

## **THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY July 2020**

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

### **Virtual Programming Guidelines for the IPLAR**

State data coordinators representing state libraries and statistical analysts from the Institute of Museum and Library Services met recently to collaborate on definitions for tracking live virtual programming. As a result, guidelines were recommended from the national State Data Coordinator Program Elements Subcommittee that align with current federal programming elements and allow for flexibility at the state level. This means the guidelines can be used for the 2020 and 2021 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR). The guidelines are available on the Counting Opinions home page at <https://il.countingopinions.com>. Please contact Pat Burg at 217-785-1168 or [pburg@ilsos.gov](mailto:pburg@ilsos.gov) if you have questions.

### **Non-Resident Services Extension**

The Illinois State Library filed an emergency rule, effective on July 1, 2020, that provides a public library board of trustees additional time to take action on its non-resident service policy. Section 3050.20 of Public Library Non-Resident Services (23 Ill. Adm. Code 3050) stipulates that a public library board of trustee shall annually take action to decide whether to issue non-resident library cards during the ensuing 12 months. At that time, the non-resident library card fee formula and fee to be used will be determined and adopted, if applicable. However, since some board of trustees may not have met during the Covid-19 pandemic to take action on the issue of non-resident fees, the emergency rule provides that a board has until October 15, 2020 to take action on its non-resident service policy, and report to its decision within 30 days to the regional library system.

### **Gov. Pritzker Announces 2020 Illinois Poet Laureate Search Committee**

The committee, which is comprised of poets, writers, and academics from across the state, will review nominations and recommend an Illinois resident to become the next state poet laureate, a position that has been vacant since late 2017. To commemorate the life of Illinois native John Prine and celebrate his writing and musical contributions, Governor Pritzker has proclaimed Prine an Honorary Poet Laureate of the state. The legendary singer-songwriter, who was born in Maywood, passed away on April 7, 2020 after contracting COVID-19. Prine is the first to receive such an honorary designation. Nominations will be accepted from July 1, 2020 through August 15, 2020 via email or mail. Nominees must be current Illinois residents, have a publication history of poems and/or books, and an established history of activity in Illinois' literary community.

A full description of the position qualifications and nominating requirements is available at [www.illinois.gov/poetlaureate](http://www.illinois.gov/poetlaureate). For more information or questions regarding the Illinois Poet Laureate nomination process and position, please contact [IllinoisPoet2020@illinois.gov](mailto:IllinoisPoet2020@illinois.gov).

### **ILL Survey Extended Indefinitely**

Libraries are required to annually complete the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey before completing certification. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey will remain open until further notification.

## **IDA B. WELLS HONORED WITH JOURNALISMS HIGHEST HONOR – 89 YEARS AFTER HER DEATH**

On May 4, 2020, Illinois' own Ida B. Wells was honored with a Pulitzer Prize. Wells, an African American educator, civil rights activist and revolutionary journalist, courageously wrote about political topics and exposed unjust realities during the late 1800's. While these firsthand accounts put her in harm's way, they did generate significant change across the world. The Pulitzer Prize Board announced it was making the award in honor of her investigative work. Not only did Wells uncover the lynching of African-Americans during the Progressive era, she also left behind firsthand documentation for future generations to gain perspective. While the timing of the award is 89 years after her passing, the significance of it is just as important today as it was then.

## **REALM Project and Related Online Learning Opportunities**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a variety of webinars and resources from OCLC that are of interest to Illinois libraries. There has been unprecedented interest in the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#), with learners using time to pursue professional development interests. Highlighted content includes the following:

- [REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums \(REALM\): A COVID-19 Research Project](#). OCLC, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Battelle are conducting research on how long the COVID-19 virus survives on materials that are prevalent in libraries, archives, and museums. The project will draw upon the research to produce authoritative, science-based information on how—or if—materials can be handled to mitigate exposure to staff and visitors. Battelle is studying how long the COVID-19 virus is detectable on hardback and softback books, board books, magazines, DVDs and DVD cases, plastic containers and other items. Updates and findings are available at [REALM Project: REopening Archives, Libraries and Museums](#).
- [Thinking Outside: Libraries and Placemaking in Pandemic Times](#): As libraries begin to consider offering services and programming in new or reimagined ways, some are looking at how to use outdoor spaces as a way to connect and engage with their communities. From parking lots to baseball diamonds, there are public spaces in every community that can provide ways for people come together, while remaining safely distanced.
- [Opportunity Out of Adversity: Digital Access in Rural and Small Libraries](#). Opportunity often hides behind adversity. This presentation will explore how one rural library has improved internet access in partnership with an internet service provider, hosted telehealth appointments in collaboration with healthcare providers and transportation agencies, worked with schools to ensure opportunities for youth through esports, and improved digital literacy skills for patrons and local businesses.
- [Strengthen Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Practice Through Self-Paced Learning](#). While classroom training has an important place in library staff education, learning is extended and reinforced when staff have the opportunity to work through difficult topics outside of the classroom. In order to support staff learning about issues of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), Multnomah County Library has developed a “Racially Just” toolkit, containing activities staff can use to learn and practice on their own, with colleagues, or in their staff groups. Learn how Multnomah Library developed the workbooks and what indicators signaled that their organization was ready to support staff with self-paced learning about EDI.

## **2020 “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 from six different age brackets for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the Honorary Chair, and the [Illinois Center for the Book](#) is a program partner.

Learn more about the selected Grades 3 – 5 authors and their 2020 ILLINOIS READS books below.

- [KATE HANNIGAN](#) lives in Hyde Park. She is a newspaper journalist turned middle grade author. Noted as a graphic novel inspired adventure about a girl puzzler, "[Cape – The League of Heroes, Book One](#)" is the introductory book of her new series. It has received Starred Reviews from both Kirkus and Booklist.
- [J.S. PULLER](#) is a playwright who lives in Chicago. Her debut book, "[Captain Superlative!](#)" is an inspiring story full of compassion, humor, and "superlative" eye-openers. This book about friendship has won several awards and been included on numerous reading lists.
- Galesburg native, [LINDSAY CURRIE](#), currently resides in Chicago. She started writing picture and chapter books before settling on middle grade fiction. Her book, "[The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street](#)," is a suspenseful read about Tessa who unravels a centuries-old mystery after moving into a haunted house.
- [EILEEN R. MEYER](#) grew up in Waukegan but now divides her time between both Florida and Illinois. The author of picture books, her newest is, "[The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16th President](#)." The 19 poems will be sure to please individual readers and teachers/librarians reading to students!
- [LIESL SHURTLIFF](#) is a Chicago-based New York Times bestselling author of middle grade books. The first book in her exciting new series, "[Time Castaways #1: The Mona Lisa Key](#)," is about three kids who get on the incorrect subway and wind up on a magical mystery-adventure throughout time.
- [CAROLYN CRIMI](#) lives in Evanston. She loves pugs and Halloween, and she writes because it is fun! While most of her works are picture books, "[Weird Little Robots](#)" is her first novel for young readers. It is a STEAM book about the friendship of Penny and Corinna who create an entire robot world from scrap.

### Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights The Literacy Council in **Rockford**. Mrs. Thanaa Alhasan was a 2019 Spotlight on Achievement award winner. She came to the United States from Syria, escaping an environment of war and uncertainty. Alhasan immediately started to learn English and, while she found it very difficult since it is so different from her native language of Arabic, learning English has made her more confident and independent. She was able to pass her driver's license test in English, and can now navigate her way around. Alhasan is now able to talk to her children's teachers and take them to doctor appointments without depending on a translator or help from a friend. She has also become a tutor at The Literacy Council.

### Salute to Veterans

This issue of E-News is saluting William H. Cope. Mr. Cope served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and is a former member of the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service Advisory Committee. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/psN-7LbCIH4>.

### 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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