

DIALOGUE
INSTITUTE



JOURNAL OF
ECUMENICAL STUDIES



2021

ANNUAL
REPORT



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.

VISION

The Dialogue Institute and the Journal of Ecumenical Studies share a common purpose—to advance intrareligious, interreligious, and intercultural dialogue and engagement around the world, by supporting scholarship, training, and action.

Director's Report



The year 2021 was another difficult year in terms of the ongoing pandemic, multiple natural disasters related to climate change, and troubling trends threatening democratic and pluralistic societies. Despite the challenges of having to conduct much of our programming in a virtual format, the Dialogue Institute has managed to bring people together across religious, national, and cultural barriers to facilitate dialogue and advance understanding across differences.

It is a privilege for us to equip civic leaders with the tools for dialogue and cultural literacy and foster an appreciation for diverse democracies. As we face many global challenges, it is vital that we continue to draw strength and support from one another. I'm so grateful for the generosity of our donors who made this year possible. I look forward to expanding our work in 2022.

David M. Krueger, PhD

"As we face many global challenges, it is vital that we continue to draw strength and support from one another."

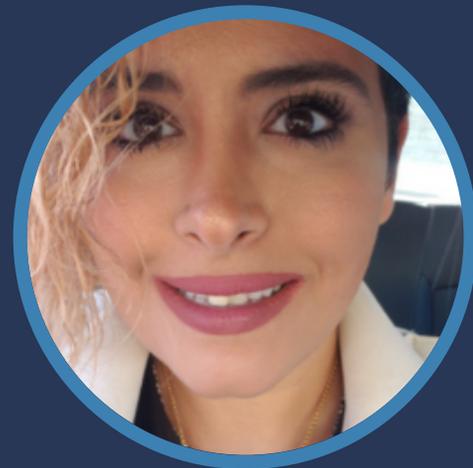
David Krueger

Executive Director



Heidi Isaac

Heidi Isaac joined us as a part time staff member. She graduated from Temple University with an M.A. in religion and is now pursuing a nursing degree. She is interested in the links between religion and health care and has provided research and organizational support for our public events. Additionally, she provides facilitation for the Citizen Diplomat Academies for young innovators in both the STEM fields and those interested in social innovations.



Miriam Fisher-Schaefer

Miriam Fisher-Schaefer took on the role as accountant in July. Miriam recently retired from serving as Chief Financial Officer of Friends Central School and has more than 40 years' experience in the nonprofit world.



Summer intern, **Peter He**, from Temple University's College of Liberal Arts Joyce Salzberg Center for Professional Development, helped to develop assessment tools for our SUSI student program and consolidated information from Len Swidler's contacts from China.



Ivanessa Arostegui joined the DI team as a volunteer to assist research and the development of our historical tours program.

She is a PhD student at Temple University's Department of Religion and specializes in Latino/x religious communities and immigration in Philadelphia. Ivanessa is in training to become a Dialogue Institute tour guide.



John Bright has served as a volunteer consultant to develop our tours program and has also generously assisted with grant writing. John is a historian of religion who has worked for years as a public historian at sites associated with Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, including Christ Church.

SUSI 2021

Our **Study of the United States Institute on Religious Pluralism** was once again held virtually in 2021 in light of the ongoing global pandemic. The Dialogue Institute received a new cohort of 20 virtual participants from **Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, India, and Indonesia**.



Our participants spent five weeks learning about the **foundations of American democracy** and **religious pluralism** in the United States. Students acquired dialogue skills, which they were able to practice with one another and various faith leaders around the U.S.

Our program engaged students in synchronous lectures and asynchronous modules which included topics like **minority religions, media literacy, dialogue tools, indigenous belief systems, and ecology**. Students also learned from experts about religious traditions such as **Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam** and attended virtual tours of respective worship spaces, including Philadelphia's **Congregation Rodeph Shalom** and **Minnesota Hindu Milan Mandir**.



At the end of the program students produced a community action plan which will, for those who chose this option, **advance religious pluralism in their own communities**.

The Dialogue Institute staff held monthly meetings with participants from August 2021 until January of 2022 to help support students complete their action plans. We also hosted various networking events for our students including the opportunity to meet with previous cohorts as well as attend **DI virtual lecture series**.

Virtual Dialogues on Zoom

Since the pandemic began, the Dialogue Institute has found new ways to **connect people** together for **meaningful conversations** in virtual formats. Our zoom events have brought interfaith and dialogue experts together with our various program alumni as well as our **Dialogue Institute Network (DIN)**, consisting of volunteers, board, staff, and community members. The Dialogue Institute hosted events in which our DIN were respondents and discussants, and able to bring forward their own questions and ideas to the conversations.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021
12:00 - 12:45 PM EDT

Interreligious Dialogue and Sustainable Development: A Lebanese Perspective

DR. ZIAD FAHED

Associate professor of religious studies from Notre Dame University-Louaize

ANNA MARIA DAOU

Head of Research and Courses Unit at Adyan Foundation in Beirut

JOIN US ON ZOOM!



Dr. Ziad Fahed



Anna Maria Daou

In May, we hosted a Zoom conversation with **Dr. Ziad Fahed** from Notre Dame University-Louaize and **Anna Maria Daou**, Head of Research and Courses Unit at Adyan Foundation in Beirut. They discussed their recent co-authored article **"Interreligious Dialogue as a Gateway to the Sustainable Development Goals: A Lebanese Case Study"** published in issue 56.1 of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies. Panelists discussed how interreligious dialogue can offer an important gateway to advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

In November, we hosted a panel titled, **"Religion and Medicine: a Dialogue with Health Care Providers on Navigating Religious Diversity"** featuring three panelists: **Dr. Devan Stahl**, from Baylor University, **Dr. Renee Fennell, RN, DMD**, from Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry, and **Dr. Bijan Etemad, MD** from the University of Pennsylvania. Our speakers emphasized the need for health care providers to become more familiar with religious diversity in order to avoid misperceptions and engage in meaningful dialogue with patients.

The Dialogue Institute Presents:

RELIGION AND MEDICINE: A DIALOGUE WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON NAVIGATING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Monday, November 15
12:00 PM - 1:30PM ET



Dr. Renee Fennell, RN, DMD



Dr. Devan Stahl, PhD



Dr. Bijan Etemad, MD

The Dialogue Institute Presents:

SCHOOL CURRICULA & RELIGIOUS PLURALISM: A CONVERSATION WITH JES AUTHORS

Wednesday, December 1
12:00 PM - 1:00PM ET

Our third public event, held in December, featured two recent authors of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies: former headmaster of Huntington School in the United Kingdom **David Kibble** and Professor of Islamic Studies **Sobhi Rayan** from Al-Qasemi Academic College of Education in Baqa-El-Gharbia. They have written about the importance of implementing curricula in schools and faith communities that teach a commitment to intergroup understanding. During the session, our panelists explored how **interreligious education in public school systems fosters understanding and promotes enrichment** for students.

Citizen Diplomat Academy

The Dialogue Institute was pleased to offer a **free, virtual, international exchange program** for high school and university students in Philadelphia and abroad. This program is a continuation of the Citizen Diplomat Academy run in 2020 and 2021 in which the Dialogue Institute provides training in **dialogue basics, navigating cultural differences, confronting bias and stereotypes, and media literacy** as a part of the Citizen Diplomat Academy.

This program is managed by DI Program Manager, **Andi Laudisio** and co-facilitated by **Heidi Isaac**. This year we also welcomed **Michael Cohen, Sayge Martin, and Sean Chambers** to facilitate some of our cohorts. Participants in the program network internationally with peers and meet with experienced entrepreneurs and innovators in their respective fields through the work of **Citizen Diplomacy International**, a local non-profit partner in Philadelphia.



"This program made me feel closer to students in the U.S., especially science students. And it gives you **hope** that one day we can **work together as a team**. Anyone from any country, as long as they have the same goals and as long as they have understanding of one another. **We are going to achieve really great things.**"

- Alia Baher Aboraya, Egypt

Our Citizen Diplomat Academy students come from High Schools all over the world including **Dubai, Lebanon, South Africa, China, Russia, and more**. Participants are able to learn about what it's like for their peers growing up across the world and hear their examples of their own experiences in **STEM, innovation, culture, and dialogue**.

Journal of Ecumenical Studies



In 2021, the **Journal of Ecumenical Studies** published **four issues** on time in each season:

The JES issue **56:1** treated themes to do with Jewish and Muslim dialogue in Israel. The Dialogue Institute staff hosted a virtual dialogue event between two of the authors discussing how to facilitate dialogue in the region, one author from JES 56:1 and the other from JES 56:4.

JES issue **56:2** included the papers presented at the North American Academy of Ecumenists, which reviewed cutting edge issues in the ecumenical dialogue. A former scholar/priest of our DI programs wrote an article on the Pope's view of Islam from his perspective as a Catholic priest. Given the death of Len's colleague, Hans Küng in Germany, Len wrote on their collegueship in developing the global ethic, adding his perspective on an Islamic contribution. A member of the Kennedy Center dialogue added, as a Muslim scholar, a critique of the Swidler exploration.

The JES **56:3** issue focused on articles from a conference at the University of Haifa in 2018. These articles highlighted the engaging history and selected Jewish leaders' views that led to the formation of the state of Israel.

JES issue **56:4** continued a discussion of Jewish-Muslim relations in other regions than Israel/Palestine. In addition, articles on Bahai prayers and Hindu sampranadas offered creative frameworks for interreligious dialogue. A discussion of Bonhoeffer in India offered an embodied theology for public engagement.



1



2

CATCH THE DIALOGUE INSTITUTE AT THIS YEAR'S
VIRTUAL PEACE WALK 2021
 SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021
 2-3:30 PM EST

FEATURING A REFLECTION BY
BERNARD NADDAF
 SUSI ALUMNI

INTRODUCED BY
DAVID KRUEGER
 DI/JES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



3

YOUTH TRAINING IN ARIZONA

(1)

In June, Rebecca Mays provided dialogue and leadership training for students at **The Fran Park Center** located at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona. **The Leadership and Dialogue Academy (LDA)** offered high school students opportunities to communicate across differences in the interest of empowering leaders to advance reconciliation, intercultural conflict resolution, and bias awareness. Daily sessions also focused on developing digital skills with social media.

LEN SWIDLER TRAVELS TO IRAQ

(2)

This summer, Dialogue Institute founder Professor **Leonard Swidler** traveled to Kurdistan, Iraq to continue his cultivation of institutional partnerships in the region. While on his trip Prof. Swidler met with President **Bruce Ferguson** of the American University of Iraq - Sulaymaniyah and also with the President of Iraq, **Barham Salih**, to explore the development of educational and dialogue programming that built on earlier collaborations proposed prior to the global pandemic. Dialogue Institute staff continue to dialogue with Iraqi partners and are working to collaborate on upcoming programming within the country.

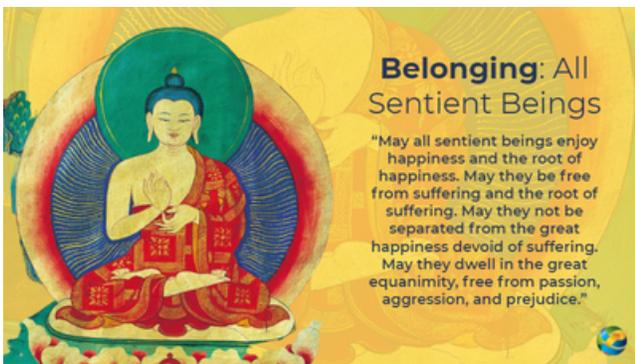
PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH PEACE WALK

(3)

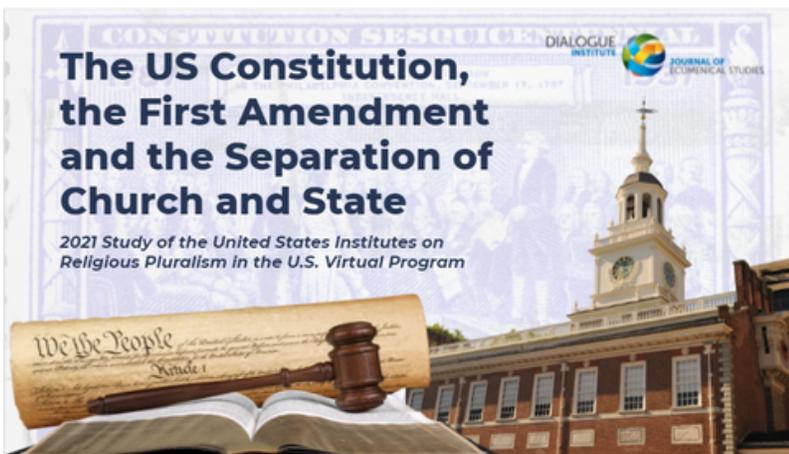
The Dialogue Institute was asked to join **Philadelphia's Annual Interfaith Peace Walk**, which was held virtually in 2021. Executive Director **David Krueger** and SUSI program alumnus **Bernard Naddaf** from Lebanon both offered interfaith reflections. Bernard shared about the hospitality he experienced with Philadelphia host family member, **Pamela Yaller**. The SUSI host family experience is a formative one during our students' academic residency in Philadelphia allowing students to get a chance to spend a weekend with an American family and see the country from their perspective.



Educational Development



In 2021, our media coordinator, Sayge Martin, successfully redesigned our educational content to create engaging, modern curriculum tools. Along with our new collection of lecture slides, she additionally developed helpful worksheets and videos. These tools aided our students in learning and provided the groundwork for successful, fully-virtual programs.



The Dialogue Institute hopes to continue to revitalize our content and create **exciting resources** that help our students learn more effectively. By making our content more **dynamic and interactive**, we aim to serve even more students with the materials they need to succeed.



Your donation supports programs that advance understanding and dialogue across religious and cultural differences. With your help, we can continue to deliver meaningful learning experiences that foster an appreciation of religious pluralism and develop dialogue skills needed for social change.

We are excited to deepen our connection to diverse communities around the globe through **continued programming, new collaborations,** and **increasing our digital presence.**

This year we are working to continue our zoom dialogue and lecture series to **connect** our larger national and international community as well as implement tours in our Philadelphia region.

Your donation helps us continue this work and share new perspectives and tools with our network.

Follow us on social media or sign up for our mailing list to receive information on our upcoming events.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Dialogue Institute 2021
Statement of Activity

Support and Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$ 50,097
In-kind Contributions	137,842
Government Support	159,752
Program Income	36,978
Royalty & Other Income	18,985
Net Investment Income	<u>209</u>
Total Support, Revenue & Reclassifications	\$403,863

Expenses

Program	\$327,264
Administrative	54,482
Fundraising	<u>11,173</u>
Total Expenses	\$392,918

Change in Net Assets \$10,945

Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/21

Assets

Cash and Investments	\$463,290
Program Deposits and Other	<u>1,395</u>
Total Assets	\$464,685

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$132,680
Net Assets without Donor Restriction	<u>332,005</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$464,685

DONORS

\$10,000+

Aaron Shapiro Trust

Mark and Susan Rubin
Foundation

Theodore W. and Elizabeth
P. Friend Charitable Trust

Harold & Iris T. Abel Family
Foundation

Nancy Krody

\$5,000-9,999

Glenn L Shive

Sayer Family Foundation

\$1,000-4,999

Leonard Swidler

Ann Schroeder

Alta Management

David Etheridge

Howard Cohen

Nightingale Foundation

Sergio & Lora Mazza

William Cullinan

\$0-500

Amid I Ismail

Gity Etemad

Paul Mojzes

Sunnggon Kim

Kay Yu

Krystyna Gorniak

Mary Laver

Lewis Eron

Lillian Sigal

David Klatzer

Harry R. Halloran Jr. (August 24, 1939-December 18, 2021) was a generous and long-time supporter of the Dialogue Institute. His financial support was critical to the establishment of the institute in 2008 as a programmatic offshoot of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies. Several initiatives were made possible through Harry's support including the Bumuntu Peace Institute in the Democratic Republic of Congo, several exchanges with Fulbright scholars from Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, a program with Jewish and Muslim women from Israel, and many other programs that have fostered dialogue and understanding across religious and cultural differences. The Dialogue Institute board and staff offer its warm condolences to Harry's family. Tributes to Harry can be read on our Diablogue.



Building on the Black-Jewish programming we started in 2019, the Dialogue Institute began a fiscal partnership with LaurEllen Productions, which is producing a docuseries called Bridging the Divide. It tells 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 hosted an initial dialogue session attended by scholars of religion and race and various Jewish and African American civic leaders in order to provide content feedback for the producers and the director.