

Annual Meetings 2015



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

The 2015 Annual Meeting is only weeks away! Get ready to join some 10,000 of your friends and colleagues in Atlanta, Georgia for an exciting Annual Meeting. This e-mail highlights the items you need to know before you arrive to assist you in having the best meeting experience possible.



GUIDES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Please check out the [Guide to the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting](#). For the veteran and the first-time attendee, this guide has everything you need to know about preparing for the Annual Meeting. There are two additional guides for [New Members or First-Time Attendees](#) and [International Members](#) that may require a glance.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY IN 2015

Free Wi-Fi!



A free wireless Internet network will be available throughout the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Marquis, Hilton Downtown, and Sheraton Downtown. (There is no public Wi-Fi access in the Westin). The network names and passwords

are below:

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Network ID	Password
Hyatt Meeting Rooms	aarsbl15
Marriott Conference	aarsbl15
Hilton Meeting Network	aarsbl15hilton
Sheraton Conference	aarsbl15

[Places of Worship, etc.\)](#)

18. [Need Help?](#)

Have a Cup of Coffee on AAR: Deadline November 9!

New this year, AAR mentors will be available for an hour at the Annual Meeting to meet with a mentee and chat over a hot beverage. Coffee is on the AAR. Deadline for mentee registration is **November 9**. The tabs at the top of the sign up allow you to see mentors available each day.



For details and to register as a mentee, [see here](#).

Mobile App Available!

We are excited to announce that you can download the FREE [AARSBL15 Mobile App](#) for Android and iOS using the links or QR codes below.



<http://ativ.me/7xh>



<http://ativ.me/7xg>



Also note that we have an [Online Planner](#) that interfaces with this year's mobile app. Construct your personal schedule from the comfort of your computer and then sync that information to the app on your mobile device by logging in on both devices.

If you are having technical difficulties with the mobile app, please consult this [FAQ](#) or contact us at support@aarweb.org.

Hotel Update

Housing for the Annual Meeting is now closed. **October 19** was the deadline for the special conference rates. Unfortunately, we are no longer accepting reservations for housing, and you'll need to make your own arrangements. Should you want to stay at one of our conference hotels, they are not obligated to honor the special conference rates that were in effect prior to October 19. Contact reg@aarweb.org for up-to-date information.

Exhibit Hall

A priority for anyone attending the Annual Meetings is a visit to the Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall, located in the Hyatt Regency, is on two levels this year: booths 100–1213 are located in the Grand Hall (Exhibit Level), and booths 1300–2213 are located in the Centennial Ballroom (Ballroom Level). The AAR booth is #603. For an index of exhibitors and Exhibit Hall floor plans, click [here](#).

PROGRAM AND SESSION UPDATES

AAR Full Paper Submission Program

The [full text of papers](#) for two dozen sessions is being made available to AAR members in advance of the 2015 Annual Meeting. During these sessions, presenters will briefly summarize their arguments, with the bulk of the time given over to discussion. These papers are available only for the few weeks leading up to the Annual Meeting. After **November 24**, they will be removed from the website. These pages and documents are inaccessible to search engines such as Google, so please do not share these files elsewhere.

AAR/SBL Employment Center Registration Is Still Open



It's not too late to register for the AAR/SBL Employment Center! Registration is open to [Employers](#) through the Annual Meeting. Although you may register on site, Employers are highly encouraged to register before the Meeting in order to guarantee interview space and to avoid long wait times. Complimentary registration for the Employment Center is still open for [candidates](#). For further details, visit the [AAR/SBL Employment Services website](#).

Session Updates

Look for program updates or changes in the [Online Program Book](#), the Mobile App, and in the *Annual Meetings At-A-Glance*, which is stuffed inside your tote bag.

FUN, GAMES, AND HELPING OTHERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Drop a Business Card and Enter to Win in the Exhibit Hall!

Plan to visit the AAR booth (#603) and drop off your business card to enter four drawings:

- Books Under Discussion at the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting
- The 2015 AAR Award Winning Books
- Free 2016 AAR membership
- Free 2016 Annual Meetings registration

Forget the Dogs—AAR Is Going to the Cats!

Catlanta cats, to be specific. [Catlanta](#) is a local Atlanta street artist who creates cute and funky cat art to scatter in locations around the city. A social media scavenger hunt takes place after each “kitten drop” as people follow the clues to discover a cat artwork.



Catlanta has partnered with AAR and designed some unique designs for the 2015 Annual Meeting! Follow the AAR [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds during the Annual Meeting to learn clues that will lead you to a special take-home souvenir.

Tag a selfie with your Catlanta find to **#aarsbl15** and AAR will make a donation to PAWS Atlanta, a local no-kill animal shelter!

Contribute to the Annual Meeting Soap Drive!

At the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, we are collecting **unused/unopened** hotel soaps, shampoos, conditioners, and other toiletry items that families and homeless in need might find useful. Take your donations to the Registration area in the Hyatt Regency and look for the soap drive bin! More information about this initiative can be found [online](#).

Save on a New Headshot!

Everyone needs a headshot, and you can get one for only \$35. Have your photo taken by a professional photographer who will be available in the Exhibit Hall (Booth #104) on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22, from 9:00 am–2:00 pm. For information and to preregister, see [here](#).

REMEMBER TO PACK

- **YOUR NAME BADGE!** If you registered by September 17, you should receive your name badge in the mail. Once you arrive in Atlanta, pick up a name badge holder and then feel free to attend any Annual Meeting event; you do not need to come by registration. Those who registered September 17 and after will have to pick their badge up onsite. If you registered by September 17 and did not receive your badge in the mail, you can pick one up onsite. While the first badge reprint will be complimentary, all additional reprints will be \$5 each. **Make sure to wear your badge at all Annual Meetings events**—it helps people identify you, and there are some sessions with extra security where badges will be checked.
- **YOUR PROGRAM BOOK!** *Program Books* were mailed to everyone who registered before August 13 and did not check the "Do not send me a *Program Book*" box. There is a very limited supply available onsite, so don't leave your copy at home!
- Check out other helpful tips on what to pack for your trip [here](#).

Thank you to the 23% of AAR registrants who opted out of receiving a *Program Book* and the additional 19% of registrants who opted not to have a *Program Book* printed for them at all. This is a tremendous help in our quest to make the Annual Meeting greener!

MEETING AND NETWORKING WITH COLLEAGUES

Meeting and networking with colleagues is the number one response people list as the reason to attend the Annual Meetings. Here are a few opportunities on how to meet the people you wish to see:

Look Who's Coming and Social Media

The AAR website allows you to search for friends and colleagues who might be attending the Annual Meetings. Go to www.aarweb.org/look-whos-coming to see who's coming to the Annual Meetings!

Take your Annual Meetings experience to the web!

Use **#AARSBL15** to continue the conversation on [Twitter](#) or the [AAR's Facebook](#) page. See [here](#) for social media best practices at the meeting.

Mandala Sand Painting Creation

Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery will construct a mandala sand painting Saturday, November 21 to Monday, November 23 in the Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom B (Marquis Level) from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this exquisite art form in person.

AAR and SBL Member Reception (A20–405)

Friday, 8:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m., Marriott-Atrium Ballroom (Atrium Level)

Come join the party with your friends and colleagues for fun and conversation at the AAR and SBL Members' Reception. Light refreshments, cash bar, and a DJ combine to make this a great way to catch up with old friends or dance the night away with new ones.

LGBTIQ Roundtable Luncheon (A21–146)

Saturday, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Hyatt-International South (International Tower Level LL1)

All students and junior scholars who identify outside of normative gender histories and/or sexualities are welcome to join us for an informal lunch. No fee or preregistration is required. Please bring your own lunch; a cash-and-carry station will be available near the room for those wishing to buy their lunches onsite.

Contingent Faculty and Applied Religious Studies Professionals Reception (A21–404)

Saturday, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m., Marriott-AAR Suite
AAR members who work at colleges and universities on a

contingent or contractual basis or who apply their degrees to work outside of the academy are welcome to meet and greet each other at this reception hosted by the AAR's Contingent Faculty Task Force and Applied Religious Studies Working Group. Please RSVP by Friday, November 6, by e-mailing Sarah Levine (slevine@aarweb.org).

Women's Mentoring Luncheon (A22–151)

Sunday, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Marriott-A703 (Atrium Level)
Only 12 spaces remain! Women who are graduate students and new scholars are invited to a luncheon with over thirty womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars. Lunch is \$13; [registration is required](#).

Connecting Conversations Luncheon for Scholars and Students with Disabilities (A23–149)

Monday, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Marriott-A703 (Atrium Level)
The Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee will host a luncheon for scholars and students with disabilities, as well as anyone interested in disability issues in the Academy. Lunch is \$13. If you would like to add this event to your registration, please contact the AAR Registration Bureau at reg@aarweb.org.

Students

The Graduate Student Committee has published a listing of [sessions of interest to student members](#) attending the Annual Meeting.

Drop By to Say "Hello!"

Feel free to drop by AAR booth #603 to meet your regional coordinator or an AAR ambassador. Find out how you can become more involved in the AAR throughout the year!

ANNUAL MEETING SERVICES

Child Care

Childcare registration for the Annual Meeting is closed. KiddieCorp childcare is a service subsidized by the AAR and SBL for members with families attending the Annual Meeting.

Internet Access

Need to check your e-mail or use the web? Free Wi-Fi is available in meeting rooms and public areas of the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Marquis, Hilton Downtown, and Sheraton Downtown.

(Complimentary Wi-Fi will not be available at the Westin Peachtree Plaza.) If you need a computer, the Cyber Cafe, located outside the Exhibit Hall in the Hyatt Regency on both the Ballroom and Exhibit levels, offers computers with Internet connections.

Lounges

- **Prayer Room, Hyatt Chicago D** – For people of all faiths who need a moment of prayer, quiet reflection, or meditation.
- **Women's Lounge, Hyatt Hanover B** – Featuring special programming sponsored by the Women's Caucus. Nursing mothers may find it a welcome private space.
- **Student Lounge, Hyatt Hanover A** – Special programming sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee.
- **International Members Lounge, Hyatt Chicago C**

Nursing Mothers

Nursing mothers are welcome to nurse wherever you feel comfortable feeding your child. If you are looking for a more private space, you can use the AAR's Women's Lounge located in Hyatt Hanover B.

Food at the Annual Meeting

On weekdays, there is an underground food court, which provides fast and inexpensive meal options for attendees during business hours. The Peachtree Center Mall Food Court can be accessed from an indoor walkway (with 3 stairs; no ADA options available without journeying outside) directly from the Hyatt. For ADA options, [see here](#). A more complete list of downtown restaurants is [here](#). If you are looking for vegetarian or restaurants that can accommodate restricted diets, [this list](#) may be helpful. For information regarding Kosher arrangements, please contact Joseph Weinstein at shabbat@sbl-site.org.

Accessibility Information for Annual Meetings

AAR members with disabilities or any attendees who may have difficulty getting around the meeting are encouraged to visit [this page](#) to view accommodations and helpful tips during the Annual Meeting.

Gender-Neutral Restroom

ALL PERSON, ALL ACCESS restrooms are available on the 2nd level of the Hyatt Regency, on the lobby level of the Marriott Marquis, on the third level of the Hilton Downtown, and on the third level of the Sheraton downtown. AAR recognizes that there are members of our community who may feel more comfortable in an all-gender restroom. The all-gender restrooms are marked with special signage during the Annual Meetings.

BEYOND THE ANNUAL MEETING

Tours

The following Annual Meeting tours still have space available. For up-to-date information, e-mail reg@aarweb.org.

- Atlanta City Tour (Friday, Nov. 20, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.) \$35
- King Center Tour (Friday, Nov. 20, 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.) \$15
- Yoga Class (Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:00 a.m.–8:00 a.m.) \$15
- High Museum of Art (Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.) \$20
- Center for Civil and Human Rights (Saturday, Nov. 21, 1:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.) \$15
- Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum (Sunday, Nov. 22, 2:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m.) \$30
- William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum (Monday, Nov. 23, 12:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.) \$20
- Ponce de Leon Avenue Houses of Worship Tour (Monday, Nov. 23, 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.) \$30

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. To see a description of each tour, see pages 2–6 of this [PDF](#). To sign up for a tour, fax in the form [here](#), or e-mail reg@aarweb.org. Sorry, no refunds.

Show Your Badge

From November 18 through November 27, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau is offering discounts at local

restaurants and attractions through the "Savings in the City" card. See [here for details](#) and to print your card. A list of all the discount offers is [here](#).

Places of Worship

There is a nondenominational prayer and reflection space located in Hyatt Chicago D. For a list of local religious services, see [here](#). Please note, this is not a comprehensive list of places of worship in Atlanta.

NEED HELP?

If you have questions about the program, your membership, or events at the Annual Meeting, the staff at the AAR Member Services desk, located in the registration area of the Hyatt Regency on the Exhibit Level, will be able to assist you. You can also seek help at the AAR booth #603 in the Exhibit Hall. You might find the answer to your question in the [Guide to the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting](#) or on the [Annual Meetings Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

SEE YOU IN ATLANTA!