ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meeting Report
The 2014 Annual Meetings in San Diego drew 9,874 attendees! There were some 1,350 sessions over the course of the week. We are already planning the 2015 Annual Meetings in Atlanta, GA for next November. Check back in mid-January for the 2015 Call for Papers.

AAR Gives Back to San Diego

Each year, AAR thanks the Annual Meeting host city in part by making donations to local charities. In 2014, AAR attendees directly participated in a few of these efforts. Attendees found small plush zoo animals hidden in Annual Meeting locations. A $5 donation was made for every animal found and either brought to the AAR booth or posted on social media. The escaped zoo animal scavenger hunt raised $500 for Project Wildlife, a San Diego wildlife charity. Project Wildlife cares for injured, orphaned, and sick native wildlife and releases rehabilitated animals back into their natural habitats.

For the second year, AAR attendees were also encouraged to drop their unopened hotel soaps and toiletries off in bins located in the Convention Center. This year the 227 donated items went to Alpha Project in San Diego; more information can be found here.

Since 2009, we have been working with NativeEnergy to support their sustainability projects, and have donated $10,140 to the Ethiopia Clean Water Table of Contents

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Project and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Natural Methane Capture and Use Project. More information and a list of participants can be found [here](#).

A huge thank you to those who participated in our sustainability initiatives and donation processes!

**KIMBERLY RAE CONNOR: Thank You for Thirteen Years of Service to the Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee of the AAR would like to acknowledge publicly the tremendous service and leadership provided by [Kim Connor](#), and extend deep felt gratitude to her as she steps down from her position as chair of the committee. Kim has selflessly devoted great time and energy to this committee for thirteen years. From 2002 to 2011 she was editor of the Academy Series, helping many authors turn good dissertations into good books—a hands-on and time-consuming task, benefitting not only scholarship but having a large impact on the careers of young colleagues. She has been chair of the Publications Committee from 2011 to 2014. We have appreciated her humor, wisdom, and efficiency. Kim has served as an associate editor on the JAAR Editorial Board since 2011, and is currently chairing the JAAR Editor Search Committee. As a small token of our deep gratitude the Publications Committee is making a donation in Kim’s name to the AAR.

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**2015 AAR REGIONAL MEETINGS: CALL FOR PAPERS**

Support your region and plan to attend your 2015 regional meeting. The following Calls for Papers are open:

- **Eastern International** Deadline: February 16, 2015
- **Midwest** Deadline: January 6, 2015
- **New England-Maritimes** Deadline: January 12, 2015
- **Upper Midwest** Deadline: December 21, 2014

Look up your [Region’s Call for Papers](#) today!

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**AAR AWARDS & GRANTS NEWS**

**Martin E. Marty Award Deadline Is January 25, 2015**
To nominate someone for the AAR's [Martin E. Marty Award](#), which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion by those whose work speaks to the public as well as to scholars, please see here. Nominations and self-nominations are welcomed. The deadline for nominations is **January 25, 2015**.

**Religion and the Arts Award Nominations**
Nominations are being accepted for the Religion and the Arts Award, which is presented annually to an artist, performer, critic, curator, or scholar who has made a recent and significant contribution to the understanding of the relations among the arts and religions, both for the Academy and for a broader public. Nominees need not be AAR members. Please, no self-nominations. To be considered for the 2015 award, nominations must be made by **February 1, 2015**. For submission requirements and more information, please see [here](#).

**AAR Seeks Book Awards Submissions**
The American Academy of Religion seeks submissions for the Best First Book in the History of Religions Award as well as the four categories of the Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion. The four categories for the Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion are:

- Analytical-Descriptive Studies
- Constructive-Reflective Studies
- Historical Studies
- Textual Studies

The submission deadline for all book awards is **February 10**. Submission instructions and eligibility requirements are available [online](#). Send submissions to the AAR Executive Office:

Sarah Levine  
Attn: Book Awards  
American Academy of Religion  
825 Houston Mill RD NE STE 300  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**New Grant Program from NEH**
The National Endowment for the Humanities announces a new *[Public Scholar] grant program* that supports popular scholarly books in the humanities. The program is open to independent scholars and individuals affiliated with scholarly institutions. The grant offers a stipend of $4,200 per month for six to twelve months. Applicants must have previously published a book or monograph with a university or commercial press, or...
articles and essays that reach a wide readership. The application deadline for the first cycle of Public Scholar grants is **March 3, 2015.**

**AAR ACADEMY FUND CONTRIBUTORS**
The AAR gratefully acknowledges our members who contributed to the Academy Fund from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. Contributions to this fund support new programs, international initiatives, the International Dissertation Research Fellowships, and the general operations of the Academy. Thank you for your donations! Please see [here](#) for the complete list of contributors. For more information about supporting the work of the Academy, or to make a secure online donation, please see [here](#).

**THANK YOU TO OUTGOING AAR LEADERSHIP (Terms End in 2014)**
AAR would like to thank the following Committee, Task Force, and Jury Members whose terms end in 2014.

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IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAR's In the Field is an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education. Check it out!

ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues

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

MEMBER NOTES

In Memoriam
Martin Riesebrodt (1948–2014), University of Chicago
Riesebrodt, professor emeritus of the sociology of religion at the University of Chicago, died December 6, 2014, of cancer in Berlin. He was 66. The University of Chicago Divinity School has published a reflection on Professor Riesebrodt's scholarship and
 mentorship.

**Books and Major Publications**

Andrea Jain, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
_Selling Yoga: From Counterculture to Pop Culture_, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Joseph Laycock, Texas State University  
_The Seer of Bayside: Veronica Lueken and the Struggle to Define Catholicism_,  

Martha Reineke, University of Northern Iowa  

Michael Sohn, Cleveland State University  

Benjamin E. Zeller, Lake Forest College  

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