

## Newsletter



Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

*Want to be showcased in the next newsletter? Post a photo of your library with #ATLALibrary.*

From the President .....	1
Board Meeting Summary .....	2
Business Meeting Summary .....	2
Board Nominations Process .....	3
ATLA Committees Transitions .....	3
“In Good Faith” Update .....	4
ATLA Member Renewals .....	4
NFAIS 2014 Humanities Roundtable .....	4
ATLA Awards Diversity Scholarships .....	5
2014 ATLA Annual Conference .....	6
Call for 2015 Conference Proposals .....	7
ATLA Member of the Week .....	7
<i>Theological Librarianship Available</i> .....	8
Works of John Howard Yoder Online .....	8
Calendar .....	8
2014 Birding Passion Group .....	9
Member News .....	11
Job Openings .....	11
Staff News .....	12
From the Executive Director .....	14



### From the President Annual Business Meeting Recap

A big thank you and congratulations to the Local Host Committee, the Conference Committee, and the ATLA staff for a successful conference in June! Also, a big thank you to all of our annual conference speakers and presenters! It was great to reconnect with many of you and to meet some of you for the first time. I hope you enjoyed the annual conference in New Orleans.

As I promised in my June column, here is a summary of the conversation we had during the annual business meeting. In lieu of a presidential address, we opened the floor to a general discussion about topics, including the proposed increase to individual and student dues. While there was support for the proposed increase in individual membership dues, there was some concern about raising student membership dues. To date, the Board has received the following feedback regarding the proposal to raise individual and student dues: (1) “it’s about time,” (2) can you reduce and simplify the number of income increments/levels in the proposed dues structure? (3) at least one lifetime member encouraged the Board to consider membership dues for lifetime members rather than offering free lifetime memberships. The Board welcomes your feedback and will host a virtual town hall meeting regarding the proposed member dues increase on Thursday, September 11, 1 p.m. CTD. Register at [MemberRep@atla.com](mailto:MemberRep@atla.com). Remember this issue will appear on the online ballot in January.

A second topic discussed during the business meeting was the current state of ATLA’s preservation program. ATLA has engaged a consultant to think about how ATLA can help with preservation efforts at member institutions and is seeking additional grant funding to support preservation initiatives. A third topic discussed was member recruitment. The search for a new Director of Member Programs (which will include recruitment) is underway. Brenda Bailey-Hainer and I have reached out to the Catholic Library Association and Association of Jewish Libraries to discuss ways we might work together in the future. Like other small library associations, ATLA’s membership numbers are stagnant or on a slight decline. During the coming years, the biggest category of growth for us will be lifetime membership.

Continued on page 4

# Minutes of the ATLA Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2014

President Beth Bidlack called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

## **Recognition of Conference Planners**

President Beth Bidlack thanked all who had worked tirelessly on the Annual Conference, especially the Local Host Committee, the Conference Committee, and the ATLA staff. She also thanked conference sponsors ATLA, EBSCO, Brill, CBIZ, First Bank and Trust, Ministry Matters, Sage, and SCELIC.

## **Secretary's Report**

Eileen Saner thanked members of the 2014 Teller's Committee, Susan Ebbers, Sandy Oslund, and Alan Krieger. At the time of the January 2014 election, ATLA had 611 members eligible to vote and 233 ballots were cast. Beth Bidlack, Kelly Campbell, Matthew Ostercamp, and Jennifer Bartholomew were elected to serve on the ATLA Board, 2014 - 2017. Jim Skypeck moved and Timothy Lincoln seconded that the Secretary's report be accepted. The vote was unanimous.

## **Board Transitions**

President Bidlack recognized the incoming Board members Matt Ostercamp and Jennifer Bartholomew noting that they had participated in the meetings earlier in the week as observers. Outgoing Board member Douglas Gragg was recognized for his service, particularly leadership in the revision of the Board Policy Manual. Tammy Johnson brought wisdom and energy to the Board as she served in the place of André Paris who died in 2012. The Board elected ATLA officers for 2014-15: Beth Bidlack (president), Kelly Campbell (vice president), and Steve Perisho (secretary).

## **Lifetime Members**

President Bidlack recognized three retiring librarians who have been granted Lifetime Membership status: Joanna Hause (Head of Technical Services, Southeastern University), Paul Stuehrenberg (Divinity Librarian, Yale University Divinity School Library), and Grace Mullen (Assistant Librarian and Archivist Westminster Theological Seminary — in memoriam, see obituary below).

## **Report of the Endowment Committee**

Dennis Swanson reviewed the history of the ATLA Endowment and the goal for the fund, 13.5 million dollars by 2034. The purpose of the fund is to support member programs and reduce reliance on income from ATLA products. He explained several ways that members could participate in the achievement of the goal.

## **ATLA 2015 Denver**

Members of the Local Host Committee encouraged ATLA members to attend the annual conference in Denver next year.

## **Open Discussion**

President Bidlack opened the floor to discussion and questions about the proposed membership dues increase and other issues from the membership.

The Business Meeting concluded at 1:50 p.m.

- Submitted by Eileen K. Saner, ATLA Secretary

# Summary of the June 2014 Board Meeting

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17 and 18

The Board elected ATLA officers for 2014-15: Beth Bidlack (president), Kelly Campbell (vice president), and Steve Perisho (secretary). Carrie Hackney, Board representative on the Nominating Committee, gave an interim report on the committee's work. Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer announced changes to some of the committees that she appoints.

Board members reviewed the necessity of avoiding conflicts of interest in carrying out their ATLA leadership responsibilities. In Executive Session, the Board finalized the annual review of the Executive Director and approved compensation for FY2015.

On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, the Board met with consultant Paul Meyer to continue the strategic planning work begun at the February Board meeting. They discussed how ATLA should respond to the growing diversity within the association and its libraries. After considering several options in small group discussions and as a whole, the Board unanimously passed this motion:

In keeping with the Association's mission and its express commitment to diversity, the Board moves to explore ways the Association can be more responsive to and inclusive of libraries and librarians representative of a broad spectrum of religious traditions and perspectives.

The Board will continue strategic planning with Paul Meyer's guidance at its October meeting.

- Submitted by Eileen Saner, ATLA Secretary

## 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 May ATLA *Newsletter*, the Nominating Committee provided information on how members may submit names for consideration to the committee and gave an April 1 deadline for receiving nominations.

Beginning in April, the committee identified potential nominees, including current Board members eligible for re-election. The committee has been contacting 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. The Director of Member Programs will ask each nominee to submit biographical information along with a statement concerning his or her view of the Association's needs and/or mission. These materials will be included with the ballot.

By October 15, the Director of Member Programs will send letters to all eligible ATLA voting members announcing the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee and including information about making petition nominations to the Secretary.

December 1 will be the deadline for submissions, by petition, of additional nominations by the membership.

Between December 1 and January 15, the Director of Member Programs will confirm the eligibility of all candidates and the Secretary will inform petition candidates of Board duties and verify their willingness to serve. All candidates will be asked to finalize and submit their biographical information and statements concerning their view of the Association's needs and/or mission.

By January 15, the Director of Member Programs will have prepared the ballots and distributed them to all eligible ATLA voting members.

Full information about the nominating process can be found in the [Board Policy Manual](#), available in the Community Section of the ATLA web site.

## ATLA Committees Transitions

Much of the work accomplished toward meeting ATLA's Organizational Ends is done by Individual and Lifetime Members who serve on committees. Our thanks go to those who are ending their terms and a warm welcome is extended to those who are beginning their service.

Thank you for your service:

- Eric Benoy - Conference Committee
- Ky St. Amant - Conference Committee
- Daniel Flores - Diversity Committee
- Stella Wilkins - Diversity Committee
- Christopher J. Anderson - International Collaboration Committee
- Cindy Lu - International Collaboration Committee
- Tim Erdel - International Collaboration Committee
- Ferne Weimer - International Collaboration Committee
- Lugene Schemper - Professional Development Committee
- Leland Deeds - Professional Development Committee
- Lisa Gonzalez - Publications Committee
- Miranda Bennett - Publications Committee
- Brad Ost - Publications Committee
- Melody Layton McMahon - *Theological Librarianship* Editorial Board
- Andrew J. Keck - *Theological Librarianship* Editorial Board

The membership of each of ATLA's committees for 2014-2015, as of July 1, 2014, is listed below.

- Conference Committee: Michelle Spomer, chair; Miranda Benett; Suzanne Estelle-Holmer; Tracy Powell Iwaskow; Stephen Sweeney; Lisa Grover; Liz Leahy; Pat Graham; Denise McFarlin, staff liaison
- Diversity Committee: Lynn Berg, chair; Jaeyeon Lucy Chung; Shanee' Yvette Murrain; Tawny Burgess, staff liaison
- Endowment Committee: Dennis Swanson, chair; Marti Alt; Brenda Bailey-Hainer, staff liaison; Marie Jacobsen, staff liaison
- Professional Development Committee: Jennifer Ulrich, co-chair; Nicholas Weiss, co-chair; Martha Adkins; Megan Welsh; Denise McFarlin, staff liaison
- *Theological Librarianship* Editorial Board: David R. Stewart; Ronald W. Crown; Gary F. Daught; Miranda Bennett; Daniel Kolb

A complete list can be found on the [ATLA website](#).

## "In Good Faith" Project Advisory Committee Meets at ATLA



The "In Good Faith" Advisory Committee and consultants: (Front, left to right) Malachy McCarthy, Emily Suzanne Clark, Elizabeth F. Stabler, (Back, left to right) Tom Claeson, Ilka Gordon, Liz Bishoff, Dr. Ida E. Jones, Michael Boddy, Dr. Sharon A. Taylor, Grant Gerlich, Brenda Bailey-Hainer (ex-officio)

On July 17, members of the "In Good Faith" Project Advisory Committee met at the ATLA office. The Committee assembled to review the results of a [survey conducted](#) from mid-March to mid-April on the collection care, preservation, and access practices in small theological and religious studies libraries, archives, and cultural institutions. Over 230 respondents from a variety of institutions responded to the survey. These included libraries and archives at colleges, universities, seminaries, churches, religious orders, convents, synagogues, and other houses of worship.

[The "In Good Faith" Advisory Committee](#) examined the survey results and discussed the implications for further research and potential grant projects. A report on the survey findings will be issued in mid-September.

"In Good Faith: Collection Care, Preservation, and Access in Small Theological and Religious Studies Libraries" was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Project partners include the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), the Catholic Library Association (CLA) and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL). This IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries Planning Grant runs through September 30, 2014.

[Learn more about this project by visiting the ATLA website.](#)

*National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the museum, library, and/or archive fields and that have the potential to advance practices in those fields. IMLS offers grants to help make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.*

### Letter from the President Continued

Finally, we discussed the need for a global perspective when thinking about the future of ATLA. The Board is creating a vision for the future (a "big, hairy, audacious goal") by discussing what it would mean for ATLA to be the hub for scholarly communications in theology and religion. During its meeting in June, the Board also expressed its commitment to growing beyond its historical roots in Christianity and embracing members from other world religions. We look forward to [continuing our conversations](#) with you over the coming year.

## NFAIS 2014 Humanities Roundtable

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Margot Lyon, and Maria Stanton will join fellow scholars, librarians, content providers and database publishers for the NFAIS 2014 Humanities Roundtable, in New York City, September 29, 2014, at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. This year's roundtable is entitled *Digital Humanities and Digital Publishing: Insights and Opportunities*. Leading experts in the field, including our ATLA Board President Beth Bidlack, Director, Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, will present at this one-day onsite and virtual event exploring current and emerging best practices in digital humanities and digital publishing. [Click for more information.](#)

## 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 Friday, 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](mailto: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 2014-2015 ATLA membership renewal, please e-mail [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

## ATLA Awards Two Diversity in Theological Librarianship Scholarships

The [ATLA Diversity Committee](#) is pleased to announce the recipients of two [ATLA Diversity Scholarships](#).

**Drew Baker is the Acquisitions Librarian at Claremont School of Theology working toward a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.**

Drew has a passion for diversity. Growing up as a lower class Buddhist in a predominantly Christian city, he unfortunately learned to be quiet and to not express his religious views. As he grew older he began to study religion, diversity, and oppression in an academic environment culminating with his dissertation on Buddhists in the United States. He stated that diversity is about "actively engaging in deconstructing societal barriers that impede marginalized individuals from being heard because of their differences (perceived or otherwise) and actively promoting places where constructive dialogue can occur both within communities and across different communities. Given that theological libraries are a unique site for deep community and individual reflection on matters pertaining to ultimate values, societal engagement, and the research tools to practically connect the two, they are incredibly important locations for



**"I will be tireless in my pursuit of cultivating active diversity in member libraries, beginning but not ending with my own."**

these sorts of conversations and the active pursuit of diversity."

Drew will work with ATLA in promoting diversity in his work place. He said, "I will be tireless in my pursuit of cultivating active diversity in member libraries, beginning but not ending with my own." He added,

"Justice and compassion demand no less of me."

Drew is a student member of ATLA and will use his scholarship to support his enrollment at San Jose State University.

**Kindra Morelock is working toward a Master of Library and Information Science at University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.**

Growing up as a Korean adoptee with Caucasian parents, her perspective is middle-class Caucasian-American; however, "I have had the race-based experiences that my fellow Asian-Americans have experienced based solely on the way that I look." She stated that living and raising her children in the mostly African-American, underprivileged East Garfield Park neighborhood in Chicago, immediately increases diversity in whatever situation she is in.



**"She plans to bring a "unique perspective of working toward racial reconciliation and the ability to see how multi-faceted the racial and socio-economic problems in this country are firsthand."**

have in a library committed to training the next generation of scholars and clergy."

She plans to bring a "unique perspective of working toward racial reconciliation and the ability to see how multi-faceted the racial and socio-economic problems in this country are firsthand." And she hopes to "shed light on the benefits that a diverse faculty and staff can

Kindra is a student member of ATLA and will use her scholarship to support her enrollment at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

Congratulations to both recipients!

A special thank you to the members of the ATLA Diversity Committee for their work to promote this opportunity and to evaluate applicants. [Learn more about this committee by visiting their web page.](#)



## 2014 Annual Conference News

The 2014 ATLA Annual Conference, Experience the Extraordinary, was held in New Orleans, LA, June 18-21. 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, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS), the conference provided the attendees and guests with the programming, speakers, and excursions that have come to be expected. NOBTS did a fabulous job on all of the ideas and events that were implemented for our conference attendees.

Held at the InterContinental New Orleans, the excellent location allowed our members to explore and thoroughly enjoy all of the immediate surroundings. The opening reception, which started earlier, allowed us to take advantage of all of the great cuisine/restaurants that New Orleans is known for.

ATLA also hosted "Dessert and Discussion" where attendees were able to meet and hear from Maria Stanton, ATLA's new Director of Production, Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development, and other product representatives.

In addition to a great Friday evening campus visit with a delicious taste of New Orleans catering menu, NOTBS coordinated great entertainment and fun excursions. ATLA members attended Oak Alley Plantation, toured

the National World War II Museum, and participated in the traditional hosted dinner excursions. Of course, the New Orleans Cooking School was visited twice and a Cemetery and Voodoo Walking Tour was held. [Click here to see pictures from some of the activities at the conference.](#)

Another highlight of the conference was all of our international members/guests that attended this year. Representatives



Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer at the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference, Thursday, June 19.

from France, Belgium, The United Kingdom, Myanmar, Australia, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago were welcomed and participated with the International Collaboration Committee. The second cohort of Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program kicked off with nine ATLA members participating. Our keynote speaker Joseph Lucia, Dean of Temple University Libraries, provided thought provoking ideas with his plenary address Common Ends: Libraries, Imagination, and the Conflict of Values in the Digital Movement. 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 learns, poster sessions, exhibitor showcases, denominational meetings/excursions, worship programs, the *Theological Librarianship* Editorial Board and the Diversity Committee hosted evenings at Café du Monde, it is safe to say that the ATLA 2014 conference, once again, provided something for everyone.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the overall success of our conference: the Conference Committee members, the Board of Directors, our speakers, presidors, 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 feel extremely fortunate, privileged, and grateful.

And as always, we are already planning our next ATLA conference. Join us in Denver, Colorado, as we will be "Mining the Information Landscape," hosted by the Theological Librarians and Libraries of the Denver/Rocky Mountain Region at the Denver Marriott Tech Center, June 17-20, 2015. The Conference Committee will soon begin accepting session proposals for next year. Please stay tuned for our 2015 conference website and future communications regarding proposal submissions.

-Denise McFarlin

## Conference Photos Online

Check out our [Flickr 2014 ATLA Annual Conference](#) album for photos from the conference. Take any photos? Tag us!



## Submit for 2014 Proceedings

You are invited to submit your presentation and/or committee and group reports, for the 2014 *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](mailto:proceedings@atla.com). Please use the *Proceedings format to submit your materials*.

Submissions for the Proceedings are due by Friday, September 19, 2014.

Those encouraged to make submissions to the *Proceedings* include:

- Committee chairs
- Conversation Group facilitators
- 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
- Worship leaders

[Please check out our website for more information.](#)

## Call for the 2015 ATLA Annual Conference Proposals

The Conference Committee cordially invites 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



June 17-20, 2015 • ATLA Annual Conference  
Theological Librarians and Libraries of Denver  
/ Rocky Mountain Region

The conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, June 17-20, 2015.

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

Look for a separate e-mail notification with all the details for submitting your proposal.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver, June 17 - 20, where you will be "Mining the Information Landscape" hosted by the Theological Librarians and Libraries of Denver/ Rocky Mountain Region.

## ATLA Member of the Week

Working in the Member Programs Department I, Tawny, am in contact with many of the members. I get to see and meet many of you at the ATLA Annual Conference, Committee Meetings, and through phone and e-mails that come in. I realize that I am spoiled in that I get to know many of you. I think it's time that I let others get to know you too, so I created ATLA Member of the Week.

Let's give a face and personality to what makes ATLA unique -- you!

If you are an Individual, Student, or the member rep of your library or organization, we want to honor the work that you are doing by showcasing you as the ATLA Member of the Week.

Become a ATLA Member of the Week by [filling out this form](#) and sending your photo to [newsletter@atla.com](mailto:newsletter@atla.com). Your profile will be [featured on our website](#) and linked on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Theological Librarianship Now Available

The new issue of *Theological Librarianship* was published Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

*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 Gary F. Daught, and Critical Reviews Editor Miranda H. Bennett.

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

[Click here for newest issue.](#)

## Works of John Howard Yoder Available

An online digital library containing nearly 250 unpublished, informally published and popular works by theologian John Howard Yoder is now available for scholars and students around the world.

A collaborative project undertaken by Goshen College's Mennonite Historical Library, the Mennonite Church USA Archives and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), the digital library is freely accessible through the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana (PALNI) and Indiana Memory websites, and can be viewed at <http://tiny.cc/JohnHYoder>. The library also includes the full text of the "Concern" pamphlet series, articles written by young American Mennonite intellectuals between 1954 and 1971.

Jamie Pitts, assistant professor of Anabaptist studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, said that the digital library "gives unparalleled access to Yoder's unpublished and hard-to-find writings, from early essays in the *Gospel Herald* to later grapplings with philosophical issues."

[Learn more about this project and visit the John Howard Yoder online library.](#)

## ATLA Calendar

### August

- 15 - ATLA office closed for staff outing

### September

- 1 - ATLA offices closed in observance of Labor Day
- 6-10 - Bibliothèques européennes de théologie (BETH) 43d annual meeting in Wroclaw, Poland - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending.
- 8 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 11 - Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Proposed Member Dues Increase (2ET/1CT/NoonMT/11PT), hosted by ATLA President Beth Bidlack. (Register at: [MemberRep@atla.com](mailto:MemberRep@atla.com))
- 29 - National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS) Humanities Roundtable, New York City - Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Margot Lyon, and Maria Stanton attending
- 30 - Deadline for the 2015 Annual Conference Session Proposals

### October

- 6 - Routine Maintenance performed on ATLA systems
- 17-18 - ATLA Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 28-29 - *Theological Librarianship* Meeting, Chicago, IL



## 2014 Report of the ATLA Birding Passion Group



(left to right) Rita Friesen, Lynn Berg, Paul Friesen, Karla Grafton, Sandy Ayer, Carisse Berryhill, Diane Napert

"Visiting librarian-birders seek outing in June near New Orleans" read the subject line on the e-mail I sent to LABird this midwinter to try to find a local birder-host for this year's ATLA birding excursion. Right away I got a response from Marty Guidry, a real-live Cajun birder from Baton Rouge. He suggested we visit Honey Island Swamp-a romantic sounding place that conjures up images of gators and water moccasins-about an hour north of New Orleans. On the avian end of things, this year's outing promised encounters with some Deep South specialties, such as Swallow-tailed Kite, Swainson's Warbler, White Ibis, and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.

Since Marty lives about two hours from New Orleans, we decided to rent a van (a Passion Group first) and meet him at Honey Island. Our bigger than usual group-Carisse Berryhill, first-timer Diane Napert, Karla Grafton, Lynn Berg, Paul and Rita Friesen, and yours truly-filled all seven seats. We decided to indulge in the luxury of leaving at 5:30 a.m., instead of our usual 5:00, because we didn't want to navigate in the dark. With Marty's clear instructions and Karla and Carisse on the GPS's we managed to find our way to the swamp without a hitch.

On the drive out we began to encounter

overflights of ducks and herons even before we entered the Lake Ponchartrain causeway. Some of the ducks had long, skinny necks, but the light was too dim for us to be sure that they were Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. And we didn't want Paul, for whom they would have been lifers, to steer us into the lake. Another overflight: "Flap, flap, glide; flap, flap, glide-looks like a Cooper's Hawk-no, look at the slender decurved bill: that's an ibis," I thought. But which one: Glossy? White-faced? White?

We also spent some time listening to recordings of Swainson's Warbler and the similar-sounding Louisiana Waterthrush. The final four notes of the Swainson's song are quite distinct, whereas those of the waterthrush are an indistinct jumble. Getting these distinctions down would at least enable us to count Swainson's as a "heard bird" if it was singing, since it would now be nesting and likely wouldn't show itself.

Marty arrived at Honey Island shortly after we did. The sun was up, and the dawn chorus had begun. "Make sure y'all register before y'all go in, and make sure y'all put the copy of the park pass in the box when y'all leave-otherwise they'll come lookin' for y'all," said Marty. As we were filling out the forms we began seeing bursts of yellow and white among the green leaves: a Prothonotary Warbler! It settled on its nest, which was right next to the box for the park passes. Getting so close to such a strikingly beautiful bird was the highlight of the day for Karla.

"The road we're on is old U.S. 11. It dead-ends at the Mississippi. When they put in the interstate they just left it and turned the swamp into a park. There's 44,000 acres here, and just a few years ago someone claimed they saw an Ivory-billed Woodpecker here. So keep your eyes open!" said Marty.

I saw a tiny bird preening high in a leafy tree. Marty put his scope on it: "Ruby-throated Hummingbird. They feed at those

## Birds Seen and Heard

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- White Ibis
- Turkey Vulture
- Mississippi Kite
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Barred Owl
- Chimney Swift
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- White-eyed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- Barn Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Carolina Wren
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler
- Kentucky Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Eastern Towhee
- Summer Tanager
- Northern Cardinal
- Common Grackle

Continued on the next page

orange trumpet flowers you see high up in the trees." Just then Tom Trenchard pulled up. Marty had enlisted him for his auditory prowess. Two of Tom's friends, Renee Sawyer and Bill Lang, also joined us. Marty and Tom decided that we'd head down U. S. 11, stopping at every bridge or whenever we heard significant birdsong.

I rode with Tom, who kept the windows down, despite the heat, the better to listen.

"Did you hear that?"

"Yeah, sounds like Hooded Warbler, 'weety, weety, wee TEET oh.'"

"Really? I make it 'weecher - weecher - which - TEAcher.'"

We stopped at a bridge. "White Ibis, right there . . . gone." "Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, right overhead!"

Gone again before the group could see them. We'd have to be quicker on the draw. No sign yet of a Swainson's Warbler, even though Marty was playing a recording of its song.

On we drove. At the next bridge we heard a brief "Who-cooks-for-you?" (no quibbling over mnemonics here) from a well-concealed Barred Owl and then a warbler whose song ended in a "zzzzZAP." "Northern Parula; I'll try to call it in," said Tom. Soon the little blue, yellow, and white warbler with the dark chest band was serenading us out in the open, where everyone could see it. All right!

"I've got something in that dead tree up there," called Marty. "Looks like a Northern Cardinal, but it could be a Summer Tanager; no, there's the crest; it's just a Cardinal." It was still a beautiful bird, and one that gets reported on the rare bird alert whenever it shows up in Calgary.

Further stops yielded the usual variety of Southern suspects, most of them heard only: Carolina Wren, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Chickadee, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swifts (visible overhead), Bridled Titmouse, White-eyed Vireo-35 of this latter species (Tom was keeping count).

"Sandy, have you ever seen cypress knees? No, well, they're those little protuberances sticking out of the water just below the tree itself. Nobody knows what they're for." The voice was Carisse's, and she'd alerted me to a "life tree." I'd always wanted to see a Bald Cypress, and here was a bunch of them,



The group bird watching in New Orleans, LA.

their buttress-like trunks growing right out of the water.

Our next stop gave us more sky to scan. "Kites!" Two narrow-winged graceful raptors were circling overhead: Mississippi Kites. Not Swallow-tailed Kite, one of our target species, but lovely nonetheless; and it was only the second time I'd ever seen one. Soon after, Marty took us to the place where he'd staked out a Swallow-tailed Kite nest in anticipation of our visit, but the nesting attempt had failed, and the birds had departed. "Otherwise, Renee would've put on her climbing spikes and gone up and banded the young," said Marty.

"I think I hear Swainson's Warbler," said Tom as we pulled up to the next bridge. He began playing its song. "Hey, I'm getting a response, or is that you, Marty?" It was, but we were still getting a response after Marty turned off his machine, and the song got louder. And then a second bird joined in. The last four notes were clearly articulated. Yes, both were Swainson's! The characteristically reclusive birds never showed themselves, but just to hear one was a big thrill for me.

"I'm hearing a Kentucky Warbler!" called Tom. He played the song, and the bird, clearly agitated, flashed yellow and black among the leaves, first on one side of the bridge and then the other. We rushed from side to side in pursuit, much to the delight of Rita, who was trying to catch all the excitement on film. Eventually it settled in one spot long enough for each of us to see it clearly. It was a big hit for all of us, especially Paul and Diane.

Our final significant sighting was a bit of avian redemption: a Summer Tanager showing off its completely red plumage at the top of a dead tree, much to the delight of Diane and Carisse.

As always, what made everybody's highlight reel was the experience as a whole, and especially the ornithological hospitality of Marty and his friends.

Just for the record, Paul, Rita, and I did get to see Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, along with King and Clapper Rail, Magnificent Frigatebird, Roseate Spoonbill-and pretty well any member of the heron family you'd care to name-the following Sunday when Marty took us to the Gulf Coast for the day. But that's another story.

## Member News

### In Memoriam: Grace E. Mullen

The American Theological Library Association remembers the life of Grace E. Mullen, Archivist and Assistant Librarian at Westminster Theological Seminary, Glenside, PA.



Grace E. Mullen / Credit: [wts.edu](http://wts.edu)

Grace was born in Wildwood, NJ, on March 7, 1943. After graduating from Calvin College, Grace taught at various Christian schools around the country and then earned a Master's degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. Following her graduation from UPenn, Grace taught school in Iran for a year and then returned home to work at the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Grace began work in the library at Westminster in September of 1975. Over the years Grace worked tirelessly, meeting the research needs of the seminary's faculty and students and very ably serving as the Acting Library Director on four different occasions. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Grace on a daily basis will always be grateful for her and will miss her wisdom, good humor, and professionalism. Grace's contributions to the work of the library were recognized by the wider community when, in June of this year, the American Theological Library Association granted her an honorary life membership in recognition of her exemplary work.

In honor of Grace Mullen, Westminster has set up a memorial scholarship for international students. If you would like to contribute to the funding of this scholarship, [please click here](#).

*[Adapted from a tribute by Sandy Finlayson, Director of Library Services at Westminster Theological Seminary]*

### Cynthia Krueger Thomas Retires

Cynthia Krueger Thomas retired on August 1, 2014, after serving nine years as technical services librarian for the Oscar Schorp Library of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida. During her tenure at the library, Mrs. Thomas produced a monthly newsletter for faculty and students and maintained a selection file of reviewed materials for acquisition. She also served on the library advisory committee and trained student volunteers in addition to her cataloging and processing duties as technical services librarian. Prior to her employment at the seminary, Cynthia served for ten years as high school library media specialist for Westminster Academy, a K-12th grade private school located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She currently resides in Boynton Beach with her husband, Bruce.

### Drew University Welcomes Theological Librarian

Drew University is pleased to welcome Dr. Jesse Mann as theological librarian, to begin in mid-August 2014. Dr. Mann holds a PhD in the History of Christianity from the University of Chicago Divinity School. An experienced teacher and scholar, he has also for many years owned and run a beloved bookshop in Madison, NJ, called Chatham Books, and so will bring to the job a broad and deep knowledge of the book world. Dr. Ernest Rubinstein, who was Drew's theological librarian since August 2005, retired in June, after nearly 40 years of library service.

### 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:

- Northern Seminary, Lombard, IL, is looking for a [Library Supervisor](#).
- Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH, is looking for an [Archivist](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Director of Member Programs](#).
- Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, is looking for a [Library Director](#).
- Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN, is looking for an [Academic Technology and Systems Librarian](#).
- OCLC, Dublin, OH, is looking for an [Associate Editor](#).
- Concordia University Library, Irvine, CA, is looking for an [Instruction and Outreach Librarian](#).
- Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, PA, is looking for an [Director of Library and Information Services](#).
- John W. Graham Library, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is looking for a [Nicholls Librarian and Director](#).
- The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, is looking for a [Catalog Librarian / Director of Technical Services](#).
- American Theological Library Association, Chicago, IL, is looking for a [Metadata Analyst](#).

## New Librarian at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



Lynn Berg joined Institutional Member Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, as Technical Services Librarian on Monday, July 28.

Berg recently ended a similar position at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Christopher Brennan, Director of Sage Library at New Brunswick, commented on her departure, "While we are

thrilled for her, we will miss our dear colleague and friend, who has been so devoted to this seminary and takes so much of its corporate memory with her."

Berg also serves as Chair on the [Diversity Committee](#).

---

## ATLA Awards Lifetime Memberships

At the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference, ATLA presented Lifetime Memberships to two retiring members:

- Joanna Hause, Head of Technical Services, Southeastern University
- Paul Stuehrenberg, Divinity Librarian, Yale University Divinity School Library

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

- Eugene Fieg, Cataloger, Claremont School of Theology

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

## Staff News



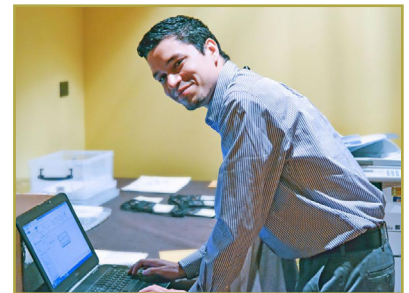
### Eric Newman, New Digitization Specialist

Eric Newman joined ATLA as the new part-time Digitization Specialist. Eric has an MLIS from Dominican University, with a specialization in Archival Management. He's held a succession of archival internships and positions in a variety of library environments, including an academic library, a museum library, an historical society, and a nonprofit foundation. He currently works at the Morrison-Shearer Foundation, where he processes, arranges and describes the Helen Balfour Morrison and Sybil Shearer collections. He also preserves and re-houses the manuscripts, audio/visual materials, and ephemera in the collections.



### Barnaby Hughes, New CPLI Metadata Analyst

ATLA is pleased to introduce our new CPLI Metadata Analyst Barnaby Hughes. Hailing from California, Barnaby has an MA in Medieval Studies as well as a STB at Blackfriars, Oxford through the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, a.k.a. the Angelicum. He also recently completed his MLIS from San Jose. Before coming to Chicago, he was an Editorial Assistant responsible for weekly reviews of wine, top 10 wine lists, and maintaining close relationships with 200+ wineries.



### Ozzy Flores Promoted

Ozzy Flores joined ATLA as a part-time Information Systems Assistant in April 2013 and excelled in many areas. We are pleased to announce that Ozzy has been promoted to a full time position of Systems Analyst. Please join us in congratulating Ozzy on this exciting news.

## ANZTLA: News from Down Under

Submitted by Brenda Bailey-Hainer, ATLA Executive Director

In early July I had the privilege of attending the [29th Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association \(ANZTLA\) Conference](#) in Melbourne where I was honored to be their opening keynote speaker on current and future trends in theological librarianship. This gathering of nearly seventy librarians was a great opportunity to learn more about ATLA's peer libraries and their concerns.

The meeting program featured outstanding presentations on innovative library design ("get rid of the ugly bits!"), the future of Christian publishing, trends in e-book licensing in Australia and New Zealand, and evaluating the research skills of students. One particularly lively lecture focused on blended learning. This entertaining look at how technology has changed the expectations of both students and faculty was given by John Capper, Director of Learning and Teaching for the University of Divinity in Kew, Victoria, who is also the Victorian representative on the Council of ANZATS (the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools).

A portion of the multiple-day agenda included visits to various sites around Melbourne. The tour of the mosque at the [Albanian Australian Islamic Society](#) featured President Vahid Goga expounding on the history of the organization and Imam Bekim Hasan giving an overview on the basic teachings

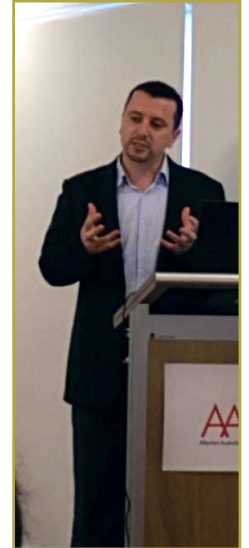
and beliefs of Islam. Conference attendees later made a foray to the [University of Melbourne Baillieu Library](#) to view the Ancient Texts Collection with its extensive historic collection of Korans, many of which have been digitized and are available online. Both [Whitley College](#) and [Ridley Melbourne](#) were within easy strolling distance, and their library directors were pleased to give us a personal tour.

Our Australian and New Zealand counterparts share common concerns with ATLA members: how to integrate e-books into their collections, maintaining stable budgets, the need for inter-religious dialogue, and how to conduct effective information literacy training for students. Like ATLA, several of their now retired members have traveled extensively to volunteer for libraries in the majority world, including the Pacific Island region. I met briefly with the ANZTLA board to exchange information and discuss some ideas for potential collaboration.

I can't say enough good things about Melbourne—the fascinating juxtaposition of old and modern architecture, the wonderful food, the magnificent Queen Victoria Market, the captivating public



(left) ATLA Executive Director Brenda Bailey-Hainer with ANZTLA President Kerrie Stevens from Harvest Bible College in Melbourne. (right) Imam Bekim Hasan at the Albanian Australian Islamic Society.



art, their idea of winter (exhilarating temperatures in the upper 40's), and my personal favorite — [the Grainger Museum](#), which is dedicated to the life and works of composer Percy Grainger. The city was diverse and the hospitality everywhere outstanding.

Next year's ANZTLA meeting will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. Based on the promotion given by the NZ local host committee it promises to be an equally educational and enjoyable event.

[See more photos from Brenda's trip on our Flickr.](#)

## 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](mailto:newsletter@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

## Stay Connected





## From the Executive Director Change is in the Air: The State of the Association

Each year at the annual conference, I provide a “state of the association” address to highlight changes in ATLA’s products and the work of the Association and to talk about priorities and budget for the next fiscal year. The title of my address at the 2014 conference in New Orleans reflected the climate in which we all work — “Change Is in the Air.” This address in its entirety will be part of the 2014 ATLA Annual Conference *Proceedings*. This column will briefly describe some of the major changes to the committee structure and grant programs that were announced in that address.

Over the last several years, the Board has continued to think about how the association should reflect the changing environment in which theological libraries operate. As a result, ATLA’s Organizational Ends have been revised several times. However, the overall committee structure has not changed with them. To better achieve these revised Organizational Ends I am making some changes to redirect ATLA’s staff, volunteer, and financial resources to more closely align with the Ends.

In prior versions of the Organizational Ends, international work was singled out as a priority. Now it is part of a broader end that encompasses collaboration at all levels — regional, national, and international. As a result, the former International Collaboration Committee (ICC) is being transformed into an interest group. The structure of the old ICC was extremely limiting in terms of who was eligible for appointment. This, coupled with the limited number of committee slots available, prevented the participation of many members who have an interest in international work. This new interest group, the International Theological and Religious Studies Libraries Interest Group (ITRSLIG), will allow any ATLA member to actively contribute.

Scholarly communications and all of its various components, including open access, publishing efforts within libraries, e-books, the rising cost of journal subscriptions, and digital and print repositories, is of growing concern to ATLA members. A new Scholarly Communications Task Force is being formed, which will be chaired by Beth Sheppard (Duke University Divinity School

Library). The tentative charge of the task force has been defined as:

- Examine the changing nature of scholarly communications in religion and theology
- Identify challenges for libraries and for the discipline
- Explore options for addressing challenges
- Make recommendations on ATLA’s role

The Publications Committee and the Publications Grants served ATLA well for many years. The broader issue of scholarly communications, of which publishing is just one aspect, has grown to be a much larger concern in recent years. Therefore, the Publications Committee and grants have been sunsetted and the funds and volunteer efforts which in the past would have been devoted to them instead will be redeployed to support the association’s work in exploring scholarly communications.

Advocacy is part of ATLA’s Organizational Ends, but in reality little time and money has been invested to move beyond the marketing of theological and religious studies libraries. One such effort, Theological Libraries Month (TLM), has been useful as a focal point for libraries to create various celebratory events to bring faculty and students into the library. ATLA will continue to support TLM with themes and marketing materials that can be adapted for local context. The funds used to support the traditional TLM grants, however, will be redirected this year to support five \$1,000 awards to libraries that deploy innovative ways to use TLM to advocate for their libraries and library staff on campus. Watch the ATLA *Newsletter* for information on guidelines on how to enter.

These changes to ATLA’s committee and grant structure will help staff, association leadership, and volunteers to work more effectively toward achieving of our mission and organizational ends. I look forward to working with all of you to do just that during the coming year.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer  
Executive Director