



**LOIS ROTH**  
**FOUNDATION**  
FOR CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe another year has gone by. Thankfully, as the worst of the pandemic recedes, and even though the world is as tumultuous as ever, things are slowly getting back to a more even keel.

This is true for the Lois Roth Foundation, as well. With plans in place for the fall 2024 resumption of the Arabic Literature Tour, we can happily say that all our projects and awards are now up and running again! I would like to take this occasion to extend our sincere admiration and gratitude to our partner organizations and all the people who worked so hard to keep our projects intact and then breathe new life into them.

If you had to curtail your charitable donations in the last few years, I would also encourage you to take this occasion to resume your annual giving to the Roth Foundation. Even small contributions make a big difference, as they show us and others that people care about personal, cross-cultural dialogue, which is perhaps especially important at times when governments and militaries clash. Whether you mail us a check or give online, this sign of your confidence and dedication to our work would mean the world to us.

As you know, the Lois Roth Foundation supports programs and awards in three domains. The past year forefronted extraordinary work being done by many individuals and organizations:

- Our *Fulbright and Academic Collaborations* encompassed nine successful Project Support partnerships, including three we added last year in celebration of our 35th anniversary. Our annual Distinguished Fulbright Lecture was given by Dr. Earl Lewis (Univ. of Michigan) at the University of Edinburgh. Entitled "The Grace of Repair" and focused on the history of US and UK efforts to repair the impacts of slavery and racism. The June 2024 lecture will be given by Fareed Zakaria at Pembroke College, Oxford.

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- Our *Literature and Translation* projects ranged from the recognition of six distinguished translators for their recent award-winning literary publications, to the first in-person Sozopol Fiction Seminar since 2019.
- And, on November 28, our awards for *Excellence in Cultural Diplomacy* were conferred on nine exceptional individuals from the US, Ghana, Hungary, Moldova, Taiwan, Togo and Tunisia.

Please see our 2023 Annual Report and our website for details!

To continue these programs in support of cross-cultural dialogue, we rely on annual gifts as well as cumulative holdings that are ably managed by RBC's Columbia Group, led by Senior Vice President Shawn O'Reilly. The last fiscal year presented a challenging financial environment, due to rising interest rates and a volatile stock market. Though we have not yet regained our pre-pandemic high, we are very happy to report that our investment portfolio earned a solid 7.79% return. On a separate note, we'd like to offer congratulations and thanks to Emily Ferry, long a stalwart of our RBC team, who has moved on to become an RBC Wealth Management Consultant.

Since 1987, friends like you have helped the Foundation create and sustain programs that carry forward the memory, values and work of Lois Roth. The task of furthering her dedication to cross-cultural exchanges and dialogue has grown only more urgent as the years have gone by. This year, every gift will help. I hope you can see your way to making a generous contribution in support of our work today!

Wishing you a warm and joyful winter season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arndt-Briggs", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Skyler J. Arndt-Briggs, Chair