

Hesychia Faculty and Facilitators (Staff)

Rev. Stephen T. Rehrauer, CSsR is the Director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center. He is a former Provincial of the Redemptorists of the Denver Province. A native of Wisconsin, he was ordained a Redemptorist priest in 1980. His early years of priesthood were spent doing parish ministry, preaching parish missions, and overseeing the formation of future Redemptorists. After securing his doctorate in moral theology, he taught at the Pontifical Institute, the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas, the Beda College, and the Vincent Paotti Institute besides traveling extensively offering workshops and seminars in Colombia, India, the Philippines, and Nigeria, among other places. He has written extensively contributing regular to the Liguorian Magazine, and authoring *Theology for Today's Catholic - A Handbook*. His contact info: 520.744-3400 ext. 7122, or director@desertrenewal.org

Lee Morrison was trained in Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center in Burlingame CA. She is a retired Hospital Chaplain, and Hospice chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator who has been doing spiritual direction for 25 years. She has also taught in the Hesychia Spiritual Direction program at Redemptorist Renewal Center for many years. You may contact her at tucson.lee@comcast.net or 520.293-6688.

Cheryl Lehman, M. Div., trained in the Kairos School of Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Direction Training. She taught in the Kairos Spiritual Direction Training Program for eighteen years and has had a private practice of spiritual direction. She received a certificate in the Supervision of Spiritual Directors from Chestnut Hill College and has supervised students and numerous spiritual director supervision groups for many years. She is a member of Spiritual Directors International. She has completed Clinical Pastoral Education, has had mediation training and volunteered with Victim Offender Reconciliation Program; has a BA in Religious Studies with a minor in Peace Studies. She attends Shalom Mennonite Fellowship. You may contact Cheryl at yestolife53@gmail.com or 717-371-2932

M. Deborah Giles, SND is a contemplative spiritual director at the Desert House of Prayer, Tucson. She is also a licensed clinical counselor with strong skills in mental health and addictions treatment, in individual and group therapies. She has a MA in Community Counseling from John Carroll University in 2001 and MA in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in 1994 with a Certificate for retreat and Spiritual Direction. Contact info: dgiles@toledosnd.org or 419.677-1426

David Denny, a native of Indiana. At 17, he was an exchange student in Afghanistan. He earned his BA in Asian Studies in 1974. In 1975, having discovered Thomas Merton, he converted to Roman Catholicism, and entered the Spiritual Life Institute, a contemplative monastic community of the Carmelite tradition. He was ordained a priest for Killala diocese, Ireland. He and Tessa Bielecki co-founded the Desert Foundation. In 2020 he moved from his wilderness hermitage near Crestoe, Colorado to become an “urban hermit” in Tucson. David Denny ddenny@desertfound.org

Shirin McArthur is spiritual director, retreat leader, and freelance writer and editor. She holds a Master's of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology and a Certificate in Spiritual

Guidance from the Shalem Institute. She has led retreats and workshops around the US since the early 1990s. Shirin has been a spiritual director for over 20 years and meets with people via phone and Skype as well as in person. She is also a liturgical dancer and certified Kripalu Let Your Yoga Dance instructor who created Embodied Prayer, which invites people to learn new Lee Morrison was trained in Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center in Burlingame CA. She is a retired Hospital Chaplain, and Hospice chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator who has been doing spiritual direction for 25 years. She has also taught in the Hesychia Spiritual Direction program at Redemptorist Renewal Center ways to pray with their bodies. You may contact Shirin at shirinmcarthur@gmail.com or 505-918-0501.

Mary E Wildner-Bassett – Dr. Wildner-Bassett earned her Ph.D. at the University of Bochum, Germany in 1983, and has worked as a researcher and teacher of language learning, second language acquisition, culture of German-speaking countries, humanities, and leadership since then. After two-years teaching at the University of Hamburg, she joined the faculty of the University of Arizona in 1986. She served as the Dean of the College of Humanities from 2008 to 2016. She also received training for interfaith spiritual direction and companionship at the Tacheria School for Interfaith Spiritual Direction. She has maintained a spiritual direction practice for nearly 20 years. She also earned a certification as a Healing Touch Practitioner. wildbass54@gmail.com

Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R. is a Redemptorist priest of the Denver Province. He earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. He completed his certification in Spiritual Direction from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction. He has taught as adjunct professor at Sr. Louis University, Hampton University, Xavier University and Catholic Theological Union. He also served as pastor in St. Louis and in Memphis. He is currently the Convenor of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium, a national interdisciplinary association of Black Catholic scholars from the United States, African and the Caribbean. He is an author of four books. His latest book is a biography of *Thea Bowman: Faithful and Free*. mauricejnut@gmail.com

Michael Pellegrino leads our class on spiritual guidance in the Hindu tradition. Michael is a spiritual director (Tacheria School of Spiritual Direction), artist, and a holistic Manual therapist, practicing Rolfing, Craniosacral Therapy and Energy medicine. From an early age he studied and explored many of the world's spiritual traditions. Michael was raised Catholic, observing the sacraments and participating in the church, but by his late teens he had left Catholicism behind, becoming increasingly curious with eastern thought and practices. By his mid-40s he had fully immersed himself in mindfulness practice and Advaita Vedanta (non-dual Hinduism). Michael also teaches mindfulness, yoga and postural fitness. Contact info. rolfmovement@hotmail.com, or 520.275-4888

Rabbi Helen T. Cohn received ordination at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH. She served as a congregational rabbi in San Francisco from 1994 to 2006. She received spiritual direction training at the Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA. Now a resident of Tucson, she teaches adult Jewish education and serves as rabbi for Mkor Hayim congregation. Contact info: helen.cohn@gmail.com or 520.319-7073

Aneesah Nadir, MSW, PhD is a social work educator who shares spirituality in the Islamic faith. As an assistant professor in the department of social work at Arizona State University at the West campus she developed the first course for social workers and others in the human services called the Muslim Reality: Living in America. Dr. Nadir's research interest is related to cultural diversity and religion and spirituality. Her primary focus is on Muslim Life in America and more specifically social work with American Muslims. Her research includes a study of the life experiences of young Muslim women in America, an evaluation of the ISSA Muslim Culture and Faith Program: a diversity training program for human service providers working with Muslims, and a study of the perceptions of Social Workers regarding Muslims and their preparation to work with Muslim clients, students and patients. Dr. Nadir is the principal investigator for the Jewel in the Desert Project, a study exploring the history of Muslims in Arizona. Dr. Nadir serves as the president of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA (ISSA-USA). She is a consultant, diversity trainer and family life educator. Contact Annesah at draneesah@hotmail.com or 480-233-6547.

Rev. Frank Williams, ThD is a retired United Methodist minister who has been until recently Co-Director of Tacheria Interfaith School of Spiritual Direction. He is a spiritual director. He served as a pastor for churches in California and Tucson, was on the Family Studies faculty at the University of Arizona for 20 years; was Executive Director of Family Counseling Agency in Tucson; and for eleven years until his retirement, was Social Services Director at Casa de la Luz Hospice. He has been active in many community organizations and is presently on the Boards of the Learning Community for Loss, Grief and Transitions and Tacheria Interfaith Spirituality Center. He has presented and written extensively on Loss, Grief and Life Transitions; dying and death. Spiritual Direction, and Forgiveness, most recently for Spiritual Directors International. frogersw02@gmail.com

Rev. Teresa Blythe is the former program director of Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction. A Phoenix-based spiritual director and writer, Teresa is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary and holds a diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction. She is an ordained UCC clergywoman who founded the Phoenix Center for Spiritual Direction in 2015. Teresa has taught practical aspects of spiritual direction at SFTS and in numerous workshops in churches. She has authored four books including *Spiritual Direction 101: The Basics of Spiritual Guidance*, 50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times (Abingdon Press, 2006), *Meeting God in Virtual Reality: Using Spiritual Practices with Media* (Abingdon Press, 2004) and *Watching What We Watch: Primetime Television through the Lens of Faith*. Contact Teresa at teresa@teresablythe.net or 520-9714724.

Charles Gillispie, MFA, LISAC, CSAT. Charles is a graduate of the Tacheria School of Spiritual Direction. He has worked as a professional counselor for 20 years, serving addicts of all sorts. He has published articles describing his work in the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, and *Labyrinth Pathways*. Charles describes himself as a “Metaphysical Christian” which is the basis of his first book of poems, *The Way We Go On*, published by the Backwaters Press in 2010. Charles lives with his wife and a small herd of horses on the west side of Tucson. gillispiecharles79@gmail.com

Carson Hawks, M. Div., M. Ed is a spiritual director, teacher, and leader of retreats and writing groups. She works with individuals and groups both in-person and online. Carson is a 2017 graduate of the Interfaith Spiritual Direction program at the Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, CA. Her passion is to help people grow and heal spiritually especially those who have experienced spiritual trauma. Carson studied Trauma and Spiritual Care at San Francisco Theological Seminary. She holds a Master's of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion as well as a Master's of Science in Education from Old Dominion University. Carson leads both creative and spiritual writing groups with certification through Amherst Writers & Artists . She is also in the process of becoming ordained as an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Natasha Korshak is a long time teacher of yoga, meditation, and mindfulness and has worked in the fields of holistic health and wellness her entire professional career. She is a graduate of the Interfaith Theological Seminary and an ordained Interfaith Contemplative Minister, her ministry is focused on the mind/body connection and spiritual direction. She is the owner and director of Yoga at Heart, The Mindfulness & MBSR Programs of Tucson, and The Sol Center. Contact Natasha at natasha@solcenter.com or 520-325-7275.

Laura Lies has a Certificate in Spiritual Direction through the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation. A native Chicagoan, Laura is based in the greater Naperville, Plainfield and Oswego area. She has two young adult daughters. Laura has a M.S. degree in Human Resource Management and experience through Alpha as a Marriage and Parenting mentor. As a member of Spiritual Directors International, she offers spiritual companionship to individuals from all walks of life, faith and practice. laura.lies@streamgrace.com

Davin Franklin-Hicks is a behavioral health administrator at La Frontera in Tucson and an educator on gender fluidity. He's been teaching this course at Hesychia since 2016. You may contact Davin at allothersinuse@gmail.com.

Greg Wiest, C.Ss.R. Father Greg Wiest received his Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological union and was ordained a Redemptorist priest in 1989. He served as a retreat director at the Redemptorist Renewal Center, and co-coordinated the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction. He has served in various Redemptorist parishes in the Midwest. He is now stationed in Minneapolis. He also serves the GLBTQ community from the Catholic tradition. gregorywiest@gmail.com

Joneen Keuler, OSF lives in Tucson and received her certificate from the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction in 2013. Her practice includes persons of all faith traditions. She is a member of Spiritual Directors International. You may contact Joneen at jkeuler33@att.net or 414-8289519.

RRC Staff:

Rev. Anthony Nguyen, CSsR was ordained a priest in 1992. Since his ordination, he has served in various ministries, i.e. parochial vicar, Formation Director, Music Director, and Liturgy Coordinator. After receiving his Master of Divinity, Fr. Tony obtained two more Master's

Degrees, one in Liturgy and the other in Music Composition. He joined the Chicago Mission Team in 2007 and became the Director of the Redemptorist West Coast Mission Team in 2011. He has given many workshops, retreats, seminars and parish missions in both English and Vietnamese throughout the country. On September 1, 2019, he was appointed as the Director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center. anphdng@gmail.com

Alexis Murrieta is office manager at the Redemptorist Renewal Center. She has been working at the RRC since 2007. She is the executive secretary as well as coordinating retreat details. Contact info. office@desertrenewal.org or 520.999-0271

Peter Tran is assistant director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center. He has a Master's Degree in Religious Education and Master of Divinity from the State University of New York – Mt. St. Alphonsus. He is a former editor of the Union of Catholic Asian News in Bangkok. Peter's articles appeared in the *World Migration Magazine*, *L'Osservatore Romano*, *Liguorian*, *Asian SUNEWS*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Global Sisters Report*. He is co-editor of *A Catholic Response to the Asian Presence* (National Catholic Educational Association, publisher). During his years as a Redemptorist, he was involved extensively in the work of pastoral care for refugees and migrants in the United States and at the Vatican. Contact info: pt@desertrenewal.org.