RENEW FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012 TODAY!

Renew your 2012 AAR membership! Make sure your continued access remains uninterrupted to all your member benefits, including print and online access to JAAR, Religious Studies News, the online membership directory, and reduced registration rates at the Annual Meeting. Renew your membership for calendar year 2012 at www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues.

Stay a step ahead - registration for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL opens at the 2011 meeting in San Francisco. You must be a 2012 member to take advantage of the deepest discount on Annual Meeting registration all year!

Keep an eye on your mailbox and inbox for important news about your 2012 membership.

AAR Elections

Later this month, you will receive notice of the electronic ballot for the 2011 AAR elections. Four positions are to be filled during this election: Vice President, Secretary, At-Large Director, and Student Director. You can view the candidates' bios and statements once the elections open on September 26, 2011. The successful candidates will take office at the conclusion of the 2011 Annual Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to influence the governance of the AAR, so please cast your vote for the candidates when elections are open September 26–October 26, 2011.
ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meeting Registration and Housing

AAR Annual Meeting Registration and Housing is now open! You must be registered to secure housing. Advance registration rates are in effect until November 17, 2011.

Online Annual Meeting Program Book

Check out the Online Annual Meeting Program Book! The print Program Book will be included in the tote bag at the Annual Meeting, available onsite in the registration area of the Moscone Center West in San Francisco this November. A print copy of the Annual Meeting Program Planner was sent to all AAR members earlier this month.

Annual Meetings Mobile App

AAR and SBL will be offering a mobile app for the 2011 Annual Meetings in San Francisco. It runs on a system called EventPilot Plus, and will run on iPhone, iPad, Android (both phone and tablet), and Web platforms. It contains both organizations' programs, an interactive exhibit hall map, maps of the hotels, San Francisco city information, Facebook and Twitter integration, and more. Watch for more information and the link to download!

Ballroom Space for Self-organizing Groups

The Marriott Marquis-Golden Gate Ballroom C2 & C3 will be set aside Sunday afternoon from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm for self-organizing groups. This is an opportunity for colleagues to work on new and continuing research projects, to discuss a single paper at length, or simply to hold an informal seminar. This space is designed to facilitate spontaneous meetings that will be posted on a flipchart outside the room (e.g., I will be giving a talk on XYZ today at 3 pm at table #23 – come by if you are interested!). To reserve a space now, email annualmeetings@aarweb.org.

Employment Center – Registration is Open!

The Employment Center, sponsored by the AAR and SBL, is open for candidates through the Annual Meeting registration system. Employers can register through the AAR and SBL job advertisement submission websites. The deadline to preregister for both candidates and employers is October 24, 2011. Register early to receive full
benefits.

*Women's Mentoring Luncheon*

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Task Force, and the Women's Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon on Sunday, November 23, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Judith Plaskow, Traci West, Namsoon Kang, and Katie Cannon. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued. The lunch costs $10 per person; sorry, no refunds. Registration is limited to 100. [Click here to register.](#)

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*AAR REGIONAL CALL FOR PAPERS*

The AAR's ten regions usually conduct their Annual Meetings in the spring of each year. Many of the regions have already released their calls for papers for their upcoming 2012 Annual Meetings. To view the various calls, visit [https://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Regions](https://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Regions).

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*AAR AWARDS & RESEARCH GRANTS*

**AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching – Nomination Deadline**  
*October 1*

The Teaching and Learning Committee seeks nominations for the AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominations of winners of campus awards, or any other awards, are encouraged. Procedures for the nomination process are outlined on the [AAR website](#). The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2011.

**2011–2012 International Dissertation Research Grants à€” Deadline**  
*December 1*

The 2011–2012 International Dissertation Research Grants applications process is open. These annual grants, designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by
offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.

ACADEMIC ABBY – Professional Advice from Your Colleagues

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

Other News

Islam in America Conference

The American Academy of Religion is one of the cosponsors of the Islam in America Conference, being held at DePaul University, Chicago, IL, September 23-24, 2011. We encourage all AAR members with an interest in Islamic studies to attend. As we approach the second decade of the twenty-first century, there has been a growing awareness in America of Islam on the American religious landscape and growing concerns over what that portends. Exploring Islam through various lenses such as anthropology, sociology, political science, along with American and world history is a logical and desirable process given the wide spectrum of thoughts, ideas, and individuals who have made positive contributions to Islam in America today. This conference will include voices of policymakers, journalists, and the business community as stakeholders in this conversation. Visit the conference webpage for more information and or to register.

AAR MEMBER NOTES

Awards:

Bernadette Brooten, Brandeis University - Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for research on early Christian women who were enslaved or who were slave-holders.
Patrick J. Hayes, Redemptorist Archives - Awarded a research grant from the Academy of American Franciscan History to write the history of Franciscan higher education in the United States.

Todd Lewis, College of the Holy Cross - Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the proposed project, "The Enculturation of Buddhist Teachings: Traditional and Modern Vernacular Literature for Children," which will include the collection, translation and analysis of vernacular Buddhist literature in both traditional and modern Buddhist communities across Asia.

Adriaan van Klinken, Utrecht University - Awarded a Rubicon-grant by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research for a two-years postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre of Gender & Religions Research, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, to carry out the project "A Saint in Times of AIDS: Religion and Masculinity Politics in Postcolonial Zambia."

**Books:**


*In the News*

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College - Interview by WBAA (NPR affiliate) on the "Jewish Jesus;" available on YouTube.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones! [Submit your Member Note online](#).