

# DIALOGUE INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2022



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After two years of virtual programming due to the global pandemic, 2022 was the year that the Dialogue Institute could turn back to in-person programming. We were delighted to host two in-person cohorts of international students for our institutes on **religious diversity** and **democracy**.

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It was a joy to see students walking the halls of Temple University and mingling with Americans at religious and civic sites in Philadelphia and beyond. One image stands out to me. While visiting a Mennonite museum in Lancaster, one of our Muslim students from India, Arshad, initiated a conversation with an Evangelical Christian visitor from rural Ohio. While I don't know exactly what they discussed, I noticed that the conversation ended with a long embrace. It was beautiful to witness a deep connection between people from such divergent backgrounds. In our deeply polarized world, **we need to do all we can** to facilitate such moments of connection and trust.

In 2022, we were also excited to continue to host virtual programming that included a dialogue between a Republican and Democratic politician, a celebration event for the retirement of our founder, Professor Leonard Swidler, and a virtual conference that brought together African civic and academic leaders committed to advancing dialogue, democracy, and religious pluralism in their communities. **I am grateful for the generosity of our donors who made this year possible.**



*We need to do all we  
can to facilitate  
such moments of  
connection and trust.*

**David M. Krueger, Ph.D.**



# New Staff Members, Interns & Board Members

The **Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) 2022** was a great success, thanks to the contributions of interns and staff.

Two interns, **Celene Barry-Hernandez** and **Sean Emery**, joined the organization in the past year. Celene is a first-generation college student, as well as a Philadelphia native. She is a rising senior at Temple University, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies. As a Program Associate, she shared her love of Philadelphia and engaged in thought-provoking conversations about religion, law, and academia. Program associate Sean Emery is a graduate of Swarthmore College, with a BA in Peace & Conflict Studies and a minor in Arabic and Linguistics. He recently completed a fellowship with the Center for Arabic Study Abroad at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan. Raised in a multi-ethnic family, Sean has always been exposed to numerous different languages and cultures which made him interested in the SUSI program and an excellent candidate to work with our international students in the dorm and classroom.



Our Administrative Director, **Stephanie Lodono**, is a Ph.D. candidate at the Temple University Department of Religion who manages the logistical aspects and the day-to-day events of our SUSI programming. Stephanie Londoño holds an MA in Religious Studies, and a BA in Journalism, and is currently working on her doctorate as a Future Faculty Fellow at Temple University. Her research is centered on religion, ethics, and society, focusing on the relationship between memory, violence, and religion from the perspective of women in Latin America.



Stephanie teaches at Temple University and taught a variety of religion courses as an adjunct professor at Florida International University (FIU). She has published on migrant Latina women converting to Islam, Islam in Latin America, women and peacemaking in Colombia, and Liberation Theology and has served as a cultural analyst who regularly contributes to international public discourse on religion through English and Spanish-speaking media outlets. Stephanie provided academic enrichment to the DI SUSI curriculum and a theological and pluralistic deep dive into religion in the U.S.

In 2022, we invited long-time associate **Sean Chambers** to join our SUSI team to consult on academic curriculum and assist with student mentorship. Sean Chambers, MFA, is an education leader passionate about cross-cultural communication and interfaith understanding. He co-facilitated and co-designed the DI's 2020 project with the American Jewish Committee teaching a weeklong series about cultural competency and African American-Jewish relations for an AP Social Studies class at Philly's Northeast HS. Prof. Chambers is the Co-Coordinator of Liberal Arts Programs and Asst. Prof. of English at Valley Forge Military College (Wayne, PA), founding their Soldiers Theatre, Creative Camouflage Arts Society, and College Press Corps. Sean taught sessions on ethical journalism and Black Baptist Christianity to the SUSI students along with supporting our study tour to Charlottesville, VA, and Washington, D.C.



During the 2022 Summer and Fall cohort, intern **Heidi Isaac** also joined the SUSI team serving as an American peer for our students. Heidi is a graduate of the Temple University Department of Religion and has been part of the DI team doing research and facilitating lectures as a peer for our Citizens Diplomacy International collaboration through the Stevens Initiative on innovation and STEM through the lens of cultural diversity. Heidi is currently working on her nursing degree and is interested in the intersection of religion and healthcare, helping the DI to form Zoom lectures and in-person discussions on the topic in 2022.



**Nancy Krody** joined the Dialogue Institute Board in 2021. Krody received a B.A. in political science and sociology from Ohio State University in 1960, followed by two years of course work toward an M.A. degree in sociology. In 1962, she enrolled in Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, PA. Though at the top of her second-year class, she was unable to complete the academic program at Crozer because she had come out as a lesbian, which in 1964 the faculty could not handle. Moving to Philadelphia, she spent nine years as a secretary in the national setting of the United Church of Christ and joined a local UCC congregation in the mid-'60's because of its justice and ecumenical stances, leaving the American Baptist Church of her birth.



She was the first woman elder and consistory president of the congregation and has been involved with the UCC at regional and national levels subsequently. From 1973 through 2018, she was on the staff of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies at Temple University, now serving pro bono as copy editor of J.E.S. She currently serves on the Board of the North American Academy of Ecumenists, the Advisory Board of the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network, and as treasurer and registrar of the Philadelphia Association of the UCC.



Additionally, **Abdullah Antepi** joined the Dialogue Institute Board in 2022. Imam Antepi is a leading voice in Muslim-Jewish dialogue and brings a great deal of expertise and wisdom to the board. He is an Associate Professor of the Practice of Interfaith Relations; Associate Professor of the Practice, Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke Divinity School. He has a B.A. from Mayis University, Turkey and a M.A. and G.C. from Hartford Seminary (now Hartford International University for Religion and Peace). Professor Antepi is a globally acknowledged scholar and leader of cross-religious and cross-cultural dialogue in American higher education and in non-profit world and has built multiple organizations and initiatives to facilitate religious and spiritual life across America's college campuses.

From 2003 to 2005 he served as the first Muslim chaplain at Wesleyan University. He then moved to Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, where he was the associate director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program & Interfaith Relations, as well as an adjunct faculty member. At Duke University, he served as the university's first Muslim chaplain also served as the associate director of the Duke Islamic Studies Center.

Imam Antepi is also a senior fellow on Jewish-Muslim Relations at Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, where he founded and co-directs the widely recognized Muslim Leadership Initiative. The NonProfit Times recognized Imam Antepi as one of their Power & Influence Top 50 leaders of 2019, calling him one of the most prominent Muslim leaders in higher education today. As a Muslim-American imam and one of the very few scholars bridging faith, ethics, and public policy, and as someone who was born in Turkey and lived in three different countries, Antepi offers the academy an important element of intellectual, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.



# Religious Diversity TOURS

This year, the **Dialogue Institute** offered tours to several community groups including **Friends in the City** and the research fellows from the **Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies** at the **University of Pennsylvania**.



Dr. Krueger is an excellent teacher as well as a tour guide. He kept us involved by asking questions, and allowed other people to make comments. **Our group looks forward to another tour in the future!**

*M. Adams  
Friends in the City (2022)*

In December, we were awarded a **Digital Projects for the Public Discovery grant** from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. This project will fund research for the development of a tour website that will guide visitors through Philadelphia’s historic district. The website will center on the theme of religious diversity in early Philadelphia and its impact on the nation’s founding commitments to religious freedom.



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

# ZOOM EVENTS

The Dialogue Institute's 2022 Zoom events brought together diverse voices and perspectives to engage in **meaningful discussions** on topics ranging from interfaith dialogue to the challenges of pluralism and democracy.



In March, the Dialogue Institute facilitated a conversation examining the possibility of **dialogue across political divides** in the United States. Two Pennsylvania state legislators, **Rep. Jared Solomon** (Democrat) and **Rep. Jesse Topper** (Republican) spoke at the event exploring the challenges and strategies for engaging in **meaningful conversations** across partisan lines. The legislators were joined by discussants who helped to identify the typical points of conflict in current public discourse and explore strategies for **fostering a sincere dialogue that moves beyond debate**.

In 2022, the Dialogue Institute celebrated the remarkable teaching career of **Professor Leonard Swidler**. Dr. Swidler taught thousands of students during his **56 years at Temple University**. The Dialogue Institute worked with the **Department of Religion** to host a virtual retirement event in October, as Dr. Swidler was living in Iraqi Kurdistan and teaching at the **University of Sulaimaniyah**.

Esteemed guests and colleagues joined the Zoom event to honor Professor Swidler's contributions to **interreligious dialogue, pluralism, and academic scholarship**. A video of the event can be viewed [HERE](#) and dozens of beautiful tributes can be read on our website [HERE](#).

# ZOOM EVENTS

In December, we welcomed **Dr. David Krueger** to shed light on the phenomenon of **Christian nationalism in the United States**. The event examined the impact of this ideology on **pluralistic values** and **democratic ideals**, sparking critical reflections on the pursuit of a more inclusive society.

Also in December, the **Dialogue Institute** hosted a virtual conference on the theme of **Dialogue, Diversity, and Religious Pluralism in Africa**, and the proceedings can be viewed [HERE](#). The conference emerged as a culmination of a sabbatical project led by **Dr. Effiong Udo** from the **University of Uyo, Nigeria**. Dr. Udo has been a friend of the Dialogue Institute for years, but dedicated significant time in 2022 to work with Dr. Krueger and **Dr. Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha** to cultivate a network of DI contacts in Africa. Dr. Udo also traveled throughout Africa soliciting support from other civic, religious, and academic leaders with an interest in diversity, dialogue, and democracy. Essays developed from conference papers will be included in a special themed issue of the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* in 2023. Additionally, Dr. Udo laid the groundwork for what would come to be known as [The Pan-African Dialogue Institute](#).



## Pluralism, Democracy and Dialogue in Africa



Pan-African  
Dialogue Institute

December 8,  
2022

1-Day  
Virtual  
Conference



# JES

In 2022, the **Journal of Ecumenical Studies** published four issues. Issue 57.1 featured a second collection of essays that were originally submitted as conference papers at a University of Haifa conference in 2018. **Dr. Aryeh Botwinick** of **Temple University** served as guest editor. Issue 57.2 included essays by **SUSI (Study of the U.S. Institutes) scholars of religious pluralism** who spent a summer with the Dialogue Institute between 2017 and 2019. Issue 57.3 featured essays written by presenters at the **2021 North American Academy of Ecumenists**. The fourth and final issue of the year included **ecumenical and interreligious essays** ranging from alterity and religious violence in Nigeria to a reappraisal of the role of Conservative Christians in the ecumenical movement.

In a new initiative to promote the work of the journal and connect scholars to popular audiences, an author from each issue was selected to be featured in a quarterly newsletter and the Dialogue Institute blog.

**Dr. Ellen Charry**, the Harmon Professor of Systematic Theology Emerita at Princeton Theological Seminary, discussed her research on [Paul Van Buren's theology of Christian-Jewish relations](#). **Dr. Kashshaf Ghani**, Assistant Professor at the School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, India, and SUSI Scholar alum, shared about his research on [Sufi devotional practices in Philadelphia](#). **Dr. Gabrielle Thomas**, an Assistant Professor of Early Christianity and Anglican Studies, at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, wrote about [the role of power in the lives of diverse Methodist women in England](#).



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Dialogue Institute 2022  
Statement of Activity

## *Support and Revenue*

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Grants and Contributions                   | \$45,226       |
| In-kind Contributions                      | \$26,931       |
| Government Support                         | \$260,214      |
| Program Income                             | \$18,233       |
| Royalty & Other Income                     | \$4,789        |
| Net Investment Income                      | <u>\$2,911</u> |
| Total Support, Revenue & Reclassifications | \$358,304      |

## *Expenses*

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Program        | \$355,416       |
| Administrative | \$91,387        |
| Fundraising    | <u>\$10,511</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$457,314       |
| Other Income   | \$18,693        |

**Change in Net Assets** **\$(80,317)**

## *Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/22*

### **Assets**

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$247,973      |
| Accounts Receivable       | \$83,190       |
| Other Assets              | <u>\$1,030</u> |
| Total Assets              | \$332,193      |

### **Liabilities and Net Assets**

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Liabilities                  | \$74,082         |
| Net Assets without Donor Restriction | <u>\$258,111</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets     | \$332,193        |



# DONORS

## \$10,000+

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Nancy Krody

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Kay Yu

The Dialogue Institute continued its fiscal partnership with LaurEllen Productions, which is producing a docuseries telling the story of African Americans and Jews working together in various domains of public life, including sports, music, and the pursuit of civil rights. The Dialogue Institute is planning a series of programs on Black-Jewish relations in partnership with the American Jewish Committee in 2023.

It is with deep sadness and heartfelt remembrance that we honor the life and legacy of **Howard A. Cohen**, who passed away on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the age of 81.

A natural communicator, mediator, and facilitator, Howard served as a consultant, board treasurer, and executive director for the Dialogue Institute over the years. Throughout his career, Mr. Cohen dedicated himself to academia, leaving an enduring impact on Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania.



As an administrator and adjunct professor, he shaped the minds of countless students, imparting knowledge in the fields of human resource management, business ethics, and negotiation. Beyond his professional achievements, Howard leaves behind a lasting legacy of dedication and leadership within the Jewish community, inspiring others to continue his work of promoting dialogue and understanding.

**In reflecting on Howard A. Cohen's life, we remember a man of integrity and commitment to public service, academics, and his community. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who knew him.**

**[Click here to link to Howard's Memorial.](#)**



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