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**Jesse White Announces Eighth Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition**

SPRINGFIELD—Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that entry forms are now available for the Eighth Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award. Forms and other information may be found at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/lda96.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf).

“Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these new poets are adding to the storied tradition established by legendary Illinois authors such as Gwendolyn Brooks. Many of our previous winners have had their works published,” said White. “Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I’m looking forward to discovering talented new poets in this year’s competition.”

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who succeeded Brooks as Illinois Poet Laureate. Stein selects the winners of the first, second and third prizes.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2012. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place, and winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO*, and *Quiddity* magazines and *Poetic License Press* publications. Winners will read their poems and receive their prizes from Secretary White and Kevin Stein at a ceremony later this year at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book Coordinator Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or [bmatheis@ilsos.net](mailto:bmatheis@ilsos.net).

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