

INSIGHT

Jesse White · Secretary of State & State Librarian

State Library hosts Washington, antique Illinois inventions exhibits

The Illinois State Library hosted two special exhibits over the summer — one that brought to life the legacy of President George Washington and another showcasing a collection of antique Illinois inventions.



Above: "The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic" drew visitors to the State Library to learn more about our first president.

Bottom Right: Library employees Ron Leesman and Helen Knecht examine two of the antique Illinois inventions on display. Leesman is holding a pair of hog tongs patented in 1873, while Knecht checks out a popcorn popper made in 1892.

George Washington exhibit

"The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic" — a 1,000-square-foot, 30-panel traveling exhibit — offers a fresh perspective on Washington's life and his new American Republic. The exhibit is based on original manuscripts, rare books, prints, engravings and historic artifacts covering Washington's early life, the American Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, his presidency and his life after the presidency.

Springfield is one of only 40 cities nationwide to host the exhibit, which was made possible through a \$1,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit runs through Sept. 26, after which it heads to the St. Louis Public Library.

Antique Illinois inventions exhibit

Illinois' own Abraham Lincoln drew the spotlight in the State Library's exhibit of antique Illinois inventions in honor of National Inventors Month in August. Lincoln was the only U.S. president to be issued a patent for his 1849 design of a device to help buoy vessels over shallow waters. A print of Lincoln's design and a copy of his patent were part of the exhibit, along with a series of panels discussing the project.

Other antique Illinois inventions were loaned to the State Library by an anonymous collector, including:

- a 1906 pencil sharpener manufactured in Rockford;
- an 1881 corn sheller made by S.C. Schofield of Freeport;
- an antique washboard manufactured by P.A. Wetzel of Springfield;
- a 1919 eggbeater made in Chicago;
- an 1867 washing machine manufactured by John Warden of Normal;
- corn huskers made in Chicago and Kewanee in the late 1800s/early 1900s;
- an 1880 dead duck decoy holder made in Monmouth;
- a device used to de-horn cattle manufactured in Modesto by J.M. Mills in 1892.

The State Library is one of 88 patent and trademark depository libraries in the country. For more information on patents and trademarks, please call 217-782-5659.



in
this
issue

State Library
hosts exhibits

"Earn Your Stripes
Read-a-Thom"

New Reading
Program

White hosts PNG
State Fair events

Library wins
ILA award

“Earn Your Stripes Read-a-Thon”

The Illinois State Library is once again sponsoring a special reading contest to coincide with the Illinois Authors Book Fair weekend Nov. 15-16. Print-disabled adults who take part in the “Earn Your Stripes Read-A-Thon” have a chance to win an autographed audiocassette edition of the acclaimed new best-selling World War II book, *Once Upon a Town*, by syndicated columnist Bob Greene, this year’s featured Illinois author.

“Thousands of adults who are unable to read regular printed material because of a temporary or permanent physical or visual disability rely on talking books for education, information and entertainment,” said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. “I hope our print-disabled patrons will enjoy this contest during the weeks leading up to the book fair.”

Any adult registered through the Talking Book program is eligible for the contest, which will include patrons from the State Library’s Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) in Springfield as well as Talking Book Centers in Coal Valley, Quincy, Carverville, Pekin, Chicago and Geneva. At each site participants may choose from a selection of 70 different fiction and non-fiction books. The participant who reads the most books at each site will win an autographed audiocassette edition of Greene’s book. Participants must register for the contest through the TBBS or their local Talking Book Center. The contest runs through Nov. 6, and the winners will be announced at the Illinois Authors Book Fair on Nov.16.

For more information about the “Earn Your Stripes” contest, patrons may contact their local Talking Book Center or the TBBS at 1-800-665-5576, ext. 5. For more information about the book fair, please call 217-785-6925.

State Library teams up with circus for reading program

For kids, the circus is a magical, fun and exciting adventure. Books also offer kids the thrills and excitement found under the big top. That’s why the Illinois State Library is combining the two for a terrific new reading program — just for kids!

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus have teamed up for an exciting new program targeting children ages 4 through 9. Kids who enroll in the program at their local libraries are eligible for great prizes based upon the number of books they read.

The top prize is a free ticket to the world-famous Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus — “The Greatest Show on

Earth!” Other fun prizes include clown noses, bookmarks and stickers. The free tickets for the circus are good for the following performances:

- Allstate Arena, Rosemont
Nov. 6 – Nov. 17
- Savvis Center, St. Louis
Nov. 13 – Nov. 17
- United Center, Chicago
Nov. 19 – Dec. 1

The free tickets for children do not include admission for a parent or guardian accompanying the child. The reading program runs from Sept.16 through Oct. 16, 2002. More information about the contest is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.



Secretary White hosts State Fair events for PNG participants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White hosted a day of food and fun for students, mentors and other supporters of Project Next Generation (PNG) the day before the Illinois State Fair on Aug. 8. PNG is White's innovative mentoring program administered by public libraries across Illinois.

About 230 participants represented PNG programs in Beardstown, Bethany, Bloomington, Cahokia, Carbondale, Centralia, Champaign, Des Plaines, Dixon, Macomb, Peoria and Quincy. The group met at Lincoln Park near the State Fairgrounds in the afternoon for a picnic, swimming and entertainment by the world-famous Jesse White Tumbling Team. The group then headed off to watch the 150th Anniversary Illinois State Fair kick-off parade. Before heading home, Secretary White treated the students to carnival rides on the fairgrounds, capping off an eventful day that celebrated the success of Project Next Generation.

Project Next Generation also was highlighted throughout the fair at the State Library's booth in the Secretary of State tent. Visitors could watch a computer presentation and pick up a brochure on the program.

In addition to distributing PNG materials, the State Library again joined other state agencies in sponsoring the fair's "Passport to Reading" program. Children ages 10 and under obtained stamps on "passports" at the library's booth and other sites on the fairgrounds and redeemed their passports for free books. About 14,000 books were distributed to kids during the fair.

The library's Talking Book and Braille Service also was showcased at the fair in the Illinois Building, where fairgoers learned about the many services the TBBS provides to the state's print-disabled population.



Secretary of State Jesse White and his world-famous tumblers join Quincy Project Next Generation participants during a fun-filled pre-Illinois State Fair event in Springfield.

State Library wins award for "Lighting the Fire"

The Illinois Library Association has selected the Illinois State Library to receive the 2002 Highsmith Innovation Award for its "Lighting the Fire" initiative, which encourages libraries to develop creative grant proposals.

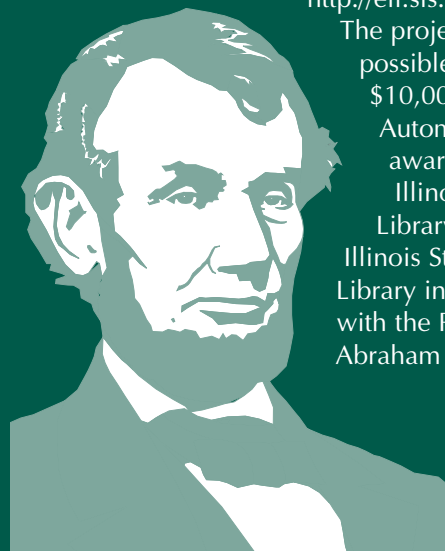
A "Lighting the Fire" workshop was held in January/February 2001 at Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton. More than 100 representatives from the library community attended and learned new ways to think and be creative in drafting grant proposals. Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Public Library District, who nominated the State Library for the award, said the initiative "inspired libraries around the state to do more and to dream bigger dreams."

Congratulations to Patricia Norris, State Library associate director for Grants and Programs, and her outstanding staff for their efforts in earning this prestigious award. The award will be presented at the ILA Annual Conference Awards Ceremony in Chicago Sept. 26.

Lincoln documents go digital

More than 250 documents from Abraham Lincoln's career as a lawyer and an Illinois state representative have been filmed, digitized and catalogued, and can now be accessed through the Illinois Digital Archives at <http://eli.sls.lib.il.us/ida/>.

The project was made possible by a \$10,000 Educate & Automate grant awarded by the Illinois State Library to the Illinois State Historical Library in partnership with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.



<http://eli.sls.lib.il.us/ida/>

SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE

October 16-18

*Multi-State Conference of Regional Systems
and State Library Agencies*
Lisle

October 17

Booked for Lunch
Illinois State Library • Springfield

November 16

Illinois Authors Book Fair
Illinois State Library • Springfield

November 18

Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum Dedication
Springfield

January 13-15

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

ILLINET NEWS ALERT

The ILLINET/OCLC Services monthly e-journal, ILLINET News Alert, is available at the end of each month at:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/library/isl/oclc/oclc.html

Click on the ILLINET News Alert link for the latest issue. Each issue contains informative and pertinent articles written by ILLINET/OCLC Services and OCLC staff members.

Outgoing ISLAC members honored

State Library Director Jean Wilkins recently presented awards to six outgoing members of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee: Bob Plotzke, Debra Johnson Small, Eileen Dubin, Jan Ison, Prudence Dalrymple and Rod Dinges. Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and Director Wilkins extend their appreciation for all their hard work on the committee.

The advisory committee makes recommendations regarding the policies, services and management of the Illinois State Library. Secretary White appoints the 20 members of the committee, consisting of library professionals and private citizens from across the state.

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

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian; Jean Wilkins, Director, Illinois State Library.
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, September 2002 — GA 168 — ISSN — 8.5M

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #93
Spfld, IL