

In this issue

Lincoln, Civil War exhibit

ISL at the State Fair

Illinois Authors Wiki

Letters About Literature

LSTA funding update

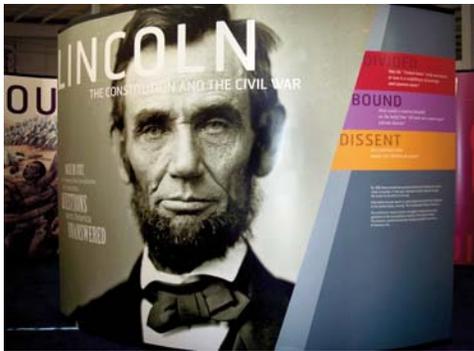
Family Reading Night

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

September/October
2011

INSIGHT

Illinois State Library to host exhibit on Lincoln, Civil War



The Illinois State Library has been chosen to host a major new traveling exhibit about the political and constitutional challenges President Abraham Lincoln confronted during the Civil War. The nation is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the war this year.

“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” offers an innovative perspective on Lincoln that explores how the president used the U.S. Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war: the secession of southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. Visitors will leave the exhibition with a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

“I am pleased that the State Library has

been selected to host this important new exhibit,” said Secretary of State Jesse White. “People travel from across the globe to visit the various Lincoln sites in Springfield, and I hope they will make time to see this fascinating exhibit while it is on display at the State Library. I especially hope that schools will arrange for students to visit the exhibit so that our young people can learn about this important time in our nation’s history.”

The 1,000-square-foot exhibit will be on tour beginning in October and continue through fall 2015, when the nation will mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s death and the end of the Civil War. The State Library will host the exhibit in late-2013 in the atrium. During the duration of the exhibit, the State Library will present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhibition themes. All showings of the exhibition will be free and open to the public. More information about the exhibit and accompanying events will be available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com, (click Departments, Illinois State Library).

“Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” was organized by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the American Library Association

Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

TALKING BOOK PROGRAM



Two young participants in the State Library Talking Book and Braille Service’s Talking Book Program, Ryan O’Dell (left) and Dane Edwards, joined Secretary of State Jesse White in his office to read a “twin vision” book containing both Braille and regular-sized text. Secretary White and the youngsters will appear in a new poster to be distributed to Illinois libraries urging young people to sign up for the free Talking Book Program.

State Library at the Illinois State Fair



Project Next Generation participants attending the pre-Illinois State Fair picnic were entertained by the Jesse White Tumblers.



State Library employee Rosalie Pecoraro greeted Secretary White in the Secretary of State tent at the State Fair.



The Talking Book and Braille Service had a booth in the Senior Building during the fair. TBBS employee Deborah Hurley welcomed Secretary White, who is holding a new digital Talking Book machine provided by TBBS.

Illinois Authors Wiki project

Illinois authors with published books are encouraged to submit their names for possible inclusion in the Illinois Authors Wiki at www.illinoisauthors.org. The Illinois Authors Wiki is a project of the Illinois Center for the Book at the Illinois State Library. The Illinois Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, works to connect readers and writers, and honor the state's literary heritage.

"Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage that includes such greats as Gwendolyn Brooks, Ernest Hemingway, Carl Sandburg and Studs Terkel," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Many of our authors have made and continue to make an enormous impact on the literary world. The Illinois Authors Wiki allows us to have a vast and comprehensive resource on Illinois authors. I encourage all Illinois authors with published works to be a part of the Illinois Authors Wiki."

Published illustrators and photographers also are eligible for inclusion in the Wiki. To be included an author must be a current or former resident of Illinois, write about Illinois subjects of interest (Abraham Lincoln, Chicago Cubs, etc.), or write about actual or fictional places specifically set in Illinois.

For more information, contact Bonnie Matheis, coordinator for the Illinois Center for the Book, at bmatheis@ilsos.net or 217-558-2065.

Letters About Literature — 2012

Students in grades 4-12 are urged to enter the 2012 Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing competition sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Illinois Center for the Book in partnership with Target.

"Every year students across the nation read books and write letters to authors describing how a particular book made an impact on their lives," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "For the past four years, Illinois has led the nation in entries submitted by students. Letters About Literature demonstrates that books can inspire and touch the lives of our young people."

Once again there are three levels of participation: Level I — grades 4-6; Level II — grades 7-8; and Level III — grades 9-12. Prizes are awarded at both the state and national levels. Each state has its own panel of judges who select the top essayists in the state. State winners receive a \$50 Target gift card and other prizes, and will advance to the national level judging. Illinois winners will receive their awards during a ceremony hosted by Secretary White at which they will read their entries.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select six national winners (two per level) and 12 national honorable mention winners (four per level). Each national winner will receive a \$500 Target gift card and a \$10,000 grant in his or her name for their community or school library. National honorable mention winners will each receive a \$100 Target gift card and a \$1,000 grant in his or her name for their community or school library. The community or school library selected for the national winners is at the sponsor's sole discretion.

Entries must be postmarked by January 6, 2012. State winners will be announced in May 2012. For more information, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.net. Information can also be found at illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

LSTA funding update

Secretary of State Jesse White and the staff of the Illinois State Library remain steadfast in their commitment to support Illinois libraries and library systems, with their priorities on delivery, automated consortial catalogs and Talking Book programs. To fulfill this goal, in fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012), the State Library will again suspend offerings traditionally supported by federal LSTA funding, specifically competitive grant programs, scholarships and continuing education programs such as Synergy, the Small Public Library Management Institute and the Institute for School and Public Librarians. The ILEAD U program is supported by a separate grant until 2012.

Funding delays will figure prominently into cash flow challenges for all State Library grantees between now and the end of the calendar year. The General Assembly has extended the period during which FY11 payments can be made until Dec. 31, 2011. FY12 payments will not begin until after FY11 payments have been made.

Secretary White has maintained state grant funding for libraries (e.g., public library per capita, school district, literacy and construction grants) when other states have experienced much more severe cuts. Grants also have been secured from sources new to the State Library, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. These grants have provided much needed materials and services to libraries to support direct patron needs.

In addition, three strategically located public libraries have been chosen for new videoconference packages: the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham, the Galesburg Public Library, and the Quincy Public Library. These packages will ease communication challenges brought about by the recent regional library system mergers.

We applaud the efforts of the regional library systems to merge from 10 to three systems: Reaching Across Illinois, Illinois Heartland and Chicago Public Library. It is our hope that these mergers will realize significant savings for administrative support in the coming months.

For up-to-date budget and payment information, visit the Illinois Comptroller's Web site at www.ioc.state.il.us and particularly the *Comptroller's Quarterly*.

Free digital books at BARD site

Visually impaired and physically disabled Talking Book Program patrons who have received new digital Talking Book machines are urged to download books and magazines free through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Web site. Patrons can download books and magazines on BARD's site 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to be used with the new machines. More than 21,000 books and 40 magazines are available immediately with more books being added weekly. Visit <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>.

For more information or to sign up for the Talking Book program, contact the State Library Talking Book and Braille Service at 800-665-5576, opt. 5, or visit the State Library Web site.



GOING STRONG!

Project Next Generation is still going strong into its 11th year of operation in Illinois libraries. Secretary of State Jesse White's mentoring program for young people allows mentors to work with students to develop technological skills as well as life skills such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution. Nearly 9,000 students have completed the program since its inception in 2000, and 600 mentors have generously offered their time to help set young people on the path to careers and life-long learning.

Libraries taking part in PNG in FY2012 are: Beardstown Houston Memorial Library; Bloomington Public Library; Carbondale Public Library; Centralia Regional Library District; Champaign Public Library; Danville Public Library; Decatur Public Library; Elmwood Park Public Library; Freeport Public Library; Harrisburg Public Library; Hayner Public Library, Alton; Joliet Public Library; Kankakee Public Library; Peoria Public Library, Lincoln Branch; Richton Park Public Library; and Sparta Public Library.



Students and mentors from the Project Next Generation program at Harrisburg Public Library were among attendees of the annual pre-Illinois State Fair picnic at the State Library sponsored by Secretary of State Jesse White.

Outreach to state agencies

FY2011 Report

The State Library has made reaching out to state government employees and elected officials a top priority. Implementation of the outreach program began by designating a full-time reference outreach coordinator in May 2010, with several other staffers assisting with presentations to state agencies. Following are highlights after the first full year of the outreach program:

- 997 new applicants for state employee library cards — 240% increase from FY2010.
- 190 agency contacts made to schedule presentations.
- 34 programs presented to 450 state employees at in-person sessions; 162 employees attended via 12 Webinars.
- Overall reference questions (general reference and maps) increased by 465 questions (6.2%).
- During FY2011, photocopies requested by interlibrary loan staff from state employees increased 33% — from 528 copies to 704 copies.
- Circulation of materials to state government employees and elected officials increased nearly 58% compared to FY2010.
- Use of off-site access to electronic resources increased in the months of April through June 2011, compared to the same three months in 2010.

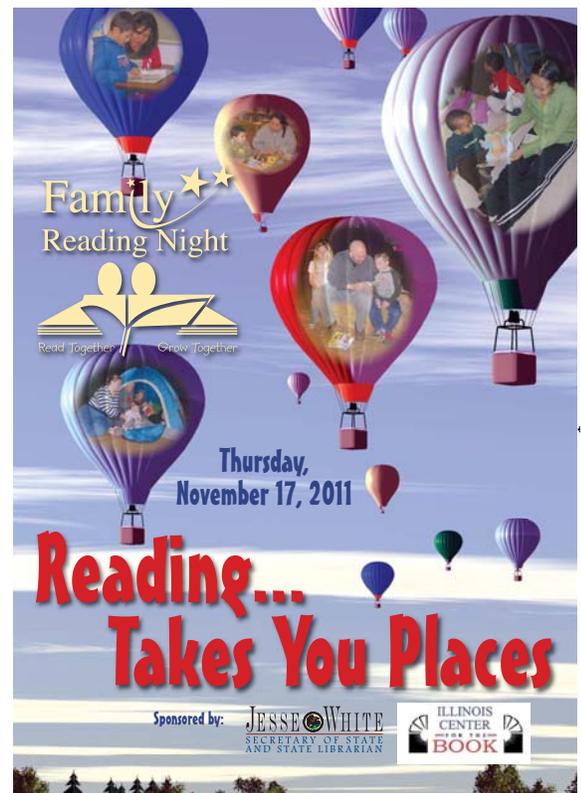
Thanks to everyone involved in the success of the outreach program!

Route 66 ARC

The National Park Service is collaborating with archival institutions along historic Route 66, including the Illinois State Library, to develop the Route 66 Archives and Research Collaborative, or “Route 66 ARC.” The mission of Route 66 ARC is to stimulate the collection and preservation of historical records related to Route 66 and increase their accessibility to the public. The State Library is proud to be one of the 10 founding Route 66 ARC institutions. A new Web site has been unveiled at www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/ARC/index.htm.

State Library staff news

- ISL Technology Coordinator **Andrew Bullen** has recently published two articles. The first, titled “The Town of Pullman,” appears in this month’s issue of *Image File: A Journal of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives*. Andrew has also published his first scholarly work, in conjunction with DePaul University Professor Jane Baxter, in the edited collection of essays, *Heritage, Labour, and the Working Class*. The article about Pullman is titled “The World’s Most Perfect Town Reconsidered: Negotiating Class, Labor and Heritage in the Pullman Community of Chicago.”
- Technical Services staff member **Jim Solenberger** retired at the end of August after more than 30 years of service to the State Library.



SAVE THE DATE

October 18-20
ILA Annual Conference
Rosemont

October 24-27
ILEAD U
University of Illinois Springfield

October 27-29
Illinois School Library Media Association
2011 Conference
Springfield

The Illinois State Library will be closed:
Monday, October 10 — Columbus Day



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