



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

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### **Jesse White Announces 2010 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition**

SPRINGFIELD--Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book have announced that entries are now being accepted for the 2010 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition for poets and short story writers.

"I am pleased that this competition has gained a strong reputation in literary circles for uncovering and recognizing new literary talent," said White. "A number of our previous winners have seen their works published. The competition was designed to promote creative writing and encourage new Illinois authors to develop and share their talents. Their outstanding works are adding to Illinois' rich literary heritage."

White said the competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over and will again consist of two categories: the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and the James Jones Short Story Award. Three cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$100 will be available in both categories for original, unpublished works. Illinois poet laureate Kevin Stein will select winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois poet laureate. Kaylie Jones, the accomplished writer and daughter of James Jones, will pick winners of the James Jones Short Story Award, named for the acclaimed late Illinois novelist and short story writer. Winning poems and short stories will be submitted to Ninth Letter, RHINO, Springfield Poets and Writers, Downstate Story and Quiddity magazines for possible publication. Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by White, Stein and the James Jones Literary Society later this year.

The competition runs through June 30th. Entry forms, rules and other information may be found at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/lda96.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf). There is a \$20 per submission charge from which prizes will be awarded.

Secretary White acknowledged the continued support of Kevin Stein and the James Jones Literary Society that has played a major part in the success of the competition. The Illinois Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a not-for-profit organization promoting books, book arts, libraries and reading in Illinois. Established in 1985, the organization's mission is to celebrate the printed word and to create an environment that promotes reading, the book arts and an appreciation of the state's rich literary heritage.

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