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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

January/February
2015

INSIGHT

Jesse White recognizes winners of the 2014 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded poets from Harrisburg, Roselle and Chicago as this year's winners of the tenth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award.

Whitney Jones of Harrisburg won first place for her poem "The Dollar Value of Fingers." Jessica L. Walsh of Roselle won second place for her poem "The Library Again." Pablo Otavalo of Chicago won third place for his poem "The Year of the Dragon." The winners read their poems and received their awards from Secretary White and Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein, during a ceremony at the Illinois State Library.

"I started the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide a unique opportunity for recognizing new literary talent in the state," White said. "Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these poets are adding to the tradition established by legendary Illinois poets like Gwendolyn Brooks. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I'm pleased to congratulate this year's talented winners."

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who selected the final winners.

The winning poems are available at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org. The winning poems also will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Quiddity* magazines as well as *Poetic License Press* publications.



Pictured with Secretary White are (back row L to R) Pablo Otavalo (3rd place) and Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein (front row L to R) Jessica L. Walsh (2nd place) and Whitney Jones (1st place).

New contract with OCLC

The Illinois State Library has entered into a contract with OCLC for the Group Services Interlibrary Loan and Cataloging Service, effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020. This contract enables ILLINET libraries the choice to purchase services through OCLC as well as receive products provided through this agreement. Participating libraries also will continue to sign yearly agreements with the Illinois State Library to participate in this service. More information about the agreement and group purchase products will be sent to libraries in spring 2015.

Apply now for the “Targeting Autism” forums

The Illinois State Library is partnering with The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois for the “Targeting Autism” project to bring together an impressive group of national and regional Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) experts and advocates, who will help stimulate discussions and provide a platform for creating a statewide collaborative action plan to assist libraries in becoming more supportive of the needs of the ASD population.

The Illinois State Library is currently accepting applications to participate in the “Targeting Autism” Grant project forums. A total of 80 participants will be selected to attend two forums to be held on **March 4-5** and **September 3-4, 2015**, at the University of Illinois Springfield. If you or someone you know believes that libraries in collaboration with a wide variety of advocates have the power to improve the quality of lives of individuals and families impacted by ASD, we invite you to participate in this very important initiative. The deadline to apply is **Friday, February 6**. Applications can be found at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/pdfs/target-autism-participate.pdf.

Jesse White hosts “Preserving Their Memories”

Secretary of State, State Librarian and Archivist Jesse White hosted “Preserving Their Memories” to honor veterans and their contributions to the Illinois Veterans’ History Project at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. The Illinois Veterans’ History Project honors Illinois veterans by documenting and preserving their experiences.

“The Illinois Veterans’ History Project provides an eternal place to honor our country and our veterans and serves as a written memorial to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said White. “Today, there are more than 5,500 records of veterans and their loved ones who have submitted their stories to the project. With this initiative, future generations will have a better understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices made by Illinois’ service men and women.”

White served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and a reservist. The Illinois Veterans’ History Project initiative was spearheaded by White in 2005, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, to provide a permanent record of the names and stories of Illinois veterans and their families.

“With the use of technology, my office has been able to share more than 200 personal history videos via the Internet,” said White, whose video testimony is included. “It is my hope that the contributions of these veterans will live on and their experiences will not be forgotten.”

Colonel Robert Patrick, director of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, joined Secretary White along with representatives from the Illinois Court Reporters’ Association and Department of Illinois Disabled American Veterans. Following the ceremony, volunteer court reporters transcribed accounts from veterans in attendance.

The event included musical performances by Glenwood High School’s Titan Fever Show Choir from Chatham and Illinois State Trumpet Unit. The American Legion Post 32 honor guard presented the colors.

For more information about the Illinois Veterans’ History Project, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html.

Applications available for the Statewide Public Library Management Institute

Public library directors can now apply for the 2015 Statewide Public Library Management Institute. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library and hosted by the University of Illinois Springfield, the institute will be held **May 31-June 5, 2015**. The registration fee is \$50, which includes housing, meals, speakers and program materials. For an application or more information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/splmi.html. Applications may be mailed, faxed or submitted as an email attachment and must be received by **5 p.m., March 6, 2015**. For additional information, contact the State Library at 217-782-1891 or 800-665-5576 ext., 2.

Family Reading Night 2014

The Secretary of State's annual Family Reading Night was held November 20 at hundreds of locations across Illinois. The event is a night when parents and children are urged to turn off their televisions, computers, video games and other forms of entertainment and spend time reading together. The theme this year was "Reading Rocks!" Thousands of colorful posters and bookmarks were distributed to libraries, schools, literacy programs and other organizations by the State Library. This was the 23rd year the Secretary of State's office sponsored Family Reading Night.



Among the locations hosting Family Reading Night in November were Coal City Public Library and Iroquois West Elementary School.

Annual Library Certification process is underway

Each year, all library system member libraries must complete the mandatory Annual Library Certification. The 2015 Annual Library Certification Web page is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/librarycertification.html.

The Web page includes links to questions included in the certification form; the online Annual Library Certification portal (accessible only between **January 2** and **March 31**) and the timeline and FAQs about the annual certification process. To log in to the certification portal, each library will need its Control number and Administrative Branch number, which can be found in the L2 membership database at www.librarylearning.info/libraries/.

The certification is required to qualify for system services, programs and grants offered by the State Library. For additional information or questions, contact Pat Boze at pboze@ilsos.net.

E-News from the ISL

E-News from the ISL, the State Library's weekly electronic newsletter, is the best way to find out what's happening at the library. *E-News* is where you will learn about grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other library-related information. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving *E-News*, please send their email address to Kyle Peebles at kpeebles@ilsos.net with the line, SIGN THEM UP.



State Library awarded grant to improve library services for patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The Office of the Secretary of State and the Illinois State Library have been awarded a \$100,000 National Leadership Forum Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to assist libraries in providing support services for individuals and families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

As part of this initiative, the Illinois State Library will partner with The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP), a statewide collaborative of 17 independent agencies working to increase community awareness, improve access to intervention and support services, and improve educational and vocational opportunities for all Illinois residents affected by ASD. The Illinois State Library and TAP share the goal of expanding access and support services with programs that will enlist and empower all types of libraries to be a part of the outreach effort to the ASD community.

Two forum meetings will convene in Springfield in March and September 2015 with the following goals:

- Implementation of a plan to increase ASD awareness, education and support services.
- Improve and streamline online access to information providing support for individuals and families with ASD.
- Creation of sustainable, inter-organizational partnerships that will enhance the quality of ASD support statewide.

These forums will include a select group of stakeholders representing multi-type libraries, schools, institutions of higher education, health service professionals, government agencies, ASD service organizations and parent advocates.

For more information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/targeting-autism.html or contact Suzanne Schriar at 217-785-1533 or sschriar@ilsos.net.

State Library staff news

Lynn Bierma, the State Library's Interlibrary Loan coordinator, retired in October following more than 21 years of service to the Secretary of State's office.

Kathryn Dauksza joined the Illinois State Library as manager of the Literacy Department.

Amanda DeHeve and Aliese Sadler joined the Talking Book and Braille Service Department.

SAVE THE DATE

February 15

Deadline for Family Reading Night Order for guaranteed September delivery

March 4-5

Targeting Autism: A National Forum on Serving Library Patrons on the Spectrum
University of Illinois Springfield

March 6

Statewide Public Library Management Institute application due

March 23-26

ILEAD USA, University of Illinois Springfield

March 31

Annual Library Certification period ends



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