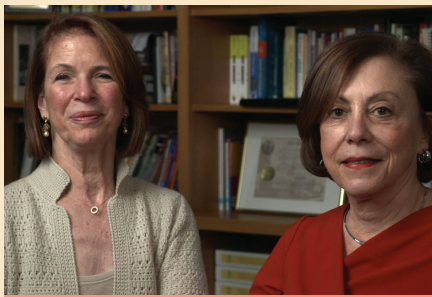




# CONNECTIONS

## Benefit Co-Chairs: Committed to the Cause

Marian Faytell, DOROT Board member, and Pat Fingerth, Program Committee member and Benefit chair for the fourth consecutive year, led a group of dedicated volunteers into uncharted territory planning DOROT's first virtual Annual Benefit. Here's what involvement with DOROT means to them:



*"I want to be a part of what is next for seniors. I am so inspired by how DOROT was able to pivot this past year. Being involved with the Program Committee and the Benefit seemed like a natural fit."*

– Pat Fingerth

*"Generations Helping Generations is very meaningful to me. I am very proud to have worked on the Benefit Committee, as a co-chair with my dear friend, Pat. I have enjoyed it immensely and have been so inspired by the dedicated staff and what they have been able to accomplish this year. It has been unbelievable."*

– Marian Faytell



## An Evening of Inspiration and Innovation

If you attended DOROT's virtual Annual Benefit on June 3, you saw firsthand how the community came together this year to support older adults during the pandemic.

It was an evening that celebrated DOROT's 45th anniversary and all those who had a hand in making this year one of transformation and innovation. The DOROT staff was given a special honor for their work to ensure that older adults stayed connected despite pandemic challenges.

Don't miss the chance to see a replay of the event on DOROT's YouTube channel with evening host Ari Melber from MSNBC and special guest Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer.

Thank you to everyone who joined and made this event a huge success!



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# Letter from the Executive Director



Dear DOROT Community,

It's not easy to put into words how grateful we are for the support we have received from our donors during this most challenging pandemic year. **Your acknowledgement of the impact of our work means the world to us, mainly because it means so much to the older adults we serve. Thank you.**

Like much of our programming, the Annual Benefit this year was virtual – and a virtual success. It was another example of how well we as an organization have been able to adapt to an ever-changing environment. On behalf of the entire DOROT community, I would like to thank co-chairs Marian Faytell and Pat Fingerroth and the Benefit Committee for their hard work in producing such an inspiring event.

In this past year we saw an unprecedented transformation of our programs as we repositioned ourselves to our new virtual reality. As more and more people become vaccinated, and levels of the COVID-19 infection rate continue to decline, we are taking the next few months to revisit our Strategic Plan, reassessing our program model to best meet the needs of the community. This data-driven process is a joint effort of the Board of Directors and staff that will leverage our best strategic, creative and analytical thinking to chart our future course.

I hope you have an opportunity this summer to reconnect with family and friends who you may not have seen for a while. Social connection is, after all, at the heart of what we do.

Best wishes,

**Mark L. Meridy**  
Executive Director



“DOROT is not just an organization, it’s a community uniting people together.”

– Edgar Cuapio-Diaz

## Package Delivery Superstar

Edgar Cuapio-Diaz, a student from Hunter College’s Red Cross Club, volunteered at all four package deliveries during the pandemic.

### How did you learn about DOROT?

My friends and I came across this event through my college’s American Red Cross Club. Although none of us were affiliated with DOROT at the time, we decided to try it out.

### What made you want to volunteer?

Older people often feel forgotten and alone. No one should feel like that, which influenced me to sign up. When my friends and I entered DOROT, the atmosphere was vibrant. We were welcomed warmly and the staff thanked us for coming to participate. Although we contributed through small acts, it is indeed those small acts of kindness that are appreciated.

### What is your favorite part of being a Package Delivery Volunteer?

The best part of the job was calling our designated person and hearing how much they appreciated us for taking the time to participate in Package Delivery.

### Would you recommend volunteering at a Package Delivery to a friend?

I would recommend DOROT to my fellow peers. I know DOROT does not offer just Package Delivery but a wide variety of other volunteer opportunities as well. I am looking forward to volunteering again with DOROT!

**Save the Date**

Upcoming 2021  
Package Delivery

September  
10, 11 & 13

# Delivering Social Connections to Seniors Through the Years

by Ellen Gold

It all started in the fall of 1976 when a few recent graduates of Columbia University's social work program saw some older adults sitting on park benches near the University and brought them Hannukah treats. This act of kindness blossomed into DOROT's Package Delivery Program, which now occurs four times a year in Manhattan and Westchester for Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Winter and Thanksgiving and has impacted tens of thousands of seniors since its inception 45 years ago.

Carrie Jacobs, who has been managing the program for 25 years, gets great satisfaction from all the positive reactions from package recipients and volunteers alike. Carrie has seen the program expand to the East Side and Westchester and that has been extremely gratifying. Each package delivery cycle brings challenges and changes which keep her inspired and motivated.

Pre-COVID-19, packages were delivered to approximately 2,500 older adults annually. Volunteers delivered non-perishable bags of holiday-themed food to seniors, and pre-COVID-19, stayed for an hour visit. During COVID-19, despite several challenges, the program remains robust. Now volunteers and older adults connect via a half-hour phone call after packages are dropped off.

This program is impactful for seniors and volunteers alike and while the package may be the catalyst, the social connections formed are the true purpose.

**For more information about volunteering or receiving a package, contact: [Cjacobs@dorotusa.org](mailto:Cjacobs@dorotusa.org)**



*Package Delivery is about social connections between older adults and volunteers and I am honored to be a small part of touching so many lives."*

*– Carrie Jacobs, Manager, Volunteer Services*





## Amy Chasanoff

## A Triple Play

by Marsha Cohen

The DOROT community is composed of older adults who participate in programs, volunteers who give their time to make the programs happen and supporters who help fund them. And there are those, like Amy Chasanoff, whose passion for DOROT qualifies them for all three categories.

In 2014, incapacitated after back surgery, Amy needed help. She reached out to DOROT. Within weeks, she had Friendly Visitors, all high school seniors, to keep her company and a social worker to provide needed assistance. Since she could not walk outside by herself, DOROT also arranged for a volunteer to walk with her nearly every day.

For Amy, giving back is something she does with both her wallet and her time. As soon as she was well, she began attending programs onsite at DOROT.

While still on a walker, she became a volunteer, making birthday visits and package deliveries. Grateful for the help and personalized care, Amy named DOROT in her will, becoming a legacy donor. She also became a monthly donor.

Amy combined her love of DOROT and the Mets and underwrote a trip to CitiField for nearly 20 people, who were treated to seats practically on the field. Although she did this anonymously, word got out that it was Amy's idea and donation that had made the outing happen. She received a ball, a hat, a shirt, and most gratifying, many emails thanking her for the day.

**"After that, I was even more committed to DOROT. I talk about DOROT all the time when I meet people who don't know about it. I can't say enough good things. Whatever a person needs, they do it."**

Her involvement with DOROT has never wavered, and since the pandemic, she has been active in making caring phone calls and participating in numerous programs on Zoom. A retired special education teacher, Amy is also an active volunteer in Intergenerational Programs.



*Amy and DOROT community members enjoying the baseball outing.*

Claudia Deutsch

## A Lifelong Legacy

by Marsha Cohen

Claudia Deutsch first began volunteering in the '70s, when DOROT was a fledgling two-year-old organization. Fast forward to today and you'll find Claudia as involved with DOROT as she was from the beginning. Now that's what we call a true commitment.

What has bound her to DOROT for so many years is volunteering. **"DOROT is the standard to which other (organizations) aspire,"** she said.

Over the years, Claudia has volunteered in different programs, including Friendly Visiting, where she has enjoyed playing competitive Scrabble games with her older adult partners, Response Team and making birthday visits, check-up phone calls, and in general, being available on an ad hoc basis wherever and whenever help is needed.

"DOROT has created an atmosphere where all kinds of people feel comfortable," she said. "Bringing people together from different backgrounds is a great way to combat antisemitism." One of her favorite memories is serving a woman in full hijab at the annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

A monthly donor for many years, Claudia took an extra step when she turned 65, and "did all the adult things I needed to do, like putting my will together, and named DOROT as one of my beneficiaries. DOROT is the only organization I have ever heard of that was a quality of life organization. It's not just about getting to the finish line," she said.



Ellen Amstutz, Senior Program Officer for Community Based Programs and External Affairs, and Claudia Deutsch.

**Response  
Team**  
At Your Service

### Would you like assistance with Manhattan-only errands?

Volunteers will pick up books from the library, or go to the post office, dry cleaners, or shoe repair. They can read aloud over the phone, converse in a foreign language or play cards with you via Zoom. Let the Response Team know what you need and volunteers will do the rest.

212-769-2850 [responseteam@dorotusa.org](mailto:responseteam@dorotusa.org)



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## CONNECTIONS

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

### Editor

Jan Lauren Greenfield

### Design

two shades of grey

### Published by:

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A copy of DOROT's most recent financial report may be obtained through the Office of the State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271, 212-416-8000. It is also available on DOROT's website, [www.dorotusa.org](http://www.dorotusa.org).

# The Impact of Monthly Giving

Monthly donations are easy to make, amount to just pennies a day and provide sustainable support, essential in this time of uncertainty.

Look at what your **monthly** donation can achieve:

- \$18** can provide a senior with a one-hour Onsite@Home program.
- \$36** can provide Kosher Meals at Home for one senior for one week.
- \$72** can provide Caring Calls to one senior for a month.
- \$144** covers 14 seniors in University Without Walls programs.

A modest monthly donation makes a big impact over time. It helps provide immediate and longer-term programs and services. A new donate page on the DOROT website makes it even easier for you to give monthly.

**Please join us as a monthly donor today!**

**Contact Mallory King at [Mking@dorotusa.org](mailto:Mking@dorotusa.org) or call 917-441-3748.**

## Information & Referral

DOROT will support seniors in finding community programs and services in New York City and Westchester County. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call DOROT's Information and Referral line at 212-769-2850.