

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

June 12, 2017

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

Independence Day Closing

The State Library will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for the Fourth of July holiday. The library will resume normal business hours Wednesday, July 5.

Jesse White Announces Spotlight Awards For Outstanding Literacy Students and Tutors

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White honored the winners of the 2017 Spotlight on Literacy Awards, which recognizes participants in Illinois literacy programs. Five award-winning students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and five volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award. Participants were recognized during a ceremony at the State Library in Springfield on May 8.

Currently, 48 programs that support adult, family and workplace literacy programs are operating statewide. Last year, literacy programs served 7,866 adult students and 3,216 tutors volunteered to instruct the students.

Visit the State Library's [website](#) to read the winner's stories.

State Library Hosts Celebration Recognizing Gwendolyn Brooks' 100th Birthday

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White hosted a poetic celebration of late Pulitzer Prize winner and Illinois Poet Laureate, Gwendolyn Brooks on her 100th birthday on June 7, at the State Library in Springfield. The event featured poetry written by Ms. Brooks and recited by outstanding local writers, artists and performers. The first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize, Brooks was named Illinois Poet Laureate in 1968, succeeding Carl Sandburg, and held that title until her death on December 3, 2000. On June 6, 2003, the State Library building was officially rededicated in her honor. Her name appears among other Illinois authors etched on the building's exterior fourth-floor frieze.

Visit the State library's [Web page](#) for more information on the legacy of Gwendolyn Brooks.

Signed OCLC Service Renewal Agreements Due June 30

The FY18 OCLC services renewal agreements were mailed recently. Signed agreements are due back to the State Library by **June 30, 2017**. If your library will not be renewing OCLC service, please contact [Sue Burkholder](#) by June 20, 2017.

Illinois Literacy Foundation Luncheon

If you are attending ALA 2017, join Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, Monday, June 26, 2017 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., as he welcomes Leslie Parry, who will read from her spellbinding novel, "Church of Marvels," and enjoy a family-style luncheon at Maggiano's at 516 N. Clark Street in Chicago. Please [register](#) ahead of time for this event as part of your ALA conference experience.

Public Library Data Landscape Webinars

As part of the Measures that Matter initiative, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) are offering a three-part webinar series about the public library data landscape during May, June and July. The second webinar, "Measures that Matter Part Two:

Detailing the Data-Based Story of Public Libraries,” will occur on **June 13**, 2 p.m.–3 p.m. Visit [WebJunction](#) for more information.

“Illinois Reads” Author Spotlights

Each month, we highlight three [2017 “Illinois Reads”](#) authors and their selected titles. “Illinois Reads” is an initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) that highlights the importance of reading at all ages and supports Illinois authors. Beginning each spring and concluding in the fall on [Family Reading Night](#), the program offers a new list of six titles written and/or illustrated by Illinois authors at six different age levels from birth to adult.

Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White is the honorary chair of the “Illinois Reads” Committee and encourages everyone to get involved by becoming an “Illinois Reads” [Ambassador](#), hosting or participating in a Family Reading Night program, attending an “Illinois Reads” author event and reading from the rich list of titles each year.

Each of the highlighted authors has published a book that has been selected to be on the 2017 “Illinois Reads” [book list](#) for grades 3-5.

Originally from Carmi, Illinois, [Josh Elder](#) now lives in Albany Park, Chicago. An award-winning comic book author, he is also the co-creator of the graphic novel series and nationally syndicated comic strip, “Mail Order Ninja.” He serves as Director of Operations for Kids Love Comics, a non-profit organization that promotes literacy and the arts using comics, graphic novels and manga. His book, [“Reading with Pictures: Comics That Make Kids Smarter”](#) is a 2017 “Illinois Reads” selection

[Kate Hannigan](#) is a journalist who lives in Chicago. She loves researching and writing but now instead of newspapers, she uses her talents for her blog and middle-grade books. Her [“Cupcake Cousins”](#) three-book series is about 9-year-old cousins Willow and Delia who are fast friends. The series includes recipes throughout, celebrates family and friendship and is for readers who like humor and baking their own treats. This sweet chapter book is a 2017 “Illinois Reads” selection.

[Nancy J. Cavanaugh](#) grew up in Chicago and graduated with her Masters from the University of Illinois. An elementary and middle school teacher for 15 years, she also wrote for many publications. Her first book, [“This Journal Belongs to Ratchet,”](#) is about Rachel “Ratchet” Vance who is an 11-year-old girl, homeschooled by her widowed, activist father. It is a Notable Children’s Book in the English Language Arts and a 2017 “Illinois Reads” selection. There is also an online Educator’s Curriculum Guide available.

Literacy Spotlight

This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights **Lester & Rosalie Anixter Center** in Chicago. A man enrolled in the program at the center with a goal of going to college and taking business classes. After entering the program he expressed frustration with his lack of progress in remedial college courses. The learner’s family was concerned that his reading difficulties would hold him back from attaining his full potential and have a negative impact on his self-esteem. He has since pushed himself to learn, pronounce, memorize and write many new words. He has improved his ability to develop simple sentences and has increased his reading level. This has had a noticeable impact on his self-esteem, and both his family and his tutor have remarked on his increased motivation at home and during his tutoring sessions. He is dedicated to mastering the basics expected of him to graduate from his remedial class work at Harold Washington College. He remains determined to learn the material that will help him move on to his Business major coursework once he passes the English and writing exams. His tutor describes him as “the most motivated student I’ve ever met.”

GovDocInfo

The first total solar eclipse over the U.S. since 1979 will reach its point of greatest duration on Aug. 21, 2017, just a few miles south of Carbondale. Visit Southern Illinois University's [website](#) for a list of events happening in the Carbondale area.

Western Illinois University has created a [library guide](#) on the eclipse that contains links to other resources such as maps and a calculator that can be used to find the start of the eclipse in a specific town. The STAR Library Education Network has also created a [guide](#) on the eclipse that is specifically developed for libraries.

Visit NASA's [website](#) for more information on the total solar eclipse and learn how to safely view this extraordinary event.

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>.

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.