

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

December 11, 2017

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

Winners of 13th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Awarded

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded poets from Chicago and Carbondale as this year's winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award in the 13th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition.

Anita Olivia Koester of Chicago was awarded first place for her poem "Avowal." Faisal Mohyuddin also of Chicago received second place for his poem "Ella Fitzgerald, Entering Chicago by Train, Remembers Her Mother's Voice." Bryce Berkowitz of Carbondale was the third-place winner for his poem "Explain Yourself." The winners read their poems and received the awards during a ceremony at the Illinois State Library.

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, Illinois Poet Laureate.

The winning poems are available to read at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/. Also, the winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in "Ninth Letter," "RHINO" and "Quiddity" magazines and "Poetic License Press" publications.

Annual Online Library System Certification Begins January 2

The annual [online certification](#) process begins January 2, 2018. Certification is required of all library system members in order to qualify for continuing system services and grants programs from the Illinois State Library. The window for certification will close March 31, 2018.

Libraries are also required to complete the [ILL ILLINET Traffic Survey](#) before completing certification. The ILL ILLINET Traffic Survey can be completed any time prior to the certification deadline, March 31.

More information about certification is available at the State Library's [Annual Library Certification](#) Web page. The page includes a link to the data and questions included in the certification form, a link to the online certification portal (accessible from January 2–March 31), a [FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#), a [pre-recorded webinar](#) that reviews the annual certification process, and a document outlining [Library Data Entry Guidelines](#) to use in completing the certification form.

2018 Guide to the Illinois Secretary of State Literacy Effort

Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office has published the newest edition of the Guide to the Secretary of State Literacy Effort. The publication is currently available online and provides an in-depth overview of the literacy program, statistics from FY17 grant recipients, maps of service locations throughout the state and a listing of all agencies who received FY18 Secretary of State Literacy Grants. The listing provides location and contact information for each agency and can be used as a reference and referral guide for anyone seeking assistance with literacy issues. The guide can be accessed at the following link - http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/ld18.pdf.

Library Board Orientation Webinar Available

A new webinar, 'Library Board Orientation,' has been added to the Illinois State Library's web page for [library trustees](#). This pre-recorded webinar features Amy Byers, Library Director, and Christine Westerlund, Board President, Chatham Area Public Library District. The webinar reviews the roles and responsibilities of the director and the board and reviews topics that should be included in an orientation for new library board members.

The link to this webinar is included below. The 41-minute webinar is prerecorded and can be viewed at any time.

- [Library Board Orientation Webinar](#) Recorded October 19, 2017.

There are several other on-demand webinars available on the [trustee web page](#). There are also links to online trustee manuals and online trustee training courses as well as state and federal links to legislative information. Contact Pat Boze, pboze@ilsos.net with any questions about the webinars.

FY19 Adult Literacy Grant Volunteer Reviewers Needed

The Illinois State Library is inviting librarians, literacy professionals, educators and interested members of the public to serve as volunteer grant reviewers for the [Adult Literacy Grant Program Volunteer Review Committee](#). This committee will evaluate FY19 Adult Literacy grant applications in accordance with [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035.230](#). If you are interested in assisting the State Library in recommending Adult Literacy grant applications for funding, please compose a brief letter of application explaining why. Include your name, address, phone number and email. Indicate your place of employment with the address. Please be specific in explaining your knowledge of adult literacy. Email your letter of application containing all the requested information to [Beth Paoli](#) before **December 15, 2017**.

FY18 Live and Learn Construction Grant Applications Due January 12

The State Library is accepting applications for the FY18 Live and Learn Construction Grant Program. The program is open to public libraries with applications due by **January 12, 2018**. Information about the public library construction grant program is available on the State Library's [website](#). The website will allow you to access the Live & Learn Construction Grant Program [Web page](#) that contains grant requirements, a link to the grant application along with a link to the archived grant information session webinar.

For more information, contact [Mark Shaffer](#) 217-524-4901 or [Pat Boze](#) 217-782-1891.

Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Applications Due January 15

The FY18 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application and FY16 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>

One of the Per Capita Grant requirements is for Library staff and at least one trustee to complete one educational program focusing on safety in the library. RAILS library system has a pre-recorded continuing education webinar, "[Trends in Safety and Security in Libraries](#)," and is providing statewide access to this free recording.

When you have completed the application and report(s), click on the email button in the upper right hand corner of each document and send them to Percap-grant@ilsos.net by **January 15, 2018**. Be sure to include your city in the subject line.

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

Statewide Organ/Tissue Donor Student Poster Contest

Currently underway is the 2018 Organ/Tissue Donor Student Poster Contest. Submissions must be postmarked by **January 31, 2018**. A letter from the Secretary and entry form for the contest has been mailed out to all K-12 public and non-public schools statewide. Entries are divided into four categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The winners will be invited to a ceremony at Secretary White's office at the Capitol Building in Springfield in March or April. In addition to their awards, the winners will receive gift cards to Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The overall winner will receive a \$100 gift card, while the other winners will each receive a \$50 gift card, compliments of Donate Life Illinois. For more information on the Organ/Tissue Donor Student Poster Contest, contact Samantha Brill at (217) 558-1322, via email at Sbrill@ilsos.net or visit LifeGoesOn.com.

Rural and Small Libraries annual conference

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) annual conference is coming to Illinois. The theme for the conference is "Linking Libraries in the Land of Lincoln." The conference of more than 500 library professionals is slated for Sept. 13-15, 2018 at the Bank of Springfield Center (formerly Prairie Capitol Convention Center) with an opening reception at the Illinois State Library. Registration will open in April and at this time early bird rates for members are anticipated to be under \$300 per person and include 5 meals for the 2 1/2 day-long event.

Watch for more information as it develops on the website at arsl.info and by following ARSL on their Facebook page. Calls for proposals are expected to go out mid-December and will be announced via the website, Facebook page, and e-mail communications.

Salute to Veterans

This issue of E-News is saluting Mr. M. George Shaffer, father of Illinois State Library staff member, Mark Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer served in the United State Army during the Korean War from 1950-1952. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/hfD6hQWSn0k>.

"Illinois Reads" Author Spotlights

This month we highlight the final group of the [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.

Each of the highlighted authors has published a book that has been selected to be on the 2017 "Illinois Reads" [book list](#) for adults.

New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, [Mary Kubica](#) is a former high school history teacher. She is a Chicago native who currently resides in Plainfield. Known for her hypnotic psychological thrillers, Kubica does not disappoint readers with her third book, "[Don't You Cry](#)." Called an "electrifying tale of deceit and obsession," this suspenseful novel shows how the past always has a way of catching up and will keep you on the edge of your seat guessing until the very last page.

[Jen Lancaster](#) is a New York Times bestselling author who lives in Lake Forest. After September 11, she was laid off from her associate vice president position for a technology company. With this turn of events, Lancaster started writing "you-can't-make-this-stuff-up" memoirs which quickly turned into bestsellers. Now writing fiction as well, her novel, "[By the Numbers](#)," is sure to please. It is a witty story about a "mature" woman whose life is hilariously intertwined with her adult children and ex-husband.

Former TV reporter, [Alison Flowers](#), is an award-winning investigative journalist who focuses on social and criminal justice. She resides in Chicago and her work has appeared in many publications and on CNN, CBS and PBS. In her book, "[Exoneree Diaries: The Fight for Innocence, Independence and Identity](#)," Flowers highlights the lives of four wrongfully convicted prisoners in Cook County who were released "empty-handed" into society and sheds light on the collateral damage of wrongful convictions on families and communities.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley** in St. Charles. A woman who emigrated from Russia enrolled in the program to improve her English. She had recently left her 18-year marriage to an abusive spouse and needed financial help, counseling and a big boost in her self-esteem. The learner was matched with a tutor who planned lessons involving daily life interactions. The tutor enhanced lessons by taking the learner on visits to local social service agencies. During one of the first visits, the tutor introduced the learner to counselors and helped her express her needs. The next lesson introduced the learner to The Salvation Army where the tutor helped the learner explain her need for financial assistance. The next lesson introduced the woman to First Baptist Church and St. Vincent DePaul Societies where she was able to obtain food and clothing assistance. With the help of a tutor from Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley, the learner is improving her English skills and gaining the independence she needs to lead a fulfilling life.

Happy Holidays!

Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the State Library staff wish you and yours a very happy holiday season! The State Library will be closed Friday, Dec. 22 and Monday, Dec. 25, and again on Monday, Jan. 1.

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.