

## In this issue

Veterans' History Project

Live & Learn Construction Grants

Project Next Generation Grants

Emerging Writers Winners

Library System Certification

Try It! Illinois 2013

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

December  
2013

# INSIGHT

## Secretary White hosts Veterans' History Project ceremony

Secretary of State Jesse White hosted a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in September commemorating the success of the Illinois Veterans' History Project. The initiative was spearheaded by White to provide a permanent database featuring the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served during times of war.

"In 2005, we created the Illinois Veterans' History Project," said Secretary White. "Today, there are more than 6,500 records from veterans who have submitted their stories to the project."

Secretary White served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and a reservist. "Countless words have been written and spoken about the brave men and women who have served our nation. But I believe the most important words are those written and spoken by the heroes themselves. The Illinois Veterans' History Project provides a permanent home to honor our country and our veterans, and also reminds us of the men and women who gave their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice."

About 100 veterans attended the ceremony, which recognized the ongoing partnership between the Veterans' History Project, the Department of Illinois Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Illinois Court Reporters Association.

The DAV has arranged for veterans to be interviewed for the project, and volunteer court reporters are recording and transcribing the interviews.

Secretary White thanked Eric Huckaby, assistant adjutant of the Department of Illinois DAV, and Deborah Cohen-Rojas, a member of the Illinois Court Reporters Association, for their members' contributions to the success of the project. Also taking part in the ceremony was Erica Borggren, director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, members of the Macon County Honor Guard and the

Chatham Glenwood High School Titan Fever Show Choir under the direction of Jeff Gemar. The State Library hosted two displays: The 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne, World War II Reenactment Group and the Illinois Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall.

For more information about the Illinois Veterans' History Project, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/veteransproject.html). Interviews and written stories are stored in the Illinois Digital Archives at [www.idaillinois.org](http://www.idaillinois.org).



Secretary of State Jesse White presented a personalized license plate to Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Erica Borggren at the Veterans' History Project event at the State Library in September, in appreciation for her support of the project. Members of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne, World War II Reenactment Group (from left) Andrew Duffer, Ryan McCaffrey and Rick Lyons displayed the group's collection of World War II memorabilia at the ceremony.

## Try It! Illinois 2013

Thanks to everyone who took part in Try It! Illinois — the State Library's popular, free statewide electronic database trial, which ran from October 1 to November 30. The trial offered all ILLINET-member libraries, their staffs and patrons an opportunity to use and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources free of charge. Special thanks to the Try It! Illinois participating vendors:

ABC-CLIO  
Alexander Street Press  
Ambrose Video Publishing  
AtoZdatabases  
BioOne  
CapStone  
Career Cruising  
CQ Press  
Credo Reference  
EBSCO  
Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.  
FactCite: Lincoln Library Online  
Facts on File  
Financial Ratings Series  
FINTEL  
Gale-Cengage Learning  
Geographic Research, Inc.  
Gleeditions LLC  
Grey House Publishing  
Heritage Microfilm, Inc.  
Information Today Inc. – Faulkner  
Information Services  
Learning Express  
Mango Languages  
Mergent  
Morningstar, Inc.  
My Heritage – World Vital Records  
myON  
Naxos of American, Inc.  
OCLC FirstSearch  
ORS Publishing  
Oxford University Press  
p4A.com, Ltd.  
Plunkett, Ltd.  
ProQuest  
Record Information Services, Inc.  
Rosen Publishing, Inc.  
S&P Capital IQ  
Sage Publications/Adam Matthew  
Scholastic, Inc.  
SCOLA  
Sunburst Digital  
Taylor and Francis, LLC  
TeachingBooks.net  
The World and I Online  
ThinkMap  
Value Line, Inc.  
World Book, Inc.

## Annual library system certification to begin Jan. 2

The annual online certification process for libraries that are members of a regional library system will begin **Jan. 2, 2014**. This will be the second year of the annual certification process, which is required of all library system members — full or developmental — in order to qualify for system services and grants and programs from the State Library. The window for certification will close **March 31, 2014**.

The State Library's Annual Library Certification is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/librarycertification.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/librarycertification.html). The site includes a link to the data and questions included in the certification form, a link to the online certification portal (accessible January 2-March 31), and a timeline and Frequently Asked Questions document about the annual certification process.

The certification portal requires the agency's control number and the main administrative branch number, as well as certain basic indicative information for each library system member. For more information, contact Pat Boze at [pboze@ilsos.net](mailto:pboze@ilsos.net).

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## Live & Learn Construction Grants

### Applications due January 10

Public libraries may apply for FY13 Live & Learn Public Library Construction grants at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/livelearn\\_construction.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/livelearn_construction.html). Grants will be awarded in three categories:

#### Remodeling for Accessibility — Grant award range: \$2,500-\$50,000

- 70-100 percent of total project funds must be used specifically for remodeling an existing building for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
- State's share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost, for a maximum of \$50,000.
- Local matching funds required.

#### Mini-Grants — Grant award range: \$2,500-\$35,000

- Available to public libraries with limited funds and incomes of less than \$15 per capita (see Eligibility Requirements at the link above).
- Remodeling or refurbishing existing library buildings.
- Projects include new carpeting and floor coverings, new furnishings (shelving excluded), remodeling, energy conservation, electrical, roofing, elevators, ceilings, HVAC, plumbing, doors/windows, fire protection, book drops, circulation desks, security systems, technology wiring, and interior or exterior painting.
- Libraries must address legal requirements for making the building ADA compliant.
- Local matching funds not required.

#### New Construction/Remodeling — Grant award range: \$25,000-\$125,000

- New library construction.
- Additions to and/or remodeling of existing library buildings.
- Conversion of existing buildings not currently used for library services.
- State's share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost, for a maximum of \$125,000.
- Local matching funds required.



## Emerging Writers Competition winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the ninth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award.

First place: **Jonathan G. Travelstead of Murphysboro** for his poem *DuPont Paint Factory*.

Second place: **Pablo Otavalo of Chicago** for his poem *Great-Grand*.

Third place: **Richard Holinger** of Geneva for his poem *Seems the Whole World's Staring In: A Tryptich*.

"I created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide a unique opportunity for recognizing new literary talent in the state," said Secretary White. "Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these poets are adding to the tradition established by legendary Illinois poets like Illinois' very own Gwendolyn Brooks. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I'm pleased to congratulate this year's talented winners."

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who succeeded Brooks as Illinois Poet Laureate and who selected the final winners.

The winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Quiddity* magazines and Poetic License Press publications. The winners read their poems and received their awards from Secretary White and Kevin Stein at a ceremony at the State Library in November. The winning poems are available at [www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org](http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org).



### ILA conference

Secretary White presented a \$300,000 check to Chicago Public Library Commissioner Brian Bannon during the Illinois Library Association annual conference in Chicago in October. The award will fund the cost of a two-year Patron Driven Acquisitions pilot program at the library. Funding for the grant is appropriated by the General Assembly to support library services in Illinois.



Secretary White and State Library Director Anne Craig (far right) presented Karen Odean a plaque at the ILA conference, recognizing her as winner of the Alexander J. Skrzypek Award. The award is presented annually by the ILA and the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library to an Illinois resident who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library services for the blind and physically disabled in Illinois. Karen recently retired as director of the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center in Geneva.



## Project Next Generation Grants awarded

More than \$211,000 in FY14 grants has been awarded to 16 libraries hosting Project Next Generation programs. Project Next Generation was created by Secretary of State Jesse White and is the first-ever statewide mentoring program for young people to be administered through Illinois public libraries.

Project Next Generation is administered by the State Library. Project mentors work with students at public libraries to develop technology skills and guide them in exploring life skills such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution. Grants are awarded only to public libraries serving low-income populations with a demonstrated need to expand access to technology among youth. More than 6,600 students have completed the program since its inception in 2000.

PNG grant recipients are:

- Beardstown Houston Memorial Library
- Bloomington Public Library
- Carbondale Public Library
- Centralia Regional Library District
- Champaign Public Library
- Decatur Public Library
- Elmwood Park Public Library
- Harrisburg Public Library
- Hayner Public Library District
- Joliet Public Library
- Kankakee Public Library
- Mississippi Valley Library District
- Peoria Public Library-Lincoln Branch
- Richton Park Public Library
- Sparta Public Library
- Zion-Benton Public Library



## EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES CONSTRUCTION GRANT —

Secretary White presented a check for \$1.1 million to the El Paso Public Library for the construction of a 7,700-square-foot addition to ease overcrowding and improve accessibility. From left are El Paso Public Library Board President Stephen Shaefer, Library Director Carla Skare, Secretary White and state Sen. Jason Barickman. Funding for library construction grants was appropriated to the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library by the General Assembly.

## State Library staff news

The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) Division in Springfield this summer assumed responsibility for all circulation of TBBS materials for Illinois patrons living outside of Chicago. Joining the expanded TBBS circulation operation on a part-time basis are: **Marcus Birch, Jodie Bruce, Michael McCarthy, Sara Moler, Erica Powell, Cynthia Ryan, Stephanie Tuttle** and **La Tanya Williams**.

**Jamie Mott** joined the ISL staff on November 1 as a reference librarian.

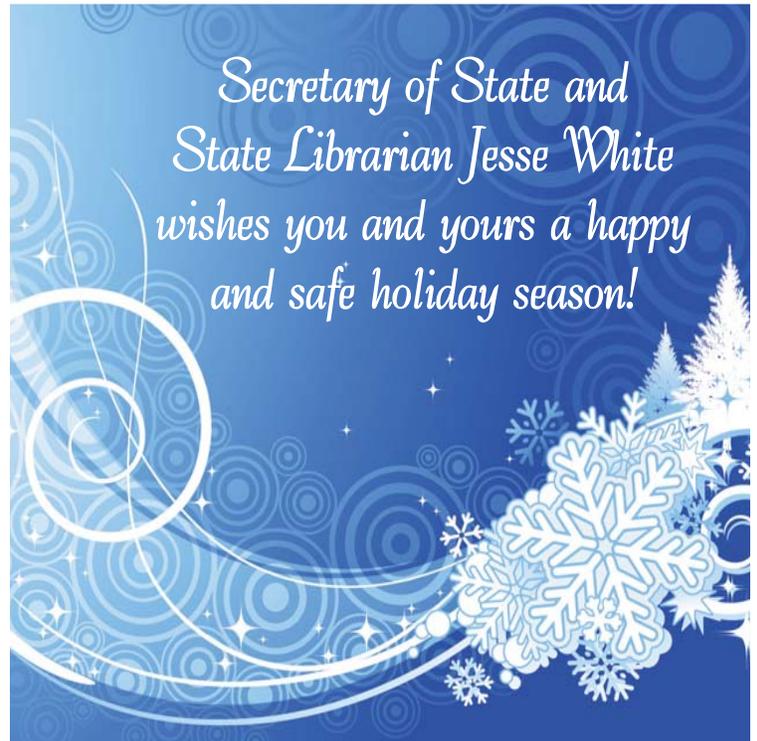
Promoted to new titles in the Circulation Department of the Library Operations Division were **Dan Dixon** and **Matthew Henninger**. **Taran Ley's** temporary assignment as Reference Outreach Coordinator is now permanent.

**Adam Green** has moved from the TBBS circulation staff to a full-time position in Library Operation.



## NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL —

Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis (third from left) represented the Illinois State Library at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., in September. With Bonnie are festival volunteers Sarah Bryant and Ashley Brady (far left and far right) and Susan Hildreth, director of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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