

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY October 10, 2017

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

Live and Learn Construction Webinar

A Live and Learn Construction grant information webinar is set for 2 p.m. on **October 17**. The webinar will provide an overview of the program, which will include eligibility requirements, grant categories, rules and regulations governing the program, application procedures, required supporting documentation, grant submission and review procedures. Registration for the webinar is done through [L2](#). The webinar will be recorded and archived for those unable to attend, as it is being done in conjunction with the FY18 Live and Learn Construction Grants, which are now open to public libraries. Information about the public library construction grant program is available on the State Library's [website](#). Applications are due to the State Library on or before **Jan. 12, 2018**. For more information, contact [Mark Shaffer](#) 217-524-4901 or [Pat Boze](#) 217-782-1891.

FY2018 School District Library Grant Application Available Online

The School District Library Grant Application is now available online. The deadline for submitting your [School District Library Grant Application](#) is **October 15**. The [Expenditure Report](#) for school District Library grant awarded in FY2016 is also due on **October 15**. Questions may be directed to 800-665-5576, Option 2. For further information about the Illinois State Library's School District Library Grant Program, please visit: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html>.

ILL Traffic Survey

The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan (ILL) & Reciprocal Borrowing (RB) Statistical Survey is now available at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/ill_survey.html. The FY2017 (June 30, 2016–July 1, 2017) ILLINET ILL Traffic Survey must be completed by **March 31, 2018**. School districts should provide data based on interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing activity for all school buildings within the school district. Libraries can also view their ILL statistics online. For questions regarding the ILLINET ILL Traffic Survey or for the username and password, contact the Illinois State Library at 1-800-665-5576, ext. 2. Contact Counting Opinions for technical assistance by email at rpatrick@countingopinions.com or by phone at 1-866-850-8366.

Try-it! Illinois Underway

Try-It! Illinois, the annual statewide electronic database trial offers the over 1,800 library agencies, their staffs and patrons an opportunity to evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. There is no charge for accessing these during Try-It! Illinois. To obtain the login and password between October 1 and November 30, visit [Try-It! Illinois](#).

Illinois Bicentennial Art Contest

Illinois children from kindergarten through high school can help celebrate the state's bicentennial by using their imaginations and artistic skills in a contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The contest theme is "Happy Birthday, Illinois." Students can explore that theme by drawing or painting anything they want, from famous moments in Illinois history to Lincoln eating birthday cake. Artwork may be submitted until **December 15**. The winning pieces will be displayed at the Lincoln Presidential Library throughout the bicentennial year of 2018. Visit bit.ly/ALPLMartcontest for details.

Letters About Literature Contest

Students in grades 4 through 12 are encouraged to enter the 2018 "Letters About Literature" contest — a national reading and writing competition. Students are to read a book, poem or play of their choice and write a letter to the author about how the work changed their life or view of the world. Students can enter

on their own or through their schools, libraries or other youth organizations. There are three levels of participation: Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8 and Level III for grades 9-12. One Illinois winner will be selected for each level and receives a \$200 cash award. Teachers of the winning students will receive a \$100 cash award to purchase materials for their school library. Winners and teachers will be invited to an awards ceremony in Springfield. The state winners' letters will be forwarded for national judging. The deadline to enter the competition is **December 9**. State winners will be announced in April 2018. This program is funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation; the Library of Congress Fund; the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; and the Illinois Center for the Book. For more information about the competition, contact Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.net or 217-558-2065.

Additional information regarding "Letters About Literature" can be found at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/letters.html.

Judges are needed to read and rank the letters. Judging will take place from Mid-March to Early April. If interested, email Bonnie Matheis or 217-558-2065 by **October 16**.

"ILLINOIS READS" AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS

Each month, the State Library highlights three [2017 "Illinois Reads"](#) authors and their selected titles. "Illinois Reads" is an initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) that highlights the importance of reading at all ages and supports Illinois authors. The authors being highlighted have published a book that has been selected to be on the [2017 "Illinois Reads" book list for grades 9-12](#).

[PAULA GARNER](#) resides in Highland Park. She spends her time writing, reading and cooking. In her poignant debut novel for young adults, [Phantom Limbs](#), she shares the story of sixteen-year-old boy Otis who "must learn to swim against an undercurrent of grief—or be swept away by it." A story of loss, love, and friendship, Garner's book received a starred review from *School Library Journal* and has been added to several Young Adult reading lists.

[MICHELLE FALKOFF](#) writes young adult novels. She teaches legal writing at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and as well as fiction writing at the University of Chicago. Her debut novel, [Playlist for the Dead](#), is a candid and gut-wrenching story about "loss, rage, and what it feels like to outgrow a friendship that's always defined you – and the struggle to redefine yourself." The book was selected as an NPR Great Read of 2015.

[ADAM SELZER](#) is a professional ghost-buster and author living in Chicago. He is one of the founders of "Weird Chicago Tours" and writes humorous books for children and young adults and non-fiction for adults. His young adult book, [Play Me Backwards](#), is filled with humor and honesty about a high school "slacker who enlists the help of his best friend to get his act together." The book received a starred review from Voices of Youth Advocates (VOYA).

Family Reading Night

Family Reading Night 2017 will take place on **November 16**. The theme extends ILA's iREAD theme – "Reading by Design" with Little Elliot. Bookmarks and posters have been mailed to all ILLINET member elementary and middle school libraries and ILLINET public libraries. If you are not an ILLINET member or need additional materials, both are downloadable from the Family Reading Night webpage at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/frn.html. Libraries are encouraged to share their Family Reading Night plans and events with the State Library by forwarding the information to Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.net or calling 217-558-2065.

Teen Literacy Toolkit

The Young Adult Library Services Association has produced a downloadable toolkit to give librarians ideas and strategies for building critical literacy skills with teens. The toolkit uses the "fake news" phenomenon as a framework for how libraries can connect with teens to explore multiple literacies, such as text-based literacy, visual literacy, media literacy and more. The toolkit examines and discusses culturally-inclusive strategies a library staff can use with teens to help them make sense of their world and

builds a set of skills as they prepare to enter college or start careers. To access the free toolkit, visit <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teen-literacies-toolkit>.

Salute a Veteran

The [Illinois Veterans' History Project](#), in partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, honors Illinois veterans by documenting and preserving the memories of their military experiences. Secretary of State Jesse White launched this project so that future generations have a better understanding, appreciation and compassion for the sacrifices these brave men and women made in the name of patriotic duty. In this issue of ENews, the State Library is saluting Mrs. Elaine B. Ooley. Mrs. Ooley is a 103 year old WWII veteran who served in the Women's Air Corp. Her interview is available for viewing in the Illinois Veterans' History Project You Tube channel at <https://youtu.be/MPqAk6O6qLE>.

Fall Literacy Newsletter Available

The Fall 2017 issue of *Illinois Literacy* is now available at the following link - http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/illiteracy_fall17.pdf.

Libraries and literacy programs are encouraged to submit stories and photographs of special literacy events to the Illinois State Library Literacy Office for possible inclusion in upcoming issues. Please contact the Literacy Office at 800-665-5576, ext. 3, or email literacy@ilsos.net if you have any questions.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Lester & Rosalie Anixter Center** in Chicago. A learner at the Anixter Center has a hearing impairment and requires a tutor proficient in American Sign Language (ASL) to assist him with his learning goals. The communication method used between he and his tutor is a mix of speech and ASL, but according to the tutor "since literacy is our primary business, we decided to write stories together, each taking a turn at writing as the story thickens. In the process, I correct his writing and he learns from it. Each session involves looking up new words and using them appropriately." Their work together has helped the learner progress enormously in his reading. According to the tutor, "It seems that our story writing has facilitated an interesting change. I've noticed that he has progressed from reading cartoon with word bubble novels to straight text novels (few or no pictures). He took this step on his own as a natural progression."

Getting Started with Social Media for Your Library

WebJunction is hosting a webinar on initiating a library social media program on **October 24** at 1 p.m. Social media has the potential to increase community engagement with new and existing library patrons. The 90 minute session focuses on how libraries can effectively use social media tools, even with limited staff and time. Topics to be covered include how to identify the appropriate social media platforms to market library services and events; how to integrate best social media practices in the library's marketing plan; and how to utilize social media strategies and tactics for immediate impact. Register at <http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/getting-started-with-social-media.html>.

Save the Date: Rural and Small Library Conference

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) has announced they will hold their annual conference in Springfield, Illinois, September 13-15, 2018. The conference will be held at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center and will include an evening reception for all attendees at the Illinois State Library on September 13. The [ARSL web site](#) will have complete conference information as soon as details are finalized.

Columbus Day

The Illinois Digital Archives includes an image of the statute "Columbus Taking Possession," which stood in front of the Administration Building of Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The image was contributed by The Field Museum <http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/ref/collection/fmnh/id/245>.