

*Bio of Venerable Geshe Thupten Phelgye (Geshe-la):*

Venerable Geshe Thupten Phelgye will be in Austin, Texas, from September 17 to September 20, 2014. In addition to being a Geshe (the highest degree of monastic training in his lineage of Tibetan Buddhism), he was a member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile for 10 years. With the encouragement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Geshe-la (as he's also known) founded the Universal Compassion Foundation. He was also the founding president of the International Gelug Society (the lineage of the Dalai Lama) in Dharamsala, India. Geshe-la worked with the Sulha Peace Project in the Middle East from 2004 to 2007 seeking reconciliation among Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. In addition to engaged peace-making, some of his main interests are inter-religious dialogue and promoting animal rights. He has spoken at over one hundred universities across North America and Asia. In 2012, Eastern Washington University invited him to their campus as a special faculty in residence, where he currently teaches. You can learn more about Geshe-la at his website ([www.universalcompassion.org](http://www.universalcompassion.org)).

A note on terminology: "Geshe" is a term designating monastic training; Geshe-la is a term of both respect and endearment. There are four main lineages/schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Geshe-la is a member of the Gelugpa lineage, which is the lineage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the largest lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

*Bio of David Zuniga, Ph.D., MDIV, MA:*

Rev. Dr. David Zuniga earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in private practice in Austin, Texas (a supervisee of Krista Jordan, Ph.D., ABPP). Previously, he earned a masters degree in comparative religion from Harvard Divinity School, was ordained in South Korea as a Zen Buddhist priest, and worked for over a decade as a Zen/interfaith chaplain in pediatric and adult end-of-life healthcare. Dr. Zuniga has also earned a masters degree in literature, and in addition to his therapy practice, is currently finishing a book on Zen, mindfulness and end-of-life care for Wisdom Publications. You can learn more about Dr. Zuniga at his website ([www.drdaavidzuniga.com](http://www.drdaavidzuniga.com)).