



Annual Report

2020



DIALOGUE
INSTITUTE



JOURNAL OF
ECUMENICAL STUDIES

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

2020 was an extraordinarily challenging year for most.

The loss of loved ones and the long period of isolation has impacted us emotionally and spiritually. As the Covid pandemic spread across the U.S. and throughout the world, the Dialogue Institute had to make some difficult decisions about our work. How could we host our international students for our summer institute? How would we facilitate programming that brought people face to face at the table of dialogue? Throughout this report, you will read of ways that our staff managed to adapt to running programs in a virtual format. We learned the ins and outs of Zoom technology, managing to run an academic conference, facilitate numerous dialogues, and offer training to people around the U.S. and the world. Although it was challenging and the learning curve was steep, we were able to expand our program offerings beyond our Study of the U.S. Institutes on religious freedom.

I trust that you will be inspired to read about our new initiatives on Black-Jewish Dialogue, racial dialogues, interfaith leadership development, and equipping students with cross-cultural and dialogue skills for innovation. **We look forward to telling you more about our expanded programs underway in 2021!**



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CDI PARTNERSHIP: HOW TO SUCCEED AS AN INNOVATOR

The Dialogue Institute partnered with Citizens Diplomacy International in August of 2020 to co-facilitate a virtual program called How to Succeed as an Innovator.

This program taught STEM university students in Philadelphia and Cairo, Egypt dialogue and innovation skills. This was an excellent networking opportunity for all participants as they met new students in their field across the world and learned from leading global innovators. This program served as a pilot for a long-term partnership between the Dialogue Institute and Citizens Diplomacy International.

SUSI 2020 VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Due to COVID-19, our annual SUSI Student Religious Freedom program took place virtually in 2020. Our virtual program welcomed alumni not just from 2019, but from all of our SUSI student cohorts dating back to 2010. **The Dialogue Institute and Meridian International Center** hosted two-hour monthly modules beginning in August 2020 and ending in January 2021. The online engagement modules allowed SUSI participants to network with alumni from other years and countries.

More than 100 SUSI alumni took part in sessions on a variety of topics including: networking, media literacy, democracy and authoritarianism, COVID-19 response, resilience, and student-led presentations.

The Dialogue Institute was grateful for this opportunity to involve all twelve of our SUSI/YSEALI cohorts and participants had a great time making new contacts.

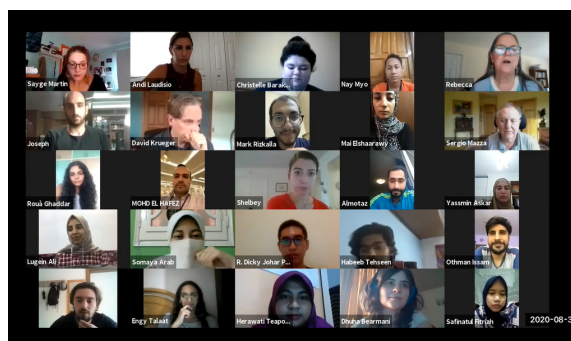


Image: SUSI Students taking part in a virtual session

INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR GTU-BERKELEY

In Fall of 2020 the Dialogue Institute led a dialogue facilitation training for doctoral students at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. The program was sponsored by the Koret Foundation and hosted six fellows during the 2020-2021 academic year. Participants were composed of representatives from Judaic, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, and indigenous faith traditions. The fellows learned interfaith dialogue facilitation skills and hosted two virtual facilitation events for undergraduate students from Holy Names University in Oakland, California. Following the facilitation events, fellows will write a collaborative journal article about the experience of participating in a virtual program and hosting virtual facilitations during a pandemic. The Dialogue Institute will share the forthcoming article on our website once it is published.

SUSI SCHOLARS CONFERENCE AND PODCAST

Our SUSI Scholar Institutes were held for three consecutive summers from 2017 to 2019 and involved 50 scholars from around the world. Additional funds were available from the Department of State to carry out follow-on activities in 2020. Once such activity was a two-day online conference on religious pluralism, featuring academic papers written by our scholar alumni.

The follow-on project also provided funding to consolidate resources for a digital resources library of materials we have used over the years. The program alumni now have access to a collection of lecture slides, tutorials, maps, and articles that contributed to their understanding of religious freedom in the U.S. Finally, we were able to pilot a podcast interview series featuring our SUSI scholars, which can be accessed on our Diablogue.



Image: SUSI Scholars engaging in dialogue

Don't miss our SUSI Scholars Podcast Series. New episodes coming soon!



AFRICAN AMERICAN JEWISH DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING

In early 2020, the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey branch of the **American Jewish Committee (AJC)** reached out to the Dialogue Institute to coordinate a one-day program for Jewish leaders to learn about African American history. Dialogue Institute staff lead a group of around 40 participants to attend a worship service at Mother Bethel A.M.E Church, one of the city's most historic African American congregations. The service was followed by a meal and conversation with **Rev. Dr. Mark Tyler**, who is also a Dialogue Institute board member. The day concluded with a walking tour of colonial Philadelphia led by **Dr. David Krueger** and **Dr. Calenthia Dowdy**, an anti-racism educator with Roots of Justice.

Following the pilot event, a generous donation from Rep. Jared Solomon's Pennsylvania's 202nd District office enabled us to develop a digital curriculum and teach an online Zoom program on Jewish-African American dialogue and understanding for a social studies class at Philadelphia's Northeast High School. Working with the classroom teacher, Dr. Krueger collaborated with history educator **John Bright** to prepare the curriculum, and Professor **Sean Chambers** (Valley Forge Military Academy) and long-time dialogue educator and scholar with the Dialogue Institute, Professor **Michael Cohen**, to be the primary facilitators. Cohen, who is Jewish, and Chambers, who is African American, modeled the principles of dialogue and ran an engaging program that was well-received by the high school. The program laid a foundation for programming in 2021, including a partnership with a documentary film on Jewish and African American collaboration and an expanded curriculum project.

A COLLABORATIVE ANTI-RACISM PROGRAM WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In 2020, the President of MONTCO appointed a 14-member Advisory Council on Inclusivity and Diversity at the college. Included in their charge was participation in a 7-part college-lecture series on Race in America. **Rebecca Mays** from the Dialogue Institute collaborated by administering the Intercultural Developmental Inventory to the 14 persons and gave a presentation of this pre-assessment of the group results. The IDI measures intercultural competence on a progressive continuum. Once new members have completed their assigned projects, the Dialogue Institute will conduct a post-assessment using the IDI and share those results with the President and Advisory Council. Plans are in discussion for follow-up work in the academic year 2021 - 2022.

BUSINESS AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE

With the support of funds from the **Karl Schlect Foundation**, the Dialogue Institute hosted a one-day virtual conference on the purpose of the corporation – stakeholders versus shareholders. Former executive director **Sergio Mazza** and board chair **Majid Alsayegh** invited speakers to present on the theme: Henry Shein CEO, Stanley Bergman, Klaus Leisinger (Global Values Alliance Foundation) Prof. Phil Nichols (University of Pennsylvania), Rabbi Julie Schonfeld (Leading Ethics), and Steve Young (Caux Roundtable for Moral Capitalism). The discussion explored the role that the global ethic can play in cultivating trust among diverse stakeholders.

JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES

Submitted articles in 2020 included ecumenical concerns, research on Catholic-Orthodox-Protestant relations as well as on Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist encounters with Christianity, and research on religions and the pandemic. Also in 2020, the Dialogue Institute’s social media team began to announce each new issue and essays of interest in an effort to boost readership and encourage submissions. As new Managing Editor, **Rebecca Mays**, with Penn Press Journals, opened Scholastica, an acquisition digital platform for authors and reviewers (access information on the websites for the Dialogue Institute and Penn Press. In late 2020, Professor Terry Rey, Chair of Temple’s Religion department, requested a personal leave-of-absence as editor for 2021. Rebecca Mays and David Krueger agreed to serve as interim co-editors for the 2021 quarterly journal issues.

Nancy Krody, Managing Editor from 1973 - 2018, has continued to copy-edit manuscripts pro bono. She also made a substantial financial gift to the JES in 2020 as part of Len Swidler’s matching campaign. Her gift has served well to sustain the JES as a peer-reviewed journal of quality in the fields of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.



Journal of
ECUMENICAL STUDIES

SUMMER 2020 • VOLUME 55 • NUMBER 3

SYMPOSIUM ON THE PITTSBURGH SHABBAT MASSACRE: REVERSING EVIL
TO LOVE: 2019 MEETING OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION SOCIETY
OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

Introduction
Zev Garber
The Pittsburgh Shabbat Massacre—Terms of Depiction and Destruction:
Old New Usage
Zev Garber
Shall Not the Judge of All the Earth Do Justly? Theological Dilemmas Posed by the
Pittsburgh and Pevay Synagogue Massacres
Kenneth L. Hanson
Jouissance and Trauma in Sarah's Laugh and Aporia:
The Construction of Collective Identity in the *Parashat Vajira*
Roberta Sabbath

ARTICLES:
Dancing at "the People's Beach": Spontaneous Dialogue in the New York Sands
Garey René Paris
Lebanon Models Interreligious Dialogue through the Feast of the Annunciation
Ziad Fahed
Two Sides of One Coin: Hilal Hashem and Kiddush Hashem
Gilbert S. Rosenthal
Questions about Paul's Gospel of Justification
Paul W. Newman



THE ARLENE AND LEONARD SWIDLER CHAIR FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND MODERN CATHOLIC THOUGHT

Dialogue Institute founder and president **Leonard Swidler** has long had the dream of establishing an endowed chair at Temple University's Department of Religion. That dream will soon become a reality. In a July 2020 newsletter, the College of Liberal Arts announced the agreement to establish an **Endowed Chair in Interreligious Dialogue and Modern Catholic Thought**. A public event to celebrate the endowed chair is expected in 2022.

LEN'S MATCHING CAMPAIGN 2020

Professor **Leonard Swidler** generously agreed to match dollar for dollar all donations 2020. The campaign yielded donations totaling \$36,000 and they were generously matched by Len bringing the total year's donations to \$72,000.



Financial Report

Assets

Cash on hand	36,995.00
Promises to give	35,627.00
Investments	231,702.00
Program deposits	500.00
Total assets	305,619.00

Liabilities and net assets

Accounts payable and accrued	18,085.00
	104,557.00

Long term liabilities

Paycheck protection Program	22,700.00
Total liabilities	145,342.00

Net assets

Without donor restrictions	124,650.00
With donor restrictions	35,627.00
Total net assets	160,277.00
Total liabilities and net assets	305,619.00

Statement of Activities

Support and revenue 2020

Grants and contributions	9,287.00
In- Kind contributions	189,290.00
Government support	347,399.00
DI program income	2,480.00
Royalty income and other	11,439.00
Investment income , net	5,809.00
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(10,390.00)
Total support, revenue, and reclassifications	555,314.00

Expenses

Program	598,237.00
General/ Administrative	76,231.00
Fundraising	7,117.00
Total Expenses	681,585.00

Change in net assets	(126,271.00)
Net assets beginning of the year	286,548.00
Net assets end of the year	160,277.00

Major Grantors

*U.S. Department of State
Meridian International Center*

2020 Donors

\$100,000+

*Enlightened World
Foundation - Harry Halloran*

\$10,000+

*Leonard Swidler
Nancy Krody
American Jewish Committee -
Philadelphia/Southern New
Jersey and Rep. Jared
Solomon's 202nd District
Office*

\$5,000- \$9,999

Ann Schroeder

\$1,000- \$4,999

*Sergio & Lora Mazza
Majid & Mary Alsayegh
Gity Banan-Etemad
William Cullinan
Harold Kasimow
Susan Frank
Hisham Majid
Elizabeth Tuttle Fund
David Krueger
David Etheridge*

\$500- \$999

*Howard Cohen
Joseph & Jeanne Boyle
Paul & Elizabeth Mojzes*

\$100- \$499

*Judith Buck-Glen
Fouzia Mannan
Marianne Wokeck
Safa Shubat
Krystyna Gorniak
Jack Malinowski
Irine Kurdadze
Stephen and Grace Marie Gerber
Kana Mitra*

\$1-99

*Douglas Giles
Alfons Teipen
Joseph Seville
Richard Antonucci
Alan Fox
Dianne Ashton
Michael Jones
Paul Knitter
Joan C. Prendergast
Margaret Poole
Joanne Martin
Network for Good*