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# DIALOGUE INSTITUTE

## ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018

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DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTE



JOURNAL OF  
ECUMENICAL STUDIES



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# Chair's Message

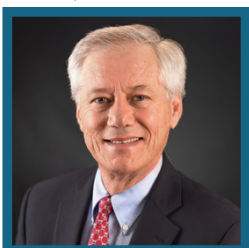
I am honored to continue to be a part of the Dialogue Institute. I have benefited personally from working with fellow board members and with Dr. Len Swidler and staff. The DI has provided me with opportunities for better defining my personal core values, sharpening my self-awareness and sharpening my analytical and communication skills. For these opportunities I am very grateful.

The past year has been a difficult year by many measures. We have seen hate, prejudice, and bigotry inspire murderous hate crimes, whether by racist white supremacists in New Zealand or Pittsburgh, or ISIS extremists in Europe or the Middle East.

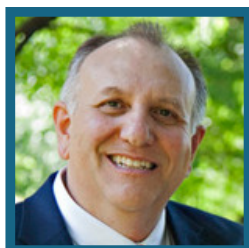
The recent horrific shooting of Muslims at the mosque and Islamic center in Christchurch, NZ. hit close to home. Shortly after the shooting was in the news, we heard from family that Hazem and Janna Omari, a couple from my city of birth, Mosul, Iraq, could not reach their son, Hassan, age 36, who had gone to the mosque for Friday prayers. They were frantic because he was not answering his cell phone. They went to the mosque but were not allowed to enter. They visited nearby hospitals but could not find their son. After more than 12 hours, they were informed by officials that their son was amongst those who were killed by the shooter. In fact, he had died trying to stop the shooter when shot. Hazem and Janna were professionals who fled the violence of Mosul 22 years ago and immigrated to New Zealand, hoping to build new lives in a safe place. They are now grieving the loss of their son.

In spite of these challenges, I have hope for the future. Amidst the grief, I am touched by the many people and organizations who reached out to the friends and families of victims. Jews and Christians have made a special effort to support the victims of Christchurch. In Pittsburgh, PA, last October, Muslims raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the Tree of Life synagogue. The acts of love and care send a message that people of faith will stand up in support of pluralism and religious freedom, letting the world know that hate is not welcome in their communities.

Majid Alsayegh  
Chair, Board of Directors



Sergio Mazza  
Executive Director



Leonard Swidler  
President



## Board of Directors

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Majid Alsayegh

### Vice Chair

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City Banan-Etemad

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Harry Halloran

Amid Ismail (ex-officio)

Paul Mojzes

Leonard Swidler (ex-officio)

Kay Yu

### Staff

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Sergio Mazza

### J.E.S. Editor

Terry Rey

### Managing Editor/ Director of Education

Rebecca K. Mays

### Administrative and Development Coordinator

Andi Laudisio

### Accountant

Natasha Johnson

### Consultants

Sandy Mayer

Jordan Iezzi

# Chair's Message continued

During 2018, the Dialogue Institute led quality programs for the U.S. State Department Study of Religious Pluralism and participated in conferences in Toronto, CA, Beijing, CN, Tübingen, DE, and Kashmir. The DI was active with the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council and the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom in helping promote understanding across differences in faith and politics. These efforts help transform hearts and minds around the world.

Our founder and President, Dr. Len Swidler, celebrated his 90th birthday on January 6th, 2019. Len continues to be a vital part of the work of the Dialogue Institute and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*. Every day, he continues to promote the core values of trust, mutual respect, and pluralism. We are all grateful for his leadership and continued commitment to bridge building, interpersonal relationships, and promoting understanding.

2018 has been a year of transition for the Dialogue Institute. Howard Cohen transitioned from Executive Director to Executive Committee Board member in November 2018. We are grateful for his service and thank him for putting together a talented team. We appreciate Sergio Mazza's willingness to take over from Howard and look forward to supporting him in his new role.

I want to express my deep appreciation to Nancy Krody and Paul Mojzes for their decades of editorial efforts to ensure the well-being of the *J.E.S.* And, we are grateful to Dr. Terry Rey, Chair of the Temple Religion department, for his willingness to lead *J.E.S.* as our new Editor, with Rebecca Mays as Managing Editor, going forward.

The DI could not do its work without your support. Financial support, whether small donations or large grants are the life blood of the DI's efforts. Thank you to each and every supporter. I want to express special gratitude to the Schlecht Foundation for its funding. Its support has been critical to expanding the DI's efforts in promoting a world ethos—an ethos that embraces universal values which help to create peace in today's world.

## A Farewell to Ed Newman by Howard Cohen

August 18th is a day I will remember for the rest of my days—it is the day my dear, long-time friend and colleague Ed Newman, Ph.D. and retired professor of Temple University, died. In our fast-paced lives we need to make time for friendships. Ed and I did that. We first met in 1969 when we worked at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington where Ed was the commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. I was his contact person in Secretary Elliot Richardson's office. Under Ed's leadership we worked together on groundbreaking legislation, the Vocational and Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

When I joined Temple's Fox School, Ed and his thoughtful and energetic wife Claire were there to welcome me and my wife Barbara. I convinced Ed to join the DI/*J.E.S.* board where he was an active, involved board member, including facilitating sessions with our SUSI students. Having taught at the university level in Israel, Ed understood the need for dialogue and critical thinking, two virtues that he practiced all the time. I think of him frequently, and I surely do miss him and our discussions. In the Jewish tradition, Ed Newman was a Mensch!





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## DI TRANSITIONS

# INTRODUCING SERGIO MAZZA

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### **When and how did you get involved with the DI?**

Len approached me in 1999 to discuss global business ethics and standards when I was the President of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Len asked for my assistance in the creation of a global business ethic since I was on the board of ISO. I suggested that he approach the Ethics Office Association in the U.S. We worked together on that project, which eventually led to the development of ISO 26000 Corporate Social Responsibility Guidelines. At about the same time I approached my pastor because I felt called to participate in interfaith dialogue. My pastor suggested courses at Hartford seminary. I got to know Len through business ethics and then Len encouraged the nurturing of my interfaith work and asked me to join the DI board.

### **Why do you want to lead the DI as the new ED?**

There was an immediate need and I stepped in due to my 20-year investment of time and caring. Majid and Len suggested that I may be the right person at the right time. We have a good team ready to help grow the organization and interfaith dialogue is very important to who I am.

### **How do you balance your business experience with your role in the nonprofit sector?**

This balance has changed over the last 25 years. The first part of my career was focused on information technology. I then took on the presidency at ANSI, the American National Standards Institute, which was my first nonprofit experience outside of church. Since then my career has been a mix of nonprofit and for profit work and activity on boards.

I can give examples. I worked with St. Luke's Lifeworks which provides the homeless with housing and I was a Hartford Seminary board member. In Michigan, I was on the Ecumenical Theological Seminary board and chaired that board, and I volunteered with Crossroads, an organization providing emergency food and clothing, career counseling, and resume-building to those in need. In Arizona, I work with the Martin Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University (NAU) on Jewish-Christian dialogue, and I worked with the Yavapai County reentry program, which helps people coming out of jail reintegrate into society. I am part of a church team which is developing an emergency and transitional family housing project in Sedona and I volunteer with Manzanita Outreach which provides food for the needy through pop-up food pantries. I don't think balance is the best word to use here; it's doing what you can when you can.

### **What are the most important values you display as a leader?**

First, I like to empower people who work with me to be the best they can be. I expect people to be responsible for delivering the results they commit to. I do like to think of myself as a strategic and big picture thinker, looking forward. I share that vision with staff and board to make sure we are all going in the right direction while gathering input as to what that direction may be.

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## DI TRANSITIONS

### **Who has impacted your leadership and can you describe what that impact is?**

My dad, who was a successful businessman, and my first boss, impacted my leadership. They each taught me to have a singular focus on the goal and to look back to learn from the past rather than dwell on it. I really focus everyone on the goal we set and stay focused on what is going to help us reach that goal in an ethical way. I was taught not to let drama distract us and to stay focused on the plan and its goal.



### **What are the most important decisions you make as a leader of the DI?**

Helping everyone sort through what our priorities are and discerning what is the best way to deploy our limited resources to address those priorities.

### **What goals are you looking to accomplish within your first year as ED of the DI?**

My number one goal is working to put the DI on a sound financial footing. Next, we are working diligently to develop a new set of educational services, while reinforcing existing relationships and creating new ones. Our newest content, OPENDialogue™ builds on the best of what we have done in the past but looks forward to the more we can do in the future.

### **Can you describe some unique skills you bring to the DI?**

I have been the CEO of both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. I also have an M.A. in Religion from Hartford Seminary which is a school that includes Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the student body, faculty and the board, with a strong emphasis on interfaith dialogue. My Masters' thesis was on the politics of the development of international business ethics standards. I was also on the board of the International Organization for Standardization which gave me abundant experience in global dialogue for both regulatory and business purposes. I believe that setting global standards is fundamentally about dialogue. I also taught business ethics and International management at Northern Arizona University.

### **What is your longterm plan for the DI?**

We want to build on the legacy that Len Swidler has built. We think of Len's many ideas as the roots of the tree with Dialogue as the trunk. We have many branches of opportunity ahead of us including fee-for-service work with corporations and religious communities. We have a Dialogue Institute Network (DIN) that is international and ready to develop new programming both here in Philadelphia and abroad.

### **Is there anything you want the DI staff and public to know about you?**

I love what the DI does. I have been involved one way or another for 20 years and I fully intend to do all I can in one capacity or another for the next 20 years.

## DI TRANSITIONS

# A FAREWELL TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HOWARD COHEN

Howard Cohen was appointed to the role of Executive Director in 2017 after leading a national conference on Islamophobia. A businessman and distinguished professor, Mr. Cohen led the Dialogue Institute through the 2018 SUSI Scholars and Students programs demonstrating his hands-on leadership style including extending a personal invitation to the scholars to spend Independence Day at his house. Howard represented the DI at the World Congress on Philosophy in Beijing and at the Annual Humanistic Management Conference in Tübingen, sponsored by the Karl Schlecht Foundation. Trained as a lawyer, but accomplished as a manager, Howard has proven to be a valuable asset to this Institute as both a board member and as the Executive Director. For this reason we are excited to welcome you back to the board to continue to impart your knowledge and guidance with the staff in a different capacity.

From the entire staff,  
Thank you Howard



Andi Laudisio



Sandy Mayer



Jordan Iezzi

The Dialogue Institute transitioned right through the 2017-2018 fiscal year with the hiring of three additional personnel: Andi Laudisio, Jordan Iezzi, and Sandy Mayer in 2018. Click their names to visit Andi, Jordan, and Sandy's bios on our website to learn more about our new team.

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## JES TRANSITIONS



### “GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”: NANCY KRODY

In 1974, Nancy was invited to become an Editorial Assistant for the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies (J.E.S.)* then Assistant Editor in 1977, and finally in 1984 became the Managing Editor of *J.E.S.* where she continued to serve as a “Faithful Servant,” to use Jesus’ words of high praise, for over 45 years, days in and out, years in and out.

As Managing Editor, Nancy oversaw the total range of the *J.E.S.*: The Peer-Reviewed Articles, Editorials, Reflections, Book Reviews, Ecumenical Abstracts, and Ecumenical Events. Beyond that, caring for all the manuscripts received, seeing that they were reviewed by multiple scholarly experts, relating to authors, relating to the reviewing scholars and *J.E.S.* section editors, the vital job of copy-editing the accepted essays, handling circulation, promotion, advertisement, banking, finances, relating to the world-wide body of Associate Editors, reporting to Temple University, eventually also becoming a nonprofit organization and fund raising. You get the idea. Nancy had to be a centipede to handle the multiple tasks of the Managing Editor!

Nancy, I want to thank you personally for your selfless work and massive personal support to me, to Arlene, my Co-Editor of so many decade, Paul Mojzes, and so many others of the *J.E.S.* world-wide family. You have been an incredible stalwart in work and an invaluable friend!

### WELCOME NEW GUARD!

What more could a Founding Editor of a scholarly periodical (*Journal of Ecumenical Studies*) dream of than that two of his former doctoral students would become his successor as Editor—Terry Rey—and Managing Editor—Rebecca Kratz Mays (you and Arlene did not know each other, but I am certain that if you had, you would have valued each other’s work, and also would have been friends—as have you and Nancy Krody been). Terry Rey comes to the role of Editor of *J.E.S.* with his wide experience as a multiple-published scholar (including, not only his own sole authored books, but also scholarly volumes edited by him), a highly-valued teacher and student mentor and as Chair of the Religion Department at Temple University for two terms. He has broad interests, as reflected in his wide-ranging areas of research, teaching, and publishing from the Americas to Africa and Europe.

Rebecca Kratz Mays also comes to the task of Managing Editor with wide-ranging and in-depth skills, having been the Managing Editor for twenty years of Pendle Hill Quaker Publications, and the Director of the Master’s English and Publishing Program at Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA. She also brings the experience of being the Director of Education for *J.E.S.*’s partner organization the Dialogue Institute: Interreligious, Intercultural, International since 2008. The baton is yours. I will be watching with joy as you run the race!



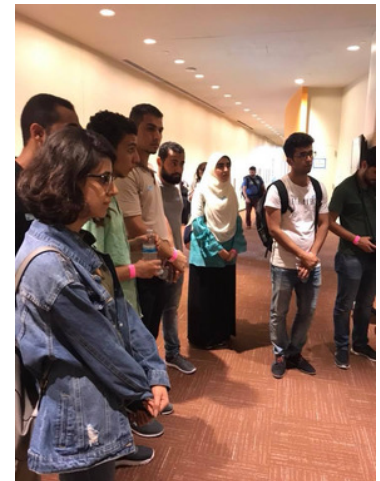
# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## SUSI Students



The Dialogue Institute hosted its ninth consecutive year of SUSI Religious Pluralism and Democracy for undergraduate university students from the Middle East. This year, the twenty selected students were from Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan.

SUSI is an intensive five-week program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, focused on religious pluralism and democracy in the American context. Participating students attend a number of lectures and site visits where students learn about inter- and intrareligious dialogue as well as tolerance and democracy while gaining an American perspective through the engagement of American citizens. The Dialogue Institute is now preparing for its 2019 SUSI students cohort.



## SUSI Scholars



In 2018, the second year, the Dialogue Institute had the opportunity to host SUSI Scholars studying Democracy and Religious Pluralism. The SUSI scholars program is a six-week intensive program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State which brought eighteen scholars from eighteen different countries to the United States to further their education regarding religion, dialogue, and democracy. The scholar cohorts are comprised of individuals who earned, or are in the process of earning their Ph.D., or competency in their religious practice. Many scholars are educators in various forms, from university professors to religious education teachers.

Participants attend a series of interactive lectures on topics such as interreligious dialogue, democracy, education, and pluralism by American leaders in their respective fields. SUSI scholars lecture at a public symposium, attend site visits, and engage with their American peers to form a professional network. The Dialogue Institute is now preparing for its 2019 SUSI scholar cohort.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## SUSI Student-Scholar Teach In

The Dialogue Institute hosted Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) on Democracy and Religious freedom for a ninth year this summer with programs that welcomed a student group and a scholar group. Both student and scholar groups were fortunate enough to share a few days together at our nation's capital in Washington, D.C.



The eighteen distinguished scholars, representing eighteen countries, were able to share their five-week experience with the incoming student group of twenty, from four different countries, in an informal teach in session.



The scholars prepared a workshop in which they shared their most formidable moments with the students. Both groups were highly engaged during this session and the scholars were able to pique student interests as well as ease any remaining jitters from the students' arrival.



The teach in resulted in a wonderful bonding of SUSI participants that created a memorable visit to the Supreme Court and the Capital building and led to some wonderful discussions on democracy among scholars and students. This overlap was a highlight for staff and participants alike.

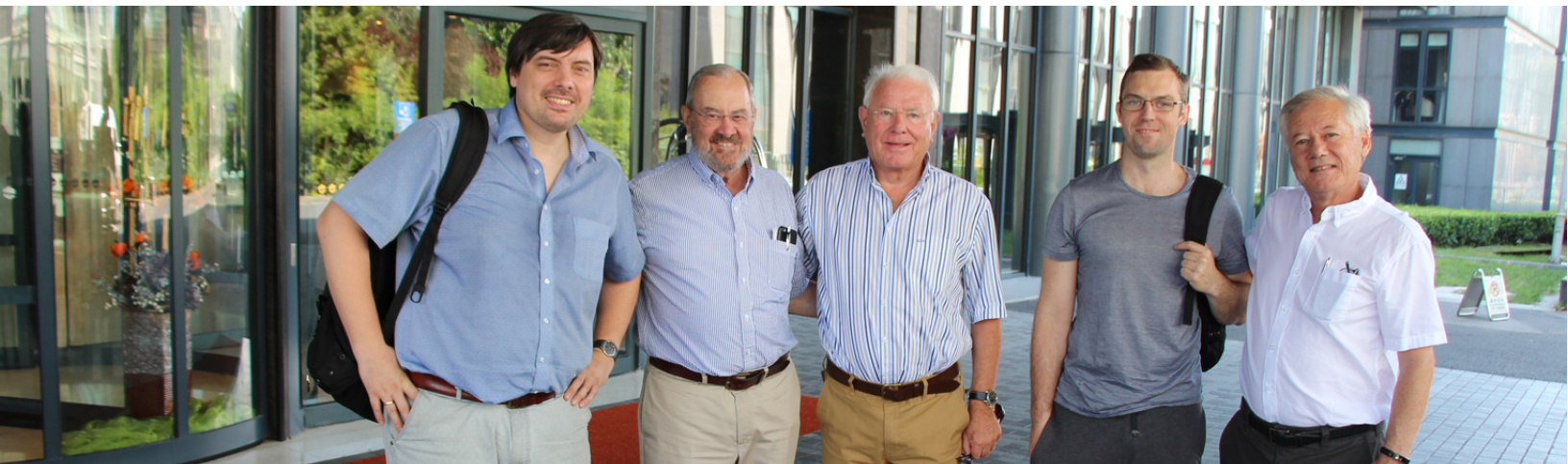




# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

## China - 24th World Congress on Philosophy

Dialogue Institute Chair, Majid Alsayegh, and then Executive Director, Howard Cohen, participated in the 24th World Congress on Philosophy, with a special session on Spiritual Humanism in Global Business in Beijing, China, in August of 2018. Majid spoke on the topic of spiritual humanism in global business; discussing the diversity among humans and the ability to connect with that diversity through technology like never before. The chairman discussed the role of harmony in diversity and its relation to an interconnected business community. Howard's lecture focused on humanistic education for global businesses. He analyzed the humanistic role behind ethical-decision making and good leadership. Howard asks business to take one step further and think about how business schools may foster character development for the future generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders.



Majid and Howard dialogued with Klaus Leisinger, Matthius Niedenfuhr, and Jonathan Keir during their visit to Beijing. They had the opportunity to spend time with long-time dialogue partner, Professor Tu Weiming, at Beijing University as well. This trip was an excellent occasion for the Dialogue Institute to continue our global interaction while connecting with old colleagues and fostering new relationships. The Dialogue Institute is proud to continue its participation in global dialogue. Concluding the trip, Majid extended "Deep gratitude to Len Swidler for establishing the foundation and the relationships that allowed for such meetings. Len and his work on dialogue and the global ethic was mentioned often during several presentations during the week, including by Professor Weiming. Len's impact on this work is recognized globally and for that contribution, we are grateful. "

# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

## Toronto - Parliament of World Religions

The Dialogue Institute hosted a panel on the topic of Global Ethic Dialogue at the seventh Parliament of World Religions. The Parliament took place in Toronto during the first week of November 2018 where Dialogue Institute Founder and President, Len Swidler, spoke alongside Global Ethic colleagues Dr. Myriam Reneau and Dr. Stephan Schlenzog on the evolution of the field of Global Ethic and the revealing of the fifth Global Ethic directive on sustainability.



Over the course of the week at their booth the Dialogue Institute staff connected with several long-time colleagues and met with dozens of new dialogue partners. It was a wonderful week to catch up with old partners and make new connections while deepening our knowledge of interfaith dialogue, a global ethic, and appreciation for religious diversity.

During this Parliament, the Dialogue Institute surveyed the new ideas for new course development which will launch in 2019. Many participants shared their thoughts through conversation and by completing surveys, for which the Dialogue Institute is thankful. Each individual who provided feedback is an essential part of creating course curriculum and

the Dialogue Institute was grateful to have such an opportunity to gain a diverse set of perspectives. The Dialogue Institute extends a sincere thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth, exchanged business cards, and attended our panel.





# 2018 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## The Diablogue

To kick off 2019 we at the Dialogue Institute are launching a new blog! The Diablogue to be more exact. It will be a new outlet for our extended community to share their stories. For over 50 years Dialogue Institute founder Leonard Swidler and his compatriots have been developing a vast cadre of global citizens and cutting edge thinkers from all walks of life. As such we launched a new platform to share these stories with the world. We appreciate all of your support over the years and feel this is a good opportunity to demonstrate our dialogic principles for all to hear.



DONATE

## NEW WAYS TO DONATE

The DI is in the process of creating several new programs on core topics, such as deep dialogue, critical thinking, and mutual cooperation, for a range of audiences including high school and foreign government cohorts. While we prepare these initiatives, the DI launched its new monthly donor feature. You can find this option at the top right of our DI website homepage. This new feature allows anyone to make a reoccurring contribution to support ongoing dialogue in our local Philadelphia Community as well as our work abroad. Donors are able to see their funding at work through new updates that will be posted on our website. All new projects will also be highlighted in our DI newsletter so it is easy to keep up with the new projects. We appreciate all of the support our donors give not only through monetary donations, but by way of their time and commitment to the DI as well.



# OPENDialogue™

Dialogue to Embrace Change

## DEEP-DIALOGUE AND ACTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Join us at our scheduled session for the Introduction of the OPENDialogue™ course:  
4/30 - 4pm to 7pm Westtown Meeting House  
Westtown PA, Near West Chester, PA

To register please visit;  
[opendialogue-1.eventbrite.com](https://opendialogue-1.eventbrite.com)

Please contact us at [open@dialogueinstitute.org](mailto:open@dialogueinstitute.org)  
for further information.

## ADDITIONAL COURSES

The Dialogue Institute is putting together a series of courses for new audiences. Including high school students, businesses, nonprofits, and corporations. Please stay tuned for a full course offering list coming in the year 2019.



# Dialogue Institute / Journal of Ecumenical Studies

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

## Donors

### \$15,000 - \$20,000

Enlightened World Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$10,000

Ann Schroeder  
Nancy Krody  
William Cullinan  
Leonard Swidler

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Full Gospel Church  
Elizabeth Tuttle Fund  
Sergio and Lora Mazza  
David Etheridge  
Majid Alsayegh  
Howard Cohen

### \$500 - \$999

Gerard Sloyan  
Mary Sweetland Laver  
Edward Newman<sup>+</sup>  
Gity Banan-Etemad

### \$100 - \$499

Theodore Friend  
Paul Mojzes  
Kana Mitra  
Ellen T. Charry  
Susan Frank  
Mahinda De Lanerolle  
Marcia Sachs Littell

### \$1 - \$99

Lisa Butler  
K.R. Sundararjan  
Elizabeth H. Mellen



## In-Kind / Volunteers

Alan L. Berger\*  
Marcus Braybrooke\*  
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Sergio Mazza  
Paul Mojzes\*  
Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha\*  
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Alfons H. Teipen\*  
John Thatamanil\*  
Lucian Turcescu\*  
J. Robert Wright\*  
Barbara Brown Zikmund\*

\*J.E.S editorial volunteers

<sup>+</sup>Deceased

# Financial Documents

**Statement of Financial Position**  
Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)



## Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$23,413
Grants Receivable	\$18,986
Investments	\$386,893
Program Deposits	\$4,498
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$433,790</b>

## Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$44,049
Deferred Revenue	\$29,950
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$73,999</b>

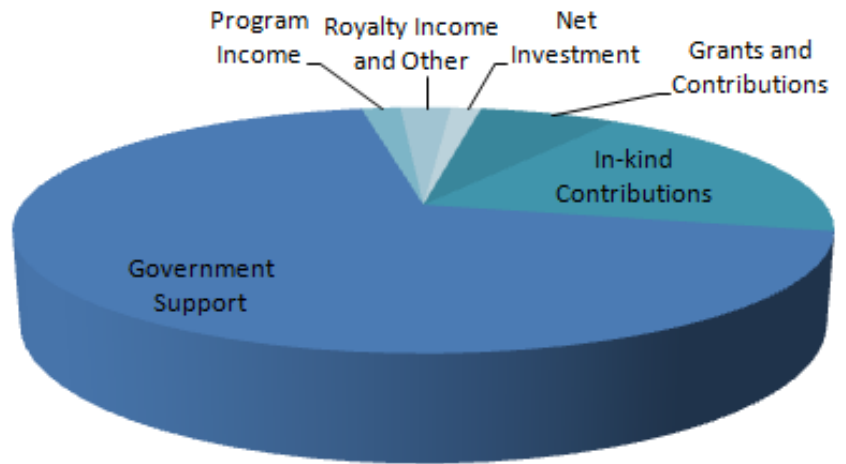
**Net Assets** **\$359,791**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **\$433,790**

## Statement of Activities

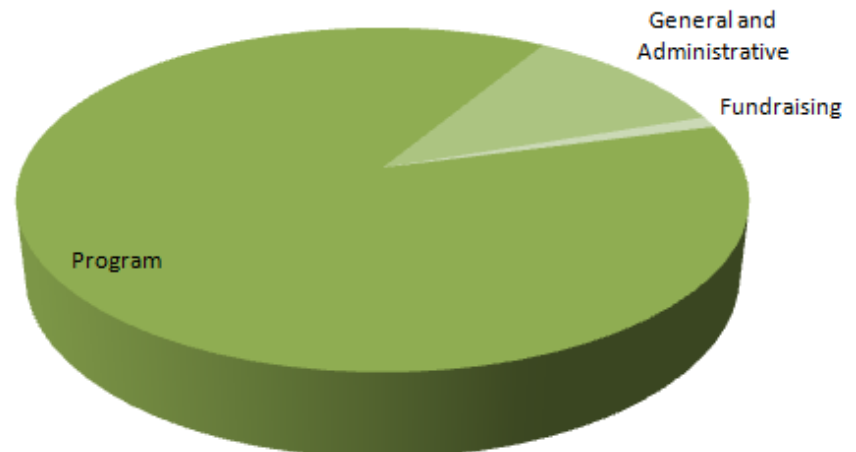
### Support and Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$60,291
In-kind Contributions	\$172,225
Government Support	\$621,355
Program Income	\$16,997
Royalty Income and Other	\$21,991
Net Investment	\$13,197
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$906,506</b>



### Expense

Program	\$829,911
General and Administrative	\$105,290
Fundraising	\$9,855
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$945,056</b>



**Net Deficit** **\$38,550**



NOBODY KNOWS

EVERYTHING ABOUT  
ANYTHING —

THEREFORE, DIALOGUE!

## Mission

The Dialogue Institute engages religious, civic, and academic leaders in practicing the skills of respectful dialogue and critical thinking, building and sustaining transformative relationships across lines of religion and culture. It provides resources and creates networks for intra- and interreligious scholarship and action that value difference and foster human dignity.

Established in 1964, the peer-reviewed *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* advances critical awareness of the latest directions in ecumenical and interreligious research.

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