



2022

SOCIETY REPORT

Society of Biblical Literature



WELCOME FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my distinct pleasure to bring you SBL's 2022 Society Report! Thanks to the incredible work of the staff and many members under the able leadership of John F. Kutsko, who stepped down from his role as SBL's Executive Director on 29 December 2022, we accomplished a great deal in the last year. Here I will but highlight two important decisions that were made in 2022.

First, after over a year of deliberation, Council voted in our October meeting to approve a revision of our Society's Statement on Mission, Vision, and Values, which was last revised eleven years ago. This revised Statement is publicly displayed on the Mission page of the SBL website and reproduced on page 3 below.

Second, an announcement was made in May that SBL will launch a Global Virtual Meeting in 2023. Just as the social distancing demands of the pandemic led many of us to resee, reevaluate, and reimagine our surroundings—and how they presented over Zoom—these same restrictions led you, our membership, to encourage the SBL to resee, reevaluate, and reimagine ways of rearranging our resources to provide for a more equitable balance of access to SBL programming for the broadest possible participation of all of our members, including those (almost a third of our members) who reside outside of the United States. The Global Virtual Meeting is a promising and exciting step in that direction. Like our in-person meetings in June/July and in November, this new online meeting in March will take place every year.

As we move into the new year, our Society is also at a moment of transition with John's departure. Given the ever-shifting terrain of the academy, we need

to take the extra steps of checking the instruments by which we navigate, orienting ourselves as to where we are in terms of where we hope to go, and taking stock of what we already have on hand and what we'll need in order to be prepared for the explorations to come. I'm both proud and excited to travel with you, and I look forward to working with all of you in ensuring that the SBL of tomorrow will continue to foster academic scholarship in biblical studies and cognate areas all across the globe.

Sincerely,



Tat-siong Benny Liew
Interim Executive Director



YOUR SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

SBL was one of the first learned societies formed in the U.S., and it is now one of the largest and most international among its peer fields and disciplines. SBL is nearly 150 years old, and it fosters biblical scholarship around the world.

You have witnessed firsthand SBL's vitality and relevance, whether through its commitment to international scholarship via the International Cooperation Initiative, its diversity of programs such as the inaugural Global Virtual Meeting, or its contribution to the public understanding of the Bible with innovations such as BibleOdyssey.org.

We are now approaching a major milestone—SBL's 150th anniversary in 2030. That date is not far off. We need your help ensuring that SBL will thrive in its commitments and contributions to fostering biblical scholarship across disciplinary and geographical boundaries not only now but also in the future. Will you join us in this commitment?

Your work lives on in the next generation of scholars, and SBL helps extend your legacy and contribution. With this in mind, please consider joining SBL's Legacy Makers, a planned giving guild of SBL, by leaving a portion of your estate or assets to SBL's ongoing mission. Regardless of your current capacity to give to the SBL, joining the Legacy Makers is a way to make a contribution to the organization as part of your estate planning, enabling you to support future generations of biblical scholars, teachers, and researchers—and contribute as well to the public understanding of religious and culturally central texts as well as their traditions and receptions.

SBL has been your intellectual hub for many years, a community of people among whom you developed your scholarship, advanced in your career, and established lasting friendships. Given your importance to the SBL and SBL's importance to you, we hope you will become part of SBL's future.

To learn more about Legacy Makers and how you can participate, see <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/legacymaker.aspx>.

**As SBL grows toward a significant milestone,
please help secure the path by joining SBL's Legacy Makers.**

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SBL MISSION AND STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENTS

During 2022, members of the SBL Council (SBL's Board of Directors) approved a revision to the Society's Mission Statement and Strategic Vision Statement.

Mission Statement:

Foster Academic Scholarship in biblical studies and cognate areas across global boundaries

Strategic Vision Statement:

Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines. As an international organization, the Society offers its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development by:

- ♦ Advancing the academic study of biblical texts and their contexts, of interpretation of the Bibles and their many traditions and contexts, as well as comparative studies that focus on other culturally-central texts
- ♦ Promoting broad, open academic cooperation and critical perspectives within and among fields of study and across global boundaries
- ♦ Collaborating with relevant educational institutions, including colleges, universities, and institutions of theological and religious education, as well as other appropriate organizations, to support academic biblical scholarship and teaching
- ♦ Facilitating the production and dissemination of new knowledge in the relevant areas by, e.g., organizing scholarly conferences, webinars, and publishing scholarship in print and online
- ♦ Developing resources for diverse audiences in multiple languages, including students and general publics across global boundaries

Core Values:

Inclusivity	Transparency
Equity	Accountability
Diversity	Critical Inquiry
Scholarly Integrity	Openness to Change

2022 Council Members

Christian Brady	Jeremy Punt
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder	Chris A. Rollston
Kristin De Troyer	Dalit Rom-Shiloni
Musa Dube, Vice President	Tammi Schneider, Secretary
Tat-siong Benny Liew, Chair	C. L. Seow
Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon	Adela Yarbrow Collins, President
Laura S. Nasrallah	John F. Kutsko, Executive Director (ex officio)
Hugh Rowland Page Jr.	

The Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society's membership comprises over 7,000 members who represent 94 countries. With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, SBL has been supporting scholarly research and fostering the public understanding of the Bible and its influence since 1880. The Society offers a number of resources that aid in the accomplishment of SBL's mission. Resources include publication opportunities with SBL Press, access to webinars and fonts, and the ability to find job opportunities via the Employment Services website. SBL also generates annual reports such as the Jobs Report, the Member Profile Report, and the Society Report to provide members with statistics concerning SBL membership and the demographics of the guild. Some major categories of member benefits include:



Meetings

SBL offers its members and affiliates space for networking and scholarly ideation through a system of dynamic meetings. These congresses are purposed to satisfy the varying needs of Society members. The Global Virtual Meeting provides opportunities for scholars across the world to share cutting-edge research, engage in professional development, and connect with members far and wide in the context of an all-digital platform. The International Meeting highlights the increasingly global nature of biblical studies and showcases the particular contributions of its host institution. The Annual Meeting gives members the chance to participate in the largest gathering of scholars in the guild, with over 1,200 academic sessions and an exhibit hall with one of the world's largest collection of books in biblical studies. Through SBL congresses, members can remain current with prevalent approaches to biblical texts and develop relationships with scholars in their research area(s).

Awards

The Society offers yearly opportunities to apply for or receive nominations for awards that honor accomplishments and/or support research and development.

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award
- ◆ The Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee's Outstanding Mentor Award
- ◆ Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment
- ◆ The Richards Award for Public Scholarship
- ◆ The Daniel Tran Foskett Hudgins Memorial Student Travel Award
- ◆ International Travel Award

ABOUT THE SBL

Publications

The Society publishes a variety of resources that impact the guild. SBL Press invites members to submit proposals for books or the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the flagship journal in biblical studies. SBL members have online access to the entire history of *JBL* articles as a part of their membership. Members can likewise access all of the reviews published in the *Review of Biblical Literature* and volunteer to write reviews of recently published books. SBL also sponsors the open-access journal *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*. Another resource of SBL Press, the Bible Odyssey website, provides resources for the public's understanding of biblical studies and resources for teaching biblical studies in secondary and undergraduate settings. For members in underresourced countries, SBL's website provides access to a large number of full-text books, including many SBL Press titles, via the International Cooperation Initiative books page.

SBL Central

SBL Central is a resource hub developed to increase both the discoverability and accessibility of writings for scholars across the globe, including unaffiliated researchers and adjunct faculty. SBL members can access electronic entries of the *Review of Biblical Literature* on SBL Central. SBL Central also hosts abstracts for Annual Meeting presentations and even full-text papers for presenters who wish to share them. Finally, SBL Central offers members book publication alerts in their areas of interest and article notifications when participating journals publish a new issue.

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. 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.



MUSA DUBE, 2023 PRESIDENT OF THE SBL

Year after year, the Society is fortunate to have over a thousand SBL members volunteer to serve on committees, program units, editorial boards, and Council. SBL members vary in race/ethnicity, gender/sexuality, nationality, age, profession, and geographical locale. The Society has worked to ensure that the diversity that is SBL is well represented in the Society's governance, committees, panels, and initiatives. We are thrilled to see progress in this endeavor through the election of Musa Dube as the 2023 President of SBL. As the first African president from the African continent, Musa Dube plays an important role in the Society's history. Dube's election also comes at a remarkable moment in the history of the SBL International Meeting. The 2023 International Meeting will be held at the University of Pretoria (South Africa). This is the first meeting the Society has held on the continent of Africa in over twenty years.

Society members, meet Musa Dube, the 2023 President of the SBL.

Musa Dube is a feminist postcolonial scholar from Botswana. She serves as the William Ragsdale Cannon Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the Candler School of Theology (Emory University). Prior to her appointment at the Candler School of Theology, Dube was Professor of New Testament in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Botswana.

Musa Dube's Journey to Biblical Studies

Musa Dube's journey to biblical studies began at home with her mother. There were two big books in her home, the Bible and *Das Kapital*: the Bible was read by her mother, *Das Kapital* by her brother. Her mother,



brother, and sister played an unexpected role in her studies. Her mother's consistent Bible reading ignited Dube's interest in reading biblical texts and growing her faith, her sister's involvement in the Student Christian Movement in high school led to Dube's active participation in the organization, and her older brother's mobilization of students in the fight against economic disparity using *Das Kapital* forced her to reconcile societal realities with Christian understandings of biblical texts. She matriculated high school when several African countries were seeking independence from the nations that colonized them. This, along with her exposure to *Das Kapital*, resulted in questions concerning her ability to believe in a book she inherited from colonizers. In Dube's words, these early exposures "forced me to read the Bible within the major global strata that have shaped our world. I was forced to really realize that this book was part of those global movements of exploitation and suppression of the other."

Dube enrolled in Bible and theology courses as an undergraduate student to improve her faith. She was astonished at the inconsistency between what she was learning in school and what was taught at church. As she excelled in more classes, she was approached by the institution to join a training program for promising students. This fellows program subsidized her training as a biblical scholar and offered the ability to teach at the University of Botswana. Dube attended the University of Durham and Vanderbilt University for graduate school. As a graduate student, she was exposed to the issue of Bible and gender and decided to produce scholarship that considered the Bible and its treatment of gender and colonialism. Dube longed to understand how the colonized could find comfort in the tools and philosophies of their colonizers. She confronted her studies with the following questions:

- ◆ Why and how is "this book, a holy book," responsible for desensitizing the colonized?
- ◆ How are interpretations of biblical texts active in prohibiting critique of the Bible from Bible readers (pastors, missionaries, etc.)? Why has this been a "no-go area" from the start?

- ◆ Why didn't this book provide sufficient ethical paradigms to provide Bible readers with a prophetic eye?
- ◆ Does the problem lie with the reader, the text, or both?

This pursuit has immensely shaped Musa Dube as a scholar as she approaches the Bible as a Black, African woman who was colonized through the Bible.

Dube's Professional Work

Dube served as an instructor at the University of Botswana for over thirty years. The HIV/AIDS epidemic and its severe impact on Africa and its people led Dube to shift gears in her scholarship. She took a temporary leave of absence to work as a consultant for the World Council of Churches, where she trained Christian leaders in Africa and internationally how to read the Bible to better care for persons impacted by the HIV/AIDS crisis. She wrote extensively on the topic and worked with organizations such as the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians to publish works that amplify the voices of African women through yearly conferences and extensive publication. Such organizations are heavily responsible for the large number of African scholarship on biblical, religious, and/or theological perspectives and the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Musa moved to the United States in 2021 to serve as professor at the Candler School of Theology. At Candler, Dube infuses her culture and scholarly approach in courses such as Bible and Postcolonial Studies, Bible and Translation, Bible and Health, and Bible in the Global South. Dube sees great potential in exposing students to the scholars and scholarship of the Global South. Scholars in the Global South produce scholarship that is deeply connected to the economic, cultural, and social milieu of the world(s) to which they are exposed. The large number of African scholars who publish concerning the HIV/AIDS epidemic is one example of this. When HIV/AIDS became an epidemic that deeply affected the continent of Africa, African scholars in various fields shifted their focus to understanding HIV/AIDS and gaining knowledge of how to live and learn through it. Dube believes that biblical scholars have the opportunity to do the same with COVID-19. By studying how religious leaders are responding to COVID-19, in addition to the types of bodies that have greater susceptibility to the virus and less access to resources, biblical scholars can engage in new approaches to reading biblical texts and offer implementation methods that would best care for the marginalized. Dube's Bible and the Global South and Bible and Health courses expose students to this dynamic. It is her hope that the heightened exposure to scholarship of this nature will produce work that is more field-based and less distant from readers' lived experience and their use of biblical texts.

Musa Dube identifies as a feminist postcolonial scholar. As an African, female scholar who is a decolonist, she finds herself unable to focus on a singular text or corpus. She works to "produce or come up with methods that decolonize biblical studies and its methods of reading and asking questions." She does this with the constant reminder that the Bible came to her, a woman of Africa, "as an instrument of colonialism. It comes as an instrument that baptizes and functions as a tool of suppression of African culture." As a result, she has found herself studying various aspects of African culture such as storytelling, divination, and the image of the trickster. She is interested in how people use the knowledge of those cultural aspects to produce knowledge and interpret life. She studies these narratives as a paradigm for reading biblical texts. Her work also reads the African "collection of knowledge together with the Bible." In thinking about her approach to scholarship, Dube explains,

I do not do this work considering the Bible as superior or above the knowledge collected from African heritage; rather, I approach this as someone who is standing between both of these worlds and living through and with the biblical and the active worlds and as one who would resist, deliberately and intentionally, the idea that I should give the Bible more priority over my culture. In other words, my scholarship as a decolonizing scholarship does not allow my approach to give the Bible priority over other cultures, although I know for sure, that is how it's functioned, that is how it has come to us.

Musa Dube's Goals for the Society

Musa Dube was surprised to hear of her consideration for the SBL presidency. She credits the work of minoritized scholars who have worked since the 1990s "to expand the



boundaries and change the color and culture of biblical studies.” Examples of these scholars include Vincent Wimbush, Fernando Segovia, and R. S. Sugirtharajah. Dube reminisces a time when scholars of the Global South met in an Annual Meeting program unit that focused on the Bible in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The work of these scholars resulted in the expansion and creation of new program units that focus on biblical interpretation in these regions individually. While we have a ways to go, Dube shows great appreciation for the changes that have occurred in the past twenty years. She sees her presidency as a part of this movement. Over the past ten years, there has been great diversity in the election of SBL presidents. Women and persons of color have been better represented. This is not an individual achievement but the work of a movement, a movement Dube has been a part of since undergraduate studies. She acknowledges the difficulty minoritized scholars have when approaching biblical studies as a profession. The Eurocentric language requirements, for example, have created difficulties for prospective scholars in the Global South. Many of these scholars would be more effective as scholars in their regions by studying the languages of the worlds around them. She sees the maintenance of these language requirements as a method of colonizing the field of biblical studies.

When asked about what she envisions for the future of the Society, Dube discussed the more Western underpinnings of the organization. Dube envisions a Society that is more international in its inception, content, and meeting locations. While the International Meeting will meet for the second time since its conception in the continent of Africa, Dube acknowledged that both African meetings were set in South Africa; she would love to see a meeting in other parts of Africa, as well as continents that are less represented.

Congratulations, President Dube. The Society is fortunate to have you!

CELEBRATING JOHN F. KUTSKO’S LEADERSHIP

On the evening of Sunday, 20 November 2022, SBL leaders, members, friends, and staff crowded into Room 601 at the Denver Convention Center to celebrate twelve-plus years of John F. Kutsko’s leadership of the Society. The celebration was, to be sure, a little bittersweet, as everyone’s best wishes for John as the new Executive Director of Atla were tinged with a hint of sadness that their gain came at our expense. Those present, as well as those reading this, can take solace in the fact that, although John will no longer be an official colleague, he will remain a strong supporter and a close friend.

John was well prepared when he assumed the role of SBL Executive Director on 1 July 2010. He held an MA from the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan and a PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University. During his time as a student he gained publishing experience as a member of the team that produced the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, which laid the foundation for his work first with Hendrickson Publishers and then with Abingdon Press/United Methodist Publishing House, the latter as Associate Publisher. Beyond that, in 2010 John had been an SBL member for well over two decades, so he knew the Society well.

Considering his credentials and his commitment to academic biblical studies, it is no surprise that, during his twelve-plus years, John touched and transformed every aspect of the Society. We offer the following as a representative, but by no means comprehensive, recounting of some of the highlights of his tenure as SBL Executive Director. John would be quick to argue that credit for all of these accomplishments must be shared with the volunteer and professional colleagues who worked alongside him. True enough. Still, none of these developments would have taken place without the leadership, encouragement, and support that John offered along the way.



We begin where John's planning priorities typically started: with SBL's members. Early on John established the practice of cold-calling an SBL member every Friday; he wanted to hear firsthand what challenges that member was facing and how SBL could do better in meeting those needs. An example of the same concern on a broader scale was the shift in 2016 from a fixed membership rate to an income-based rate; as a result, 54 percent of members paid less for their SBL membership than they had before. John also championed the creation of an annual jobs report that informs members about trends in today's increasingly challenging job market. In addition, he negotiated access to important resources for members to use in their own scholarship, such as electronic versions of the German Bible Society's editions of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin biblical texts. Most recently and most notably, John managed the development of SBL Central, the Society's 24/7/365 book exhibit hall, bibliographic research tool, host for *RBL* reviews and assorted conference papers, and personalized alert service of new book and journal publications.

John's tenure also saw positive developments with respect to SBL's governance. For example, a number of key policies and procedures were proposed to and approved by Council, including Procedures for Requesting Governance and Policy Changes; Professional Conduct Policy and Investigation Procedures; Role of the Society in Making Public Statements; Policy on Scholarly Presentation and Publication of Ancient Artifacts; Policy on Academic Freedom, Critical Inquiry, and Participation in the Society of Biblical Literature; and a Statement on Academic Boycotts. In addition, key committees were also formed during this time, including the Students in the Profession Committee and the Committee for LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship. Finally, after extensive discussion, in 2022 Council approved an update of and revision to the Society's Mission Statement and Strategic Vision Statement.

John showed the same leadership with Society finances as he did with governance. This can be observed in several ways. First, SBL finished in the black (with revenue greater than expenses) eleven out of the twelve years he led SBL; the only shortfall was produced by a sharp decline in investments due to market losses. Second, net assets (the net worth of SBL) increased \$6,052,160 during his tenure, an average of over half a million a year. The majority of this was due to John's shifting of SBL's investments from gas and oil stocks to a diversified portfolio, which led to an increase of \$4.1 million. Third, John personally raised over half a million dollars from individual and institutional funders; these contributions enabled SBL to develop and enhance products such as Bible Odyssey and to offer funding and awards to individual members. Finally, John also put his negotiating skills to good use in striking beneficial deals with the NCC for consulting and revision of the NRSV and with HarperOne for the creation of the *SBL Study Bible*. Thanks to John's leadership, SBL's financial position has never been stronger or more stable.

John's steady leadership was most in evidence during the challenges posed by a worldwide pandemic. John is fond of saying that the *raison d'être* of a learned society are to convene, credential, and connect. While that was true well before the pandemic, the challenges of a rapidly changing world meant that a renewed focus on those key goals was more important than ever. SBL's Annual and International Meetings had to adopt new models and assume new shapes, presenting both challenges and opportunities in the process. Throughout those changes, John was always keen to ensure that the underlying values and motivations driving the meetings focused on those clear goals of providing services and opportunities for members. Beyond that, he put what was learned in meeting these new challenges to good use in serving other Society needs. Thus, in addition to an entirely virtual Annual Meeting in 2020, SBL organized the #BlackScholarsMatter online symposium and several webinars addressing timely topics. John was likewise instrumental in the development of the Global Virtual Meeting that will be launched later this year.

John's leadership was as much in evidence with SBL Press as it was with Congresses. Under his guidance SBL Press expanded the number of its book series in order to broaden its coverage of relevant subdisciplines and emerging methodologies. In response to developments within the field, *JBL* underwent a similar expansion of its content and approaches. John's impact on Press was most evident, however, in the big projects that he negotiated, planned, managed, and encouraged. For example, he supported and contributed to the publication of the second edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style*; this was only fitting, since he was one of the editors of the first edition. In addition, he played an indispensable role in SBL Press's review and revision of the NRSV, as well as the development and production of the *SBL Study Bible*. Finally,



it was under John's management that Bible Odyssey and SBL Central were brought under the SBL Press umbrella, so that all SBL publishing-related activities are coordinated in an effective manner.

Lest anyone mistakenly think that John's focus was only on the Society's internal dynamics—members, governance, finances, meetings, publications—we end this retrospective by rehearsing several of the relationships he developed with, and contributions he made to, those outside of the SBL. Early in his tenure he secured funding to explore the formation of an independent learned society for scholars of the Qur'an; as a result of John's efforts and collaboration with scholars outside the SBL, the International Qur'anic Studies Association came into being. In 2017 and 2018 John also negotiated with the leadership of the American Academy of Religion a Joint Venture Agreement that sets the terms for SBL and AAR's joint Annual Meetings for years to come. Finally, John was also an active participant in the American Council of Learned Societies, even serving on its board and executive council. This led to many professional connections for staff, opportunities for members in areas such as career exploration, and ways for SBL to lead in advocating for the importance of the humanities and higher education.

Much more could be written about John's service as SBL Executive Director, but he is no doubt already sufficiently embarrassed by this record of his accomplishments, so we will bring this to a close. Thank you, John, for strengthening our Society and enriching our lives over the past twelve-plus years. We will ever be in your debt.

KRISTA DALTON: RECIPIENT OF THE RICHARDS AWARD FOR PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

For over a decade, the Society has been dedicated to producing resources that inform and educate the general public. The Society's public-facing resource, Bible Odyssey, for example, publishes short articles, videos, maps, and other resources to inform the general public about the content of the Bible and its diverse interpretations. SBL's Educational Resources and Review Committee is another example of this work. The Educational Resources and Review Committee develops curriculum that assists secondary instructors and administrators in teaching critical approaches to religion and sacred texts. The Richards Award for Public Scholarship aims to continue this important work by honoring SBL members who have demonstrated excellence in public scholarship.

SBL members, meet the first recipient of the Richards Award for Public Scholarship: Krista Dalton (see also the announcement on page 19).

Dalton is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Kenyon College, where she teaches Judaism in all space and time. She received her PhD in Religion in 2019 from Columbia University, with specializations in ancient Judaism and rabbinic literature. Her journey to the study of Judaism and rabbinic literature is great support for continuous diversification of the field of biblical studies. Dalton began undergraduate studies with a desire to be a secondary-school history teacher. The trajectory of her life shifted after attending a regional SBL meeting as an undergraduate student. She saw Jody Magness give a talk on the legends of the ossuary of Jesus and admired Magness's command of both the material and the room. She was later offered a teaching assistantship at Missouri State University, where she was mentored by Julia Watts Belser. This led to a change in concentration from Hebrew Bible to rabbinic literature. After receiving a master's degree from Missouri State University, Dalton deepened her understanding of rabbinic literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and later matriculated to Columbia University's doctoral program in Religion, where she studied with Beth Berkowitz.

During her time at Columbia University, Dalton cofounded the digital journal *Ancient Jew Review* (AJR) with Simcha Gross and Nathan Schumer. *Ancient Jew Review's* conception began in a graduate seminar on rabbis as historians with Seth Schwartz. Dalton, Gross, and Schumer were frustrated that discussions of the

DANIEL TRAN FOSKETT HUDGINS MEMORIAL STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

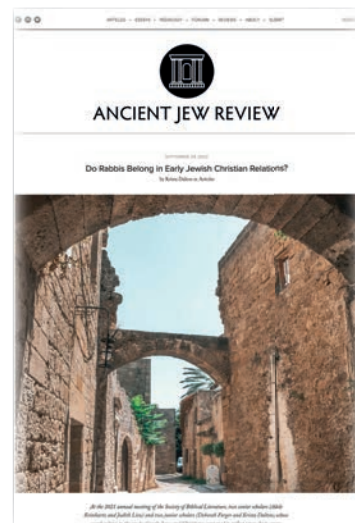
ancient world often included Jews as only a footnote, if at all. They wanted to see scholars of the ancient world think about Jews as an integral part of late antiquity. Through the founding of *Ancient Jew Review*, they aimed to produce a web journal that focused on ancient Jews and their neighbors and sought to bring a diverse body of voices and scholarship to a common platform. *AJR* won two grants from the American Academy for Jewish Research to fund the website and shipment of books. *Ancient Jew Review* has become a leading public-facing digital journal, publishing pedagogy resources, book reviews, dissertation spotlights, original essays, and more. The site also offers graduate students and junior scholars an opportunity to publish and be mentored by senior scholars. In 2024, *Ancient Jew Review* will celebrate its ten-year anniversary: ten years of publishing over one hundred submissions a year. This is a feat that points to the remarkable effect this digital journal has had in the guild.

When asked about the effectiveness of and need for public-facing work, Dalton remarked,

One of the things I've found remarkable about *Ancient Jew Review* is how widely your work can be read. I have written and published articles that have been read by just a handful of people or a few friends. But I just wrote a piece that was actually an SBL talk from a year ago entitled, "Do the Rabbis Belong in the Study of Early Jewish Christian Relations," and it's been read by over two thousand people in just one month, which is not a New York's bestseller by any means, but it's certainly more than anything I've ever published academically. It's also a piece that mattered to me. I think what's really remarkable about public scholarship is it makes you think about how to make your research relevant, timely, and persuasive in a way that is not always imperative in our traditional publications. I also think it changes the tone of writing. I write better when I'm writing with my students in mind, and I'm writing for the kind of interested person who may not have spent years and years in academia. I think it changes your voice, and that voice is refreshing and compelling.

Dalton also discussed the creativity that is at work when scholars consider the public. In a forthcoming article, for example, she compares Anthony Fauci's senate hearings with Senator Rand Paul to a story in the Talmud featuring a rabbi who has contentious dinner with a wealthy Jew. In both instances, there is a rejection of the expert and a demonstration that "expertise requires a social relationship. The rabbis and Fauci must be in positions of persuasion." This for Dalton is a reminder of the "kind of work we can do when we're public facing because we have to think creatively and expansively about how our work is relevant beyond our localized concerns."

Dalton and her impactful work with *Ancient Jew Review* is an example of the impact scholarship can have when made accessible to the public. Congratulations, Krista Dalton, on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for your excellent work in public scholarship!



DANIEL TRAN FOSKETT HUDGINS MEMORIAL STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

In 2022, the Society launched a travel award in memory of Daniel Tran Foskett Hudgins, the son of SBL member Mary Foskett and Scott Hudgins. Daniel was known to be honest and compassionate. He loved travel, the outdoors, design, cars, and performing acts of kindness and service to others. Daniel was born in Vietnam, where his parents adopted him. He accompanied his mother to his first SBL meeting when he was just eight months old. Attending more SBL meetings through the years, he enjoyed forming friendships with some of his parents' colleagues.

Daniel loved to serve. His Eagle Scout project supporting the Music and Memory program for older people with Alzheimer's disease, church-related volunteer opportunities, and his work in the Volunteers program at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital were especially meaningful. Daniel went on to become a certified nursing assistant right after graduating from high school, working in nursing homes over the summers and choosing to study nursing at Mars Hill University. He took on the less glamorous work that nursing assistants do without complaint because such work allowed him to "give people some of their dignity back."



In late 2021, Daniel was diagnosed with cancer and soon began treatment. On 1 March 2022, Daniel died at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. At the time of his death, he was a twenty-one-year-old senior at Mars Hill University. Daniel loved and was loved by all who met him. In his short life, Daniel made an indelible mark in the lives of his family, friends, and church community. His light will continue to shine through the Daniel Tran Foskett Hudgins Memorial Student Travel Award. His parents are very grateful for this award. Mary Foskett said,

It's hard to express how much the travel award means to us. I've told people that the most powerful thing you can do for parents who lost children is let them know that their lives had an impact and that they will be remembered. It's the most important, the most meaningful thing, and this award provides us that. We're just deeply, deeply moved and deeply thankful.

We celebrate Daniel's life and express thanks to Mary Foskett and Scott Hudgins for their willingness to share with us aspects of Daniel's life.

Award Description

The Daniel Tran Foskett Hudgins Memorial Student Travel Award will support a graduate student of Asian ancestry participating in a workshop or session at the Annual Meeting. The recipient will receive \$1,200 to cover the costs of travel, lodging, and food. The selected student will also receive complimentary registration for the meeting. While the Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium aided in the establishment of this award, we encourage Society members to continue the work of this award by offering a donation. Members can donate while renewing their SBL membership or by visiting the donation page on the SBL website.

WABASH CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGION GRANT

With a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, we are able to run a series of workshops from 2022 through 2025 under the theme, "Teaching the Bible in These Times." The aim of these workshops is to encourage SBL members to reflect and to become intentional in tailoring their teaching of the Bible to address the needs of our current times.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have often heard that we are living in "unprecedented" times. Unprecedented or not, we are living in times of much uncertainty and anxiety. COVID-19 has brought about many changes, including how teaching and learning is conducted.

In addition to the uncertainty, anxiety, and a sense of fragility, our current times are characterized by (1) a heightened awareness of the no-longer-deniable reality of racism, racial tension, and political polarization; (2) questions of accessibility and technology because of not only individual and public health concerns but also ableism; (3) a dramatic and ironic increase in both biblical literacy and biblical idolatry; and (4) doubts about the value of higher education and hence the sustainability of many schools. Just as faculty must adjust their pedagogy because of COVID-19, we need to ask how biblical scholars should teach the Bible in light of these realities of our times.

Three of these workshops will begin with a day-long meeting on the Friday before the SBL Annual Meeting. After each pre-Annual Meeting workshop session, there will also be three online meetings to continue the conversation and to see how participants are putting into practice and refining their thoughts on the topic in question.

We have learned from the pandemic and from economic realities that not everyone can attend our Annual Meeting. The fourth workshop will, therefore, be entirely online. This workshop will meet online for six to eight sessions; each session will run between 90 and 120 minutes.

In 2022, the theme of the workshop was “Teaching the Bible with BLM and Other Social Protests and Movements.” The focus was to learn how biblical scholars can teach biblical studies in ways that are not only relevant to what is going on in society but also in the direction of justice. It was led by Kimberly Russaw (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) and Eric Barreto (Princeton Theological Seminary). “I am always unsettled, fascinated, and encouraged by the magic that occurs in the teaching moment. Regardless of how much thinking, planning, and practicing we do before class, there is always a chance our plans will fall flat. There is always risk,” states Russaw. “The idea of SBL and Wabash gathering colleagues to think and act critically around teaching in the age of social movements is a risky proposition, indeed.”

From over ninety applications, the following participants were selected for the workshop:

- ◆ Shola Adegbite, Union Theological Seminary, USA
- ◆ Lori Baron, St. Louis University, USA
- ◆ Esther Brownsmith, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Norway
- ◆ Jennifer Carner, Christian Theological Seminary, USA
- ◆ Valerie Hamilton, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- ◆ Eric Jarrard, Wellesley College, USA
- ◆ Brian Yong Lee, Loyola University Chicago, USA
- ◆ Eunny Lee, Azusa Pacific University, USA
- ◆ Luis Menéndez-Antuña, Boston University School of Theology, USA
- ◆ Chan Sok Park, College of Wooster, USA
- ◆ Justin Reed, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, USA
- ◆ Shayna Sheinfeld, Augsburg University, USA
- ◆ Jeremy Williams, Brite Divinity School, USA
- ◆ Aaron Woods, Asbury Theological Seminary, USA

On the first day in Denver, the workshop focused on three questions. In terms of the “who” question, leaders and participants introduced themselves to one another by sharing a bit of their personal stories, particularly how they became involved in or concerned about social movements for justice. As a way to know the people and the concerns that were present “in the room,” they also looked at and discussed a “word cloud” that was generated from participants’ application statements to the workshop. In terms of “why,” participants were given the choice either (1) to work on a “social justice manifesto for the biblical studies classroom” in terms of why this kind of teaching is important and to what teachers and students are committing themselves in this kind of teaching and learning or (2) to create a storyboard that narrates graphically a “successful experience” in teaching the Bible for racial/ethnic justice. Given the theme regarding “these times,” participants formed two new groups—one that primarily teaches undergraduates and another that mainly works with seminarians and graduate students—to answer the “when” question by making two lists: (1) “major” events or phenomena that have taken place during their lifetimes; and (2) in light of these events or phenomena, issues and feelings that students might be bringing with them into the classroom.



Commenting on her experience after this day-long workshop, Russaw says, “The inaugural session of the workshop exceeded my expectations. My colleagues took the ideas we developed and worked together to turn them into something we could not have imagined. I am looking forward to continuing this work via virtual sessions next year and am even more excited to see where our work takes our classrooms and institutions in the coming years.” This sentiment is echoed by Jeremy Williams, a workshop participant who is currently an assistant professor: “The workshop facilitated meaning-

ful discussions around making biblical studies and theological education relevant in a swiftly changing world. We began important conversations about enhancing pedagogy, engaging social justice, confronting white supremacy, and fostering critical thinking.



I look forward to the next sessions and how they will challenge me as a teacher and scholar.” For Valerie Hamilton, a doctoral student participant, “the highlight of the workshop was learning from other participants who are ‘further down the road’ in their development on integrating contemporary issues of justice into their courses. Specific methodologies and lesson ideas were shared that I can’t wait to implement in my classes in the future. It was such an encouragement to be surrounded by people who are doing inspiring advocacy work both in and outside their classrooms.”

Participants of the workshop are now working on a document to share teaching tools and resources.

They will gather online again early in 2023 to talk about the “what,” namely, participants’ institutional contexts and communities of accountability as they relate to the discipline of biblical studies.

In 2023, with the theme “Teaching the Bible to Multiple Publics,” the second annual workshop will focus on the fact that not all teaching of the Bible is done in a seminary or college/university classroom. Attention will be paid to nonacademic audiences (such as local faith communities) and other settings that are outside of a traditional educational context (such as writing blogs or op-ed pieces). This workshop will be led by Renita Weems (Cathedral of Hope) and Greg Carey (Lancaster Theological Seminary).

Also in 2023, an online workshop on “Teaching the Bible during and after COVID-19” will focus on teaching the Bible not only with technology but also with disabilities studies and healthcare concerns (including how to work with students with accessibility challenges). Candace Buckner (Virginia Tech) and David Schones (Austin College) will lead this workshop.

“Teaching the Bible in an Age of Interdisciplinarity and Uncertainty” will be the theme for 2024. It will focus on how scholars not trained in biblical studies may need to teach the Bible while those who are trained in Bible might need to teach other subjects, particularly because of many schools’ shrinking budgets. It will be led by Jacqueline Hidalgo (Williams College) and Uriah Kim (Graduate Theological Union).

“I’m so grateful that SBL and Wabash have partnered in this critical endeavor,” Barreto remarked after the workshop session in Denver. “In a moment of intersecting challenges for higher education and society at large, the opportunity to reflect in community about how our teaching touches upon—and might even help shape—movements for social justice is such a gift.

I hope the results of this work will reverberate in classrooms across the nations and in the communities students will lead.”

We are grateful to the Wabash Center for the funding support and for the work of our members in these workshops as leaders and participants.



2022 International Meeting

After two years of absence due to the pandemic, 2022 saw the return of the International Meeting. The 2022 International Meeting, held in Salzburg, Austria, 17–21 July, was attended by 800 scholars from around the world. Just under 700 presentations took place in 150 sessions, including a particularly robust offering of sessions organized by the local planning committee. A new feature this year was the beginning of an initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation to bring together scholars of various disciplines around the idea of broadly examining how and why sacred texts are studied. This first year of the initiative brought five hybrid sessions that allowed a mix on onsite and remote participation. Thanks are due to our hosts at the Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg, in particular the faculty of Catholic Theology. Special thanks go to Kristin De Troyer, who worked tirelessly to make the meeting an enormous success.



2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting took place in Denver, Colorado from 18 to 22 November. The program included 431 SBL sessions, plus another 69 hosted by SBL affiliates, putting the total number of sessions quite close to the last Annual Meeting in Denver, in 2018. Nearly 1,800 SBL members participated in a variety of ways, including reading papers, sitting on panels, and presiding over sessions. The exhibit hall likewise returned nearly to its prepandemic form in terms of the number of exhibitors and booths on display.



2022 Regional Meetings

In 2022, ten regions held a mix of virtual and in-person meetings throughout North America. As locally organized meetings, the regions have provided a unique space for SBL members to gather, share their work, and network with scholars in the area. Growing out of grassroots movements to hold conferences

throughout the United States and Canada, the meetings have long been an important part of how SBL has connected members from graduate students through retired scholars. In May of 2022, Council announced that the 2022 cycle would be the last year of the eleven formal regions. The Society is deeply grateful for the work of these regions, particularly the volunteers who have seen to their success for so long.

New Global Virtual Meeting for 2023

May 2022 saw the announcement of a new SBL initiative set to launch in 2023, the Global Virtual Meeting. As a meeting designed from the ground up for a virtual environment, it can offer experiences, opportunities, mentoring possibilities, presentation formats, and accessibility that are not possible in an in-person meeting. This new meeting will make every attempt to avoid obstacles to participation, with an emphasis on having live session times available for all parts of the world as well as opportunities for asynchronous participation, rather than sessions being restricted to the time zones of North America. The meeting will also leverage technology to provide more accessibility for more members.



Seminar Papers Archive Now Online

Each November from 1971 through 2003 the Society of Biblical Literature published a collection of papers that would be presented in the sessions (or seminars) at that year's Annual Meeting; the SBL Seminar Papers. The contents of the collection were determined not by theme or topic but by which papers were submitted to SBL early enough to be assembled into a volume and printed for distribution at the Annual Meeting. Although the Seminar Papers explicitly identified their contents as "working documents" or "experimental and initial work on a subject," many continue to be cited in scholarly work today—that is, when one can locate a library that owns them. All forty-one volumes can now be accessed as a part of the [SBL Archive](#), itself a part of the Pitts Theology Library Digital Collections. The Society wishes to thank Pitts Head of Special Collections and SBL Archivist Brandon Wason, Director of Pitts Theology Library Richard (Bo) Manly Adams Jr., and all other Pitts personnel who assisted with the scanning and online posting of the Seminar Papers.

SBL AWARDS

The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award

Efraín Agosto is Croghan Bicentennial Professor in Biblical and Early Christian Studies at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. A Puerto Rican born and raised in New York City, Efraín has degrees from Columbia University (BA), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Boston University (PhD). Besides a number of essays and book chapters, he has published four books, including *Servant Leadership: Jesus and Paul* (2005) and a coedited volume with Jacqueline Hidalgo, *Latinxs, the Bible and Migration* (2018). His current research includes a book on ministry issues in the Pauline letters; a commentary on 1 Corinthians, and comparative studies in Paul and the "apostle of Puerto Rican independence," Pedro Albizu Campos. He has served on the SBL Council, including three years as chair, and was a Mentor and Steering Committee Member for the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, an Indian national, is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies at the Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity in Melbourne, Australia. She is grateful for the opportunity to facilitate the learning and growth of her students and is indebted to the many who have partnered with her and enabled her own formation as a theological educator. Her publications have focused primarily on interpretations of Hebrew Bible texts from the perspective of the Indian context and the marginalized, adopting an approach that is critical, contextual, interdisciplinary, intersectional, and liberative. She draws on insights derived from the lived experiences and social biographies of the marginalized, particularly women and Dalits, to interpret the biblical text. Her most recent works include the coedited volumes, *Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender and Violence* (2021) and *Bible Blindspots: Dispersion and Othering* (2021)

The 2022 Status of Women in the Profession Mentor Award

Felicity Harley-McGowan is an art historian whose work centers on the origins and development of Christian iconography within the visual culture of Roman late antiquity. She has held research fellowships at the Warburg Institute, University of London, and the British School at Rome; before joining the faculty at Yale Divinity School, she was the Gerry Higgins Lecturer in Medieval Art History at the University of Melbourne. Felicity has a strong interest in the receptions of ancient art, including the histories of collecting, and objects inspire her teaching practice as well as research. Her publications have been focused on portable

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objects, including engraved gems, graffiti, and amulets, and on iconographic traditions, including depictions of suicide, the passion, and the Salvator Mundi. Her ongoing research focus is the representation of violence, and she is currently preparing a book on the earliest images of crucifixion (ca. 200–600 CE).

Hindy Najman is the Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford. She is also the director and founder of the Centre for the Study of the Bible. Her research interests encompass composition and author function; construction and imitation of biblical figures; practices of pseudepigraphy and pseudonymous attribution; revelation, divine encounter, and prophecy; idealized sage and perfectionism; philology and philological practices; diaspora and exile; authority and tradition; allegorical interpretation and midrash; destruction and recovery; collection and canon; the history of biblical interpretation; and scholarly practices of reading the Bible and biblical traditions. Her publications include *Losing the Temple and Recovering the Future: An Analysis of 4 Ezra* (2014), *Past Renewals: Interpretive Authority, Renewed Revelation and the Quest for Perfection* (2010), *Seconding Sinai: The Development of Mosaic Discourse in Second Temple Judaism* (2003), and a recent essay entitled “Ethical Reading: The Transformation of Text and Self.” She is currently completing a new book entitled *Reading Practices and the Vitality of Scripture*.

Jacqueline Vayntrub is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Yale University in the Divinity School, with appointments in Religious Studies and Judaic Studies. She was educated at the University of Chicago, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and UCLA. She is the author of *Beyond Orality: Biblical Poetry on its Own Terms* (2019) and numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Vetus Testamentum*, and *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*, as well as in edited collections. She serves as an editor of the Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies series (T&T Clark), the Studies in Cultural Contexts of the Bible series (Brill), and *Metatron*, a new peer-reviewed open-access journal, and as an associate editor of the International Critical Commentary series (T&T Clark). She also runs



Efraín Agosto



Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon



Felicity Harley-McGowan



Hindy Najman



Jacqueline Vayntrub

Renewed Philology, an international working group of scholars in biblical studies whose work reflects critically on the intellectual frameworks brought to bear on philological practice.

A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg serves as an assistant professor of Judaic Studies at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She studies the reception history of the Hebrew Bible in late antique and medieval Jewish circles. Her first book, *The Closed Book: How the Rabbis Taught the Jews (Not) To Read the Bible*, will be published by Princeton University Press in the spring of 2023.

Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment

Clarissa Breu (PhD, Vienna 2019) is postdoc assistant of New Testament Studies at Göttingen University's Theological Faculty. In her research, she explores the intersection between cultural analysis and New Testament texts. Her first book (*Autorschaft in der Johannesoffenbarung*, Tübingen 2020) is a study on authorship. For her second book project, she now focuses on performativity, embodiment, and gesture in the Gospel of John. Breu's Brooten award paper has been published in *JSNT* 45/1 (2022).

De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

Jesse Ophoff is a research fellow at the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. His work focuses on the development of Christianity in late antiquity, with an emphasis on the Latin West. He is par-



Rebecca Scharbach
Wollenberg



Clarissa Breu



Jesse Ophoff



Logan Williams



Krista Dalton

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ticularly interested in the intersection of ideas through diverse media, including texts, manuscripts, and images. Ophoff's recently defended dissertation, titled "Navigating the Gospel in Latin Late Antiquity," tracks the the Latin term *evangelium* through seven key texts ranging from Hilary of Poitiers's *De Trinitate* to Gregory the Great's *Regula Pastoralis*. In it he highlights the enduring importance of gospel language for Christian authors and demonstrates the ways standard lexicographical models obscure linguistic development by fixating on a term's origins and most literal uses.

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

Logan Williams (PhD, Durham 2020) is a New Testament scholar whose research explores the intersection between selfhood, embodiment, and ethics. His first book project, entitled *Love and the Shared Self* (under review), focuses on conceptions of love and selfhood in Greco-Roman philosophical ethics and Paul's letter to the Galatians. His second book project (coauthored with Tyson Putthoff) will explore divine embodiment in Paul's anthropology. Logan's Achtemeier award essay is forthcoming in *New Testament Studies*.

Richards Award for Public Scholarship

Krista Dalton is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. She is a cultural historian of religion, working primarily with the texts and traditions of ancient Judaism within the Mediterranean context. Her research analyzes the production of rabbinic expertise and cultivation of donor networks in late antiquity. Dalton is the cofounder and coeditor-in-chief of *Ancient Jew Review*, a web journal devoted to Jews and their neighbors in the ancient world.

Regional Scholars

Zachary Schoening is completing his doctoral studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. His dissertation topic is "I Writhe and Travail in Labor': Birth Imagery as an Expression of Divine Power in Isaiah 40–66." His research interests include ancient Near Eastern birth imagery and practices, use of metaphor in the Hebrew Bible, the biblical prophets, and comparative Semitics. Schoening has presented numerous times at regional SBL meetings. He is a member of Society of Biblical Literature, Evangelical Theological Society, and Institute for Biblical Research.

Alex Thompson is Assistant Professor of Religion at Tennessee Wesleyan University. He earned his BA in Archaeology, Classics, and Biblical Studies from the University of Evansville, an MLitt in Scripture and Theology from the St. Andrews University as the Bobby Jones Fellow, and an MDiv from Candler School of Theology. He completed his PhD in New Testament at Emory University. His dissertation, under contract with De Gruyter, examines the role of recognition in the resurrection appearance of Luke 24 through the lens of *anagnorisis* as articulated by Aristotle and developed in Jewish and Greco-Roman literature. His other research interests include Luke-Acts, Revelation, and literary approaches to the New Testament. Alex is also an ordained United Methodist minister in the Holston Conference, where he serves two churches.



Zachary Schoening



Alex Thomspson

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 2022 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- ◆ Oluwarotimi Paul Adebayo, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
- ◆ John Ottuh, Ambrose Alli University (Nigeria)
- ◆ Romina Della Casa, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- ◆ José Balcells, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)
- ◆ Tamar Magrakvelidze, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia)
- ◆ Lali Vashakmadze, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia)
- ◆ Havilah Dharamraj, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (India)



**Oluwarotimi Paul
Adebayo**



John Ottuh



**Romina Della
Casa**



José Balcells



**Tamar
Magrakvelidze**



**Lali Vashakmadze
Magrakvelidze**



**Havilah
Dharamraj**

During 2022, SBL Press celebrated the public launch of the NRSV Updated Edition Bible translation, the product of the expertise and efforts of more than sixty SBL members and staff working over the course of four years. The NRSVue, which was greeted with many positive reviews, promises to be the translation of choice for biblical scholars and students for years to come.

SBL members and the Press team also devoted considerable time and resources on the first major product that will make use of the revised translation: the *SBL Study Bible*. This new edition of the work previously known as the *HarperCollins Study Bible* has been thoroughly redesigned and substantially revised to appeal to today's students and to meet the needs of interested readers from a variety of communities. Project participants included a team of more than two hundred SBL members, led by editors Dexter E. Callender Jr., Corrine Carvalho, Kristin De Troyer, Matthew Goff, Steven L. McKenzie, Sarah Shectman, Shively T. J. Smith, and F. Scott Spencer, and SBL Press staff members. The *SBL Study Bible* is currently being typeset and is scheduled for publication by HarperOne before the 2023 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

In addition to these special projects, SBL Press conducted its usual business of publishing serials, books, and online resources (see the following sections). Worthy of special attention are two edited collections. First, *Black Scholars Matter: Visions, Struggles, and Hopes in Africana Biblical Studies*, edited by Gay L. Byron and Hugh R. Page Jr., includes both the presentations of the Africana scholars who participated in the groundbreaking #BlackScholarsMatter virtual symposium held in August 2020 and additional contributions by leaders within the field who address the need for institutional and personal accountability. Second, *Teaching the Bible with Undergraduates*, edited by Jocelyn McWhirter and Sylvie T. Raquel, offers concrete strategies for Bible instruction by paying special attention to the needs of tech-savvy students whose sensibilities, aspirations, expectations, and preferred ways of learning may differ significantly from those of their instructors.

Over the course of the year, SBL Press published thirty-two books or annuals totaling 13,218 pages across fifteen different series. In addition, our three serial publications—*Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Review of Biblical Literature*, and *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*—generated nearly 3,000 additional pages of scholarly resources. Finally, Bible Odyssey website published fifty-two new articles, bringing its total to 696 articles overall, and attracted over three million readers during 2022 (see the full report below).

SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Biblical Literature

For the Society's *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2022 was another year of transition, with a whole new editorial team (introduced in last year's Society Report) taking leadership of the journal. Susan Hylan quickly settled into her new role as general editor and admirably led a newly expanded group of associate editors, comprising Eric D. Barreto, Hindy Najman, and Hugh R. Page Jr. Together this team guided the journal through a year in which it received nearly two hundred manuscript submissions and published thirty-nine articles (fifteen of these had female authors, and twenty-one had authors based outside the USA).

The past year was also *JBL*'s first on its new online hosting website, the Scholarly Publishing Collective. SBL Press worked with the Collective to provide SBL members and *JBL* institutional subscribers access to the full range of *JBL* content, from volume 1 to the most recent issues, on this robust research platform. Members continue to have access to *JBL* by logging in on the [SBL website](#).

The year ended on a note of change as well. In December, Hugh Page stepped down from his role with *JBL* in order to focus attention on his new position as SBL Council chair. Although his time with the journal was short, we are deeply grateful for all that he accomplished in his year as an associate editor. He ushered numerous manuscripts through the peer-review process and offered insightful feedback on many of the manuscripts accepted this year in the field of Hebrew Bible studies, the area in which the journal receives the most submissions. Thank you, Hugh!

Stacy Davis, a member of the *JBL* editorial board from 2021 to 2022, has now been appointed associate editor with a focus on Hebrew Bible and ancient Israel. Davis (PhD Notre Dame, 2003) is Professor and Chair of Religious Studies and Theology at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. Her scholarship centers on the Prophets, history of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible, and African American and feminist biblical interpretation. She is the author of *This Strange Story: Jewish and*

Christian Interpretation of the Curse of Canaan from Antiquity to 1865 (University Press of America, 2008) and *Haggai and Malachi* in the Wisdom Commentary Series (Liturgical Press, 2015), along with many other articles and book chapters. We are grateful to Stacy for stepping in to fill this significant vacancy in the journal's leadership team.

Review of Biblical Literature

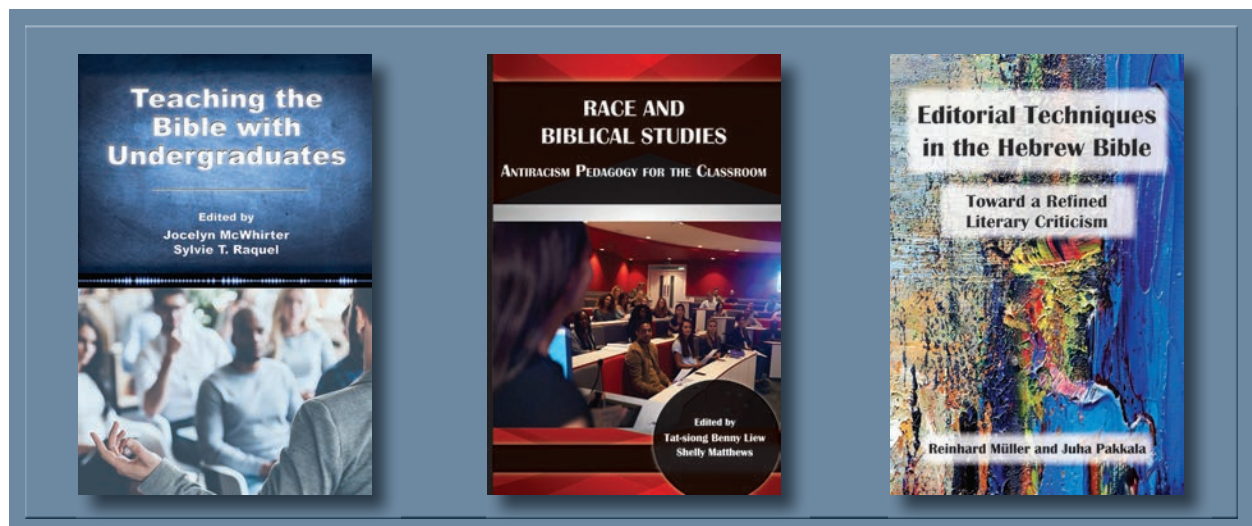
During 2022, thanks to the efforts of our reviewers, editors, and staff, *RBL* published 400 reviews, bringing the total number of reviews published since the beginning of *RBL* through the end of the year to 11,539. With an average of 1,704 words per review, the past year's output would fill over 1,700 published pages. To take this a step further, all the reviews published during the nearly quarter century of *RBL*'s history would fill roughly 160 300-page books. This is truly a monumental accomplishment, not least because it has been achieved largely through the contributions of volunteers.

Reviewers in 2022 hailed from thirty-three different countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zambia. This year approximately 44 percent of *RBL* reviews were authored by scholars outside of the United States, the same percentage reported for the last two years. In terms of gender distribution, 22.8 percent of our reviewers were female and 77.2 percent male; this distribution is an improvement over last year but still varies slightly from the Society's gender distribution of 24.8 percent female, 75.1 male, and 0.1 transgender.

2022 BOOK AND ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Alicia J. Batten, ed., *Review of Biblical Literature, 2022*
- ◆ Richard J. Britton, *Romans and the Power of the Believer* (Semeia Studies)
- ◆ Austin Busch, *Risen Indeed? Resurrection and Doubt in the Gospel of Mark* (Early Christianity and Its Literature)
- ◆ Gay L. Byron and Hugh R. Page Jr., eds., *Black Scholars Matter: Visions, Struggles, and Hopes in African Biblical Studies* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Stephen A. Cooper and Václav Němec, eds., *The Philosophy, Theology, and Rhetoric of Marius Victorinus* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement series)
- ◆ Josette Elayi, *Tiglath-pileser III, Founder of the Assyrian Empire* (Archaeology and Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Mark D. Given, ed., *Paul Unbound: Other Perspectives on the Apostle*, 2nd ed. (Emory Studies in Early Christianity)
- ◆ Michael Graves, *Jerome, Epistle 106 (On the Psalms)* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ H. H. Hardy II, *The Development of Biblical Hebrew Prepositions* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, eds., *The First Urban Churches 7: Thessalonica* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement series)
- ◆ Friedhelm Hartenstein and Konrad Schmid, eds., *Farewell to the Priestly Writing? The Current State of the Debate* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Tal Ilan, Lorena Miralles-Macia, and Ronit Nikolsky, eds., *Rabbinic Literature* (Bible and Women)
- ◆ Jaeyoung Jeon, ed., *The Social Groups behind the Pentateuch* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)

- ◆ Samuel Joseph Kessler, *The Formation of a Modern Rabbi: The Life and Times of the Viennese Scholar and Preacher Adolf Jellinek* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Gideon Kotzé, Michael van der Meer, and Martin Rösel, eds., *XVII Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies: Aberdeen, 2019* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ Elekosi F. Lafitaga, *Apocalyptic Sheep and Goats in Matthew and 1 Enoch* (Emory Studies in Early Christianity)
- ◆ Yael Landman, *Legal Writing, Legal Practice: The Biblical Bailment Law and Divine Justice* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Outi Lehtipuu and Silke Petersen, eds., *Ancient Christian Apocrypha: Marginalized Texts in Early Christianity* (Bible and Women)
- ◆ Tat-siong Benny Liew and Shelly Matthews, eds., *Race and Biblical Studies: Antiracism Pedagogy for the Classroom* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Tat-siong Benny Liew and Fernando F. Segovia, eds., *Reading Biblical Texts Together: Pursuing Minoritized Biblical Criticism* (Semeia Studies)
- ◆ Daniel O. McClellan, *YHWH's Divine Images: A Cognitive Approach* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ◆ Jocelyn McWhirter and Sylvie T. Raquel, eds., *Teaching the Bible with Undergraduates* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Margaret M. Mitchell, *John Chrysostom on Paul: Praises and Problem Passages* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Reinhard Müller and Juha Pakkala, *Editorial Techniques in the Hebrew Bible: Toward a Refined Literary Criticism* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Christopher Rollston, Susanna Garfein, and Neal H. Walls, eds., *Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honor of P. Kyle McCarter Jr.* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ◆ William A. Ross, *Postclassical Greek and Septuagint Lexicography* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXXIV, 2022: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism*
- ◆ Timothy J. Sandoval and Bernd U. Schipper, eds., *Gerhard von Rad and the Study of Wisdom Literature* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ William M. Schniedewind, Jason M. Zurawski, and Gabriele Boccaccini, eds., *Torah: Functions, Meanings, and Diverse Manifestations in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Early Judaism and Its Literature)
- ◆ John Srenock with Vladimir Olivero, *A Grammar of Ugaritic* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Ronald L. Troxel, *Commentary on the Old Greek and Peshitta of Isaiah 1–25* (Text-Critical Studies)
- ◆ Christopher B. Zeichmann, *Queer Readings of the Centurion at Capernaum: Their History and Politics* (Bible and Its Reception)



SBL CENTRAL

Since the launch of SBL Central (<https://www.sblcentral.org/>) in 2018, we have continued adding functionality to make it an essential online resource for biblical scholars. In addition to providing an ongoing home for SBL conference paper abstracts and all reviews published in *Review of Biblical Literature*, SBL Central helps biblical scholars keep up with current research in the field with features that notify members of new publications in their specific areas of interest. In 2021 we launched the book notification service, which sends SBL members a weekly email digest listing newly added books and book reviews in members' pre-selected subjects. Then in 2022, SBL Central added a similar feature allowing members to receive email notifications of new issues published by journals selected from a list of thirty-six leading serials in biblical studies and cognate disciplines. Members can thus sign up for email notifications of newly published journal issues, books, and book reviews in one central hub. These options are available in the dropdown menu once a member logs into SBL Central.

The development of SBL Central was supported financially by the Henry Luce Foundation, Atla, and eight publishers: Baker Academic, Baylor University Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, Brill Publishers, De Gruyter, Mohr Siebeck, Penn State University Press, Westminster John Knox Press, and Wipf & Stock Publishers. Since the launch of SBL Central, more publishers are taking advantage of this opportunity to engage directly with their readerships. All these publishers see SBL Central as a valuable marketing opportunity and pay a nominal fee per title listed to help sustain this resource. But in order to encourage more publishers to participate in and see the benefits of SBL Central, we waive the fee on all books included in a publisher's first submission.

Since launching the book notification service in early 2021, the following publishers have listed new books on SBL Central:

African Sun Media	ATF Press
Baker Academic	Baylor University Press
Brill Publishers	Brown Judaic Studies
Cambridge University Press	Corpus Biblicum Catalanicum
De Gruyter	Droz
Eerdmans	Eisenbrauns
Equinox	Fortress Press
Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship	German Bible Society
GlossaHouse	Gorgias
Hendrickson	Jewish Publication Society
Kohlhammer	Langham Partnership
Mohr Siebeck	Oxford University Press
Peeters	Pennsylvania State University Press
Pitchstone	SBL Press
Sheffield Phoenix Press	Westminster John Knox
Wipf & Stock	

BIBLE ODYSSEY

Bible Odyssey is a public-facing resource whose purpose is to increase the accessibility of the academic study of the Bible. Since its launch in 2014, bibleodyssey.org has attracted a broad audience, including students, educators, and the general public. With its publication of short articles, videos, maps, translations, timelines, and images, Bible Odyssey is increasingly becoming a primary resource in K–12 and university classrooms. Several important numbers reveal the source and the extent of Bible Odyssey’s popularity.

ARTICLES

Bible Odyssey currently provides access to a broad-ranging collection of 696 articles, 52 of which were published this past year.

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	21
New Testament	24
Extracanonial/Other	7

READERS

During 2022, readers from around the world generated 3,036,622 Bible Odyssey page views. The ten countries with the most visitors are listed in the table below.

	Country	Visitors	Percentage of Total Visitors
1	United States	1,065,108	59.46
2	United Kingdom	74,256	4.15
3	Philippines	70,622	3.94
4	Australia	69,855	3.90
5	Canada	69,469	3.88
6	Nigeria	66,486	3.71
7	India	54,182	3.02
8	South Africa	45,424	2.54
9	Kenya	32,007	1.79
10	Ghana	16,137	0.90



RESOURCES

Bible Odyssey offers a variety of resources for the Hebrew Bible, deuterocanonical, and New Testament texts, including articles, maps, images, and video interviews. New Testament was the subject on which the most articles were published in 2022 (46%). Future plans include the production of additional video content and lesson plans.

In 2022, visitors accessed 2,645,469 different resources on Bible Odyssey. As is evident in the table that follows, articles are by far the most-consulted type of resource.

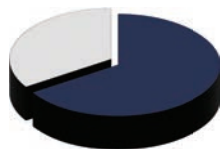
	2022 Views	Most Popular Resource
Articles	1,778,580	“Suicide in the Bible” (98,165 views)
Maps	80,639	“Israel and Judah” (32,640 views)
Images	51,781	“The Kiss of Judas” (1,750 views)
Video Interviews	106,159	“Origins of Baptism” (11,100 views)

CONTRIBUTORS

Bible Odyssey is committed to advancing the representation of persons of diverse genders, ethnicities, nationalities, and institutional appointments. Of 2022’s 59 authors (authors of multiple pieces are counted separately for each article), 66 percent identify as women, 81 percent were new authors, and 33 percent live outside of the United States.

2022 Authors by Gender

39 women
20 men



2022 Authors by Location

2022’s authors represent a number of countries, including Austria (1), Australia (1), Canada (6), Germany (2), Israel (2), the Netherlands (2), the United Kingdom (4), and the United States (41).

2022 Authors by Institution

Bible Odyssey authors work at a variety of institutions, including US public universities (14), US private universities (25), universities outside North America (16), and other (4).

2022 New versus Repeat Authors

44 new authors
15 repeat authors



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Since its launch, Bible Odyssey has sought to broaden how the general public interacts with the Bible. Its goal has always been to inform readers about the content of biblical texts, but the site has also sought to encourage readers to engage with the text from a variety of perspectives and methodologies. Over the past few years, our contributors have made a particular effort to introduce readers to the ways in which race and ethnicity are constructed in the Bible and how these constructions affect the ways in which contemporary readers engage biblical texts.



“The Bible in Black Gospel Music”
(Robert F. Darden)

Gay L. Byron, for instance, introduces readers to these important issues in her essay on how race and ethnicity are constructed in the Bible. Similarly, Vanessa Lovelace highlights the contributions of black feminist perspectives in her article on womanist biblical interpretation. Meanwhile, Herbert R. Marbury discusses how the Bible has been used to justify slavery, and Richard Newton reviews how the Bible shaped perceptions during the Civil War. More positively, Dennis R. Edwards examines how the Bible influenced the Civil Rights movement, and Robert F. Darden explores how the Bible influenced black gospel music.

Each of these authors moves beyond traditional historical methodologies to help readers consider the relationship between the Bible and minoritized communities throughout history.



“How Are Race and Ethnicity Constructed in the Bible, and How Does That Affect Readers Today?”
(Gay L. Byron)

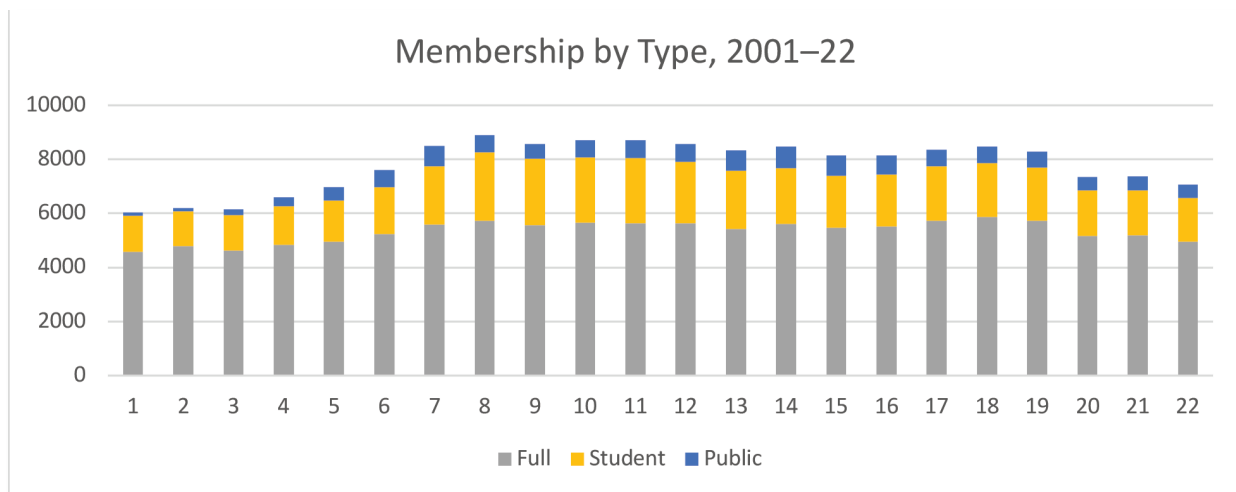
SUPPORT BIBLE ODYSSEY

Bible Odyssey has been fortunate to have several partners supporting its mission to make research in Bible and related fields accessible to the general public. You, too, can help Bible Odyssey grow! Support Bible Odyssey by [signing up](#) for the monthly newsletter, sharing Bible Odyssey articles with colleagues and students, or by making a donation.

The screenshot shows the Bible Odyssey website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'About Us', 'Browse A-Z', 'Contact Us', and 'Partners'. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'People', 'Places', 'Passages', 'Bibles', and 'Tools'. The current page is titled 'People' and features an article 'Women's Work in the Greco-Roman World' by Lynn H. Cohick. The article includes a small image of a woman working and a text block explaining the role of women in Greco-Roman households. To the right of the article is a 'Related Pages' section with links to 'Mary and Martha', 'Philippi', 'Priscilla and Aquila', 'Women Leaders in the Philippian Church?', 'Slavery in the New Testament', 'Agrarian Life', and 'Ancient Israelite'. At the bottom, there is a 'Related Publications' section with a link to 'Women in the World of Earliest'.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total membership in 2022 was 7,059, a decline of roughly 4 percent from 2021.



The largest category of membership was the full membership, at 4,964 (70%). Student membership totaled 1,606 (23%), and there were 487 public members (7%). The relative proportions of membership types were the same as in 2021.

The percentage of members living outside of the United States remained steady at 34 percent. Although that is still slightly less than the 2020 percentage of 36 percent, it is higher than the 31 percent of members who resided outside of the United States in 2019 and considerably higher than the 21 percent in 2001.

Members currently reside in 94 countries, which is one more country than last year. The United States is home to 66 percent of SBL members. About 5 percent of members continue to reside in each of the United Kingdom and Canada. Other countries with large numbers of members include Germany (4%), Australia (3%), Israel (2%), Italy (1%), South Africa (1%), the Netherlands (1%), Switzerland (1%), Norway (1%), Sweden (1%), Austria (1%), Belgium (1%), France (1%), and Japan (1%).



■ = countries where members reside

ICI Countries and SBL Membership

SBL currently has 387 members who reside in 63 different countries that are a part of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). South Africa, the Philippines, Brazil, Poland, Romania, India, Nigeria, China, Argentina, and Indonesia are the ICI countries with the highest numbers of members.

MEMBERSHIP

Where SBL Members Reside

Country	Members	Country	Members	Country	Members
ARGENTINA	13	GHANA	11	PARAGUAY	1
AUSTRALIA	206	GREECE	6	PERU	6
AUSTRIA	40	GUATEMALA	1	PHILIPPINES	24
BAHAMAS	1	HONDURAS	1	POLAND	17
BELGIUM	40	HONG KONG	27	PORTUGAL	6
BERMUDA	1	HUNGARY	9	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	32
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	2	ICELAND	2	ROMANIA	16
BOTSWANA	3	INDIA	15	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	7
BRAZIL	21	INDONESIA	13	RWANDA	1
BULGARIA	5	IRAN	2	SAMOA	2
BURKINA FASO	1	IRELAND	24	SERBIA	2
CAMBODIA	1	ISRAEL	130	SINGAPORE	13
CANADA	329	ITALY	92	SLOVAKIA	7
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1	JAMAICA	2	SOUTH AFRICA	77
CHILE	1	JAPAN	37	SPAIN	24
CHINA	14	KENYA	5	SRI LANKA	2
COLOMBIA	7	LATVIA	1	SWEDEN	44
COSTA RICA	1	LEBANON	2	SWITZERLAND	68
COTE D'IVOIRE	2	LIBERIA	1	TAIWAN	5
CROATIA	2	LITHUANIA	1	TANZANIA	1
CURAÇAO	1	LUXEMBOURG	1	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	11	MALAYSIA	8	TURKEY	1
DENMARK	27	MALTA	4	UGANDA	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	MEXICO	3	UKRAINE	5
ECUADOR	1	MYANMAR (BURMA)	3	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4
EGYPT	2	NETHERLANDS	69	UNITED KINGDOM	347
ESTONIA	3	NEW ZEALAND	27	UNITED STATES	4,661
ETHIOPIA	9	NICARAGUA	1	VANUATU	1
FINLAND	34	NIGERIA	15	VIETNAM	1
FRANCE	37	NORWAY	57	ZAMBIA	2
GEORGIA	3	PAKISTAN	1		
GERMANY	266	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	4		

MEMBER REVIEW

The Member Review email is a biweekly communication for the Society's membership. Announcements, honors, and resources are included to alert members of opportunities for research, writing, and professional development. Member interviews are featured in this communication to illustrate the diversity of identity, approaches, and interests among the Society's membership.

To send announcements and resources for the Member Review, email SBL Services at sblservices@sbl-site.org.



SBL STAFF

Employee Spotlight: Sharon Johnson

Approaching twenty-five years of service, Sharon Johnson holds SBL's record for longest-serving staff member. Sharon officially retired at the end of 2022, but postretirement she continues to support SBL as a part-time contractor while we transition to her successor.

Sharon graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor in Fine Arts. Her concentration was Ceramic Sculpture and Painting. While still a student at Michigan and considering archaeology as a career, Sharon went on an archeological dig in Lahav, Israel, during the summer of 1977. This dig was led by Professor Oded Borowski, currently Professor Emeritus of Biblical Archaeology at Emory.

Upon graduation, Sharon moved to Los Angeles, earned the Certified Tile Consultant designation, and worked for a ceramic tile importer in Beverly Hills designing tile installations. In this role, Sharon frequently rubbed elbows with celebrity customers such as Richard Harris, Buddy Hackett, Shirley Jones, Cliff Robertson, and John Travolta. (She tells entertaining anecdotes about each.)

After ten years in Los Angeles, Sharon accepted a position as a Production Manager at a tile factory in Northampton, Massachusetts. She subsequently started her own business making custom tile for resellers located throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

After growing her business for eleven years, Sharon changed careers to transition to a more family-friendly work schedule. At the time, Sharon was caring for both her disabled husband and young son. This career change was SBL's gain. Fortuitously, Sharon met former-SBL staff member Martha Shockey while attending an art exhibit of one of Sharon's apprentices. The rest is SBL history.

Sharon joined SBL in 1998, where her primary role was to assist former Associate Executive Director Greg Glover with an early iteration of the *Review of Biblical Literature*. She was subsequently promoted to Advertising Manager and finally to Website Manager/Manager of Web Design. In this role, she developed the Information Technology skills needed to maintain and improve the original SBL website during the Wild West days of the internet and continually updated her skills to maintain all iterations of this website to the present day. Sharon was also responsible for management of the former *SBL Forum*, the monthly online magazine that, at the time, was hosted on the home page of SBL's membership website. She served as project



manager of all phases of the Bible Odyssey website (BOW), including a complete redesign that is currently being finalized. She played a critical role in the preparation for and management of the BOW grant provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are also pleased that Sharon incorporated images into BOW, curated such images, and authored the corresponding captions.

When asked how she has grown professionally while with SBL, Sharon responded, “Information Technology is such a new field, and changes are rapid, as opposed to ceramics, which have been the same for thousands of years. Actually, the biggest challenge was learning to accept that much of what I know today will be outdated tomorrow. But I had fun working in such a new field, and my old skills transferred in unexpected ways. My sculpture and architecture skills really helped me to visualize web structure. In addition, my art history background helped with BOW image curation, and the project management and arbitration skills from my former career as a consultant and business owner were also transferable to the BOW project.”

Outside of work, Sharon has a variety of interests. First, she continues to create art in a variety of mediums: clay as sculpture, clay as paint on canvas, fabric printing, hand spinning wool and alpaca, weaving, and painting. Second, Sharon has served multiple terms as the president of her neighborhood’s homeowners association, representing more than 1,300 residences. Finally, for the last twelve years she has managed to find time to work as a docent at Emory’s Michael C. Carlos Museum. The tours that she leads there specialize in slavery, fashion, textiles, and color in the ancient world.

In retirement, Sharon devotes additional time to the Carlos Museum in her new role as the newly elected president of Docent Guild. She will also continue to work in her studio and will participate in more art shows, such as those hosted by the Women’s Caucus for Art in Georgia. Add her love of gardening to the mix, and it’s clear that Sharon will be extraordinarily busy in her retirement.

In the meantime, it is fitting to recognize her contributions to the organization, as well as her contributions to the culture of the SBL office with her warm and engaging personality and unfailing sense of humor. We thank Sharon Johnson for her many years of service to SBL and wish her a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

STAFF LIST

Bob Buller, Director of SBL Press

Glory Emekeme, Executive Assistant and Manager of Development

Courtney Godwin, Special Projects Coordinator, Membership

Katie Hightower, SBL Press Assistant

Christopher Hooker, Director of Membership and Programs

Pam Kennemore, Director of Finance and Administration

Trista Krock, Director of Global Conferences

LaToya Leary, Manager of Communications and Member Relations

Tat-siong Benny Liew, Interim Executive Director

Lindsay Lingo, Graphic Design, SBL Press

Eric McDonnell, Digital Initiatives and Web Content Manager

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

Alexis Reed, SBL Press Assistant

Paige Schmidt, Manager of Programs

Leigh Ann Simpson, Manager of Registration and Housing

Samantha Spitzner, International Meeting Manager

Nicole L. Tilford, Production Manager, SBL Press



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2022 AND 2021

	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,906,964	\$1,613,577
Marketable securities	5,235,758	6,216,630
Accounts receivable	209,930	192,704
Unconditional promises to give	16,245	—
Prepaid expenses and other assets	133,162	164,243
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	79,390	76,710
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	4,679	6,375
Capitalized software, net of accumulated amortization	775,177	773,342
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,953,482</u>	<u>2,178,605</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$10,314,787</u>	<u>\$11,222,186</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$314,528	\$372,134
PPP Note payable	—	286,961
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	521,924	540,242
Annual meetings	881,508	517,044
Other	<u>136,127</u>	<u>7,940</u>
Total deferred revenues	<u>1,539,559</u>	<u>1,065,226</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,854,087</u>	<u>1,724,321</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	938,705	792,038
Designated by Board for operating reserve	4,903,397	5,802,328
Invested in Luce Center	<u>1,053,737</u>	<u>1,113,436</u>
	6,895,839	7,707,802
With donor restrictions	<u>1,564,861</u>	<u>1,790,063</u>
Total net assets	<u>8,460,700</u>	<u>9,497,865</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$10,314,787</u>	<u>\$11,222,186</u>

Comments:

1. Market performance caused SBL to report a Decrease in Net Assets of \$1,037,165 for FY22. This is the first decrease in net assets since Fiscal Year 2010.
2. SBL staff continue to manage operations within Budget. FY2022 revenues were over budget by \$131,994, while expenses were under budget by \$202,748, resulting in an operational net increase over budget by \$334,742.

FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

BUDGET 2022–2023

	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Congresses		
Congresses	\$841,972	\$513,456
Grant revenue	—	150,000
Membership		
Membership fees	601,140	573,014
Marketing	47,900	23,300
Professions		
Career center	78,278	42,890
Grant revenue	—	62,279
Sponsorship income	—	23,025
Fonts	2,200	3,350
Press		
Book sales	440,938	445,906
Subscriptions	260,718	176,154
Royalties	134,373	133,453
Marketing	32,396	18,807
Permissions	49,402	17,030
Membership fees	106,084	101,170
Contract income	215,000	51,107
Grant revenue	—	133,651
Sponsorship income	—	53,725
Fees	12,436	11,829
Contributions—PPP forgiveness	286,961	281,600
Regional meetings revenue	12,740	14,003
Development and fundraising	136,590	41,794
Investment income, net	(1,127,547)	1,897,789
Rental income, net	60,374	63,399
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(460)	—
Total revenues and gains	\$2,191,495	\$4,832,731
EXPENSES		
Program expenses		
Congresses	960,676	\$654,895
Membership	209,109	191,580
Professions	344,977	280,310
Press	1,473,655	1,282,508
Regional meetings	29,210	13,578
Research and Technology	42,794	46,252
Total program expenses	3,060,421	2,469,123
Development and fundraising	9,241	7,346
General and administration	158,998	154,208
Total expenses	\$3,228,660	\$2,630,677
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(1,037,165)	2,202,054
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	9,497,865	7,295,811
Net Assets at End of Year	\$8,460,700	\$9,497,865

Revenues	
Administration	\$207,600
Congresses	1,455,625
Development	90,000
Membership	688,500
Professions	106,691
Press	1,057,500
Total Revenue	\$3,605,916
Expenses	
Administration	\$147,460
Congresses	1,169,747
Development	11,426
Membership	237,561
Professions	359,782
Press	1,397,064
Regions support	6,000
Technology	52,189
Total Expense	\$3,381,229
Net budget surplus	
before amortization	224,687
Amortization	226,687
Net budget deficit	(\$2,000)

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated December 6, 2022, 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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 Dominika A. Kurek-Chomyc
 Caroline Vander Stichele
 Sonia Kwok Wong

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 Natalie Reynoso
 Kelsey Spinnato
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 Stacy Davis
 Raj Nadella, chair
 Ahida Calderon Pilarski
 Lenin Prado
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 Mitzi J. Smith

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Efrain Agosto
 Gay L. Byron
 Tat-siong Benny Liew
 Raj Nadella
 Hugh Rowland Page Jr.
 Adele Reinhartz
 James C. VanderKam

Disabilities and Accessibility Task Force

Meghan Henning, chair
 Candida Moss
 Helen Rhee

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