

# INSIGHT

*Jesse White · Secretary of State & State Librarian*

## Library Day draws hundreds of library supporters

Nearly 400 members of the Illinois library community were in Springfield on Thursday, April 19, for a very successful Illinois Library Day.

Festivities began the night before with a strategy session and dinner organized by the DuPage Library System. Kip Kolkmeier, Illinois Library Association legislative consultant, briefed participants on what was happening in this session of the General Assembly.

Library Day kicked off with a first-ever breakfast for lawmakers at the State Library. More than 200 people attended, including some 30 state legislators. The ILA announced the launch of a campaign on the MySpace Web site to promote online safety. MySpace will distribute free Internet safety bookmarks to libraries with tips on cyberbullying, safe blogging and social networking.

Following the breakfast, participants visited their local legislators at the Capitol. Among the issues addressed were opposing a bill requiring mandatory Internet computer filters and supporting Secretary of State Jesse White's library budget, which includes \$1 million in additional funding for public library per capita grants for the 2008 fiscal year.

Participants then gathered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for a march to the State Capitol where they heard remarks from Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin and Illinois State Library Director Anne Craig, speaking on behalf of Secretary White.

"You are highly trained, hard working, dedicated, technologically savvy, civic-minded, politically active information professionals," said Craig. "And the message you need to get across today is how important all of you are to the constituents our lawmakers represent."

A special thanks goes out to the ILA, CARLI, ISLMA, the Illinois Library System Directors Organization and the Special Libraries Association for their collective efforts in organizing another successful Illinois Library Day. (See page 2 for pictures of the event.)

### Secretary White salutes librarians

Secretary of State Jesse White used the occasions of National Library Week, April 15-21, and National Library Workers Day on April 17 to applaud Illinois librarians and staff.

"As I visit our libraries throughout the state, I see firsthand that librarians are some of our most dedicated, hard-working and knowledgeable public servants," said Secretary White. "Whether looking for books, magazines, videos, CDs, answers to reference questions or free Internet access, library users know they can count on librarians and library staff who have the training and skills to meet their needs."

"Illinois has a strong network of 4,000 academic, public, school and special libraries and nine regional library systems that are unquestionably the finest in the nation."

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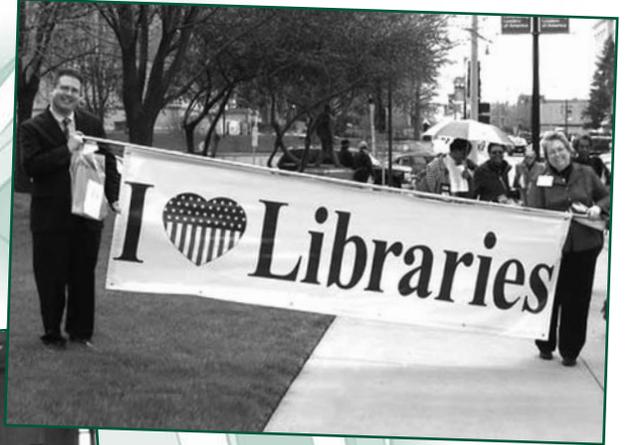
Map Department on the Web



Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and Illinois State Library Director Anne Craig were interviewed recently by the staff of the Kankakee Public Library for a podcast on its Web site. Left to right are: Kankakee Library Project Next Generation program coordinator Roland Johnson, Craig, Secretary White, Kankakee Library Director Cynthia Fuerst, and Kankakee Library Assistant Director Stephen Bertrand.

## Illinois Library Day (continued from p. 1)

RIGHT: David Seleb of the Metropolitan Library System and Bev Obert, director of the Rolling Prairie Library System, carry the Library Day banner while marching from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to the State Capitol.



LEFT: Tina Hubert (left), director of the Lewis and Clark Library System, who previously worked at the State Library, was welcomed back for Illinois Library Day by her former boss, State Library Associate Director Patricia Norris.

RIGHT: State Rep. Robert Pritchard of Hinckley visits with Sycamore Public Library Director Sarah Tobias at the Illinois Library Day legislative breakfast at the State Library.



LEFT: Library Day participants gathered in front of the State Capitol for an enthusiastic rally.

RIGHT: Enjoying themselves at the Illinois Library Day legislative breakfast are Inara McGroaty of the Prairie Area Library System and state Rep. Mike Boland of East Moline.



# Letters About Literature winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the Illinois winners of the annual Letters About Literature contest. The national reading and writing contest for students is presented by The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores, and sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book.

Participants must write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work has changed their views of the world or themselves. Readers may select authors, living or deceased, from any literary genre. The Illinois Center for the Book appointed judges to select the top essayists in the state from more than 3,500 entries in three competition levels:

**Level I, grades 4-6 — Jori Goldberg**, Avery Coonley School, Downers Grove, for her letter to Deborah Wiles, author of *Each Little Bird that Sings*.

**Level II, grades 7-8 — Alejandra Ruiz**, Keller Jr. High School, Schaumburg, for her letter to Pam Munoz Ryan, author of *Esperanza Rising*.

**Level III, grades 9-12 — Faye Cheng**, Central High School, Hinsdale, for her letter to Alexandra Robbins, author of *The Overachievers*.

The winning letters are on the Illinois Center for the Book Web site at [www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org](http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org).

The three Illinois winners, who advance to the national competition, met with Secretary White to receive their awards, which included a \$50 Target gift card and \$150 from the Illinois Center for the Book. For the first time, each of the winner's schools also received \$50 from the Illinois Center for the Book.

At the national level, two winners will be selected from each competition level. Target Stores will send the six national winners, along with their parents and a teacher, to Washington, D.C., for the National Book Festival in September, where they will read their winning letters. Each national winner also will receive a \$500 Target Gift card.



State Library Patent & Trademark librarian Margaret Collins recently attended the 30th annual U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Depository Library Program conference in Alexandria, Virginia. During the event she met with Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Jon W. Dudas, who is a native of Springfield.

# Public libraries receive \$14.2 million in per capita and equalization grants

Secretary of State Jesse White recently awarded Illinois public libraries nearly \$14.2 million in fiscal year 2007 per capita and equalization aid grants.

"Illinois' public libraries are truly cornerstones of our communities — places where all citizens can go for informational, educational or entertainment purposes," said Secretary White. "This funding helps ensure that public libraries have the resources to address the needs of their patrons."

Libraries count on these grants for important expenses such as paying for books, personnel, equipment and electronic access. The 633 public libraries receiving per capita grants were allocated at a rate of \$1.22 per resident. Ten public libraries with low library tax bases received equalization aid grants to ensure a minimum level of funding for library services.

Over the next two years, as a requirement to receive a per capita or equalization grant, public libraries must detail their plans for dealing with potential disasters. "It is vitally important for public libraries to have a plan in place to deal with any type of disaster," said Secretary White. "A fire, tornado, flood or other catastrophe can impact patron safety or seriously disrupt the service citizens expect from their public libraries."

Additionally, at least one member of the library board of trustees will be required to attend a continuing education event and share the information with other trustees. Secretary White said patrons benefit when library trustees learn the most up-to-date information before making decisions that affect library policies.



[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library)

The State Library has updated its Web page for the Map Department, where you can now print copies of information sheets on General Land Office plats, Sanborn fire insurance atlases, 2005 Illinois Digital Orthophotos, the 2004 Illinois NAIP, the Illinois Historical Aerial Photography Web site and CD-ROM collection, and the Illinois Historical Aerial Photography original print collection.

# SAVE THE DATE

**August 10-19**

Illinois State Library at the  
Illinois State Fair  
Springfield

**September 20**

Government Documents Conference  
Illinois State Library

**October 9-12**

ILA Annual Conference  
Springfield

**October 10**

LSTA 10th Anniversary Reception  
Illinois State Library

**November 1-3**

Illinois School Library Media Association  
Fall Conference  
Springfield

## Ask?Away

Reliable answers...anytime

The State Library marked Ask?Away Illinois Awareness Week, May 7-11, by urging Internet users who had not tried the free Ask?Away Illinois 24/7 virtual reference site to log on to the site at [askawayillinois.info](http://askawayillinois.info) or [finditillinois.org](http://finditillinois.org).

"Internet users are discovering the wonderful benefits of having access to qualified reference librarians any-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a

week," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Students with questions on homework, consumers with questions about products, even partygoers seeking answers to trivia questions can log on to Ask?Away and get accurate information night and day."

More than 23,000 users have accessed Ask?Away since it was launched in April 2006. March 2007 statistics show 230 participating Illinois libraries responded to 1,562 e-mail questions and took part in 2,496 chat sessions. Questions may be posed to librarians in both English and Spanish.

## People at the State Library

ILLINET/OCLC coordinator **Laurie Bartolini** has left the State Library and moved to Wisconsin. She is succeeded by **Debra Aggerdt**, who will also continue as Ask?Away coordinator.

**Mary Jo Zumstein** of the Diversity Program has

retired and moved to Texas following 20 years of service.

**Nancy Krah** and **Ethel Snyder** recently were recognized along with other Secretary of State employees for 35 and 40 years of service.

An article on building Illinois electronic documents access by **Connie Frankenfeld** was published recently in the quarterly journal, *Internet Reference Services*.

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