

CITATION

More than 45 years ago, Temple University recruited Dr. Leonard Swidler, a young professor of religion.

Upon the Swidler family's arrival, Philadelphia became home to the world's premier scholarly periodical on interreligious dialogue, the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, which Arlene and Leonard Swidler co-founded. This journal broadened the Christian-Jewish dialogue and soon, thereafter, included dialogue among other religions.

In an era charged with civil rights advocacy, the Swidlers championed human rights, feminism and reform within their own religious tradition of Catholicism. They have demanded that society as a whole demands equality, inclusiveness and accountability for all people.

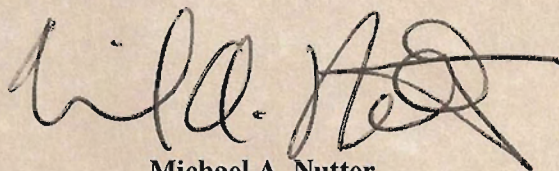
During his time at Temple University, Dr. Swidler mentored, taught and shaped new scholars in the field of interreligious dialogue locally and globally to those who are committed to social consciousness and global ethics.

For four decades, Dr. Swidler answered the call of political, business and spiritual leaders to address courageously the use of religion, as well as its misuse in the service of hate and violence. He established the Dialogue Institute, which places interreligious dialogue at the core of conflict resolution and serves as the standard of human relations and best practices for society.

It is fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the City of Philadelphia officially recognize with this Citation

DR. LEONARD SWIDLER

for his outstanding lifeworks and encourage all fellow citizens to celebrate his 80th birthday and 45th anniversary of the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.



Michael A. Nutter
Mayor

April 26, 2009

