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Further information:

Rachel Farrer

Jesse White Announces 11th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Entry forms are now available; Deadline is June 30

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced today that entry forms are available for the 11th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award.

“We created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide an outlet for talented writers,” White said. “Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I am looking forward to discovering talented new poets with this year’s competition.”

The competition, co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, the current Illinois Poet Laureate, is named in honor of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2015. Winning poems will be submitted for possible inclusion in the “Bluestem,” “Ninth Letter,” “Quiddity,” “RHINO” and “Poetic License Press” publications. Winners will read their poems and receive prizes at a ceremony later this year at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first- (\$500), second- (\$300) and third-place (\$100) winners.

Forms and other information may be found at <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org>. For more information, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.net.

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