

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE SOCIETY REPORT

November 2011

INSIDE

Tributes and Reflections	1
The Society of Mutual Support	1
KJV 400th Anniversary	4
The Lesson of the King James Version	5
Adele Reinhartz	6
James C. VanderKam	7
Digital SBL	8
Bible Odyssey Website	8
Digital Scholarship	8
Year in Review	10
Publications	10
2011 SBL Book List	10
Editorial Boards	12
Congresses	14
Regional Meetings	18
Annual Meeting	
Program Unit Chairs	19
International Meeting	
Program Unit Chairs	23
Professions	25
Membership & Subscriptions	28
People	
Donors	30
In Memoriam	32
Volunteers	33
Finances	34



The Society of Mutual Support

In February 2011, one of our members, Alan Segal, passed away. Kind words, reflections, and personal stories poured in. One I remember most said this:

Alan was what was right about the SBL and the AAR. He moved seamlessly between the two—at home in an AAR session on Jewish mysticism and in the SBL on Christology or Paul. But more than that, Alan was what was right about our profession. He was curious to a fault, always self-effacing, and mentored everyone who let him. He single-handedly forged bonds among a myriad of scholars. The joy and collegiality that exists at our meetings are due to Alan and others like him, who see that scholarship is truly a social act. Alan understood his own education as a gift and gave freely to all. He embodied what is right about our common professions.

Each of us is a member of many different organizations: departments, unions, congregations, community associations, or sports clubs to name a few. We join and participate because such groups support our personal interests, because we can exercise those interests better together, and because we are at our best when we unite to shape the future.

Alan Segal understood that the greatest value of an organization is in the relationships that are forged, and he embraced the value of shared responsibility and giving back. A learned society is an organization of scholars in an academic discipline who join together to strengthen, promote, and sustain a profession and field of study. It gives its members opportunities for collaboration, cooperation, and community. At its core, SBL's strength is about relationships.

I attended a BoardSource conference recently, and the keynote speaker was Jeff Faux, founding president and distinguished fellow of the Economic Policy Institute. The two-day forum, "Governing toward the Future," looked at the new pressures nonprofit organizations face, individually and collectively, in a long-term economic environment in which the best-case-scenario is slow growth or no growth at all.

In this new economy, we will see fierce competition for resources, he said. Organizations whose missions are clear will find ways to focus and continue to serve their membership or customers. He said, however, that whatever you are doing, you cannot do it alone. Likeminded organizations will need to work together. He encouraged his listeners to return to a culture of

cont'd on p. 3

The Society of Biblical Literature

Fostering Biblical Scholarship since 1880

The Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest international scholarly membership organization in biblical, theological, and religious studies. Founded in 1880, the Society has experienced a history of growth, keeping pace with the changing needs of its membership, which has grown to over 8,600 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and individuals from around the world, all of whom share a mutual commitment to dialog in the critical investigation of the Bible.

The Society's mission, to foster biblical scholarship, is a simple, comprehensive statement that encompasses the Society's aspirations. Our vision is to offer members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development as teachers and scholars.

Opportunity

The Society makes available to its members essential electronic resources that promote research and teaching. Our digital collaboration with several partners makes numerous resources available to our members. The SBL Font Foundation is developing specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individuals at no cost. The Society supports women and under-represented racial and ethnic minorities in the profession with mentoring and recruiting programs. Special tools and sessions are provided for students and those outside the academy. The Society also fosters biblical scholarship through a variety of publishing partnerships.

Community

SBL's congresses promote the exchange of ideas both within and outside the academy and on an international scale. The meetings are designed as forums that encompass the diverse needs of our members, from the intimate regional meetings, to the diverse and growing International Meeting, and to the energized Annual Meeting. As they have for well over a century, SBL's meetings keep scholarship active and up-to-date, introduce scholars to the latest tools and resources, and connect scholars from down the street to those across the ocean.

Scholarship

The Society publishes a rich selection of resources from study bibles and reference works to classroom textbooks and highly specialized monographs. The *Journal of Biblical Literature*, published since 1880, is the flagship journal in the field of biblical studies and remains on the cutting edge by publishing articles on newer and traditional methodologies. The *Review of Biblical Literature* provides the most comprehensive, international, and timely review of books in the field of biblical studies.

Membership offers many benefits including:

Opportunity to

- Gather for the exchange of ideas at regional, national, and international meetings
- Publish books and articles
- Review books for *Review of Biblical Literature*
- Participate in the governance of the society
- Participate in professional development

Free access to

- *Journal of Biblical Literature* online from 1880–2010
- Jobs online
- SBL's Member Directory
- Specialized fonts and rare documents
- *The SBL Handbook of Style*

Eligibility for SBL Awards, including

- Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- Regional Scholar Awards

Substantial discounts on

- Print versions of *JBL* and *RBL*
- Registration for congresses
- Non-SBL journals
- All SBL books through semi-annual sales

Informational publications, including

- Annual Meeting Session Guide
- Annual Meeting Abstracts Online
- SBL New and Recent Titles Catalog
- SBL and SBL Publications Newsletters

cont'd from p. 1

cooperation and mutual self help. He reminded us that we revise our histories by lionizing rugged individualism, but if we revisit our histories we will see, in fact, that we do our best work together.

The history lesson to review is in Benjamin Franklin's observation, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." We have recently seen dramatic grassroots movements—from Tahrir Square to Zuccotti Park—that remind us again of the power of people united.

The pressures on higher education and our academic discipline are clear and present. Higher education's business model is changing (for example, see the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* special report "The College of 2020: Students"), seminaries and divinity schools have had to do more with less, and universities have to make their cases anew for public funding.

SBL is in a sound financial position (I encourage you to review the audit). We can build on that solid foundation by responding to change and working toward our common goals for the future (see, for example, SBL's digital initiatives reported on pp. 8–11). By doing so, we share with the next generation the legacy of the past. And we show the enduring cultural, intellectual, and social relevance of the texts we teach and study.

This year, the Annual Meeting in San Francisco marks an important moment—a renewed partnership of good sense, will, and foresight that is a perfect example of Jeff Faux's advice for the future. Over 10,000 scholars will attend the concurrent meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. But that is not all. I refer to the many Affiliate organizations that will meet with us, from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, to the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, to the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. I refer to the publishers and exhibitors who are an essential part of our ecosystem, and who through risk and hard work help provide the tools and credentials we need for our classrooms and our careers. I refer to the many departments conducting searches, and looking to and planning for the future. And I refer to the members—volunteering, attending, presenting, and mutually supporting each other.

At its core, SBL's strength is about relationships.

The SBL International Meeting, too, is a haven for many related organizations to meet and collaborate, to mutually support the common ground we share. In Amsterdam, next June, SBL will partner with the European Association of Biblical Studies, Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap in Nederland en België, and the Society for Old Testament Study. Partnerships at SBL's Annual and International Meetings reflect reality and help produce it. Moreover, this partnering extends beyond the meetings. For example, many publishers have joined SBL's International Cooperation Initiative and provided free, online resources to members in underresourced countries.

I never met Alan Segal, but I know his body of work, and by that I don't mean just his scholarship. So it bears repeating: our organization's strength lies in relationships. It has always been that way, but it is good to remind ourselves. That truth holds within the Society of Biblical Literature itself as well as SBL's work with other organizations. So as we foster biblical scholarship—SBL's simple, direct mission statement—consider the various areas of mutual support and cooperation, enumerated in our vision statement, which make that fostering possible:

- Advancing the academic study of the biblical texts and their contexts as well as of the traditions and contexts of biblical interpretation
- Collaborating with educational institutions and other appropriate organizations to support biblical scholarship and teaching
- Developing resources for diverse audiences, including students, religious communities, and the general public
- Facilitating broad and open discussion from a variety of critical perspectives
- Organizing congresses for scholarly exchange
- Publishing biblical scholarship
- Promoting cooperation across global boundaries

Yours,

John F. Kutsko
Executive Director

The 400th Anniversary of the King James Version, 1611–2011

In recognition of the 400th anniversary of the 1611 publication of the KJV, SBL and the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society jointly sponsored three symposia on the theme “The KJV at 400: Assessing Its Genius as Bible Translation and Its Literary Influence.” The sessions of these symposia have been held at the 2010 SBL Annual Meeting in Atlanta, the 2011 SBL International Meeting in London, and the 2011 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The KJV at 400 List of Participants:

Robert Alter, University of California-Berkeley	London, San Francisco
C. Clifton Black, Princeton Theological Seminary	San Francisco
Thomas Boomershine, United Theological Seminary	San Francisco
Richard A. Burridge, King's College London	London
David J. A. Clines, University of Sheffield	Atlanta, London
Simon Crisp, United Bible Societies	Atlanta, London
A. Kenneth Curtis & Chris Armstrong, Christian History Institute	Atlanta, London
David J. Davis, Houston Baptist University	San Francisco
James D. G. Dunn, University of Durham	London
Paul Ellingworth, United Bible Societies, Aberdeen	London
Lori Anne Ferrell, Claremont Graduate University	San Francisco
Leonard J. Greenspoon, Creighton University	San Francisco
Robin Griffith-Jones, The Temple Church	San Francisco
Malcolm Guite, University of Cambridge	London
Andrew Hill, Wheaton College (Illinois)	Atlanta
Seth Lerer, University of California-San Diego	San Francisco
Barbara Lewalski, Harvard University	San Francisco
Scot McKnight, North Park University	Atlanta
Jacobus Naude, Universiteit van die Vrystaat	San Francisco
David Norton, Victoria University-Wellington	Atlanta, London, San Francisco
Roger L. Omanson, United Bible Societies	Atlanta
Jon Pahl, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia	San Francisco
Michael Patella, St. John's University-Collegeville	San Francisco
Kuo-Wei Peng, Nida Institute at ABS	Atlanta
Deborah Rooke, University of Oxford	London
Rodney Sadler, Jr., Union Theological Seminary-Charlotte	Atlanta
Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary	San Francisco
Harold P. Scanlin, United Bible Societies	San Francisco
Naomi Seidman, Graduate Theological Union	San Francisco
Paul Soukup, SJ, Santa Clara University	San Francisco
R. S. Sugirtharajah, University of Birmingham	Atlanta, London
Naomi Tadmor, Lancaster University	London
Joan Taylor, King's College London	London
Graham Tomlin, St. Mellitus College, London	London
Iain Torrance, Princeton Theological Seminary	San Francisco
David Trobisch, American Bible Society	Atlanta
Laurence M. Vance, The Francis Wayland Institute	San Francisco
Vincent L. Wimbush, Claremont Graduate University	London, San Francisco
Marlon Winedt, United Bible Societies	Atlanta
N. T. Wright, University of St. Andrews	London

David Burke, Dean Emeritus of the Nida Institute, has been invaluable in the organization of the symposia, and a special thank you goes to him for his leadership. David also edited *Translation that Openeth the Window: Reflections on the History of the King James Bible*, copublished by SBL and the Nida Institute in 2009.

Visit the SBL calendar listing KJV events around the globe: <http://sbl-site.org/meetings/2011KJV.aspx#kjcvcalendar>.

The Lesson of the King James Version

Today, if you ask fifty or more scholars to participate in a collaborative project, no matter how worthy, you are likely to hear, among others, the following responses: Will this count towards my tenure and/or promotion? Does this project really have enough funding from the NEH and private sources? And: I'll definitely not serve on any committee with someone from an institution that beat us in football (or another sport of your choice) last year.

So far as we know, none of the more than four dozen individuals asked to serve on a translation committee for the King James Version (KJV) declined the invitation. Moreover, in a period stretching from 1604–1611, they produced an English-language rendering of the Bible that has stood the test of time for four hundred years.

The year 2011, the 400th anniversary of the KJV, is witnessing an enormous number of events, both scholarly and popular, to celebrate this achievement. To what can we attribute this success?

To an extent, it must have been difficult to turn down what was in essence a royal command to serve as a translator. And we should make no mistake about it: King James was immensely interested in the production of this text. And he was not reluctant to make his pleasure, or displeasure, known when satisfactory progress was made—or not.

However, this cannot be the entire answer. Nor can we assume an easily established level of scholarly give-and-take, if not camaraderie, among the members of each committee (there were six in all) or among the committees. Much is known about many of the translators, and at least a few possessed what we might politely term difficult personalities.

The committee members consisted of both academicians and clergymen (some individuals were both), none of whom was paid a regular stipend for his efforts, all of whom needed to find time in an already busy schedule for rounds of meetings and textual discussions. Thus, with few exceptions, there were no “reduced loads” or per diems to gladden the hearts of these translators.

Many, but surely not all, of these translators were established scholars, with proficiency in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. There were classicists and Arabists. There were elegant writers, to be sure. But there were also enough appointments that were at best so-so to make us wonder if there weren't a few “political” considerations in some of the choices.

Consequently, it is not surprising that the level of commitment and productivity differed considerably from individual to individual and from committee to committee.

Some met their deadlines admirably; for others, due dates were taken at best as tentative suggestions.

In these respects, committees of the early-seventeenth century did not in fact differ all that much from similar bodies, with which we are all familiar, in the early twenty-first. But we rarely if ever produce works of lasting significance.

To help understand the relatively rare success of the KJV translators, we can offer three observations. First, they did not set out to produce a paradigm shift or to deny, if not denigrate, the efforts of their predecessors. Rather, they gratefully acknowledged their indebtedness to previous translations, from the Septuagint to the latest English versions. In the process, they made free and productive use of Jewish and Roman Catholic, as well as Protestant scholarship.

Second, they appear to have heeded the “higher calling” and to have put unusually rigorous restraints on their professional egos and their religious/theological beliefs. Granted that they were all Protestants; nonetheless there were many pitfalls into which they could have fallen, but chose to avoid.

And, finally, as mundane as it may be, they had a set of guidelines and they generally adhered to them or sought to have them modified. Communication between the different levels of authority for this project was relatively clear and unencumbered. For sure, there were institutional misunderstandings on details, but the overall goal was never obscured.

Could we today produce a work of similar power? Do we want to? Who would organize and head it? Who would finance it? Who would buy it?

Of necessity, there are no easy answers for our generation, even as there were none for the early-seventeenth century. As we look upon it, the entire project could have gone awry at any number of points, but it did not.

The lesson of the King James Bible, we can assert, is that biblical scholars really do know something about the Bible and that we can come together and produce something of lasting value if we are modest in our expectations, at least somewhat self-effacing in promoting ourselves, and clear-minded and clear-eyed as to what we hope to achieve. The legacy of the King James Bible then, for the Society of Biblical Literature, is not only a text to be studied, but also a process—with due care given to changed circumstances—to be emulated.

Leonard Greenspoon
Creighton University

Adele Reinhartz Named General Editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*

Adele Reinhartz has been named the next General Editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, SBL's flagship journal. Her term (three years, renewable for a second term) will begin in 2012. She succeeds James C. VanderKam upon completion of his second term.



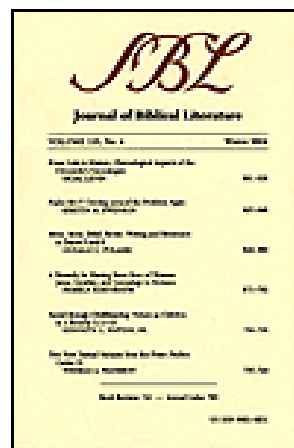
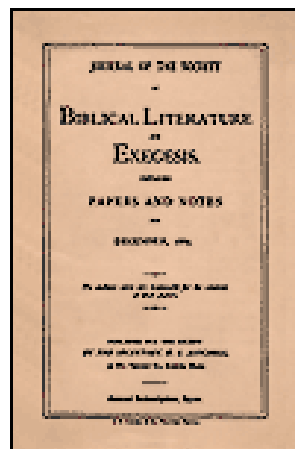
As *JBL* editor, Reinhartz will be an *ex officio* member of the Research and Publications Committee. She will work with the thirty-nine-member *JBL* editorial board, as well as the SBL publications staff, to produce four annual issues.

Reinhartz is Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa. Her awards and achievements include the following: President of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies (1997–1998); Prize for Mentorship, SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession (2003 and 2010); Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Residency (2004);

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (inducted in 2005); and Fellow at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study (2011–2012). Reinhartz's research includes early Christianity and Judaism, Johannine studies, Bible and film, and feminist biblical criticism.

In addition to her awards and her distinguished publishing record, including *Caiaphas the High Priest* (University of South Carolina Press, 2011), Reinhartz has served the members of the Society of Biblical Literature in many capacities. She has been an Annual Meeting Program Unit Chair, a member of the Research and Publications Committee, and an editorial board member of *JBL*. Reinhartz also represents membership on Council, SBL's governing board.

Please express your appreciation and welcome to Adele Reinhartz as she takes on the leadership of a journal, first published in 1881, that has become the premier serial in biblical studies, representing the wide range of research methodologies SBL members practice. Please also express your thanks to Jim VanderKam for his exceptional commitment, service, and standards of excellence. Jim will be honored during the *JBL* Editorial Board Luncheon at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco.



James C. VanderKam: In Appreciation

This year James C. VanderKam is completing his second term as the editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the flagship journal for biblical studies in North America. He is also at the end of eight years of distinguished service to the Society in two significant positions. Before accepting the editorship of *JBL*, Jim served for two years as the chair of Research and Publications, the committee charged with overseeing and developing policy for the Society's publishing arm. I was a member of R&P when Jim chaired the committee. I succeeded him in that position and was the committee's chair during much of his tenure as *JBL* editor when in that capacity he sat on R&P. In both of these positions, Jim exhibited the kind of calm, steady, and outstanding leadership that anyone who knows him would expect as a matter of course, and he brought to both R&P and *JBL* the same incisive intellect that characterizes his scholarship.



During Jim's years of leadership, publishing in the Society has undergone a number of significant changes, many of which are related to the difficult issues of electronic publication and internet access to Society publications. The most public, and potentially controversial, was the shift from having book reviews in *JBL* to having them all appear in electronic form in the *Review of Biblical Literature*. The process of making this change illustrates well the qualities that made Jim such an effective editor of the journal. When this transition was first proposed at a meeting of R&P, Jim supported the idea in principle, primarily because it would allow *JBL* to publish more articles and thus have greater scholarly representation in the journal. He made clear, however, that he wanted to consider all of the potential ramifications carefully, since the decision would affect every reader of *JBL*, many of whom looked to the journal for book reviews and who might not feel comfortable reading them online. After the final decision was reached, Jim's attention turned to the best ways to communicate the new policy to subscribers. When the first *JBL* issue without reviews appeared, all of us on R&P waited for what we anticipated would be the inevitable round of emails from subscribers who missed their printed reviews. To our surprise (and relief), there were none—

none—and much of the credit for the smooth transition can be attributed to Jim's leadership and his concern throughout the process for *JBL*'s standing and for its subscribers.

In his role as editor, Jim has maintained *JBL*'s position at the top of the biblical studies field. He has worked hard to make the editorial board of the journal reflect the demographics of the Society. Anyone who knows Jim has experienced his regard not simply for his own scholarly work, but for that of his students, colleagues and the field at large. His willingness to serve the Society generally and *JBL* in particular is an extension of this respect for and devotion to the enterprise in which we all participate. I was privileged to work with Jim in two different capacities on the same committee and to experience the quiet strength of his leadership. As a Society, we owe Jim our thanks for his service and for the time and energy he spent over the last eight years working to assure the scholarly excellence of what we publish and to make it accessible to as many people as possible.

Benjamin G. Wright III
Lehigh University

Editors of the JBL*

1880–1883	Frederic Gardiner
1883–1889	Hinckley Gilbert Thomas Mitchell
1889–1894	George Foot Moore
1894–1900	David G. Lyon
1901–1904	Lewis B. Paton
1905–1906	James Hardy Ropes
1907	Benjamin W. Bacon
1908–1909	Julius A. Bewer
1910–1913	James A. Montgomery
1914–1921	Max Leopold Margolis
1922–1929	George Dahl
1930–1933	Carl H. Kraeling
1934	George Dahl
1935–1942	Erwin R. Goodenough
1943–1947	Robert H. Pfeiffer
1948–1950	J. Philip Hyatt
1951–1954	Robert C. Dentan
1955–1959	David Noel Freedman
1960–1969	Morton S. Enslin
1970	John HP Reumann
1971–1976	Joseph Augustine Fitzmyer
1977–1982	John Henry Hayes
1983–1988	Victor Paul Furnish
1989–1994	John J. Collins
1995–1999	Jouette M. Bassler
2000–2006	Gail R. O'Day
2006–2011	James C. Vanderkam

* The journal was originally published under the title *Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis*. The current name was adopted in 1890. The SBL Secretary fulfilled the role of editor until 1938, when the separate title was introduced.

Bible Odyssey Website

In April of 2011, the SBL was awarded a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to build a website for general audiences on the Bible and its contexts. This is a chance-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase the work of our members and to demonstrate the relevance of biblical studies, and the humanities generally, to the public.

The website will be fully multimedia, with photographs, artworks, videos, essays, maps, timelines, interactive games, the text of the Bible (New Revised Standard Version), and the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (condensed edition), all housed in a dynamic database. Look for invitations to contribute content. Through the work of SBL's members, the site will grow every year, and we will continue to add content in ways that allow the public to follow the many and fascinating trails for which biblical studies is famous.

The site launches in November of 2013. With member support and promotion (see p. 33 for the list of editorial board members), the Bible Odyssey Website will become a valuable resource for students, journalists, clergy, and others interested in learning about the Bible from biblical scholars. BibleOdyssey.com will be a fully peer-reviewed, free website that shares key insights from the field and showcases the diverse interests and approaches within the guild.

We are grateful that in this challenging economy the NEH prioritized the dissemination of biblical scholarship over the many other worthy proposals they received. In an increasingly "flat" and sometimes polarized world, the critical thinking skills that biblical scholars apply to sacred texts can be shared with the public and may foster responsible discussions of this foundational collection of texts we know as the Bible.

Digital Scholarship

The SBL has spent the past year exploring ways to expand its offerings of digital content. Toward that end, last spring we sent out a survey to our members asking a series of questions about their use of and preferences with regard to e-books. We are pleased now to report on the many existing, new, and promising initiatives that we have, are, and will be undertaking, in no small part as a result of the thoughtful and careful feedback we received from our members.

E-Book Survey Results

Thank you to the more than 1500 members who responded to our survey last May regarding e-books. The tremendous response is an indication of the growing importance of electronic outlets in the dissemination of scholarship. Your feedback has helped the SBL to determine how best to serve our membership going forward.

Some of the most common advantages of e-books that respondents noted had to do with accessibility to those working remotely from libraries, whether in rural locations, under-resourced countries, or anywhere that printed books are not available; portability; affordability compared with print monographs; searchability;

and removal of the problems of theft, damage, and overdue fines common with print library volumes.

Common concerns focused on the potential for piracy and intellectual property violations; problems of citation and cross-referencing; difficulties of annotating text; the unsuitability of e-readers for some scholarly works; the quality of digitally born books vs. print; and navigability.

The most commonly expressed wish was that reference works be made available in an electronic, searchable format.

Here are the results of the survey:

1. How many e-books have you purchased in the last year?
0 52.6% ; 1–5 24.5% ; 5+ 22.9%
2. For which of the following purposes have you purchased e-books?
personal 57.8% ; classroom 22.5% ; research 60.7% ; other 17.5%
3. What e-readers do you use?
Kindle 63.4% ; iPad 38.3% ; Nook 8.6% ; SonyReader 5.1% ; Pocketbook 2.2%
4. Which of the following devices do you use in the classroom?
Smartphone 47.9% ; iPad 43.8% ; e-reader 29.7%

5. Which of the following devices do you use for scholarship?
Smartphone 43.8% ; iPad 37.1% ; e-reader 45.6%
6. As an author, how important is it to you that your book be available in the following formats?

	Essential	Very Imp.	Not Imp.
print	73.6%	21.1%	5.3%
e-book	14.1%	45.6%	40.3%
both	27.5%	45.3%	27.1%

Current Digital Offerings

Journal of Biblical Literature

Back issues of *JBL* have long been available to institutions through a variety of journal aggregators such as JSTOR, ATLA, EBSCOhost, and Proquest. In 2007 SBL also made current issues available by electronic subscription to individuals and institutions through Metapress. In 2011 we took an additional step and added *JBL* to Project MUSE's journal collection. Through Project MUSE, members of subscribing institutions will have access to current issues of *JBL*.

Humanities E-Book Project

The American Council of Learned Societies History E-Book project began in June 1999 through generous grants and funding. In 2007, the project became self-sustaining, changing to Humanities E-Book (HEB; <http://humanitiesebook.org/>). ACLS HEB now boasts an online collection of 3,300 titles in the humanities. SBL is a partner in HEB, currently sending titles from the Writings from the Ancient World and Writings from the Greco-Roman World series for inclusion in the database. The HEB collection features unlimited multi-user access and free, downloadable MARC records. HEB is available to subscribers 24/7 through standard web browsers.

Google eBooks

Google eBooks (<http://books.google.com/ebooks>) allows individual users to purchase and read digital editions of SBL books. Users are able to preview a book through Google Books, with the option to purchase the e-book. The purchased book lives on the customer's online bookshelf, available to be accessed and read on most devices with internet access and a web browser, as well as on supported partner devices. Currently, 155 recent SBL titles are available through Google eBooks, and the number continues to grow.

EBSCOhost and ebrary

For those with access to subscribing institutional libraries, many of SBL's recent backlist titles are available digitally

as web-ready pdfs through the aggregators EBSCOhost (formerly NetLibrary) and ebrary. We anticipate adding MyiLibrary to this list in 2012.

International Cooperation Initiative

Please see p. 28 for a full report on the important work of the ICI, which includes two digital borne book series, Ancient Near Eastern Monographs and International Voices in Biblical Studies.

New and Future Digital Initiatives

SBL Is Partnering with BiblioVault

SBL book titles will soon be available in digital format to individuals through BiblioVault, an arm of Chicago Distribution Services. BiblioVault is a digital repository for scholarly books that provides e-book fulfillment for participating presses. While some titles will be available in a reflowable format for e-readers (see below), most will be offered in pdf format, which can be read on most e-readers. BiblioVault allows SBL to make its digital titles available to everyone, whether associated with an institution or not. An additional benefit of this new partnership is improved workflow. In addition to e-book fulfillment, BiblioVault offers a wide range of affordable services to academic presses, including preparing e-book files and delivering them to digital book vendors, short-run digital printing, preparing files for use by disabled students, and more. The decision to participate in BiblioVault was a direct outcome of SBL's survey to members (see above).

SBL Books for E-Readers

Thanks to our new arrangement with BiblioVault, the following titles will be available in early 2012 in reflowable format for e-readers through Amazon Kindle, B&N Nook, and Apple iBooks: *Quest for the Historical Israel* (Finkelstein and Mazar), *The Hittites and Their World* (Collins), *Daily Life in Biblical Times* (Borowski), *Sources for the Study of Greek Religion* (Rice and Stambaugh), *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction* (Roncace and Gray, eds.), *Teaching the Bible through Popular Culture* (Roncace and Gray, eds.), *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity* (Killebrew, ed.), *Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts* (Allen), *This Aabled Body* (Avalos, Melcher, and Schipper, eds.), *Texts from the Pyramid Age* (Strudwick), and *History of Biblical Interpretation*, vols. 1–4 (Reventlow). These titles were selected based on their popularity for scholarly and/or classroom use and their suitability for a reflowable e-reader format. We welcome suggestions for additional titles that you would like see offered in reflowable format.

SBL 2011 Book Titles

- Bons, Eberhard, and Jan Joosten, eds. *Septuagint Vocabulary: Pre-History, Usage, Reception* (SCS)
- Brodd, Jeffrey, and Jonathan L. Reed, eds., *Rome and Religion: A Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue on the Imperial Cult* (WGRWSup)
- Cameron, Ron, and Merrill P. Miller, eds. *Redescribing Paul and the Corinthians* (ECL)
- Cline, Eric H., Gary M. Beckman, and Trevor R. Bryce, eds., *The Ahhiyawa Texts* (WAW)
- Coloe, Mary L., and Tom Thatcher, eds. *John, Qumran, and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Sixty Years of Discovery and Debate* (EJL)
- Donker, Gerald J., *The Text of the Apostolos in Athanasius of Alexandria* (NTGF)
- Dozeman, Thomas B., Konrad Schmid, and Thomas Römer, eds. *Pentateuch, Hexateuch, or Enneateuch?: Identifying Literary Works in Genesis through Kings* (AIL)
- Eastman, David L., *Paul the Martyr: The Cult of the Apostle in the Latin West* (WGRWSup)
- Eberhart, Christian ed., *Ritual and Metaphor: Sacrifice in the Bible* (RBS)
- Feder, Yitzhaq. *Blood Expiation in Hittite and Biblical Ritual: Origins, Context, and Meaning* (WAWSup)
- Fischer, Irmtraud, and Mercedes Navarro Puerto, eds., *Torah* (The Bible and Women)
- Flint, Peter W., Jean Duhaime, and Kyung S. Baek, eds. *Celebrating the Dead Sea Scrolls: A Canadian Collection* (EJL)
- Fried, Lisbeth S., ed. *Was 1 Esdras First?: An Investigation into the Priority and Nature of 1 Esdras* (AIL)
- Fritz, Volkmar, and James W. Barker, *The Emergence of Israel in the Twelfth and Eleventh Centuries B.C.E.* (BibEnc)
- Gerstenberger, Erhard S., *Israel in the Persian Period: The Fifth and Fourth Centuries B.C.E.* (BibEnc)
- Grabbe, Lester L., and Martti Nissinen, eds. *Constructs of Prophecy in the Former and Latter Prophets and Other Texts* (ANEM)
- Henze, Matthias, ed. *Hazon Gabriel: New Readings of the Gabriel Revelation* (EJL)
- Holter, Knut, and Louis Jonker, eds. *Global Hermeneutics?: Reflections and Consequences* (IVBS)
- Hornsby, Teresa J. and Ken Stone, *Bible Trouble: Queer Reading at the Boundaries of Biblical Scholarship* (SemeiaSt)
- Iverson, Kelly R., and Christopher W. Skinner, eds. *Mark as Story: Retrospect and Prospect* (RBS)
- Kelle, Brad E., Frank Richtel Ames, and Jacob L. Wright, eds. *Interpreting Exile: Displacement and Deportation in Biblical and Modern Contexts* (AIL)
- Lenzi, Alan, ed. *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction* (ANEM)
- Leuchter, Mark, and Jeremy M. Hutton, eds. *Levites and Priests in Biblical History and Tradition* (AIL)
- Mason, Eric F. and Kevin B. McCrudden, eds., *Reading the Epistle to the Hebrews: A Resource for Students* (RBS)
- McGowan, Andrew B., and Kent Harold Richards, eds. *Method and Meaning: Essays on New Testament Interpretation in Honor of Harold W. Attridge* (RBS)
- McIver, Robert K., *Memory, Jesus, and the Synoptic Gospels* (RBS)
- Porten, Bezalel, *The Elephantine Papyri in English: Three Millennia of Cross-Cultural Continuity and Change, Second Revised Edition*, Brill Reprints
- Reymond, Eric D., *New Idioms within Old: Poetry and Parallelism in the Non-Masoretic Poems of 11Q5 (=11QPsa)* (EJL)
- Rindge, Matthew S., *Jesus' Parable of the Rich Fool: Luke 12:13-34 among Ancient Conversations on Death and Possessions* (ECL)
- Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, *Studia Philonica Annual XXIII* (2011)
- Salzman, Michele Renee, and Michael Roberts, eds., *The Letters of Symmachus: Book 1* (WGRW)
- Singer, Itamar, *The Calm before the Storm: Selected Writings of Itamar Singer on the End of the Late Bronze Age in Anatolia and the Levant* (WAWSup)
- Vaka'uta, Nāsili. *Reading Ezra 9-10 Tu'a-wise: Rethinking Biblical Interpretation in Oceania* (IVBS)
- von Ehrenkrook, Jason, *Sculpting Idolatry in Flavian Rome: (An)Iconic Rhetoric in the Writings of Flavius Josephus* (EJL)
- Wachtel, Klaus and Michael W. Holmes, eds. *The Textual History of the Greek New Testament: Changing Views in Contemporary Research* (TCS)

cont'd from p. 9

SBL Is Partnering with University Readers

SBL members want an efficient way to collect our diverse content for use in the biblical-studies classroom. To address this need, we are joining with University Readers to make our digital content available. University Readers (<http://www.universityreaders.com/>) is an independent, e-commerce custom-publishing company designed for educators. Professors can select from their online library of pre-cleared digital content to create customized course e-readers. Initially, we plan to make available content from our book titles going back to 2001. Eventually, we hope to be able to offer additional backlist content. For SBL this partnership offers an excellent opportunity to provide a service to the wider scholarly community while at the same time generating a new revenue stream for the Society.

Books at JSTOR

Books at JSTOR is an initiative to publish scholarly books online as part of JSTOR. Books at JSTOR now has twenty-two publisher partners and expects to launch with close to thirty presses. The first books will be available at JSTOR

beginning in June 2012. All books will be preserved in Portico, the leading digital preservation service for the scholarly community. SBL has been in conversation with JSTOR about adding its book content to the collection. However, this would not take place as part of the initial launch next year.

Project MUSE/UPCC E-Book Collections

Project MUSE is partnering with the University Press e-Book Consortium (UPeC), to launch UPCC e-Book Collections, powered by Project MUSE. UPCC, the University Press Content Consortium, will offer peer-reviewed books from university presses and scholarly publishers. The book collections will launch on Project MUSE in January 2012. MUSE electronic books will be in enhanced web-ready PDF format, searchable and retrievable at the chapter level. At this time, MUSE/UPCC book collections are only available for purchase by institutions and only in collections; books are not offered for sale to individual users. As of this year, *JBL* is available through Project MUSE, and SBL is in conversation with Project MUSE about adding its book content to the e-Book Collections.

Publications Year in Review

Publications Highlights

Since the 2010 Annual Meeting, the SBL published thirty-five new volumes, by far our greatest output in many years. Among many high points during the past year, several deserve special mention.

(1) The first volume of The Bible and Women series was published: *Torah*, edited by Irmtraud Fischer and Mercedes Navarro Puerto. The Bible and Women series, which will be published simultaneously in German (Kohlhammer), English (SBL), Italian (Il Pozzo di Giacobbe), and Spanish (Editorial Verbo Divino), presents a reception history and cultural history of the Bible, focusing on gender-relevant biblical themes, women in the text, and the women who throughout history have read, appropriated, and interpreted the Bible in text and image. Twenty-one volumes are planned for The Bible and Women series, which is led by editors Jorunn Økland, Irmtraud Fischer, Mercedes Navarro Puerto, and Adriana Valerio. For further information, see <http://bibleandwomen.org/EN/>.

(2) Another sign of the publications program's growing

strength is the increase in book sales revenue that we enjoyed during the past fiscal year. While many academic and university presses struggled to maintain their position, SBL book sales increased by more than 5 percent over the previous year, as we recorded our second-highest sales total ever. Moreover, during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, sales increased at an even higher rate (25 percent) over the same period last year. All signs point to continued strength and success, as we look to publish and sell more scholarly books than ever before.

(3) Three of our thirty-five total volumes were published not only in print but also as open access e-books: Alan Lenzi, *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction* (ANEM); Nāsili Vaka'uta, *Reading Ezra 9–10 Tu'a-wise: Rethinking Biblical Interpretation in Oceania* (IVBS); Knut Holter and Louis Jonker, eds., *Global Hermeneutics?: Reflections and Consequences*, and Lester L. Grabbe and Martti Nissinen, eds., *Constructs of Prophecy in the Former and Latter Prophets and Other Texts* (ANEM). Look for more new publications in our two open access series—International Voices in Biblical Studies and Ancient Near East Monographs—during the upcoming year.

Journal of Biblical Literature

During the past twelve months, *JBL* published more than 800 pages of biblical scholarship, spread across four issues distributed both in print and electronically through various providers and journal aggregators. The last four issues of *JBL* (129:4–130:3) included forty-six full-length articles and critical notes. Articles engaged a variety of topics across and beyond the biblical canon from varying ideological and methodological perspectives. That *JBL* continues to be regarded as the flagship journal of the field is demonstrated not only by its stable subscription numbers but also by the interest it generates from outside vendors. *JBL*'s ongoing excellence is due to a number of factors, including the leadership of general editor James C. VanderKam and the editorial board, as well as the stringent standards to which *JBL*'s editorial team adheres. For example, all proposed articles undergo a double-blind peer review process, and only one in three articles submitted is eventually accepted for publication.

Review of Biblical Literature

The *Review of Biblical Literature* (www.bookreviews.org) continues to foster biblical scholarship as the SBL's most widely distributed print or online publication—as well as the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world. During the past twelve months, thanks to the cooperative efforts of our reviewers, editors, and staff, *RBL* has published 437 reviews. With an average of 3.5 pages per review, the past year's output would fill more than 1,500 published pages. To take this a step further, the 6,360 reviews published in the past thirteen years would require more than 22,000 printed pages.

This is truly a monumental accomplishment, not least because it has been achieved almost entirely through the contributions of volunteers.

As is well known, *RBL* announces the publication of new reviews in a weekly newsletter. That newsletter is distributed to over 9,000 subscribers, many of whom have no other contact with the Society than *RBL*. The *RBL* newsletter plays a significant role in leading scholars, students, and interested laypersons to the *RBL* website, where they can read the latest reviews or search for books reviewed since *RBL*'s creation thirteen years ago. The *RBL* website records approximately 50,000 visits each week, or 2.6 million visits each year. Taking all these data into account, it is no stretch to conclude that *RBL* is indeed the leading source of biblical studies book reviews in the world.

Partnerships

The SBL is delighted to partner with a number of highly respected publishers and organizations. Partnerships deserving special mention are those with Brown Judaic Studies (SBL is the exclusive worldwide distributor of BJS volumes), Brill Academic Publishers (reciprocal co-publication), Sheffield Phoenix Press (SBL is the authorized North American distributor), Logos Bible Software and Accordance (software developers who offer SBL books and journals), and the Eugene A. Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship (collaborators on books and scholarly conferences).

Both on its own and in partnership with others, SBL Publications continues to expand its presence and standing within academic biblical scholarship, as we seek to foster biblical scholarship through the written word.

Editorial Boards

International Voices in Biblical Studies

Eric Bortey Anum
Ida Fröhlich
Jione Havea
Louis C. Jonker, co-general editor

Hisako Kinukawa
Sam P. Mathew
Monica J. Melanchthon, co-general editor
Nestor Miguez
Nancy Nam Hoon Tan

Writings from the Greco-Roman World

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Ronald F. Hock, editor of WGRW Supp
David Konstan, co-editor
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Wendy Mayer Margaret M. Mitchell Ilaria L. E. Ramelli Michael J. Roberts Johan C. Thom, co-editor James C. VanderKam	<i>Text-Critical Studies</i> Sidnie White Crawford	<i>Term Expiring 2011:</i> Ellen B. Aitken Michael Joseph Brown Jaime Clark-Soles Steven Friesen Jennifer Glancy Robert Holmstedt Archie C. C. Lee Margaret Y. MacDonald Shelly Matthews Richard D. Nelson David L. Petersen Mark Reasoner Yvonne Sherwood Loren T. Stuckenbruck Patricia K. Tull
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<i>Writings from the Ancient World</i> Edward Bleiberg Billie Jean Collins Daniel Fleming Theodore J. Lewis, editor Martti Nissinen William M. Schniedewind Mark S. Smith	<i>Commentary on the Septuagint</i> Robert Hiebert, co-editor Benjamin G. Wright, III, co-editor	<i>Review of Biblical Literature Editorial Board</i> Jan van der Watt, general editor Athalya Brenner Yair Hoffman James Alfred Loader William R. G. Loader Ed Noort Manfred Oeming Stephen J. Patterson Joseph Verheyden Jürgen K. Zangenberg
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	<i>Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i> Melvin K. H. Peters, editor	
	<i>Studia Philonica Annual</i> David T. Runia, co-editor Gregory E. Sterling, co-editor	
	<i>Archaeology and Biblical Studies</i> Tammi J. Schneider, editor	
	<i>Resources for Biblical Study</i> Tom Thatcher, co-editor Susan Ackerman, co-editor	
	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature Editorial Board</i> James C. VanderKam, general editor	
	<i>Term Expiring 2013:</i> Jo-Ann Brant Brian Britt John Endres Michael Fox Steven Fraade Matthias Henze Stephen Moore Laura Nasrallah Emerson Powery Thomas Römer Sidnie White Crawford David Wright	

Congresses Year in Review

The Society's meetings showcase the latest in biblical and related research, cultivate professional contacts, advance research in the field, and focus on issues of the profession. Here are highlights of our most recent Annual and International Meetings, as well as information about upcoming Regional Meetings.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting remains a focal point in fulfilling the Society's mission—foster biblical scholarship. About half of all SBL members attend the Annual Meeting, which makes it the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. The Annual Meeting draws together colleagues who teach and do research across the study of antiquity, archaeology, religion, theology, ethics, ancient Near East, and comparative studies across humanities scholarship. Beginning in 2011 with the 137th SBL Annual Meeting, SBL and the American Academy of Religion will again hold their Annual Meetings concurrently. We anticipate years of collaboration and collegiality across the many disciplines represented by the two societies.

2010: Atlanta

The Society's 2010 Annual Meeting (AM) was held at the Marriott Marquis and the Hyatt Regency hotels, November 20–23 with over 4,790 attendees. Immediately following the AM, all attendees were surveyed. The results show strong satisfaction with the AM and only minor concerns. Ninety-four percent of attendees rated the content



of presentations and discussions positively. Average attendance per session remains strong at just over thirty-five. Participation levels among registrants and members remain fairly steady. In the past two years, a higher percentage of registrants has accounted for participants, indicating that persons are finding it less viable to attend the AM if they are not participating in the program.

2011: San Francisco

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be the first SBL Annual Meeting held concurrently with AAR since 2007 and registration will reach nearly 10,000 attendees. On June 10, 2010, the Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion signed a Letter of Intent that outlines the agreement (see the SBL website for more details). This is a positive step for participants, exhibitors, and the myriad disciplines represented in both organizations. We hope that the upcoming concurrent meetings will reduce strain on travel budgets and facilitate broad collaboration among our disciplines, for we see them as a "big tent" of

scholarly identities that supports intellectual exchange and fosters biblical scholarship.

SBL thanks the following sponsors: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company is a Diamond-Level Sponsor; Baker Academic and Brazos Press, HarperCollins, and the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship are Platinum-Level Sponsors; Abingdon Press/Common English Bible, Gregorian & Biblical Press, and Westminster John Knox Press are Gold-Level Sponsors; Eisenbrauns, Templeton Foundation, and Wipf and Stock Publishers are Silver-Level Sponsors; Fortress Press is a Bronze-level Sponsor.

Technological Initiatives

SBL is committed to being on the leading edge with innovative new event technology and to offering attendees an exceptional program experience.

At the *Annual Meetings 2011 San Francisco*, the societies will introduce the use of Mobile Meeting Guide technology in a way that provides their members with a technically reliable, intuitive, and functional solution. Without additional cost, this solution will provide attendees with:

- the entire event program, including both SBL and AAR program unit and special sessions
- exhibitor information, including an interactive Exhibit Hall map
- maps of conference hotels

Attendees will be able to create and customize their own schedule, make notes about sessions, and share information and their schedule with colleagues and friends via built-in social networking. Because the solution features an intuitive offline program that is native to Android, Blackberry, iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch devices, there is no waiting for schedule downloads or web pages to load and no dealing with slow or non-existent Wi-Fi connections. Schedule changes are

downloaded in the background, allowing attendees immediate access to event information. A similar web-based solution will be accessible via one's computer.

More information on the Mobile Meeting Guide will be provided on the SBL website, www.sbl-site.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx.

The program looks very promising. A new record of 2,453 proposals anticipates higher attendance than the previous two SBL Annual Meetings.

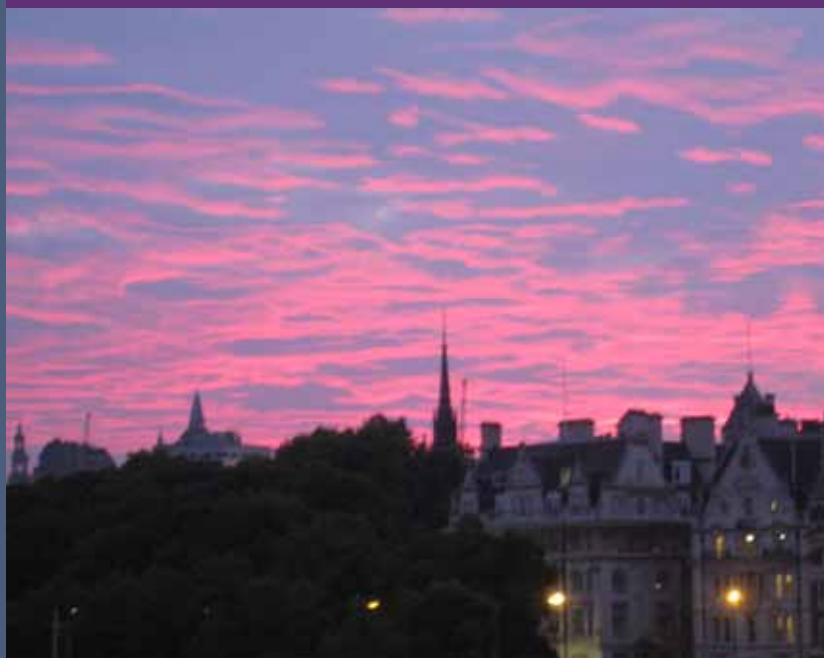
International Meeting

2011: London

King's College London (KCL) hosted the 2011 SBL International Meeting on the Waterloo campus (Bankside, south of the Thames) in the heart of downtown London and within walking distance of Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, the London Eye, and other historical and cultural attractions. Historically, the opening session for the SBL International Meeting highlights the host institution's role in biblical scholarship. KCL's Dean, Richard Burridge, organized a presentation on KCL and its distinguished history that was well received. Unique this year is the addition of the Archbishop of York as a key speaker in the opening session. Archbishop John Sentamu is known as an advocate for the young and an opponent of injustice and ethnic conflict; he offered wise and witty remarks on the history, significance, and legacy of the historic KJV Bible translation, drawing from his wealth of personal and scholarly experiences.

The number of registrants for the 2011 International Meeting in London reached a new high of 972 with the previous record being set in Vienna with 840 registrants. That year EABS also met with us, but they did not this year in London. We had registrants from over fifty-two countries. The top four countries were the United States with 271, the United Kingdom with 202, Germany with 52, and Israel with 50. The majority of participants indicated that they attended the meeting in order to present research, and keeping up to date with research and publications was the second most important reason for attending. The program for the 2011 International Meeting in London at King's College (KCL) was, by most accounts, a considerable success. A new record of 842 proposals translated into higher attendance and session numbers than any previous





IM. The top units by number of proposals show diverse interest, from the Pentateuch to Qumran to Paul and the Gospels to the history of interpretation, as well as Qur'anic literature and tradition.

2012: Amsterdam

The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is pleased to announce that the Universiteit van Amsterdam will host the 2012 SBL International Meeting July 22–26. SBL will organize this meeting in conjunction with the 2012 annual conference of the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS) and the triennial joint meeting of the Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap in Nederland en België (OTW) and the Society for Old Testament Study (SOTS). With delight the organizations herald this congress as a unique opportunity to advance biblical scholarship, to facilitate broad and open dialogue, and to demonstrate the strength of global collegiality. The call for papers is live on the SBL website and includes both SBL and EABS program units. Proposals are due no later than February 1, 2012.

Affiliates

What Is an SBL Affiliate?

Upon authorization by its Council, the Society may affiliate or cooperate with other organizations. The Society may authorize such organizations to contribute to the programming of the SBL as Affiliate Organizations, for example, by organizing sessions at the Annual Meeting. To be eligible, an organization should act in a manner consistent with SBL's core values; be independent, not-for-profit, formally organized, and at least three years old; have a national or international constituency; have a majority of members who are professional scholars or teachers; profess a mission consonant with the Society's mission and support scholarly analysis and open discussion.

Benefits of affiliation with SBL extend to both Affiliate organizations themselves and the members of those organizations. See the SBL website for details.



Spotlight on Affiliate

The National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) has been an Affiliate of SBL since the 1980s. NAPH is the professional organization of professors and instructors in colleges, universities and seminaries who specialize in Hebrew language and literature of the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. Because of the consonance between the mission and interests of NAPH and SBL, NAPH organizes its annual breakfast and business meeting, as well as numerous programmatic sessions, at the SBL Annual Meeting. NAPH members avail themselves of the Exhibit Hall and other benefits of the Annual Meeting, while both NAPH and SBL members are able to interact, share their expertise, and benefit the academic study and teaching of biblical literature and the Hebrew language, literature, and culture of all periods.

Regional Scholars Program

The eleven regions identify exemplary new scholars, for consideration and selection as one of the Society's Regional Scholars. A maximum of six regional scholars are selected each year and given stipends to cover a portion of the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. This year's regional scholars are Wayne Coppins, Clinton J. Moyer, and Katherine A. Shaner.

Wayne Coppins (below left) is assistant professor of New Testament at the University of Georgia. After completing the *Zwischenprüfung* in Theologie at the University of Tübingen (Germany), he went on to receive his MA from the University of Durham (UK), and his PhD from the University of Cambridge (UK). A revised version of his doctoral dissertation was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2009 under the title *The Interpretation of Freedom in the Letters of Paul with Special Reference to the 'German' Tradition*. Coppins'

teaching and research interests include the relationship between Paul and Luther, and the interpretation of the gospels of Mark and John. Some of his most recent work is forthcoming in *Neotestamentica* and in *Lutherjahrbuch*.

Clinton J. Moyer (below center) is Postdoctoral Fellow in Hebrew Bible at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. He completed his doctoral degree at Cornell University in 2009, producing a dissertation entitled "Literary and Linguistic Studies in *Sefer Bil'am* (Numbers 22–24)." In this study, he explored the literary employment of dialect as a means of coloring the speech of the foreign prophet Balaam, and also examined a variety of other literary devices, both small- and large-scale, that enrich the story and help to articulate the central themes and levels of meaning that it conveys. Ultimately, he was able to posit a range of connections between the literary character of the pericope and the probable socio-historical context in which it was produced. Moyer's general research interests center on the highly sophisticated literary artistry of the biblical corpus, the formation and development of a distinctive Israelite identity over the course of the biblical period, and biblical prophecy as a cultural and literary phenomenon.

Katherine A. Shaner (below right) is Assistant Professor of New Testament at General Theological Seminary in New York, NY. Her dissertation, entitled "Religious and Civic Practices of the Enslaved: A Case Study of Roman Ephesos" juxtaposes archaeology, inscriptions, and literary texts, including early Christian texts, in order to argue that in the late-first and early-second centuries C.E., slaves played active roles in configuring, defining, and enacting religious practices. Her research interests include material culture in early Christianity and Judaism; household religions in the Ancient Mediterranean; constructions of race, class, and gender in early Christianity; feminist and womanist biblical interpretation; and the ethics of biblical interpretation.



Regional Meetings 2011

Central States	March 20–21	St. Louis Marriott West, St. Louis, Missouri
Eastern Great Lakes	March 31–April 1	Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio
Mid Atlantic	March 17–18	Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Midwest	February 11–13	Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois
New England	April 29	Andover-Newton Theology School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts
Pacific Coast	March 27–28	Whittier College, Whittier, California
Pacific Northwest	May 13–15	Eastern Washington University-Spokane Campus, Spokane, Washington
Rocky Mountains - Great Plains	March 18–19	Illiff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado
Southeastern	March 4–6	The Gault House, Louisville, Kentucky
Southwestern	March 4–6	Marriott Hotel, DFW Airport North Irving, Texas
Upper Midwest	April 1–2	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

Regional Meetings 2012

Central States	March 18–19	St. Louis Marriott West, St. Louis, Missouri
Eastern Great Lakes	March 22–23	Quality Inn & Suites, Richfield, Ohio
Mid Atlantic	March 15–16	Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Midwest	February 10–12	Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois
New England	April 27	Andover-Newton Theology School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts
Pacific Coast	March 24–26	Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California
Pacific Northwest	May 11–13	Concordia University, Portland, Oregon
Rocky Mountains - Great Plains	March 23–24	Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
Southeastern	March 2–4	Atlanta Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, Georgia
Southwestern	March 9–11	Marriott Hotel, DFW Airport North, Irving, Texas
Upper Midwest	March 30–31	Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota



Map of 2012 Regional Meetings

Future Annual Meetings

2012	Chicago, IL	Nov. 17–20
2013	Baltimore, MD	Nov. 23–26
2014	San Diego, CA	Nov. 22–25
2015	Atlanta, GA	Nov. 21–24
2016	San Antonio, TX	Nov. 19–22
2017	Boston, MA	Nov. 18–21
2018	Denver, CO	Nov. 17–20
2019	San Diego, CA	Nov. 23–26
2020	Boston, MA	Nov. 21–24
2021	San Antonio, TX	Nov. 20–23

Annual Meeting Program Units and Chairs

African-American Biblical Hermeneutics Section

Rodney Sadler
Valerie Bridgeman
Love Sechrest

Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative Section

Ruben Dupertuis
B. Diane Lipsett

Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Bible Section

Izaak Jozias de Hulster
Joel LeMon

Applied Linguistics for Biblical Languages Group

Peter Burton
Randall Buth

Aramaic Studies Section

Christian Brady

Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World Section

Steven Friesen
James C. Walters
John Lanci

Art and Religions of Antiquity Section

Ellen Muehlberger
Zsuzsanna Gulacsi

Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics Group

Seung-Ai Yang
Uriah Kim

Assyriology and the Bible Section

Steven Holloway

Bakhtin and the Biblical Imagination Section

Keith Bodner

Bible and American Popular Culture Section

Linda Schearing

Bible and Cultural Studies Section

Erin Runions
Jacqueline Hidalgo

Bible and Film Consultation

Jeffrey Staley

Bible and Pastoral Theology Consultation

Denise Dombkowski Hopkins
Michael Koppel

Bible and Visual Art Section

Elizabeth Malbon
Heidi Hornik

Bible in Ancient and Modern Media Section

Holly Hearon
Tom Thatcher

Bible in Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Traditions Section

Vahan Hovhannessian

Bible Translation Section

Marlon Winedt

Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory Section

Dexter Callender
Robert Kawashima

Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism Section

Fiona Black

Biblical Greek Language and Linguistics Section

Cynthia Westfall
Randall Tan

Biblical Hebrew Poetry Section

Mark Boda
Carol Dempsey

Biblical Lands and Peoples in Archaeology and Text Section

Ann Killebrew
Tammi Schneider

Biblical Law Section

Bruce Wells

Biblical Lexicography Section

James Aitken
Regine Hunziker-Rodewald

Blogger and Online Publication Section

Robert Cargill

Book of Acts Section

Loveday Alexander
Pamela Hedrick

Book of Daniel Consultation

Neal Walls
Amy Merrill Willis

Book of Psalms Section

W. Bellinger

Book of the Twelve Prophets Section

Aaron Schart

Children in the Biblical World Section

Julie Faith Parker
Danna Fewell

Christian Apocrypha Section

Ann Graham Brock

Christian Theology and the Bible Section

Kathryn Greene-McCreight
Claire R. Mathews McGinnis

Christianity in Egypt: Scripture, Tradition, and Reception Section

Lois Farag

Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah Section

John Wright
Steven J. Schweitzer

Cognitive Linguistics in Biblical Interpretation Section

Bonnie Howe

Computer Assisted Research Section

Keith Reeves

Construction of Christian Identities Section

Edmondo Lupieri
Mauro Pesce

Contextual Biblical Interpretation Group

Nicole Duran
Athalya Brenner

Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti Section

Clare K. Rothschild
Paul Holloway
Christopher Mount

Covenant in the Persian Period Consultation

Richard Bautch

Current Historiography and Ancient Israel and Judah Section

Megan Moore

Deuteronomistic History Section

Cynthia Edenburg

Juha Pakkala

Development of Early Trinitarian Theology Consultation

Mark Weedman

Christopher Beeley

Didache in Context Section

Jonathan Draper

Disability Studies and Healthcare in the Bible and Near East Section

Candida Moss

Joel Baden

Nicole Kelley

Disputed Paulines Section

Jerry Sumney

Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy Section

John Fitzgerald

Fika van Rensburg

Early Jewish Christian Relations Section

Judy Siker

Christine Shepardson

Ecological Hermeneutics Section

Peter Trudinger

Economics in the Biblical World Consultation

Samuel Adams

Egyptology and Ancient Israel Section

John Gee

Esotericism and Mysticism in Antiquity Section

April DeConick

Rebecca Lesses

Ethics and Biblical Interpretation Section

Jacqueline Lapsley

Mark Douglas

Ethics, Love, and the Other in Early Christianity Consultation

Thomas Phillips

Ethiopic Bible and Literature Consultation

Stephen Delamarter

Eusebius and the Construction of a Christian Culture Consultation

Aaron Johnson

Sabrina Inowlocki-Meister

Exile (Forced Migrations) in Biblical Literature Group

John Ahn

Extent of Theological Diversity in Earliest Christianity Group

James Ware

Jeffrey Peterson

Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible Section

Angela Bauer-Levesque

Frank Yamada

Formation of Isaiah Group

Chris Franke

Gary Stansell

Formation of Luke-Acts Section

Paul Elbert

Mikael Winninge

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David deSilva

Loren Johns

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Joseph A. Marchal

Genesis Consultation

John Anderson

Christopher Heard

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James Hanges

Greek Bible Section

Cameron Boyd-Taylor

Hebrew Bible and Political Theory Section

Steven Grosby

Joshua Berman

Hebrew Bible, History, and Archaeology Section

Jeremy Smoak

Matthew Suriano

Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section

Daniel Fleming

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Gabriella Gelardini

Hellenistic Judaism Section

Zuleika Rodgers

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Hellenistic Moral Philosophy and Early Christianity Section

Johan Thom

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Gregory Sterling

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D. Jeffrey Bingham

Homiletics and Biblical Studies Section

J. Dwayne Howell

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Randall Reed

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Christina Petterson

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B. J. Oropeza

Islands, Islanders, and Bible Consultation

Jione Havea

Althea Spencer Miller

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Mignon Jacobs

Israelite Religion in its West Asian Environment Section

Beth Nakhai

*Jesus Traditions, Gospels, and
Negotiating the Roman Imperial World
Section*

Warren Carter
William R. Herzog II

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Kyle Keefer
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Ancient and Modern Section*

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Jaime Clark-Soles
Tom Thatcher

Josephus Group

Paul Spilsbury
Jan van Henten

Joshua-Judges Consultation

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Fernando Segovia
Francisco Lozada, Jr.

Latter-day Saints and the Bible Section

Gaye Strathearn
Peter Davids

Letters of James, Peter, and Jude Section

Duane Watson

*Levites and Priests in History and
Tradition Consultation*

Mark Leuchter
Jeremy Hutton

LGBT/Queer Hermeneutics Section

David Stewart
Lynn Huber

Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Section

W. Garr

*Literature and History of the Persian
Period Group*

Mark Leuchter
Anselm Hagedorn

*Manuscripts from Eastern Christian
Traditions Workshop*

Adam McCollum

Mark Group

Rikki Watts

Markan Literary Sources Seminar

Adam Winn
David Peabody

Matthew Section

Joel Willitts
Daniel Gurtner

Meals in the Greco-Roman World Group

Dennis Smith
Hal Taussig

*Memory Perspectives on Early
Christianity and Its Greco-Roman
Context Consultation*

Karl Galinsky
L. Michael White

*Metaphor Theory and Biblical Texts
Consultation*

Andrea Weiss

Midrash Section

W. David Nelson

*Minoritized Criticism and Biblical
Interpretation Consultation*

Fernando Segovia
Randall C. Bailey
Tat-siong Benny Liew

Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section

Nicola Denzey

*New Testament Textual Criticism
Section*

AnneMarie Luijendijk

*Orality, Textuality, and the Formation of
the Hebrew Bible Section*

William Schniedewind
Elsie R. Stern

*Paleographical Studies in the Ancient
Near East Section*

Christopher Rollston

*Papyrology and Early Christian
Backgrounds Group*

Malcolm Choat

Paul and Politics Group

Pamela Eisenbaum

Neil Elliott

Pauline Epistles Section

Mark Reasoner
Emma Wasserman

Pauline Soteriology Group

Susan Eastman
J. Ross Wagner

Pentateuch Section

Thomas Römer
Sarah Sheckman

*Performance Criticism of Biblical and
Other Ancient Texts Section*

Glenn Holland

Philo of Alexandria Group

Ellen Birnbaum
Sarah Pearce

*Polis and Ekklesia: Investigations of
Urban Christianity Consultation*

Laurence Welborn
Jim Harrison

*Postcolonial Studies and Biblical Studies
Section*

Christopher Stanley
Yak-Hwee Tan

Poster Section

Robin Branch

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Richard Horsley
Glenna Jackson

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Hindy Najman
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D. Andrew Kille

Q Section

Paul Foster
Christoph Heil

Qumran Section

Maxine Grossman
Charlotte Hempel

Qur'an and Biblical Literature Section

Kathryn Kueny

Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section

Jennifer Koosed

Recovering Female Interpreters of the Bible Section

Joy Schroeder

Redescribing Early Christianity Group

Christopher Matthews

Barry Crawford

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Colleen Shantz

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Jason BeDuhn

Naomi Koltun-Fromm

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Greg Carey

Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity Group

L. Gregory Bloomquist

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Ada Taggar-Cohen

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Romans through History and Cultures Group

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Christian Eberhart

Henrietta Wiley

Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity Section

Esther Menn

Bruce Fisk

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Second Corinthians: Pauline Theology in the Making Seminar

Reimund Bieringer

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Yael Avrahami

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Gil Klein

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Cornelia Horn

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Thomas Brodie

Teaching Biblical Studies in an Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context Section

Jane Webster

Textual Criticism of Samuel – Kings Workshop

Anneli Aejmelaeus

Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible Section

Brent Strawn

Ingrid Lilly

Textual Growth: What Variant Editions Tell Us About Scribal Activity Group

Lisbeth Fried

Juha Pakkala

Theological Hermeneutics of Christian Scripture Group

Michael Gorman

Theological Perspectives on the Book of Ezekiel Section

Paul M. Joyce

Dalit Rom-Shiloni

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Esther Hamori

Julia M. O'Brien

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Philip Schmitz

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Nathan MacDonald

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Violence among Jews and Christians
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Anathea Portier-Young
Greg Carey

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Tobias Nicklas

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Ann Killebrew
Margreet Steiner

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F. Rachel Magdalene

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Mark Leuchter

Bible and Empire Consultation
Carly Crouch
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*Bible and Its Influence: History and
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Andrew Mein
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Seminar*
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Michael Joseph Brown

*Healthcare and Disability in the Ancient
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Laura Zucconi

*Hellenistic Greek Language and
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Christina Petterson

Johannine Literature Section
Yak-Hwee Tan

Judaica Section
Rivka Ulmer

Methods in New Testament Studies Section
Markus Lang

Mind, Society, and Tradition Section
Istvan Czachesz
Risto Uro

Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section
Nicola Denzey

Nonbiblical Dead Sea Scrolls: Themes and Perspectives Consultation
Alison Schofield
Eibert Tigchelaar

Palestine and Babylon: Two Jewish Late Antique Cultures and Their Interrelation Section
Ronit Nikolsky

Pastoral and Catholic Epistles Section
Felix Cortez

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Jerry Sumney

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Jon Berquist

Place, Space, and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World Consultation
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Gert Prinsloo

Professional Issues Section
Heather McKay
Martin Ehrensvard

Prophets Section
Joachim Schaper

Psychological Hermeneutics of Biblical Themes and Texts Section
Bas van Os
Heather McKay

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Cecilia Wassen
Sidnie Crawford

Quran and Islamic Tradition in Comparative Perspective Section
Michael Pregill

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Gene Green
Ronald Sim

Ritual in the Biblical World Consultation
Ada Taggar-Cohen
Russell Arnold

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Rannfrid Thelle

Synoptic Gospels Section
Glenna Jackson

The Concept of Monotheism: Should it Have a Future in Biblical Studies Seminar
Saul Olyan
Thomas Römer

Whence and Whither?: Methodology and the Future of Biblical Studies Section
Caroline Vander Stichele
Todd Penner

Wisdom Literature Section
Tova Forti

Working with Biblical Manuscripts (Textual Criticism) Section
J. L. H. Krans
Tommy Wasserman



Professions Year in Review

New SBL Member Profile

The SBL web site will be the home of a new member profile form in early 2012. This tool will be invaluable as an ongoing mechanism for collecting data about the SBL membership. The data collected through the profile will help the Society develop programs, allocate resources for members, and more accurately assess the health of the profession. In addition, the data will serve to inform the Society's advocacy efforts and involvement in wider higher education and humanities organizations such as the American Council of Learned Societies.

All members will be encouraged to keep the information in their personal profile up-to-date, but there will also be the opportunity for members to opt out of particular questions that they choose not to answer. As an incentive for participation in the profile, members who complete the entire list of questions will be eligible for drawings for two iPads.

Annual Meeting Travel Grants Reinstated

Another new development is the reinstatement of SBL travel grants. The newly defined grants offer opportunities to current SBL members to attend the Annual Meeting, participate in the program, enhance their professional development, and build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units, the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), the Status of Women in the Profession Committee, the Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and other SBL Committees representing scholars in the field. These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars.

Four travel grants will be available in 2012. Two of the grants (\$2,000.00 each) will be offered to members whose proposals have been accepted by a Program Unit and have demonstrated that the work of the unit and the field will be enhanced by

that member's participation. The other two grants (\$1,000 each) will be given to members who have never attended an Annual Meeting. The Society will provide lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights and complimentary meeting registration. The grants defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual Meeting.

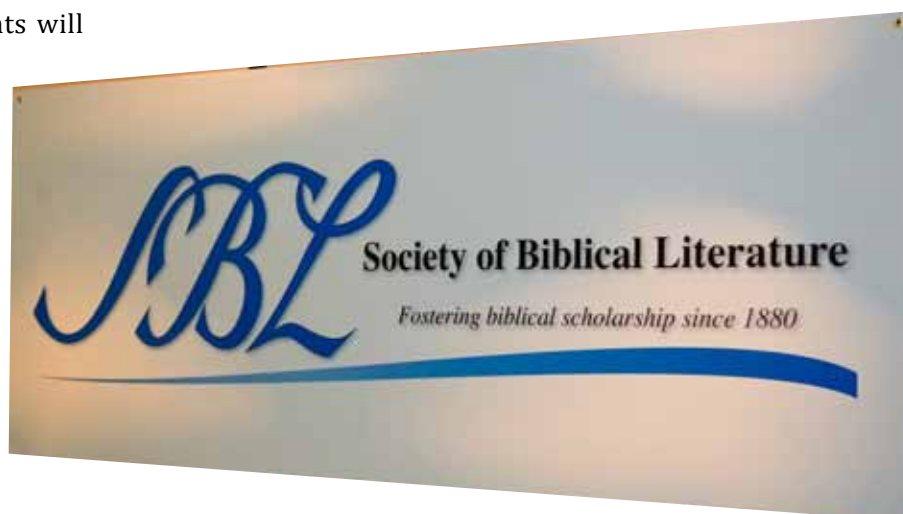
Please see the SBL website for details, application forms, and application deadlines.

Student Advisory Board

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) coordinates student participation across all Society activities, committees, and programs in an effort to foster greater opportunities for student participation and leadership development. SAB is primarily active in the following ways:

- At the Annual Meeting, SAB organizes sessions devoted to issues of professional development. Sessions for 2011 cover topics such as Balancing Family and Scholarship; and Engaging the "Wired-In Generation": Knowledge and Learning in the Digital Age. These sessions are directed toward students and early-career professionals.
- SAB is supported by a delegation of On-campus Student Representatives (OSRs) who are responsible for disseminating information to the SBL members on their campuses and for communicating the concerns of the student members to SBL and SAB.
- In consultation with the Executive Office, SAB is developing a quarterly e-newsletter for student members. The e-newsletter will alternately feature brief SBL Forum-style articles, links to notable articles in sources such as the

Chronicle for Higher Education and *Inside Higher Ed*, and notices about student-interest developments within SBL. The newsletter will be sent via email and will link students to the SBL webpage, where information can be supplemented and updated quickly.



Career Development Committee

The Career Center Advisory Board has served the career interests of SBL members through professional development, career opportunities, and providing a place for those seeking employment to meet with potential employers. The board is being replaced by the Career Development Committee, which will be more broadly concerned with career issues throughout the life cycle of the Society's members both within and beyond the classroom. Among other matters, the committee will:

- focus on all aspects of the career landscape and life cycle, including the ways in which our members' identities and personal lives intersect with their careers;
- develop resources for members in all institutional locations;
- inform members regarding professional issues, especially when new concerns arise (e.g., the rise of adjunct positions over tenure track, cultural taxation, retirement planning in a depressed economy).

Two members of the committee will serve on the Employment Services Advisory Committee, a joint committee with the American Academy of Religion that advises AAR and SBL on policies and best practices for online Employment Listings and the Annual Meeting Employment Center. Two members of the committee will serve on the Excellence in Teaching Award Panel, which will develop and administer a new Excellence in Teaching Award.

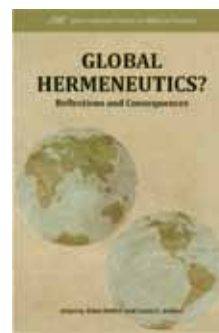
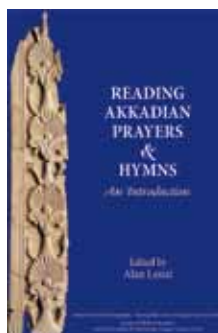
Seating of the new committee should be completed by January 1, 2012.

International Cooperation Initiative

The International Cooperation Initiative continues to flourish as SBL works to benefit biblical scholars globally with programs related to all aspects of SBL.

Online Books

Gorgias Press has been added to the list of publishing partners who are providing PDF files for some of their titles for Online Books. Several European publishers have expressed interest in partnership in this initiative. At the Annual Meeting, SBL will host a cocktail reception for our



partners and a small number of potential partners in hopes of drawing additional publishers into the program. Current partners in the Online Books program are:

Baylor University Press
Brown Judaic Studies
Catholic Biblical Association
Gorgias Press
Sheffield Phoenix Press

ICI Recognition beyond SBL

The Winter 2011 issue of the *Exchange*, a publication of the Association of American University Presses, featured an article about the SBL ICI Online Books program. The article points out that "Innovation means expanding access and pushing back geographical frontiers of the physical book. It's about getting material to a variety of people—including those for whom expensive new technology often isn't an option." The article provides a description of how the program works and applauds SBL for this initiative. To read the full piece, visit <http://www.aaupnet.org/news-a-publications/aaup-publications/the-exchange/the-exchange-archive/43/270-society-of-biblical-literatures-online-books-program>.

ICI Meeting in London

The members of the ICI Board who were present at the International Meeting in London convened an advisory meeting. The nature of the ICI is such that often members from qualifying countries cannot attend either the IM or the AM. In the case of the London meeting, all the attendees, with the exception of the Board members and SBL staff, were new to ICI. Consequently, the conversation included new voices and fresh ideas. Attendees were from Malaysia, Russia, Zambia, and South Africa.

Online, Open-Access Publications

The first title in the Ancient Near East Monograph series to be published in English, *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction* edited by Alan Lenzi (University of the Pacific), was released in June. The most recent addition to the series is *Constructs of Prophecy in the Former and Latter Prophets and Other Texts*, edited by Lester L. Grabbe and Martti Nissinen. These titles are also being produced as print-on-demand volumes. Indeed, due to member interest, all volumes in the ANEM and IVBS series are now available through the POD program with the present exception of the Spanish ANEM volumes.

Scholarly Exchange

There have been reports from members who are participating in various ways in the ICI scholarly exchange program. We have reports from professors who have used Skype to share classes with those in ICI countries, and the experience of a member who taught at a seminary in Fiji during his sabbatical. These opportunities, which are beneficial to the institutions, the students, and the scholars, were direct results of the ICI program. Reports of experiences such as these will influence others to take advantage of the incredible opportunities for scholarship, mentorship, and travel afforded through the ICI.

Book Donations

Through our contact at the London meeting with an SBL member from Zambia, six cartons of books have been donated to a seminary library in that ICI country. We will continue to make available books that are returned as “damaged,” but which have only small cosmetic flaws, to libraries in underresourced countries. If you wish to provide information on a library in an ICI country that would be interested in this program, please contact Leigh Andersen (leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org).



Professional Awards

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

The primary goal of the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship is to stimulate the finest and most penetrating work in New Testament studies. The 2011 Achtemeier scholarship award has been presented to Matthew S. Rindge (below left), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University. Dr. Rindge's paper entitled “Reconfiguring the Akedah and Lamenting God: Mark's Theological Narrative of Divine Abandonment” will be discussed with a distinguished panel at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, at 9:00 am.

David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

This prestigious award is being presented in 2011 for the first time. The recipient is Nathan MacDonald (below right), Theologische Fakultät, Georg-August Universität and School of Divinity, St. Mary's College. The award-winning paper, “Ritual Innovation: The Feast of Weeks from the Covenant Code to the Temple Scroll,” will be discussed at the Annual Meeting on Monday, November 21, at 1:00 pm with a panel of distinguished scholars.

The generous designated gifts of members and friends of the Society provide funding for both the Achtemeier and Freedman awards.

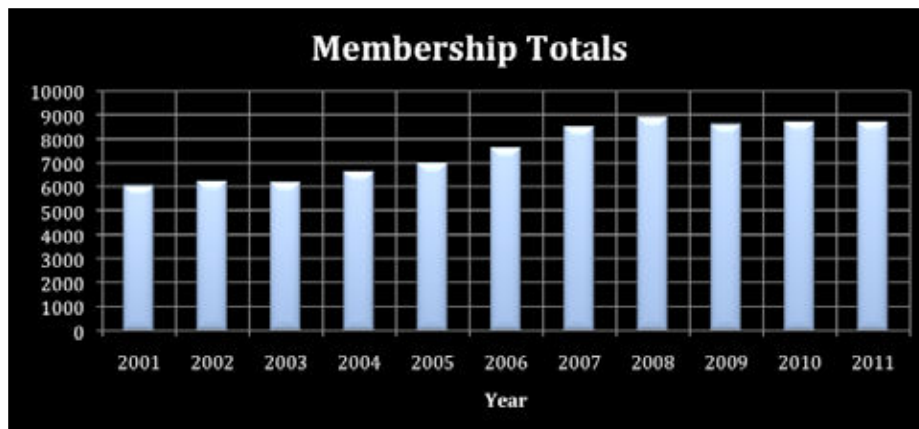
Richards Lecture-Discussion Series

The Richards series has been instituted in memory of Eva Richards and in honor of her son, Kent Harold Richards, Executive Director Emeritus of the Society of Biblical Literature. The series of public discussions brings people and institutions together to unravel the past relationships of sacred texts and public policies and envision new ways to shape this lively intersection. The inaugural session of the Richards Lecture-Discussion Series is entitled *The Way Sacred Texts, and Especially the Bible, Play a Role in and Intersect with Public Policies*. The discussion will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 5:00 pm in Moscone Convention Center, Room 3001. The panelists include Mark Hamilton, Shaun Casey, Mark A. Chancey, and Kristin Swenson.

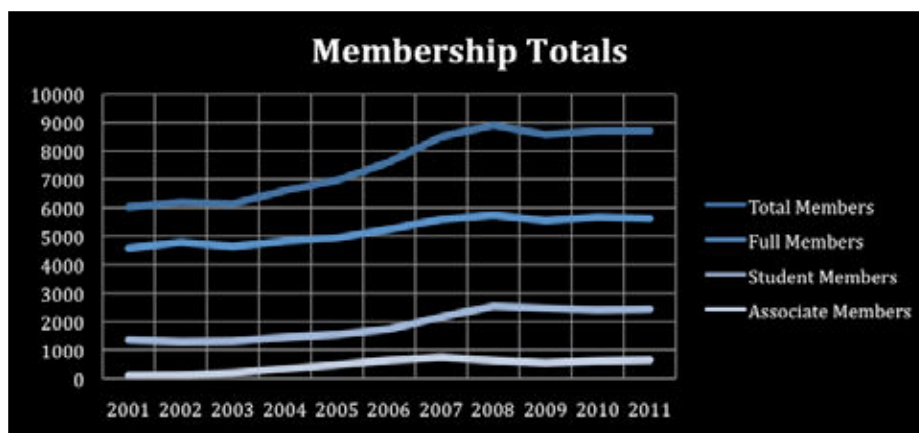
Donations in honor of Kent Richards or in memory of Eva Richards to the Society Fund help to support this ongoing series of vital and stimulating public discussions.

Membership and Subscriptions

The Society of Biblical Literature membership is strong and continues to grow. We currently have 8,703 members from around the world and this number will increase as we approach the November 2011 Annual Meeting. Subscriptions to the SBL's scholarly journals, *the Journal of Biblical Literature* and the *Review of Biblical Literature* remain stable.

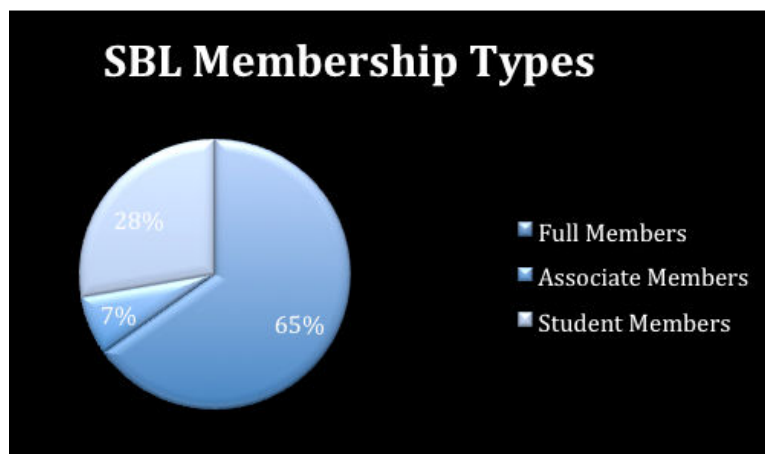


As would be expected in the last eleven years all categories of membership have risen steadily.

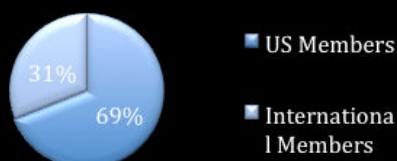


The majority of our members, 5,624, fall in the so-called Full membership category. The Society continues to nurture student biblical scholars, who receive the same benefits as Full members. Our Student membership now numbers 2,435. The number of Associate members has grown to 649. The percentage of each member type has remained consistent.

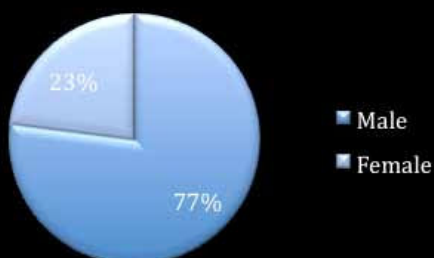
The membership of the SBL is more diverse than ever before. The percentage of international members has been slowly increasing over the last ten years. In 2001 international members made up only 23% of our total membership. Today, international membership is at 31%. Women continue to make up 23% of our membership. Of our members who identify ethnicity, 18% identify



Percentage of International and US Members



Gender



themselves as Asian, Hispanic, Black, Native American, or Pacific Islander. This percentage has increased by 2% over the prior year.

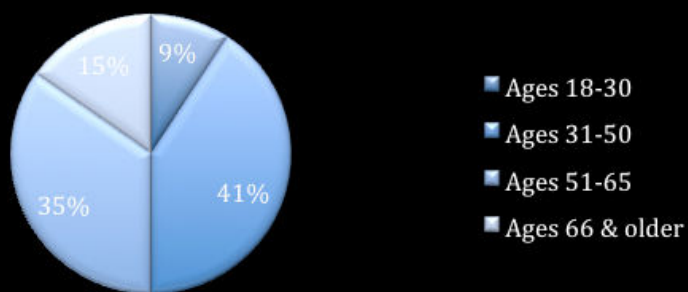
The majority of our members fall in the age range of 31-59 years of age closely followed by the group between the ages of 51-65. This has not changed from last year's demographic figures.

Our International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) continues to grow. Our ICI members have increased by more than 20% over last year's figures. We currently have 220 active members distributed all over the world. Of our ICI members, 60% come from Africa and Asia/Pacific. We are continuing with the process of building a network of ICI Liaisons; so far over seventy people have volunteered. We also have over 50 members who have volunteered as ICI Scholars.

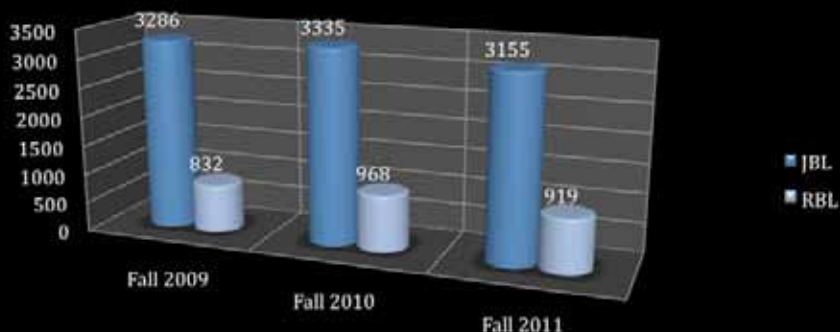
The Journal of Biblical Literature and the *Review of Biblical Literature* are healthy and thriving concerns. All members have access to both journals on our website and many members are making exclusive use of these online options. Nevertheless, subscriptions to the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and the *Review of Biblical Literature* remained relatively stable in the last year, with the minimal decline reflecting increased digital usage.

Between the fiscal years 08/09 and 09/10 there was a large increase in List Sale Rentals due to the addition of Email List Rentals. This year rentals have remained stable despite the budget cuts of many advertisers. Email list rentals have increased compared to last year's totals.

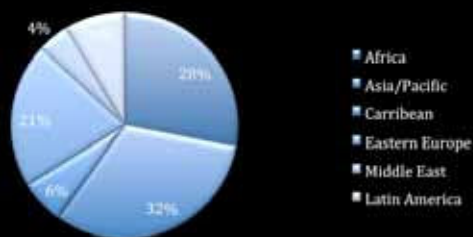
Membership by Age



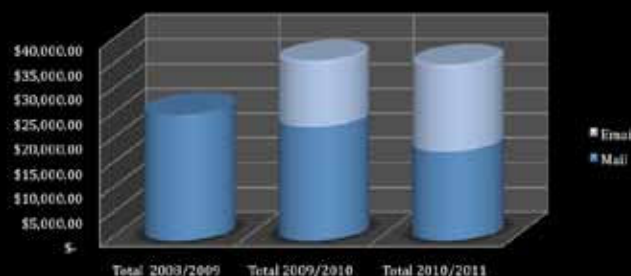
Subscription Sales



ICI Members



List Sales by Mail and Email 2008-2011



In Recognition

Donations to the Society have been made in memory or in honor of the following:

In Memoriam

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Thank you for your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature. Your support of SBL's meetings and programs helps strengthen our commitment to scholarship, collaboration, and communication. Your gifts to the International Cooperation Initiative have enabled the Society to expand across global boundaries offering more opportunities to scholars and students in developing countries. Your continued support to the Richards Lecture-Discussion Series fund, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award and the David Noel Freedman Award gives scholars more opportunity for professional advancement increasing the intellectual scope of biblical studies. These are just a few of the programs your contributions support. This year, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded SBL \$300,000 grant to build the Bible Odyssey website. With your help we can bring this interactive website to the general public to engage in biblical scholarship and advance interest in our work. Again, thank you for your support of the SBL.

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In Memoriam

2010

Franklin W. Young (Died in November of 2010)
Shemaryahu Talmon (Died in Dec. of 2010)

2011

Lee Perry
James Russell Morton
Alan F. Segal
Hendrikus W. Boers
Marshall D. Johnson
Anson F. Rainey
Brian Hesse
Catherine Clark Kroeger
Herbert Opalek
Ben Zion Wacholder
Dorcas Olu Akintunde
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John McGovern
W. Boyd Barrick
Robert K. Rapa
Friedemann Walter Golka
Eugene Nida
C. K. Barrett
Frederick J. Murphy
B. Elmo Scoggin
Timothy Howell

Administrative Committee Volunteers

The work of the Society is guided by its Council and is administered through SBL's professional staff and key volunteers who serve on various committees.

*The **Council** consists of fourteen members of the Society and the Executive Director. This board approves general policies.*

Cheryl B. Anderson, Bruce C. Birch, J. Dominic Crossan, Philip F. Esler, Jeffrey K. Kuan, John F. Kutsko, ex officio, Archie Chi-Chung Lee, Francisco Lozada, Carol Newsom, Adele Reinhartz, Daniel Schowalter, Fernando F. Segovia, John Strong, Christine M. Thomas, Gerald West

Committees

*The **Annual Meeting Program Committee** approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the Annual Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.*

Tamara Eskenazi, Robin Jensen, Jeffrey K. Kuan, Francisco Lozada Jr., Jodi Magness, Halvor Moxnes, Laura Nasrallah

*The **Development Committee** reviews and supports fundraising activities for the Society. Most recently this committee led the SBL's highly successful 125th Anniversary Campaign. The Society Fund, the annual campaign, is an essential part of the revenue stream for all programs.*

Bruce Chilton, Pamela Eisenbaum, Tom Gillespie, John Strong, David Tiede

*The **Finance/Audit/Investment Committee** advises the Executive Director in preparing the annual budget for recommendation to the Council and oversees the societal investments.*

Brian Blount, Philip F. Esler, Alice Hunt, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld

*The **International Meeting Program Committee** approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the International Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.*

Pablo Andiñach, Archie Chi-Chung Lee, David J. A. Clines, Kristin De Troyer, Elaine Wainwright, Gerald West

*The **Nominating Committee** nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society, and members of standing committees and other representatives for election by Council.*

Cheryl Anderson, J. Cheryl Exum, John Strong, James C. Walters

*The **Regional Coordinators Committee** consists of liaisons from the eleven regions in North America. Coordinators oversee regional activities and award Regional Scholar grants.*

Ardy Bass, Jeannine Brown, J. Bradley Chance, P. Richard Choi, Shawna Lisa Dolansky, Mark George, Mark Hamilton, Mignon R. Jacobs, Sheila E. McGinn, Robert D. Miller, Vicki Phillips, John T. Strong

*The **Research and Publications Committee** works with the Editorial Director, reviews publishing activities, recommends policies, and approves editors and editorial boards.*

Tat-Siong Benny Liew, John Fitzgerald, James Nogalski, Jorunn Økland, Adele Reinhartz, James C. VanderKam

*The **Status of Women in the Profession Committee** works in areas of mentoring and networking, opening the Society to greater participation by women and calling attention to the ways in which the Society speaks to and about women through its various activities.*

Nancy R. Bowen, Claudia V. Camp, Deborah A. Green, Mignon Jacobs, Diane Lipsett, Shively Smith, Rannfrid-Irene Thelle, Seung Ai Yang, Molly Zahn

*The **Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee** encourages the participation of minorities in all areas of biblical studies through mentoring, networking, and other forms of support.*

Cheryl B. Anderson, Alejandro F. Botta, Michael Joseph Brown, Jacqueline Hidalgo, Jeffrey K. Kuan, Frank Yamada

Boards

*The **Career Center Advisory Board** supports career services initiatives for all members.*

Sara Myers, Margaret Aymer Oget, Rebecca Raphael, Ellen White

*The **International Cooperation Initiative Board** facilitates mutual cooperation among colleagues from around the globe in the effort to foster biblical scholarship.*

Leigh Andersen, ex officio, Ehud Ben Zvi, Roxana Flammini, Louis Jonker, Monica Melancthon, Nathaniel Levtow

*The **Bible Odyssey Editorial Board** advises on the direction and development of an interactive website that would improve public understanding of the Bible and its contexts.*

Timothy Beal, Marc Brettler, James Charlesworth, Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, Mark Goodacre, Nicola Denzey Lewis, Carol Meyers, Mark Allan Powell, Kristin Swenson, Jacob Wright

*The **Student Advisory Board** coordinates student participation across all Society activities, committees, and programs in an effort to foster greater opportunities for student participation and leadership development.*

Katherine Brink, Teresa Calpino, David L. Eastman, Michael Halcomb, Amy Beth W. Jones, Shelley Long, Patrick George McCullough, Elizabeth Morgan, Alicia Myers, Kari E. Pellegrino, Christopher Stroup, Erin Vearncombe, Brandon C. Wason

Task Forces

*The **Bible in Secondary Schools Task Force** studies how the Bible is taught in secondary school classrooms and offers guidance, training, and academically-sound resources to teachers and school administrators.*

Maira Bucciarelli, Mark A. Chancey, Steve Friesen, Richard Layton, David Levenson, Carleen R. Mandolfo, Kent H. Richards

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2011 AND 2010

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,179,218	\$ 986,698
Marketable securities	1,252,045	803,895
Accounts receivable	88,517	109,233
Pledges receivable, net		1,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	19,666	28,203
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	48,807	40,354
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	19,421	28,557
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,991,335</u>	<u>1,991,183</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 4,599,009</u>	 <u>\$ 3,989,123</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 183,186	\$ 215,248
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	483,909	445,690
Annual meetings	665,464	557,126
International meeting	127,900	67,565
Other	<u>10,659</u>	<u> </u>
	1,287,932	1,070,381
Total Liabilities	1,471,118	1,285,629
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	2,574,109	2,202,506
Temporarily restricted net assets	259,627	217,293
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>294,155</u>	<u>283,695</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u>3,127,891</u>	 <u>2,703,494</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 4,599,009</u>	 <u>\$ 3,989,123</u>

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Smith & Howard PC, dated 27 September 2011, expressed an unqualified (clean) opinion on those financial statements. For SBL's full audit report, please visit SBL's website.

SBL's Statement of Financial Position shows increased assets of \$609,886. This reflects an increase of approximately \$200,000 over prior

year in deferred revenue from Congresses and Memberships. It also reflects SBL's Net Operating Reserve (NOR), currently at \$21,000, as well as a gain of approximately \$450,000 on Marketable Securities.

A draw was taken on the Luce Center Endowment of \$100,000 for capital improvements. A new air handler was installed and expenses will be reflected in two fiscal years, fiscal 2010-2011 being the first year for this capital expense.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Changes in Net Assets		
Revenues and gains		
Congresses	\$ 1,090,948	\$ 995,173
Membership		
Membership fees	538,013	441,725
Marketing	33,853	34,384
Professions		
Career Center	35,030	29,886
Grant Revenue*	12,939	34,033
Publications		
Book Sales	445,429	421,713
Subscriptions	339,837	370,586
Royalties	112,508	105,129
Marketing	27,875	34,450
Other	7,397	9,977
Development and fundraising	94,454	105,035
Investment income (loss), net	262,222	191,129
Rental income (loss), net	(7,515)	3,630
Loss on disposal of property & equipment	_____	<u>(7,338)</u>
Total Revenues and Gains	2,992,990	2,769,512
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Congresses	781,893	729,479
Membership	144,966	154,752
Professions	199,177	227,061
Publications	964,595	909,656
Regions	97,851	93,954
Research and technology	<u>101,182</u>	<u>97,853</u>
Total Program Expenses	2,289,664	2,212,755
Development and fundraising	109,967	103,092
General and administration	<u>168,962</u>	<u>158,711</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,568,593</u>	<u>2,474,558</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	424,397	294,954
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	<u>2,703,494</u>	<u>2,408,540</u>
Net Assets at End of the Year	<u>\$ 3,127,891</u>	<u>\$ 2,703,494</u>

BUDGET 2011-2012

Revenues	
Capital Draw	\$ 25,000
Administration	51,500
Congresses	1,142,425
Development	100,000
Membership	601,462
Professions	96,450
Publications	986,213
Regions	
Technology	
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 3,003,050</u>
Expenses	
Exec Dir In/Out	\$ 25,000
Administration	72,147
Congresses	1,008,263
Development	154,843
Membership	169,343
Professions	312,452
Publications	1,029,915
Regions	88,228
Technology	112,859
Font Expense	30,000
Total Expense	<u>\$ 3,003,050</u>
 <u>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</u>	
<u>0</u>	

SBL's Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets shows an increase in net assets of \$424,397. This gain is attributable to an increase in Congresses and Membership revenues, as well as investment income, as stated above. In fiscal 2010-2011 no funds were drawn down from SBL's investments.

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Bob Buller, Editorial Director
Missy Colee, Director of Technology
Billie Jean Collins, Acquisitions Editor
Charles Haws, Manager of Programs
Sharon Johnson, Manager of Web Communications
Kathie Klein, Marketing Manager
Gayle Knight, Manager of Registration and Housing
Trista Krock, Director of Global Conferences
John F. Kutsko, Executive Director
Susan Madara, Director of Finance and Administration
Chris O'Connor, Manager of Technology
Samantha Spitzner, Meetings and Publications Coordinator
Navar Steed, Manager of Membership and Subscriptions
Sandra Stewart-Kruger, Development Officer and Executive Assistant

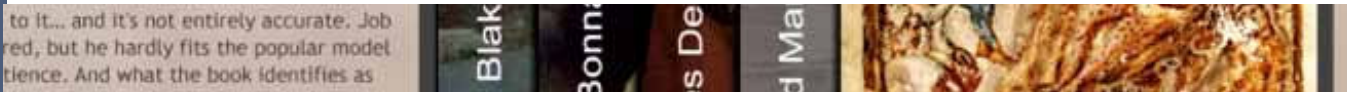
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Moira Bucciarelli, Public Initiatives Coordinator
La Trina Jackson, Programs Coordinator
Pam Polhemus, Accounting Assistant



Student Interns

Crystal Anderson, Administration
Richard Adams, Jr., Professions
Michael Chan, Professions
Chris Hooker, Technology
Josey Snyder, Membership
Doug Watson, Publications



Giving to the Society of Biblical Literature

The Society Fund is the core element of the ongoing mission in fostering biblical scholarship. This fund:

- assists in providing complimentary membership to students and scholars in underresourced countries.
- provides resources for the development of curriculum for teachers and school districts that are teaching the Bible in public schools.
- helps develop fonts and various research tools for all who are interested in the study of antiquity.

The International Cooperation Initiative provides free online PDF files for a variety of SBL publications to scholars and students who would not otherwise have access to this scholarship.

The David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship encourages the finest scholarship in biblical studies.

The Richards Lecture-Discussion Series supports the discussion of the way sacred texts, and especially the Bible, play a role in and intersect with public policies. This series of public discussions will bring people and institutions together to unravel the past relationships of sacred texts and public policies and envision new ways to shape this lively intersection.

The Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship stimulates the finest and most penetrating work in New Testament studies.

For information on how to donate to the SBL, go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/membership/giving.aspx>.