

## 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.”*

## FALL 2008 PROJECTS IN PHILADELPHIA & NYC

**Introductory Dialogue Sessions:** Jews of all perspectives and backgrounds are welcome.

**Programs for Synagogues and Colleges:** We are working with leaders in synagogues and schools throughout the region to plan dialogue efforts.

**Training in Facilitation:** One-day workshops for volunteer facilitators will take place in both cities.

**Dialogue and Study:** In this pilot program, participants will gather five or more times over a period of weeks to engage in dialogue and explore the questions that are most important to them through readings and film.

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### INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

**Resources for Facilitators:** Many resources for facilitating dialogue are available on our website free of charge, including a 200-page guidebook published together with the Public Conversations Project, Jewish texts that relate to the practice of dialogue, sample agendas for workshops, and more.

#### **Deliberation about the Israeli-Palestinian**

**Conflict:** Our next publication, a guidebook for deliberation, will enable people to lead workshops in which American Jews explore the choices they face as they consider how to respond to the conflict. It will be published in 2009.

**Dialogues in Other Regions:** We are planning dialogues in Washington, DC; San Francisco; Boston; Connecticut; and other parts of North America.

Visit our website to learn more:

**[www.jewishdialogue.org](http://www.jewishdialogue.org)**

To receive updates about our events and projects,  
sign up for our email announcement list.



*Working to  
promote  
constructive  
dialogue  
within Jewish  
communities  
about the  
Israeli-  
Palestinian  
conflict  
and other  
controversial issues*

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# Jewish Dialogue Group



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## Who are we?

We are a grassroots organization that formed in Philadelphia in 2001 to promote constructive dialogue within Jewish communities about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other controversial issues. 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 North America.

To read more about our programs, visit our website: [www.jewishdialogue.org](http://www.jewishdialogue.org).

## What do we do?

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

- listen to and understand one other, across political differences
- reflect on their feelings
- examine moral and intellectual questions
- think through the choices they face
- seek common ground

Some programs are designed just for members of a specific community, like congregants at a synagogue; others are open to the public. We hold both one-time and multi-session dialogues.

We also offer:

- (1) lead facilitation **training workshops**
- (2) create **publications** for use in dialogue programs
- (3) **consult** with people who are engaged in dialogue work

## Why dialogue?

For many people, talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other controversial issues 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 to understand each other and themselves, rather than trying to convince each other or to come to a compromise or a solution. Dialogue gives people a chance to listen and speak to each other respectfully, develop mutual understanding, learn together, 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. Host a dialogue in your synagogue, school, or community. We will work with you to plan a program that meets your group’s specific needs.
3. Work with us as a volunteer facilitator. We offer lots of training and support.
4. Use our guidebook and other materials to foster dialogue in your community.

For more information visit our website:  
[www.jewishdialogue.org](http://www.jewishdialogue.org)

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 Jewish dialogue session in my community.

Please contact me.

Please contact \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to help lead dialogue sessions.

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check to the **Jewish Dialogue Group**.

Comments and suggestions:

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Please send to:  
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