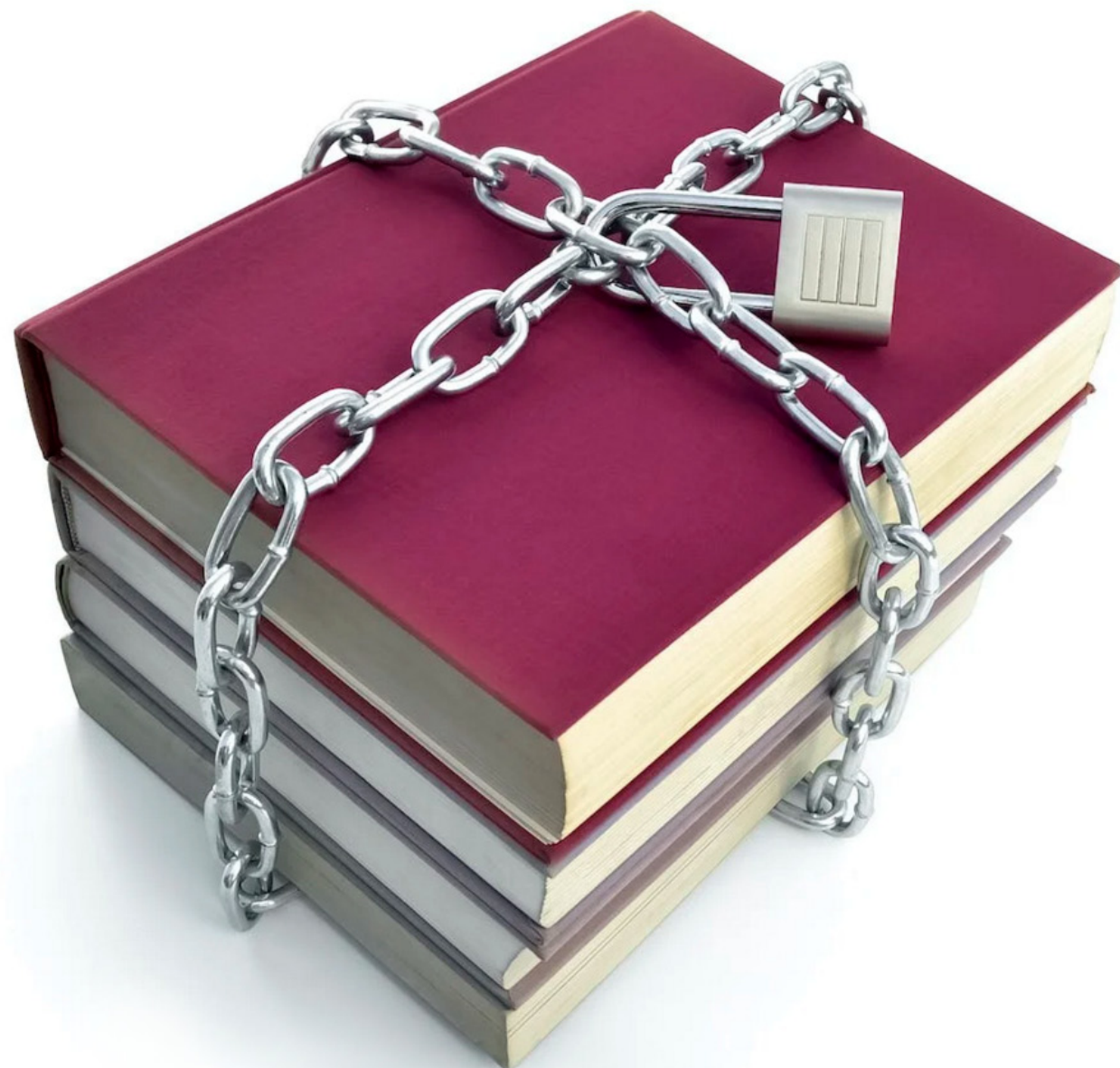




DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



Join us Sunday October 1st at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St., for a presentation by the Freedom from Religion Foundation's Sammi Lawrence on

Book Bans: A Threat to Secular Democracy

See page 2

Scary Hour	Page 3
Sink Your Fangs	Page 4
Haunted Pavilion Party	Page 5
Edgar Allan Poe	Page 6



L A K E
S U P E R I O R
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FREETHINKERS**

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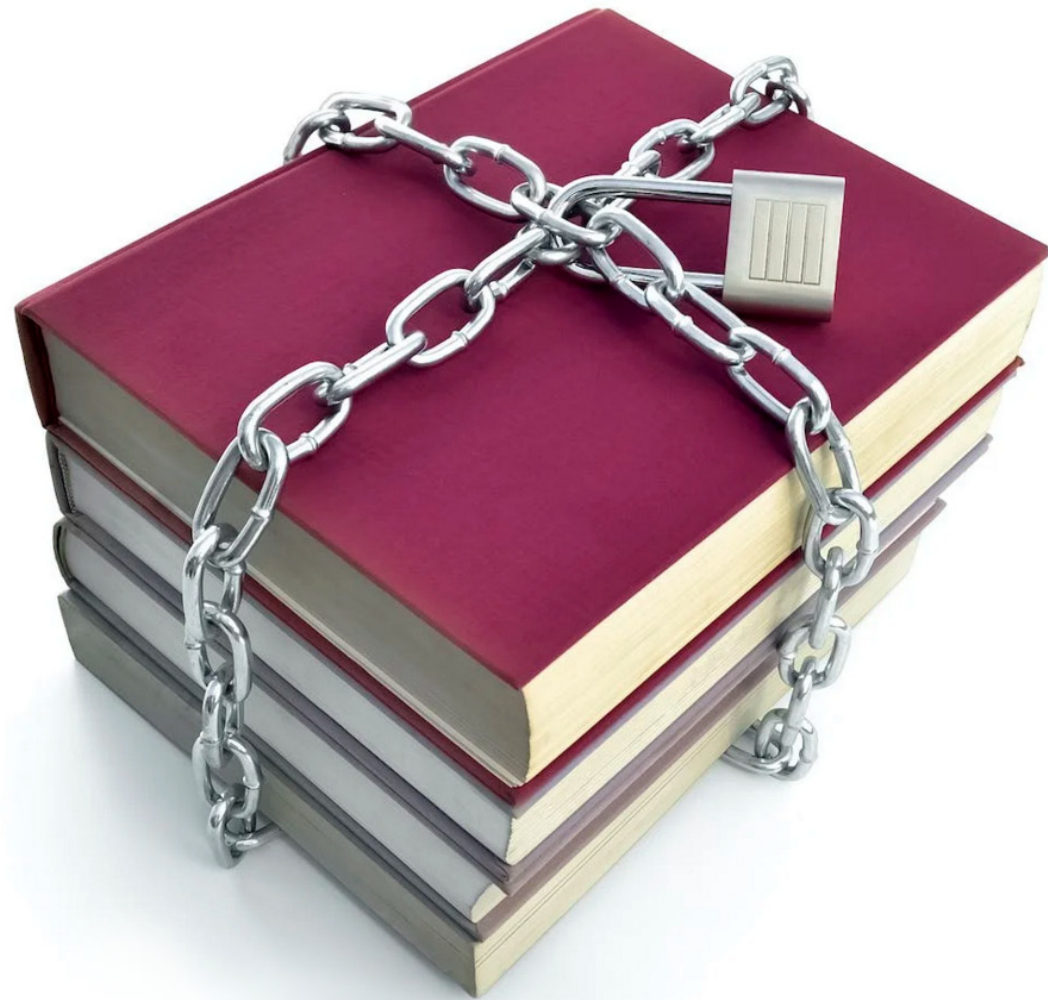
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(218) 728-1361



Join us Sunday October 1st at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St.,
for a presentation by the Freedom from Religion Foundation's Sammi Lawrence on

Book Bans: A Threat to Secular Democracy



The ongoing wave of book bans in our public school districts and libraries is a major threat to our secular democracy. Learn how these book bans and censorship harm the separation of state and church and what citizens can do to fight back.



SAMMI LAWRENCE joined FFRF as the Anne Nicol Gaylor Legal Fellow in June 2022. Sammi was raised in Southern Wisconsin and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2017 with a B.A. in English Literature and a minor in Professional Writing & Publishing. She first worked for FFRF as a legal intern while attending law school at the University of Wisconsin. She graduated with her Juris Doctor from UW-Law in May 2022. In her free time, she enjoys fencing, hiking, listening to audiobooks, and painting.



EAT, DRINK, AND BE SCARY!

Join us for Happy Hour, Thursday October 5th from 4:00-6:00 pm at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex. You'll shriek with delight at the reduced price Monster Margaritas and validated free parking for your Hearse. Why not bring a Fiend!

ARE YOU READY FOR A BITE

JOIN US WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18TH AT 5:30 PM FOR OUR OCTOBER SOCIAL DINNER AT BLACKWOODS, 2525 LONDON ROAD, DULUTH



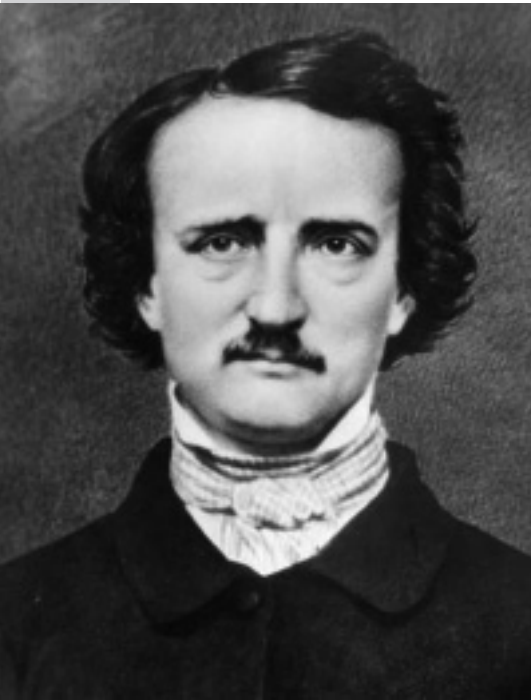
Next Pavilion Party October 28th

Pavilion Parties continue on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Haunted Home of our "Flounder" Bill Van Druten, 2931 Greysolon Road.

Plan to arrive at 1pm. Please bring something to share: like a Bat casserole you've prepared or maybe some goulish liquid concoction that's fun to drink in good company. Park your coach anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!



Edgar Allan Poe

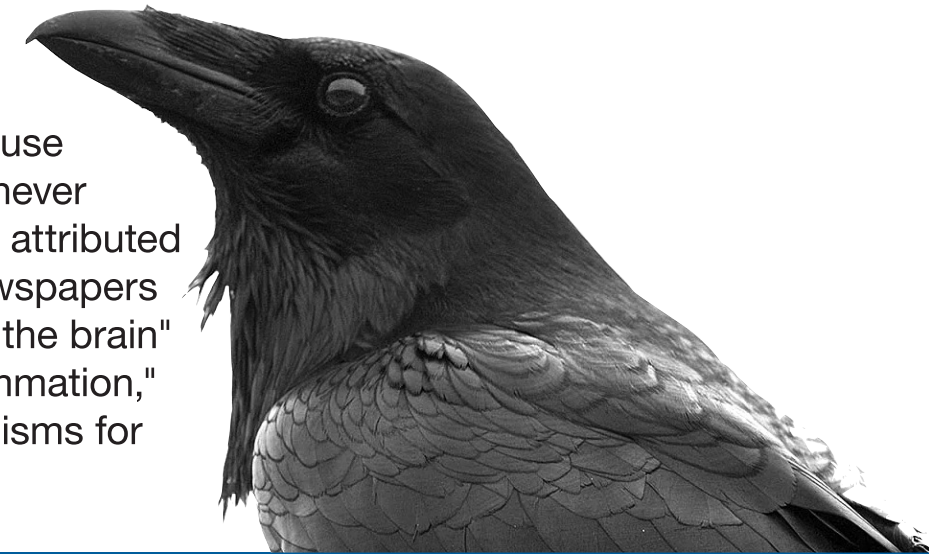


On January 19th in 1809, writer Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston. When his parents, both actors, died before he was 3, he was adopted by John Allan, who educated him in London and Virginia. Poe attended the University of Virginia for one year before dropping out. He began writing poetry, served in the U.S. Army for two years and was awarded a prize for a short story in 1833. He moved to Baltimore and lived with his widowed aunt and her daughter, Virginia, and began editing the Southern Literary Messenger.

He married his 13-year-old cousin, Virginia Clemm, in 1836 and moved with her to New York City and Philadelphia, living in poverty while in search of better writing positions. His only complete novel, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* (1838), was followed by *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* (1839), *The Pit and the Pendulum* (1842), *The Tell-Tale Heart* (1843) and other works classified as tales. Poe is considered a pioneer of thrillers and detective fiction, writing *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1841), *The Mystery of Marie Roget* (1842), *The Gold Bug* (1843), and *The Purloined Letter* (1844).

The Raven, and Other Poems, was published to great acclaim in 1845. Virginia died of tuberculosis in 1847, inspiring Poe's famous poem "Annabel Lee." His "prose poem" *Eureka*, according to freethought historian Joseph McCabe, "embodies a Pantheism which is not far removed from Agnosticism." (*A Biographical Dictionary of Modern Rationalists*, 1920.) In it, Poe wrote that we know nothing about the nature of God, that nature and God are the same, and there is no personal immortality.

He died unexpectedly at age 40 in 1849 in Baltimore. The cause of his death was never resolved and was attributed at the time by newspapers to "congestion of the brain" or "cerebral inflammation," common euphemisms for alcoholism.



“Let us begin, then, at once, with that merest of words, 'Infinity.' This, like 'God,' 'spirit,' and some other expressions of which the equivalents exist in all languages, is by no means the expression of an idea — but of an effort at one. It stands for the possible attempt at an impossible conception.”