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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

Bradbury classic *Fahrenheit 451* selected for "The Big Read"



Ray Bradbury's classic science fiction novel *Fahrenheit 451* has been selected for "The Big Read," a reading campaign involving the Illinois State Library, west central Illinois libraries, schools and other community organizations.

The campaign, which began in early September and runs through mid-November, involves activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings and performing arts events.

A worldwide literary classic since its 1953 release, *Fahrenheit 451* is a cautionary tale about a media-obsessed society where citizens have stopped reading. The book has become required reading in most high school classrooms and occasionally turns up on lists of banned books because of its controversial themes related to freedom of expression. The book was chosen to honor Illinois native Bradbury, whose name is one of 35 Illinois authors' names engraved on the exterior fourth-floor frieze of the State Library.

Organizations joining the State Library as part of The Big Read include: Illinois Center for the Book, Network Knowledge public television stations

(WSEC/WMEC/WQEC), Macomb Public Library District, Jacksonville Public Library, Alliance Library System, Lincoln Library (Springfield's public library), University of Illinois at Springfield Brookens Library, Rochester Public Library District, Chatham Area Public Library District, Rolling Prairie Library System, Sherman Public Library District, Williamsville Public Library, Quincy Public Library, Beardstown Public Library, Springfield Urban League, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Sam's Club, Sacred Heart/Griffin High School and Springfield School District 186.

The Big Read is made possible by a \$20,000 grant awarded to the Illinois State Library from the National Endowment for the Arts. For details on the local program, please visit www.icftb.org/bigread/. Additional information can be found at www.neabigread.org.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts — both new and established — bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts.

bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, visit www.arts.gov.



The Illinois State Library continued its commemoration of next year's 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth by placing banners on a number of lampposts in downtown Springfield. This banner is located in front of the State Library and the State Museum.

September/October
2008

ISL at the Illinois State Fair



More than 200 students, mentors and friends took part in Secretary of State Jesse White's annual pre-Illinois State Fair Project Next Generation picnic. PNG is Secretary White's highly acclaimed technology and mentoring program administered at more than 20 Illinois public libraries. Peoria PNG participants (pictured) were among those taking part in the festivities.



The highlight of the PNG picnic was a performance by the amazing Jesse White Tumbling Team.

Becky Hunter of the Library Development Group welcomed Secretary White to the State Library booth in the Secretary of State tent.



The Talking Book and Braille Service had a booth in the Illinois Building, which provided information on services for print-disabled patrons. Pictured with Secretary White are (left to right) Cheryl Johnson, Sharon Ruda, associate director of TBBS, and Vicki Devenport.



1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT EXHIBIT — The Illinois State Library observed the 100th anniversary of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in August by hosting the exhibit "Summer of Hate." Among other things, the Race Riot was instrumental in the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Secretary White awards \$3.2 million in LSTA grants

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY09 Library Services and Technology Act grants totaling nearly \$3.2 million to 106 Illinois academic, public, school and special libraries, and regional library systems. LSTA grants are designed for the development of projects that specifically provide and focus on library service, new initiatives and library activities.

"It is always a pleasure to award LSTA grants each year because these funds reward libraries for being creative and innovative," said Secretary White. "LSTA grants allow librarians to identify specific local needs and use these funds to address those needs. I congratulate all of our grant recipients on their hard work and creativity in seeking to address their patrons' needs."

This year's LSTA grants were awarded in four categories:

- 1) **Digital Imaging** grants allow libraries to create Internet-ready versions of their materials and collections, specifically Illinois-related historical and cultural materials. Grants were awarded for 21 projects.
- 2) **In Sync With Technology** grants focus on improving library services for people of all ages by developing programs that integrate new technologies or significant equipment. Grants were awarded for 54 projects.
- 3) **Research & Development** grants fund research on topics that have the potential to improve and create new library practices, resources, programs and services for library patrons across Illinois. Grants were awarded for three projects.
- 4) **The Value of Resource Sharing** grants allow recipients to expand their holdings to an online consortium, linking the catalogs of multiple libraries to greatly increase patron access to library resources across Illinois. Grants were awarded for 28 projects.

LSTA funding is awarded to states by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Illinois State Library administers LSTA funding awarded to the state of Illinois through a competitive grant program. All types of libraries — academic, public, school and special — as well as regional library systems and museums with libraries, are eligible for funding.

TBBS's Sharon Ruda named Librarian of the Year

The Illinois Library Association has named Sharon Ruda, associate director of the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service, its 2008 Librarian of the Year. Sharon accepted her award at the ILA annual conference at Navy Pier in Chicago in late September.

Under Ruda's leadership, TBBS was named the national Network Library of the Year in 2006 by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She has helped implement a number of new technology-related programs, including Online Programming for All Libraries (OPAL), an initiative that started in the Illinois talking-book community as an accessible, Web-based book discussion in 2003 and is now popular in libraries worldwide. Other TBBS projects Ruda has overseen include the InfoEyes virtual reference service, Illinois Kidzone summer reading program and Unabridged, a Web-based digital audiobook program that allows patrons to listen to books on computers or download.

Nearly 30,000 patrons use the services of TBBS and its four regional libraries: Chicago Public Library, Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, Southern Illinois Talking Book Center and Voices of Vision Talking Book Centers.

World War II classroom project

The State Library recently hosted 45 high school students and 50 adults, including teachers, university representatives, Learning Technology Center directors and State Board of Education staff, for a weeklong training course on how to conduct video interviews with World War II veterans. All interviews were digitally recorded and are accessible on the Illinois Digital Archives at www.idaillinois.org.

The Area 5 Learning Technology Center based in Edwardsville coordinated the training session. State Library staff assisted with research, scanning, techniques, interviewing skills and video production. Reporter Mark McDonald visited and taped a program for his Emmy award-winning Illinois Stories program, which airs on Springfield's WSEC-TV.

The classroom project ties in with Secretary of State Jesse White's Veterans' History Project, as the material the schools generate will be included in that project as well as the Library of Congress' Veterans' History Program. The World War II classroom project is being funded by a grant from the Illinois World War II Memorial Board.

Letters About Literature

Each year the State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book sponsor the Letters About Literature reading and writing competition in partnership with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Target Stores. Information packets were sent to Illinois public and private schools in early September for the 2009 competition. **The deadline to enter is December 6, 2008.**

Open to students in grades 4 through 12, the competition requires students to read a book and write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed his or her perception of the world. Students may participate through their schools, youth programs, libraries or individually.

State winners will be announced in April 2009 and national winners will be announced in May 2009. For more information about the 2009 contest or previous Letters About Literature winners, visit illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

Library System Standards Committee announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced members of the Library System Standards Committee. Representing the statewide library community, the committee will spend approximately one year reviewing and revising the current service standards for the state's regional library systems. Committee members will seek broad-based input into the future key roles and responsibilities of library systems.

Committee members include:

- David Carlson, chair — Dean of Library Affairs, SIU at Carbondale
- Jane Sharka — past president, Illinois School Library Media Association
- Tom Dorst — associate director for Administration, Consortium of Academic and Research Librarians of Illinois
- Shirley May Byrnes — executive director, DuPage Library System
- Marilyn Boria — director, Elmhurst Public Library
- David Joens — director, Illinois State Archives
- James Quisenberry — president, Lincoln Trail Libraries System
- Mike Steiner — Programs and Policies, Office of the Secretary of State

State Library staff members working with the committee include State Library Director Anne Craig; Chief Deputy Director Lawren Tucker; Patricia Norris, associate director of Grants & Programs; Joe Natale, executive assistant to the director for Planning & Outreach; and Kathleen Bloomberg, associate director of Operations.

E-R-XPO — December 4

Librarians across the state are invited to the Schaumburg Township District Library on Thursday, December 4 for the annual Electronic Resource Exposition sponsored by the Illinois State Library. The free event allows librarians to meet with vendors individually and during focus group sessions to learn about the latest electronic resource products available to enhance service to their patrons.

Participating vendors will be announced closer to the event in the State Library's weekly electronic newsletter, *E-news from the ISL* (sign up at pmcguckin@ilsos.net). For more information about E-R-XPO, contact Gwen Harrison at 217-785-7334 or gharrison@ilsos.net.

SAVE THE DATE

October 22

ILLINET Network Advisory Council meeting
Illinois State Library

October 30

System Presidents and Directors Meeting
Illinois State Library

November 6-8

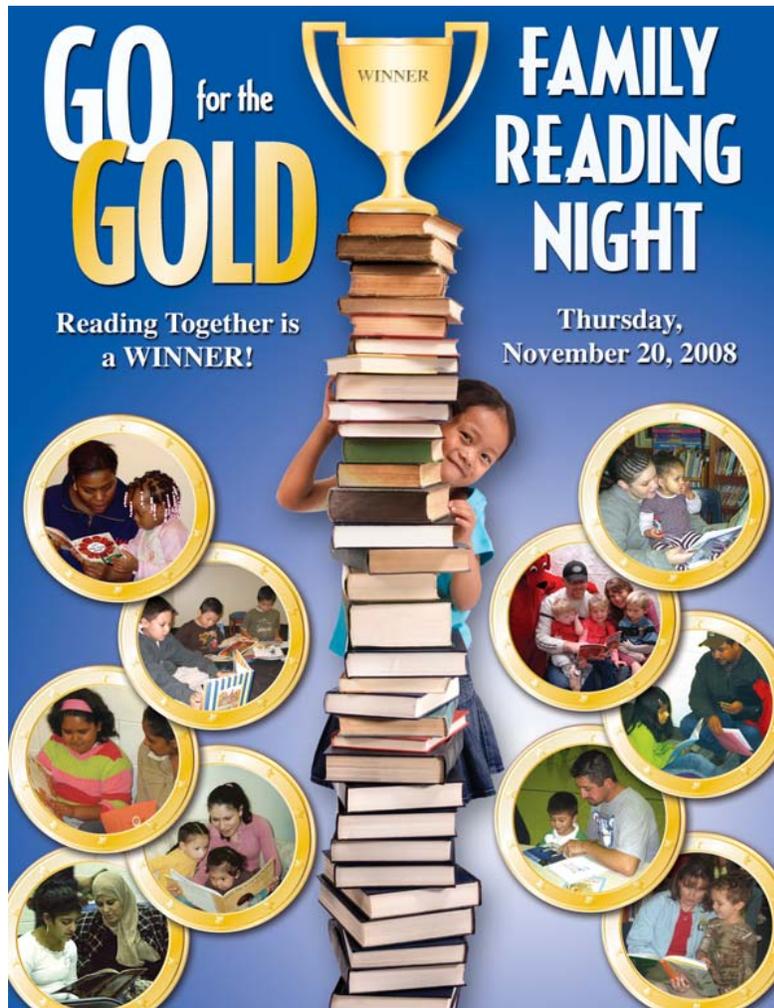
Illinois School Library Media Association
Annual Conference
Arlington Heights

November 20

Family Reading Night
Statewide

December 4

Electronic Resource Exposition (E-R-XPO)
Schaumburg Township District Library



Library Training Grants announced

Fifteen future librarians have been selected to receive \$7,500 scholarship grants to help pay for obtaining their Master's of Library and Information Science degrees. The Illinois Library and Information Science Training Grant Program, administered by the Illinois State Library, provides the grants each year to college graduates who possess exceptional academic achievement and an interest in becoming librarians.

"The state of Illinois is a national leader in developing libraries and librarians, and this grant program provides outstanding graduate students with some of the financial resources needed to obtain their master's degrees," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "I am proud to congratulate these talented future librarians."

More than 500 students have received the grants since the program was implemented. Scholarships may be used for either full- or part-time studies at an American Library Association-accredited graduate

library school. Grant recipients are required to work the equivalent of two full years in the Illinois library community within the first three years following graduation.

Training Grant Recipients

University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

Magdalena Anne Casper-Shipp, Chicago
April Marie Hosto, Edwardsville
Micah Lawrence Jefferson, DeKalb
Hakim A. Murphy, Oak Park
Susan Lea Pasini, Libertyville
Natalie Joan Richardson, Mendota
Caitlin Savage, Evanston
Laura Ann Smith, Chicago
Jennifer AnnLouise Ward, Chicago

Dominican University, Oak Forest

Mary Beth Fuller, Hanover Park
Abigail Marie Nafziger, Evanston
Reina Michelle Williams, Chicago

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Sarah Kareem Flanagan, Rochelle
Karly Johanna Steele, Sherrard
Shawn Christian Tanner, Chicago

L2 continuing education calendar

It's been a long time coming, but L2 Library Learning, a new statewide continuing education calendar at www.librarylearning.info/, is now available. The State Library has enjoyed working with the regional library systems to make L2 a reality. L2 is a one-stop site for locating and registering for library-related state and national conferences, system classes and State Library classes and events. L2 replaces the State Library's CLeO calendar as well as regional library system calendars.