

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
December 2019

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

FY2021 Adult Literacy Grant Volunteer Reviewers Needed

The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office is inviting librarians, literacy professionals, educators and interested members of the public to serve as volunteer grant reviewers for the [Adult Literacy Grant Program Volunteer Review Committee](#). This committee will evaluate FY2021 Adult Literacy grant applications in accordance with [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035.230](#). If you are interested in assisting the State Library in reviewing and recommending Adult Literacy grant applications for funding, please compose a brief letter of application with your name, address, phone and email. Indicate where you are employed including the address. Briefly explain why you would like to assist the Illinois State Library in reviewing the Adult Literacy grant applications. Please be specific in explaining your knowledge of adult literacy. Email your letter of application containing all the requested information to [Beth Paoli](#), on or before December 20, 2019.

FY2020 Live & Learn Construction Grant applications now available

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is pleased to announce that applications for the FY2020 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program are now open to public libraries. Information about the grant program is available at: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/constructgrants.html>. Applications are due to the State Library before **January 10, 2020**.

A grant information webinar was held recently and recorded for those unable to attend. To access the archived grant information webinar, visit <http://webjunctionillinois.adobeconnect.com/p5kw7427xg4j/>

For more information, contact [Mark Shaffer](#).

Annual Online Library System Certification Begins January 2

The Annual Online Certification process begins Jan. 2, 2020. 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, 2020. Libraries are also required to complete the [ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey](#) before completing certification. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey can be completed any time prior to the certification deadline, **March 31, 2020**.

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),

Frequently Asked Questions and a document outlining Library Data Entry Guidelines to use while completing the certification form.

WebJunction Learning Opportunities

Library specific, online courses and webinars are always available free through the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#), providing relevant learning at your fingertips. Sign-up for a free account, and take advantage of the over 320 self-paced learning opportunities with courses ranging from “access and equity” to “young adults and teens.” All programs are online, so you are able to take advantage of the training without traveling. Strategies for fostering key relationships will be featured at the January 14, 2020 webinar: [Responding to All: Managing Relationships with Key Constituencies](#).

FirstSearch Reference Database

In support of statewide needs for access to quality information resources, the Illinois State Library subscribes to FirstSearch, and offers the basic package for database access to every library, at no cost to the library. FirstSearch offers electronic access to a rich collection of reference databases with more than 10 million full-text and full-image articles. Underlying FirstSearch is the WorldCat database. Through WorldCat, users can find relevant records quickly plus the location to request the resource. 1,466,612 total searches were conducted between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Contact the Illinois State Library at 800-665-5576 ext. 7 for more information about FirstSearch.

OCLC Billing Information

Did you receive a letter from OCLC about upcoming invoice changes? If you currently receive OCLC services and are billed via the Illinois State Library and Illinois Heartland Library System, there is no need to do anything further. Your OCLC account ID will change, but your symbol will remain the same. You will still receive invoices and quarterly statements from IHLS as normal.

If you receive any direct billing from OCLC for subscriptions, follow the instructions in the letter to make sure your accounts payable information is up-to-date. If you have any questions, please contact [Shirley Paden](#).

New Operating Hours at Driver Services Facilities to Accommodate REAL ID Applicants

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that beginning Dec. 30 some Driver Services facilities throughout Chicagoland and northern Illinois will change operating hours and add exclusive days just for REAL ID applicants to accommodate the increased volume of customers applying for REAL ID driver’s licenses and ID cards.

The federal government will require Americans to use a valid U.S. passport or obtain a REAL ID to fly domestically beginning Oct. 1, 2020.

For a full list of facilities and hours, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Customers are encouraged to visit www.REALID.ilsos.gov and use the interactive document checklist to help ensure they bring the proper documents to the facility, making the process more efficient.

New Federal Overtime Rules Take Effect January 1

On September 24, 2019, the US Department of Labor (DOL) published its final overtime rule, effective January 1, 2020, giving employers about 100 days to review and adjust the pay of their exempt workforce to comply with the law.

The new rule increases the salary level for the exemptions (executive, administrative, and professional). The new salary level for exemptions will be \$684 per week (\$35,568). Currently, the required salary is \$455 per week (\$23,660). The new rule makes no changes to the duties tests for any exemptions and does not provide for automatic annual increases in the minimum salary level.

At a minimum, Libraries should check their exempt employees' salaries (e.g. library directors) to determine if they will remain above the salary threshold necessary to maintain exempt status; and plan for any necessary adjustments to take effect by January 1, 2020.

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 people of all ages. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age groups for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the Honorary Chair. Below are some of the authors whose works were selected for 2019.

Birth – 4 Years

- [Teresa Surratt](#) and [Donna Lukas](#) both live in Chicago. Their book, "[The Forever Tree](#)," is inspired by a special tree at Camp Wandawega in Wisconsin that has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, Today, NPR and HGTV.
- [Meg Fleming](#) grew up in Fox River Grove. Her book, "[Ready, Set, Sail!](#)," is a story of a tiger captain and his turtle first mate on the sea.

Grades K – 2

- [Becky Cattie](#) lives in Lakeview and wrote, "[Shark Nate-O](#)," with her sister, Tara Luebbe. Nate LOVES sharks so much he even pretends he's on land because he can't swim. In this vibrant book, Nate works hard to learn how to swim. There are lots of shark facts included too.
- [Ginnie Lo](#) received her PhD at UIUC. She wrote and her sister, Beth Lo, illustrated, "[Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic](#)" A Chinese American girl's aunt starts a tradition that grows into an annual community event. A wonderful book that appears on many Thanksgiving themed must read lists.

Grades 3 – 5

- [Allan Woodrow](#) lives in Vernon Hills. His book, "[Field Tripped](#)," is about a field trip the fifth graders at Liberty Falls Elementary take to Edward Minks Mansion. Can the worst behaved fifth grade class ever, save the field trip and mansion from the bad guys?
- [Chad Sell](#) lives in Chicago. His book, "[The Cardboard Kingdom](#)," is a graphic novel that follows a group of kids who transform ordinary boxes into colorful costumes and their own block into a homemade cardboard kingdom.

Grades 6 – 8

- [Lisa Jenn Bigelow](#) is a youth services librarian at a Chicago-area public library. Her book, "[Drum Roll, Please](#)," received a starred review from School Library Journal which states "Bigelow's compassionate take on the topics of family, friendship, and first romance hits all the right notes."
- [Stephanie Kate Strohm](#) lives in Chicago. Her book, "[It's Not Me, It's You](#)," is an enjoyable book about popular girls who are nice. "Smart, hilarious and packed with Gilmore Girls-worthy pop culture references." -Justine Magazine

Grades 9 – 12

- "[Fatal throne: The Wives of Henry VIII Tell All](#)," is a book written by seven YA authors, three of them from Illinois. Each female author writes as a different wife. [Candace Fleming](#) from Mt. Prospect and Oak Park as Katharine of Aragon, [Stephanie Hemphill](#) from Naperville as Anne Boleyn and [Linda Sue Park](#) from Urbana and Chicago as Catherine Howard. An Educator's Guide is available.
- [Gloria Chao](#) lives in Chicago and is a dentist turned writer. Her book, "[American Panda](#)," is a "laugh-out-loud contemporary debut about a Taiwanese-American teen whose parents want her to be a doctor and marry a Taiwanese Ivy Leaguer despite her squeamishness with germs and crush on a Japanese classmate." -Amazon

Adult

- Retired WGN-TV News anchor, [Robert H. Jordan Jr.](#), wrote, "[Murder In The News – An Inside Look At How Television Covers Crime](#)." Drawing from his 47 years of news experience, Jordan provides an eye-opening look at how news programs make split second decisions as to which murders to spend resources on to cover and which ones to ignore.
- [Emily Robbins](#) has lived in the Middle East, North Africa, Jordan, Oslo and Chicago. "A mesmerizing debut set in Syria on the cusp of the unrest, "[A Word For Love](#)" is the spare and exquisitely told story of a young American woman transformed by language, risk, war, and a startling new understanding of love." -Amazon

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights the Project READ program at **Parkland College** in Champaign-Urbana. A woman attended one of Project READ's drop-in tutoring sites at the Urbana Free Library and was encouraged to register for classes. She wanted to improve her English skills in order to overcome her isolation and build a future in Champaign-Urbana for her family. In one month, she raised her test scores and became more active in her community. The learner guided newcomers to Project READ and adult education and began using the library to

engage in her own education. With the help of Parkland College's Project READ program, the learner is now ready to apply for jobs and confidently utilize services around town on her own. The learner began training to become a math tutor in an English as a Second Language classroom and uplifted the community by helping other immigrants work toward their goals.

Salute to Veterans

In this issue of E-News, we are saluting Col. Louis S. Caras. Col. Caras served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1970.. Col. Caras shares his experiences while leading troops in combat during the Korean War. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/Yq8IrcyUwpM>.

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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