



2020

SOCIETY REPORT

Society of Biblical Literature



CALLING ALL COMMUNITY

I am not apocalyptic by nature, but during these times it is easy to be prophetic.

We have been talking for four decades about a crisis in the humanities. When you talk about a problem that long, it is not really a crisis but a chronic condition. This year, however, is different. Now change feels exponential, nonlinear, and existential. The global pandemic accelerated social, economic, and educational change decades in the making, for which we all have a stake and a responsibility.

To address these challenges, the American Council of Learned Societies formed a Future Thinking Committee, on which I serve. In order to think critically and creatively, we were first asked to examine the role of a learned society with a clear-eyed, frank assessment of the disruptions occurring in higher education and within societies: ask the the scary questions, the ones keeping us up at night, in order to think in a transformational way. It is not business as usual.

The committee's work is ongoing, but what struck me most out of those weekly conversations was the importance and fragility of community. Learned societies are communities. They form an identity that transcends institutional locations and contexts. They bring scholars-of-one at their institutions into community with like-interested scholars at other institutions, for both professional and personal relationships.

Community is not and does not depend upon unity. When we acknowledge this, the concept of community becomes our greatest strength that overcomes its fragility. I grew up in a county that was relatively homogeneous. It was largely comprised of first- and second-generation immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe. A church, for example, really was a parish in the broader sense

of the term. You did not choose your church, just like you did not choose your neighbor. Our neighborhoods had that neighbor who confiscated the baseballs that flew, usually unintentionally, over the fence. Usually, too, the confiscation was for good, unless one of us was brave enough to climb, sprint, find, sprint, and climb; or if we were not brave, we lost the round of rock-paper-scissors. On the weekend, nevertheless, we stood for communion beside those neighbors.

SBL is a community that actually thrives best without unity. Our program units compete and our publications run a wide range of methods that are not always complementary. A fundamental purpose of a learned society is to discuss and debate difference—and to be different. We can be in community without being in agreement. Community is intentional in a way that empathy and even respect are not.

I am also not prophetic by nature, but I almost always find it easy to be hopeful. I hope that, if one lesson comes from such a trying and tragic year, it is that we need community, as messy as it is.

Societies speak the loudest and do the most when they can point to a large, inclusive, diverse, and active membership. As we look forward with hope to a year of recovery and healing, let us remember the needs societies seek to fulfill and commit to improving them, so that we welcome and buoy up every member.

We are a 140-year-old learned society that fosters the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines. I say “we are” because SBL is a membership organization—a community. SBL is *we*, and the world needs more of what we do.

John F. Kutsko
Executive Director

SBL has been your intellectual home for many years, a place you presented dozens of papers, met new colleagues, established a personal network, advanced your career, and made lasting friendships. You have witnessed firsthand SBL's vitality and relevance, whether in its commitment to international scholarship through programs such as the International Cooperation Initiative or its contribution to the public understanding of the Bible through websites such as Bible Odyssey.

We have just concluded a successful Virtual Annual Meeting that had more students, early-career scholars, and members from the Global South than any meeting in SBL's history. The future is bright, but it can be even brighter.

Member dues and meeting registrations do not support the full spectrum of SBL's work. Further, we saw this year that for SBL to have room to think into and for the future, endowments are critical. Planned giving offers an opportunity for you to make a major gift and support that future.

A gift tailor-made to your interests and goals can be included in the following:

- ◆ bequests by will or living trust
- ◆ bequests by retirement plans
- ◆ life insurance
- ◆ charitable gift annuities
- ◆ charitable remainder trusts

We invite you to help by providing a gift to the Endowment Fund or by becoming a part of SBL's Legacy Makers with a planned gift. Planned giving allows you to support SBL's future and expresses the personal commitments proven by your life's work. Your trust, estate, or other planned gift strategy, in the context of your overall financial and estate plans, can turn your assets into a powerful legacy of support for the Society of Biblical Literature. In many cases, it can also offer you significant tax advantages.

PLEASE PLAN TODAY THE GUILD OF TOMORROW.

<h2>CONTENTS</h2>			
Features		SBL Press	16
Calling All Community	1	Bible Odyssey	16
Planned Giving	2	NRSVue	17
About the SBL	3	Virtual Book Booth	18
Black Scholars Matter	4	Serial Publications	18
SBL Central	6	Book Publications	19
Year in Review		SBL Staff	21
Congresses	9	Finances	22
Annual Meeting	9	People	
Regional Meetings	10	Committee Volunteers	24
International Meeting	10	Program Units and Chairs	25
Professions	11	AM Affiliates	29
SBL Awards	11	SBL Press Editorial Boards	30
International Travel Awards	14	Donors	32
Membership Report	15	In Memoriam	35

ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest international, interdisciplinary, learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society has published the flagship journal of biblical scholarship, the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, since 1881 and has been a member of the American Council of Learned Societies since 1929. With a membership of over 7,500 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and interested individuals from over one hundred countries, the Society is more vibrant than ever before. The mission of the SBL is a simple one: to “foster biblical scholarship.” It could not be carried out without the more than 1,000 member volunteers who donate their time and talents to this mission. The Society continues to flourish due to the efforts of all of these volunteers.

The SBL offers its members diverse resources in order to accomplish our mission. Many of these are tangible, like the diverse electronic resources that promote research and teaching. These include, but are by no means limited to, the entire backlist of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the *Review of Biblical Literature*, the open-access books published in our Ancient Near East Monographs and International Voices in Biblical Studies book series, and the open-access journal *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*. Members of the Society have access to the member directory and the Program Book for our Annual and International Meetings, allowing them to link with other scholars who share common interests in the field of biblical studies. We provide an annual Jobs Report tracking employment in biblical, religious, and theological studies. The SBL Font Foundation developed specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individual scholars at no cost. We support women and underrepresented 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.

For over a century SBL has provided, through a system of congresses, a chance for its members to gather and exchange ideas, to network and form relationships. Members receive substantial discounts on registration and housing at these events. These dynamic meetings allow scholars to renew relationships with colleagues and mentors and to meet and interact with the “great names” in biblical scholarship. The meetings are designed as forums to encompass the varying needs of our members. They include smaller, intimate regional meetings, the diverse and growing International Meeting, and the largest gathering of scholars in a single place, our Annual Meeting. Over half of SBL’s members attend the Annual Meeting. SBL’s meetings keep scholars active and up-to-date, provide them access to the latest tools and resources, and expose members to diverse subjects and ideas. Special sessions are provided for students to help prepare them for their future in biblical studies. Members are provided training and resources for creating resumes and have an opportunity to apply for job postings listed on our website, as well as apply and be interviewed at the Annual Meeting at the career center and to network with other scholars to learn about other employment opportunities.

Members of SBL have opportunities to publish papers in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, write for Bible Odyssey, write a review for the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and submit books for possible publication with SBL Press. Members receive substantial discounts on SBL Press books at the congresses and also receive substantial discounts from affiliate organizations on their journals and books.

The Society offers its members opportunities to apply for many awards and travel grants.

- ◆ A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship
- ◆ Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- ◆ David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- ◆ SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History
- ◆ Regional Scholar Awards
- ◆ International Travel Awards

Besides these many tangible benefits of membership, SBL offers many other benefits that are no less important, if less concrete. The Society is the oldest academic organization dedicated to biblical scholarship. As a member of the academy, any scholar or interested individual by definition needs to be a member of SBL and to be represented. Membership in the Society allows you to be counted as a colleague with your peers in the guild. It is an important professional credential. SBL spent over a year preparing an in-depth member profile survey. With this aggregated information, we can assist departments and institutions in creating new positions or making the case for keeping faculty positions open. With this data we can approach funding agencies to develop programs and services that strengthen the field and give new opportunities to biblical scholars. Through the member survey, we can better see trends, respond to them, and more effectively allocate SBL resources to help define and shape worldwide biblical scholarship.

RESPONDING TO INEQUITY AND ADVANCING THE FIELD: BLACK SCHOLARS MATTER AND ANTI-RACISM WORK

Efrain Agosto (2020 Chair of SBL Council)

During 2020, the SBL Council focused its energies on supporting the SBL Executive Director and staff as they planned a Virtual Annual Meeting in November 2020 once it became apparent that the worldwide pandemic necessitated such. Council attended to other business, of course. For example, a Task Force formed at the beginning of 2020 on LGBTQI+ scholars and scholarship in the Society began its work, about which Council will hear a report in its April 2021 meeting. With gratitude, Council acknowledges the members of that Task Force, chaired by Joseph Marchal. Other items were delayed for more attention in 2021, including a Joint Task Force with AAR on the function and work of Regional Meetings, a continuing review and revision of SBL Professional Conduct Policies, about which Council heard a preliminary report during its last meeting of 2020 on December 14.

In the midst of pandemic, nonetheless, Council did focus on a response to the ongoing issues of racial injustice. Following the police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, SBL Council issued a [public statement](#) denouncing those actions, the racial injustices in the US they reveal, and the weaponized use of the Bible to foment and defend white supremacy. In addition to that statement, posted in early June, SBL Council formed a [Black Scholars Matter Task Force](#) (BSMTF) that was announced to members in the September newsletter and via Twitter. The Task Force members include Adele Reinhartz, 2020 SBL President and Task Force Chair, Tat-siong Benny Liew (Chair-elect of Council, now Chair of Council), Raj Nadella (Chair of CUREMP), James VanderKam (2021 SBL President), Hugh Page (member of Council), John F. Kutsko (Executive Director), and Efrain Agosto (Chair of Council, whose term ended in December 2020, but who will continue to serve on this important task force). The BSMTF conducted a survey of members for feedback on the kinds of actions, activities, and policies we should be undertaking as a Society in response to racial injustices both in the society at large and in our scholarly biblical Society.

The Task Force organized a Black Scholars Matter two-day symposium on August 12 and 13. Special thanks are due to panelists Cheryl Anderson, Randall Bailey, Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, Ronald Charles, Steed Davidson, Vanessa Lovelace, Madipoane Masenya, Kimberly Russaw, Abraham Smith, Shively Smith, Renita Weems, and Vincent Wimbush. Moderators for the two days included Adele Reinhartz and

Hugh Page, with support from Efrain Agosto and Sidnie White Crawford. The organizers for the symposium were Tat-siong Benny Liew, Raj Nadella, and Kimberly Russaw. Near 1,000 members and nonmembers registered for the two sessions, bearing witness to the quality of the panelists as well as interest and importance in the subject: “Where Have We Been in Black Biblical Scholarship” and “Where Are We Going.” Both sessions had a little over 30 percent of the attendees who were *not* current or previous SBL members, bearing witness to the role SBL plays beyond its membership and the field of biblical studies.

#BlackScholarsMatter:
Visions and Struggles
August 12, 2020 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT

 Cheryl Anderson	 Randall Bailey	 Madipoane Masenya	 Shively Smith	 Renita Weems	 Vincent Wimbush
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Lessons and Hopes
August 13, 2020 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. EDT

 Ronald Charles	 Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder	 Steed Vernyl Davidson	 Vanessa Lovelace	 Kimberly Russaw	 Abraham Smith
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Registration: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/blackscholarsmatter.aspx>

BLACK SCHOLARS MATTER

In addition to the public statement by Council and this Black Scholars Matter symposium, Executive Director Kutsko hired a consultant, Dr. Sharon Watson Fluker, to work with John, his staff, the SBL Black Scholars Matter Task Force, as well as Council on developing new strategies of recognition and support for African American scholars and their careers and scholarship in the academy. As a follow-up to the Black Scholars Matter Symposium, the SBL Standing Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP), led by its Chair, Raj Nadella, worked with the Executive Director and partnered with the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) to develop a luncheon webinar aimed at recruiting more minoritized scholars into biblical studies. The webinar, “[To Be or Not to Be: Why Pursue a PhD in Bible?](#)” was held on October 31 and reached its maximum registration cap of 100 persons. A recording of the session is available on another new development of our efforts in anti-racism work, the [Africana Scholarship](#) resource page on the SBL website. This page can be accessed from the “Education” drop-down tab on the top horizontal navigation bar.

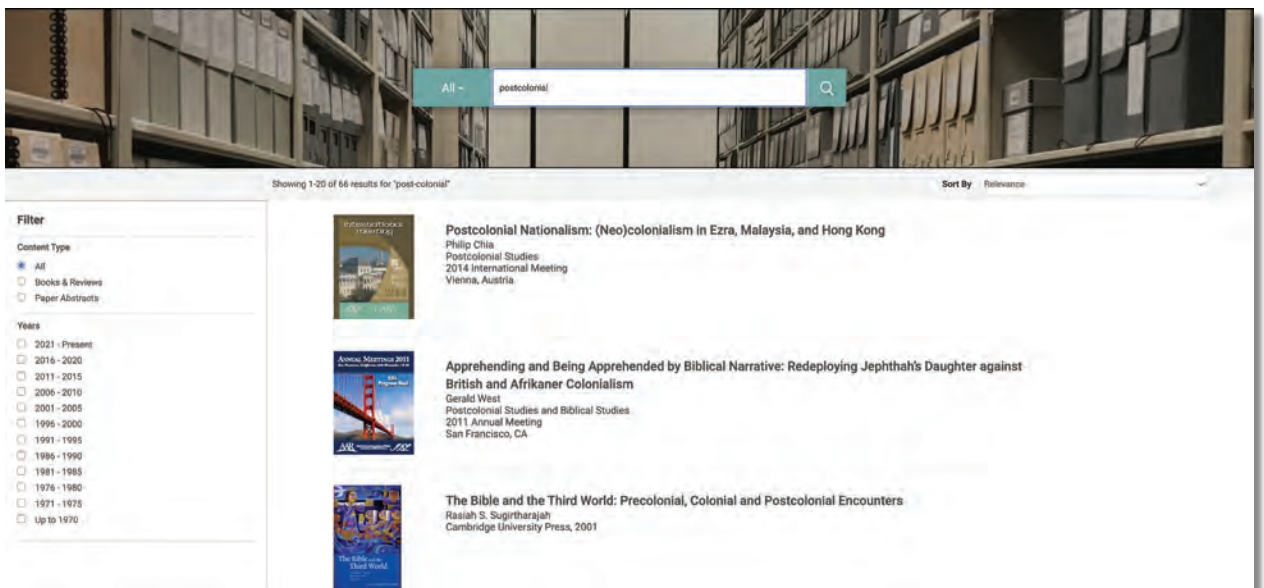
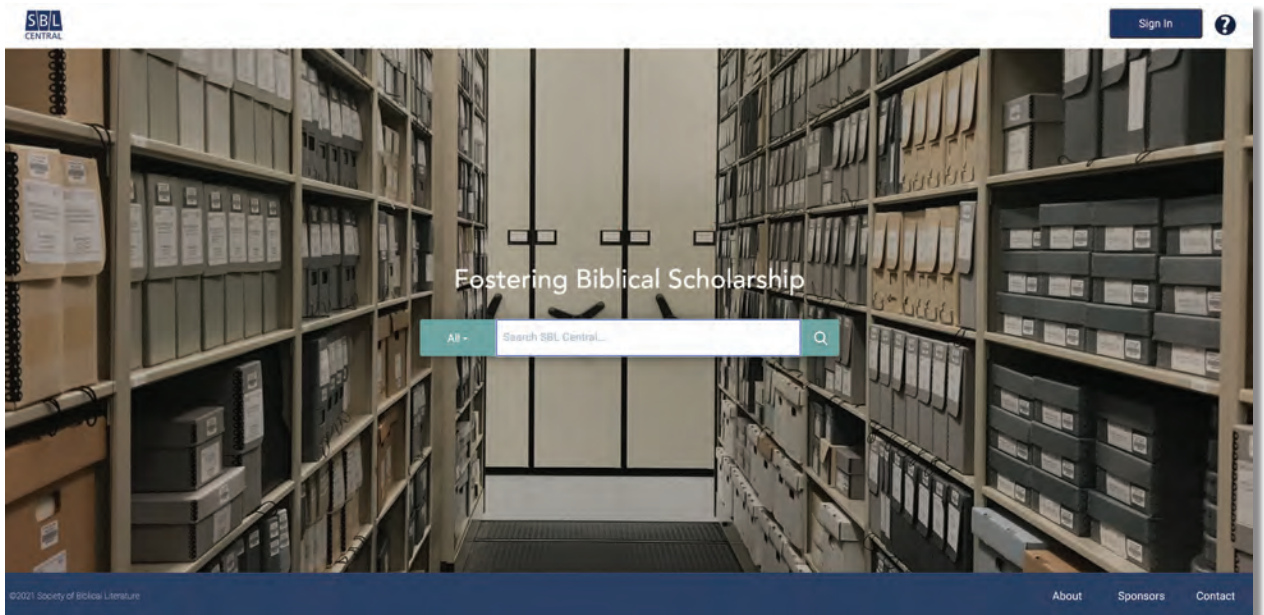
Also in 2020, CUREMP launched an [Outstanding Mentoring Award](#) to honor scholars of color who provide exceptional mentoring to other scholars by helping them to develop important professional networks and offering invaluable support in the process of navigating the guild. The inaugural recipients were Wil Gafney and Fernando Segovia (see further page 11). A word of thanks is due to CUREMP for establishing this award and congratulations are due to its initial recipients, Professors Gafney and Segovia.

These, then, are some of the important steps SBL, SBL Council, and SBL staff have undertaken in 2020 to address the fact that Black Scholars Matter and anti-racism work is intrinsic to our commitments as a scholarly Society in response to inequity in ways that advance the field, human dignity, and justice. The work will and must go on.

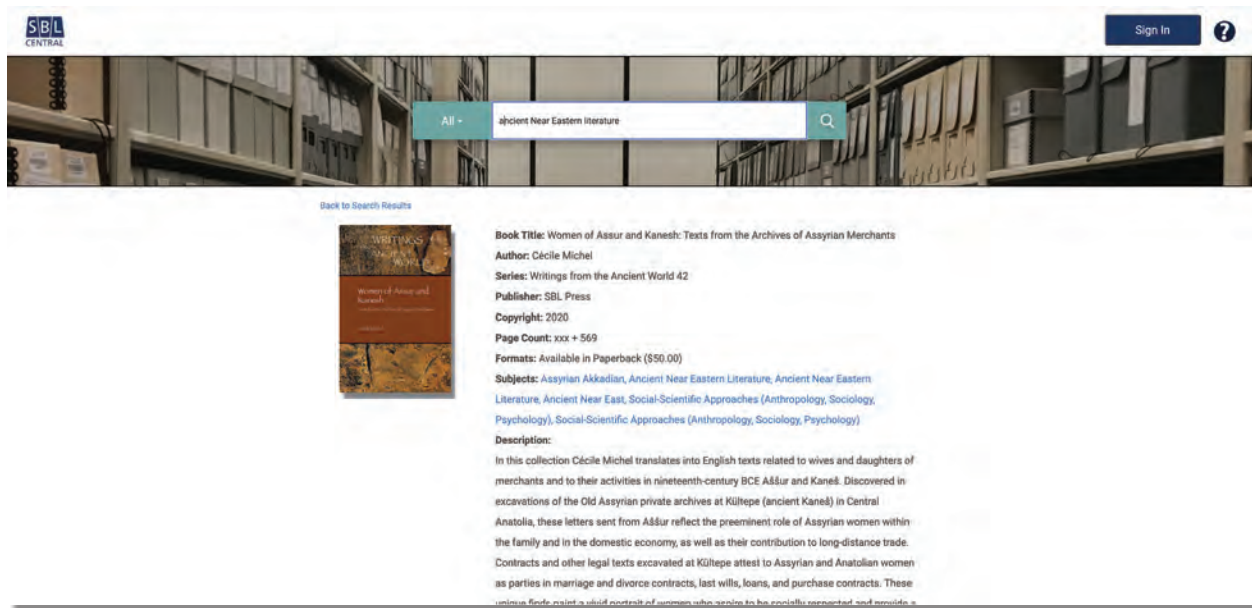


SBL CENTRAL

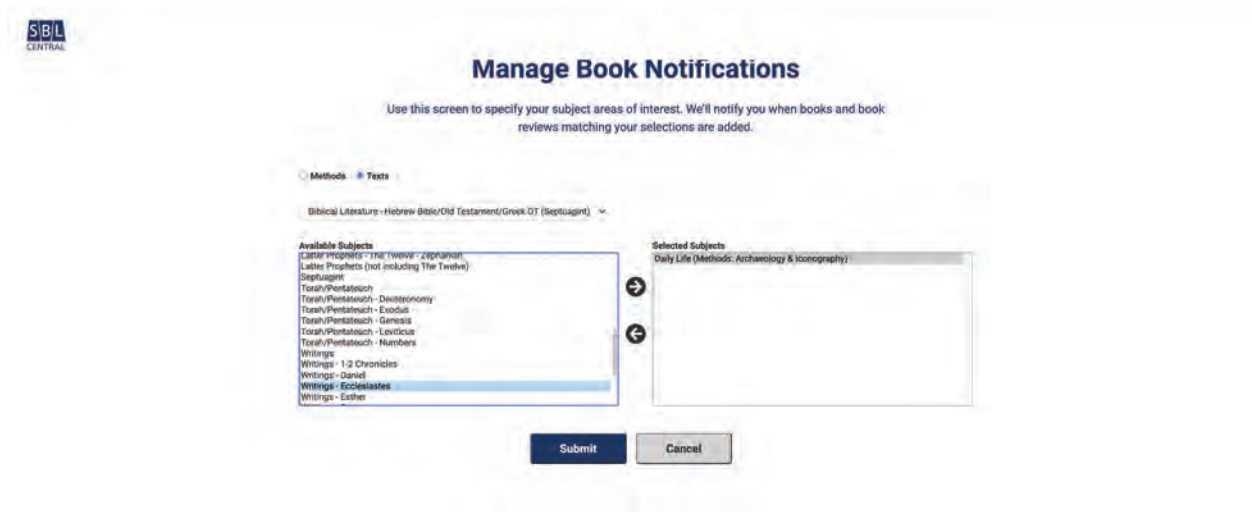
As the field of biblical studies has grown over the past decades, scholars have found it increasingly difficult to keep up with the vast amount of scholarly work generated in a wide range of venues, from the many books that fill exhibit halls each year to the papers presented in nearby conference rooms and subsequently published in a host of journals. To address this need, SBL spent the past several years planning and developing [SBL Central](#), a comprehensive research platform where biblical scholars can discover and search for conference presentations, books, book reviews, and, eventually, journal articles, all in one place. SBL Central first went online in early 2019 with a provisional release that included conference presentation data (including abstracts) from the previous fifteen years of SBL Annual and International Meetings.



The main phase of SBL Central launched in November ahead of this year's Virtual Annual Meeting. Along with giving conference presenters the ability to post full papers and presentations, this release added all existing book metadata and book reviews from *Review of Biblical Literature*, which is now housed within SBL Central. The new platform brings much improved search and display functionality to the more than twenty years' worth of books and reviews previously available on the *RBL* website. But it does much more than that.

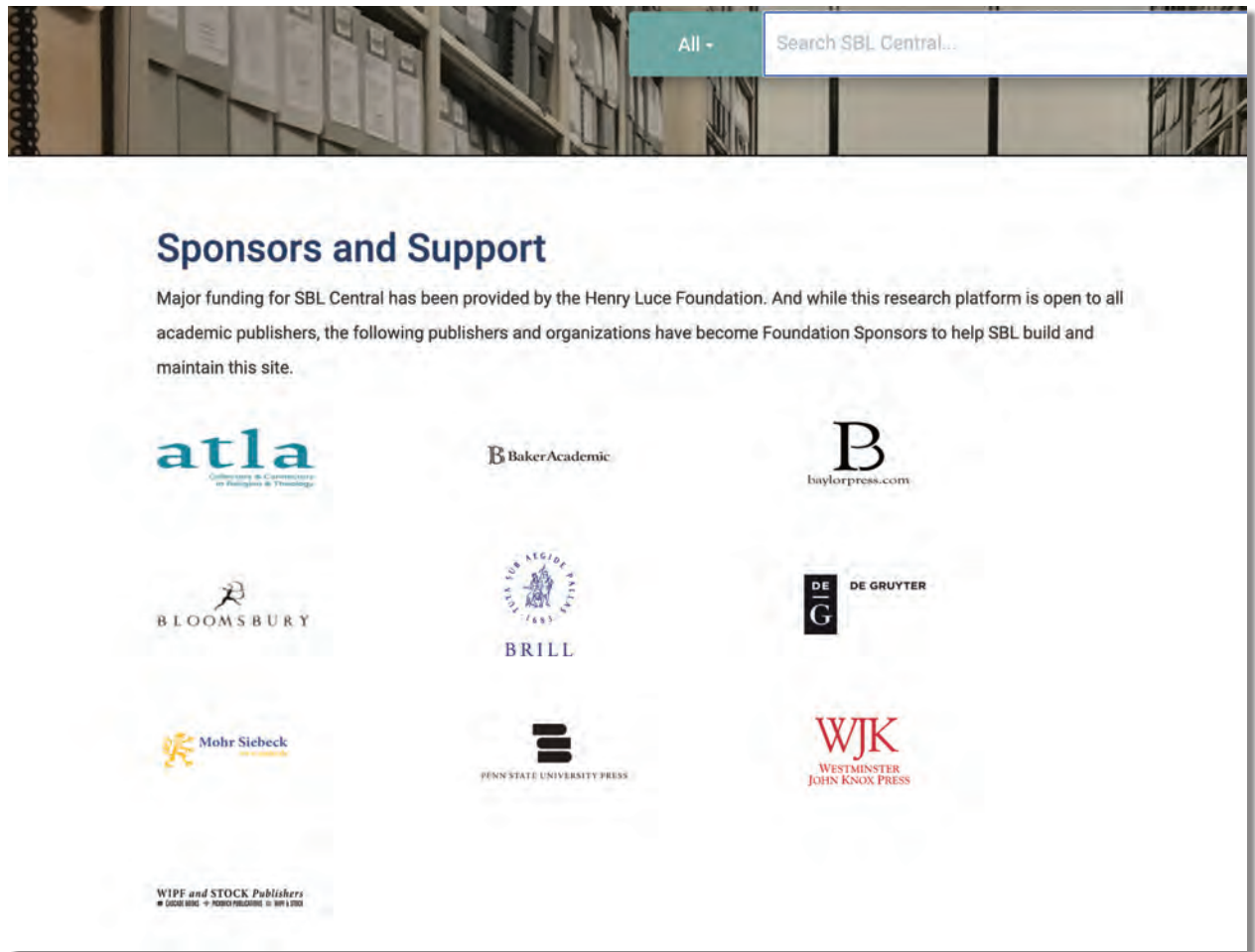


The most exciting new feature of SBL Central is the custom alerts members can create. All content on SBL Central is tagged with discipline-specific subjects, and members now have the ability to designate their subjects of interest on SBL Central. Whenever new books or reviews are added in those subject areas, members will receive alerts in a weekly newsletter, with links back to SBL Central where they can read book descriptions and reviews and volunteer to review available books. In the future, SBL Central will add similar alert functionality for new journal issues and articles, as well as individual chapters of edited volumes, providing biblical scholars with increasingly granular discovery of new publications in their specific areas of interest. Ultimately, the goal is to create the best resource for biblical scholars to keep up with the latest research, wherever it appears.



On the backend, SBL Central also brings an improved workflow for publishers, who are now able to send metadata for new books rather than mailing physical review copies. This metadata is then imported directly into SBL Central, where it is curated by SBL staff. Books assigned to reviewers are sent directly by the publishers. This streamlines the whole process for both publishers and SBL staff, leading to more timely alerts of new publications. Since these alerts serve as a valuable marketing opportunity for publishers, there will a book processing fee that supports the cost of maintaining and improving the platform.

SBL Central was developed with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, Atla, Baker Academic, Baylor University Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, Brill Publishers, De Gruyter, Mohr Siebeck, Penn State University Press, Westminster John Knox Press, and Wipf and Stock Publishers.



2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a rethinking of the Annual Meeting, away from its planned site of Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and into a virtual format. SBL continued its tradition of meeting with the American Academy of Religion as well as a variety of affiliated organizations. Although the Virtual Annual Meeting looked quite different in form, program units continued to host sessions, papers continued to be presented, discussions both formal and informal took place, and connections were established. For the first time, presenters were able to share both presentation materials and full-text papers both in the online meeting platform and on SBL Central. Over eleven days, a total of 903 virtual sessions took place, attended by about 7,000 meeting registrants. Thanks to a grant from the Luce Foundation, SBL was able to offer complimentary registration to all of its members in ICI countries as well as to a number of students in those countries.

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

The image displays three screenshots of the 2020 Virtual Annual Meetings website. The top-left screenshot shows a navigation menu with options like 'Search', 'Build Your Schedule', 'Browse Sessions by Day', 'Browse Sessions by Type', 'Publisher Spotlight', 'SBL Help Desk', and 'ADR Help Desk'. The top-right screenshot is a 'Welcome to the 2020 Virtual Annual Meetings!' page, featuring a search bar, a 'Your Customized Schedule' section, and a list of sponsors including Baker Academic, BrazosPress, Zondervan, NRSV, and JW. The bottom screenshot shows a 'Publisher Spotlight' page for SBL Press, detailing their publications and resources.

“Our value as a learned society and a scholarly community must be measured not by experiences of those who flourish ... but by those who struggle.”

— Adele Reinhartz



2020 Regional Meetings

Regional meetings typically take place in February through May. In 2020, this coincided with the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in North America. The Central States, Midwest, New England/Eastern Canada, Southeast, and Southwest regions hosted meetings prior to the pandemic lockdown. The other regional meetings were canceled due to pandemic-related concerns. Both for meetings that took place and those that were canceled, volunteer regional coordinators, board members, and many others worked diligently to plan those meetings. We wish to thank all of them for their extraordinary leadership in this difficult year. For more information, visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regionalMeetings.aspx>.

2021 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region	Dates	Location
Central States	There will be no 2021 Central States regional meeting.	
Eastern Great Lakes	March 18–20	Virtual Meeting
Mid-Atlantic	March 12 and 15	Virtual Meeting
Midwest	There will be no 2021 Midwest regional meeting.	
New England/E Canada	March 5–6	Virtual Meeting
Pacific Coast	March–April 2021	Virtual Meeting
Pacific Northwest	TBD	TBD
Rocky Mountains – Great Plains	March 19–26	Virtual Meeting
Southeastern	March 12–14	Virtual Meeting
Southwestern	March 6	Virtual Meeting
Upper Midwest	April 9–11	Virtual Meeting

2020 International Meeting

The pandemic also forced the cancellation of the 2020 International Meeting, which was to be held in Adelaide, Australia. A vibrant program had been planned for this meeting, and though this decision was necessary, it was made with deep regret. SBL wishes to thank the local committee who had already done so much to plan for the meeting. In particular, Peter Truedinger and Paul Babeer deserve special attention and appreciation.

SBL AWARDS

For more information, search for the following awards on the SBL website: De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship, the A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship, the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship, Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Outstanding Mentor Award, and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award. For information on presenting at a regional meeting or applying for a Regional Scholar Award, see the webpages of the individual regional meetings.

The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession 2020 Outstanding Mentor Award

The SBL and its Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP) are delighted to announce the 2020 recipients of SBL's Outstanding Mentor Award: Wil Gafney and Fernando Segovia. CUREMP launched the award this year to honor scholars of color who provide exceptional mentoring to other scholars by helping them to develop important professional networks and offering invaluable support in the process of navigating intricacies of the guild.

Wil Gafney is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. She is the author of *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne*, a commentary on Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah in the Wisdom series, *Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel*, and coeditor of *The Peoples' Bible* and *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*. She also contributed to the *JBL* Forum Black Lives Matter for Critical Biblical Scholarship, available [here](#).

Fernando Segovia is Oberlin Graduate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Among his publications, he is the author of *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*, editor of *Interpreting beyond Borders*, and coeditor of *Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics: Problematics, Objectives, Strategies* and *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism*. In 2014, Dr. Segovia was the President of the Society of Biblical Literature; his presidential address, published in *JBL*, is available [here](#).

The Status of Women in the Profession Outstanding Service in Mentoring Awards

Devorah Dimant is Professor Emerita of Second Temple times and literature, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, at the University of Haifa, Israel. In addition to articles and edited volumes, her publications include *Qumran Cave 4.XXI: Parabiblical Texts, Part 4: Pseudo-Prophetic Texts, History, Ideology and Bible Interpretation in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Collected Studies*, and *From Enoch to Tobit: Collected Studies in Ancient Jewish Literature*. Dimant is an active participant in both the SBL and the World Organization for Jewish Studies.



Wil Gafney



Fernando Segovia



Devorah Dimant

SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, Textual Culture and Reception of the Bible

Carson Bay completed his final two graduate degrees in Classics (MA) and Religions of Western Antiquity (PhD) at Florida State University in 2018. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and part of the research team *Lege Iosephum! Reading Josephus in the Latin Middle Ages*. Carson's work ranges across the Hebrew Bible, Second Temple and Hellenistic Judaism (with a healthy dose of Josephus), New Testament studies, early Christianity, and classics, ignoring as best it can conventional disciplinary boundaries. His research, grounded in ancient Mediterranean literature and society, is usually interested in pairing close textual and philological work with various iterations of "theory." He is currently completing his first book on reception of the "Hebrew heroes" of Jewish Scripture in the late antique Latin Christian text called *Pseudo-Hegesippus, or On the Destruction of Jerusalem*, as viewed through the Roman discourse of exemplarity. He is also knee-deep in his *Habilitation* project, which is the first close analysis of the reception of ancient Christian and classical Latin literature in the early Medieval Hebrew text called *Sefer Yosippon*, one of the first pieces of Jewish historiography in the early Middle Ages.

SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, Material and Visual Culture and Reception of the Bible

Chloe Church graduated from the University of Birmingham, UK, in 2016 with a first class degree in Theology and Religion and the JG Davies Memorial Prize for the highest-scoring undergraduate dissertation. In the same year she began a Masters by Research with Biblical Studies Specialism at the University of Birmingham and was awarded a College of Arts and Humanities Masters-Level Scholarship for her research on the methods of visual biblical interpretation in the Lutheran and Counter-Reformations. Chloe is now a doctoral student at the University of Exeter and University of Bristol, UK. Her research is supported and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and focuses on the visual biblical interpretation of the Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26–38) in Counter-Reformation paintings.

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship Recipient

Stephen Young (PhD, Brown University 2016) is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and also Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Appalachian State University, where he has been helping undergraduates learn to think disruptively about religion, society, and ancient Mediterranean literature for the last four years. He is finishing a book on Paul's mythmaking and textual practices as a Jewish teacher of gentiles. His next project attends to literary culture, ideologies of gender, and early Christian diversity. Stephen's "Ethnic Ethics" paper is forthcoming in *New Testament Studies*.

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

Nili Samet teaches Bible and Assyriology in the department of Bible at Bar-Ilan University. Her research interests include Biblical Hebrew, with a focus on linguistic dating; wisdom literature in Israel and Mesopotamia, with a focus on the book of Qoheleth; and comparative study of the Bible and the ancient Near East. Samet is the author of *The Lamentation over the Destruction of Ur: A Revised Edition*, and of articles in the fields of wisdom literature, the book of Qoheleth, and Biblical Hebrew. She is currently working on two book projects: a commentary on Qoheleth in the series *Miqra Le-Yisrael*; and a book on the syntax of Late Biblical Hebrew. Selected honors and grants include Alon Fellowship for Outstanding young researchers, the Harry Starr Fellowship from the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University, and research grants from the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and from the Israel Science foundation.

A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship

Travis Proctor is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. His research and teaching explore religions of the ancient Mediterranean, with a focus on histories of Christian cultures in the ancient world (ca. 50–500 CE). His current research explores early Christian theorizations of nonhuman bodies and environments, with a focus on how ancient conceptions of nonhuman space or embodiment impacted ancient Christian thought and practice. These include a monograph project on how early Christian theorizations of demonic bodies informed the performance of early Christian embodiment and construction of ancient cosmic “ecosystems,” as well as several article-length explorations of concepts of space and environment in the apocryphal acts. His other research interests include topics in ancient environmental history, space and material culture, ecocriticism, posthumanism, and ritual studies. He received his MA and PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Regional Scholars

Sarah Malena is an assistant professor of History at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa and an MA and PhD in History from the University of California, San Diego. Using historical and anthropological approaches, Sarah researches intercultural relations in the eastern Mediterranean and how interactions impacted social and ideological change. Her current project, *Fertile Crossroads*, expands on her dissertation research and explores how elite exchange networks shaped the developing identities and politics of the southern Levant in earlier stages of the Iron Age (ca. 1100–800 BCE).

The recipients of the 2021 Regional Scholar Award are Jeremiah Coogan and Robin Thompson.



Carson Bay



Chloe Church



Stephen Young



Nili Samet



Travis Proctor



Sarah Malena

International Travel Awards

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from ICI-qualifying countries. A key criterion is an applicant's demonstrable financial need.

The International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meeting.

The 2020 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- ◆ Erin Martine Sessions, Australian College of Theology (Australia)
- ◆ Gesila Nneka Uzukwu, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Nigeria)
- ◆ Jones Otisi Kalu, University of Nigeria (Nigeria)
- ◆ László Sándor Egeresi, Karoli Gaspar Reformed University (Hungary)
- ◆ Nicola Ernst, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)
- ◆ Pablo Jaruf, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- ◆ Pawel Plichta, Jagiellonian University (Poland)
- ◆ Robert Setio, Universitas Kristen Duta Wacana (Indonesia)
- ◆ Wellington Casagrande, Faculdades EST (Brazil)

Four International Travel Award Panels administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

Africa and Middle East: Madipoane Masenya, Dora Mbuwayesango, Juan Manuel Tebes
 Asia and Pacific: Elaine Wainwright, Nasili Vaka'uta, Juan Manuel Tebes
 Eastern Europe: Ester Petrenko, Benjamin Giffone, Juan Manuel Tebes
 Latin America and Caribbean: Pablo Andiñach, Nelson Morales, Juan Manuel Tebes

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all applicants and donors of the Society. Your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature strengthen our mission to foster biblical scholarship globally.

New Award for 2021: Richards Award for Public Scholarship

Named for Kent Harold Richards, this award will recognize SBL members who significantly shape public discourse through their public scholarship. The Educational Resources and Review Committee (ERRC) serves as the award committee to receive and evaluate nominations. Nominees will be considered for how they have contributed to and shaped public discourse, broadly defined. This may include writings (including op-ed pieces and blogs), websites attracting the public, public speaking (including media appearances and public lectures), teaching and mentoring, or other means through which the nominee has served the public. Stay tuned in 2021 for more details about the nominations process and calendar for this new award.

Revision to the *Bible and Public Schools: A Guide*

In 2020, the Educational Review and Research Committee undertook a significant revision to the *Bible and Public Schools: A Guide*. This guide is intended to help public secondary school teachers and administrators in the United States by fostering awareness of the pedagogical rewards and academic relevance of teaching about the Bible while also being mindful of the academic, social, and legal issues to consider for such courses so that the courses can be both academically and constitutionally appropriate. The updated guide is available on the [SBL website](#).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the Society currently sits at 7,350 members, down from last year's total of 8,285. The majority of members, 5,154, hold a full membership. There are also 1,693 students members and 503 public members. While each category experienced a decline from the numbers last year, the relative percentages of the membership categories remained essentially the same.

Members residing outside of the United States currently represent 36 percent of all members, a marked increase from the 31 percent of 2019; 36 percent is the highest proportion ever reported for international membership and is particularly notable, given that membership outside of the United States only made up 21 percent of the membership in 2003.


Members now reside in 96 different countries, down slightly from last year's total of 101. The highest concentrations of membership continue to be in the United States (64 percent), the United Kingdom (6 percent), Canada (5 percent), Germany (4 percent), Australia (4 percent), and Israel (2 percent).

SBL currently has 406 members residing in 63 different countries that are a part of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). South Africa, the Philippines, Poland, Brazil, and India represent the largest membership concentrations among the ICI countries.

A more detailed reporting and analysis of membership broken down by demographic and other categories based on the member profile data will be released in the 2021 Membership Data report in quarter 2 of 2021. In order to make this report as comprehensive and accurate as possible, all members are encouraged to fill out or update the member profile on the SBL website.

Where SBL Members Reside



 = countries where members reside

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Along with our authors and editors and the broader SBL community, SBL Press faced unexpected challenges during 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic not only required all staff to work remotely from mid-March on but also imposed increased teaching and, in many cases, childcare demands on our authors and editors. Similar work and family responsibilities also limited the number of book projects that our freelance copyeditors were able to take on, which shifted a greater share of the production workload onto Press staff. Needless to say, SBL Press work during 2020 was nothing like what we expected.

The widespread closure of campuses also affected the SBL Press business cycle, as libraries suspended most purchases of print books and pivoted quickly to increase access to e-books. Fortunately, SBL Press was well prepared for this challenge, since for the past seven years all of our books have been made widely available in multiple e-book formats for both library and individual users. Of course, our serial publications have been available online even longer than that.

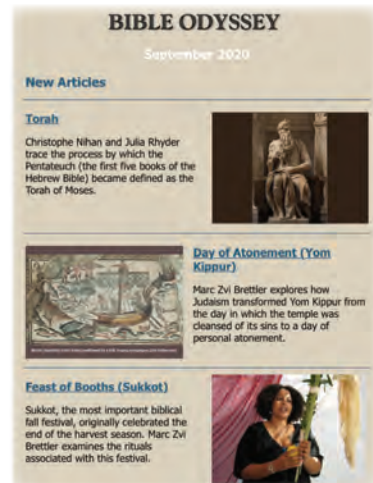
SBL Press also met 2020's challenges by helping faculty incorporate Bible Odyssey resources into their online instruction (see immediately below) and by creating a robust online presence that replicated as fully as possible the experience of browsing new publications in SBL Press's book booth (see Virtual Annual Meeting below). Like most members, we also became intimately familiar with Zoom meetings, which enabled us to meet weekly as a Press staff, complete the NRSVue review and revision (see below), and even conduct all of the editorial board meetings that we typically hold during the SBL Annual Meeting.

We do not yet know what challenges 2021 will bring, but we are confident that, with the support and assistance of our members, we will be able to thrive no matter what the coming year brings our way.

BIBLE ODYSSEY

SBL launched the bibleodyssey.org website in 2014 with one purpose: to make the academic study of the Bible accessible to the general public. Since its beginnings, the site's audience has grown to include undergraduates, university and high school instructors and students, and congregation members and teachers.

Over the course of the past year, contributors, editorial staff, and the editorial board diligently herded over one hundred articles from idea to various stages of production. Each article undergoes a rigorous double-review process by the board, an internal staff review, and a copyedit before it goes online. During 2020, forty-one articles were published, including "Childhood in the Ancient Near East," "Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)," "Gender in the Hebrew Bible," "Motherhood in the Greco-Roman World," "Roman Empire," and "Zion." In addition, in partnership with the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society and the Asociación Bíblica Argentina, Bible Odyssey has added Vietnamese translations of ten articles and Spanish translations of eleven articles. We look forward to translations of Bible Odyssey articles into additional languages in the near future.



The most popular articles in 2020 included “Two Creations in Genesis,” “The Crucifixion of Jesus and the Jews,” “Jesus and the Money Changers (John 2:13–16),” “What Is the Difference between the Old Testament, the Tanakh, and the Hebrew Bible?,” and “Lot and His Daughters.” The site averaged between 7,500 and 8,500 sessions per day. The United States accounts for 61 percent of users, with the rest scattered around the globe.

To increase awareness of the range of topics and tools available on the site, SBL Press launched a monthly Bible Odyssey newsletter in February 2020. In response to shutdowns caused by COVID-19, in the spring SBL Press also developed and distributed six weekly newsletters that highlighted resources for teaching on Bible Odyssey: videos, articles, maps, translations, timelines, and images.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATE EDITION (NRSVUE)

At the request of the National Council of the Churches of Christ (NCC), the Society of Biblical Literature has conducted a thorough review and revision of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. The NRSV was produced in 1989. Its purpose was to provide an accurate, contemporary English translation of the Bible that was grounded in current scholarship and that could be used in public worship, education, and private devotion. In the thirty years since the publication of the NRSV, new manuscripts have been discovered, philological understandings have improved, and the English language itself has continued to develop. To address these developments, the Society gathered together an ecumenical team of scholars to review the NRSV’s text-critical and philological decisions and to revise the text and notes as appropriate. The goal was not to retranslate the NRSV but to make limited improvements to an already-excellent translation. The NCC is currently in the process of reviewing the Society’s recommendations, and the new translation is expected to become available in the middle of 2022.

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the NRSVue review and revision process, particularly the General Editors and individual Book Editors.

General Editors			
Sidnie White Crawford	Michael W. Holmes	Jennifer W. Knust	Eugene Ulrich
Ronald Hendel	Robert S. Kawashima	Judith H. Newman	
Book Editors			
Sean Adams	Jason Driesbach	Nathan Jastram	Brent Strawn
Richard Ascough	Paul B. Duff	Sara Raup Johnson	Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer
Margaret Aymer	Michael Fox	Carolyn Johnson Hodge	Ronald Troxel
Eric Barreto	Diedre Fulton	Louis Jonker	Eric Tully
Giovanni Battista Bazzana	Jennifer Glancy	David Lincicum	Michael Tuval
Michael Bird	Mark Goodacre	Sarianna Metso	Eugene Ulrich
Shelley Birdsong	Gene Green	Margaret Mitchell	Stuart Weeks
Cameron Boyd-Taylor	Bert Harrill	David Moessner	Richard Weis
Robert Matthew Calhoun	Ronald Hendel	Laura Nasrallah	Rodney A. Werline
Stephen L. Cook	Matthias Henze	Richard Nelson	Lawrence Wills
Sidnie White Crawford	Juan Hernandez	John Screnock	Benjamin G. Wright III
David deSilva	Paul Holloway	Mitzi Smith	Adela Yarbro Collins
Robert Doran	Michael W. Holmes	Shively T. J. Smith	Sarah Yardney
Thomas B. Dozeman	Susan G. Hylan	Ryan Stokes	

VIRTUAL BOOK BOOTH

SBL Press created a streamlined bookstore for the Virtual Annual Meeting for members to access not only information about new titles in 2020 but also find answers to questions heard around the exhibit hall from year to year. Whether registered for the Annual Meeting or not, members could browse new titles by subject; purchase paperbacks, hardcovers, and e-books at a 30 percent discount; browse through flip-book versions of new titles; and place a request for a review copy. To address frequently asked questions, information for contacting Press staff, policies for exam and desk copies, and a downloadable order form were a click away. Visitors could also access backlist titles by series and follow links to the Society's open-access resources.

For the 2020 Annual Meeting, SBL Press launched an effort to make e-books available directly to customers using Adobe Digital Editions. The availability of Press e-books on the Society's own site allows SBL Press to offer the 30 percent Annual Meeting discount on e-books as well as paperbacks and hardcovers. Adding Adobe Digital Editions as an e-book option provides a third e-book format for individual purchasers, in addition to Kindle and Google Play, at a time when many members' access to physical books is limited by the ongoing pandemic.



SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Biblical Literature

For the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2020 began with the introduction of a significant new role in the journal's editorial structure. The continuing demands of both a high volume of submissions (consistently two hundred per year) and the broad range of topics covered by those submissions highlighted the need to expand *JBL*'s leadership team. To address that need, the new position of Associate Editor was created. Susan G. Hylen, Associate Professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, was appointed as the journal's first Associate Editor. With a wealth of scholarly experience focused on early Christian women and the Gospel of John, among other topics, Susan assists with overseeing the review of manuscripts on the New Testament and related topics.

Despite the many disruptions caused by the pandemic, *JBL* continued to publish quarterly issues without significant delays, and last year's improvements on the production backlog continued through the year, with the result that most articles are now published within six months of submission of the final draft. To directly address the challenges for the academy created by COVID-19, *JBL*'s September issue included a Forum on "Biblical Studies in a Pandemic," which included invited essays and reflections from scholars around the globe. In addition to the Forum, the journal published thirty-nine articles in 2020.

Review of Biblical Literature

For the *Review of Biblical Literature*, 2020 was a year of business as usual during the midst of formidable challenges and a significant change. The COVID-19 pandemic initially disrupted *RBL*'s workflow, as publishers largely suspended the distribution of review copies, reviewers were often unable to pick up assigned books from now-closed campus offices, and everyone came to grips with the demands of teaching and working remotely.

In spite of the challenges, *RBL* quickly adjusted to the new reality and actually published more reviews than in any other prior year. In all, *RBL* published 582 reviews during 2020, five more reviews than the next highest year's output back in 2009. Our reviewers hailed from the Arabian Peninsula, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates—thirty-eight nations in all, an increase of nine over 2019. In terms of gender distribution, 22.9 percent of our reviewers were female and 77.1 percent male; this is a significant improvement over last year's 18.4/81.6 split, but we still have much work to do both to reach and to surpass the Society's gender representation of 24.8 percent female, 75.1 male, and 0.1 transgender.

The year 2020 also saw a noteworthy change: after more than two decades on the bookreviews.org website, *RBL* moved to a new host and home: SBL Central. All of the 10,000+ reviews published on the original *RBL* website are now available at SBL Central, where new reviews are published each week. To learn more about the SBL Central platform, see the Features article on pages 6–8 of this Society Report.

TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism

The 2020 volume of *TC* included eight book reviews and the following articles:

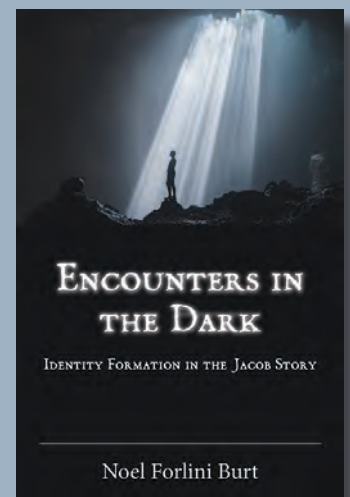
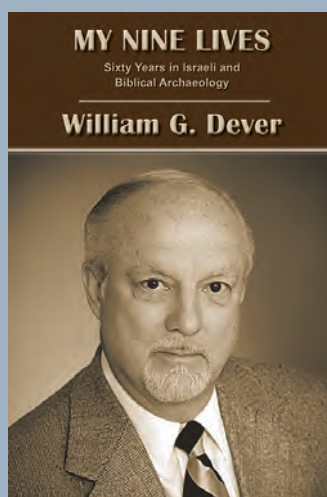
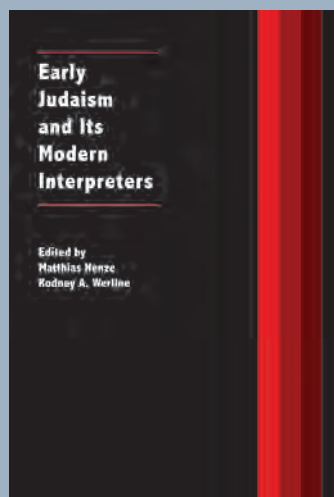
- ◆ Florenc Mene, "Scribal Harmonization in Codex Alexandrinus? The Pentateuchal Quotations in the Corpus Paulinum"
- ◆ Ryan Kristopher Giffin, "Paul Not Yet Justified? The Text of Philippians 3:12 in P46"

During 2020 SBL Press also began adding previously published *TC* book reviews to the *RBL* (now SBL Central) platform. These reviews will remain available on the open-access *TC* [site](#) but will also be discoverable within and accessible via the ever-expanding SBL Central database.

2020 BOOK AND ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Patricia D. Ahearne-Kroll, *Aseneth of Egypt: The Composition of a Jewish Narrative* (Early Judaism and Its Literature)
- ◆ David Armstrong and Michael McOsker, *Philodemus, On Anger* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Israel Bartal, *Tangled Roots: The Emergence of Israeli Culture* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Alicia J. Batten, ed., *Review of Biblical Literature*, volume 22
- ◆ Franca Ela Consolino and Judith Herrin, eds., *The Early Middle Ages* (Bible and Women)
- ◆ Johann Cook and Martin Rösel, eds., *Toward a Theology of the Septuagint: Stellenbosch Congress on the Septuagint, 2018* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ Miriam DeCock, *Interpreting the Gospel of John in Antioch and Alexandria* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement)
- ◆ William G. Dever, *My Nine Lives: Sixty Years in Israeli and Biblical Archaeology*
- ◆ Noel Forlini Burt, *Encounters in the Dark: Identity Formation in the Jacob Story* (Semeia Studies)

- ◆ Bonifatia Gesche, Christian Lustig, and Gabriel Rabo, eds., *Theology and Anthropology in the Book of Sirach* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ Eberhard W. Guting, *Textual Criticism and the New Testament Text: Theory, Practice, and Editorial Technique* (Text-Critical Studies)
- ◆ Moshe Halbertal, *The Birth of Doubt: Confronting Uncertainty in Early Rabbinic Literature* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Jione Havea and Peter H. W. Lau, eds., *Reading Ecclesiastes from Asia and Pasifika* (International Voices in Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Matthias Henze and Rodney A. Werline, eds., *Early Judaism and Its Modern Interpreters*
- ◆ Joachim J. Krause, Omer Sergi, and Kristin Weingart, eds., *Saul, Benjamin and the Emergence of Monarchy in Israel: Biblical and Archaeological Perspectives* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Katharina Lentz, *Crainte de Dieu, Sagesse et Loi: Aspects thologiques partir de Si 10,19–11,6* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ Suzanna R. Millar, *Genre and Openness in Proverbs 10:1–22:16* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Cecile Michel, *Women of Assur and Kanesh: Texts from the Archives of Assyrian Merchants* (Writings from the Ancient World)
- ◆ Matt O'Reilly, *Paul and the Resurrected Body: Social Identity and Ethical Practice* (Emory Studies in Early Christianity)
- ◆ Carmen Palmer, Andrew R. Krause, Eileen Schuller, and John Screnock, eds., *Dead Sea Scrolls, Revise and Repeat: New Methods and Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Early Judaism and Its Literature)
- ◆ Anders Runesson and Daniel M. Gurtner, eds., *Matthew within Judaism: Israel and the Nations in the First Gospel* (Early Christianity and Its Literature)
- ◆ Claudia Setzer and David A. Shefferman, eds., *The Bible in the American Experience* (Bible and Its Reception)
- ◆ Kerry M. Sonia, *Caring for the Dead in Ancient Israel* (Archaeology and Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Danilo Verde, *Conquered Conquerors: Love and War in the Song of Songs* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Vernon K. Robbins and Roy R. Jeal, eds., *Welcoming the Nations: International Sociorhetorical Explorations* (International Voices in Biblical Studies)



In Memoriam: Navar L. Steed

On 11 October 2020, the SBL staff lost a beloved member. Since 2010, Navar Steed served as SBL's manager of membership. She was known to members as the kind and patient voice on the other end of the telephone and the welcoming presence at the Annual Meeting membership desk. Around the office, she was always quick with a friendly greeting and a warm conversation.

Prior to her work at SBL, Navar earned a bachelor's degree and an MA in history at Rhode Island College, where she also pursued a PhD in history. She often fondly remembered her time there working as an adjunct instructor and in the archives. She cherished this as time she was able to work closely with her late husband.

In her decade-long tenure with SBL, Navar oversaw the membership system, keeping those records up to date. She assisted many members with their subscriptions to *JBL* and *RBL* and managed the communication platforms that keep SBL in touch with its members. She was there to receive the sad news of members who had passed away and made sure that those members were honored in the annual necrology. These and the many other things that Navar did in service to the members of SBL she did with grace and care, always eager to help in any way that she could.

Navar had many passions beyond her job. She was an avid reader with a particular interest in science fiction and fantasy. She loved television shows and movies of the same and was always up-to-date with the latest releases. She had a passion for dining out with friends, welcoming others to share a meal. Saturdays in the fall one could count on Navar cheering for the Alabama Crimson Tide. She had a passion for music and sang in her church's choir every week. She loved to visit the lake, where she would relax and enjoy time with her family. Central to her life were her dogs and cats. They were another form of family to her, and she loved them deeply. Navar Steed—our colleague, our friend—will be deeply missed.



Welcome, LaToya Leary

SBL is pleased to welcome back to the staff LaToya Leary as the new manager of communications and member relations. LaToya is a PhD candidate in religions of western antiquity at Florida State University, where she is writing her dissertation on socially disabling rhetoric in Greco-Roman, early Christian, and early Jewish texts. She also has a Master of Arts (Theological Studies) from Columbia Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Science from St. Thomas University. LaToya already has a long history with SBL, holding volunteer positions on the Student Advisory Board and as a unit cochair for the Southeast region, as well as having previously worked on staff as the *JBL* editorial assistant. We are thrilled that LaToya is once again on staff in this new position!



SBL STAFF

Bob Buller, Director of SBL Press
 Trisha Cousino, Student Intern, Congresses and Professions
 Glory Emekeme, Executive Assistant and Manager of Development
 Courtney Godwin, Student Intern, Membership
 Christopher Hooker, Director of Membership and Programs
 Sharon Johnson, Manager of Web Design
 Pamela Kennemore, Director of Finance and Administration
 Trista Krock, Director of Global Conferences
 John F. Kutsko, Executive Director

LaToya Leary, Manager of Communications and Member Relations
 Lindsay Lingo, Graphic Design, SBL Press
 Heather McMurray, Marketing and Sales Manager, SBL Press
 Chris O'Connor, Director of Information Technology
 Pamela Y. Polhemus, Accounting Assistant
 Jonathan M. Potter, Serials Manager, SBL Press
 Christópher Abreu Rosario, Editorial Assistant
 Paige Schmidt, Manager of Programs
 Leigh Ann Simpson, Manager of Registration and Housing
 Samantha Spitzner, Meetings Coordinator
 Nicole L. Tilford, Production Manager, SBL Press

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2020 AND 2019

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,533,481	\$2,128,437
Marketable securities	4,628,992	4,227,734
Accounts receivable	229,996	174,278
Pledges receivable	—	25,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	464,554	312,483
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	55,772	101,636
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	10,721	9,309
Capitalized software, net of accumulated amortization	229,340	230,051
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,943,968</u>	<u>1,951,817</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$9,096,824</u>	<u>\$9,160,745</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$366,769	\$366,769
Notes payable	281,600	—
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	497,013	521,485
Annual meetings	435,669	901,720
International meeting	—	121,831
Other	<u>326,527</u>	<u>440,080</u>
Total deferred revenues	<u>1,259,209</u>	<u>1,985,116</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,801,013</u>	<u>2,351,885</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	430,256	517,996
Designated by Board for operating reserve	4,325,486	4,016,504
Invested in Luce Center	<u>1,160,251</u>	<u>1,206,069</u>
	5,915,993	5,740,569
With donor restrictions	<u>1,379,818</u>	<u>1,068,291</u>
Total net assets	<u>7,295,811</u>	<u>6,808,860</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$9,096,824</u>	<u>\$9,160,745</u>

Comments:

1. SBL continues growing with eleven consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2020 was \$486,951, as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY 2020 revenues were under budget by \$68,731, while expenses were under budget by \$399,610, resulting in a net increase over budget by \$330,879.

FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

BUDGET 2020–2021

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Congresses	\$1,465,415	\$1,403,733
Membership		
Membership fees	605,963	607,028
Marketing	20,900	26,669
Fee Income	40	56
Professions		
Career Center	61,585	75,555
Grant Revenue	697	16,847
Sponsorship income	—	10,875
Fonts	—	1,600
Press		
Book Sales	401,407	453,353
Subscriptions	239,403	289,751
Royalties	118,473	109,838
Marketing	14,497	15,691
Permissions	11,901	13,909
Membership	106,935	107,123
Contract Income	107,500	38,872
Grant Revenue	1,603	39,500
Sponsorship income	—	25,375
Fees	11,675	12,235
Subvention income	5,920	—
Regional meetings revenue	8,895	42,212
Development and fundraising	297,907	125,003
Investment income, net	239,355	344,259
Rental income, net	48,428	39,071
Total revenues and gains	\$3,768,499	\$3,798,555
EXPENSES		
Program expenses		
Congresses	\$1,167,818	\$1,082,029
Membership	198,142	186,331
Professions	286,622	277,694
Press	1,381,078	1,299,599
Regional meetings	35,324	74,481
Research and Technology	39,481	49,848
Total program expenses	3,108,465	2,969,982
Development and fundraising	17,591	8,154
General and administration	155,492	161,998
Total expenses	\$3,281,548	\$3,140,134
Increase in Net Assets	486,951	658,421
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	6,808,860	6,150,439
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,295,811	\$6,808,860

Revenues	
Administration	\$433,597
Congresses	473,225
Development	60,000
Membership	623,000
Professions	107,864
Press	1,390,090
Total Revenue	\$3,087,776
Expenses	
Administration	\$128,772
Congresses	733,884
Development	21,399
Membership	194,682
Professions	312,340
Press	1,443,875
Regional support	32,244
Technology	54,680
Total Expense	\$2,921,876
Budgeted Increase	
in Net Assets	\$165,900
Revenue includes following one-time revenue:	
PPP Loan forgiveness	\$281,600
SBL Central revenue	267,679
NRSV revenue	234,300
HarperCollins revenue	46,800
	\$830,379

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 22 October 2020 states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.

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 Jorunn Økland
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