

News of the Society

Greetings from the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies! The fall newsletter contains important information about the society and its activities. (Check out our [website](#), [blog](#), or [Facebook](#) page).

This issue includes:

- SBCS Board Meeting Report
- Report about the Annual Meeting of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- ENBCS Conference 2026
- European Academy of Religion's Eighth Annual Conference
- Upcoming Events/Members' Projects
- Membership, contribution, and other contact info



**SBCS Board Meets Online (11/7/2024)
To Maximize In-Person Time Together at AAR
And Minimize Expenses**

By Sandra Costen Kunz

Background – In 2020 and 2021 the SBCS annual governing board meeting, paper sessions, and members meeting were all held entirely online. They were skillfully hosted by then-president Leo Lefebure on Zoom platforms provided by Georgetown University. Three things the board noticed during these two years were:

- Many routine board meeting tasks can be accomplished just as well in a Zoom meeting hosted by a board member's institution - at no cost to the SBCS! - as they can be accomplished in person in a conference center or hotel space for which the society pays high downtown room and Wi-Fi fees.

- It's often significantly easier for our international advisors and other board and committee members outside the US to attend online.
- When we met online we missed enjoying each other's company during the meals, breaks, and SBCS-organized field trips that meeting face-to-face makes possible. This led to discussions during both the 2022 and 2023 board meetings of how we could provide fellowship opportunities for board members in particular, but also for other members of the society and nonmembers interested in the SBCS.

The 2022 and 2023 annual meetings were held in person in conjunction with American Academy of Religion (AAR). This had been the society's practice for decades prior to the Covid epidemic. International advisors and other board members who could not attend in person attended via Zoom during 2022 and 2023. These meetings, led by then-president Mark Unno, had both the "hybrid-advantage" of including people who could not attend in-person and the "hybrid-disadvantage" that the president had to field questions, answers, and nonverbal feedback from both the faces around the table and the faces on the screen.

Mark juggled this all very gracefully, but he and others raised the possibility of having a separate, fully-online board meeting prior to AAR. The first reason that this possibility was raised is that former treasurer John Sheveland had been pointing out for years that the SBCS needed to reverse our cash flow and that our second largest annual expense is AAR-related meeting room expenses. The second reason, which Mark emphasized, is that, if the board were to hold only one morning business meeting session on Friday at AAR, this would free up Friday afternoon for a non-business board gathering. Possibilities board members raised were: a deeper discussion on a particular topic, a field trip, and a mini-retreat time carefully framed (like the practice sessions at the international retreats in the early days of the society) so that all board members would feel comfortable participating.

Online 2024 Pre-AAR board meeting Nov. 7th

– President Carolyn Medine called the meeting to order. First on the agenda was Oral History and Archives Committee member Leo Lefebure’s reporting in his unofficial, but important, capacity as the society’s consistent, long-term international goodwill ambassador. He described his visits with scholars and practitioners in Taiwan, Norway, India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore. He and other board members contributed to the Won Buddhist initiated meetings of the Interfaith Coalition Conference for Global Citizens (ICCGC) at the UN in New York City, and the Won Buddhist Retreat Center in Upstate New York. The Fall 2024 newsletter features Leo’s article about these visits.

Next, vice-president (and thus Program Committee chair) J K Kato described the upcoming paper sessions at AAR. The first was titled “Reflecting on Buddhist-Christian Double Belonging: A 2024 Update” featuring presentations by James Ford, Kunihiko Terasawa, Todd Grant Yonkman, and Ruben Habito with Grace Song moderating and Sarita Tamayo-Moraga responding. The second

session was titled “Honoring Ruben Habito’s Many Contributions to Buddhist-Christian Studies,” with participants Jane Lancaster Patterson, Paula Arai, Sarita Tamayo-Moraga, and Karen Baker-Fletcher. Ruben will respond and JK will moderate. More details were given in the Fall 2024 newsletter. JK reminded us that, since having an online board meeting meant that we could wrap up all board business at AAR on Friday morning, that he and Mark had planned a non-business outing for the board Friday afternoon and evening. Mark arranged for the board to visit the Buddhist Temple of San Diego Friday in the afternoon. For the evening, JK arranged a dinner at a Thai restaurant. To conclude his report, JK lead us in a discussion of paper topics for the 2025 AAR meeting in Boston. He floated the idea of using a format we have not used in the past two decades: hosting a moderated discussion between two scholars.

Reporting for the Nomination Committee, Secretary Sandra Kunz called attention to the many board positions that needed to be filled at the San Diego meeting.: secretary, treasurer, two at-large positions, chair of the Streng Committee, and a seat on the Membership Committee. A discussion of potential nominees followed.

European international advisor Elizabeth Harris reported that the European Network’s papers from their “Euro-Buddhism and the Role of Christianity” conference have been published under that title by EOS Verlag. BCS co-editor Thomas Cattoi and former SBCS president Ruben Habito will be speakers at their June 2024 conference titled “A Buddhist-Christian Dialogue on the Body” at the Archabbey of St. Ottilien in Germany. The European Network’s 2026 conference will be at the Protestant Academy for Mission Studies (EMW) at the University of Hamburg to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the network’s founding there by Rev. Gerhard Köberlin. The topic will be “Buddhist-Christian Perspectives on the Mind.” As president of the UK

Association for Buddhist Studies, Liz moderates a small discussion forum four times a year with about a dozen in attendance. The most recent meeting focused on Buddhist-Christian relationships in Sri Lanka.

Japan Society international advisor Kuni Terasawa described in more detail his participation with board members and committee members Carolyn Medine, JK Kato, Mark Unno, and Leo Lefebure at the ICCGC meetings in New York City and Upstate New York. Kuni reminded us that this group will meet in Bangkok in August, 2025. The location has since been changed to Wonkwang University in Iksan, South Korea, the headquarters of Won Buddhism. He updated us on the ongoing evolution of the Japan Society's efforts to make their meetings more welcoming to young people and women.

Interim treasurer and past president Mark Unno reported that the society's finances are stable. He noted that the society will continue to follow this year at the AAR meeting in San Diego the cost-cutting measure of not allowing presenters to project slides and will not provide Wi-Fi in the board meeting room. In an effort to increase our membership base, and thus the society's regular income, he and Leo will organize a one-time online conference. One reason is that the 2021 online conference that Georgetown's Berkley Center hosted gained the most new members in the society's history. The idea of planning a conference that would have particular attraction for graduate students was discussed. This is an idea the Social Media and Website Committee member Alaina Keller has raised more than once.

John Becker, the newsletter editor, reported that he would appreciate notices about new publications in the field, saying that books by SBCS members would be especially welcomed. He encouraged us all to encourage people who come to our AAR paper sessions to sign up to receive the newsletter since this is a potential path into membership. This year the newsletter, a method of publicizing the

SBCS that involves no separate monetary expense, gained 50 new subscriptions and lost only 12.

Consensus about the board's meeting online – The consensus of the board members attending this meeting seemed to be that gathering online for some of the officer and committee reports was good stewardship of both the society's money and of the board members' time. Quite a few board members in addition to the international advisors spend a lot of time outside the US. Meeting online makes it simpler for them to attend. It also helped those who attended to prepare for the in-person meeting in San Diego at AAR. President Carolyn Medine arranged the online meeting agenda and the in-person meeting agenda so that the meeting at AAR would have more of a focus on mid-range to long-term planning for the society. This worked extremely well.



SBCS In-Person Annual Meeting Events At the San Diego AAR Meeting (11/22-24/2024)

By Sandra Costen Kunz

The SBCS, a related scholarly organization of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), held the following events in conjunction with the AAR's annual meeting in San Diego:

- Friday morning board meeting at the Omni Hotel
- Visit that afternoon to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego
- Dinner that evening at Sab Lai Thai Kitchen
- Saturday afternoon paper session on double belonging
- Post-paper session SBCS members meeting
- Sunday afternoon session honoring Ruben Habito.

FRIDAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

—President Carolyn Medine called the meeting to order at 9AM. From his seat at the table, vice president Julius Kei (JK) Kato hosted a Zoom meeting for board members unable to attend in person while Carolyn presided. After personal introductions and a review of our productive Nov. 7 online meeting, we approved the minutes of 2024 meeting in San Antonio.

Journal Report—Thomas Cattoi and Kristin Lagen, co-editors of Buddhist-Christian Studies, reported that the 2023 revision of our original publication agreement with our founding publisher, University of Hawai'i Press, has been working smoothly. They invited board members to submit articles and urged us to peer review submissions when asked. Reporting for book review editor Christine Atienza, they requested that we send her recommendations for books to review.

Nomination Committee Report—Secretary Sandra Kunz listed the positions for which we needed to slate nominees so that the members meeting could vote on them. After Carolyn reviewed the nomination committee's suggestions, she thanked Robert Jonas and Mark Heim, the two nominees for the at-large positions, for attending the meeting. Mark Unno noted with gratitude that Mark Heim, the recipient of the 2019 Streng Award for his book *Crucified Wisdom: Theological Reflection on Christ and the Bodhisattva*, had said that if he were elected he was willing to chair the Streng Committee in addition to serving in an at-large position. After some discussion, the board approved this slate to present to the SBCS members meeting.

- Secretary—Mark Unno
- Treasurer—Elizabeth Tyler
- At-large members
 - Mark Heim
 - Robert Jonas
- Streng Book Award Committee chair—Mark Heim

- Membership Committee member—Grace Song

Looking ahead, Sandra noted that at the 2025 meeting in Boston we will need to elect a new vice-president who after two years will rotate into the president's position for two years and then into past president's position for an additional two years. We will also need to elect three at-large members for four year terms. Kristin Lagen's current four-year renewable term as co-editor will end at that meeting. So will the four-year renewable Social Media and Website Committee terms of JK Kato, Alaina Keller, and Won-Jae Hur, plus the renewable three-year terms of Streng Book Award Committee members Elizabeth Tyler, Duane Bidwell, and Stephanie Wong. Many board members expressed hopes that the current holders of these positions would be willing to serve another term! Discussion about nominees followed and was continued later in the meeting.

Social Media and Website Committee Report—After the 2024 meeting in San Antonio, outgoing chair Jonathan Seitz and incoming chair Stephanie Wong worked closely with interim treasurer Mark Unno, executive associate Chera Jo Watts, and committee members Alaina Keller and Won-Jae Hur to make a smooth transition. They inventoried the software, web apps, and data tracking systems for online membership payments and for the newsletter and journal's mailing lists. Alaina Keller was appointed to be a liaison with the Membership Committee.

Stephanie and Chera Jo began their report with website analytics. The 2024 traffic on our website was about 20% less than in 2023, with 4.3K unique visitors and with 9.3K page views. They suggested that two reasons for the decreased traffic might be: 1) only three new blog posts had been added in 2024, and 2) various functions of the website weren't working as expected. These included the crucial journal access and membership functions. Happily, the traffic on our Facebook page

increased. We now have 2,289 followers. Men comprise 63% of our visitors and women 37%. The nation with the highest number of visitors is the US with 1,528 and the second highest was the UK with 132. The third highest was India with 108, and the lowest was Sri Lanka with 19. This year 204 members were on the mailing list for the print journal.

The committee, which will meet quarterly this year, made the following recommendations to the board:

- 1) Due to data discrepancies and other issues Chera Jo discovered, they recommended replacing GoPaywall with a similar web app that works more effectively with our other systems. Related recommendations were:
 - Decrease how long it takes members without institutional access to be able to view our journal online. As a stopgap measure, Stephanie has been mailing pdf's of articles to them.
 - Decide if we want to create a smooth way that people can buy, on our website, a gift membership for somebody else.
 - Eliminate problems with membership cancellation due to credit card expiration or difficulties logging in.
- 2) Consider replacing the Mailchimp web app because we're paying \$40 per month despite using it only twice a year to mail out the newsletter.
- 3) Contribute blog posts. Stephanie and Chera Jo specifically invited new board members to contribute posts and suggested that board members who attend the temple visit and/or the dinner offer blog reflections on these two fellowship events. They invited the entire SBCS membership to submit the names of graduate students who could be interviewed for "Graduate Student Spotlight" posts to this email address: info@society-buddhist-christian-studies.org. For examples of two

graduate student posts, scroll down at: <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/topics>

Vice-President's Program Committee Report—

As a follow-up to the committee's report at our Nov. 7 online meeting, JK launched a further discussion about topics for next year's paper sessions in Boston. Some of the ones proposed were:

- a. Buddhist-Christian studies and its conversation with secularity
- b. An exploration of why particular forms of Buddhism are popular in the West
- c. Live interviews with some of the longest SBCS members who are "memory keepers" for the society
- d. Normativity and in Buddhism and Christianity
- e. Art and ecology in Buddhist-Christian studies
- f. Buddhist-Christian studies as a hope for our time.

Streng Book Award Committee Report—

Mark Unno, interim chair, announced that the 2024 awardee was *The Routledge Handbook of Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Routledge, 2023). It was beautifully edited by our current journal co-editor Thomas Cattoi and by Carol Anderson, who also served as the journal's co-editor for many years. A majority of the contributors are members of the SBCS or our sister organizations in Europe and Japan, but many others contributed. Mark's words about the committee's decision will be published in the 2025 volume of *Buddhist-Christian Studies*. He noted that the book admirably displays both the breadth of the field and the ways that narrow, in-depth topics in this field can reveal wisdom for dealing with our planet's current critical conflicts and risks.

*Past President's Report—*Mark Unno updated us on his discussions with Grace Song about the possibility of the board's meeting for both a retreat and a board meeting at the Won Dharma Center in

rural Upstate New York from Nov. 19-21, prior to the AAR meeting in Boston. We would need to register at least 15 participants. SBCS members who are not on the board are warmly welcomed to attend. This initiative very much embodies the board's commitment, made at its 2023 meeting in San Antonio, to increase the opportunities for SBCS members to spend relaxed time together in fellowship.

Having led us in accomplishing a tremendous amount of work in just one morning, Carolyn adjourned the board meeting at noon.

EVENTS AFTER THE BOARD MEETING: TEMPLE VISIT, DINNER, PAPER SESSIONS, AND MEMBERS MEETING

Unfortunately, I had to attend the San Diego board meeting online, instead of in-person, due to a last-minute conflict. To cover the in-person SBCS annual meeting events after the board meeting I've relied on the reports that board colleagues who attended in person generously sent me. Since the board had completed all of its business Friday morning and at the prior Nov. 7 online meeting, board members and other SBCS members were able to spend Friday afternoon and evening together enjoying a field trip and dinner.

Mark Unno, who is a Shin Buddhist priest, arranged a delightful afternoon visit to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. It belongs to the Buddhist Church of America, the US expression of the Japanese Jodo Shinsho Pure Land tradition and the largest network of Buddhist temples in the US. JK reported that the group was warmly welcomed by Rev. Hokai "Smitty" Smith and her ministerial associates. They invited SBCS members to observe or join the temple's central practice: chanting the name of Amida Buddha as a way of gratefully entrusting oneself to the compassion undergirding all reality. Everyone then enjoyed conversation and delicious refreshments downstairs. According to Kristin, the temple's leaders shared about their

community and its work, then invited SBCS members to do the same, and then answered questions. Kristin wrote that it was "a fabulous time." JK reported: "It was a wonderful experience of learning and fellowship: one that I hope is repeated in AARs to come." JK arranged for SBCS members to enjoy dinner together at Sab Lai Thai Kitchen late that afternoon.

The San Diego paper sessions were extremely timely not only for current Buddhist-Christian studies but also for the religious and scholarly practice of many SBCS members. The Saturday session was: "Reflecting on Buddhist-Christian Double Belonging: A 2024 Update." The second was: "Honoring Ruben Habito's Many Contributions to Buddhist-Christian Studies." Ruben has served as a supportive friend and sometimes as a guide to many SBCS members both in their scholarship and in their contemplative practice.

The list of the presenters for each of these sessions was published in the Fall 2024 newsletter. Both topics are important not only for SBCS members but for anyone interested in how Christian and Buddhist practices can support some of the aims of each tradition without negating the differences in the cosmologies portrayed in their scriptures. Therefore, instead of asking attendees to send me comments about these sessions to include in this newsletter article, which will be read primarily by people who are already SBCS members, I am instead repeating Stephanie and Chera Jo's invitation to submit such reflections – and photos! – to the society's blog. This way they are more likely to be read by the wider audience that visits our website. If you'd like to submit such a post, email it to: info@society-buddhist-christian-studies.org.

According to program chairperson JK, the SBCS annual members meeting was held after the Saturday afternoon paper session. It was attended by considerably more than the needed quorum and included Carolyn, Mark, Grace, Anh Tran, plus

other board, committee, and SBCS members. This meeting voted to approve the nominating committee's slate that the board had approved on Friday, and everyone welcomed the now-elected board and committee members.



Buddhist and Christian Perspectives on the Mind

July 2–6, 2026
Hamburg, Germany

The European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies will hold its next conference from 2. – 6. July 2026 in Hamburg, Germany, in cooperation with the University of Hamburg. The conference will continue the topic of the last conference (2024: Buddhist-Christian Dialogues on the Body) by discussing Buddhist and Christian Perspectives on the Mind. Sub-topics will include “Mind and Matter from the Perspective of Neuroscience,” “Understandings of Mind in Buddhism and Christianity,” questions of “Transforming Mind,” the relation between “Mind and Ultimate Reality,” and the issue of “Mind and Continuity Beyond Death.” Among the confirmed speakers are Carl Becker, Thomas Cattoi, Douglas Duckworth, Christopher Jones, Louise Nelstrop, Mathias Schneider, and Fabian Voelker.

The conference will also include a public event in celebration of the Network's 30th jubilee with presentations by Elizabeth Harris and Perry Schmidt-Leukel.

Apart from the conference theme, there will also be two slots for panels with open presentations. That is, short papers (15-20 minutes) on any topic of Buddhist-Christian studies are invited. The Network especially welcomes presentations on new and current research projects by emerging and experienced scholars.

Details on registration and submission of topics for the open panels will be published on the Network's

website (www.buddhist-christian-studies.org) in Fall 2025.



European Academy of Religion's
Eighth Annual Conference
Vienna, Austria
July 8-12, 2025.

Panel: Tibetan Buddhism in Comparison

With the rapid expansion both of comparative studies and of Tibetan Buddhist studies, Tibetan Buddhist traditions are more and more present as core interlocutors in comparative theology and philosophy, interreligious theology and philosophy, and global theology and philosophy. This panel showcases comparative theological, philosophical, and contemplative engagements with Tibetan traditions of thought and practice. Each paper demonstrates a different predominant mode of comparative engagement, and each indicates the way conversation with Tibetan Buddhist traditions engenders specific insight in its domain of inquiry. Tibetan traditions are here brought into conversation with Eastern Christian Hesychasm and its contemplative training, early Christian allegorical exegesis, and the wider theological-philosophical question of “theism” across traditions.

Thomas Cattoi

Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas

“Allegory as Engine for Doctrinal Development: Tsong kha pa's *Essence of True Eloquence* and Origen's *Homilies on Leviticus*.”

The purpose of this paper is to explore the role of allegorical reading of sacred texts in the Tibetan tradition and in the early Christian period, charting the use of exegesis as a strategy to push forward doctrinal development, affirm conceptual continuity within a tradition, and setting the terms for membership within a specific community of faith. Specifically, this paper will compare the

supersessionist reading of the Mosaic law in Origen's *Homilies on Leviticus*, where temple sacrifices are read as foreshadowing the work of Christ, and Tsong kha pa's textual taxonomy in the *Legs bshad snying po* (*Essence of True Eloquence*), where he reads non-Madhyamaka texts as anticipations of later philosophical developments that require a specific hermeneutic. The discussion will outline the points of contact, but also the difference between the use of allegory in these two traditions, foregrounding their distinctive anthropologies and soteriologies.

David Klarer

Rangjung Yeshe Institute

"Tibetan Yogic Practice and Eastern Christian Hesychasm: Comparing Contemplative Methods"

Both the Hesychast tradition of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and the *rdzogs chen* tradition of the *rnying ma* school of Tibetan Buddhism refer to modes of awareness that lie outside the bounds of ordinary human cognition. Likewise, both traditions employ similar contemplative modalities to induce this awareness: mindful or neptic awareness, breath-control techniques, moral asceticism, repetition of prayer, etc. While much attention has been paid to the intersections of contemplative Christianity and Buddhism from the perspective of Western Christians interested in interfaith dialogue, very little literature has addressed similar intersections from the perspectives of Eastern Christianity. This paper will explore parallels between understandings of the "uncreated light" of *theoria* and *theosis*, and the clear light (*'od gsal*) of primordial awareness (*rig pa*), primarily through the lens of textual evidence from Orthodox ascetic manuals and *rnying ma* expositions on yogic practices. While acknowledging that each tradition's descriptions are conceptually and doctrinally non-reducible to one another, I still will argue that this is a concrete example of employing similar contemplative methods to circumvent the limitations of rational intellect, ultimately with the aim of guiding the practitioner closer to the experiential knowledge of a reality each tradition describes as ineffable. By examining this in similarity in detail, I provide a basis for further and progressive inquiry into the

intersections between the contemplative traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and Eastern Christianity.

Matthew Vale

Boston College

"Dzogchen and Theisms"

Many scholars historical and contemporary have pointed to the East Asian and Tibetan Buddhist traditions which closely verge on theism. I take "theism" here very broadly, referring to any metaphysical vision—whether Vedāntin, Neoplatonic, Abrahamic, or otherwise—which affirms an unconditioned, limitless, conscious reality to be the most primordial ground of all reality. With the contemplatively and speculatively profound Dzogchen tradition (*rdzogs chen*, the highest "vehicle" of the Nyingma lineage of Tibet), we have very little philologically and philosophically precise work aimed at understanding Dzogchen's relation to this wide terrain of "theisms." This paper undertakes some of that work, closely following classical Dzogchen discussions of the key terms "ground" (*gzhi*), "essence – nature – responsiveness" (*ngo bo rang bzhin thugs rje*), and "primordial awareness" (*ye shes*). I will develop this core Dzogchen account in order to offer a conceptually and terminologically specified answer to these two questions: Does Dzogchen belong within this terrain of theisms (broadly construed)? And if so, what distinguishes the sort of "theism" Dzogchen is?



Upcoming Events/Members' Projects

The Catholic Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue in collaboration with Buddhist colleagues plans to convene the next international Buddhist-Christian Colloquium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on May 27-29, 2025, on the theme of Peace, Reconciliation, and Resilience. SBCS members Thomas Cattoi and Leo Lefebure have been invited to speak on this topic with regard to the New Testament and the Christian tradition, respectively.

Leo Lefebure recently spoke on Buddhist-Christian Relations Today at the Won Institute of Graduate Studies in Warminster, Pennsylvania, on April 3. He also plans to visit the Humanistic Buddhist Centre of the Nan-Tien Buddhist Institute of Higher Education in Unanderra, New South Wales, Australia, in June 2025.

SBCS leaders are in communication with colleagues in South Korea in planning the next meeting of the Interfaith Coalition Conference for Global Citizens, which will meet in Iksan, South Korea, on August 15-18, 2025.

Timothy Tseng (Fuller Theological Seminary), David Moe (Yale University) and Joseph Cheah (University of Saint Joseph) have been granted the Collaborative Project Award by the Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative (APARRI) for their project entitled, "Burmese American Christians: Unlocking their Hidden Stories and Contributions to Asian American Theology and Religion."

Membership



If you haven't renewed for 2024-5, please do so now. Membership includes our newsletters, our journal, and other benefits. [You can renew via our website.](#)

Some of you have asked about how membership works. Here is a brief Question & Answer.

What are current dues?

Dues range from \$10 for students to \$25 for Adjunct Professors, Independent Scholars, and Assistant Professors and \$45 for Associate and Full Professors.

What are the terms of membership?

You may join or renew at any point during the calendar year, although it is more convenient to join at the start. Membership is for the current

year (2025), but regardless of when you join you receive the same benefits for that year.

What is included in annual membership?

All memberships include an annual print copy of *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, inclusion on our email list (two e-newsletters), and voting rights in member meetings.

How does membership contribute to broader Buddhist-Christian cooperation?

Our dues support a variety of recent efforts. We have worked to make the Journal more easily available, have added it to our webpage (for instance, it includes the last 13+ years of newsletters), and continue to work on ways to connect scholars.

Write for us! (Submitting a Blog Post)

A long-term goal of SBCS has been to offer community members a chance to interact and share news, opinions, and resources via our updated and improved website. We are looking for blog posts on a variety of topics:

- News updates about conferences, events, courses, or other resources
- Topical discussions of important issues
- Posts about pedagogy, teaching, syllabus development, creative exercises, or other topics
- Interviews, samples, or reviews of SBCS member books

Blog posts are vetted by our social media committee and will appear on the website.

Typically, we will also post the blog to our Facebook page; we may ask for permission to use it elsewhere. An ideal post:

- Engages the intersection of Buddhist and Christian traditions
- Is approximately 800 words in length
- Includes an image
- Offers a short bio of the author (25-50 words) and contact info

Please visit our blog for more information:

<https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/about-the-blog>

Also, check out our Facebook page and give it a like:

<https://www.facebook.com/BuddhistChristianStudies/>

To Nominate a Book for the Streng Award

The book must have been published within the last five years. Nominations can be made by any person using the [online form](#). The completed form may be sent electronically to Mark Heim (mark.heim@yale.edu), who will respond to all nominations.

Nominations are now welcomed. Publishers of books must be willing to supply review copies to members of the committee for evaluation in order for the book to be considered.

CONTRIBUTE A REPORT TO THE NEWSLETTER

The *Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Newsletter* is published twice annually: in the spring and the fall. Please contact the Editor to share information with our readers. The deadline for the Spring issue is March 15.

In addition to reports on our annual meeting (concurrent with the American Academy of Religion) and calls for the Frederick Streng Book Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies and for the Graduate Student Essay Prize, the *Newsletter* also publishes information on conferences, retreats, lectures, and other events. We welcome obituaries and reports on significant figures in the field of Buddhist-Christian Studies.

We are always grateful for information, news, or other submissions that members and others can share with the Society. Submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Send items to newsletter editor John.Becker@csulb.edu.

SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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