

INSIGHT

Jesse White · Secretary of State & State Librarian

Three days of free fun at Book Fair

Large and enthusiastic crowds came to the State Library in November for the annual Illinois Authors Book Fair, expanded in its 10th year to a three-day event.

Festivities kicked off with an all-day celebration tied to Family Reading Night on Thursday, Nov. 16, an annual event sponsored by Secretary of State Jesse White to encourage families to read together. Children's authors and storytellers entertained Springfield area students during the morning and afternoon. In the evening, parents and kids were entertained by authors, storytellers and costumed characters such as Scooby-Doo and Dora the Explorer.

Highlights of day two included inspiring speeches by Pulitzer-Prize winning author James B. Stewart (*The Call to Duty: Leadership in Times of Terror* and *The Heart of a Soldier*) and Scott Turow, whose novel, *Ordinary Heroes*, was the subject of the Springfield area libraries' Together We Read program. Popular HGTV book appraiser Tom Joyce made a return appearance for two days, and gardening experts Gloria Young and Dianne Noland conducted a program for green-thumb types.

Day three on Saturday was filled with more than six hours of book signings, book discussions, workshops, performances and children's activities. Patrons purchased many Illinois authors' books



Children's author Alice B. McGinty reads to a group of children at the Illinois Authors Book Fair.



Cartoon character Scooby-Doo was a hit with youngsters who showed up at the State Library for Family Reading Night, which coincided with the three-day book fair.

and other items at the on-site bookstore. The book fair concluded with a discussion and the showing of the film, *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, based on the novel by Illinois author Kaylie Jones.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2006 Illinois Authors Book Fair a huge success! (See page 2 for more photos.)

in this issue

Three days of free fun at Book Fair

Illinois Library Day – April 19

Illinois Veterans' History Project

Emerging Writers Competition winners

Center for the Book donates 236 books to charity



Illinois Assistive Technology Program honors Secretary White — While being honored for his support of the Illinois Assistive Technology Program, Secretary of State Jesse White visited the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service in Springfield. With Secretary White are (left to right) TBBS employee Patricia Salamon; State Library Director Anne Craig; TBBS Director Sharon Ruda; TBBS employee Deborah Hurley; and State Library Chief Deputy Director Mike Ragen.

(Book Fair cont.)

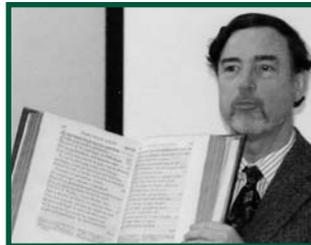


Chicago Tribune reporters Rick Kogan (left) and Maurice Possley conducted a discussion about writing true crime books during the Illinois Authors Book Fair.



Chicago attorney Scott Turow, well-known author of such best-sellers as *Presumed Innocent*, gave a speech about his book *Ordinary Heroes*, which was the focus of the Together We Read program sponsored by Springfield area libraries.

Tom Joyce of HGTV's "The Appraisal Fair" has become a regular feature at the book fair and always draws a large crowd anxious to have their rare books appraised.



Quincy native James B. Stewart, one of America's premier non-fiction writers, returned to Illinois to speak and sign his books at the Book Fair.

Illinois Library Day set for April 19

Librarians from throughout Illinois will meet at the State Library on Thursday, April 19, for Illinois Library Day, an annual event where members of the library community meet with their local lawmakers at the State Capitol and urge them to support issues of importance to them.

The 2006 event was perhaps the most successful Library Day ever, with more than 600 library advocates marching from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum to an enthusiastic rally at the Capitol. Preliminary plans call for a similar march and rally this year as well.

For more information, visit www.illinoislibraryday.info.



ISL employees honored for research assistance — Three State Library staff members were recognized in December by the Captain Joseph Bowman's Company Illinois Regiment, the Revolutionary War Re-enactment Unit for the State of Illinois. Raymond Collins (right) and Francie LaCamera (second from right) of the Reference Section, and Helen Knecht (left) in Circulation were honored for their assistance in research for the creation of historical markers that chronicle Lt. Col. George Rogers Clark's 1778 march of his band of troops in capturing of the town of Kaskaskia, leading to securing the Illinois Territory for American forces. The employees each received a plaque from Regiment representatives Garrick Williams and Thanh Melick.



E-R-XPO — The State Library's annual Electronic Resource Exposition was held in December at the Schaumburg Township District Library. The expo offered an opportunity for individual meetings with vendors as well as vendor-facilitated focus sessions with questions and answers in a laboratory setting. Among the vendors taking part in the daylong expo were: Bowker, ABC-CLIO, World Book, Thomson Micromedex, CIVICTechnologies, ProQuest, OCLC and H.W. Wilson.

Illinois

Veterans' History Project

The Illinois Veterans' History Project was launched by Secretary of State Jesse White as a means to preserve the history of Illinois military veterans. The project is designed to create a permanent record of the names and remembrances of American war veterans and civilians — living or deceased.

Illinois Patriot Information Forms are now available at Illinois public libraries. Military veterans, family members and others can complete a form and mail it to the Illinois State Archives, a division of the Secretary of State's office, which will place the names and information in a permanent repository.

"The brave men and women who have served and defended our nation during times of war deserve our unending gratitude and appreciation," said Secretary White, a U.S. Army veteran. "I thank our public libraries for helping to collect this important information, which will ensure that the names and stories of our soldiers who made sacrifices to preserve and protect our freedoms are not forgotten."

The initiative follows passage of a federal law authorizing the Library of Congress to collect and preserve the histories of American veterans and civilians who were involved in wars dating back to World War I. The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., will be the repository for audio, video and written remembrances from veterans and their families.

Illinois Patriot Information forms also are available at Secretary of State Driver Services facilities or at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Publications). Those who participate in the project will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Secretary White.

Center for the Book donates 236 books to charity

The Illinois Center for the Book donated 236 children's books to the Springfield *State Journal-Register's* Friend-in-Deed campaign for distribution to needy boys and girls in the area during the holiday season. The books were purchased by customers at Springfield's Barnes & Noble and then donated by the bookstore to the Illinois Center for the Book.

"The Illinois Center for the Book was delighted to make this donation to the Friend-in-Deed campaign, which has helped bring holiday happiness to needy families in Springfield for nearly 50 years," said Secretary of State Jesse White, who serves as honorary chair of the Illinois Center for the Book board of directors. "We are very grateful to Barnes & Noble for choosing the Center for the Book as its holiday charity, and to their kind and generous patrons who purchased these books."

Emerging Writers Competition winners

The winners of the second annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition were recognized at the Illinois Authors Book Fair in November. The competition was created by Secretary of State Jesse White to promote writing and creativity and to provide a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new talent in the state. The 2006 competition was expanded to include both a poetry category and a short story category and included three winners from each category:

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award

First place — **Anthony Coman** of DeKalb for "House"

Second place — **Jessica Lauren Neiveem** of Cary for "The Forests Nearby"

Third place — **Ryan McNeily** of Western Springs for "Celebration of Public Bathrooms"

James Jones Short Story Award

First place — **Paul Heinz** of Elmhurst for "James's Arrival"

Second place — **William Siavelis** of Chicago for "The Time That Uncle Tom Died"

Third place — **Susan Srikant** of Urbana for "My Arrival in Horseshoe, Nevada"



Paul Heinz of Elmhurst received his first-place award in the short story division of the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition from Illinois author Kaylie Jones.

Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein served as final judge for the poetry category and presented the awards to the winners. Kaylie Jones, celebrated author and daughter of writer James Jones (*From Here to Eternity*) served as final judge for the short story category and presented the awards to the winners. Each winner received a plaque and a monetary award: \$500-first place, \$300-second place and \$100-third place. The winning short stories will be submitted to *Downstate Story Magazine* and *Ninth Letter Magazine* for possible publication, while the winning poems will be submitted to *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Ninth Letter Magazine* and *Rhino Magazine*. The winning entries may be read at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

SAVE THE DATE

March 1

ILLINET Network Advisory
Committee meeting
Illinois State Library

March 20-22

Synergy: The Illinois Library
Leadership Initiative
Starved Rock Lodge, Utica

March 27

Illinois State Library Advisory
Committee meeting
Illinois State Library

April 15

National Library Week

April 19

Illinois Library Day
Springfield



Michael McCaslin celebrates his retirement from the State Library following 20 years of service.

Two Mikes retire from the State Library

Mike Ragen retired from the State Library at the end of January. Mike has served as chief deputy director since his appointment in 1999, and also served with distinction as acting director for nearly six months prior to current Director Anne Craig's appointment in May 2005.

Longtime State Library employee Michael McCaslin retired in December. Michael joined the library in 1987 as the first employee in the library's Chicago office. At the time of his retirement Michael worked with the State Library's Diversity Program.

*Best of luck to both Mikes
as they prepare for "the golden years!"*



Insight
Jesse White
Secretary of State
Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian.
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. January 2007 — 10.2M