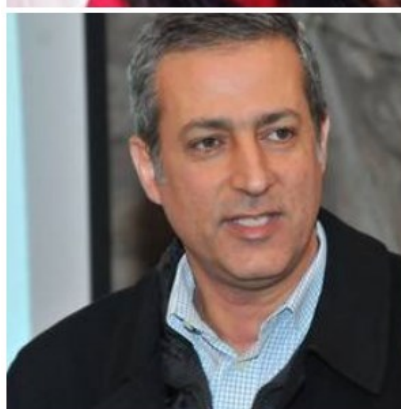




2015-2016 Annual Report

**DIALOGUE
ACROSS
DIFFERENCE:
Global Impact**



**DIALOGUE
INSTITUTE**



**JOURNAL OF
ECUMENICAL STUDIES**

Dear Friend,

We are delighted to share our latest annual report with you, highlighting the accomplishments and impact of both the Dialogue Institute and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies (JES)* during fiscal year 2015-2016. We're also glad to be able to share some of that impact through a new *Impact Stories* web feature. A few examples are included in this report, and we encourage you to see more at dialogueinstitute.org/impact.

We are especially grateful to a growing cadre of [donors and volunteers](#) (page 3), without whom we simply could not fulfill our mission. Our work continues to be anchored by quarterly publication of the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* (page 10), as well as the [Study of the U.S. Institutes \(SUSI\) for Student Leaders on Religious Pluralism](#) and related [Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative](#) (pages 4-5). In February, we received special recognition of our SUSI program with the [3rd Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue 2016](#). The award, which included a \$15,000 prize, honors "prominent, productive and creative individuals and organizations for their work in the field of interreligious/interfaith dialogue."

Last winter we also moved into the next phase of the [Asia Interreligious Development Network](#), including a productive gathering with Asian scholar-activists in the Philippines (page 8).

Among participation in a variety of national and international conferences in 2014-2015 (pages 6-7, 9), we were especially proud to host and co-organize/co-sponsor a national [Conference on Islamophobia and Religious Freedom](#) in October (page 6). The Spring 2015 issue of *JES* features a special section on Islamophobia drawn from the conference (page 10).

For those of you in the Philadelphia area, we were also excited this past year to introduce our new [Discover Dialogue open houses](#), informal monthly gatherings for those who want to learn more about dialogue and how they might get involved. More details at dialogueinstitute.org/discover-dialogue.

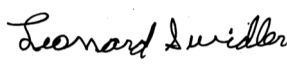
In addition, we hosted a "Dialogue Across Difference" workshop (pictured above) as part of both [Global Philly](#) and [Peace Day Philly 2015](#). We are thrilled that that workshop will serve as a model for ongoing trainings we will be offering soon for those looking to develop their own dialogue skills.

As we continue to explore new opportunities to bring dialogue to places like China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Philadelphia, we appreciate your interest and look forward to your continued support and cooperation. Thank you for another great year!

With gratitude and hope,



Majid Alsayegh
Chair, Board of Directors



Leonard Swidler
President



Rebecca K. Mays
Executive Director



DI Executive Director, Rebecca Mays, leading the "Dialogue Across Difference" workshop.

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We have made every effort to present an accurate listing of 2015-16 donors. If you believe your name is missing from the list, or is misspelled or otherwise misrepresented, please contact us at 215-204-7525 or info@dialogueinstitute.org so we can make corrections. Thank you for your support!

Alfons Teipen

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* indicates donors who have given three consecutive years
*JES editorial volunteers



"I feel strongly that DI programs, and specifically the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) on Religious Pluralism, transform hearts one at a time and have a lifelong effect on the participants. The DI deserves the financial support of all who care about world peace and the betterment of humankind."

- Dr. Gity Banan-Etemad

Board member and donor, SUSI religious site host (Baha'i) and host family



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders / Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative on Religious Pluralism

SUSI / YSEALI is an intensive five-week program focused on religious pluralism and democracy in the American context, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State (Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs). This past year, the DI hosted 20 young adult students from the [Middle East](#) (SUSI) and another 20 from [Southeast Asia](#) (YSEALI). Since 2010, more than 220 students have participated in the DI's program. More details at dialogueinstitute.org/susi.

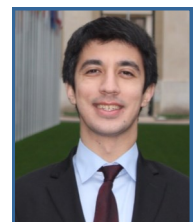
Summer 2015 - Middle East
July 5-August 9, 2015



"I have more respect for everyone to live as they wish. And I'm fighting every day to ensure that's the case in my own country. Different cultures, religions and political opinions should be able to live together."

- F. Çağdaş İslim
Summer 2015 SUSI participant,
Turkey

MORE ABOUT ÇAĞDAŞ /
MORE IMPACT STORIES:
dialogueinstitute.org/impact



Winter 2016 - Southeast Asia
January 9-February 13, 2016



"I learned to not only engage in productive and intellectually stimulating dialogue, but also how to create an environment in which dialogue can flourish."

- Netusha Naidu
Winter 2016 SUSI participant, Malaysia

MORE ABOUT NETUSHA / MORE IMPACT STORIES: dialogueinstitute.org/impact



Interfaith Youth Forum in Indonesia

Rujak: Harmony in Diversity

August 7-11, 2015

The DI co-sponsored the 4th annual Interfaith Youth Forum, held this year in Surabaya, Indonesia. The Forum, started by alumni/ae from the DI's *Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Religious Pluralism*, is a now-annual event for Indonesian young leaders focusing on building their capacity with respect to tolerance and interfaith dialogue.



DI Board Treasurer Howard Cohen (bottom left), one of the lead organizers of the conference, addresses participants at the opening reception.

Conference on Religious Freedom and Islamophobia

October 6-8, 2015

The DI hosted a national gathering of approximately 40 Evangelical Christian leaders (representing a range of views on Islam) and selected Jewish, Muslim and non-Evangelical Christian representatives to explore and better understand the consequences of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim bigotry, and develop thoughtful responses to Islamophobia in the

United States. Reflections from the conference are featured in a special issue on Islamophobia in the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* (Spring 2016, Volume 51, Issue 2).

More details on page 10, or at dialogueinstitute.org/jes-volume51.

The conference was co-sponsored and co-organized with the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy and Peace Catalyst International.



Nostra Aetate and the Future of Interreligious Dialogue

October 11-13, 2015

DI Founder/President **Leonard Swidler** was a featured panelist at a national conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's passing of the "Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions" — commonly known as *Nostra Aetate*. The conference, sponsored by the **Lubar Institute** and held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, explored the global significance of *Nostra Aetate* and its past and potential future from a variety of perspectives.

Professor Swidler, who has devoted much of his scholarly and personal life to the explication and development of new directions and wider Christian thought within the Roman Catholic Church set forth at Vatican II, participated in the final conference's panel, "Nostra Aetate and the Future."

Parliament of the World's Religions

October 15-19, 2015

The DI participated in the sixth Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, the world's largest interfaith gathering. In addition to hosting an exhibit booth during the Parliament, DI Founder/President, **Leonard Swidler**, and Executive Director, **Rebecca Mays**, led a workshop on "Writing a Global Ethic from the Grassroots."

The workshop engaged participants around the original global ethic, which Professor Swidler helped craft for the 1993 Parliament in Chicago (the 100th anniversary of the first Parliament), which has been used and revised in countless communities around the world. More details at dialogueinstitute.org/globalethic.



"As I observed so much learning, hospitality, cooperation and plans for pending action, I felt uplifted and happy to be with so many (from around the world) I know will return home refreshed and ready to re-engage where needed. Now back in Philadelphia, I am one of them."

- **Rebecca Mays**
DI Executive Director

MORE OF REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS FROM THE PARLIAMENT:
dialogueinstitute.org/news/parliament2015



Asia Interreligious Development Network

February 29-March 1, 2016

DI Founder/President Leonard Swidler and Executive Director Rebecca Mays traveled to Manila in the Philippines this past winter to facilitate the second gathering of the Asia Interreligious Development Network (AIDN).



A unique DI project launched in 2014 in partnership with [Hong Baptist University](#) and with funding from the [United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia](#), AIDN seeks to bring together best practices for teaching interfaith engagement in colleges and universities throughout Asia.

This work will eventually be published in the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.
More details at dialogueinstitute.org/aidn.

Intern Spotlight: Farinia Fianto

The DI was blessed this past year, August-December 2015, with the opportunity to host a seasoned “intern” from Indonesia, Farinia Fianto. Nia arrived with a wealth of related experience, serving as Managing Director for the [International Center for Islam and Pluralism](#) in Jakarta since 2003.



She came to the DI officially as a Community Solutions Program Fellow—a professional development program run jointly by IREX, an international nonprofit organization, and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Among other responsibilities, Nia helped to expand and deepen engagement with and among the 200-plus alumni/ae of our [Study of the U.S. Institutes / Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative on Religious Pluralism](#) in an effort to better track program impact and offer support as they carry out projects in their home countries.

Now that Nia is back in Indonesia, we are exploring other ways the DI might work together with her and the International Center for Islam and Pluralism in the future!



“The Dialogue Institute is one of the leading organizations promoting interfaith dialogue, which is very relevant to my work in Indonesia. I am so inspired by the work that has been done by the DI, and it is a great privilege for me to work with an organization like this. Hopefully ... my experience here will contribute to a significant change in my work and in my community.”

- **Farinia Fianto**

DI Community Solutions Program Fellow, August-December 2015

MORE OF NIA'S REFLECTIONS ON HER EXPERIENCE AT THE DI AND IN THE U.S.:
dialogueinstitute.org/news/nia





Lebanon: The Uprising, the Socio-Political Impact and the Rise of Grassroots Journalism

Fostering Youth Resilience to Counteract Extremism: Grassroots Experience from Philadelphia to Lebanon

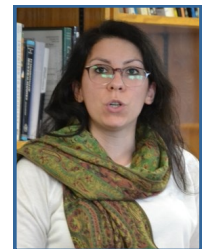
March 17, 2016

The DI sponsored two events at Temple University in March, highlighting the current climate in Lebanon. The first was a teach-in and panel discussion—in collaboration with Temple’s Departments of History and Religion—featuring DI Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Religious Pluralism alumna Sarah Shmaitilly and Kareem Chehayeb, co-founders of *Beirut Syndrome*, an independent website that gives different perspectives on social, economic and political issues in Lebanon.

The second was a lecture and discussion with Dr. Ziad Fahed on his work to confront religious extremism among youth in Lebanon. Dr. Fahed completed the DI’s 2008 training for Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program participants, and went on to found the Dialogue for Life and Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in Beirut. He has since referred a number of his students to participate in the DI’s SUSI program.

“SUSI inspired me in so many ways and had a great impact on my life. I certainly have a better understanding of others and a greater interest in their traditions. I’m also a better listener, and I’m more empathetic. This helps on all levels.”
- Sarah Shmaitilly
Summer 2010 SUSI participant, Lebanon
MORE ABOUT SARAH / MORE IMPACT STORIES:
dialogueinstitute.org/impact

“My experience with the DI and my collegial relationships with its staff are my point of reference in this work to promote religious pluralism. I can say that my experience in this field would not have been complete without the Dialogue Institute. We in conflict zones in this dangerous world need such role models of applied as well as theoretical interreligious dialogue and outreach.”
- Ziad Fahed
2008 Fulbright Interfaith Community Action Program participant, Lebanon
MORE ABOUT ZIAD / MORE IMPACT STORIES: dialogueinstitute.org/impact



Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: Nature and the Environment in World Religions

May 23-25, 2016

The DI also co-sponsored the international *Sacred Texts and Human Contexts* symposium, held at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. DI Founder/President Leonard Swidler offered an address on “Mother Earth: Where All Religions Meet in Loving Dialogue” as part of the second day’s activities. The symposium was presented by Nazareth’s Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue and the Department of Religious Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.



The Bumuntu Peace Institute (BPI) was established in 2010 as an African extension of the Dialogue Institute. Directed by Professor Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha, BPI's mission is to bring a lasting peace to a war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo through education, dialogue and sustainable development. More details at dialogueinstitute.org/bpi.



JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES

Spring 2016: Volume 51, Number 2

Special Section on Islamophobia, especially between Evangelical Christianity and Islam, with articles by: Majid Alsayegh, David D. Belt, Elijah M. Brown, Howard A. Cohen, David L. Johnston, Douglas M. Johnston, Imam Feisal A. Rauf, Rick Love, David McAllister-Wilson, Joseph V. Montville and Catherine Orsborn

Turn It and Turn It Again: The Vital Contribution of Krister Stendahl to Jewish-Christian Relations
Mary C. Boys



Content highlights are listed here.
More details at dialogueinstitute.org/jes.

Summer 2015: Volume 50, Number 3

Intimate Relations: Psalms and Bhakti Poetry
Rachel Fell McDermott and Daniel F. Polish

Lived Witness
Mitzi J. Budde

Rationality and Religious Traditions: An Epistemological Approach to Theology of Religions
David J. Brewer

Fall 2015: Volume 50, Number 4

Vatican II—The Catholic Revolution from Damnation to Dialogue!
Leonard Swidler

The Fiftieth Anniversary of Nostra Aetate
Gregory Baum

Nostra Aetate: A Personal Reflection and Sources for the Study of Catholic-Jewish Relations
Eugene J. Fisher

Ecumenical Reflections on Moral Discernment
John W. Crossin

Winter 2016: Volume 51, Number 1

The Interfaith Movement in a Liminal Age: The Institutionalization of a Movement
Nathan R. Kollar

Pluralistic Inclusivism and Christian-Muslim Dialogue: The Challenge of Moving beyond Polite Discussion toward Reconciliation and Peace
Todd Johanson

Warrants for Reconstruction: Christian Hegemony, White Supremacy
Jeannine Hill Fletcher

"JES matters to me because it is the journal of record. It publishes articles by cutting-edge authors who have important things to say based on both scholarship and personal experience. JES expands the dialogue precisely when it's needed the most."

- **Dr. Alan L. Berger**

JES Associate Editor and donor
Professor of Judaic Studies and Raddock Family Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies,
Florida Atlantic University



FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)

Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

ASSETS

CASH	\$29,085
INVESTMENTS	\$254,020
GRANTS AND PLEDGES RECEIVABLE	\$81,071
FIXED ASSETS	\$981
INVENTORY	\$4,931

TOTAL ASSETS **\$370,088**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$4,073
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,073

NET ASSETS **\$366,015**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$370,088**

Statement of Activities (unaudited)

SUPPORT & REVENUE

FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$117,625
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$471,938
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$33,688
DI PROGRAM INCOME	\$72,462
JES SALES & ROYALTIES	\$33,297
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$12,970
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$741,980

EXPENSES

GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS	\$454,623
JES	\$17,272
OTHER DI PROGRAMS	\$36,000
FUNDRAISING	\$302
OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$225,151
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$733,348

NET OPERATING SURPLUS **\$8,632**

UNREALIZED LOSS ON INVESTMENTS **(\$36,991)**

NET DEFICIT **(\$28,359)**

GIVE the GIFT of DIALOGUE!

Consider making a **general donation** or **planned gift** to support the ongoing work of the Dialogue Institute and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.

More info at
dialogueinstitute.org/donate



MISSION / VISION

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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