

Newsletter

From the President Annual Conference Appreciation



Members enjoying refreshments and conversations at the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference Reception in Charlotte, North Carolina.



In his presidential column for the June ATLA *Newsletter*, Andy Keck observed that June is a month of transitions. He noted that the ATLA Annual Conference marked a number of transitions. In Charlotte, it was so great to meet new members and first-time conference attendees. We welcomed Amy Limpitlaw and Steve Perisho to the ATLA Board and expressed our appreciation to Sandra Lipton and John Weaver for their years of service

to the Board and Association. As incoming president, I want to say a special thank you to Andy for all his hard work and dedication during the past year.

Thank you to the Local Host Committee, the Annual Conference Committee, the Education Committee, the ATLA staff, conference sponsors, and fabulous presenters who made the 2013 Annual Conference in Charlotte such a great experience! You can read the minutes of our annual conference business and board meetings in this newsletter. One highlight of the conference for me was the All Conference Luncheon when current and former board members listened to areas of interest and concern to members. The table I was at had a great conversation, and it was wonderful to meet new people and reconnect with familiar faces. The Board's goal was to hear from members in a more structured way. Overall, I think the lunch was successful in this regard.

During the June board meeting, two board task forces were created. One group was charged with organizing your feedback from the luncheon and bringing it to the entire board at our next meeting in October. We want to make sure that your interests and concerns continue to inform our work as a board. If you were unable to attend the luncheon, we welcome your feedback. Members of the Board need to hear from you as we set the future agenda of ATLA. [Please drop anyone of us a note or give us a call.](#) We will report back to you after we have reflected on your feedback.

Best wishes during the transition from summer to the start of a new academic year!

Beth Bidlack
President

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ATLA Co-Sponsors the 2013 NFAIS Annual Humanities Roundtable

The American Theological Library Association with the Brook Center for Music Research and Documentation, the Modern Language Association, the law firm of Quarles & Brady, and the Philosopher's Information Center will co-sponsor the 2013 NFAIS Annual Humanities Roundtable.

Registration instructions and rates for individuals and groups are available at the NFAIS web site : <http://nfais.org/event?eventID=527>.

One of the few information industry events that focuses primarily on the concerns of content providers and information professionals working in the broad spectrum of the humanities, this is the time to register for the forthcoming 2013 NFAIS Annual Humanities Roundtable. This one-day workshop will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on Monday, September 30, 2013. Today's rapidly shifting digital information environment offers plenty of opportunity to both content providers and information professionals for adding value to their services and demonstrating the great return on investment that those services provide to the student, scholar, and professional. This year's Roundtable offers a chance to learn from active leaders in the field about projects in the digital humanities, content enrichment and linked data, assessing usage and user behavior and much, much more. Of particular interest this year, we're thrilled to be featuring legal experts discussing the long-term significance of recent court rulings that may be impacting practices of both content providers and libraries!

Focus: Partnerships and Best Practices: Critical Issues Impacting Humanities Content Providers, Librarians and End Users

Venue: Offices of Quarles & Brady, 300 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 4000, Chicago, Illinois

Date: Monday, September 30, 2013

Committed speaker-participants include:

- Dr. Christopher D. Cantwell, Assistant Director, Scholl Center for American History & Culture, Newberry Library
- Harriet E. Green, English and Digital Humanities Librarian, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
- Heather Buchta, Partner, Quarles & Brady
- Jessica L. Franken, Partner, Quarles & Brady
- Richard W. Young, Partner, Quarles & Brady
- Korey Jackson, Editor, Anvil Academic
- Mike Teets, Vice President, Innovation, OCLC
- Kris Veldheer, CEO, New Vistas Educational Consulting

In-person attendance is limited to 50 people-virtual attendance options are also available. Group registration rates are available for groups of 3 or more. Additional program details, registration rates, and hotel block information has been posted to the NFAIS web site at: <http://nfais.org/event?eventID=527>.

For more information contact: Jill O'Neill, NFAIS Director, Communication and Planning, 215-893-1561 (phone); 215-893-1564 (fax); or e-mail: jilloneill@nfais.org.

In Memoriam: Dr. Dennis A. Norlin



The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) remembers the life of Dr. Dennis A. Norlin, retired ATLA Executive Director. Dennis passed away on Friday June 7, 2013, after a serious illness.

Please join us in offering his family and friends our sincerest condolences during this sad time.

Dennis will be remembered and missed as a colleague and friend, and we are grateful for his fifteen years of loyal service to ATLA.

A memorial service for Dennis was held at Feast of Victory Lutheran Church, Acme (Mich.), on Saturday, June 29, 2013, at 7 p.m. Memorial gifts may be sent to Advent Lutheran Church, Dennis Norlin Memorial, P.O. Box 249, Lake Ann, MI 49650.

[Please read more about Dennis at this link.](#)

There will be a social gathering in Chicago to honor and remember Dennis in September, and members of the Norlin family will be present. You are cordially invited to attend.

When

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. with a brief program at 6 p.m.

Where

Quarles & Brady LLP

300 North LaSalle Street, Suite 4000

Chicago, Illinois 60654

RSVPs are kindly requested to be sent to Rick Rybak (rrybak@atla.com) no later than August 29. Due to security in the building, advance registration is required. Feel free to share with friends and colleagues.

Call for 2014 ATLA Annual Conference Proposals

The Conference Committee cordially invite members and friends of the American Theological Library Association to [submit proposals for](#):

- Pre-conference Workshops
- In-conference Workshops
- Papers
- Panel Presentations
- Listen & Learn Sessions
- Interest Group Presentations
- Conversation Groups
- Posters or Other Special Sessions

The conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 18-21, 2014.

The Committee will consider proposals addressing theological librarianship, the academic disciplines of theology, and/or general librarianship. All submissions are due by Monday, September 30.

Look for a separate e-mail notification with all the details for [submitting your proposal](#).

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans June 18 - 21 where you will "Experience the Extraordinary" hosted by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

ATLA, AJL, CLA Social Gathering



Guests enjoy conversation and kosher food at the ATLA, AJL, CLA Social Gathering.

ATLA partnered with the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) and the Catholic Library Association (CLA) to host a social gathering on Sunday, June 30, at the St. James Commons in downtown Chicago.

This wonderful ground level venue features floor to ceiling windows, which provided a view of a newly designed and landscaped courtyard bustling with area students, couples hanging out and parents with children running about, as well as our guests approaching the building to join our reception.

Scheduled to coincide with the ALA Conference, many of the thirty guests ventured out directly from the McCormick Place conference center to enjoy the short trip to the north Loop. A few took the time to walk up the lakeshore, taking in sights of the beach, waves and sun on a glorious summer day. Light fare from the Hungarian Kosher Foods supermarket in Skokie was served and absolutely delicious. Conversation buzzed among old friends, former colleagues and new acquaintances, while some impromptu business was conducted as well. We are grateful to our partners of AJL and CLA, our hosts of the Episcopal Diocese, and all who attended.

ATLA Member Renewals

ATLA Membership renewal season is upon us! Renewal notices were sent to all current members - Institutional, Affiliate, International Institutional, Individual, and Student. The ATLA membership year runs from September 1 through August 31.

A message from ATLA Board President Beth Bidlack was e-mailed to members on Thursday, August 1. All individual and student members and member representatives of institutional, international institutional, and affiliate members should have received this first e-mail notice regarding membership renewals. If you did not receive a renewal notice, please contact memberrep@atla.com.

As Beth Bidlack stated in her message, ATLA membership provides numerous benefits, including discounted conference registration, publications (*ATLA Newsletter*, *Theological Librarianship*, *Theology Cataloging Bulletin*, and the annual *ATLA Summary of Proceedings*), access to networking, professional development opportunities, discounts on products, and more.

Members will receive a second reminder to renew later in August. Thanks to those members who have already renewed their memberships online. If you have questions or concerns regarding your 2013-2014 ATLA membership renewal, please e-mail memberrep@atla.com.

October is Theological Libraries Month

October is Theological Libraries Month (TLM) and ATLA is ready to help you celebrate!

[Theological Libraries Month](#) was established to advance the importance and value of theological libraries and library services to targeted faculty, administrators, staff, and students.

ATLA is pleased to once again offer [TLM Mini-Grants](#) of up to \$500 to ATLA Institutional Member Libraries to help plan an event in celebration of Theological Libraries Month. The mini-grant application form is available at the TLM web site and submissions must be received by September 15th.

TLM posters, logos, and bookmarks will be available for download in the coming weeks.

Share your plans and ideas for celebrating Theological Libraries Month with ATLA so that we can promote them on Facebook, Twitter, and in the *ATLA Newsletter*. Send your plans to memberrep@atla.com.

Minutes of the ATLA Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Business meeting was convened by Board President Andy Keck at 1:00 p.m.

Daniel LaValla, chair of the Endowment Committee, introduced the other members of the Committee: Marti Alt, Dennis Swanson, and D. William Faupel. The Fund currently has just over \$330,000. In 2012-13, over \$6,500 was donated, an increase of 40% over the average of past annual giving. ATLA matched the donations resulting in an increase of \$13,000 in the Fund. The Committee will soon complete work on a case statement that will be used to generate additional support for the Fund. The Committee has set a goal of one million dollars in order to have access to more investment options. ATLA members were encouraged to contribute this year to take advantage ATLA's challenge match of up to \$10,000.

Eileen Saner presented the Secretary's report. Members of the Teller's Committee were Jennifer Bartholomew, Susan K. Ebbers, and Sandra Oslund. The Committee received the election results via e-mail from Survey & Ballot Systems and verified that 242 ballots were received from 623 eligible members. The membership elected Andrew Keck, Amy Limpitlaw, Steve Perisho, and Eileen K. Saner to the Board of Directors for the 2013-2016 term of office. The Secretary's report was accepted by voice vote of the members.

President Andy Keck delivered the Presidential Address, "The Value of Theological Libraries." The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Summary of the Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

The Board elected officers for 2013-14: Beth Bidlack (President), Melody Layton McMahon (Vice-President), and Eileen Saner (Secretary). A revised version of the Board Policy Manual was approved and several additional changes were made during the meeting. All four sections of the Manual and the Appendices were revised in the past two years. A Task Force was named to review member dues and bring a recommendation to the October Board Meeting. The Board reviewed the Executive Director's April monitoring report and clarifications that Brenda Bailey-Hainer had provided. Brenda proposed a strategic planning gathering for October 2013 that would include Board members and Committee chairs. The Board expressed support and gave counsel. In executive session, the Board finalized the annual review of the Executive Director and approved compensation for FY2014.

ATLA Awards Two Diversity in Theological Librarianship Scholarships

The [ATLA Diversity Committee](#) is pleased to announce the recipients of two [ATLA Scholarships to Promote Diversity](#). This year, the committee awarded two scholarships to individuals attending a Theological Librarianship course at an ALA-accredited master's program in library and information studies.

Shanee' Yvette Murrain, MDiv, MLS, is Project Coordinator for the Religion in North Carolina Digital Collection Collaborative Digitization Project at Duke University Divinity School Library. Shanee' will use this scholarship to support her enrollment in the Theological Librarianship Course at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Shanee' is an individual member of ATLA and presented a poster at the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference.

Christopher A. Stewart is a Missional Fellow working toward a Masters of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary and a Masters of Library and Information Science candidate at the Catholic University of America. Christopher will use his scholarship to support his enrollment in the Religious Archives Institute at the Catholic University of America, a three-credit intensive course. Christopher is a student member of ATLA.

Congratulations to both recipients!

A special thank you to the members of the ATLA Diversity Committee, including Stephen Sweeney (chair), Lynn Berg, Daniel Flores, and Stella Wilkins, for their work to promote this opportunity and to evaluate applications.

The Text This Week Featured in Faith & Leadership



This photo was first published in Faith & Leadership.

Jenee Woodard, our partner at *The Text This Week*, was recently interviewed by *Faith & Leadership* online magazine. [Read the full article here.](#)

Theological Librarianship Now Available

The new issue of *Theological Librarianship* was published Monday, July 15, 2013.



TL, an online journal of ATLA, is an open access journal publishing essays, columns, critical reviews, bibliographic essays, and peer-reviewed articles on various aspects of theological librarianship and its contribution to theological education.

TL's Editorial Board includes: Managing Editor David R. Stewart, Peer-Reviewed Articles Editor Ronald W. Crown, Bibliographic Editor Daniel Kolb, Columns Editor Andrew J. Keck, and Critical Reviews Editor Melody Layton McMahan.

The articles are available in both PDF and EPUB allowing for readers to view on their mobile devices.

[Click here for newest issue.](#)

An Overview of the Process for the Nomination of Candidates for Election to the ATLA Board

To help members understand the process by which candidates are nominated for election to the ATLA Board of Directors, the ATLA Nominating Committee has provided the following overview.

In the April ATLA Newsletter, the Nominating Committee provided information on how members may submit names for consideration to the committee and gave a June 1 deadline for receiving nominations.

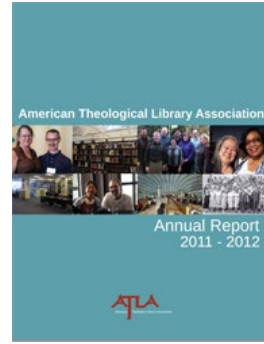
Through April and May, the committee identified potential nominees to be contacted, including current Board members eligible for re-election.

During the ATLA Annual Conference, members of the committee met with individuals to confirm their interest in running and to answer any questions they might have.

In addition to nominations put forth by the Nominating Committee, individuals may petition for inclusion on the ballot. *Nominations other than those submitted by the Nominating Committee may be made by petition signed by no fewer than ten (10) Individual members of the Association and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association no later than December 1. These nominations may be submitted by fax, email, or surface mail and shall be included on the ballot with the nominees presented by the Nominating Committee.*

By October 1, the committee will have submitted to the Board Secretary and the Director of Member Programs, a slate of at least six candidates for the four places to be filled on the Board.

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Available Online



The American Theological Library Association's (ATLA) 2011-2012 Annual Report is [now available](#).

The report highlights the many accomplishments of the association, including the work of association's committees and improvements to ATLA's products.

A report from the independent auditing firm Legacy Professional LLP is also provided, offering an account of the association's finances at the conclusion of fiscal year 2011-12.

2013 Annual Conference News



The 2013 ATLA Annual Conference, The Speed of Change, was held in Charlotte, NC, June 19-22. Attracting 300 members, exhibitors, and guests from around the world, the conference once again proved to be a tremendous success. With the help of the local host committee, the Carolinas Theological Library Consortium (CTLC), the Annual Conference committee, and the Education Committee, the conference provided attendees and guests with the programming, speakers, and excursions that have come to be expected. The planning committees are to be commended for the ideas and events that were provided to our conference attendees.

Held at the Westin Charlotte Hotel, the facilities, service, and the excellent location allowed our members to explore and thoroughly enjoy all of the immediate surroundings. While the meeting space and the sessions were excellent, the opening reception at The Mint Museum, an added attraction from the CTLC, was also well received by attendees. In addition to the delicious catering menu which provided a taste of Charlotte, the local host committee coordinated great entertainment and fun excursions. ATLA members attended a Charlotte Knight's baseball game and toured the Billy Graham Library and participated in the traditional hosted dinner excursions. Of course, the NASCAR Museum was visited and the Special Collections Interest Group planned a behind the scenes tour of its archives.

[Click here to see pictures from some of these, as well as other activities at the conference.](#)

The 2013 Annual Conference was co-located with the Center for the Study of Information and Religion (CSIR) and added diversity to the conference sessions, plenary speakers,

presenters, and attendees. Three plenary speakers, Dr. Peter Ochs, Dr. William Willimon, and Joan Frye Williams were also well received. Each provided a unique presentation that complemented and enhanced the conference theme. The pre-conference workshops attracted over one third of our attendees and provided a great start to the professional development of all that attended. With over one hundred additional papers, conversation groups, workshops, interest groups, panels, listen and learn, poster sessions, showcases, denominational meetings, worship programs, and a diversity movie and discussion, it is safe to say that the ATLA 2013 conference provided something for everyone.

Again, a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the overall success of our conference: the Annual Conference and Education Committee members, Local Host Committee members, the Board of Directors, our speakers, presiders, regional, denominational, and interest group members, ATLA staff, and all the ATLA members who make me feel extremely proud to be a part of this great association. I am exceptionally fortunate, privileged, and blessed.

And as always, we are already planning our next ATLA conference. Join us to "Experience the Extraordinary," hosted by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, at the InterContinental Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 18-21, 2014. The Conference Committee will soon start accepting session proposals for next year. Please stay tuned to our 2014 conference website and look for our member notification on information regarding proposal submissions.

-Denise McFarlin



Submit for the 2013 Proceedings

You are invited to submit your presentation and/or committee and group reports, for the 2013 *Summary of Proceedings*. The annual ATLA *Summary of Proceedings* is a historical record of the ATLA Annual Conference.

Send submissions, forms, presentation slides, and questions to the editor at proceedings@atla.com. Please use the [Proceedings format](#) to submit your materials.

Submissions for the *Proceedings* are due by August 30, 2013.

Those encouraged to make submissions to the Proceedings include:

- Denominational Group secretaries
- Interest Group speakers and secretaries
- Memorial tribute speakers
- Plenary speakers
- Paper/presentation speakers
- Panel discussion presenters
- Pre-conference workshop presenters
- Regional Group secretaries
- Conversation group facilitators
- Worship leaders

Conference Evaluation Reminder

The deadline for the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference Evaluation is fast approaching. Please help us learn more about your experience at the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference and your thoughts for future conferences by following the link below:

[2013 ATLA Annual Conference Evaluation](#).

Your feedback and comments will be shared with the Conference and Local Host committees and used by future committees to plan upcoming conferences. A subset of data will be shared with conference speakers and exhibitors as applicable.

Please complete this survey by Friday, August 16th.

Call for Presentation Slides

ATLA will host your presentation slides on our website. Please submit your slides to proceedings@atla.com and they will be uploaded for others to see.

Staff News

Steven Holloway Accepted Metadata Librarian Position



After spending over 26 years with ATLA, Steven Holloway has accepted the position of Metadata Librarian at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

Steven has made many great contributions to ATLA by serving as an Indexer Analyst for many, many years.

Most recently in his relatively new role as Information Technology Advisor, he played a significant role in educating us about the joys of metadata schemas and keeping us apprised of new developments in digital humanities and technology standards. Clearly he found metadata addictive!

Please join ATLA in congratulating him on venturing back into the hallowed halls of academe and starting down the long path to tenure!

Jarrod Bogucki Moves On to Wisconsin

Jarrod Bogucki has resigned his position as Production Manager after five years of working with ATLA. Jarrod will move on to the lovely state of Wisconsin as he accepted the position of IT Coordinator for the Law Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please join us in thanking him for his service to ATLA, and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors with UW-Madison.

Gregg Taylor Continues Education

Gregg Taylor, Licensing Manager, recently earned his Certificate in Copyright Management, offered under the auspices of the Special Libraries Association. The certificate program spanned six online courses and two in-person courses which covered a broad range of topics such as global copyright law, social media, and digital copyright issues; use of copyright-protected materials, digital license agreements, copyright collective agreements, managing content and copyright compliance; and issues for content creators and publishers. The certificate program provided tools and knowledge to become a leader in copyright compliance and education.



Member News

ATLA Awards Lifetime Memberships

At the 2013 ATLA Annual Conference, ATLA presented Lifetime Memberships to three retiring members:

- Gary Truman, Retired Director of Library Services, Urshan Graduate School of Theology
- Russell Pollard, Retired Collections Management Librarian, Harvard Divinity School
- Dr. D. William Faupel, Retired Director of the Library, Wesley Theological Seminary

In the weeks since the ATLA Annual Conference, we have been notified of several additional retirements. ATLA is pleased to announce the following Lifetime Memberships.

- David Holifield, Retired Associate Librarian, Institute for the Study of Western Civilization
- Dr. Wojciech Zalewski, Retired Bibliographer for Religious Studies, Stanford University Libraries
- Dr. William C. Miller, Retired Director - Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation, Association of Theological Schools

Please join us in congratulating these members and thanking them for their service to the Association.

Members Published

Congratulations to the following members who were published this summer. Thank you for continuing to further theological librarianship.

- Melody Layton McMahon and John B. Weaver published their article "The Theological Library in the Age of Technology" in the Summer 2013 issue of *In Trust* (pp. 12-14).
- Mitzi J. Budde and Don Thorsen published *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*. Mitzi served as co-chair of a 4-year National Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission study group on Unity in Mission. The book is a collection of the theological work of that study group.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, September 9, and October 7. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, listservs, the ATLA website, and member community sections. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Librarian, International Collaboration Committee Member, and...Baseball Coach

Chris Anderson, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at Drew University, was named Assistant Coach for the upcoming 2013-2014 baseball season. Read more about your fellow ATLA Member's accomplishment [here](#).

Member Institution Hires New Librarian

The Pitts Theology Library is pleased to announce that Dr. Richard (Bo) Adams has accepted the invitation to become its Reference and Systems Librarian, filling the position left with the departure of Dr. Matthew Collins to become library director at the Louisville Seminary.

Dr. Adams received a B.A. degree in Computer Science/Economics from Dartmouth College, the M.T.S. from Candler, the Th.M. from Columbia Theological Seminary, and the Ph.D. in New Testament and Early Christianity from Emory University, completing a dissertation entitled, "The Israel of God: The Narrative Rhetoric of Paul's Letter to the Galatians" (2012).

Job Openings

Are you in the market for a new position? Be sure to check the ATLA [web listings](#) to see who is hiring now.

Positions posted this month:

- General Commission on Archives and History, Madison, NJ, is looking for a [General Secretary](#).
- The Brandel Library at North Park University, Chicago, IL, is looking for an [Instruction and Reference Librarian](#).
- The Graduate Theological Union Library, Berkeley, CA, is looking for a [Head of Public Services and Reference Librarian](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Production Programmer](#).
- Drew University Library, Madison, NJ, is looking for a [Lead Metadata Librarian and Methodist Cataloger](#).
- Biola University, La Mirada, CA, is looking for a [Dean of the Library](#).

2013 Report of the ATLA Birding Passion Group



Our host for the morning's outing, Judy Walker, picked up at 5:00 a.m. on 20 June, just outside the main entrance to the Charlotte Westin. We knew it was she as soon as we saw the license plate: "I Bird." Somehow we all fit comfortably into her tiny Rav 4: Karla Grafton, Paul Friesen and his wife Rita, and (mercifully in the front seat) yours truly. And off we went to the McAlpine Creek greenway in Pineville, on the eastern outskirts of Charlotte.

"Did you know about the Peregrine Falcons with young that are hanging out on the downtown Hilton?" Judy asked, as we wound our way through the dark. Rita, the photographer in the group, was especially interested, since the birds might be visible from the Westin. (She later managed to photograph two of them).

It was still dark when we arrived at the greenway parking lot. Making our way by flashlight along the greenway's multiuse pathway, we began to hear a number of unknown critter sounds. "That's a frog," said Judy, "so's that," as we listened hopefully for birdsong. Then came a raspy croaking and the sound of wings as a Great Blue Heron became airborne in the marsh to our left. Moments later, we came upon a set of five lights bobbing eerily in tandem about six feet off the ground. A chorus of "good mornings" greeted us as their wearers jogged by.

"Spit-a-KEET, Spit-a-KEET"-this was a bird. "Acadian Flycatcher," Judy exclaimed, and we finally saw it in faint silhouette, as it flitted about high above our heads. Paul was eager to see it in good light; it would be a "lifer" for him, but for the moment at least he had it as a "heard bird."

"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" A Barred Owl: now things were really cooking! And then a second owl cut loose-no, it was Judy playing the call on her

I-Phone, hoping to lure the bird within sight. No luck, so we moved on.

As it turned out, most species were playing hard to get, vocal though they were, for fear of attracting predators to their (very active) nests. We'd have to do much of our birding by ear-more of a challenge than birding by sight, because most birds have more vocalizations than plumages. Have you ever counted the number of calls and songs in the repertoire of an American Robin or a Northern Cardinal? Paul and I were constantly mixing up Northern Cardinal and Carolina Wren. Throw in a Tufted Titmouse saying something other than the standard "Peter, Peter, Peter" and you've got real trouble. Fortunately, Judy had the various sounds down pat.

Moments later, we came upon a set of five lights bobbing eerily in tandem about six feet off the ground. A chorus of "good mornings" greeted us as their wearers jogged by.

"Okay: squeaky pairs, that's got to be an Indigo Bunting," I said, as a male of the species perched on top of a bush and sang its scratchy double-noted heart out. Next up was Pine Warbler, out of sight, high above us. "It has a more liquid sort of trill than the Chipping Sparrow, and we'll hear those today, too." "Caah," called a crow flying by, sounding for all the world like a Bostonian trying to say "car." "Could be a Fish Crow," said Judy, "but the young American Crows have a begging call that's a lot like the Fish Crow's call this time of year-too hard to tell."

We came to a grove of deciduous trees that was right on the edge of a marsh. In the distance a medium-sized hawk was perched high up on a snag. Our first raptor:

List of Birds Seen or Heard

- Great Blue Heron
- *Acadian Flycatcher
- Barred Owl
- Northern Cardinal
- Indigo Bunting
- *Carolina Wren
- *Pine Warbler
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- American Crow
- Common Grackle
- Chimney Swift
- Great-crested Flycatcher
- *Tufted Titmouse
- *Carolina Chickadee
- American Robin
- Eastern Bluebird
- House Finch
- Eastern Phoebe
- Downy Woodpecker
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Mourning Dove
- American Goldfinch
- *Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- *Prothonotary Warbler
- Mallard
- *Fish Crow
- *Brown-headed Nuthatch
- *Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Brown Thrasher
- Common Yellowthroat
- Blue Jay
- House Wren
- Orchard Oriole
- Turkey Vulture
- Northern Mockingbird
- Green Heron

**Indicates a life bird for Paul Friesen*

Red-shouldered Hawk-one of Paul's many "lifers" for the day. "I'm hearing a Prothonotary Warbler!" Judy shouted. We caught glimpses of it flitting from tree to tree, but we wanted to give Rita a chance to get a good shot of it, so Judy called it in on her I-Phone app. I had to duck as the bird made a bee-line for my head and then sensibly perched on a branch just a few meters away, giving Rita a perfect pose.

Why is it called "Prothonotary" asked Karla. I explained (having chanced to read the explanation in the Encyclopedia of North American Birds back when I could still remember things) that the chief Papal notaries, "proTHONotaries," wear a yellow hood that's similar in color to the warbler's plumage. To which Karla responded, "I think that's a wonderful bird for a theological librarian to see."

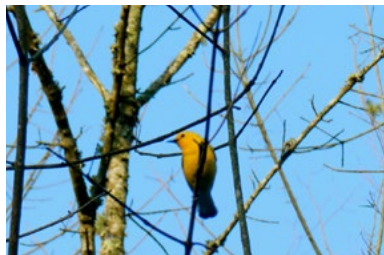


We moved on to a more shaded part of the boardwalk. "Spit-a-KEET!" "What's that?" I wondered aloud. "It's our friend the Acadian Flycatcher," Judy replied as she activated the iPhone app once more to see if we could get a better look. The bird "spit-a-KEET-ed" in and out of the surrounding foliage, alighting on a dead branch, then flitting away before everyone could see it. It finally posed obligingly for a few seconds and then resumed feeding.

"I've got some tiny birds high up on a dead trunk overhead," called Paul. "Yes, Brown-headed Nuthatches!" Another lifer

for him. I was too slow on the draw, but I'd managed to see a couple of them at the Durham ATLA conference in 2001, so I hadn't missed a lifer (which is, as you may have guessed, the ultimate in ornithological disappointment).

Time to head back. We picked up Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Yellowthroat, and a stunning Orchard Oriole from the boardwalk near where we'd seen the Prothonotary Warbler. "Caah!" called an adult crow as it flew over. "I'm 95% sure that was a Fish Crow," said Judy.



It was getting hot, the birding began to peter out, and so, as all birders do under such circumstances, we fell to conversing. "How many in-class bibliographical instruction sessions do you do over the course of a year?" Judy

asked Karla. "I must do 30 or 40 myself." And so we discovered that we had more in common than birding: Judy is, in fact, the Education/Psychology librarian at UNC Charlotte.

Just as we were leaving the greenway trail for the parking lot, Rita pointed out an unusual bird that was looking down on us from a tree just over our heads. It had a long bill, rusty neck, and metallic green back-a Green Heron! Perhaps the birds, feeling a bit guilty for their shyness, had sent one of their most stunning emissaries to bid us farewell.

Submitted by Sandy Ayer and photos by Rita Friesen

ATLA Calendar

August

- 3-6 - Catholic Biblical Association (CBA) Seventy-Sixth International Meeting, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA
- ATLA exhibit table
- 14-22 - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and associated satellite meetings, Singapore, Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 23 - ATLA Offices Closed for Staff Outing

September

- 2 - ATLA Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day
- 4 - Social Gathering in Honor and Memory of Dennis Norlin, Chicago, IL
- 9 - Routine maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 11-15 - The 42nd General Assembly of BETH (European Theological Libraries), Paris, Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 30 - National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services (NFAIS) Annual Humanities Roundtable, Chicago, IL

October

- 7 - Routine maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 17-19 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL

From the Executive Director

The State of the Association: ATLA Is Doing Well



At each ATLA Annual Conference, I provide an update on the current state of the Association. The short story this year is: ATLA is doing well. I say this for several reasons that relate to our products, the growth opportunities offered to our members, and our financial position.

ATLA has continued to improve and enhance its suite of products. *ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)* now has over 1.75 million records and 578 journals are currently being indexed.

ATLAS® has over 442,000 records and 250 distinct serials have been licensed and will soon be digitized and available. In the past year new content added to *ATLAS* included more non-English language materials and an expansion of faith coverage and international publications.

Concentrated efforts continued last year to further develop the scholarly content and international coverage in *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index® (ATLA CPLI®)*. In April, we announced *ATLA CPLI* for ALUM, which allows institutions to directly support their alumni by providing them access to *ATLA CPLI*.

The quality of ATLA products continues to receive recognition. In October 2012, the African American Historical Serials Collection™ was named an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice Magazine*.

ATLA continued to offer opportunities for professional development for theological librarians at all levels. The Theological Librarianship course has been so consistently popular it was just given its own permanent course listing

at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In April, the 4th Wabash Colloquy was offered, and once again, was given rave reviews from its participants.

Work began on reassessing ATLA's committee structure and programs to more closely align them with the current organizational ends. The ends have been revised a number of times recently, but the committee structure had basically remained untouched. During the past year, every committee reviewed its charge and programs.

Most importantly, ATLA's financial house is in order. Revenue and expenses for the current fiscal year which ends on August 31 are right in line with the budget. Our operating reserve, which is safely invested, remains at slightly over \$1.8 million. The balance in the Endowment Fund stands at nearly \$334,000 and giving was up this year by around 40%.

The draft FY14 budget that was presented to the membership at the conference has now been adjusted based on the final revenue projections which are always confirmed in August. Major initiatives planned for FY14 include:

- Initiating a preservation education program
- Launching a task force on scholarly communications in religion and theology
- Replacing our aging production system
- Exploring new products and markets through significant research and development

In the coming year - and into the future - ATLA will continue to "do well" through the collaborative efforts of members, staff, and other organizations aligned with our mission and by using financial resources wisely.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bailey-Hainer
Executive Director

Contact Information

We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the *ATLA Newsletter*. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication.

Contact newsletter@atla.com with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

Stay Connected



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