

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR THE 2009
JOINT MEETING
OF

THE MIDWEST REGION OF THE
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

THE MIDDLE WEST BRANCH OF
THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY

THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH – MIDWEST

February 13-15, 2009

Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

The theme of the conference is “Palace Gardens, Sacred Trees and Paradise” and we welcome proposals on topics related to this theme, as well as other topics. Plenary speakers and their topics are currently being invited.

Please note that you must be registered to read a paper at the conference. *The deadline for abstracts is EARLY this year: January 8 by post, January 10 by e-mail. SBL abstracts should be sent by email to the sections online.*

Conference information will be posted on the Midwest SBL site (http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx) as it is finalized.

Please direct AOS/ASOR abstract and inquiries to JoAnn Scurlock c/o The Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago Illinois, 60637 (r-beal@uchicago.edu)

Please send SBL proposals by email directly to section leaders listed online. If further information is needed, please contact P. Richard Choi, New Testament Department, Theological Seminary, Andrews University, MI 49104-1500 (choir@andrews.edu)

Dear Colleagues:

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Region of the SBL, AOS, and ASOR is scheduled for 13-15 February, 2009, at the Weber Center of Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL, about one hour south of Chicago.

The officers of the societies invite you as members to submit paper proposals related to your research interests. Please download from this website the Abstract Form. Send SBL proposals to section leaders (Click on Section Descriptions) and AOS/ASOR proposals to JoAnn Scurlock, whose address appears on the Abstract Form and below.

We are pleased to be able to offer onsite our second annual "Student Religious Studies Conference" during the day, 13 February. It was a great success last year with nearly 50 participants. This year we will also offer two new sections: "Apocrypha and Cognate Literature" and "Gender Studies and the Bible."

Major Themes for the 2009 Meeting:

The Friday evening plenary session speakers for "**Palace Gardens, Sacred Trees, and Paradise**" have yet to be finally confirmed. So far Bruce Lincoln and Frank Lewis of the University of Chicago and Steven Holloway of ATLA have tentatively agreed to participate. Dr. Holloway is to present an illustrated lecture on Assyrian palace gardens; Dr. Lincoln is to recapitulate some of his fascinating work on Mazdean ideas of paradise and Persian palace gardens; Dr. Lewis is to present Islamic perspectives on the Trees of the Garden of Eden.

Wayne Pitard (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Middle West AOS President) will deliver his presidential address, entitled "'Who is going to say, 'She is no daughter of the pharaoh?'" New Light on Tabloid Scandal in the Ancient Near East," at the Saturday evening banquet.

Please note the instructions for the Graduate Student Paper Competition. (See the button on the website.) Qualifying papers should be submitted to Dr. Mark Whitters by 15 December, 2008.

Also, we are inviting nominations for the Midwest SBL Regional Scholar Award. (Please see button on the webpage.) Nominations should be submitted to Dr. Mark Whitters by 1 December, 2008.

Lodging is available at a number of hotels in Bourbonnais, IL, each a few minutes car ride to Olivet Nazarene University. Blocks of rooms at a conference rate have been reserved at the following hotels. Prices do not include 10% room tax. Reservations should be made by 15 January 2009, under the name AOS. At the Hampton and the Lees Inn, please ask for the rooms reserved for JoAnn Scurlock.

Holiday Inn Express (815-932-4411; 888-HOLIDAY); conference rate = \$72 (single or double)

Reservations direct link:

http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ex/1/en/advancedsearch?whichtype=room&roomResult=none&hotelCode=kakbd&quickRes=city&_GPC=AOS&checkInDate=16&checkOutMonthYear=012006&checkInMonthYear=012007&checkOutDate=18&_requestid=24485

Fairfield Inn (815-935-1334; 888-236-2427); conference rate = \$89.99 (single or double), all non-smoking Web site: (Phone booking only)

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/CHIKK>

Hampton Inn (815-932-8369; 800-HAMPTON); conference rate = \$78 (single or double), non-smoking

Hotel web site:

<http://www.hamptoninn.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=IKKILHX>

Kankakee Fairfield Inn (815-935-1334); conference rate = \$89.99 (single or double). Please call the hotel directly to reserve rooms.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chikk-fairfield-inn-kankakee-bourbonnais/>

Lees Inn (815-932-8080); conference rate = \$79. Registration code: SBL. Hotel web site:

<http://www.leesinn.com/kankakee.htm>

Quality Inn (815-939-3501); conference rate = \$72. Complementary Breakfast Included. Hotel chain site: <http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-US/html/HomePage?sid=QBgRg.0N7dMgVDM.8>

Please download and mail the Registration Form (see button on the webpage) with payment to Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature; JoAnn Scurlock; c/o The Oriental Institute, 1155 E 58th St; Chicago, Illinois 60637. **Please note that you must be registered to read a paper at the conference. The abstract deadline is EARLY this year: 8 January by post (AOS/ASOR), 10 January by email (SBL; all other AOS/ASOR).**

Please direct SBL inquiries to P. Richard Choi (email: choir@andrew.edu) and AOS/ASOR inquiries to JoAnn Scurlock (e-mail: r-beal@uchicago.edu).

The joint annual meeting offers a wonderful opportunity to meet new colleagues, see old friends, try out research ideas, and enjoy a lively exchange in a friendly environment. All students, teachers, and interested individuals who are involved with religion and the Bible are welcome. Especially this year the topics discussed promise to be diverse and stimulating. We hope you will be able to join us in February.

Sincerely,

P. Richard Choi, Coordinator, Midwest SBL

JoAnn Scurlock, Secretary/Treasurer, Midwest AOS