

## **THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY**

### **March 2019**

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

#### **Project Next Generation Success Story**

Project Next Generation offers grant funding to public libraries for establishing educational after school programs. These programs not only provide access to computers, software and various technology devices, but also hire mentors who are crucial to helping students develop self-confidence and pride in their newly acquired skills.

Kewanee Public Library District has formed a partnership with their local community college, Black Hawk College East Campus. Instructors from the college were invited to help the library implement their coding program as part of their FY19 grant. The mentors worked with the students on a coding program that created animations. One parent noted that she appreciated the fact that they made coding fun for her son. She felt much more comfortable as a parent allowing him to spend time on the computer using a coding program, which was teaching him helpful skills, versus playing video games.

Along with establishing stronger community partnerships, the Project Next Generation Grant has given the Kewanee Public Library the opportunity to acquire technology and services they could not afford otherwise. Their first years in PNG allowed them to begin 3-D printing with Jr. High students. Library staff switched gears in FY18 to hire a professional photographer, who was a Kewanee native, to teach students photography skills. The photography program was very successful and the students gained technical skills and a growing confidence in their abilities. Sara Billiet, Head of Youth Services for Kewanee Public Library District, said “the most fulfilling part of the Project Next Generation Grant has been watching the kids become excited about what they are learning.”

#### **The Illinois Adult Learning Hotline – connecting students, tutors and programs**

The Secretary of State Illinois State Library’s Literacy Office, in cooperation with the Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC), provides a centralized information and referral system that connects potential adult students and volunteer literacy tutors to local adult education and literacy programs throughout the state. One call to this number provides prospective learners or volunteers with contact information to reach the local literacy project nearest to their homes, workplace or other preferred location. The hotline also responds to callers’ requests for general information on Illinois’ adult education and literacy effort.

- Referrals - The ALRC provides the referral service through a toll-free 800 phone number, 1-800-321-9511 (TDD or voice), and [website](#). Bilingual operators, who speak English, Spanish or Polish, answer the Hotline during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Once the operator has the caller’s information, callers are provided with up to three referral programs. The caller can then contact those programs about learning or volunteer opportunities.
- To recruit both learners and volunteers, promotional flyers can be downloaded from the hotline’s [website](#). The flyers promote English as a Second Language (ESL), adult literacy, high school equivalency test preparation and citizenship classes and are available in English, Spanish and Polish. In addition, there are four different flyers targeted to volunteers. All flyers were developed for community distribution.

For questions, contact [Laura Sherwood](#), the Hotline manager, at 224-366-8622.

## **Census 2020 Poster Contest**

The Illinois Complete Count Commission announced the “Census 2020: Make Sure Illinois Counts” a poster contest open to students grades 4-12. This is an effort to promote full participation in the 2020 federal census. Posters should address the main message of “Census 2020 Make Sure Illinois Counts” and should include the positive impact of high census participation. These may include, but are not limited to, increased funding for schools and libraries; better access to hospital and emergency healthcare; and quality services for people with disabilities, veterans, senior citizens and low-income families. Details about entry requirements and deadlines, grade divisions, and foreign language submissions are being released to public libraries. Please visit [www.illinoiscensus2020.com](http://www.illinoiscensus2020.com) for more information. Contact [Joe Natale](#) at the State Library, 217-558-1745.

## **The “Illinois Reads” Kick-Off Book Festival at the Waukegan High School**

The “Illinois Read” book festival was held on Saturday, March 16 at the Waukegan High School. The day was filled with author panels by age bands, individual author sessions, author book signings, activity stations and vendors at the campus. The Waukegan Drama Club presented a production of Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451” at the school’s Orlin Trapp Auditorium.

Below is a list of the 2019 “Illinois Reads” authors and illustrators who attended the festival and their highlighted books:

### **Birth to 4 Years Old**

- Natalie Rompella – “The World Never Sleeps”
- Chris Sheban (illustrator) – “What to do with a Box”
- John Sullivan – “Kitten and the Night Watchman”
- Meg Fleming – “Ready, Set, Sail”

### **Grades K–2**

- Deborah Marcero – “My Heart is a Compass”
- Becky Cattie – “Shark Nate-O”

### **Grades 3–5**

- Sally M. Walker – “Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up”
- Suzanne Slade – “Dangerous Jane”
- Tom Watson – “Stick Cat”
- Mary Winn Heider – “The Mortification of Fovea Munson”
- Allan Woodrow – “Field Tripped”
- Chad Sell – “The Cardboard Kingdom”

### **Grades 6 – 8**

- Blue Balliett – “Out of the Wild Night”
- Aaron Renier – “The Unsinkable Walker Bean and the Knights of the Waxing Moon”
- Celia C Perez – “The First Rule of Punk”
- Adam P Schmitt – “Speechless”
- Lisa Jenn Bigelow – “Drum Roll, Please”
- Stephanie Kate Strohm – “It’s Not Me, It’s You”

### **Grades 9 – 12**

- Claire Hartfield – “A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919”
- Silvia Hidalgo – “How to be an American : A Field Guide to Citizenship”
- Gloria Chao – “American Panda”

### **Adult**

- Rebecca Makkai – “The Great Believers”

- Ronald H. Balson – “The Girl from Berlin”
- Robert H. Jordan Jr. – “Murder in the News: An Inside Look at How Television Covers Crime”
- Emily Robbins – “A Word for Love”

### **Literary Landmark™ dedication of Ray Bradbury Park**

In conjunction with the book festival on March 16, a literary landmark designation ceremony honoring Illinois author Ray Bradbury was held at 4:51 p.m. at the entrance of the park, located at 41 N. Park Ave in Waukegan. The event concluded with a short theatrical performance of “The Whole Town is Sleeping” from Bradbury’s semiautobiographical, “Dandelion Wine,” of which the park figures prominently.

This will be the first of several Literary Landmark™ dedications across the nation by state center for the book affiliates in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Children’s Book Week, which is April 29–May 5.

### **Annual Certification**

A total of 1,422 main building libraries, approximately, 79 percent, have completed Annual Certification.

Certification is required of all library system members in order to qualify for continuing system services and grants programs from the State Library. The window for certification will close March 31, 2019. Libraries are also required to complete the ILL ILLINET Traffic Survey before completing certification. The ILL ILLINET Traffic Survey can be completed any time prior to the certification deadline of March 31, 2019. More information about certification is available at the State Library’s Annual Library Certification [webpage](#). The page includes a link to the data and questions included in the certification form, a link to the online certification portal (accessible from Jan. 2–March 31), a Frequently Asked Questions and a document outlining Library Data Entry Guidelines to use in completing the certification form.

### **Targeting Autism Registration Open**

Registration is open for the **2019 Targeting Autism national forum**, May 16-17, on the campus of Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.

Autism and human/civil rights is the theme of this year’s forum. Several authors and national speakers will explore these topics with us, including: [John Elder Robison](#), [Chantal Sicile-Kira](#) and [Tom Iland](#) to name a few. New at this year’s conference is a book signing, an exhibit hall and poster sessions. Contact Suzanne Schriar at the State Library for registration information at 217-785-1533.

### **Literacy Spotlight**

This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights **Lewis & Clark Community College**, in Godfrey, which runs a Secretary of State supported Penny Severns Family Literacy Program. A single mother returned to the program this year after failing to complete her coursework several times. This time she vowed to continue until she met her personal goals. One of her goals was to improve her reading and math skills. In addition to attending class, she met at least two nights a week with a tutor. Her two older children often look to their mom for help with their homework. She regularly takes them to the library to access books and computers to complete their homework. After attending the family literacy events at the library, the family has come to realize that the library has so much more to offer. With the help of the family literacy program, her family is thriving. She has achieved her initial goals and is now progressing toward continuing her education.

**Salute to Veterans**

This issue of E-News is saluting Joshua Sanders. Mr. Sanders served in the Army during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Iraqi War from 2001-2004. He shares his account of serving during these conflicts. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/RT3pRYq8WvQ>.

**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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