

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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FALTER

The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



ON THE COVER

Many Illinois libraries have art collections that reflect their communities and, often, connections to a wider world. Painter John Philip Falter (1910–1982) is best known for his many cover illustrations for *The Saturday Evening Post*. This 1957 painting by Falter, “Fox River Ice-Skating,” was inspired by his visits to Batavia, Illinois, and appeared on the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* on January 11, 1958. The original painting was on display at the Batavia Public Library for one month in 1958, and later purchased by the Batavia Woman’s Club and loaned to the Batavia Depot Museum, where it is now on display. In 2006, a larger-than-life reproduction of the painting was commissioned by the Batavia Public Library and is on permanent display.

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,200 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has four full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Kolkmeier Consulting for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by e-mail to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include digital or film photos (black/white or color) and graphics (on disk or camera-ready) with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Robert P. Doyle

Reading Reduces Recidivism: Getting Books to Prison Libraries

Let me tell you about a librarian named Jenny. The first day she came to us, it rained, a drenching redemptive kind of rain. She came in a big white van. She wore a pale blue button-down shirt, which matched her eyes. She was sweet, wise, calm, and strong. I got the impression that her job brings those qualities out in her, and then, it tests them. There was a glow about her when she talked about the books her library needed. Jenny doesn't get to talk to "book people" about books all that much.

Jenny is a solo librarian. She works in a prison. That day, Jenny and I and a group of volunteers shopped my public library's book sale remainders looking for the authors and subjects on her list. The volunteers were from an organization called the 3Rs Project (Reading Reduces Recidivism), which gathers and donates books to prison libraries in Illinois.

NOT JUST BOOKS, BUT LIBRARIES

In 2002 Illinois eliminated its budget line for prison library materials. Support for law libraries in prisons is mandated by federal law, but popular reading libraries in Illinois now operate with a book budget of zero. A volunteer organization called Books to Prisoners (www.books2prisoners.org) responded by sending books directly to prisoners and recently celebrated

sending 100,000 books to Illinois prisoners in ten years. Two volunteers—Barbara Kessel and Sarah Ross—identified an unserved entity in this model and developed the 3Rs Project to support prison libraries. There are Books to Prisoners chapters in several states, but as far as Barbara Kessel knows, the 3Rs Project is unique to Illinois.

Kessel—who recently received an award from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)—has learned that while one prison varies from another, they also vary from state to state. She says, "You have to start by getting to know your prison system. Whether, and how, they'll let you in will vary from state to state."

There were a lot of logistics to work out in order to establish the 3Rs model. It took two years before 3Rs volunteers actually met a prison librarian out in the world and in the flesh. The miracle of greeting librarians like Jenny at the storage room door came from an ingenious IDOC administrator who proposed—and secured permission—to send prison librarians out to the 3Rs volunteers to select books for themselves.

This solved multiple issues. As with any small library, space in prison libraries is scarce and disposal of unneeded titles can be complicated. Added to that, high staff turnover means that there is not always a prison librarian available to process incoming donations. Shopping for free books in person allows librarians to choose exactly the books they need.

[continued on page 6]



“When dark skies roll in,
I will look back at this day of sunshine,
and it will give me much comfort.”



[continued from page 4]

MAKING IT WORK

As for other logistics, naturally, prisons have a lot of rules. Volunteers from 3Rs accommodate them in whatever way is needed. Sometimes a librarian's selections have to be approved by committee prior to their arrival on prison grounds. When needed, our local 3Rs chapter has stored books until they can be approved. Some prisons want lids on all the boxes. Some want no horror, some want no romance. They have their reasons. We quickly forget our feelings about censorship. These are not our rules. These are not our libraries. We do what we can to get books into the libraries, whatever books they need, in whatever way works for them. They typically cannot use spiral bound books, CDs, or computer discs. Almost all prisons need us to flip through the books to remove any paper clips, bookmarks, or ephemera. We leave library names, but black out or cut out any personal names, personal contact information, or inscriptions.

Staff turnover presents another obstacle. Sometimes it can take a year to replace a prison librarian. New librarians have to get acquainted with their collections, assess their needs, and sometimes reorganize a neglected library. Their libraries operate much like tiny public libraries with no automated system. Circulation is tracked on cards. Karin, a fairly new prison librarian, tells me her card catalog is so out of date that it's used more like a subject guide than a catalog for finding specific titles. The lack of automation and the donation-based collection management model make it hard to acquire missing series books

and specific titles by popular authors. It's also very difficult to find multiple copies for educational programs and book discussion groups. Still, Karin says, "I love my job. I feel like I'm doing good work and providing service." I can hear her smile on the phone.

Just as space is a constraint in prison libraries, it can be a challenge for 3Rs groups as well. Books have been stored in garages and churches. One publisher, Human Kinetics, has opened its warehouse for 3Rs to select from remainders. The Carbondale 3Rs chapter has a storage room at the First Christian Church, which is next door to the library. The Carbondale Public Library has the luxury of an old school building on our property, which is used exclusively for storage and book sales. Prison librarians shop both locations, preferably right after a Friends' book sale. Other public libraries, particularly those with ongoing book sale space, could certainly be of service. Each of the six 3Rs chapters in Illinois develops their own unique solutions. If your library would like to join the effort, contact a 3Rs chapter near you, or the founding chapter in Urbana (www.3rsproject.org).

UNLOCKING MINDS...AND CELLS

While popular reading libraries are not required by law, having them in prisons certainly makes sense, as reading really does reduce recidivism. An alternative sentencing program, Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL), provides evidence of that.

In several states some prisoners are sentenced to a literature discussion group in lieu of prison time. In 1991 the first CLTL group in Massachusetts saw a 19 percent recidivism rate as compared to 42 percent in a control group.

The Johnson County Library in Kansas received the 2008 ALA Excellence in Library Programming Award for their CLTL program, which saw an impressive reduction in recidivism. Testimonials about the CLTL program point to fiction's ability to help the reader experience another person's point of view. This idea is supported by studies at The New School in New York City, the University of Toronto, York University, and elsewhere, which demonstrate that reading fiction (particularly literary fiction) increases empathy and prosocial behavior.

Beyond that, I'm told, there's this: reading gives inmates something positive to do with their time. Inmates have a lot of time on their hands. There are a lot of things, positive and negative, they could do with it. Reading is a really positive option.

A book donor once said to me, "I suppose even if you're serving a life sentence, you deserve to have a good book to read." I agree. However, the vast majority of inmates are not serving a life sentence. In fact, 90 to 97 percent of inmates will eventually be released. They have the arduous task of reintegrating into a society that is not all that anxious to embrace or hire them. Reading reduces recidivism, which means it increases an individual's chance that he will succeed at living outside of prison without resorting to crime. Thanks in some part to his access to books, he may have the literacy skills, the information, the inner strength, and the hope to make his way in the world and keep his freedom.

In his thank-you letter to us, a prisoner named Thomas wrote that a donation of library books is "likely the single most consequential treasure we can receive." He went on to say: "Only by this generous relief are we reminded there is still, through your kindness and humanity, choices and thereby...hope."

LETTING THE SUNSHINE IN

Prisons are probably not the easiest environment to be in, and it can't be easy to manage a library with no budget for books. However in the midst of those challenges, there are moments of serendipity. For years Jenny was getting almost all of her books from one diligent volunteer. As soon as that volunteer became homebound and no longer able to lift boxes of donated books, Jenny got a call from the 3Rs.

On that first rainy day when Jenny shopped through our book sale remainders and 3Rs donations, she left with seventeen boxes of books. Her next visit was a sunny day, a bright-blue-sky kind of day, and again, she left with seventeen boxes. Here are excerpts from her e-mail later that day: "I wanted to thank you again for a wonderful, wonderful day! The opportunity to be in the presence of fellow book lovers was a joy, and the excitement among the inmates upon arriving back here was palpable! Again, I thank you for the difference that you are making in the lives of others, in your local community, and to those of us in your extended community!"

Of course, serving the community means the world to a librarian, but these were the words that really got to me: "When dark skies roll in, I will look back at this day of sunshine, and it will give me much comfort." I thought, *So will I, Jenny*. And I do. Knowing the history of this effort, I think of all the work and all the people it took to place Jenny and a van load of prison-bound books there that day, how it all yielded something: books in hands, thoughts in minds, a bit of empathy learned, a bit of hope, for the prisoners a better chance at one day maintaining freedom, and for the rest of us a little less crime—all of it so useful, so necessary. Providing books to readers isn't always easy or uncomplicated. But it is always, easily, the right thing to do. ■■

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Phil Klay Comes to Carbondale

In its heart, Carbondale is a hippy town. It's my hometown, and it shaped me. It's why I help coordinate huge community-wide explorations of peace. I struggle with this notion that Phil Klay, the author of *Redeployment*, is somehow fundamentally different from me. He served in the Iraq war, as a marine. That's not to say that soldiers don't want peace. In fact, I get the impression that the desire for peace motivates him, but a person who voluntarily joins the military sees different solutions than I do. Some of the characters in *Redeployment* grapple with these conflicting views.

When the Illinois Humanities Council partnered with ILA to bring Phil Klay to the Carbondale Public Library, I expected the program to broaden my thinking—as all great programs do. But I didn't expect the experience to feel so compelling.

I admire good books, and the short stories in *Redeployment* are expertly crafted realistic fiction. I also admire good writers, and Phil Klay is—with his thoughtful demeanor—disarming. Honestly, the guy kind of glows. Maybe that's what happens to authors when they become National Book Award finalists. They glow.

He read to us from his book. The room was standing-room-only, and there were several veterans in the audience. The discussion that followed touched on some important issues, such as the misperception that all soldiers are traumatized and damaged, and therefore, perhaps dangerous. War is traumatic, but Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is not the only possible response to trauma, and those with PTSD should certainly not be stigmatized as dangerous, as they sometimes are in the press.

We discussed the notion that the characters in *Redeployment* manage to simultaneously tell, yet not tell, their stories—a defensive style of communication. Phil Klay almost told us why he'd joined the military. He debunked the idea that people join either because they are overzealous fighters, or they are economically desperate. He said he didn't fit into either extreme, but before he

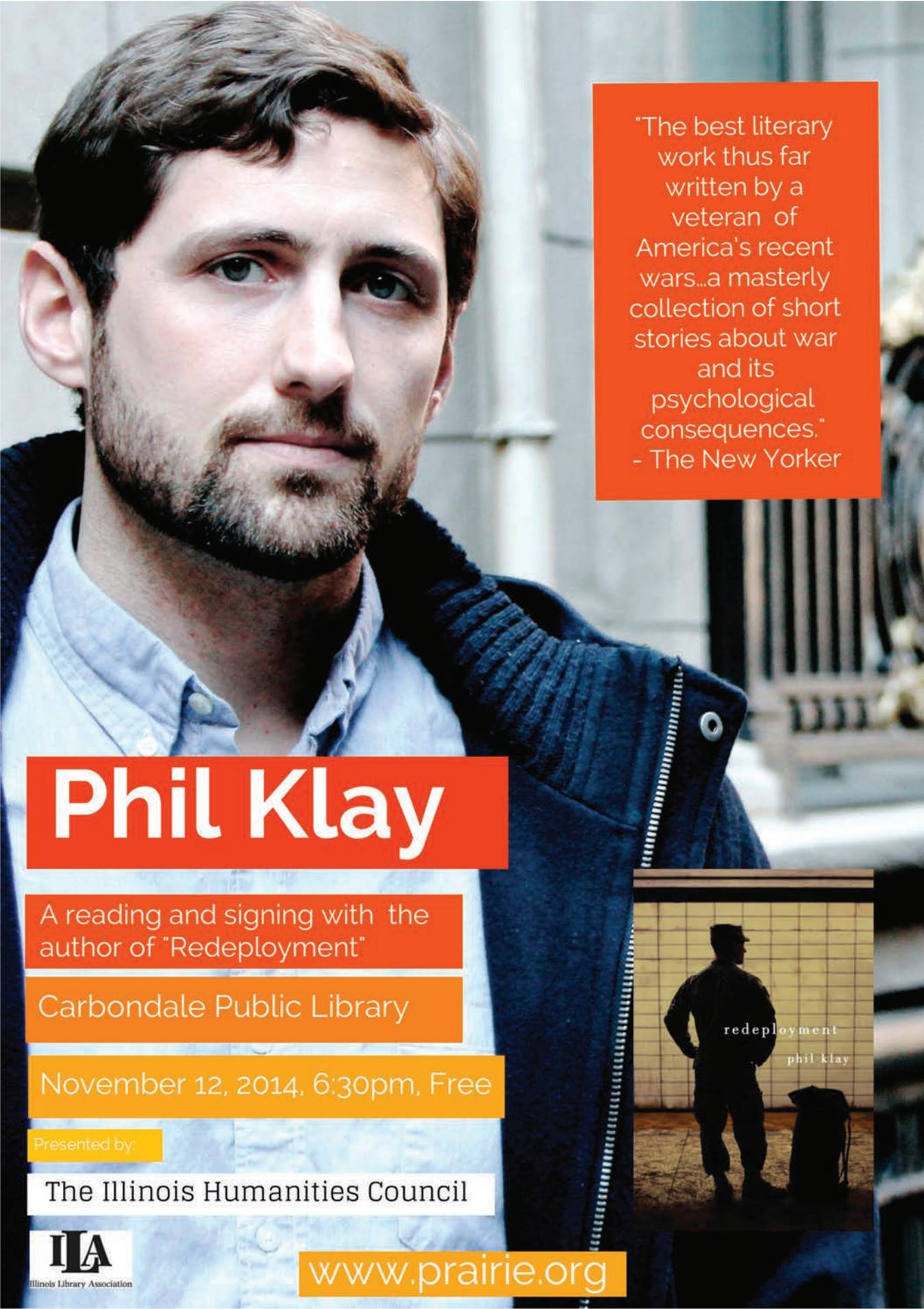
could expound on that, the conversation veered away as though we were collectively engaged in the same evasive communication as his characters. Of course, that's the nature of discourse when forty people are invited into a conversation. Together we place dots on a connect-the-dots picture. We have to go home, think, read, draw the lines for ourselves.

Prompted by the audience, he commented on his *New York Times* article, "After War, a Failure of the Imagination," in which he encourages people to stop saying to veterans, "I could never imagine what you've been through." We've all experienced trauma to some degree, and one person's trauma is not so different from another's, so can't we at least try to imagine? It's our duty, he implied, as citizens of a country that sends people to war to imagine the consequences and respond with something more than apathy. So few people have served in our post-9/11 wars. If the rest of us fail to imagine it, we'll forget about it. That is, after all, one purpose of fiction: it allows us to imagine another person's experience.

Can I now fully understand the choice to join the military, and what that experience would be like? No. But everything about Phil Klay, from his writing to his demeanor, seems to graciously ask us to understand those choices and those experiences. So, I will try to imagine.

*The Illinois Humanities Council recently invited ILA to join them in finding venues for public readings by National Book Award nominee Phil Klay, author of *Redeployment*. The Urbana Free Library and Carbondale Public Library, as well as the Old State Capital historic site in Springfield, were chosen. The events were held on November 11, 12, and 13, and mark a new role for ILA in creating programming opportunities for libraries. See the ILA website for more information, upcoming events, and additional reading list suggestions: www.ila.org/joining-forces/joining-forces.*

[continued on page 10]



"The best literary work thus far written by a veteran of America's recent wars...a masterly collection of short stories about war and its psychological consequences."
- The New Yorker

Phil Klay

A reading and signing with the author of "Redeployment"

Carbondale Public Library

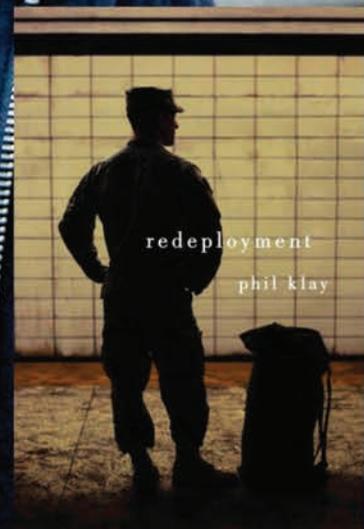
November 12, 2014, 6:30pm, Free

Presented by:

The Illinois Humanities Council



www.prairie.org





Here is a sampling of what readers can expect from this heartrending collection: In “Redeployment,” a veteran comes home to his dog who has aged significantly during his tour of duty; instead of taking him to the veterinarian to be euthanized, he takes the responsibility in his own hands to show his dog a kindness in death. The story of a marine whose job is to collect human remains is chronicled in “Bodies”; he returns home to the only stability he remembers, his former girlfriend who has grown distant. “Money as Weapons System” tells the story of a foreign service officer who attempts to rebuild a failed water system, but violence, the enemy, and a mattress salesman with a political agenda who insists that baseball uniforms will change culture and change war, all stand in the way, making the pursuit futile. “Prayer in the Furnace” offers the perspective of a military chaplain dealing with helping those who have hinted at war crimes and the emotional aftermath of killing civilians. In “Psychological Operations,” a vet at Amherst College offends a girl on campus who is a recently converted Muslim, but the two share their stories in hopes of a coming to an understanding. They both learn about being treated as they are seen and the unfortunate result of perception becoming reality.

The 2014 National Book Award winner, *Redeployment* is at turns grim and harrowing, but also shares a singular message that offers a small sense of hope in the bedlam that is war: we are united as a family, as brothers in combat, and as a country. We are never alone. This book is highly recommended to vets, civilians, and those with loved ones in the military, as it provides the truth of the unspoken events suffered in the fight for freedom.

—Reviewed by Kara Kohn, Plainfield Public Library

[continued from page 8]

2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER FOR FICTION

Klay, Phil. *Redeployment*. Penguin. 2014.

Emotional but not overly sentimental, this timely debut short story collection from Klay, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served as a public affairs officer in Iraq, touches upon the issues most paramount to our current war: PTSD, suicide rates/attempts among vets, children in the cross fires, war crimes, Islam, and more.

MORE FOR YOUR MILITARY BOOKSHELVES

Helen Thorpe’s *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War* chronicles the lives of three women in the Indiana National Guard from enlistment through deployment and back home. Scribner, 2014.

Mary K. Chelton offers reader’s advisory and a bibliography in “There are More SEALs in Romance Fiction Than in the US Navy: The Appeal of Military Romances,” reprinted in EBSCO Novelist, and November/December 2014 issue of *RA News*. **ILA**

New for 2014



Everything you need in a single volume to trace the history of book banning,

the emergence of the principle of freedom of expression, and understand how this is woven into the fabric of literature, politics, education, and culture in America. The encyclopedic listing of “incidents” of banning is framed by text that includes Supreme Court cases, famous quotes on censorship, and brief essays to guide students, teachers, scholars, and citizens on a fascinating journey. **To order the new 2014 edition of *Banned Books*, visit alastore.ala.org/bbw for more details.**

2014 ILA Annual Conference: Looking Back... and Ahead

As librarians, we are in the learning business. We share knowledge, information, and inspiration every day. So when 970 of us got together in Springfield in mid-October for the 2014 ILA Annual Conference, I shouldn't have been surprised at the sheer number of incredible programs, brilliant ideas, and enthusiastic staff members I encountered. In fact, I wasn't just surprised, I was blown away.

This year's theme—Kickstarting: Connections, Creativity, and Community—asked us to think about the little things we could do to get the ball rolling to make our libraries better. The Opening Session keynote from Detroit-based entrepreneur Josh Linkner provided just the right spark that set the tone for the entire conference. His examples of using creativity and surprise to create memorable experiences for our users provided a jumping-off point for three days of memorable presentations.

With over seventy programs presented on everything from passive teen programming and creating a modern Technical Services Department to collection development and facilities strategies for libraries of all shapes and sizes, there was truly something for everyone. I was personally inspired by sessions on makerspace evaluation and making cultural transformations, and I was sorry to miss my chance to see interesting sessions on using tools from national initiatives and connecting security and customer service. So many colleagues bubbled over with information and excitement about the great programs they attended and how they were going to try something new when they returned to their home libraries.

With so many wonderful programs and sessions to attend, I was doubly pleased to experience so many of the other things that this year's conference had to offer. Tuesday's Awards Luncheon was a rare chance to see talented colleagues get some much-deserved recognition from their peers. The exhibits hall was hopping on Wednesday and Thursday, and I was able to connect with some interesting vendors and organizations with a lot to offer. Poster sessions focused on a diverse set of

interesting projects to showcase. A mind-bogglingly talented group of maker librarians wowed in the Maker Showcase while so many of us got a chance to play with their creations. There was so much—Stories and Spirits, DiversiTEA, and much, much more—that I wasn't personally able to attend, but I enjoyed seeing the tweets, statuses, and instagrammed pictures shared to #ILAKick via social media.

I learned so much from the considerable educational opportunities on display, but I also had a terrific time networking with library staff from all over the state. The welcome reception's Battledecks competition gave me the chance to risk making a complete fool of myself as a competitor, but resulted in the chance to bow to the considerable presentation skills of champion Sarah Sagmoen. Wednesday evening's annual Pub Stroll has become a perennial favorite, but that doesn't diminish the effect that a bar full of librarians dancing and laughing together has on my soul. With a conference full of other fun events like the Illinois State Library's dessert reception and a walking ghost tour of Springfield, I had so much fun it barely left time for any sleep! The Facetime networking event was hugely popular, with librarians and staff from all over the library meeting and connecting. The conference closed with a thought-provoking address from author Peter Heller (*The Dog Stars*, *The Painter*), who shared his experiences as a travel writer and novelist.

There is just about nothing better than that conference high that you receive from spending so much time focused on hearing new ideas and interacting with like-minded professionals. I've long heard the adage that if you can bring back three great ideas to try in your own library, the conference was a successful one. This October in Springfield, I heard so many interesting ideas and concepts that it's hard to know where to start.

For guidance, I'll turn to Springfield's own incrementalist, Abraham Lincoln, who famously said, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." ■



2014 ILA Annual Conference Statistics

Total attendees: 1,087

Exhibit booths: 131

Conference Registration

	2014 Springfield	2013 Chicago	2012 Peoria	2011 Rosemont	2010 Chicago	2009 Peoria	2008 Chicago	2007 Springfield	2006 Chicago	2005 Peoria	2004 Chicago	2003 Springfield	2002 Chicago
Full	555	620	538	623	673	460	767	580	844	616	736	527	699
Single day Tuesday	55	224	64	186	190	51	242	68	281	35	151	39	161
Single day Wednesday	89	330	123	219	191	77	269	109	233	122	282	119	258
Single day Thursday	26	57	10	238	194	10	77	12	66	24	98	8	83
Preconference only	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	5	32	6	108	151	151
SUBTOTAL	670	1,231	735	1,266	1,248	654	1,371	774	1,456	803	1,375	844	1,352
Speakers	49	81	84	80	147	65	83	74	100	27	105	78	133
Exhibits only	101	131	102	169	220	91	326	141	206	50	236	100	426
Exhibitor representatives	267	378	203	430	469	187	407	227	368	207	392	202	503
TOTAL	1,087	1,821	1,124	1,945	2,084	997	2,187	1,216	2,130	1,087	2,108	1,224	2,414

Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	980	491	810	685	685	994	695	795	592	783	575	918	554
Hotel Rooms Used	921	352	729	432	384	737	611	939	690	945	626	1,169	605
Number of Companies	113	124	111	125	149	101	157	125	137	113	151	132	165
Number of Booths (including any paid canceled booths)	131	141	124	145	170	118	178	142	158	129	170	144	173
Total Booth Square Feet	13,100	13,300	12,400	14,500	17,000	11,800	17,600	14,200	15,800	12,900	16,700	14,400	18,600

555 early bird registrations accounted for 83 percent (versus 71 percent last year) of final paid registration figures; 76 advance registrations accounted for 11 percent (versus 14 percent last year) of final paid registrations; and 39 late and on-site registrations accounted for 6 percent (versus 15 percent last year) of final paid registrations.

ILA expresses its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and donors of this year's conference:

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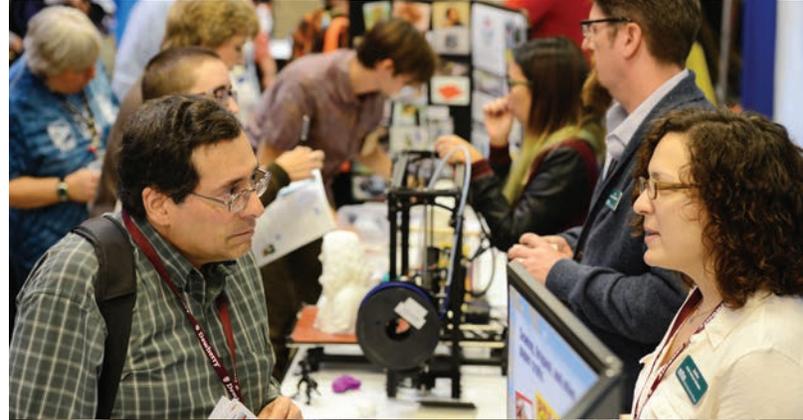
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- Face to Face
- 4Imprint
- Fredrick Quinn
- Klein Thorpe & Jenkins
- Mason Crest/National Highlights
- Ohio University Press
- Outsource Solutions Group
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- Reaching Forward
- Rob Innes
- Rosen Publishing
- Team One
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science

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- Reaching Forward
- Sikich LLP
- Sourcebooks
- Today's Business Solutions





Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial/Demco Award
Mattoon Middle School Media Center Award presented by Janet Nelson (l), Demco, to Anieta Trame (r), Mattoon Middle School Media Center.



Crosman Memorial Award
Award presented by Mike Quirk, Mortenson Construction, to Maria Ford, Hudson Area Public Library District.



Davis Cup Award
Award presented by Vince Sovanski, Youth Services Forum, to Ann D. Carlson, Oak Park and River Forest High School.



Demco Library Innovative Award
Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University Award presented by Janet Nelson, Demco, to Allen Lanham, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University.



Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award
Award presented by Tim Jarzemsky, Public Policy Committee, to Representative Kelly Burke, 36th District, Illinois House of Representatives.



Golden Ticket Award
Award presented by Vince Sovanski, Youth Services Forum, to Rhonda Johnson, Hudson Area Public Library District.



Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award
Award presented by Tammy Kuhn-Schnell (l), IACRL Forum, to Susan Swords Steffen (m), A.C. Buehler Library, Elmhurst College, with Allen Lanham, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University.



Intellectual Freedom Award
Award presented by Melissa Rice, Intellectual Freedom Committee, to the Orland Park Public Library Board of Library Trustees.



Librarian of the Year Award
Award presented by Patrick Ferguson (l), Sikich LLP, to Stephen Bero (r).



Reference Services Award

Award presented by Britt Isaly, Ancel Glink, to Patrick Coffey, Calumet City Public Library.



Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award

Award presented by Amber Creger (l), Young Adult Services Forum, to Regina Townsend, Forest Park Public Library (r).



Deborah Dowley Preiser Marketing Award

Award presented by David Seleb, Oak Park Public Library, to Sue Wilsey, Niles Public Library District.



TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Award presented by Nathan Handlon, Today's Business Solutions, Inc., to Rosemary Groenwald, Mount Prospect Public Library, accepted by Joy Anhalt, Resources and Technical Services Forum.



Trustee of the Year Award

Award presented by Carol Vaughan Kissane (l), Library Trustee Forum, to Linda McDonnell, Six Mile Regional Library District (r).



Trustee of the Year Award

Award presented by Carol Vaughan Kissane (l), Library Trustee Forum, to William Coffee, La Grange Public Library (m) with Jeannie Dilger (r), ILA president.

AWARDS

2015 ILA Public Policy Initiatives

INTRODUCTION

Illinois libraries provide a high rate of return on investment to the taxpayers they serve. They link people to information, act as a focal point of the communities they represent, and level the playing field by making resources equally available to all members of their constituency. As Illinois residents have become more diverse, libraries have developed collections and services to meet the unique and varying needs of these distinct populations.

The ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) works with the Illinois State Library and the broader library community to maintain open communications with state officials. The Illinois State Library provides guidance and grants to all libraries. It negotiates contracts and serves as a resource for all libraries in the state.

Public and school libraries receive per capita grants from the state that provide critical services. For smaller, less affluent libraries, these grants can be the only funding for materials or technology. These grants are even more important during difficult economic times when other revenue sources have been eliminated.

One way libraries provide a healthy return on investment is by having skilled and knowledgeable librarians to answer questions, organize information, and guide customers through the maze of available data. In order to keep and attract highly skilled staff, libraries need to offer pay and benefits packages that compete with private industry.

Libraries are often the access point to the Internet for many Illinois residents. Again, skilled staff is needed to provide basic training to the public in new and emerging forms of communication, and to maintain the equipment. The three-to five-year replacement span for maintaining updated hardware, and the ever-increasing need for added bandwidth, impose a significant cost upon libraries.

Throughout the year, PPC meets regularly to review all legislation with potential beneficial or harmful consequences for the library community. Working with legislative counsel, the committee will pay attention to issues ranging from library funding to intellectual freedom to pension reform for public employees. Its work will be shared with members through ILA's communication channels and all members are encouraged to be active participants in keeping libraries on the agenda in their local communities and in Springfield.

2015 ILA ACTION AGENDA

The Illinois Library Association is committed to serving as an advocate for libraries by developing legislative initiatives that: improve funding for libraries; protect intellectual freedom and patron confidentiality; expand access to information and library resources to all Illinois residents; and increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries through cooperation, collaboration, and resource sharing.

LIBRARY FUNDING

The Illinois Library Association will work with a broad coalition of library advocates to improve funding for libraries. The association will:

- Work to restore legislated funding levels such as the school library per capita grants, and to continue to be vigilant to ensure public library per capita grants remain fully funded, and to explore alternative sources of library funding.
- Support legislative proposals to mitigate the harmful effects of the tax cap limitation act.
- Work with the legislature to increase the Secretary of State's budget in order to increase the funding for the Illinois State Library.
- Work with the legislature to ensure responsible pension systems.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND PRIVACY

The Illinois Library Association is committed to protecting intellectual freedom and privacy while providing open access to information for all Illinois residents. The association will:

- Continue to educate the public on the safe use of the Internet, including interactive web applications, by children.
- Continue to oppose legislation mandating the use of Internet filters in libraries.
- Encourage governing boards of schools and libraries to develop an Acceptable Internet Use Policy with input from their community.
- Continue to oppose legislation that erodes the privacy of library users.

ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICES

The Illinois Library Association believes access to library services should be a right and responsibility of every Illinois resident. The association will:

- Oppose legislation that would erode public library service areas.
- Work to extend tax-supported public library service to the 9 percent of Illinois residents currently unserved.
- Work to ensure libraries are established in good faith with intentions to operate as a library.
- Work to ensure that school library legislation is expanded to equip all school libraries with certified media personnel.
- Encourage and support initiatives that increase connectivity by ensuring libraries are critical partners in cost-effective broadband planning and build-out.

INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

The Illinois Library Association is committed to promoting legislation that will increase the effectiveness of Illinois libraries. The association will:

- Work to develop library legislation that is comparable to legislation benefiting other entities of government.
- Work to develop initiatives that improve the ability of Illinois libraries to provide library services to the citizens of Illinois.
- Work to ensure transparency of government and access to information in ways that are cost-effective for governmental entities.
- Provide measured, thoughtful direction for legislation that could provide administrative cooperation and public service enhancement that result in economies of scale to public libraries.



ILA Welcomes New Members

We would love to welcome your friends and colleagues, too. By sponsoring a new member, you share the benefits of membership with others ... and help create a stronger and more effective voice to promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Cook and Kocher Insurance Group, Park Ridge
RWK IT Services, Frankfort

CO-MEMBERS

Jeanne Aken, Beach Park Middle School
Christine Barr
Eileen Crowley, Wheaton Public Library
Lane Young

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

College of DuPage Library, Glen Ellyn
Tribeca Flashpoint Academy, Chicago

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Kathleen A. Bartel, Waubensee Community College-Sugar Grove
Jennifer Czajka, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Madeline Dahlman, Deerfield Public Library
Donald J. Eckles, West Chicago Public Library District
Robert Edwards, Decatur Public Library
Jennifer Fidler, Geneva Public Library District
Diane Foote, Dominican University GSLIS, River Forest
Nancy I. Glick, Havana Public Library District
Denise D. Green, CARLI, Champaign
Ms. Britta Hatzold, Itasca
Joanna Kluever, Julia Hull District Library, Stillman Valley
Amy Koester, Skokie Public Library
Evelyn Lorence, Sycamore Public Library
Ronald G. McCutchan, Princeton Public Library
Amanda Musacchio, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), Burr Ridge
Zachary Musil, Acorn Public Library District, Oak Forest
Hillary Peppers, Jacksonville Public Library
Lynn M. Stainbrook, Rockford Public Library

Michael Szwed, Mount Prospect Public Library
Maggie Tresslar, Chicago
Blake Walter, College of DuPage Library, Glen Ellyn
Cherie Watson, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Joyce C. Wright, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

STUDENT MEMBERS

Alonso Avila, Urbana
Claudia Baranowski, Schaumburg Township District Library
Kelli Alexandria Baxter, Marion
Alyson Frances Bell, Champaign
Michelle Biwer, Urbana
Andrea Black, Champaign
Alexandra Budz, Champaign
Dylan Sean Burns, Champaign
Holly Clingan, St. Joseph
Alex Deeke, Champaign
Steven DiDomenico, Park Ridge
Holly Melissa Eberle, Crystal Lake
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Jordan Finkin, Champaign
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Lucero Gonzalez, Urbana
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Claire McCully, Urbana
Jhani Miller, Champaign
Jerrod D. Moore, Urbana
John L. Morgan, III, Schaumburg Township District Library

M. C. Neal, Savoy
Tia Neither, Champaign
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Erik Ponder, Northwestern University Library, Chicago
Sarah Prokop, Naperville
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Alejandra Santana, Urbana
Kristin Adaline Sherman, Rockford
Rachel M. Shore, Champaign
Jason Nathaniel Toms, Aurora, CO
Zhonghong Wang, Troy
Elizabeth Wickes, Urbana
Jessica Marie Williams, Urbana
Kristen Zidon, Champaign

SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

Aaron Felix, ITT Technical Institute, Springfield
Katherine Henderson, Park Forest Public Library
Carmen M. Higgins, Westmont Public Library
Jennifer Oosterbaan, Park Forest Public Library
Erik Schimke, Park Forest Public Library

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Charity Bundren, Mahomet Public Library District
Jeanne Champion, Mahomet Public Library District
Carlos Chavez, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
Larry Pittsley, Freeport Public Library
Laure Willman, Maryville Community Library

Library Jobline of Illinois



<http://www.ila.org/jobline>

Positions for Librarians and Support Staff

All employer job openings are listed on the ILA website (www.ila.org/jobline) for 30 days and the cost is \$100.



Efforts go statewide this year with four legislative events intended to give you an opportunity to meet with your legislators and speak with them firsthand about issues affecting you and your library. Library trustees, directors, and staff from public, school, and academic libraries are encouraged to attend and participate. Use this opportunity for photo ops with your elected officials to post on your Facebook page!

Find out which event will host your legislators and register at <http://www.ila.org/ila-events/2015-library-legislative-meet-ups>.

If your library isn't covered by one of these events, contact ila@ila.org for talking points to create your own legislative meet-up!

Friday, 13 February 2015

South Suburban Library Legislative Breakfast
Tinley Park Public Library
7851 Timber Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$25

Friday, 13 February 2015

West Suburban Library Legislative Lunch
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
1401 W. 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
11:30 A.M. check in
12:00 NOON doors open and buffet lunch is served
1:00 P.M. program begins
2:30 P.M. program concludes
Price: \$40

Monday, 16 February 2015

Presidents' Day Library Legislative Breakfast
Arboretum Club
401 Half Day Rd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$25

Friday, 20 February 2015

ILA Library Legislative Breakfast
Sunset Hills Country Club
2525 Illinois 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
7:45 A.M. doors open and breakfast is served
8:30 A.M. program begins
10:30 A.M. program concludes
Price: \$25

Name: _____
Institution: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____

Payment Information:
Registration Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment:
 Check MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx
Credit Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____

Deadline for registration is February 1, 2015.

Cancellations must be received in writing before February 1. Cancellations received before February 1 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 1. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the events. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: 312-644-1896, fax: 312-644-1899.

2015 ILA Trustee Forum Workshop

Saturday, February 14; Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
Register online at ila.org/Trustee

AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast and Networking
9:00 – 9:15 A.M.	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 – 10:30 A.M.	Library Board Wars and Power Plays: How to Resolve Them and How to Avoid Them Britt Isaly and Julie Tappendorf, Ancel Glink
10:30 – 10:45 A.M.	Break
10:45 A.M. – NOON	Tech Trends for Trustees Monica Harris, Schaumburg Township District Library
NOON – 1:00 P.M.	Lunch and Forum Business Meeting
1:15 – 2:15 P.M.	Legislative Update Kip Kolkmeier, ILA Legislative Consultant
2:15 – 2:30 P.M.	Break
2:30 – 3:30 P.M.	Legal Q&A Phil Lenzini, Library Attorney

HOTEL INFORMATION

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook

1401 West 22nd St.

Oak Brook, IL 60523

The single/double rate is \$94, plus tax, per night.

Please call 800-228-9290 or 630-573-8555 to make your reservation.

Reservations must be made by Friday, January 23.

Registration Form

ILA Member Registration: \$135*

Non-Member Registration: \$160*

Registration includes the workshop, continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack break.

** Register multiple trustees and save! Register one trustee at the full price and each additional trustee from your institution will receive a \$10 registration discount. Please send a separate form to register each trustee.*

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment Information:

Registration Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline for registration is January 30, 2015.

Cancellations must be received in writing before February 6 and will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after February 6. Confirmations and additional information will be sent prior to the workshops. Send conference registration and payment to Illinois Library Association, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654; phone: 312-644-1896, fax: 312-644-1899.

National Library Legislative Day

May 5, 2015 Mark your calendar for National Library Legislative Day, Tuesday, May 5, 2015. With state cuts and more federal dollars being used for per capita grants, this is a very critical and exciting time for us to get our message out to Congress. A variety of activities have been designed to prepare National Library Legislative Day participants for an informed and effective day of congressional visits.

Accommodations: ILA has reserved a block of rooms at the Capitol Hill Hotel, 200 C St., SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone: 202-543-6000; fax: 202-547-2608; \$289 junior suite, 14.5 percent sales taxes **are not included**. Room rates include continental breakfast, complimentary wi-fi, and complimentary wine hour Monday–Friday 5:00–6:00 P.M. When making reservations, please mention **Illinois Library Association or provide the block code ILA515**. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is March 20, 2015. At that time any unsold rooms will be released to the hotel for general sale. Reservations received after the cut-off date will be on a space-and-rate available basis only.

MONDAY, MAY 4

9:00 A.M. Participants may want to attend the ALA briefing day to be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill, an Affinia Hotel, 415 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001. This full day (9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.) of issue briefings is designed to prepare participants for congressional visits.

5:00 – 7:00 P.M. The National Library Legislative Day Committee has scheduled a Congressional Reception (location to be announced). All representatives and senators will be sent invitations to attend the reception. Congressional staff is also being invited.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. A kickoff with a brief summary of key issues has been scheduled at a location to be announced on Capitol Hill.

9:45 A.M. The delegation will “Hit the Hill,” with scheduled congressional appointments.

3:00 P.M. Currently, the tentative scheduled meeting with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Your registration fee includes legislative materials, coffee breaks at the briefing sessions, and the Congressional Reception on Monday evening, organized by the National Library Legislative Day Committee. \$30 of your registration fee goes to the American Library Association for coffee breaks, room rental, and speakers; \$15 goes to ILA for registration, organizing the packets, and congressional appointments.

\$45 for ILA Members \$55 for Non-Members

Method of Payment:

Check or money order for \$ _____ made payable to ILA or

MasterCard VISA Discover AmEx

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____



Deadline for registration is April 1, 2015.

Cancellations must be received in writing before April 1. Cancellations received before April 1 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after April 1. Confirmations and additional information will be sent after the registration deadline. Send payment to the ILA Office, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799, fax: 312-644-1899, <http://www.ila.org/events>.

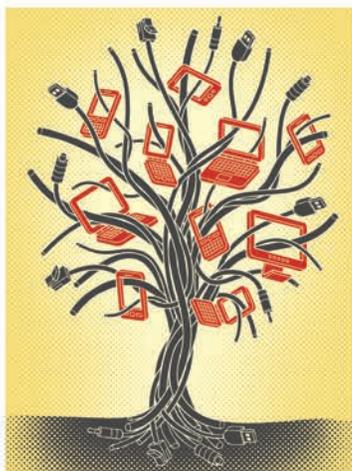
Please register online this year at ReachingForward.net or fax this filled out form to 312-644-1899.

REACHING FORWARD

Reaching Forward 2015 Annual Conference

Friday, May 8, 2015 • 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL

ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON



Join us for the 26th Annual Reaching Forward Conference. This year's conference features 44 programs, a continental breakfast, and delicious luncheon. We continue to welcome our exhibitors, who will showcase a variety of goods and services.

New this year:

- Performers Showcase for Adult Services & Youth Services
- Full-Day Management Series Workshop (*pre-registration required – check the box below*)

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast and Exhibits
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Welcome
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Breakout Session 1
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Breakout Session 2
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Luncheon and Awards
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Exhibitor No Conflict Time
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Breakout Session 3
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Breakout Session 4

Registration:

Early Bird (By April 24): \$140
Advance (April 25 or later): \$150
(includes continental breakfast and lunch)

A full listing of programs and detailed conference information is available at ReachingForward.net

Yes, sign me up for the Full-Day Management Series Workshop.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

LIBRARY NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

Payment Information

_____ \$140 (By April 24)
_____ \$150 (April 25 or later)

- A check is enclosed *or* Credit Card:
- AM EX Discover MasterCard VISA

No refunds will be given after April 24, 2015.

Return registration to:

Reaching Forward Conference
Illinois Library Association
33 W. Grand, Suite 401
Chicago, IL 60654
Fax: (312) 644-1899

_____ CARD NUMBER

_____ EXPIRATION DATE

_____ SIGNATURE

If special accommodations are needed, please contact the ILA office by April 10 at ila@ila.org or (312) 644-1896.

Parking is available in the parking garage across the street from the convention center. Parking is \$13.00 per car and payment is made by cash or credit card at pay stations in the garage. Pre-pay before entering the conference to avoid lines at the end of day.

You may also register online at ReachingForward.net

Cancellations must be received in writing before April 24 and will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after April 24. All cancellations are subject to a \$15 processing fee.

Please let us know if you require a special meal:

- vegan gluten-free Other: _____



◀ MY TURN ▶

| Alice L. Winters |

Libraries Are Happiness

“We read to know we are not alone.”
— C. S. Lewis

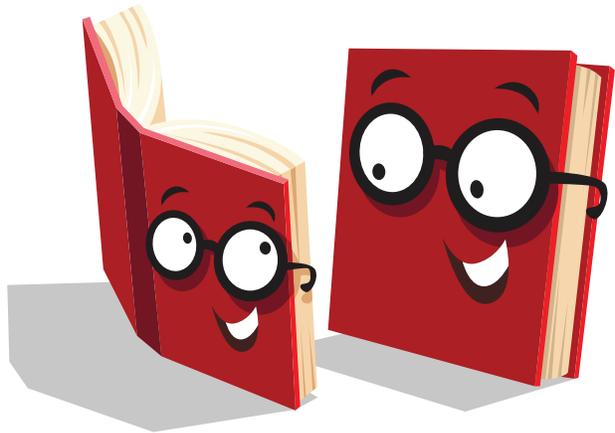
“Everywhere I have sought peace and not found it, except in a corner with a book.”
— Thomas à Kempis

Happiness, that much sought after but hard to define state of being, is most often for me spelled L-I-B-R-A-R-Y—or perhaps books, adventure, education, and wonderful persons serving others.

World War II had just ended when our family in rural Pierce County, Washington, had a momentous happening. Our mother saw a picture in the newspaper and announced, “Come quickly, children,” in a voice we five knew to mean NOW. The picture in her hand was just an old grayish army truck, which we gazed at, not knowing its future influence on us, that it would bring us books, a newfound habit of reading, and hundreds of hours of happiness.

The Pierce County Library System was converting that truck into a bookmobile, an unknown word to us, and it would be available on our road! Much dickering had to be done by our mother for it to stop by our mailbox. For ten years or so our small humble home was our local library and my journey of over seventy years of happiness had begun.

Ah, so many happy memories of books and life for me in many libraries, big, small, institutional, as well as my own full shelves in various dwellings. I was never without books and the more happiness I sought the more libraries provided me with so much more. In college, with its awesome library, studying was often the least of my concerns, but the library was always an adventure, from the handsome young men to the bright librarians handing me the latest “must reads.”



Later, small farm life was even more rural, but a teaching job and its small vital library awaited me. I had the joy of my “book happiness” being passed on to future generations. My children giggle at memories of mom stirring stew with a book in hand at the stove. The many book clubs I attended in both large and small towns kept me reading and provided lifelong friendship and escape from loneliness.

The years rolled on and our world changed and now we add the word “electronic” before most of our “stuff.” But the libraries and librarians have stayed on their toes, ready to change, offering more and more services. After years of struggle with an aging body, much of it is being replaced—teeth, eyeglasses, hearing aids, hip, knees. So, when I entered the library recently I was thrilled to find that there sat a “push scooter” to assist me—just one more thoughtful service.

I look around at the available computers, at all the classes being offered and the happy voices of young children learning that libraries are happiness. Equal to the knowledge gained and used is the wonderful nurturing I receive from the staff, always so ready to give and help those entering what I call the happiness doors. Libraries: kindness, help, and caring are there. Ever since I was a lonely pre-teen awaiting that old army-truck bookmobile, wherever I am, when I want happiness, I escape to the wonderful world of the local library.

*Alice L. Winters is an 81-year-old retired educator. She often attends computer classes at the Carbondale Public Library. **ILA***

Rethinking your library.



Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Arlington Heights, IL

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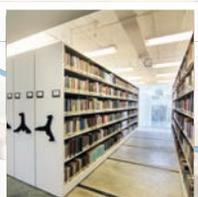
RE-PURPOSE

space is premium.

You're hearing it everywhere, you're hearing it often — our libraries are knowledge spaces, and accessing knowledge has changed.

Space can be made if you employ the right resources and solutions to optimize it. From high-density storage systems to modular casework and shelving systems, after over 40 years we can solve the design challenges you face, while also respecting the dignity of our library's historical and necessary role in public service.

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or call 800-696-3453.



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