

SAVE THE DATE

April 2008							May 2008							June 2008						
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April 1-3

Synergy Leadership Conference
Starved Rock Lodge and
Conference Center, Utica

April 10

Illinois Library Day
Springfield

June 1-6

Small Public Librarians Management Institute
University of Illinois at Springfield

June 8-13

Institute for School & Public Librarians
Bradley University, Peoria

State Library staff news

Bella Belogorsky and **Cheryl Goza Smith** have moved from the Reference Section to the Library Development Group's Diversity Program.

Jane Knipmeyer, **Laura Large** and **DeeAnn Powless** have moved from Technical Services to the Reference Section.

Jim Shepard has moved from the Reference Section to the Library Automation and Technology Division.

Brian Tober has begun work in the Library Automation and Technology Division as a scanning technician.

Lisa Waller has left the Talking Book and Braille Service for another position in the Secretary of State's office.

Jim Solenberger, a cataloger, and **Marti Martin**, secretary to the director, recently marked 30 years as State Library employees.

Donna Brown, a cataloger, has marked 25 years as an employee.

Melissa Ransom, a data input operator in the Operations Division, retired January 1.

2009 LSTA grant applications available

Information on the FY09 Library Services and Technology Act grant offerings is now available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. The Letter of Intent — the first step in making a formal application for an LSTA grant — is due **Wednesday, April 2**.

The State Library is inviting library staff members to apply to be grant reviewers for the FY09 LSTA grant applications. If interested, please contact Karen Egan at kegan@ilsos.net or 217-782-7749.

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Illinois Library Day

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

INSIGHT

State Library/Archives Lincoln Bicentennial promotion

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that the Illinois State Library and the State Archives have embarked on a multifaceted promotional campaign to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Feb. 12, 2009.

"Next year, our nation will celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Illinois' greatest son and our nation's greatest president," said Secretary White, who serves as State Librarian and State Archivist. "The State Library and State Archives have many connections to Abraham Lincoln, and the Secretary of State's office is honored to help mark this important celebration by making the public, especially schoolchildren, aware of Lincoln's greatness and his special ties to Illinois."

White said most people are probably not aware that Abraham Lincoln was the first person to borrow a book from the Illinois State Library in 1842. Lincoln also is the only U.S. President to be awarded a patent, a replica of which is on file at the State Library's Patent and Trademark Library.

The State Archives holds a number of Lincoln documents, many written in Lincoln's hand. The Illinois Digital Archives, a repository of the State Library's digital collections, contains books and



Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State

documents about the life, political career and assassination of Lincoln. The State Archives' collection of Lincoln documents has recently been digitized on IDA, which may be accessed at www.idaillinois.org.

The campaign kicked off with a writing contest — "Essays About Lincoln" — in which students in grades 5 through 12 are encouraged to write a modern-day version of Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, reflecting their personal thoughts and dreams about where America is as a nation, and their ideals for freedom, democracy and equal opportunity. The deadline for entries is **May 31, 2008**. Winners will be honored at an awards presentation in Springfield next February in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration, where they will read their essays, receive a plaque and cash award, and tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Essay con-

test forms have been sent to all Illinois public and private elementary and secondary schools. Forms also are available at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Center for the Book are co-sponsors of the essay competition, and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Lincoln Illinois Bicentennial Commission have endorsed the contest.

Other components of the Lincoln Bicentennial campaign include:

- A series of six collectible bookmarks with notable trivia about Lincoln;
- A colorful poster sent to schools and libraries;
- A special display in the Secretary of State's tent at the 2008 and 2009 Illinois State Fairs;
- Flagpole banners on display around the State Library and State Archives in Springfield; and
- Informational packets for teachers to use in the classroom.

The Lincoln Illinois Bicentennial Commission has awarded a \$3,153 grant to the State Library to help pay for flagpole banners.

March/April
2008

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



Black History Month

As part of Black History Month commemorations in February, the State Library hosted an exhibit of rare photographs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other notable African Americans. The photos were taken by Bernard Kleina in Chicago in 1966 during a protest of housing conditions endured by African Americans.



Secretary White awards school library funding

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY08 school library per capita grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 718 public school districts. The funds will help provide important library services to nearly 2 million students in more than 3,400 Illinois school libraries.

"My office is proud to award these grants every year to help school libraries purchase books and subscriptions to valuable electronic resources, improve technology and support student research efforts," said Secretary White. "Illinois was the first state in the nation to enact a public school library per capita grant program, and our program remains an overwhelming success. These grants help keep our school libraries strong, and give our students access to the resources they need to be successful."

Studies have proven that student achievement is positively impacted by the presence of libraries in schools. Students with access to better-staffed libraries, computers connected to library catalogs and databases, and larger, more current book collections do better on tests and have higher test scores.

This year's grants provide \$0.72 per student to support school library services. Grant funds must be used to support the services of the district's school library media program. Funds may not be used for capital improvements such as shelving or wiring. Grants are available to tax-supported public school districts that are members of one of Illinois' regional library systems.



State Library webmaster Vicki Strohm and Jim Shepard, information systems coordinator in the Library Automation and Technology Division, demonstrate how laptop users now have free wireless Internet access at the Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building.

ISL goes wireless

The State Library is pleased to announce that it now offers free Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) high-speed Internet access to its patrons, visitors and the general public. Wi-Fi is available at several public areas in the library to those having laptops with wireless capability.

Wi-Fi at the State Library allows you to do many things you do on your home or office computer, including surfing the Web, checking e-mail, updating a blog or instant messaging. No special settings, user names or passwords are required. The State Library's wireless network is an open network and, therefore, not secure. Visit the State Library's Reference Section on the second floor of the library for an information sheet with frequently asked questions and answers for Wi-Fi users.

The State Library does not provide laptop computers for free Internet access. However, patrons may still use the library's public computers on the second floor for free Internet access.

Illinois Library Day — April 10

www.illinoislibraryday.info/

The Illinois Library Day Web site has been updated. Please check periodically for the latest information.

2008 Synergy Initiative participants announced

Thirty men and women have been selected to participate in the 2008 Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative, the statewide library community's effort to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. The group will attend three, three-day conferences throughout the year. The Shawnee Library System, the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Library Association and their partners are sponsors of this year's Synergy program.

Synergy 2008 participants

Shirley Bennett, Columbia College
Chicago Library

Julie Blackwell, Carol Stream Public
Library

Karen Bounds, Centralia High School

Brian Chase, Normal Public Library

Christina Conklin, Moline Public Library

Julie Dahl, University of St. Francis

Jane Easterly, Galesburg Public Library

Veyshon Edmond, Chicago Public
Library

Cheryl Goza Smith, Illinois State Library

Angela Green, Alliance Library System

Karen Hansen, Morton Grove Public
Library

Maggie Hommel, Park Ridge Public
Library

Heather Jagman, DePaul University

Patrice Johnson, Chicago Public Library

Paul Keith, Chicago Public Library

Richard Kong, Skokie Public Library

Annette Mills, Triad High School

Lisa Morrison-Korajczyk, Steger/South
Chicago Heights Public Library

Douglas Orlyk, Bensenville Community
Public Library District

Amy Peterson, Schaumburg Township
District Library

Kathy Ruck, Melzer Elementary School

Kuntala (Tuki) Sathaye, Itasca
Community Library

Laurie Sauer, Knox College Library

Carol Schrey, Franklin Grove Public
Library

Cason Snow, Founders Memorial Library

Diane Srebro, Orland Park Public
Library

Lynne Thomas, Founders Memorial
Library 402A

Dianna Wiggins, Global Consumer &
Business Insights Information Center

Alissa Williams, Pekin Public Library

Harriett Zipfel, Belleville Public Library

2008 Synergy Seminars

April 1-3

Starved Rock Lodge and
Conference Center, Utica

November 18-20

Hickory Ridge Marriott
Conference Hotel, Lisle

August 5-7

Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton

ILDS off and running



The new Illinois Library Delivery Service went into operation at the beginning of the year, with Beth Tate and Dan Dixon overseeing the transportation of library materials in the State Library mailroom. ILDS provides direct service to more than 140 libraries and the regional library systems in Illinois.



Emerging Writers Competition Deadline: June 30

Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book have announced that entries are now being accepted for the fourth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition for poets and authors of short stories.

"As we enter our fourth year, the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition has become a highly respected and widely praised outlet for uncovering and recognizing new literary talent," said Secretary White, who serves as honorary chair of the Illinois Center for the Book. "Several of our past winners have been or will soon be published. The competition is proving to be a great way to promote creative writing and encourage new authors to develop and share their talents. Their outstanding works are adding to Illinois' rich literary heritage."

The competition consists of two categories — poetry and short stories. Three cash prizes will be available in each category for original, unpublished works. Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein will select winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, named for the late award-winning Illinois poet laureate. Kaylie Jones, the accomplished writer and daughter of James Jones, will choose winners of the James Jones Short Story Award, named for the acclaimed late Illinois novelist and short story writer. Winning entries will be submitted to *Ninth Letter* magazine, *RHINO* magazine, *Another Chicago Magazine* and *Downstate Story* magazine for possible publication.

The competition is open to Illinois residents' age 18 and older. The deadline for submitting entries is Monday, June 30. There is a \$20 per submission charge from which prizes will be awarded. Entry forms, rules and other information are available at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

Secretary White acknowledges the continued support of Kevin Stein and the James Jones Literary Society, who have played a major role in the success of the competition.