

Some comments from our workshops

“Thank you for making it
safe to disagree.”

“I almost didn’t come because I felt
confused. I’m glad there was a group for
people like me.”

“I didn’t think it was possible to be
heard about this in my congregation.”

“I feel good that there’s a place where I
can share my perspective on how the
conflict could be resolved with people
who ordinarily wouldn’t listen to me.”

“This is good practice for
talking to my family.”

“I think this is the first actual
conversation I ever had about Israel.
Until now, I always felt like I had to put
out an oversimplified position and one-
liners and then keep defending them.”

Current Projects -- Spring 2006

Local Projects

Open Dialogue Sessions: We are planning several public dialogues this spring in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York. Jews of all perspectives and backgrounds are welcome.

Programs for Synagogues: We are working with leaders in several synagogues to plan dialogue efforts for their communities.

Training in Facilitation: Our next introductory training workshop for facilitators will take place on Sunday, April 23rd, 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in Philadelphia. Please call to RSVP.

Jewish Dialogue Fellowship Program: Thanks to a grant from Natan (www.natan.org), we are planning a semester-long program in fall 2006 that will bring together students at five colleges to engage in dialogue across political differences and learn facilitation skills.

National Projects

Guidebook for Facilitators: Together with the Public Conversations Project, we have just published a guidebook that Jews all over the U.S. can use to conduct dialogue programs of their own. Visit our website to download the guide *free of charge* or to order a printed copy.

Dialogues and Trainings in Other Regions: In the next year, we hope to travel to other regions of the country to lead dialogues and trainings and to help people to create dialogue groups of their own.

**Check our website for a schedule of events:
www.jewishdialogue.org**

If you'd like to receive weekly updates about our events by email, please sign up for our announcement list. Send us an email or subscribe through the website.



Working to
promote
constructive
dialogue
within Jewish
communities
about the
Israeli-
Palestinian
conflict

www.jewishdialogue.org
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Jewish Dialogue Group



Jewish Dialogue Group

Who are we?

We are a non-partisan, grassroots organization that formed in Philadelphia in November 2001 to promote constructive dialogue within Jewish communities about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are Conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodox, Reform, and Secular. Our board members, volunteers, and staff have many different political perspectives; as an organization, we do not take positions on any issues. We work with people in the Philadelphia area and around the country.

What do we do?

We offer carefully structured, facilitated dialogue sessions in synagogues, schools, and other venues as a way to help people:

- listen to and understand one other, across political differences
- sort out their feelings
- examine moral & intellectual questions
- think through the choices they face

We offer programs that are designed just for members of a specific community, like congregants at a synagogue, as well as events that are open to the public. We hold both one-time and multi-session dialogues. We also offer:

- (1) facilitation training workshops
- (2) publications for use in dialogues
- (3) consultation with people who are engaged in dialogue work.

Why dialogue?

For many people, talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be very difficult. People with strong convictions often find themselves embroiled in bitter arguments, or else avoiding discussion for fear of these arguments. People who feel ambivalent or confused often lack opportunities to talk through their feelings, ideas, questions, and dilemmas. Facilitated dialogue sessions **enable people to have constructive conversations that would otherwise not be possible.**

We define “*dialogue*” as a conversation in which people seek mutual understanding rather than trying to convince each other, come to agreement, or reach a solution. Dialogue gives people a chance to listen and speak to others respectfully, develop mutual understanding, and reflect on their own views. Participants agree to follow guidelines that support these purposes. The more passionate the differences, the more important it is to commit to communication agreements and to have a facilitator present who can remind participants about them.

Dialogue can strengthen communities, reduce polarization, foster clarity and healing, and help people to respond effectively to complex problems.

How can you be involved?

1. Participate in a dialogue program.
2. Organize a dialogue in your synagogue, school, or community. We will provide facilitators and work with you to plan a program that meets your group’s specific needs.
3. Help to lead dialogue sessions. We offer lots of training and support, as well as a guidebook and other materials.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Organization, Synagogue, or School, if any: _____

How would you like us to contact you?

I would like to hear about future events.

I would like to have a dialogue in my community.

Please contact me.

Please contact _____.

I would like to help lead dialogue sessions.

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of: _____.

Comments and suggestions: _____

Please send to:
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