

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY May 2022

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

“Doc” Helm Collection Added to the Illinois Digital Archives

Illinois Digital Archives has posted more than 21,000 historic photographs that make up the Eddie Winfred “Doc” Helm Photo Collection. The photos are from the 1940s through the 1980s, when “Doc” Helm served as the State Photographer, capturing historic and day-to-day events at the state Capitol in Springfield and throughout the state. The Illinois State Archives received a \$60,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in 2020 to scan the photographs, create a finding aid for them, and place them online for public use. Included in the collection are pictures of at least six U. S. Presidents on visits to Springfield (Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and Joe Biden, who at the time was a U.S. Senator), as well as Illinois politicians and government officials. There are also photographs of the Illinois State Fair, local parades, state institutions, and visitors to the State House, including school groups, fraternal organizations and celebrities. The “Doc” Helm collection is at [Browse - Illinois Digital Archives \(idailinois.org\)](https://idailinois.org)

2022 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) Upcoming Deadlines

Each public library is required to submit the IPLAR 60 days after the library’s fiscal year ends. If your fiscal year ends on March 31, your library’s report is due on June 1. If your fiscal year ends on April 30, your report is due on July 1. The survey and detailed guides are available on the [Counting Opinions Website](#). Library directors will receive a reminder email 60 days before the report is due for each library. Contact Pat Burg at pburg@ilsos.gov for assistance.

Mt. Sterling awarded Public Library Construction Act Grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded a Public Library Construction Act grant to the Brown County Public Library District in Mt. Sterling. The \$2,250,559 award will go towards the construction of a new \$4,993,111 building to replace the current library housed in an 84 year-old converted hardware store. The grant program is designated for the permanent capital improvement of public libraries, and it is funded through the Public Library Construction Act Grant Program that received an appropriation as part of the \$45 billion capital plan passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the governor in 2019.

Virtual Forum on Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-COVID World

This free forum addressing the challenges and opportunities for post-COVID school libraries will be held virtually May 16, 18, and 21, 2022 with daily keynotes, panel discussions, and pre-recorded videos. Scheduled keynotes are as follows:

- May 16 (Monday) - Roger Rosen, Rosen Publishing Group - Daily Topic: Information Under Attack
- May 18 (Wednesday) - Amy Hermon, Podcast: School Librarians United - Daily Topic: COVID Changes/Challenges Debrief
- May 21 (Saturday) - Mark Ray, currently part of the IMLS-funded School Librarian Investigation—Decline or Evolution? (SLIDE) research project examining national school library staffing - Daily Topic: Looking Ahead for Solutions

Panelists include KC Boyd, Diana Rendina, Carolyn Foote, Leslie Preddy, Keith Curry Lance, John Silva, and many more. There will be pre-recorded videos of discussions from Dr. Stephen Krashen, Dr. Debbie Reese, Steve Potash, and other notables. Sessions will be posted online for replay at attendees' convenience.

While the target audience is school librarians, a variety of topics will be of interest to all librarians. The forum is free to join and registration is open now at <http://libraries.today/>. This forum is made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Illinois Emerging Writers Contest – Encourage your local poets to enter!

This annual poetry competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over, providing a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new literary talent in the state. The entry deadline is June 30. Cash prizes are awarded for first (\$500), second (\$300), and third place (\$100), and winning poems are submitted for possible publication in Illinois literary magazines, including: Ninth Letter, Quiddity, and RHINO Poetry.

- An informational flier to print and post at your libraries is available at this link: https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/lda97.pdf
- The Entry form, guidelines, and release are downloadable at this link: https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf

Questions? Contact: Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.gov or 217-558-2065.

Jesse White Announces Winners of “Letters About Literature in Illinois” Contest

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that students from Glenview, Lincolnwood, and Skokie are the Illinois winners of the 2022 “Letters About Literature in Illinois” contest. The reading and writing contest for students is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of State, the Illinois State Library, and the Illinois Center for the Book. The 2022 “Letters About Literature in Illinois” winners are as follows:

Level I, Grades 4-6: Aiden Zhang of Glenview wrote to Illinois author Shel Silverstein about his book, “The Giving Tree.” Aiden is a student at Maple School in Northbrook. His teacher, Kyle Manders, submitted his letter.

Level II, Grades 7-8: Ellie Kim of Lincolnwood wrote to Illinois author Celia C. Pérez about her book, “The First Rule of Punk.” Ellie attends Lincoln Hall Middle School in Lincolnwood. Her teacher, Leanne Ellis – who is an Illinois author - submitted her letter.

Level III, Grades 9-12: Joshua Kupietzky of Skokie wrote to Primo Levi about his book, “Survival in Auschwitz.” Joshua attends Ida Crown Jewish Academy. His teacher, Tirza Kahan, submitted his letter. This is Tirza’s third Level III winner.

To participate in the annual competition, students in grades 4-12 had to read a book or poem and then write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their view of the world or themselves. Students could read fiction or non-fiction works from living or deceased authors. Students were encouraged to select books that would resonate with them.

Read the winning essays at [Illinois Center for the Book \(ilsos.gov\)](https://ilsos.gov).

2022 “ILLINOIS READS” Author Spotlights

ILLINOIS READS is an annual statewide reading initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](https://ilsos.gov) to promote Illinois authors and the importance of reading for Illinois citizens of all ages – from birth through adult. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is the Honorary Chair and the [Illinois Center for the Book](https://ilsos.gov) is a program partner. The K – 2 Authors and their 2022 ILLINOIS READS Books are:

Matthew Cordell is a Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator living in Gurnee. He has illustrated numerous highly acclaimed children’s books for other authors. “Bear Island” is a multi-starred reviewed book that provides children with talking points for their feelings about loss and grief.

Chicago native Matthew A. Cherry is an Academy Award winning filmmaker, writer, and producer, as well as a former NFL wide receiver. His New York Times bestselling book, “Hair Love,” highlights the bond between a father and daughter embracing her natural hair was a tie-in to his Academy Award winning short film.

Suzanne Slade is a Sibert Honoree author who has written over 150 books for children. She lives in Libertyville. Her timely book, “June Almeida, Virus Detective!: The Woman Who Discovered the First Human Coronavirus,” is full of engaging text and illustrations to highlight this luminary’s discovery.

Award-winning children’s author and veteran teacher Michelle Schaub lives in Downers Grove. Her book, “Kindness is a Kite String: The Uplifting Power of Empathy,” shows how one child’s kind act creates a domino effect that builds bridges and brings diverse members of a community together.

Kira Bigwood is an advertising copywriter (that means, she writes TV commercials) and children's author who lives in Chicago. Her debut picture book is a great bedtime story titled, "Secret, Secret Agent Guy." It is an entertaining child's bedtime song set to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Andrew Prahin, is an illustrator, author and creative director who lives and works in Chicago. His book, "Ship in a Bottle," is about a little mouse who wants to sleep in the sun and eat gingersnaps all day. When a cat comes along and changes her world, she goes on an adventure to find a new home.

Jesse White Announces Awards for Outstanding Adult Learners and Volunteer Tutors

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced the winners of the 2022 Spotlight on Literacy Awards that recognize participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten adult learners received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and ten volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award during a ceremony on May 11, 2022, at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office assists the Secretary of State and State Librarian in annually awarding grants totaling over \$5.6 million in support of adult, family and workplace literacy programs throughout the state. This year, 108 programs are in operation serving all regions of Illinois. During fiscal year 2021, literacy programs served 6,901 adult learners, including 689 children. Additionally, 3,258 volunteers served as adult tutors. Below is a list of award winners:

2022 Spotlight on Achievement

- Roy Blake, Literacy DuPage in Glen Ellyn
- Zyera Burton, Baby TALK in Decatur
- Krystil Clemons, Literacy Chicago in Chicago
- Efrain F. Gaspar, Parkland College in Champaign
- David Hernandez, Regional Office of Education #17 in Bloomington
- Milton James, Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville
- Vivian Kaldas, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation in Effingham
- Pulcherie Kongoue Koffi, Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield
- Rakibul Islam Selim, The Literacy Council in Rockford
- Douglas Webb, Parkland College in Champaign

2022 Spotlight on Service

- Terese Cleary, Corazon a Corazon in Blue Island
- Ami Falk, Prairie State Community College in Chicago Heights
- Dietrich Freigang, Oakton Community College in Skokie

- Betty Hurder, Literacy Chicago in Chicago
- Carol Johnston, Howard Area Community Center in Chicago
- Mary Jane Jurek, Corazon a Corazon in Blue Island
- Robert Kirby, Parkland College in Champaign
- Diane Roman, The Literacy Council in Rockford
- Elizabeth Stefanski, Literacy DuPage in Glen Ellyn
- Heidi Wareham, Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield

TBBS Patrons Can Access Material through BARD

Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is a free service for active Talking Book patrons with the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled. BARD makes available books and magazines from the vast NLS collection selected based on their appeal across a wide range of interests. More than 115,000 audio and braille fiction and nonfiction titles are available, including some in languages other than English. Issues of more than ninety magazine titles are also available. NLS adds new titles regularly, including specially acquired music scores and music appreciation books. BARD Mobile enables NLS patrons to download audio and braille books, magazines, and music scores directly to their iOS, Android and Kindle Fire devices, provided they have a BARD account. If a device is connected to a refreshable braille display through Bluetooth, a user can also read the braille materials available on BARD.

Since 2020, Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service users have downloaded over 329,000 items from BARD. For information about the BARD program, contact TBBS at 800-426-0709.

Salute to Veterans

Gene Howell served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. Born in Decatur, Illinois, he achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class in the 24th Army Division. Mr. Howell said his military service helped him appreciate the greatness of the United States. His interview can be found at [Oral History Interview with Russell Eugene Howell - Illinois Veterans History Project - YouTube](#).

State Library's Online Calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit ilsos.gov/departments/library/calendar/home.html.

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