



LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL BOOKMARKS — As part of the State Library's commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in February 2009, six collectible bookmarks have been created by the State Library with fun facts, trivia and other information about Illinois' No. 1 son and America's 16th President. A limited supply of bookmarks is available by calling 217-782-2994 or e-mailing pmcguckin@ilsos.net.

ILLINOIS DIGITIZATION INSTITUTE —

The Illinois Digitization Institute provides training in the theory and practice of digitization to library, archives and museum employees. In October, two groups of librarians from foreign countries visited the State Library for workshops conducted by ISL Digital Imaging Program manager Alyce Scott.



One group of librarians (left) came from Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria and Tanzania. The second group (above) traveled from Uzbekistan, Kenya, South Korea, Ghana, Bahrain, Palestine, Vietnam, Nigeria, Japan and Colombia.



People at the State Library

Debbie Choate, technical specialist in the Collection Management Section, celebrated 30 years with the State Library.

H. Neil Kelley of the Library Development Group, a consultant who specializes in issues related to trustees, library systems and library construction grants, marked 20 years with the State Library.

Andrew Bullen, coordinator of the Information Technology Section, recently published an article in *Computers in Libraries* (www.infoday.com/cilmag/oct08/Bullen.shtml).

Tina Hubert, former State Library consultant and current director of the Lewis and Clark Library System, has been named to the Library Systems Standards Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

December 4

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

December 10

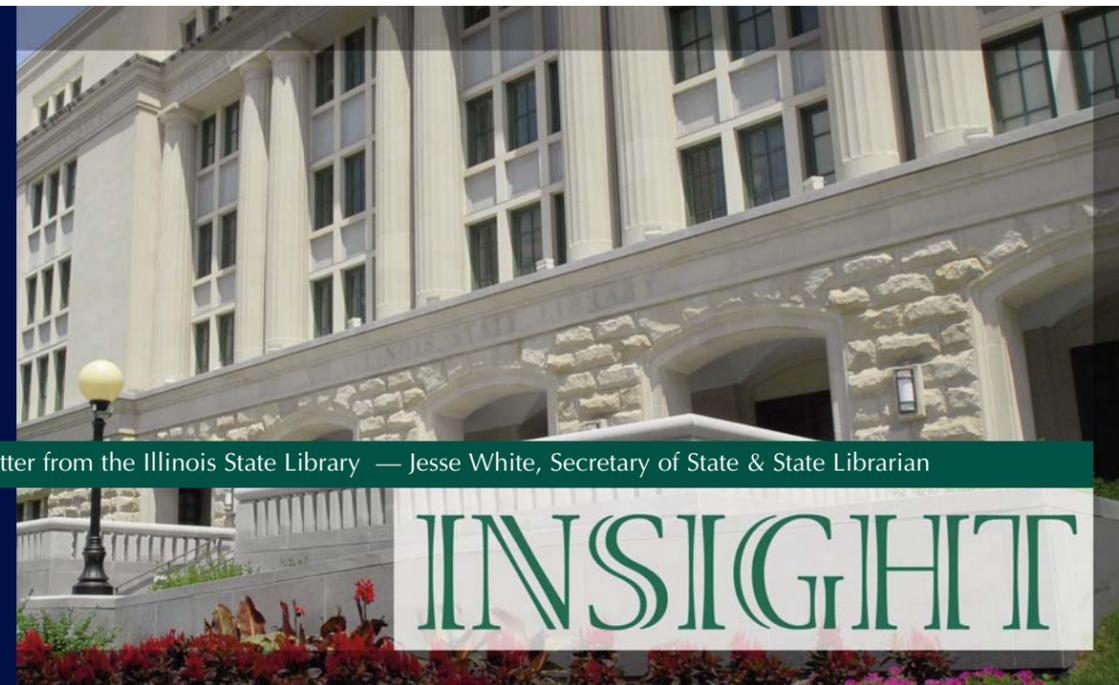
Illinois State Library Advisory Committee
Illinois State Library

December 12

ISL Talking Book and Braille Service
Advisory Committee Meeting
Illinois State Library

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

Emerging Writers winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the fourth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition. White created the competition to promote writing and creativity and to provide a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new literary talent in the state.

"I'm delighted to congratulate these very talented individuals," said Secretary White. "Illinois has a long history of producing outstanding writers, and I hope all the writers who entered the contest this year will continue writing and inspiring us with their poems and short stories."

Winners of the **Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award** are:

- 1st place — **Thea Chesley** of Springfield for her poem "Rendezvous, Rue de Ursulines"
- 2nd place — **Peggy Davis** of Mt. Vernon for her poem "Bearing Witness"
- 3rd place — **Fawn Hoener** of Springfield for her poem "Hot Flash"



Winners of the **James Jones Short Story Award** are:

- 1st place — **Peggy Stortz** of Galena for her story "Night Visitor"
- 2nd place — **John Gabriel** of Joliet for his story "Just Sort of Out of Sight"
- 3rd place — **John J. Flaherty** of Bloomingdale for his story "BUMS"

Kevin Stein, who succeeded Gwendolyn Brooks as Illinois poet laureate, served as final judge for the poetry contest. Kaylie Jones, author and daughter of legendary Illinois writer James Jones (*From Here to Eternity*), and Helen Howe of the James Jones Literary Society

were final judges for the short story contest.

The winners of both awards will receive \$500-first place, \$300-second place and \$100-third place. The winners' short stories also will be submitted to *Ninth Letter* magazine and *Downstate Story* magazine for possible publication. Winning poems will be submitted to *RHINO* magazine, *Ninth Letter* magazine and *Another Chicago Magazine*.

The Illinois Emerging Writers Competition is a joint venture of the Illinois Center for the Book, for which Secretary White serves as honorary chair, the Illinois State Library and the James Jones Literary Society. The James Jones Literary Society provided generous financial support for the competition.

To read the winning entries, visit www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

November/December 2008

Dates set for 2009 Synergy conferences

Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative is the statewide library community's proactive movement to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. Synergy participants attend three three-day sessions during the calendar year at various sites throughout the state.

Dates and locations for Synergy 2009 are:

March 31-April 2 — Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center, Utica

August 4-6 — Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton

November 4-6 — Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle

Librarians selected for Synergy 2009 will be announced soon.



Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the staff of the Illinois State Library wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

ILA Annual Conference



1. Glenna White Jones spoke on behalf of her father, Secretary of State Jesse White, at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference at Chicago's Navy Pier in October. She told participants how much she and her son enjoy visiting their local public library.



2. State Library Director Anne Craig and Glenna White Jones presented a ceremonial FY08 Library Services and Technology Act grant check to Joe Harris, director of the Shawnee Library System.



3. Alliance Library System member libraries were among more than 100 recipients of FY08 LSTA grants. Several Alliance libraries received ceremonial checks at the conference.

ILA LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

— Sharon Ruda (right), director of the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, accepted her Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year award from awards committee chair Sue Beach at the ILA Annual Conference in October.



NEW FORMAT FOR E-NEWS — The Illinois State Library's weekly electronic newsletter, *E-news from the ISL*, has a new, easier-to-read format. The weekly newsletter is the best source to find out what's going on at the State Library, from grant offerings and important meetings to electronic resources. Join the nearly 6,000 subscribers who depend on *E-news* every Friday for up-to-date ISL information by visiting www.librarynewsletters.org/isl/?_mode=S.

Illinois OCLC Users Group

The Illinois OCLC Users Group promotes the use of OCLC's WorldCat database and related ILLINET/OCLC services for Illinois libraries. The group also provides training and continuing education programs, and ensures participation of Illinois OCLC users in the planning and implementation of programs connected with OCLC in the state. The group also serves as a means of organized input from Illinois OCLC users and as a vehicle for communication concerning OCLC among users. Visit www.ioug.info/ for Illinois OCLC Users Group events and OCLC updates and training videos hosted on YouTube.



The Illinois OCLC Users Group board of directors held its annual retreat at the State Library this fall and met with library staff. Pictured are (front row, left to right): State Library Director Anne Craig, Suzanne Schriar, Anita Morgan and Natalie Tagge; (second row) Linda McEwan and Debbie Baaske; (third row) Shelly Stone and Bill Echelbarger; (fourth row) Nanette Donohue, Mary Konkel, Charlotte Johnson, Debbie Aggert and Paul Anthony; and (back row) Stephen Banister, Sara Sabo and Jill Heffernan.



NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

— State Library employee Bonnie Matheis (second from right) represented the State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., this fall. Joining Bonnie are (left to right) Suzanne Meyer of the Junior League of Washington, D.C., Illinois Center for the Book board member Ray Elliott, and Mary Chute of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Illinois Authors Wiki unveiled

The Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book have announced that the Illinois Authors Directory has been updated to a "wiki" format. The Illinois Authors Wiki at www.illinoisauthors.org is a comprehensive resource for information on authors, photographers and illustrators who have published books, lived in Illinois or written about Illinois. Author searches can be done alphabetically by last name, by genre or intended audience or by keyword search. Illinois author profiles also can be viewed through a random search, and author photos may be added and viewed.

What makes the Illinois Authors Wiki site different from an ordinary Web site or other wikis is that all entries are made through voluntary efforts of password-authorized librarians, authors, publishers and other individuals and groups. If you are an Illinois author or specialize in information about an Illinois author, you may add to the Illinois Authors Wiki by creating an account.

The Illinois Authors Wiki is an ongoing effort, with the addition of authors, photographers and illustrators, and through the work of readers and specialists who share an interest in Illinois' rich literary heritage.



The State Library will be closed:

December 24, Christmas Eve
December 25, Christmas Day
January 1, New Year's Day