

AAR Member News

AAR ELECTIONS

Cast your ballot to elect the future leaders of the AAR! All members should have received an email with a link to the 2015 AAR elections ballot. If you have not yet received a link to the ballot, please notify us via e-mail at nominations@aarweb.org. Be sure to include your full name and the e-mail address to which you would like the link to the ballot sent.



The following positions are on the ballot: Vice President; Treasurer; Student Director; Regions Director; and At-Large Director. Please [click here](#) for information and to view the candidate statements.

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS



Annual Meeting Housing

October 19 is the deadline to obtain our special conference rates for sleeping rooms at the Annual Meeting! There is still availability in the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. Don't miss out on potentially saving hundreds of dollars. If you

haven't [registered](#) for the Annual Meeting, you may obtain housing during the process. If you have already registered, you may add housing by using the link in your registration confirmation email. If you don't have that email, you may have it sent to you by emailing reg@aarweb.org.

Guides to the AAR Annual Meeting

Please check out the following guides to help you navigate this

[JOIN TODAY FOR 2016!](#)

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year's Annual Meeting. Each guide is packed with useful information on how to navigate the city and the Annual Meeting itself.

[Guide to the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting](#): For the veteran and the first-time attendee, this guide has everything you need to know.

[New Member or First-Time Attendee?](#) The AAR Annual Meeting can be overwhelming. This guide provides some good, basic information about the Annual Meeting.

[International Members](#) Traveling from outside the US? Check out this guide.

Annual Meeting Tour Space Availability

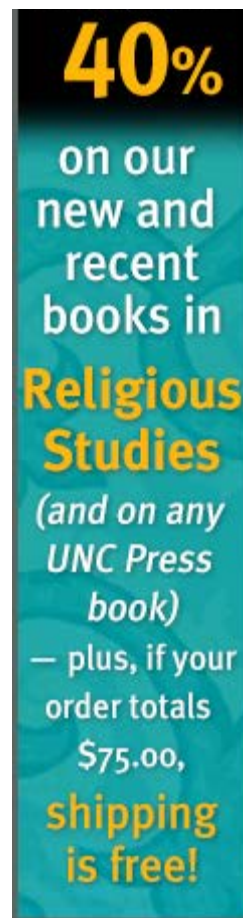
Many of our Annual Meeting tours still have space. Email reg@aarweb.org to add one to your registration. Two tours we'd especially like to highlight are below. These tours are low in cost and you will be provided round trip transportation from the Hyatt Regency to Emory Campus, where you will have a private docent-led tour.

Michael C. Carlos Museum Tour – Monday November 23, 9-11:30 am

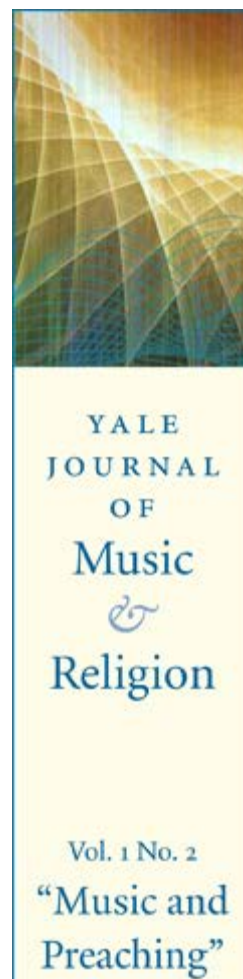
From the ancient to the modern world, the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University features the largest ancient art collection in the Southeast. Some 17,000 artifacts from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Greece, Rome, the Americas, Asia, and Africa, as well as works on paper from the Renaissance to the present day, provide visitors with a glimpse into the art and history of world cultures. More information [here](#).

Pitts Theological Library Special Collections Tour – Monday November 23, 9-11:30 am

The Pitts Theology Library is among America's largest and most distinguished theological libraries. Participants will tour the library and the exhibit on the "Ten Commandments". The exhibit will include texts and images from materials in the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection relating to the Ten Commandments, including early printed Bibles, catechisms, hymnals, sixteenth-



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century sermons, and commentaries. More information [here](#).

Employment Center Registration Opens for Employers

The AAR/SBL Employment Center is now open to [candidates](#) and [employers](#) for preregistration. For further details, visit the [AAR/SBL Employment Services website](#).



MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES!

Underrepresented Professionals: DEADLINE IS TODAY!



AAR continues its [mentoring program](#) [serving underrepresented professionals](#); a new cohort will commence November 2015 at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

Thirty-five doctoral students, non-tenured (i.e., pre-tenure, adjunct, contract, or hybrid administrator/faculty) faculty, and/or post-doctoral fellows will be matched with participating scholars who will serve as mentors for a period of one year.

You may apply for the mentoring program by completing [this online form](#). The deadline for mentoring applications is **October 15, 2015**. Notification of program acceptance will be sent by **November 5, 2015**.

Have a Cup of Coffee on the AAR Mentoring Program

[Registration is now open!](#) Meet with a mentor to have an hour-long chat at the Annual Meeting -- [coffee is on the AAR](#). This is your chance to meet with AAR leaders from the Board of Directors, Committees, and Program Units, among other groups.



Appointments are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Find out how an hour with an experienced mentor can make the difference.

Women's Mentoring Luncheon at the Annual Meeting

ONLY 25 SPACES REMAIN! Each year, the Status of Women in the Profession and the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Committees organizes a luncheon during the Annual Meeting. Several mid-career and senior AAR scholars gather with newer and



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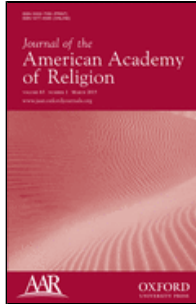
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emerging scholars in the field to discuss pertinent issues like choosing an adviser, getting published, contract negotiation, and the challenge of balancing work and personal commitments. The lunch is cosponsored with the Women's Caucus. [Pre-registration is required](#) and the lunch costs \$13. Sorry, no refunds.

A list of the mentors and more information on the Mentoring Lunch is available on the [registration page](#).

JAAR TABLE OF CONTENTS E-MAIL ALERTS



To sign up for free Table of Contents e-mail alerts for JAAR, or notice of new Advance Access content, [click here](#) to go to the Oxford University Press Journals website. It's quick and easy to register a free account* with OUP and select your alert options under *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

*Please note that even if you are signed in as an AAR member to view JAAR content on the OUP website, you must still set up an account with OUP to receive the free e-mail alerts. The AAR does not share your e-mail with OUP; you will provide your e-mail address during the OUP account setup.

AAR GRANTS NEWS

2015–2016 International Dissertation Research Grants Application Process Is Open!

These [two annual grants](#), designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.



The deadline to apply is **December 1, 2015**. For information about the program, please visit the [web page](#).

2016 AAR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Are you an AAR member who is passionate about your profession and guild? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm?

Do you think AAR membership is an important part of your professional life? If so, the AAR invites you to [join the AAR Ambassador Program!](#)

The AAR Ambassador program helps get information out to people about the study of religion and AAR programs. Ambassadors act as a point of contact for the AAR at your institution. It is a great way to volunteer in the AAR without leaving your office. [Apply](#) to be a 2016 AAR Ambassador today!

MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

What matters to you in your AAR membership? Let us know by completing the [Member Satisfaction Survey](#). Your feedback on AAR programs and services is crucial. The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. [Submit the survey](#) by **November 1** to be entered into a drawing to **win one of 3 free AAR memberships.**



2016 REGIONAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Plan to attend your [2016 regional meeting](#). The following Calls for Papers are open:

[Eastern International](#)

Deadline: **February 15, 2016**

[Mid-Atlantic](#)

Deadline: **December 18, 2015**

[Pacific Northwest](#)

Deadline: **January 15, 2016**

[Southwest \(SWCRS\)](#)

Deadline: **October 15, 2015**

[Upper Midwest](#)

Deadline: **December 20, 2015**

IN THE FIELD

Want to know more about events, calls, and other opportunities in the field of religion? AAR's [In the Field](#) is an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education. Check it out!

ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues



Academic Abby

Do you have a question about life in academe that you are at a loss to answer by yourself but don't feel you can approach your colleagues with it? [Ask Academic Abby](#)! Academic Abby is able to answer questions large and small, from dealing with faculty dilemmas, to tenure issues, to work/life balance troubles. Questions can be submitted anonymously through an [online form](#). Members of the AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee will respond to each question received. The question and answer will be posted on the [Status of Women in the Profession web page](#) and issues of [Religious Studies News](#).

MEMBER NOTES

Awards and Accomplishments

David Jorgensen, Colby College

Jorgensen is the 2015 winner of the SBL – De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History. His winning dissertation, entitled "Treasure Hidden in a Field: Early Christian Exegesis of the Gospel of Matthew," will be published with De Gruyter. The prize will be officially presented at the De Gruyter Reception at the upcoming Annual Meetings in Atlanta.

Books and Major Publications

Asma Afsaruddin, Indiana University, Bloomington

Contemporary Issues in Islam, Edinburgh University Press, 2015.

[Evan Berry](#), American University

Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism, University of California Press, 2015.

J. Todd Billings, Western Theological Seminary

Rejoicing in Lament: Wrestling with Incurable Cancer and Life in Christ, Brazos Press, 2015.

Jason N. Blum, American University in Cairo
Zen and the Unspeakable God: Comparative Interpretations of Mystical Experience, Penn State University Press, 2015.

Christopher Denny, St. John's University
A Realist's Church: Essays in Honor of Joseph Komonchak, eds. Christopher Denny, Patrick Hayes, and Nicholas Rademacher, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2015.

Rachel Elizabeth Harding, University of Colorado, Denver
Remnants: A Memoir of Spirit, Activism, and Mothering, Duke University Press, 2015.

[Grace Ji-Sun Kim](#), Earlham School of Religion
Embracing the Other: The Transformative Spirit of Love, Eerdmans, 2015.

[Flagg Miller](#), University of California, Davis
The Audacious Ascetic: What the bin Laden Tapes Reveal about Al-Qaida, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Sara Moslener, Central Michigan University
Virgin Nation: Sexual Purity and American Adolescence, Oxford University Press, 2015.

[Sheila J. Nayar](#), Greensboro College
Dante's Sacred Poem: Flesh and the Centrality of the Eucharist to the Divine Comedy, Bloomsbury, 2014.

[Adam Powell](#), Lenoir-Rhyne University
Irenaeus, Joseph Smith, and God-Making Heresy, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2015.

[Jayadvaita Swami](#), Bhaktivedanta Book Trust
Vanity Karma: Ecclesiastes, the Bhagavad-gita, and the Meaning of Life, Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 2015.

[Julia Watts Belser](#), Georgetown University
Power, Ethics, and Ecology in Jewish Late Antiquity: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Disaster, Cambridge University Press,

2015.

[Heather White](#), University of Puget Sound

Reforming Sodom: Protestants and the Rise of Gay Rights, University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

[Shawn Young](#), York College of Pennsylvania

Gray Sabbath: Jesus People USA, the Evangelical Left, and the Evolution of Christian Rock, Columbia University Press, 2015.

Career Transitions

Priscilla Pope-Levison, Southern Methodist University

Levison is now Associate Dean for External Programs at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)