Illinois Reads (continued from page 2)

Tammy Potts, president-elect of the Illinois Reading Council. “There is a pleasant mix of hard covers and paperbacks, with several Spanish-language titles and science, technology, engineering and mathematics-related books.”

For a list of Illinois Reads book titles and to connect with other participants through virtual community conversations, webinars, author interviews, book reviews, book trailers and artwork, visit www.illinoisreads.org.

Summer reading suggestions
www.readingrockets.org/calendar/summer
Many resources and articles about summer reading as well as great activities to encourage learning and links for parents, teachers and librarians. Summer book lists also are available.

http://school.familyleducation.com (search Summer Learning)
Many resources and activities for all ages to keep learning throughout the summer months.

www.scholastic.com/summer
A wealth of free activities for all ages as well as links to help teachers, parents and librarians to promote reading during the summer.

ON THE HORIZON

Spring 2013

April 21-27 – National Volunteer Week,
www.pointsoflight.org

April 28-30 – National Conference on Family Literacy,
Louisville, KY, www.famililt.org/conference

May 6-8 – 8th Biennial National Adult Learner
Leadership Institute, Washington, D.C.,
www.valueusa.org

May 13-19 – Children’s Book Week,
www.bookweekonline.com

June 11-13 – CASAS National Summer Institute,
San Diego, CA, www.casas.org

June 19-22 – Conference on Volunteering and
Service, Washington, D.C.,
www.volunteeringandservice.org

June 27-July 2 – American Library Association
Annual Conference, Chicago, ala13.ala.org

More literacy event information is available at <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/home.html> (click Calendar of Literacy Events).

For more information on how you can support literacy efforts in Illinois, visit www.illinoisliteracyfoundation.org.

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Literacy Office
Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library
Cyndy Colletti, Program Manager, Literacy Office

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Each year, my office sets aside the third Thursday of November as Family Reading Night so families in Illinois will remember how important it is to read together. In addition to encouraging families to spend time reading, I encourage agencies that receive Secretary of State funding to plan special events to focus on family literacy. In this issue, you will read about programs from Family Reading Night 2012, where refugees new to Illinois learned songs of American childhood such as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” Another program had parents and children dress up as storybook characters and listen to Mother Goose rhymes, while other families observed the theme “One World, Many Stories” with various cultural activities. I am proud to see the commitment to family literacy and reading that these programs demonstrate. I hope these special events inspire you in planning events for Family Reading Night 2013 as well as others throughout the year.

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

Family Reading Night 2012 — “One World, Many Stories”

Schools, literacy programs and libraries throughout the state celebrated the Family Reading Night last November with the theme, “One World, Many Stories.” Family Reading Night is sponsored annually by Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book on the third Thursday in November. Following are highlights from Family Reading Night 2012. For more information on Family Ready Night 2013 on November 21, please visit <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/frn.html>.

Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Chicago
A story time was held featuring the children’s librarian from the Chicago Public Library Bezazian Branch. Adults participated in a Home Safety workshop and younger children painted wind chimes. Books also were given away to families for their home libraries.

Midwest Asian American Center, Chicago
Participants chose a plastic egg that contained a topic to write about such as their experience of learning a new language or their transition to this country. They divided into small groups to read the same storybook and relate in their own words what they read. Participants also wrote sentences on different topics such as the happiest day of their life, the worst food they have eaten, the best restaurant they have eaten at, or spending time at their children’s school.

Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago
Using the Family Reading Night theme, “One World, Many Stories” participants chose a plastic egg that contained a topic to write about such as their experience of learning a new language or their transition to this country. They divided into small groups to read the same storybook and relate in their own words what they read. Participants also wrote sentences on different topics such as the happiest day of their life, the worst food they have eaten, the best restaurant they have eaten at, or spending time at their children’s school.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY — Secretary of State Jesse White looks at books at the Rochester Public Library with library director Janet McAllister. Secretary White presented a 2012 Commitment to Community Award to the Rochester Public Library in December.

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World, Many Stories,” families read books related to various cultures at a pajama party.

Kaskaskia College, Centralia
A Hollywood stylebook signing was held where families walked the red carpet to meet Barbara Elliot Carpenter, a local author of the Starlight Trilogy books. Carpenter shared her experience as a writer living in a small central Illinois town and signed two sets of her trilogy, giving away one to a family in attendance. Families also created and shared their own short stories.

Kishwaukee College, Malta
At the DeKalb Public Library, parents and children enjoyed a reading of Arthur’s Thanksgiving by volunteers of the Kishwaukee College Literacy Program. Families made edible cornucopia centerpieces by filling waffle cones with frosting, green coconut and edible treats for their Thanksgiving Day tables.

Black Hawk College, Moline
The Family Literacy program housed at the Church of Peace in Rock Island partners with graduate students enrolled at St. Ambrose University. The graduate students along with their professors provided a potluck meal of traditional American foods to share with refugee families. They also donated more than 100 books so each family could take at least two books home with them. Several graduate students brought musical instruments and taught families songs such as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “The Wheels on the Bus.” Reading together, singing and dancing were enjoyed by all.

Howard Area Community Center, Chicago
Families gathered to read culturally relevant stories, including books in a variety of different languages representing their heritage. Highlights included an adult student from Haiti reading a book aloud in French and a young child reading a book aloud in Spanish. Families created a quilt by painting their country’s flag or another country’s flag, and wrote a word in their language on their individual squares. Music from various cultures was played while families worked together on the quilt.

John A. Logan College, Carterville
The college held an event at the Marion Carnegie Library where a staff person portraying Mother Goose told stories. Children and adults dressed up as storybook characters and sang songs. Mother Goose became a wonderful reality to everyone involved with the important message to “read to your children.”

Albany Park Community Center, Chicago
Families explored different continents of the world. For example, the Africa room displayed numerous African tales, and families learned to dance to an African call-and-response song. They also listened to a story about a little boy who grew up in an African tribe. Families enjoyed pizza while they watched a play written by an AmeriCorp volunteer. The children’s librarian from the Chicago Public Library Mayfair Branch led families in making bookmarks. More than 500 books were donated by community members and local bookstores so families were able to take home about 10 books each.

Macon County Family Literacy, Decatur
Family reading events are held after adult basic education classes. Each adult learner received a book for their home library. Parents learned the importance of reading to their young children by talking about what they see on each page of the book. They were encouraged to have their child point to objects and count items on the page, building literacy and familiarity with books.

Howard Area Community Center
An adult learner (left) works with a volunteer tutor on math at the Volunteer Resource Center at the Decatur Public Library.

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