



Scott Andrew Butki

October 3, 1968 - December 27, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the untimely passing of Scott Andrew Butki, who departed this life on December 27, 2024, at the age of 56.

Scott is survived by his mother, Joanne Butki; his brother, Jay Butki (wife Ju Kyung Butki); and his sister, Ellen Butki; his nieces, Natalia and Marina; his nephews, Arne and Jonno, and an extended family of friends and colleagues who will forever cherish his memory. He was preceded in death by his father, Arnold Butki, in 1999.

Scott grew up in Riverside, California, where he graduated from Riverside Poly High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications with a Journalism emphasis from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and later pursued a Master of Arts in Teaching at Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Scott began his professional journey in journalism, a career that allowed him to live in multiple states; California, Arizona, Arkansas, Maryland, Texas, and work for various organizations. His passion for storytelling was deeply rooted in his desire to inspire empathy and combat apathy among readers. He also sought to expose wrongdoing in local government and businesses. After more than a decade in journalism, Scott transitioned into education, focusing on special education to support marginalized communities. For over ten years, he

dedicated himself to mental health work, often assisting teenagers with autism. Among his most cherished roles was teaching a Harry Potter-themed class at the University of Texas for adults with special needs.

Scott's commitment to social justice was unwavering. Inspired by figures such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., he sought to live a life of non-violent activism. Through his involvement with the Unitarian Universalist church in both Hagerstown, MD, and Austin, TX, Scott worked on anti-racism education initiatives and partnered with local groups to promote equity and understanding.

A voracious reader, Scott set an ambitious personal goal of annually reading 50 books and interviewing 25 authors, a goal he met for many years. He also found joy in walking and running, playing backgammon, indulging in rocky road ice cream, listening to music, connecting with friends on social media, and tirelessly working to fight hate, not necessarily in that particular order. Everyone will miss his sense of humor and his weekly online questions on social media, such as "What are you grateful for?" and "What made you smile today?".

Scott's life was defined by compassion, advocacy, and an enduring love for reading and learning. May his legacy continue to inspire all who knew him. He will be missed dearly but forever held in our hearts.

A celebration of Scott's life will be held on Saturday, January 11 at 3:00 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin located at 4700 Grover St., Austin, TX 78756.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a donation to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) (<https://www.nami.org/About-NAMI/Donate-to-NAMI>), the Austin Justice Coalition (<https://austinjustice.org/member>

ships, or the Austin Public Library https://library.austintexas.gov/library/document/donation_dedication2016.pdf, which are all organizations close to Scott's heart.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 11. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Unitarian Universalist Church
4700 Grover Ave.
Austin, TX 78756
<http://austinuu.org/wp2013/>

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I am so sad to hear about losing Scott. Scott and I have been playing backgammon together for at least 15 years. During that time I came to appreciate his gentle soul, keen wit, and great sense of humor. Scott has been a member of my online book group for years and was a voracious reader. He often entertained us with his comments on books that we were reading, his knowledge about other books by the same author and interesting stories about the authors that he had interviewed. He frequently directed me and others to other books that he knew we would enjoy. Scott would also take the time to talk about children that he was working with. I have no doubt that he will be sorely missed, not only by myself, but by with all the other communities that he was involved with.
David Kettler.

David Kettler - January 23, 2025 at 11:36 PM

BL

“ I met Scott through Austin Justice Coalition. When I first appeared, Scott was so welcoming and informative. He was a warm, gentle and lovely person. I felt, and still feel welcomed there. But I will always miss seeing Scott there. My heart goes out to Scott's family and friends. Beverly Lazar

Beverly Lazar - January 22, 2025 at 11:26 PM

KG

“ *Here's a video I love of Scott: This is from the time in his life he was caring for and teaching Trevor. It's a lovely example of Scott's skills and empathy, and it's also a really infectious example of his laughter!*

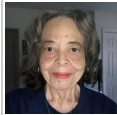
<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/videos/video/helping-your-child-understand-and-use-money>

Kate Gilpin - January 05, 2025 at 04:48 PM

EB

Thank you for sharing this video, Kate. I know Scott cared for Trevor and treasured the work he did with him.

Ellen Butki - January 08, 2025 at 08:17 AM



A beautiful capsule of Scott's approach to people and to life!

Diane Wright - January 13, 2025 at 05:30 PM



Awe, this is so great to see :) Scott in action....the kindest and most willing to do whatever someone needed to feel good and included. Thanks for posting this!

Kelly Overton - April 11, 2025 at 11:42 AM