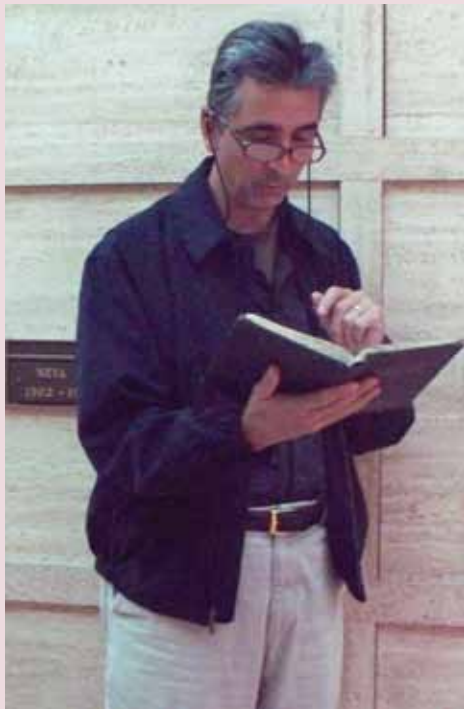




**Above**, the 100-year-old mausoleum at Santa Rose Cemetery where the book reading took place. **Right**, setting up the author book table are Tim Maloney, celebrant; Karen Pierce Gonzalez, organizer; and Laura Neisius, cemetery general manager.



**David Gonzalez** reads Edgar Allen Poe's "Tell Tale Heart."

■ **SANTA ROSA MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY AND CREMATORY**, Santa Rosa, California, **recently hosted its first Mystery/Suspense Writers in the Mausoleum event**. Collaborating with Redwood Writers, Sisters in Crime NorCal and Folk-Heart Press, the writers gathered a crowd to the 100-year-old mausoleum.

Bright luminaries that lined the entrance and lighting inside the Alaskan marbled room, which has no electricity, were candles that created a mystic yet elegant feel. Six writers and two dramatic readers read to the standing-room-only group. The readers were diverse in their storytelling, ranging from novel excerpts, such as "Demon Slayer," to short stories and classic pieces, like "Frankenstein" and "Tell Tale Heart."

The crowd was as diverse as the readers. Adults ranged from college students to seniors, and the crowd included a few children. An English professor at Santa Rosa Junior College even offered extra credit for students who attended the reading and wrote journal entries about it.



**Writers Kim Richards Gilchrist and John Moran**, outside the mausoleum where the book reading took place.

Laura Neisius, general manager of the memorial park, said the event, which the cemetery plans to make an annual one, is a great way to showcase some of Sonoma County's literary talent and provide people with a real Halloween scare. □