

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY June 2019

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

2019 Annual Certification

Here is a summary of the number of library agencies that continue as system and Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET) members for FY2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). Libraries that are certified are eligible for Illinois State Library sponsored grants and library system services.

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|----------------------|--------------|
| • Academic Libraries | 149 |
| • Public Libraries | 640 |
| • School Libraries | 799 |
| • Special Libraries | 213 |
| Total | 1,801 |

Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) has 1,279 agencies, Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) has 521 agencies and Chicago Public Library System (CPLS) has one agency.

Illinois Literacy Spring 2019 Issue Now Available

The summer 2018 issue of Illinois Literacy is now available through the following link https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/il-literacy-spring19.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. Libraries and literacy programs are encouraged to submit relevant stories and photographs for possible inclusion in future editions. For information on the newsletter, please contact the Illinois State Library Literacy Office at 800-665-5576, ext. 3, or email literacy@ilsos.net.

Spotlight Award Winners Announced

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White honored the winners of the 2019 Spotlight on Literacy Awards, which recognizes participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and 10 volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award during a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

This year, 96 programs are supporting adult, family and workplace literacy efforts statewide. Last year, with 89 literacy programs statewide, 11,820 adult students were served by 5,355 volunteer tutors. Below is a list of award winners:

2019 Spotlight on Achievement

- **Thanaa Alhasan**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **Jimmie Brown**, Common Place Family Literacy Center in **Peoria**
- **Telma Cardona**, Baby TALK through Richland Community College in **Decatur**
- **Silvia Chantes**, Literacy Volunteers of DuPage in **Naperville**
- **Leonard Green**, Heart of Illinois Adult Literacy Center in **Pekin**
- **Julia Hernandez**, Morton College in **Cicero**
- **Maria Gabriela Maya**, Universidad Popular in **Chicago**
- **Mayaben John Parmar**, Indo-American Center in **Chicago**
- **Peggy Runyon**, Heart of Illinois Adult Literacy Center in **Pekin**
- **H.C. Warfield**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**

2019 Spotlight on Service

- **Shirley Blount**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Sister Lupita Cordero, SSND**, Corazón a Corazón in **Blue Island**
- **Lynn Cornwell**, Literacy Volunteers of DuPage in **Naperville**
- **Vicki Cretors**, Frontier/Illinois Eastern Community College in **Fairfield**
- **Karen Fredrickson**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Ann Hamlin**, Waukegan Public Library in **Waukegan**
- **Ann Hopkins**, Literacy Volunteers of Illinois' Jump Start Program in **St. Charles**
- **Judith Kagan**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**
- **Angelique Maguire**, Frontier/Illinois Eastern Community College in **Fairfield**
- **Diana Padua**, Universidad Popular in **Chicago**

PNG Success Story

Since 2016, the LaSalle Public Library has been a Project Next Generation (PNG) site. Initiated by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, PNG is a grant program which youth work with public libraries about emerging technology to become exemplary “digital” citizens. During PNG programming at LaSalle Public Library, students interviewed military veterans, scanned and 3D printed artifacts from the Abraham Presidential Museum and learned about Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) design at the local community college. PNG participants were introduced to interviewing techniques using learning modules from the News Literacy Project as well as how to use digital cameras provided by the grant. In addition, students learned about careers in engineering and technology, which allowed participants to begin to think about their future.

Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Entry Forms Available

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that entry forms are available for the 15th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by **June 30, 2019**. 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. Winners will read their poems at a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

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

Winners of “Letters About Literature” Contest Announced

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that students from Huntley, Hawthorn Woods and Hickory Hills are the winners of the 2019 “Letters About Literature” contest. The reading and writing contest for students is sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book. Winning letters have been submitted to the Library of Congress for entry into the National Contest. White honored the winners at a ceremony at the State Library.

This year's Illinois winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4-6: **Ava Smithwick** of Huntley wrote to author Robert Munsch about his book, “Love You Forever.” Ava is a student at Heineman Middle School in Algonquin and her letter was submitted by her teacher and stepmom, Beverly Smith.
- Level II, Grades 7-8: **Sharanya Rao** of Hawthorn Woods wrote to author Ali Benjamin about her book “The Thing About Jellyfish.” Sharanya attends Lake Zurich Middle School North in Hawthorn Woods and her letter was submitted by her teacher Alba Pollak.

- Level III, Grades 9-12: **Amatullah Mir** of Hickory Hills wrote to Sana Amanat and G. Willow Wilson about their “Ms. Marvel” book series. Amatullah attends Aqsa School in Bridgeview and submitted the letter on her own.

Each winner received a \$200 check from the Illinois Center for the Book, a plaque signed by Secretary White, and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Each school received a \$100 check from the Illinois Center for the Book to purchase books for their school library and a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Read the winning essays at https://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/.

Poetry Judges Needed

Do you know anyone who would make an excellent judge for the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition? This is an especially great opportunity for those with a special interest in poetry and Masters of Fine Arts students looking to add to their resume over the summer. Judging takes place in the months of July and August. Contact [Bonnie Matheis](#) for more information.

2019 “Illinois Reads” Author Spotlights

“[Illinois Reads](#)” is an annual statewide reading initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) to promote Illinois authors and the importance of reading for Illinois citizens of all ages – from birth through adult. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the Honorary Chair.

[Birth–4 Years](#)

Matthew Cordell lives in the Chicago area and is an award-winning author and illustrator. He writes and illustrates his own books and illustrates the books of other authors. “[Hope](#),” is the third book of his, “Wish” and “Dream” picture book series. It shares the hope two lions have for the future of their new grandchild.

[Grades K–2](#)

Chicago native **Barb Rosenstock** is an award-winning children’s author of non-fiction and historical fiction. Her lyrical verse and beautifully illustrated book, “[Through The Window: Views Of Marc Chagall’s Life & Art](#),” received an ALA Sydney Taylor Silver Award and Starred Reviews from both Publishers Weekly and Booklist.

[Grades 3–5](#)

Sibert Medal-winning author, **Sally M. Walker** lives in DeKalb and has won many awards for her non-fiction books for children. Her book, “[Earth Verse: Haiku From The Ground Up](#),” is an illustrated book of earth science poetry to help encourage readers to think more about the planet, its processes and the world around them.

[Grades 6–8](#)

Blue Balliett lives in Hyde Park and is an award-winning children’s author and master storyteller. Her book, “[Out Of The Wild Night](#),” is a tale about the haunted residents of a special place on Nantucket and how they have chosen a few local kids to save the island against the adults who would do it harm. Kirkus Starred Review.

[Grades 9–12](#)

Claire Hartfield is a Chicago attorney, an education leader and a nationally recognized children’s author. Inspired by her grandmother’s experiences, her book, “[A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot Of 1919](#),” is a 2019 Coretta Scott King Book Award winner. It includes archival photos and editorial cartoons that will fully engage readers.

Adult

Critically acclaimed author, **Luis Alberto Urrea**, has written numerous award-winning books. He lives in Naperville and teaches creative writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His book, "[The House Of Broken Angels](#)," is a National Bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist about a family on the Mexican-American border.

This year, the annual Book Festival to kick-off "ILLINOIS READS" was held in Waukegan. Given this, a 7th band of six books was picked as a tribute to Waukegan's own, Ray Bradbury.

[Bradbury Selection](#) - "[Dandelion Wine](#)" "A magical, timeless summer in the life of a twelve-year-old boy named Douglas Spaulding, remembered forever by the incomparable Ray Bradbury." (Amazon)

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Arab American Action Network** in Chicago, which runs a Secretary of State supported Penny Severns Family Literacy Program. One part of the programming is the Parent and Child Together (PACT) activity. A mother who is an English as a Second Language student attended a PACT activity with her son. For months, the son had been talking back at home, struggling in school and hanging around gang members. The PACT activity combined a musical performance with storytelling. On one occasion, the musician sang in Arabic and English. The young man was transfixed and spent almost an hour with the musician after the activity. After attending classes for several weeks, staff members checked in with the mother and her son. The student was proud to inform them that he no longer associated with gang members and paid more attention to his schoolwork. In addition, the young man, with the help of his parents, bought a guitar and began teaching himself to play. His mother credits the PACT and the Penny Severns Family Literacy program for the positive changes her son has made.

Salute to Veterans

In this issue of E-News, we are saluting Kathryn G. Yellowley. Mrs. Yellowley served in the Army Nurse Corp during World War II from 1945 to 1946. Mrs. Yellowley shares her account of serving our country as an Army nurse. Her Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/MplJyBuDFvs>.

State Library's comprehensive online calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <https://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.