

News of the Society

Greetings from the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies! The spring newsletter contains an impressive amount of information about the society and its activities. The pandemic required changes, but it did not slow us down.

(Check out our [website](#), [blog](#), or [facebook](#) page).



In this issue please find:

- Public Statement of Solidarity - Executive Committee SBCS
- Annual Meeting of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Report
- Information about the European Network
- Streng Award Winner
- Membership, contribution, and other contact info



Public Statement in Solidarity with Persons of Asian and Pacific Island Descent

Executive Committee of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

As leaders of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, we express our solidarity with and concern for persons of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States and beyond, and we deplore and condemn the violence, bias, and prejudice directed at them both past and present.

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, the practice of Christianity in the United States has tragically intertwined with false claims of White supremacy and racial bias against immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands and their descendants. Buddhists, Christians, as well as the followers of other Asian religions in the United States have often suffered the effects of this prejudice. We

reject these attitudes and actions as a fundamental violation of the values of both Jesus Christ and Shakyamuni Buddha. We denounce the repeated use of inflammatory rhetoric against persons of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry, and we lament the ways in which this has poisoned the atmosphere of public and social discourse in the United States. We express our solidarity and compassion for all those affected by bias and violence, especially those impacted by the shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and in particular those who lost family members who were murdered in acts of sexualized, gendered violence.

The Christian and Buddhist traditions agree in firmly condemning racial and ethnic bias and the harmful actions that flow from these attitudes. The Christian and Buddhist traditions further agree in calling for loving-kindness and compassion for all those who suffer and for doing everything possible to relieve suffering and to shape healthy communities of mutual concern where religious and ethnic differences can be honored and celebrated.

We are heartened by the many positive relationships that unite Buddhists and Christians both in the United States and around the world. We look forward to continued collaboration to implement the ideals of both traditions.

The Executive Committee of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies:

Leo Lefebure, president

Mark Unno, vice president

Kristin Johnston Largen, past president

Sandra Costen Kunz, secretary



**In 2020 SBCS Sails Skillfully
Through First Online Annual Meeting**

Sandra Costen Kunz

Due to the corona virus pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting of the Society for Buddhist Christian Studies was entirely online. Although we genuinely missed our formal and informal face-to-face gatherings, the board and membership were delighted by the outcome.

The board decided not to use AAR's platform due to the expenses that this would have involved for our participants. Instead, we accepted the gracious offer of Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs to host us on Zoom.

The happy result was that our board meeting completed its agenda effectively in a compressed timeframe with our usual good humor and camaraderie. Several of the presentations in our two sessions included beautiful slides, something we've missed at AAR because the convention center and hotel venues charge extremely high projector fees. The first session drew 175 viewers

from 14 nations and the second drew 110 viewers from 15 nations. Canada had the second-most viewers after the US, and Italy was right after Canada. This is, by far, our highest attendance in the past 12 years.

We are still very committed to continuing as a "related scholarly organization" within AAR, having had our status reviewed and renewed at the beginning of this March. We thus look forward to meeting face-to-face in conjunction with their meeting in San Antonio the weekend before Thanksgiving, 2021. The board is also weighing whether or not to hold online events in the future so that we can again make our programming available to people outside the US, and to faculty, monastics, chaplains and other people without travel allowances. We welcome your thoughts about this at <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/contact>

Board of Directors Meeting

President Leo Lefebure called the meeting order at 10 AM EST. After the agenda and last year's minutes were approved, we moved immediately to the international advisor's reports, due to the time difference.

*European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies
Advisor Report*

Elizabeth Harris in Britain reported that the papers from the Network's 2019 conference: "Buddhist-Christian Encounter – A Visionary Approach: A Conference Inspired by Lynn A. de Silva (1919-1982)," held in co-operation with the World Council of Churches, will be published in 2021. Some SBCS members who contributed are Wesley Ariarajah, André van der Braak, Thomas Cattoi, Jim Fredericks, and Amos Yong. They've postponed their conference in Salzburg, "Euro-Buddhism and the Role of Christianity," until June 30th to July 4th, 2022.

Liz reported that the discussion in the online meetings of the Buddhist-Christian Dialogue Forum in the UK, which she co-convenes, have

sometimes reflected the anger around the trustworthiness of public leaders and institutions. Topics have included: “Resilience, Responsibility and Wise Action in the Current Crisis,” “Wise Action in Public Life: How to Speak the Truth without Violence,” and “Caring for our One World.”

Some of the papers from the 2019 Sri Lanka meeting of the Special Committee of the Red Cross’s long-term project on “Buddhism and International and Humanitarian Law” will be published online in the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*. A book will be published, too. Because the project is not a mere academic exercise, activists, military and legal experts, and others are involved. Their next conference is scheduled to meet in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Liz hopes it will draw more Mahayana participants.

Japan Society for Buddhist Christian Studies
Advisor Report

Kuni Terasawa reported from Tokyo where he’s teaching online for Wartburg College. Last fall in Hong Kong he met with Daniel Young who’s researching Dao Fong Shan, the Norwegian Lutheran center for Buddhist-Christian dialogue begun there in the early 20th century. Many Hong Kong Christians are participating in the protest movement, but some people in Hong Kong still hold a bit of resentment about the British government’s favoring Christians over Buddhists. Better Buddhist-Christian cooperation could be important for human rights and the democratic movement in Hong Kong, he thinks.

In Korea, where he spent last spring, young Rissho Kosei-kai and Won Buddhist practitioners participated together in the United Nations’ International Peace Day. Some distrust and even offensive behaviors towards people of other religions do occur in Korea. He’s very concerned about reconciliation between Korea and Japan among both Buddhists and Christians who have strong feelings around the abuses connected with Japan’s past military presence in Korea.

Buddhist-Christian dialogue in Japan is often very philosophical and academic in nature, he related, and needs to connect more with grassroots practice. To address this, next year’s conference will focus on liturgical music and popular Buddhist and Christian literature. Last year’s conference was cancelled. He has been meeting with Rissho Kosei-kai’s World Council of Youth for Peace and with his brother, a Buddhist monk who’s building peace pagodas in central Asia and China to promote inter-religious and pan-Buddhist peace.

Joint Report: Social Media and Website
Committee and Membership Committee

Judith Simmer-Brown, who was crucial in instigating the Social Media and Website Committee and has skillfully chaired it for six years, introduced Chera Jo Watts, our new Executive Associate for Digital Services. Since March she has been handling our email account and posting articles to the blog, having taken over from Alicia Brown. Chera Jo is one of Carolyn Medine’s PhD students at University of Georgia and manages the website for the university’s Institute for African American Studies, which Carolyn directs. Chera Jo said her current research interest is the intersection of Buddhist and womanist thought and practice, and that her first article in this area was published in the Society’s journal.

Judith then gave a report on the past six years of the committee, beginning with the site analytics from the past five years. Page views are up 23% from last year. We have 623 active subscribers to the newsletter, which is a 20% increase over last year.

As of Nov. 15, our total dues paying (and thus journal receiving) membership is 174. The category breakdown is:

- 60 students (47 in 2019) \$10
- 75 adjunct or independent scholars/retired (66 in 2019) \$25

- 39 associate or full professors (35 in 2019) \$45
- 57 “inactive” members: those who have not renewed their membership.

Some of the inactive members could go back as far as 2010, Judith noted. Our Facebook page now has 1,744 followers, a 20% increase over last year. Our followers increase when we post blogs. Over the last five years our followers have consistently been 60% men and 40% women.

Giving a retrospective, Judith reminded us that the governing board’s decision in 2014 to invest more energy into our online presence has reinvigorated the Society. Since then we have switched from using snail mail for membership payments and newsletter mailings, completely reworked our website and Facebook page, and added a blog. Our membership has grown from 52 in 2015 to our current 174. Her recommendations, as she retired from the committee’s leadership, included:

- encouraging newsletter subscribers to join the Society,
- encouraging inactive members to renew their membership,
- supplementing our Buddha/Christ and Thomas Merton/Dalai Lama photos with photos of women contemplatives,
- taking into account the diversity of Buddhist and Christian lineages as we continue to seek diversity in the board and in our website’s images,
- contacting academic departments proactively about our journal, online presence, and annual meeting,
- expanding our media presence to include Instagram and perhaps Twitter.
- Putting up a new blog post each month. To contribute on contact Jonathan Seitz at <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/contact>

At the end of our discussion Leo thanked Judith on behalf of the entire membership “for the countless things you’ve done for the Society these many years – both professionally and personally – to enrich our lives.” The board unanimously concurred!

Newsletter Report

Newsletter editor John Becker thanked Jonathan Seitz, the long-time former editor, and Judith Simmer-Brown and Chera Jo Watts for helping him transition into this position. He’s considering making some formatting and graphics changes. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter please submit them to him at: <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/contact>

Journal Report

Thomas Cattoi, co-editor, reported that the new issue contains the papers from the 2019 Risho Kosei-kai conference papers and the SBCS papers from the last AAR. Co-editor Carol Anderson can stay on for only one more year. Scholars interested in this volunteer position should contact President Leo Lefebure at <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/contact>

Because the papers from European Academy of Religion Conference in Bologna will not be included in the 2021 issue due to the conference’s cancellation, the co-editors sent out a call for papers on the topic of Buddhist and Christian dialogue and racism.

Treasurer’s Report

John Sheveland reported that the re-approval of the Society’s tax-exempt status is still in progress but should be finished soon.

Reporting that our expenses for microphones and speakers at the 2019 San Diego meeting were \$868, he raised the possibility of the Society’s buying a sound system that would fit in an overhead compartment. After much discussion we decided that, for now, we’d continue to pay these fees, since the equipment is important for people

with hearing losses and AAR's contracts with venues must include these fees.

Book Review Editor's Report

Massimo Rondolino was unable to attend the meeting, so he left a report. He now has five reviews in process for the 2020 issue. Some scheduled reviewers weren't able to submit their reviews due to the pandemic. Eight books slated for review in the 2021 issue plus any late 2020 reviews that come in.

Board member JK Kato asked how long a gap we allow between a book's publication and its review. Thomas said he thought not more than two years. Past President Kristin Largen suggested we work out a review submission cut-off date for Streng Award books and others crucial to the field. Thomas said that although it's theoretically unnecessary to have a deadline for reviews earlier than for articles, that the co-editors would discuss how best to handle this with important books, since some reviewers don't submit their reviews on time.

Streng Book Award Committee Report

Committee Chair Paul Ingram reported that this year's award goes to Perry Schmidt-Leukel's *Buddha Mind Christ Mind: A Christian Commentary on the Bodhicaryāvatāra* with its new translation by Ernst Steinkellner and Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek. (See more below)

President's Report

Leo first thanked Mark for taking the initiative to author the "Collective Statement" that was posted on our website and Facebook page and emailed to members. In light of the multiple global and US disasters of many types this year, this statement reaffirmed the Society's commitment to "overcoming divides, creating bridges to understanding, and working together to better the lives of others and our own."

He and the rest of us congratulated Past-President Kristin Largen on her appointment as president of Wartburg Theological Seminary. He also voiced

for all of us our condolences to former president Miriam Levering on the death of her spouse, whom we will miss.

Leo collated and submitted the board members' comments in response to the questions that AAR's Futures Task Force sent to the Society. He noted that it appears that higher education will be feeling intense financial pressures. He also gathered responses to the questions AAR asked on their application for renewal of our "related scholarly organization" status, which provides a few perks, mostly publicizing our meetings. This was renewed in early March.

He reflected that this year "We're at what could be an overall shift in our mode of doing programs." He recounted that from 1990 to 2005 we had a major international conference every few years, for example, having the Dalai Lama in Chicago in 1996. He commended Paul Ingram on the wonderful conference he organized at Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma around 2000. Remembering the financial difficulties of the Society after the 2005 conference, he noted with gratitude then-president Harry Wells' efforts to stabilize our budget. Since then our only events have been within AAR's annual meeting.

This year, he noted, the unprecedented amount of video conferencing in academe has brought together scholars globally in new and exciting ways, which should prompt us to think creatively about broadening our outreach and programming. He's convinced we should continue with AAR, but we could also revive our tradition of doing our own programming. "To the degree that we form networks of relationship around the world" we can broaden our membership, he pointed out.

Paul commented that keeping the Society going has been an issue since it began, sharing colorful memories of the 1980 conference in Hawai'i and the way the Pacific Lutheran conference invigorated that school. Judith commented that hosting international conferences online could

“bring us that kind of experience without breaking the bank of the Society – and without the same weight of work coming from the Society. . . I’d love to see, maybe, a subcommittee.” Mark suggested we have a meeting to discuss this after our December sessions, noting that “this experience is going to give us a really good idea of future directions to explore.”

Nomination Committee Report

The board unanimously approved John Sheveland for another four-year term as treasurer and Sandy Kunz as secretary. Jonathan Seitz was unanimously approved as the chair of the Social Media Committee. Elizabeth Harris was unanimously approved for another four-year term as the international advisor representing the European Network and Kuni Terasawa for the Japan Society. Hsiao Lan Hu was unanimously approved for another term on the Membership Committee.

Prompted by Mark Unno, we discussed the need for a broader representation of Buddhist lineages and nonwhite practitioners within the Society’s leadership. Although several have lived outside the west, the current SBCS Christian leadership is mostly white members of a few western-rooted church traditions and thus does not reflect the fact that the majority of Christians globally (including many Americans) are members of church networks founded by nonwestern leaders in the past three centuries.

Leo Lefebure said he saw no reason we couldn’t add additional international advisors, especially since we could video conference them into meetings. Judith added that, in terms of who’s elected to the board and committees, “We’re drifting more and more towards men. We’ve always had a commitment as a society to have women on the board. Since I’m leaving, one of the last things I want to say is: ‘Make sure we have women.’”

Program Committee

Vice-president and thus program committee chair Mark Unno said we haven’t had enough time for questions and answers from the audience each year, so he’s sent out a strict schedule for moderators and made the second session a roundtable event with short, seven-minute initial presentations.

Commenting on the arc of the Society’s development through its early, highly ideological, sometimes conflictual, but absolutely necessary phases, Mark remarked that we’re now in a better place, having in hand sophisticated comparative theology methodologies. More importantly, we can cooperate with each other on important social and environmental issues because we’ve become a mutual learning community where we’re not trying to compete with each other. We all benefit individually and have the opportunity to contribute to our larger discourse, which is indeed intellectual, but also functions as extended community formation. Market economy is the real religion in our secular society, he stated, so our ability to change the world based on our own religious work, while significant, is limited. He explained that where he finds the Society’s significance is in the ways we:

- come together and support each other and our work,
- learn from each other,
- extend our community – whether we do that virtually or through our print publications and face-to-face conferences.

Two topics for panels that were considered last year but weren’t chosen for this year were climate change and nationalisms. Leo noted that the Buddhist-Catholic dialogue on climate change joined the Climate Action Task Force of the Parliament of the World’s Religions to host a virtual conversation last April that drew 1000 participants, so perhaps we could link to that network.

Mark said that the crucial climate change question he sees that's being avoided, but that young people are very aware of, is how human beings could adapt to climate change if mitigation efforts are largely unsuccessful. He thinks the SBCS needs to address both mitigation and adaptation. Paul Ingram noted that John Cobb has been making this point for ten years and that a voice like his should be included in what we present.

On the nationalism topic, Leo noted that it's a problematic issue in many contexts around the world. Sandy agreed, noting that he, John Sheveland and Liz Harris have already done serious work on the topic.

Thomas reminded us that the ordination of women is a current contentious issue now in some Buddhist and Christian circles. Mark added that it would be important to frame it in terms of patriarchy and sexual identity in a way that includes nonbinary people. Mark suggested that "religious authority, gender and sexual identity" might work as a topic.

Carolyn said she'd like to see Black Lives Matter considered, but isn't sure how the SBCS should approach it. Peter pointed to Robert Jones' book *White Too Long*, and Mark suggested combining nationalism, populism and white racism as a topic, because the combination is a global phenomenon. Mark suggested that Carolyn and Kuni each formulate a paragraph on the topic, and we could go from there. Peter Feldmeier suggested we'd need to be careful not to just preach to the choir without advancing the scholarship.

Mark said he'd send the board an email with write-ups on each of the following three topics, so we could give feedback:

- 1) Climate change with a focus on adaptation,
- 2) Religious authority and gender difference,
- 3) Nationalism and racism.

The meeting adjourned, amidst warm bows and waves, at 1:10 PM EST.

Paper Sessions

Tuesday, Dec. 1 and Wednesday, Dec. 2

The first ever SBCS online annual meeting panel was titled "Buddhist-Christian Perspectives on Contemplative Practices and Religious Experiences" and was hosted 4-6 PM EST by Georgetown University's Berkley Center for 175 viewers. After a welcome by President Leo Lefebure, Ruben Habito (Southern Methodist University) moderated the panel with his usual insight, wit, and good humor. Participants were Peter Feldmeier (University of Toledo), Paula Arai (Louisiana State University), Fr. Kevin Jiun Hunt OCSO, Roshi (St Joseph's Abbey), and Kristin Largen (Wartburg Theological Seminary). Each participant offered a fifteen-minute presentation, then Ruben posed questions from viewers and pulled together threads from the presentations.

Our second session, "Natal and Convert Buddhists and Christians" was the following day from 10-11:30 AM EST and had 110 viewers. It was configured as a roundtable discussion introduced by Karen Enriquez (Loyola Marymount) with each participant offering an initial seven-minute presentation. These initial presentations by André van der Braak (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Carolyn Medine (University of Georgia), Natalie Fisk Quli (Institute of Buddhist Studies), and Mark Unno (University of Oregon) were followed by an extended question and answer period that Mark moderated.

Members Meeting Wednesday, Dec. 2

At 11:30 AM President Leo Lefebure called to order our annual members meeting, inviting everyone to stay.

Annual Book Award

The winner of the Streng Book Award went to Perry Schmidt-Leukel's *Buddha Mind Christ Mind: A Christian Commentary on the Bodhicaryāvatāra*. With a new translation by Ernst

Steinkellner and Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek (Leuven: Peeters, 2019).

Perry Schmidt-Leukal responded that he hopes the book will convince scholars who accuse religious pluralists of not being interested in religious specifics that they are wrong. Immersion in the *Bodhicaryāvatāra* “gave me a new and I think much better understanding of the theology of St. Paul, which has many similarities with the views of Shantideva.”

Re-election of Treasurer and Secretary

Using a Zoom poll, Leo asked the members in attendance to vote on whether to ratify treasurer John Sheveland and secretary Sandra Costen Kunz for additional 4-year terms. Both were ratified.

Planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting

Program Committee chair Mark Unno, reflecting on our first online annual meeting, noted that the chat and question and answer functions permitted audience members to participate, in some ways, to a greater degree than they can in person when we often have only a few minutes for questions and can't see everyone else's questions.

He relayed that the board, since its meeting twelve days beforehand, had arrived at three topics for 2022:

- Buddhist and Christian Responses to Ecological Climate Crises and Catastrophes
- Buddhist and Christian Engagement with Nationalism
- Buddhist and Christian Patriarchy, Gender and Sexuality

Mark asked for comments from viewers through Zoom's chat function. After reading them he reported that the first and second received the most affirmation. He said that the third would be passed on to the next vice-president/program committee chair.

Ruben Habito suggested we run hybrid sections within AAR. Another suggestion was that we invite other AAR related scholarly organizations and AAR sections to join with us on these topics.

To wrap up the meeting, Leo thanked Mark, the panelists, and the Berkley Center for their roles, He also invited viewers to join the Society through our website, reminding them that, with our increasing use of online programming, this might now make more sense than it has in the past for people outside the US. After brief reflections on his excitement about our future programming, at 11:48 Leo bowed out and closed the meeting.



The European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies will be present at the European Academy of Religion (29 Aug - 2 Sept 2021, Muenster/ Germany) with three panels:

- (1) New aspects on suffering in Buddhism and Christianity
- (2) A panel responding to Francis Tiso's *Rainbow Body and Resurrection*
- (3) Apocalyptic Beliefs in Buddhism.

Further information on the exact times and venues of the panels can be obtained from the EuARE conference program:

<https://www.europeanacademyofreligion.org/euare2021>.

13th Conference of the European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies (in Cooperation with the University of Salzburg):

Euro-Buddhism and the Role of Christianity

St. Virgil, Salzburg, Austria, 30 June - 4 July 2022

Since the late 19th/early 20th century Buddhism began to be practiced in Europe and was often presented by its European followers as a persuasive alternative to Christianity which had come under heavy attack from various sides.

Buddhism in Europe was less a result of missionary activities from Asian countries but arose, to a significant extent, out of the propagation by Europeans who studied Buddhism through various literary sources. However, European Buddhists sought connections to Asian countries from a comparatively early stage onwards, and organizations such as the Mahābodhi Society came to play an important role. Tensions between Buddhism and Christianity in the West's Asian colonies and the critique of Christianity in the West had their reciprocal impact on each other.

Whereas in the early days of European Buddhism the focus was predominantly on Theravāda, after the Second World War Western interest shifted to Japanese Zen Buddhism and, somewhat later, to Tibetan Buddhism. Increasingly also other forms of Buddhism (such as Pure Land or Nichiren Buddhism) became present in Europe. Immigrants from Asian countries such as Thailand and Vietnam brought along their local forms of Buddhism and established their own centers. While some of these immigrant communities kept largely to themselves, other forms of Asian Buddhism, as for example "Inter-Being", opened their home traditions and adopted distinctly European and even Christian elements. Today, then, Buddhism in Europe exists in a large variety of forms and with different degrees of individual belonging and/or commitment. Nowhere in Asia are so many different types of Buddhisms present in one

particular society as is now the case in a number of European countries.

[Click Here](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Perry Schmidt-Leukel, ENBCS-President



Dynamic Encounters between Buddhism and the West

University of Cambridge Postgraduate Online Conference 21-22 June 2021

This conference seeks to explore historical and contemporary dialogues between Buddhism and the West, while also contemplating ways of opening up new conversations. With an appreciation of the value of interdisciplinarity, we aim to bring together scholars from diverse fields to both share and enhance their unique perspectives. In today's era of globalisation, dialogue between different cultures is a daily occurrence. The last century in particular has produced a dynamic exchange of ideas between Buddhism and the West. Important exchanges have occurred in myriad areas of intellectual life, ranging from spiritual endeavours to the pursuit of a scientific understanding of the mind. In Western universities, Buddhist Studies is a growing field, and thus there is a continuous interaction of scholars. In addition, outside of academia, interest in Buddhism as a religion and practice has been steadily growing, along with the number of Buddhist institutions.

In the context of globalisation, the encounter between Buddhism and the West is generally understood as a modern phenomenon. However, throughout history, from distant antiquity to recent past, the dialogue between Buddhism and the West has been pervasive and dynamic. This conference

intends to uncover some of these exchanges and suggest possibilities for future dialogues.

This conference is aimed at postgraduate students. Since Buddhism is an umbrella term that picks out and is associated with a plurality of religious beliefs, politics, philosophical positions, arguments, practices, and artistic works, this conference is very broad in scope, with possible contributions ranging from philosophy, film studies to law, this leaves the conference open to a wide range of students to make a contribution from their own research field.

Please send abstract (500 words) and CV to: dynamicencounters2021@gmail.com by 9 May 2021.

[Click Here](#) for the more information.



Frederick J. Steng Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies

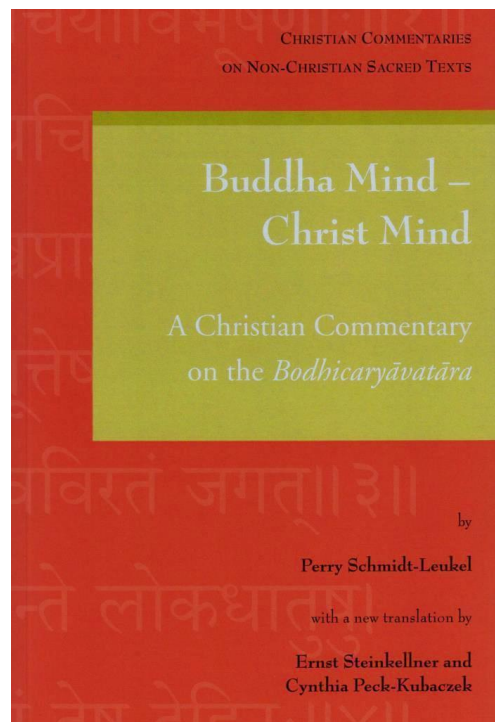
Dear Colleagues,

The SBCS would like to congratulate Perry Schmidt-Leukel's work *Buddha Mind Christ Mind: A Christian Commentary on the Bodhicaryāvatāra*. With a new translation by Ernst Steinkellner and Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek (Leuven: Peeters, 2019) as this year's recipient of the Steng Book Award. The Book Award Committee commented:

“Perry Schmidt-Leukel's work *Buddha-Mind, Christ Mind* is directly relevant to the core work of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies because of its nuanced comparison of core religious teachings, practices, and commitments, all centered in their particular historical contexts. Anyone interested in Buddhist-Christian dialogue should have *Buddha-Mind, Christ Mind* in their libraries.”

Palms together,

Leo Lefebure



Membership



If you haven't renewed for 2021, 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 (2020), 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 to our webpage (for instance, it includes the last 12+ years of newsletters), and continue to work on ways to connect scholars.

Write for us! (Submitting a Blog Post)

A long-term goal in 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 Massimo Rondolino, (mrondoli@carrollu.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 major 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@lyon.edu.



SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Editor: John Becker
John.becker@lyon.edu