



The Illinois Center for the Book is a programming arm of the Illinois State Library that promotes reading, writing and author programs with the mission: *“Nurturing and connecting readers and writers, and honoring our rich literary heritage.”*

The Illinois Center for the Book was incorporated in 1985, making it the third affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Today, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands have a center affiliated with the Library of Congress. Each state center provides programs that highlight their own literary heritage, books, reading, literacy and libraries.



ILLINOIS EMERGING WRITERS COMPETITION

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White along with Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein (right) present Andrew Galligan his Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. Winners of the annual creative writing contest receive cash prizes and have their works submitted for possible publication in Illinois literary magazines.

For more information about the Illinois Center for the Book and its programs, contact:

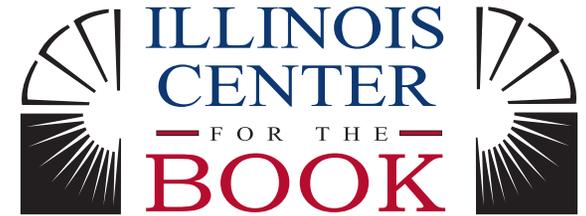
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 Illinois State Library
 Gwendolyn Brooks Building
 300 S. Second St.
 Springfield, IL 62701
 217-558-2065
 217-782-1877 (fax)
 Illinoiscenterforthebook.org

Illinois authors’ names on the frieze of the Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building

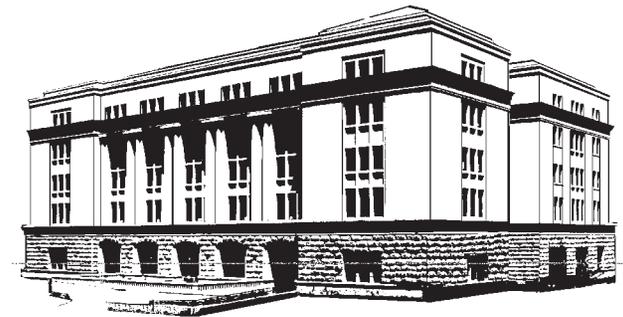
Jane Addams, George Ade, Nelson Algren, Sherwood Anderson, Paul Angle, L. Frank Baum, Saul Bellow, Black Hawk, Ray Bradbury, Gwendolyn Brooks, Cyrus Colter, Theodore Dreiser, Finley Peter Dunne, Eliza Farnham, James T. Farrell, Edna Ferber, Henry Blake Fuller, Hamlin Garland, Lorraine Hansberry, Ben Hecht, Ernest Hemingway, Robert Herrick, James Jones, Ring Lardner, Abraham Lincoln, Vachel Lindsay, Edgar Lee Masters, William Maxwell, Frank Norris, Donald Culross Peattie, Elia Wilkinson Peattie, Carl Sandburg, Upton Sinclair, Louis (Studs) Terkel, Richard Wright



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An affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress



“Nurturing and connecting readers and writers, and honoring our rich literary heritage.”



JESSE WHITE

Secretary of State & State Librarian



The state of Illinois has a long and proud literary heritage. Some of the greatest written works were produced by Illinoisans such as Ernest Hemingway, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ray Bradbury and Studs Terkel. Reading in-

spires and entertains us and is the pathway to life-long learning.

Programs such as the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition spotlight talented new poets, while the Illinois Authors Wiki recognizes published writers. The highly acclaimed Read for a Lifetime program was the first statewide reading initiative developed exclusively for teenagers. The Letters About Literature competition has inspired thousands of students to read books and reflect on how those works have changed their lives. Family Reading Night brings families together to celebrate the magic of reading.

As State Librarian I am proud to support the outstanding work of the Illinois Center for the Book, and I look forward to our continued efforts to encourage reading and writing and celebrate our rich literary heritage.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State &
State Librarian

Illinois Center for the Book

READING & WRITING PROGRAMS

★ Family Reading Night

An annual statewide event held the third Thursday in November to encourage families to spend quality time to “Read Together, Grow Together.”

★ Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

A creative writing competition providing a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new literary talent in the state. Winners receive cash prizes and have their works submitted for possible publication in Illinois literary magazines.

★ Letters About Literature

A national reading and writing contest that encourages students to read a book and write a letter to the author reflecting on how the book changed their life or view of the world.

★ Read for a Lifetime

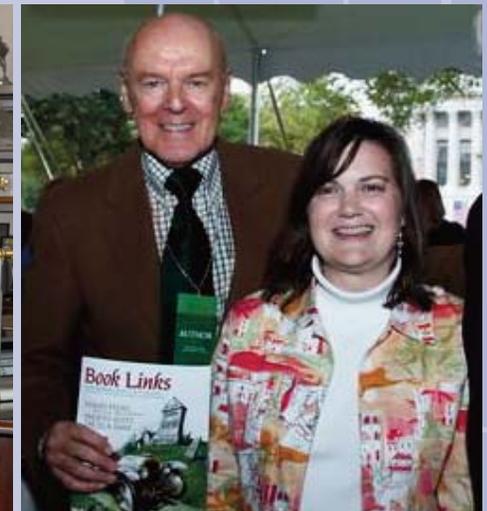
A statewide reading program for high school students that highlights contemporary and classic literature and promotes reading for pleasure.

★ Illinois Authors Wiki

A means to celebrate and share information about Illinois authors, illustrators and photographers.

★ National Book Festival

The Illinois Center for the Book participates with other state centers at the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival in the Pavilion of the States in Washington, D.C.



ABOVE LEFT: Secretary of State Jesse White with past Letters About Literature contest winners (left to right) Naasir Haleem, Stacy Cler and Conrad Oberhaus. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Illinois author Richard Peck and Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis at the 2006 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.