

THIS WEEK AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

October 17, 2016

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Acting Deputy Director

Jesse White Hosts “Preserving Their Memories” A Celebration of the Illinois Veterans’ History Project

Last month, Secretary of State Jesse White hosted “Preserving Their Memories” to honor veterans and their contributions to the Illinois Veterans’ History Project at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. The Illinois Veterans’ History Project honors Illinois veterans by documenting and preserving their experiences.

“The Illinois Veterans’ History Project provides a place to honor our veterans as well as a memorial for those who have served our country,” said White. “Currently, there are nearly 6,000 records submitted by veterans or their loved ones. With this initiative, future generations will have a better understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices Illinois veterans have made.”

White, who served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, was also a member of the Illinois National Guard and a reservist. As State Librarian and Archivist, White initiated the Illinois Veterans’ History Project in 2005, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, to provide a permanent record of the names and stories of Illinois veterans and their families.

“With the use of technology, my office has been able to share over 350 personal history videos online via the Illinois Veterans History Project YouTube channel,” said White, whose own video testimony is included in the project. “It is my hope that the contributions of these veterans will live on and their experiences will not be forgotten.”

At the event, veterans were able to obtain an updated driver’s license or ID card with the word “VETERAN” displayed on the front of the card. This designation helps ensure veterans living in Illinois, who have received an Honorable or General under Honorable Conditions discharge, receive veteran services and benefits.

White was joined by representatives from the Illinois Court Reporters’ Association and the Illinois Disabled American Veterans. Throughout the day, volunteer court reporters transcribed accounts from veterans in attendance. The event included musical performances by Glenwood High School’s Titan Fever Show Choir from Chatham and trumpeter Richard Martin, a U.S. Marine veteran. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Lafore Lock Post 755 Honor Guard presented the colors.

Author Cyndee Schaffer, daughter of Women’s Army Corps (WACs) enlistee Mollie Weinstein Schaffer, gave a presentation that drew upon excerpts from Mollie’s letters written home during the war. Mollie’s letters are included in a book that Cyndee Schaffer co-wrote with her mother called, “Mollie’s War: The Letters of a World War II WAC in Europe.”

Illinois Patriot Guard’s “Illinois Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial Wall” and the Portrait of a Soldier memorial tribute, provided by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, were on display during the event.

For more information about the Illinois Veterans’ History Project, visit:
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html>.

Illinois Library History Website

A website designed to inform Illinois residents about the history of the State Library and library development in Illinois is available on the [State Library's website](#).

The information was developed by Tom Emery who also wrote the book, "Illinois State Library Heritage Project, 1839-2013." Designed to be user-friendly, the Heritage Project website has easy-to-read text with over 130 photos, 40 biographical sidebars and complete documentation.

FY17 Live & Learn Construction Grant Applications and Webinar

Applications for the FY17 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program are available to public libraries. Information about the State Library's public library construction grant program is available on the State Library's [website](#). The website provides access to specific program information, requirements and a link to the grant application. Applications are due to the State Library by **Jan. 13, 2017**.

A webinar recently conducted by State Library staff that provides an overview of the Live & Learn Construction Grant Program is available on the program's [Web page](#). Details discussed include eligibility requirements, grant categories, rules and regulations governing the program, application procedures, required supporting documentation, grant submission and review procedures.

For more information, please contact [Mark Shaffer](#), [Pat Boze](#) or [Jay O'Dell](#).

Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Applications Available

The FY17 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application and FY15 Expenditure Report forms are now available at

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html

Instructions for completing a fillable PDF are available at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/grant-pdf-instructions.html>

When you have completed the application and report, click on the email button in the upper right hand corner of each document and send them to Percap-grant@ilsos.net by **Jan. 15, 2017**. Please add your city to the subject line.

Here are a few helpful reminders when completing your FY17 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization application and FY15 expenditure report(s):

- Use only the latest version of Adobe Reader to complete the application and expenditure report forms. Macintosh and Windows versions of the free Adobe Reader are available from Adobe at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
- Save the application and expenditure report to your desktop.
- Scanned copies will not be accepted.
- Be sure to complete the application as per the requirements, including initials, date, correct population and dates of review, where applicable.
- We DO NOT need your county clerk information.
- Report on FY15 funding only. The expenditure period runs from the time you received the FY15 award letter until June 30, 2016.
- The expenditure report(s), must be sent at the same time as the application. All are due by January 15, 2017.
- Your FY15 Per Capita/Equalization Amount must be exact.
- You do not need to list the dollar amount under each applicable category, just a short description to clarify the expenditure.

Please contact [Jeanne Urbanek](#) if you have any concerns.

Administrative Ready Reference Guide Update

The State Library has updated the [Administrative Ready Reference Guide](#) with a travel policy that reflects requirements in the Government Travel Expense Control Act. This new Illinois law (50 ILCS 150) goes into effect January 1, 2017, and includes a legal deadline for local government units to adopt an ordinance, resolution or policy that adheres to this statute with 180 days.

A sample resolution and policy can be found in the Library Policies section under the Personnel Policies [tab](#) of the Administrative Ready Reference Guide.

Try-it! Illinois Trial Underway

Try-It! Illinois, the annual statewide electronic database trial, offers the more than 5,000 ILLINET member libraries, their staffs and patrons an opportunity to evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. There is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois. To obtain the login and password, visit [Try-It! Illinois](#). The trial runs through November 30, 2016.

Lincoln Legacy Lectures set for October 20

The 14th annual Lincoln Legacy Lecture will be held 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 20 in Brookens Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). This year's topic is "[Lincoln and Reconstruction: America's Struggle for Equality](#)." The lecture is presented by the Center for State Policy and Leadership at UIS in cooperation with Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn, distinguished chair in Lincoln Studies. The State Library is a co-sponsor of the event.

The featured speakers will be Dr. Michael Burlingame, Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn, distinguished chair in Lincoln Studies, UIS; Dr. Allen Guelzo, Professor of the Civil War Era, Gettysburg College; and Dr. Brooks Simpson, Foundation Professor of History, Arizona State University. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Seating in Brookens Auditorium is limited, however, overflow seating will be available in the Public Affairs Center, Conference Rooms C/D, where the audience can watch a large-screen live video feed. Those unable to attend in person can watch a live webcast by visiting www.uis.edu/technology/uislive/ at the time of the event.

Support for Small Libraries to Create Smart Spaces

Check out this opportunity from WebJunction and their partners at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries to submit an application to the [Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces](#) project.

Fifteen small public libraries (serving communities with fewer than 25,000 people) will be selected to receive instructional and material support to engage their communities in a space transformation process that supports active learning at the library. Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 21, 2016**.

Check Out Continuing Education Events for October

The [Wyoming State Library Training Calendar](#) is a wonderful tool for finding continuing education events and webinars sponsored by the American Library Association, United for Libraries, Library Journal and many other organizations. Thanks to the team at Wyoming State Library for sharing this great resource.

Illinois Reads Author Spotlight

[Todd Hasak-Lowy](#) moved to Evanston in 2010 to become a full-time writer concentrating on fiction for young readers as well as a part-time college professor. He taught creative writing classes at the School of

the Art Institute, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University. His book, "Me Being Me is Exactly as Insane as You Being You," is a 2016 "Illinois Reads" [selection](#) for high school students.

[Penny Steffen](#) lives in the suburbs of Chicago and teaches English composition at McHenry County College and the College of Lake County. Her first book for young adults, "*Oblivion*," is written under the pen name of Sasha Dawn. This psychological thriller is full of romance, intrigue and mystery. It received a Booklist starred review and is a 2016 "Illinois Reads" [selection](#) for high school students.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Literacy Volunteers of America-DuPage** in Naperville. Three years ago a woman enrolled in English as a Second Language classes in order to obtain employment and communicate with her children's teachers and doctors. The learner moved to the U.S. with her husband in 2005 knowing virtually no English. By the time her children were in school, it became apparent that she needed help to understand the homework and notes they were bringing home. After three years of working with a tutor, the learner can now converse with teachers, doctors and other English speakers. In addition, the learner obtained a driver's license and has started to fill out job applications. Thanks to Literacy Volunteers of America-DuPage, the learner is thriving in her new country.

GovDocInfo

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to detect the disease in its early stages. To learn more about ways to protect yourself and how to identify breast cancer, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#).

Illinois Digital Archives

This month we highlight the [Lincoln related documents](#) from the Illinois State Archives. The State Archives serves as the depository of public records of Illinois state and local governmental agencies. This collection consists of official state documents that relate to Abraham Lincoln or his family. They include records from Lincoln's tenure in the General Assembly (1834-1841) and correspondence with various state officials. Many of the documents were written by Lincoln himself.

Sign up for E-News

E-News is the best way to find out what's happening at the State Library, including grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news. Nearly 5,000 subscribers receive E-News each month. To subscribe to E-News or for more information, contact [Kyle Peebles](#) at 217-558-4029.

State Library's Comprehensive Online Calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.