

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

August 14, 2017

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

Labor Day Closing

The State Library will be closed Monday, September 4, for the Labor Day holiday. The library will resume normal business hours Tuesday, September 5.

Library Staff Members Celebrate Milestones

Congratulations to three staff members on their work anniversaries. Regina Korthals, Talking Book and Braille, and Jeanne Urbanek, Library Development Group, both celebrated 20 years of service within the office of the Secretary of State, State Library. Suzanne Schriar, Library Automation and Technology, celebrated 30 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the State Library. Shari Russwinkel, Talking Book and Braille, will be honored for being named Employee of the Month for March at a ceremony this week.

Celebrate Literacy Week

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week will be celebrated September 24-30, 2017. This week is designed to raise awareness about the need for and value of adult education and family literacy. It is also to leverage resources to support access to basic education programs.

In Illinois, there is an estimated 2.2 million adults, or 18 percent of the population, that have limited reading, writing, math or English proficiency skills according to the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](#).

Literacy projects have many volunteer needs. Consider supporting your local literacy project by volunteering once a month to work in their office, organize the library or work a fundraiser. Also, consider a more regular volunteer opportunity where you meet weekly with an adult learner that wants to learn to read or speak English. It will change their life and yours.

Contact the Illinois Adult Learning Hotline at 800-321-9511 or visit The Adult Learning Resource Center [website](#), to locate a program near you.

Spectra Kits Available

The State Library is pleased to introduce [Spectra Kits](#) for libraries to provide innovative methods for engaging ASD individuals. Spectra Kits contain technologies such as social robotics and mobile apps that support interaction with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) patrons. The State Library will circulate the Spectra Kits to libraries of all types for a period of 4 weeks. These kits will give ASD patrons the ability to experiment with assistive technology in the library setting.

Types of social robots that will be available include the humanoid robot NAO, the Robauto Biblibot Developer Kit, the Cozmo, and the Aisoy. The NAO robot is supplemented with the Ask NAO Autism Solution for Kids, and the Biblibot is a maker kit that utilizes an operating system demonstrating swarm robotics. Spectra Kits will also include iPads with pre-installed apps designed to aid in communication, visual scheduling, social stories and assistive technology for ASD patrons and caregivers.

The Spectra Kits were funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. To request one of the Spectra Kits, please contact [Matt Henninger](#) at 217-782-2693.

Annual Library Certification Results

The Annual Library Certification resulted in some changes in system membership. Four libraries were suspended for not completing certification, while 7 libraries withdrew from system membership during the certification period.

New libraries continued to join as system members throughout the year. Here is a summary of the number of library agencies that continue as system and ILLINET members for FY2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). System and ILLINET member libraries are eligible for State Library-sponsored grants and library system services.

Reaching Across Illinois Library System has 1,285 agencies. Illinois Heartland Library System has 519 agencies. Chicago Public Library System is its own agency.

OCLC WebJunction announces the Wikipedia + Libraries training program

The Wikipedia + Libraries training program, offered for free by WebJunction, is strengthening ties between U.S. public libraries and Wikipedia, to expand public access to authoritative information and serve public libraries' diverse communities. The project is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Wikimedia Foundation. In fall 2017, WebJunction will offer a free, 10-week online training program (participants will attend six live sessions) for up to 500 U.S. public library staff to learn to confidently engage with Wikipedia.

- [Enroll now](#) in the Wikipedia + Libraries training program
- Wikipedia + Libraries training program [FAQ](#)

Keep Your Data Secure

The American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom provides updated privacy information on its [Library Privacy Guidelines web site](#). This web site addresses how to best handle the challenges of keeping patron and other data private and secure in an environment where vendors may have data stored on outside databases or networks. There is also a [Privacy Toolkit](#) web site that explains how to do a privacy audit and develop privacy policies for the library.

Internet Librarian Conference Discount for ILLINET Members

A discount is being offered for ILLINET members to attend the 21st annual Internet Librarian Conference organized by Information Today, Inc. This year's event will be held October 23-25 at the Monterey Marriott in Monterey, California. Additional information about this conference is located at <http://internet-librarian.infotoday.com/2017/Program>.

The Gold Pass is available to ILLINET members at a discounted rate of \$649. There is also a special rate of \$389 for the 3-day event. No discount rates are available for the separately priced preconference workshops. In addition, the discount rate of \$119 on the Internet@Schools Track is also available.

Online registrations will be accepted until September 22nd. To receive the discount, please register at: <https://secure.infotoday.com/RegForms/internetlibrarian/?Priority=ILL17>

For additional information, contact [Jill Heffernan](#) at 217-557-7259.

“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 6-8.

[Andrew Brumbach](#) is a writer and trading and investment analyst who lives in Wheaton. From a young age, he always dreamed of writing books. His debut novel, “[The Eye of Midnight](#)”, is described by The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books as “Combining a 1920s New York setting with ancient Turkish and Arabian folklore and history, this novel reads like a young Indiana Jones adventure. As smart as it is action-packed.”

[Kathryn J. Atwood](#) is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago and currently resides in Forest Park. She is an author, editor and contributor of several adult and young adult books about women involved in war efforts. Her book, “[Women Heroes of World War I: 16 Remarkable Resisters, Soldiers, Spies, and Medics](#),” brings the brave exploits of women from around the world to light, many of whom didn’t even have the right to vote at the time.

[Mike Grosso](#) lives in Oak Park and is a musician who always keeps his guitar handy, especially in his 5th grade classroom at Elmhurst Public School District. Grosso brings an exciting new voice to contemporary middle grade novels. His first book is “[I Am Drums!](#)” One Goodreads reviewer calls it, “... one that touches on themes we can all relate to: the desire to be great at what we love doing, to be brave enough to try something new, and to finally be heard.”

Literacy Spotlight

This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights **YWCA Elgin**, which runs a Secretary of State supported Penny Seaverns Family Literacy Program. A shy woman and her young daughter joined their family literacy program excited to learn. The woman attended English as a Second Language class and quickly progressed with her English speaking and writing skills. As she participated more in community building activities, discussion groups, line ups, conversation with her classmates and arranging rides to the library for classes, she began to build friendships. The mother and daughter returned classes the next year. The woman talked with mothers who had children in her daughter’s young toddler class. As time passed the other mothers started to include the woman more in conversations. The woman and her daughter became part of park and library “play dates” independent of class time. The woman is thriving in her classroom, interacting with teachers and is now building a social circle for herself and her daughter with other parents, classmates and her family.

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.