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



GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD — Secretary of State Jesse White received a Golden Eagle Award at the Community Currency Exchange Association of Illinois' Back 2 School kick-off luncheon for his lifetime of work promoting education in Illinois, including as State Librarian. The event was part of the CCEA's annual program to provide school supplies for deserving children in the Chicago area. This year, more than 8,400 boxes of supplies were distributed at the South Side YMCA. Joining Secretary White are CCEA board members John Iberl (left) and Tony Fornelli.

Secretary White announces Emerging Writers winners

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the 6th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, created to promote creative writing and provide a unique outlet for recognizing new literary talent in the state. The Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award honors the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate. The James Jones Short Story Award honors the Illinois-born author of such classic works as *From Here to Eternity*.

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award winners:

1st place – Keli Stewart of Oak Park for her poem "after birth"

2nd place – Elizabeth Ziglinski of Marion for her poem "Echoes"

3rd place – Andrew Galligan of Chicago for his poem "Leaf Dried to Muddy Drain"

James Jones Short Story Award winners:

1st place – Cristina Carrera of Summit for her short story "Stray Dogs"

2nd place – Tacuma R. Roebach of Chicago for his short story "Catharsis/Cox"

3rd place – Janice Croom of Bloomington for her short story "Twenty-five Years is Silver"

There were 160 entrants this year. Winners receive cash prizes and have their works submitted for possible publication in the following Illinois literary magazines: *Downstate Story*, *Ninth Letter*, *Quiddity*, *RHINO*, and *Springfield Poets and Writers*. Final judges of the competition were Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein for the poetry awards and Ray Elliott, President of the James Jones Literary Society, for the short story awards. Winning poems and short stories are posted at illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

November/December
2010

ISL open house for state employees

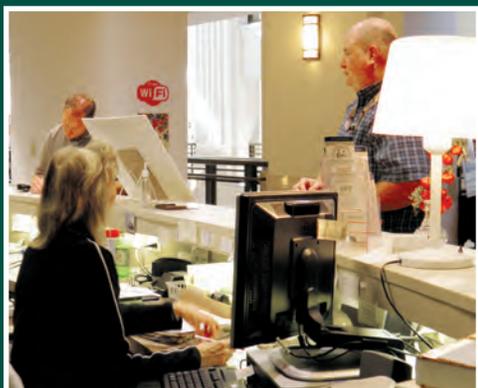
The State Library held an open house on October 15 to inform state employees about the many services the library offers to help them do their jobs more efficiently and effectively.



Map librarian Arlyn Booth (left) talks about the State Library map collection with a visitor. The map library is the nation's second largest.



Beth Paoli talks about the ISL Literacy Office with a state employee.



State employees were able to visit the ISL Circulation Desk and get a free State Library card.

Live & Learn Construction Grant application online — Deadline Feb. 18

Applications are now being accepted for FY2011 Live & Learn Public Library Construction Grants. The grants are funded by an annual state legislative appropriation and awarded by Secretary of State Jesse White based on recommendations from a statewide committee following a thorough review process. Grants must be submitted online to the State Library by Feb. 18, 2011.

Award ranges are:

- Remodeling for Accessibility: \$2,500–\$50,000
- Mini-grants: \$2,500–\$25,000
- New construction, additions to and/or remodeling of existing buildings: \$25,000–\$125,000

The grant application and related documents are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (Departments, Library, What We Do). For more information, contact H. Neil Kelley at nkelley@ilsos.net or 217-782-1891, or Mark Shaffer at mshaffer@ilsos.net or 217-524-4901.

“Reflections on a Veteran” essay contest

Secretary of State Jesse White is encouraging students in grades 6-11 to take part in an essay competition honoring U.S. veterans, past and present. “The ‘Reflections on a Veteran’ contest will help cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of history and the sacrifices made by all veterans, their families and communities,” said Secretary White.

After interviewing a U.S. veteran for a class project, participants will document in writing the most moving part of their interview. Students will then write an essay about how the interview affected them.

There are two levels of competition: Level I – grades 6-8 and Level II – grades 9-11. One winner and one runner-up for each level will be selected. Winners will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and runners-up will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. Winners also will read their essays and receive a certificate at the September 2011 Constitution Day Ceremony in Chicago, hosted by Secretary White.

The deadline to submit essays is May 16, 2011. Winners will be notified in August. For more information, visit illinoiscenterforthebook.org, or contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.net.

The “Reflections on a Veteran” contest is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education, Area 5 Learning Technology Center, Illinois World War II Memorial Board Classroom Project; Secretary of State Jesse White, Illinois Veterans’ History Project; and the Illinois State Library, Illinois Center for the Book.

BTOP grant update

The State Library and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) applied for a U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant earlier this year. The State Library was not awarded the BTOP grant, but it did receive a \$1 million grant from DCEO in June to enhance broadband access in public computer centers at libraries across Illinois.

Ninety-two Illinois libraries are eligible to receive a portion of the \$1 million. The funds will provide equipment, training and services for broadband-delivered education, employment and reading services to the unemployed, children, seniors, minorities, person with disabilities and others. DCEO will now determine which of the 92 libraries will receive funding. The State Library will announce grant recipients at a later date.

LSTA funding reminder

This is usually the time of year when the State Library posts applications and information for its popular continuing education initiatives such as Synergy, the Illinois Library Leadership Initiative; Small Public Library Management Institute; Institute for School and Public Librarians; and On the Front Lines Conference. The library also has provided scholarships to students pursuing master's degrees in library science. The State Library was able to support these initiatives with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Because the state of Illinois' fiscal problems continue, the State Library will direct FY2011 LSTA funding toward fundamental programs such as delivery and critical resource-sharing services instead of its continuing education initiatives. One State Library program, ILEAD U (Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover), is operated with a three-year Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian competitive award and will continue through 2012.

Secretary of State Jesse White and Illinois State Library staff believe that funding must be available foremost throughout FY11 to support delivery, the catalogs and the Talking Book Centers.

2011 ILEAD U sessions set

Dates have been announced for the second session of ILEAD U, the State Library's initiative to help library staff develop leadership skills necessary to address local community needs through innovative applications of participatory technology tools. Three in-person sessions will be held at the University of Illinois Springfield in 2011: March 1-3, June 14-16, and October 25-27.

Orientation sessions for mentors, instructors and State Library Agency/ILEAD U apprentices at UIS will be held one day prior to the in-person sessions. Participants work to create model programs for other states to replicate.

ILEAD U is a three-year grant program, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. In 2010, a supplemental grant was awarded for the purpose of importing this initiative to other State Library agencies. For more information, visit <http://il.webjunction.org/il-ileadu/-/articles/content/105165641>.



ILA Conference

The Illinois Library Association held its annual conference at Navy Pier in Chicago in September. State Library staff members were active in various aspects of this year's conference.



State Library Director Anne Craig (left) and Karen Egan, ISL consultant and conference co-chair (right), were on hand to congratulate ISL Diversity Program manager Vandella Brown on receiving the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial/DEMCO award at the conference.



Coordinator Bonnie Matheis (left) and the Illinois Center for the Book sponsored acclaimed central Illinois author Taylor Pensoneau at the conference's Illinois Authors dinner. ISL Director Anne Craig joined the celebration.

ISL outreach

State Library staff members were invited to the Illinois Department of Transportation in Springfield in September to speak with employees about programs and services the library offers. Reference outreach coordinator Debra Aggertt and reference librarian Tom Huber spoke to IDOT workers.



TBBS launches newsletter

The Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service has begun publishing a biannual newsletter to update and inform Talking Book Center patrons about the programs and services available through TBBS and the other Illinois Network of Talking Book and Braille Libraries. The newsletter will be published twice a year with mailings being funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. To view the inaugural issue of the newsletter and sign up to receive future issues, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (Publications, State Library).

Spring 2011 election

Current or prospective library trustees may be interested in knowing that the 2011 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar is now available on the Illinois State Board of Elections Web site. This calendar includes dates involved around the consolidated primary election on Feb. 22, 2011, and the consolidated election on April 5, 2011. The 2011 *Candidate's Guide and Local Election Official Handbook* is available at www.elections.il.gov.

State Library staff news

The following State Library employees recently marked service anniversaries:

Nancy Krah, administrative assistant — 40 years

Jo Anne Hughes, grants assistant, Literacy Office — 25 years

Vandella Brown, Diversity Program manager — 10 years

Dan Dixon, Library Operations — 10 years

Pat McGuckin, Communications manager — 10 years

Shortly after marking her 40-year anniversary, **Nancy Krah** ended her distinguished career and embarked on a well-deserved retirement. Congratulations, Nancy, on an amazing four decades of outstanding service!

Former ISL cataloger **Merleen Dibert** passed away in September following a lengthy illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Merleen's family.

William E. "Billy" Robison, the father of **Beth Paoli**, a library program specialist in the State Library Literacy Office, has passed away. He had a unique connection to the State Library, earning a craft award from the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen for his work helping to build the new State Library building 20 years ago. Our sincere condolences go out to Beth and her family.

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the staff of the Illinois State Library wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy 2011!



Insight
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Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.