar featured wine from Gundlach Bundschu, the oldest family owned winery in California.

Upcoming Unhappy Hours during the spring season include “Annabel Lee” on May 23rd, and “The Premature Burial” on June 27th. The May event will feature live music by Technicians, a book signing by Jeff Abugel (author of Edgar Allan Poe’s Petersburg [left]), and a performance of Poe’s poetry by Amber Boice. The June event with feature live music by Steph Stewart and the Boyfriends and a poetry reading. The Unhappy Hour is made possible by CultureWorks, Gundlach Bundschu, and Fruit 66. ~JE

Travel to Poe’s Paris with New Exhibit

Even during his lifetime, Poe was a celebrity in France—a country he never visited. Soon after his death in 1849, his works were translated by leading French writers like Charles Baudelaire and Stéphane Mallarmé, and “The Raven” was illustrated by the most important French artists from Doré to Manet. It is largely due to the French people’s promotion of Poe’s works at a time when the author and his writing had been dismissed by American scholars, that Poe’s works are held in such high esteem today. The Poe Museum’s new exhibit "Poe in Paris" will explore Poe's presence in mid-nineteenth century Paris. Visitors will see rare editions of Baudelaire’s translations of Poe’s works as well as portraits of Poe by Manet, Matisse, and other French artists.

For those who would like to be among the first to see the exhibit, the Poe Museum will host a special preview reception on Saturday, June 22 from five to nine in the evening. Guests at the reception will enjoy a French-themed evening of wine and hors d’ouvre and a curator talk about the show. You will not want to miss this event.

Tickets for the exhibit preview are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Poe Museum members get $5 off their ticket price by ordering in advance at 888-21-EAPOE. The exhibit will run from June 23 until September 8, 2013.

Left: Lithograph of Poe by Édouard Manet
**Mascots Promote Museum**

Late last year three black kittens were born behind the Poe Shrine in the Poe Museum’s Enchanted Garden. Although one kitten soon found a home with a museum docent, the other two stayed to become mascots for the museum. Edgar (below) and Pluto are very friendly and regularly greet guests in the gift shop or spy on them from upstairs windows. The kittens have also proven themselves popular on our Facebook page, where they have helped us significantly increase our followers in recent months, and they are a favorite with student groups. Although, to the untrained eye, the kittens appear to sleep and play most of the day, they are really hard at work promoting the Poe Museum.

**Enchanted Garden Honored**

The Poe Museum was listed as one of the top wedding vendors in Virginia by *Virginia Living Magazine*. The complete list appeared in the January/February 2013 issue of *Virginia Living Magazine*. This is the first year the magazine has included what the publication anticipates to be an annual *Virginia Living* weddings supplement, in which the finest wedding vendors in the Commonwealth are recognized. For more information on having a wedding in the Poe Museum’s Enchanted Garden, visit [http://www.poemuseum.org/about-weddings.php](http://www.poemuseum.org/about-weddings.php) ~JE

**Arts & Culture Expo Returns**

On June 29 from 9-5 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, the Poe Museum will take part in the third annual Arts and Culture Expo (formerly the CultSha Xpo). This event will bring together arts and culture organizations from throughout the Greater Richmond region to share their stories with the public. This will be a great opportunity for new audiences to get to know the Poe Museum and the work it does to promote a lifelong love of reading and writing. Admission is free, so join us for a day of family-friendly fun and promoting the Poe Museum.

**Support the Poe Museum**

Last summer, the Poe Museum’s membership increased by an amazing 65% because people like you believe that great literature should be preserved and promoted. Now, as last year’s annual memberships are expiring, we ask that you consider renewing your membership for another year at [http://poemuseum.org/membership](http://poemuseum.org/membership). Your support makes our work possible.

**Volunteers Make It Happen**

Since its early days the Poe Museum has been fortunate to have a team of dedicated and capable volunteers to help it accomplish its mission. Visitors to the museum might remember our incredible model of Poe’s Richmond, but they might not realize it was constructed by a volunteer named Edith Ragland, who devoted three years to the project. The next time you visit the museum, you might admire a flower planted by a garden volunteer, or you may be greeted by a volunteer working at our front desk. The Poe Museum’s volunteers and interns help with almost every facet of the museum’s operations from leading guided tours to staffing special events. Volunteers even help take care of the museum’s resident black cats. Without their help, the Poe Museum would not have been able to serve students and the general public for the past nine decades. If you are interested in joining our team, please call Keith at 888-21-EAPOE.
June Brings Two Poe-Themed Conferences to Virginia

This June the Poe Museum will host two very different conferences that are sure to inform and inspire literature lovers both young and old. On June 16-22, the Edgar Allan Poe Young Writers’ Conference (left) will return to Richmond with ten students from across the United States. This week-long residential writing program will give these gifted students a unique opportunity to learn the craft of writing from professional writers, workshops, and field trips to some of the sites that inspired Poe’s writing. At the end of the week, the public will have a chance to meet the conferees for a special reception and reading at the Poe Museum on Friday, June 21 from 7-9 P.M. At the reception, the students will read some of the work they produced during the conference. The reception is free and open to the public, so please join us in supporting these talented young writers.

If you are in the mood for a conference that explores some of the little known facets of Poe’s life and works, then the Positively Poe Conference is for you. This June 24-26 at the University of Virginia, the conference uncovers Poe’s contributions to art, culture, science, and philosophy. You will leave this conference seeing Poe in an entirely new way. The conference kicks off with dinner in the UVA Rotunda and features a picnic in the Ragged Mountains, the setting for Poe’s “A Tale of the Ragged Mountains.” For more information, visit www.poemuseum.org.

Enchanted Garden Will Be Reborn

In “The Domain of Arnheim,” Edgar Allan Poe describes a man who believes landscape gardening is a form of poetry. According to the narrator, “In the multiform and multicolor of the flowers and the trees, he recognized the most direct and energetic efforts of Nature at physical loveliness. And in the direction or concentration of this effort -- or, more properly, in its adaptation to the eyes which were to behold it on earth -- he perceived that he should be employing the best means -- laboring to the greatest advantage -- in the fulfillment, not only of his own destiny as poet, but of the august purposes for which the Deity had implanted the poetic sentiment in man.” After reading this passage it should come as no surprise the founders of the Poe Museum Made Richmond’s first memorial to Poe a garden.

Long a destination for the world’s leading writers and artists, the Poe Museum’s Enchanted Garden remains an oasis in the heart of the city, but the garden is starting to show the expected signs of ninety years of wear and tear as well as the incongruous effects of various reservations made over the years. But the next renovation, scheduled to begin this summer, will be different because it is being taken on by the Garden Club of Virginia’s restoration committee. Having determined that the museum’s garden is of historical and cultural significance and in need of restoration, the committee began the process by studying the site and its history. After multiple visits to the museum and discussions with the Poe Museum’s board and curator, landscape architect Will Rieley of Rieley and Associates has presented a preliminary plan of new plants that will be added to the garden over the course of the year ahead. While the main garden will be replanted to look much as it did when the museum opened in 1922, the smaller gardens in the complex will reference specific stories. For example, museum guests will see an Appalachian area based on “A Tale of the Ragged Mountains” and a Low Country garden that pays homage to “The Gold-Bug.” Rieley envisions the Poe Museum’s garden maintaining its historic character while being revitalized by the expert addition of new plants so that the site becomes a destination not only for lovers of literature but also for the tourists who flock to the nation’s most beautiful gardens. The restoration will be complete by April 2014.
Poe Museum Upcoming Events

May 23, 6-9 P.M.
Event: May Unhappy Hour: “Annabel Lee”
Poe was married in May, so join us for a romantic Unhappy Hour with live music by Technicians, performances of Poe's love poetry by Amber Boice, and a book signing by Jeff Abugel, who has written a book about Poe's honeymoon.

June 16-22, 2013
Event: Edgar Allan Poe Young Writers’ Conference
High school students enjoy a week-long residential writing experience like no other.

June 22, 2013, 5-9 P.M.
Event: Poe in Paris Preview and Wine Reception
Be among the first to experience this new exhibit with an evening in the Poe Museum’s Enchanted Garden. Tickets are $25 in advance at $30 at the door.

June 23–September 8, 2013
Exhibit: Poe in Paris
Discover Poe’s international significance with this new exhibit featuring works by Manet, Matisse, and more.

June 24-26, 2013
Event: The Positively Poe Conference
Come to Charlottesville for the first conference devoted to Poe’s positive contributions to world culture. For more information, write positivelypoe@gmail.com.

June 27, 6-9 P.M.
Event: June Unhappy Hour: “The Premature Burial”
Feeling buried by paperwork? Stop by the Poe Museum after work to see how much worse things could be at our “Premature Burial” Unhappy Hour. Live music by Steph Stewart and the Boyfriends.

Check our website at www.poemuseum.org/events or call 888-21-EAPOE for all the latest updates on events and exhibits.