

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

May 8, 2017

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Deputy Director

Memorial Day Closing

The State Library will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. The library will resume normal business hours Tuesday, May 30.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Congratulations to two staff members on their work anniversaries. Sheri Vaughan celebrated 15 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Office of the Secretary of State and the State Library. Jodi Miler celebrated 10 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the State Library. Best wishes to Andrew Spiro, Bella Belogorsky and Bonnie Roberts on their next steps beyond the State Library. Andrew accepted a new position with the Illinois State Archives and his last day at the State Library was April 28. Bella departs the State Library after 20 years of services for retirement. Bonnie Roberts is also entering retirement after one year at the State Library.

Jesse White Announces Winners of “Letters About Literature” Contest

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that students from Sugar Grove, Mettawa and Petersburg are the Illinois winners of the 2017 “Letters About Literature” contest. The reading and writing contest for students is sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book. Winning Illinois letters have been submitted to the Library of Congress for entry into the National Contest. White honored the winners at a ceremony at the State Library.

This year's Illinois winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4-6: **Veronica Regelbrugge** of Sugar Grove wrote to author Wendy Mass about her book, “A Mango Shaped Space.” Veronica is a student at Harter Middle School in Sugar Grove, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Ann Ritchie.
- Level II, Grades 7-8: **Josie Arnold** of Mettawa wrote to author Jennifer Niven about her book “All the Bright Places.” Josie attends Quest Academy in Palatine, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Jen Fabsik.
- Level III, Grades 9-12: **Keeley Logsdon** of Petersburg wrote to author Kathryn Stockett about her book, “The Help.” Keeley attends PORTA High School in Petersburg, and her letter was submitted by her teacher Pat Marshall.

Each winner received a \$200 check from the Illinois Center for the Book, a plaque signed by Secretary White, and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Teachers received a \$100 check from the Illinois Center for the Book to purchase books for their school library and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Learn more about the contest and read the winning essays at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book.

Jesse White Announces 13th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Entry forms are available for the 13th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by **June 30, 2017**. Cash prizes will be awarded for first (\$500), second (\$300) and third place (\$100). Winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in the "Ninth Letter," "RHINO" and "Quiddity" journals and "Poetic License Press" publications. Winners will read their poems at a ceremony later this year at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

Entry forms can be found at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book. For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book Coordinator [Bonnie Matheis](#) at 217-558-2065.

Signed OCLC Service Renewal Agreements Needed

The FY18 OCLC services renewal agreements were mailed recently. Signed agreements are due back to the State Library by **June 30, 2017**. If your library will not be renewing OCLC service, please contact [Sue Burkholder](#) by June 20, 2017.

Illinois Literacy spring 2017 Issue Now Available

The spring 2017 issue of [Illinois Literacy](#) is now available. Illinois Literacy is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy Office that provides information and news concerning literacy in Illinois.

Illinois Literacy Foundation Luncheon

If you are attending ALA 2017, join Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, Monday, June 26, 2017 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., as he welcomes Leslie Parry, who will read from her spellbinding novel, "Church of Marvels," and enjoy a family-style luncheon at Maggiano's at 516 N. Clark Street in Chicago. Please [register](#) ahead of time for this event as part of your ALA conference experience.

E-rate Application Window Closing Soon

The Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) FY17 application filing window will close this **Thursday, May 11**, at 12:59 p.m. Visit the State Library's [website](#) for more information about applying for the USAC Schools and Libraries Program.

IMLS Budget Update

The American Library Association (ALA) announced that on **Monday, May 1**, Congress reached an agreement on a bill to fund the U.S. government through September 2017. This FY2017 budget proposal includes \$231 million for IMLS, which represents an increase of \$1 million over their FY2016 allotment.

However, the 2018 federal fiscal year starts October 2017 and currently, the federal FY2018 budget proposal eliminates funding for IMLS. Please continue to watch for announcements as the FY2018 budget is negotiated.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums. In the past, IMLS has awarded about \$155 million in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds in support of library services to every state and territory in the country through a population-based formula grant program. This is the grant program through which the Illinois State Library receives the federal LSTA funds to support statewide library services. In addition, the Illinois State Library was recently awarded two grants from IMLS to help libraries better serve patrons and family members impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Public Library Data Landscape Webinars

As part of the Measures that Matter initiative, IMLS and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) will offer a three-part webinar series about the public library data landscape during May, June and July. The first webinar, "Measures that Matter: A View into the Current Public Library Data Landscape," will occur on **May 23** from 2 p.m.–3 p.m. Visit [WebJunction](#) for more information.

"Illinois Reads" Author Spotlights

Each of the highlighted authors has published a book that has been selected to be on the 2017 "Illinois Reads" [book list](#) for grades 3-5.

Writer and director, Eric Kahn Gale resides in Chicago and has written screenplays for adults and, in the last few years, started publishing books for children. His second book, "Zoo at the Edge of the World," is an ageless story about a young boy named Marlin, the son of a famous explorer, who is the owner of a zoo for the rich and famous. Marlin is often teased but it is not until he discovers a new ability that his life changes forever.

Chicago native, Janet Nolan is the author of several fiction, non-fiction and historical fiction picture books for children. Her book, "Seven and a Half Tons of Steel," is about the building of the USS New York's bough from a steel beam that was once inside of the World Trade Towers and shows "how something remarkable can emerge from a devastating event."

Art Baltazar is a Chicago artist, writer and award-winning cartoonist. He currently works for DC Comics and is the creative force behind The New York Times Best Selling "Tiny Titans" Series. The series has won two Eisner Awards for Best Publication for Kids and a Harvey Award for Best Original Graphic Publication for Younger Readers. In the book, young readers will enjoy the adventures of the young heroes of Sidekick Elementary and repeating their catchy team phrase "Aw Yeah, Titans!"

To learn more about Eric, Janet or Art, visit their author profiles in the [Illinois Authors Wiki](#), a project of the State Library's [Illinois Center for the Book](#).

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Aquinas Literacy Center** in Chicago. A young woman from the Dominican Republic enrolled in English as a Second Language classes with hopes of enrolling in college and becoming a teacher. The learner was an educator in her home country and she wanted to continue teaching in her new city. In September, the learner registered at Aquinas and quickly began logging several hours a day of English practice. In October, she was placed with a tutor who gave her one-on-one instruction for 90 minutes a week. She also began to volunteer at the center and in her last year as a student she started a job in a restaurant with her new English language skills. The learner graduated in June and received a scholarship award from Aquinas, which is given to an outstanding graduate who embodies their mission of helping others. She has enrolled in a community college to continue her learning and is well on her way of achieving her goal of becoming a teacher.

State Library's Comprehensive Online Calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

Sign up for E-News

E-News is the best way to find out what's happening at the State Library, including grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news. Nearly 5,000 subscribers receive E-News each month. To subscribe to E-News or for more information, contact [Kyle Peebles](#) at 217-558-4029.