



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

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### ILLINOIS AUTHORS BOOK FAIR TO BE HELD MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> AT STATE LIBRARY

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is inviting citizens from throughout Illinois to attend the ninth Illinois Authors Book Fair Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

"The state of Illinois is blessed with a wealth of literary talent, and we are pleased to showcase our gifted authors each year at the Illinois Authors Book Fair," White said. "The theme of this year's Book Fair is 'Celebrating Our Diverse Literary Heritage.' There is truly something for everyone at this unique event.

"Though the focus is on our talented authors, there is also a variety of programming for adults and children. I hope parents, grandparents, children, families and booklovers from throughout the state will come to the State Library for five hours of free fun as we shine a spotlight on the incredible talents of our Illinois authors."

More than 30 talented authors representing a variety of genres will take part this year. The Book Fair has grown in popularity each year, with more than 4,000 patrons attending last year's festivities. This year's authors include several nationally known authors:

--Featured author **Alex Kotlowitz** wrote the acclaimed best selling book *There Are No Children Here*. The book is the true story of brothers Lafayette and Pharoah Rivers, ages 11 and 9 at the start of the book, that brings home the horror of trying to survive in a violence-ridden public housing project in Chicago. *There Are No Children Here* was named among the 150 most important books of the 20th century by the New York Public Library. Kotlowitz' latest book is *Never a City So Real: A Walk in Chicago*.

--**Deloris Jordan** is the mother of former Chicago Bulls basketball legend Michael Jordan. She has co-authored three books with her daughter Roslyn M. Jordan, the best known being *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream*. This warm, uplifting story about Michael Jordan will encourage young readers to chase their dreams with hard work and faith. Deloris and Roslyn Jordan's next book, *Michael's Golden Rules*, will be released later this year. Their most recent book is *Did I Tell You I Love You Today?*

Additionally, **Tom Joyce** of Home and Garden Television's "The Appraisal Fair" will return to appraise rare and old books. Acclaimed storyteller **Linda Gorham** will give three performances.

All of the participating authors will autograph their books and personally meet with book lovers. The authors will present numerous workshops and panel discussions on subjects including mystery writing, fiction writing, writing children's books, self-help books, history, and biographies.

A special children's area will include storytellers, crafts, the Ansar Shrine clowns, free books, posters and stickers and free cookies. For a nominal charge children will also have the opportunity to have their photo taken with popular cartoon character Spongebob Squarepants. Patrons can browse or purchase books at an onsite bookstore, and there will be a raffle with gifts including two Batter's Eye Club tickets located above the centerfield wall for the July 23 Chicago Cubs/St. Louis Cardinals game in St. Louis.

On Friday evening March 4<sup>th</sup>, a fundraising dinner honoring participating Book Fair authors will be held in the atrium of the State Library. Proceeds are used to expand the Library's collection of first edition works by Illinois authors and to support the work of the Illinois Center for the Book, which promotes reading and celebrates Illinois' rich literary heritage. Tickets for the dinner are \$100. Contact Bonnie Matheis at [bmatheis@ilsos.net](mailto:bmatheis@ilsos.net) or 217-558-2065 for information on both the Friday night dinner and Saturday's events.

The Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building is located at 300 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in downtown Springfield. Sponsors of the Illinois Authors Book Fair include the Illinois Humanities Council, LaSalle Bank, the *Chicago Tribune* and the Illinois Arts Council. Major in-kind support is being provided by WSEC-TV/PBS Springfield. WSEC will also tape several of the author book discussions and air the programs in April.

Log on to the Illinois Authors Book Fair website at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/2005bookfair.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/2005bookfair.html) in late February for a schedule of events.

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**AUTHOR PROFILES**  
**2005 ILLINOIS AUTHORS BOOK FAIR**

**Susan Witting Albert** is a native of Maywood, Illinois who now makes her home in Bertram, Texas. She is the best-selling author of mysteries and books for adults and young adults, including *A Dilly of a Death*, *The Tale of Hilltop Farm*, and *Indigo Dying*. Susan and her husband Bill, writing under the pseudonym **Robin Page**, have written more than 60 novels, including *Death At Blenheim Palace*, *Death in Hyde Park* and books in the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. Susan's newest book, *Dead Man's Bones*, will be released next month.

**Jodi Alessandrini** and **Kathy Kinser** of Springfield have written *Kitty Stuff* and *Puppy Stuff*, which the authors describe as "concise, informational baby books for today's busy kitty and puppy 'parents'". *Kitty Stuff* has been recommended by internationally syndicated columnist Heloise, and is chock full of solid advice for raising a healthy, happy cat. *Puppy Stuff* covers a wide variety of puppy care topics.

**Richard Bales** of Aurora is the author of the acclaimed book *The Great Chicago Fire and the Myth of Mrs. O'Leary's Cow*. Based on years of writing, transcribing and research, the book uncovers new evidence as to the cause of the fire. Bales is convinced he has identified the real cause of the fire. The book was the subject of a Discovery Channel "Unsolved History" episode. Bales and a team of fire forensic specialists spent two days putting his theories to the test, and the tests convinced Bales even more that his conclusions are correct.

The long and exciting history of high school basketball in Illinois is the subject of **Taylor Bell's** highly praised book *Sweet Charlie, Dike, Cazzie and Bobby Joe*. This is the first comprehensive history of high school basketball in the state, written by a reporter who is a lifelong fan and authority on high school basketball for more than 40 years. The book is titled for four players who reflect the unique quality of high school basketball, and whose first names are enough to trigger memories in fans who love the sport—Sweet Charlie Brown, Dike Eddleman, Cazzie Russell and Bobby Joe Mason.

**Arnie Bernstein** of Chicago is a writer, speaker and teacher who has authored three unique books: *Hollywood on Lake Michigan: 100 Years of Chicago and the Movies*; *"The Movies Are": Carl Sandburg's Film Reviews and Essays*; and *The Hoofs and Guns of the Storm: Chicago's Civil War Connection*. Bernstein is well known to radio listeners for his numerous appearances on "The Sunday Papers with Rick Kogan" on WGN-AM 720 in Chicago (Kogan appeared at last year's Illinois Authors Book Fair). Bernstein's forthcoming book is *Robert Todd Lincoln: An American Life*, about the eldest son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

Long suffering Chicago Cubs fans know only too well that the last time the Cubs played in the World Series was 1945. **Charles N. Billington** of Glencoe has written about that historic season in *Wrigley Field's Last World Series: The Wartime Cubs and the Pennant of 1945*. Through statistical analysis and interviews with surviving players from the Cubs' 1945 season and family members of deceased players, Billington paints an evolving portrait of the season, the players and the wider national baseball scene of the day. The book contains a chapter on the parallels between the 1945 and 2003 seasons.

**Debbi Chocolate** of Wheaton is a popular children's author whose books include *Imani in the Belly*; *Pigs Can Fly!*; *The Piano Man*; *Kente Colors* and *A Very Special Kwanzaa*. Her books have won a Parents Choice Award, Minnesota Book Award and been selected one of the American Library Association's Top 100 books. Her work has appeared in *Essence Magazine*, *Black Scholar Journal*, *Publishers Weekly Magazine* and *USA Today*.

**D. D. Dunn** is the pen name of Doris Dewey of Davenport, Iowa. Her book *Binder Twine 'n Band Aids* is a funny little collection of short stories about growing up in the 1960's on an old, rickety farm in northwest Illinois. The book was a selection of the "One System, One Book" program run by the Prairie Area Library System. Young and old alike will enjoy this delightful collection.

**Michael Allen Dymmoch** of Northbrook is a mystery/suspense writer whose works have one common theme: cats! Titles by Michael include *The Fall*; *The Feline Friendship*; *The Man Who Understood Cats*; and *The Death of Blue Mountain Cat*. Michael's awards include St. Martin's Press Malice Domestic Award for Best First Traditional Mystery.

**Dan Guillory** of Findlay is a professor of English at Milliken University in Decatur. His Works include *Living with Lincoln: Life and Art in the Heartland*; *The Alligator Inventions*; *When the Waters Recede: Rescue and Recovery During the Great Flood* and *Images of America: Decatur*. He is the recipient of awards from the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Janice Harrington** is a children's librarian and professional storyteller from Champaign. Her first children's book, *Going North*, has been called "gorgeous....the impressionistic, color-rich paintings are as warm and expressive as the lyrical story." The book is the story of a family moving from Alabama to Nebraska, filled with lyrical free verse and evocative paintings that capture the rhythm of the road and a young girl's longing as she wonders: *Will I like it there? Will I like the North?*

**Walt Harrington** is head of the journalism department at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. His books include *The Everlasting Stream*; *Crossings: A White Man's Journey into Black America*; *Intimate Journalism*; *At the Heart of It* and *American Profiles*. *Crossings* received the Gustavus Myers Award for the study of human rights in America, chronicling Harrington's 25,000-mile journey through black America. Harrington was a staff writer for the Washington Post Magazine for 15 years, and is the winner of twenty local, state and national journalism awards.

**Libby Fischer Hellmann** of Northbrook is an award-winning writer who, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "has carved out an enviable position in the local mystery scene." Her books, which include *An Eye for Murder*, *A Picture of Guilt* and *An Image of Death*, have been called "masterful" and "powerful". Her awards include being a finalist in the Benjamin Franklin Awards for mystery-suspense writing and a Readers' Choice award for Best First Book. Her fourth novel, *A Shot of Death*, will be published in September.

During the past two years **Sam Hill** of Winnetka has published two novels, *Buzz Monkey* and *Buzz Riff*. He has also written or co-written three non-fiction books. *Radical Marketing*, co-authored with Glenn Rifkin, is now in its sixth printing and has been translated into seven languages. CNNfn called his book *The Infinite Asset: Managing Brands to Build New Value* "one of the best business books of the last two decades". Hill's latest business book is *Sixty Trends in Sixty Minutes*.

**Dave Hoekstra** has been a *Chicago Sun-Times* staff writer since 1985. Since 1995 he has written the popular Sunday "Detours" column in the *Sun-Times* travel section, and 66 of those road explorations have been collected in the book *Ticket to Everywhere: the Best of the Detours Travel Column*. Hoekstra's newspaper competitor, the *Chicago Tribune*, called the book "fun and endearing....Hoekstra has a nose for the unusual and offbeat, the places and people that are full of character. Popular singer Jimmy Buffett gave the book high praise, saying, "all these years I have been seeking adventures in exotic jungles and tropical locations. Hell, I am heading to the Mid-west."

Well-known Springfieldian **Jacqueline Jackson** is the author of *More Stories from the Round Barn*, the companion volume to her widely praised *Stories from the Round Barn* published in 1997. Readers were introduced to life on the farm that W.J. Dougan founded in 1906 near Beloit, Wisconsin, where they had built an unusual round barn. Using anecdotes, stories and vivid description, Jackson detailed her recollections of farm life with both drama and comic relief. *More Stories* continues Jackson's loving tribute to life on the Dougan farm and surrounding community, introducing readers to a host of new characters to accompany familiar faces found in the first volume.

**Deloris Jordan** is the mother of former Chicago Bulls basketball legend Michael Jordan. She has co-authored three books with her daughter and Michael's sister Roslyn M. Jordan, the best known being *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream*. This warm, uplifting story will encourage young readers to chase their dreams with hard work and faith. Deloris and Roslyn Jordan's next book, *Michael's Golden Rules*, will be released later this year. Their most recent book is *Did I Tell You I Love You Today?* Mrs. Jordan also co-authored *Family First: Winning the Parenting Game*. Deloris Jordan is the mother of five high-achieving children -- Ronald, Deloris, Larry, Michael, and Roslyn -- a sought-after national speaker on family issues, and was the volunteer president of the Michael Jordan Foundation.

Featured author **Alex Kotlowitz** wrote the acclaimed best selling book *There Are No Children Here*. The book is the true story of brothers Lafayette and Pharoah Rivers, ages 11 and 9 at the start, and brings home the horror of trying to survive in a violence-ridden public housing project in Chicago. The book's title comes from a comment made by the brothers' mother as she and Kotlowitz contemplate the challenges of living in such a hostile environment: "There are no children here," she says. "They've seen too much to be children." The book humanizes the problem of inner-city pathology, makes readers care about Lafayette and Pharoah more than they may expect to, and offers a sliver of hope buried deep within a world of chaos. *There Are No Children Here* was named among the 150 most important books of the 20th century by the New York Public Library. Kotlowitz' latest book is *Never a City So Real: A Walk in Chicago*.

**Quraysh Ali Lansana** is Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University, where he is also an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing. His books include *They Shall Run: Harriet Tubman Poems* and the poetry collection *Southside Rain*. Lansana is also co-editor of *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art*. His work has been published widely in journals and magazines across the country and internationally, and he is the recipient of many awards for his work.

Life integration expert **Leslie Levine** of Northbrook is the author of *Will This Place Ever Feel Like Home? Simple Advice for Settling in After You Move*, which was named one of the best work/family books by the Wall Street Journal. She is also the author of *Ice Cream for Breakfast: If You Follow All the Rules, You Miss Half the Fun*. Her newest release is *Wish It, Dream It, Do It: Turn the Life You're Living Into the Life You Want*. She specializes in stress management, self-care and life integration.

**Richard Lindberg** is a lifelong Chicagoan, an author, journalist and research historian who has written and published eleven books dealing with aspects of city history, politics, criminal justice, sports and ethnicity. Noteworthy in his body of work is *To Serve and Collect: Chicago Politics and Police Corruption from the Lager Beer Riot to the Summerdale Scandal*. The book is the first published history of the Chicago Police Department to appear in book form since 1887. This year he is serving a one-year term as president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology.

**Rosina Neginsky** is an Associate Professor who teaches comparative European literature at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and was educated in Paris. Her books include *Zinaida Vengerova: In Search of Beauty-A Literary Ambassador between East and West*, a literary biography of the first theorist of the Symbolist movement in Europe and Russia. She has written two books of poetry, *Dancing Over the Precipice* and *Under the Light of the Moon*. Neginsky has written numerous articles on Russian and European writers and poets.

**Carl Oblinger** of Springfield has won wide praise for his book *Divided Kingdom: Work, Community and the Mining Wars in the Central Illinois Coal Fields During the Great Depression*. Now in a second edition, the book consists of edited oral histories of the desperate struggles of miners and their wives with Peabody Coal and the United Mine Workers over scarce economic resources. His other books include *Cornwall: The People and Culture of an Industrial Camelot* and *Interviewing the People of Pennsylvania; A Conceptual Guide to Oral History*.

**Greg Olson** of Jacksonville has published the new coffee-table book *Illinois College: 175 Years Leading the Way*. Olson is history features writer of the Jacksonville Journal-Courier, and attended Illinois College in 1979 and 1980. Filled with historic and new photographs of campus life, the book chronicles the early years of Illinois College through modern times of record enrollments and new facilities. The book was produced in conjunction with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college, which was founded in 1829.

Illinois has a rich history of farms and agriculture, and **Harry Porter** of Bement captures a slice of that culture in *Barns of Illinois: A Pictorial History*. Proceeds from the book benefit the Illinois FFA Foundation. Porter is a longtime Illinois barn enthusiast, photographer and lecturer. Nearly 240 photos and accompanying descriptions appear in the book. "Old barns are like old friends and relatives, you better go see them today because tomorrow they might not be here," says Porter.

**Fern Schumer Chapman** of Lake Bluff is an accomplished journalist and former reporter who has written *Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust-A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past*. *Motherland* is the compelling true story of Edith Schumer, orphaned by the Nazis, and her return 52 years later to Germany with daughter Fern, who knew almost nothing of her mother's past. Last October the Illinois Association of Teachers of English named Ms. Chapman Illinois Author of the Year. Hallmark Entertainment has optioned film rights, and the book was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Acclaimed illustrator **Sue Shanahan** of Mokena never met author Jennifer Murphy-Morriscal, but together they produced the book *What I Believe*, a beautiful collection of thoughts on love, hope, friendship and kindness. Sue created most of the book's illustrations between commissions over the past few years. Jennifer wrote the sentiments to her children four years ago. The book's publisher brought the two works together, and drawings and thoughts matched perfectly. Sue's other books include *Sarah the Best Bridesmaid* and several collections of sticker paper dolls. The Illinois State Library has commissioned Sue to create art for the annual Family Reading Night celebration.

**Denise Swanson** of Plainfield is a best selling mystery writer whose latest book is *Murder of a Pink Elephant*. The book is the sixth in her award winning series featuring Skye Denison, a school psychologist/sleuth who solves mysteries loosely based on incidents that occurred in Swanson's own life. *Murder of a Pink Elephant* follows *Murder of a Small Town Honey*; *Murder of a Sleeping Beauty*; *Murder of a Snake in the Grass*; *Murder of a Barbie and Ken*; and *Murder of a Sweet Old Lady*. *Murder of a Smart Cookie* will be released in July.

**Natasha Tarpley** of Chicago writes fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children. She is best known, however, for her highly praised children's books that include *Destiny's Gift*; *Joe-Joe's First Flight*; *I Love My Hair* and *Bippity Bop Barbershop*. She also co-edited, with an 19-year old young woman, an anthology of writings by African American girls ages 12-19 entitled, *What I Know is Me*. Natasha is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Thurber House and Illinois Arts Council.

**Sophia Zufa** of New Lenox is the author of *Why God Has Gray Hair*, a collection of short stories about attending Catholic parochial school in the pre-Vatican II era, when all the teachers were nuns and the pastor was held in only slightly lesser esteem than the Pope. Most of the pieces in the book are humorous, and some are some downright hilarious. Yet a few will touch you with a poignancy that aims straight for the heart. Reviewers have praised the book with comments such as "pure enjoyment", "charming stories that had me laughing out loud", and "a truly enjoyable read—don't pass this one up." Sophia's newest book is *St. Michael the Archangel's Washboard Band*.

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Storyteller **Linda Gorham** of Eola is energetic and dynamic. Her audiences are told, “Be ready to chant, be ready to move, be ready to laugh, be ready for fun. And watch out, you may be inspired, relive a memory and learn something new.” Linda presents workshops and storytelling programs for preschool through high school and adults. After appearing at one school, a participant wrote, “You have a gift, Linda. How lucky we were to experience that gift! I will spread the word about Linda Gorham.”

**Tom Joyce** is one of the nation’s preeminent appraisers of books, sports memorabilia, autographs, maps & works on paper. He has appeared as a regular on "The Appraisal Fair", seen on Home And Garden Television (HGTV). His appraisal firm, Joyce And Company, was established in 1975 and is located at 400 North Racine Ave. in Chicago. There are usually 15-20,000 books on-site and available for browsing. Also, books are available at The Chicago Rare Book Center, 56 West Maple Street in Chicago.

**The Junior League of Springfield** has compiled *Honest to Goodness: Honestly Good Food from Mr. Lincoln’s Hometown*. Native Illinois pork, beef, corn, garden crisp vegetables, fresh strawberries, apples, and yes, even horseradish are the staples of our culinary heritage, simply prepared with Midwestern flair and consumed with gusto. Honest to Goodness is a celebration of that good food. Enjoy the cooking of Springfield and savor the rich history that abounds in Illinois' capital city. Junior League members will be handing out samples of some of their cooking during the Book Fair.