

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY April 2018

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Deputy Director

Targeting Autism Forum Registrations Due Friday

The Targeting Autism Forum will be held on May 17-18, 2018 in the atrium of the State Library in Springfield. The full agenda for the forum is available at the State Library's [website](#). To register, send an email to [Suzanne Schriar](mailto:Suzanne.Schriar@ilsos.net) with a subject line that reads "Registration for the forum." Please include your name, job title, name of your library or other professional affiliation and a brief statement about your interest in the topic of autism and libraries. As in previous years, there is no registration fee to attend. Lodging for May 16-17 will be provided at no additional charge at the [Wyndham Springfield City Centre](#). Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registrations will be accepted now through **Friday, April 20**.

Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service Awards Ceremony: April 30

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White will be hosting the annual Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service Awards ceremony at the Illinois State Library on Monday, April 30. The ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m., and will recognize outstanding achievements made by adult learners or families and outstanding contributions to literacy made by adult literacy volunteer tutors. Each recipient is served by or involved with a local literacy program that receives an adult literacy grant from the Illinois State Library.

Illinois Literacy Spring 2018 Issue Now Available

The spring 2018 issue of Illinois Literacy is now available through the following link http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/illiteracy_spring18.pdf. Illinois Literacy is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Office of the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library that provides information and news concerning literacy in Illinois. Library's and literacy programs are encouraged to submit relevant stories and photographs for possible inclusion in future editions. For information on the newsletter as well as the Adult Literacy Grant program, please contact the Illinois State Library Literacy Office at 800-665-5576 ext. 3 or email literacy@ilsos.net.

Emerging Writers Competition Entries Due June 30

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced today that entry forms are available for the 14th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition. Winners will receive the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. The award is named in honor of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by **June 30, 2018**. Cash prizes will be awarded for first (\$500), second (\$300) and third place (\$100). Winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in the "Ninth Letter," "RHINO" and "Quiddity" journals and "Poetic License Press" publications. Winners will read their poems at a ceremony later this year at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

Entry forms can be found at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book. For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book Coordinator [Bonnie Matheis](mailto:Bonnie.Matheis@ilsos.net) at 217-558-2065.

“Illinois Reads” Author Spotlights

The authors and illustrators below have published a book on the 2018 “Illinois Reads” [book list](#) for children from grades K-2. “Illinois Reads” is an initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) that highlights the importance of reading at all ages and supports Illinois authors. Each year, the program offers a new list of thirty-six titles written and/or illustrated by Illinois authors at six different age levels from birth to adult.

A graduate of Illinois Wesleyan’s Theatre program, [Aaron Reynolds](#) uses his craft to entertain his audiences making him a very popular author to visit schools. Aaron is a New York Times bestselling author who has written many children’s books. He received the 2018 Illinois Reading Council’s Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children. His book, “[Creepy Pair of Underwear!](#),” has received starred reviews from Publishers Weekly, Booklist and Kirkus.

[Michael Tyler](#) and [David Lee Csicsko](#) both live in Chicago. Tyler originally wrote his book, “[The Skin You Live In](#),” as a poem to help his oldest son with a name-calling incident at school. After reading it, his son's teacher encouraged him to publish it and he did with the help of the Chicago Children’s Museum and Csicsko, the internationally known glass artist who illustrated the book. This work of art is filled with a delightful rhyme that embraces all of our differences.

Native Chicagoan, [Ilene Cooper](#) was a youth librarian at several branches of the Chicago Public Library and at the Winnetka Public Library District. She was also the review journal of the American Library Association and the children's books editor of Booklist. She has written over 30 children’s books and has received the 2007 Prairie State Award winner for Excellence in Writing for Children. Her book, “[The Golden Rule](#),” is adorably illustrated and it shows how the Golden Rule crosses all cultures.

Read for a Lifetime 2018-2019 Booklist Available

Read for a Lifetime, the first statewide reading program designed for high school students, is now in its 21st year. The goal of the program is to promote the enjoyment of reading by encouraging students to read and rewarding them for their effort.

The 2018-2019 Booklist and all applicable forms are available online at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/rfl.html
For information, contact [Jeanne Urbanek](#) at 217-524-0050 or visit the State Library’s [website](#).

The State of America’s Libraries Report

The American Library Association has released [The State of America's Libraries 2018](#) report. This report provides a detailed look at the trends and issues impacting academic, public and school libraries, including the Top 10 Challenged Books of 2017.

Rural and Small Libraries Annual Conference

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) annual conference is coming to Illinois. The theme for the conference is “[Linking Libraries in the Land of Lincoln](#).” The conference of more than 500 library professionals is slated for Sept. 13-15, 2018 at the Bank of Springfield Center (formerly Prairie Capitol Convention Center) with an opening reception at the Illinois State Library. Registration is open and at this time early bird rates for members are anticipated to be under \$300 per person and include 5 meals for the 2 1/2 day-long event.

Literacy Spotlight

This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights the **YWCA** in Pekin. Without a high school diploma while living with her parents, the adult learner sought literacy assistance from the YWCA. The woman was unable to find a job and was fearful of returning to school after thirty years. After joining the YWCA three years ago, she increased her basic skills, obtained a driver’s license, purchased a car and moved out of her parents’

house to lease her own apartment. With the help of the YWCA, she has gained independence more self-confidence.

Salute to Veterans

In this issue of E-News, we are saluting Dale Hunter. Mr. Hunter served in the U. S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946 and served throughout Europe. In 2015, Mr. Hunter was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal for his efforts in liberating France. The Legion of Honor is France's most distinguished decoration that is bestowed to recognize the special contribution and act of bravery while fighting for the liberation of France during WWII. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/5So4dbUhgUw>. Mr. Hunter participated in a promotional poster campaign for the Illinois Talking Book and Braille Service program. The poster can be downloaded from the Illinois State Library's [website](#).

State Library's Comprehensive Online Calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

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E-News is the best way to find out what's happening at the State Library, including grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news. Nearly 5,000 subscribers receive E-News each month. To subscribe to E-News or for more information, contact [Kyle Peebles](#) at 217-558-4029.