Vice President

The Vice President serves a one-year term. The newly elected Vice President will automatically become President-Elect in the following year. They serve on the Board of Directors and also serve on the Executive, Audit, and Program Committees.

Naomi Goldenberg
Laurie Zoloth

Naomi Goldenberg is professor of religious studies in the department of classics and religious studies and former director of women's studies at the University of Ottawa. Her writings address the intersection of religion and gender with politics, popular culture, and psychoanalysis. Goldenberg's publications include *Resurrecting the Body: Feminism, Religion, and Psychoanalysis* (Crossroad: 1993), *The End of God* (University of Ottawa Press, 1982), and *Changing of the Gods* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1979).

Goldenberg was awarded the William C. Bier Award for her outstanding contribution to the psychology of religion in 2004. She is the current president of the Religion and Feminism Section, president of the Religion and Religion Section, and Religion and the Social Sciences Section. She has been a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* since its inception. Currently, Goldenberg is coediting a collection about religious/secular distinctions and completing a book titled *Contemporary Statecraft, Gender, and the Category of Religion: Understanding the Construction of Religions as Vestigial States*.

Statement on the AAR

The AAR has enriched me professionally and personally ever since 1974 when I attended my first AAR/SBL meeting in Chicago. Throughout that conference, I met people whose academic and ethical commitments inspired scholarship that was both rigorous and socially engaged. I felt that I had sampled intellectual life at its very best.

In the years that followed, the AAR continued to sustain my work as a scholar, writer, and educator. Drăzen Speiser was one of the first people I met in 1974 whose insights and support continue to influence and sustain my work. I have found the annual meetings to be intellectually stimulating and socially fulfilling.

As a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, I am pleased that Canadian cities are among the venues for future AAR meetings. I hope that in future years AAR membership from the Middle East, Africa, and South America will show similar growth.
Because the AAR was invaluable in my graduate education, I welcome the attendance of students at meetings. Observing the young scholars and to encourage networking projects among students on both national and international levels.

AAR and SBL members understand that religion has evolved historically and culturally to be a huge, multifaceted category that the wise work we do as academics in this highly charged field endures and expands in accessibility and influence.

Laurie Zoloth is director of the Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life and a McCormick Professor of Religion and Society for Women's Health Research; is part of the NIH Asia AIDS trial group; and is on the editorial boards of *The American Society for Law, Medicine, and Ethics Journal*, *The Journal of Clinical Ethics*, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, and *Second Opinion: A Journal of Health, Faith, and Ethics*.

Receiving her doctorate in social ethics and MA in Jewish studies from the Graduate Theological Union, Zoloth published over 200 essays in ethics, feminist theory, religion and science, Judaism, and social justice. She has authored *Health Care and the Ethics of Encounter: A Jewish Perspective on Justice* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999) and coedited *Notes From a Narrow Ridge: Religion and Bioethics* (University Publishing Group, 1999), *Margin of Error: The Ethics of Mistakes in Medicine* (University Publishing Group, 2000), *The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Ethics, Religion, and Policy* (MIT Press, 2001), and *Oncofertility: Religious, Ethical, and Social Perspectives* (Springer, 2010). Zoloth holds awards for Distinguished Teaching (Northwestern University, San Francisco State University), Doctor of Religion (University of Chicago), and steering committee member (Ethics Section, Study of Judaism Section, and Scriptural Reasoning Group).

Statement on the AAR

It is a privilege to teach religious studies, inviting students to join a complex and profound discussion, driven both by the indigence of the human spirit: the capacity to love, live, and care, and carefully examined: What does it mean to be human? Are we free? What must I do about the suffering of the other?

The AAR is at once guild, academy, and moral location, and we need thoughtful leadership for all three functions, especially as we face the challenges of reflexive humility. How can we use these powerful strengths in this critical time? Let me suggest three urgent tasks:

**The AAR in the World:** Our international scholarship is critical for the discourse of global public policy. We bring both the intricacies of our religious traditions and the originality of our scholarship to issues of global public policy, and the opportunity to be a moral voice for the common good.

**The AAR in the Academy:** Humanities in general — and religion and theology in particular — face unprecedented challenges, not just in funding, but in the expectations and standards to which they are held. We must defend our departments to ensure the future of the field.

**The AAR as our Community:** The AAR comes together after an enormous, yearlong effort and becomes a small "City" of scholars. As we present the papers, sessions, and exhibits, let us make sure that it is a place — that honors our teachers, nurtures our students, and allows us to create academic lives of dignity and justice.