

# Got Conflict?<sup>SM</sup>

Conflict Hurts. Mediation Helps.



AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CONFLICT MEDIATION SERVICES SINCE 1979

***We have a new Facebook Page-Follow Us!***

## Content

December 2022

### Message from Gail

## Note from Gail

Dear Friends:

## CDSC Bash!

- **Building Bridges:** It has been in our logo for many years
- Building Bridges ~ **People to People~ Face to Face**

## Trainings

## Pathways Program

## Farewell to Debra

## AmazonSmile

## Support CDSC in 2023



**WHY** this matters:

This is NOT just a marketing message. When we unpack it, it is at the core, the bullseye, of our mission.

Here's a quote from Tim Brown, a design thinker that captures this theme AND our work:

***“Build bridges of insight though empathy, see the world through the eyes of others, understand the world through their experiences and feel the world through their emotions.”***

We want this to be **MORE** than words.

Join us and be an Ambassador for CDSC.

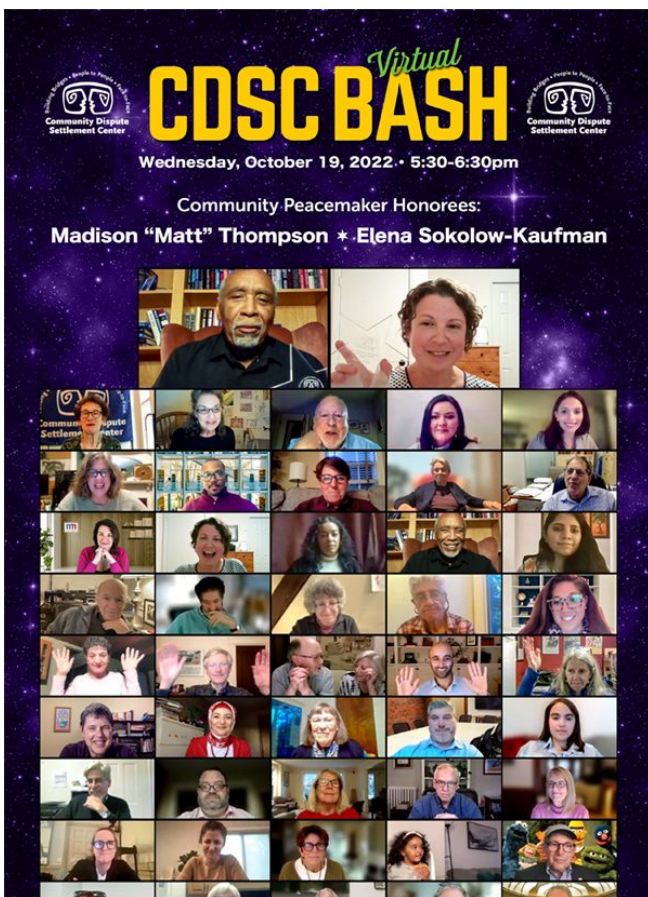
*Here's how:* Connect with others and let them know about CDSC as a vital and valuable community resource.

With gratitude,  
Gail S. Packer, MSW  
Executive Director

## Thank You! We reached our goal!

Thanks to everyone's generous contributions, we surpassed our goal for this year's BASH, with \$48,486 raised. This will help us fund our mediation expenses in three district courts, offer scholarships to many of our Basic Mediation participants, and provide conflict workshops free of charge to underserved groups.

There is still time to support these important programs by [donating here](#) by December 31!





## CDSC Trainings - full speed ahead!

2022/23 promises a full menu of training and continuing education opportunities for CDSC volunteer mediators, as well as our friends and allies from across the Commonwealth. Join us as we tackle important topics in mediation, aiming to provide our community with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in everyone's access to justice

Earlier this fall, more than two dozen watched Dawn Kulman's TEDx Talk as she discussed her Trauma-informed Mediation Model and then joined CDSC staffer Daniele Goldberg in a conversation about what Dawn presented and how we might use her insights as we mediate cases in court and in the community.

Next week (December 14th at 12 noon), Audrey Lee will lead a conversation on Mediation & Microaggressions - all welcome. Microaggressions are behaviors or statements that do not necessarily reflect malicious intent but which nevertheless can inflict insult or injury. [Email us](#) to get the Zoom link.

In late March, we'll welcome mediation expert Josh Hoch from MWI, who will present Advanced Topics in Divorce Mediation - [complete this quick survey](#) to suggest areas you are interested in to Josh. With our fall Basic Mediation Training full with a waitlist, we'll be offering another series this spring – follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) to get registration information and dates first!

Future sessions include:

- Emotional support animals (the difference between service animals and emotional support animals; common circumstances when issues with ESAs may arise; what one can and can't do with ESAs; and best practices for avoiding liability)
- Managing secondary trauma (recognizing it; managing it in the moment; self-care)

Miss one? [Contact us](#) for recordings of the trainings.

Need a brush up on using features of Zoom? Check out Daniele's tutorials on [screen sharing](#) (Passcode to view tutorial: h1T2&8?y) and [setting up breakout rooms](#) (Passcode to view tutorial: h1T2&8?y)

# Mediation Training

## UPCOMING TRAININGS:

### NEXT 32 Hour Basic Mediation Training: Spring 2023

Please [contact us](#) to be added to the mailing list or with any questions regarding the Spring 2023 Basic Mediation Training.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) to be among the first to hear about our spring training!

## A Clear Path for Families

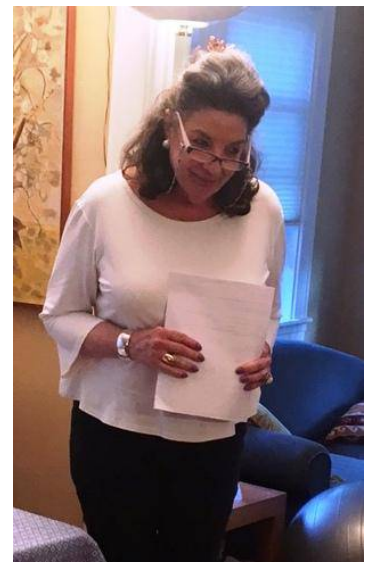
The Middlesex Probate and Family Court has launched a new program to bolster ADR approaches to conflict in the courts – mediation, dispute intervention and conciliation. Now launching in Middlesex County, after successful rollouts in other counties, the Pathways program creates a streamlined path for disputants, where the Assistant Judicial Case Manager (AJCM) determines which ADR approach is appropriate, schedules and handles paperwork, and brings the resolution to the judge for approval.

Pathways is a way to manage divorce and paternity modifications which constitute 25% of all Probate and Family court cases. It's seen as a way to resolve cases earlier, connect court users with appropriate resources, and simplify processes. Advocating with the AJCM to refer as many cases as possible to mediation services will be an important step for nonprofit providers like CDSC.

In November of 2020 Massachusetts launched a new statewide [Eviction Diversion Initiative](#) that is run through the MA Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC) and the MA Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD). The program supports mediation centers by providing free mediation to landlords and tenants involved in evictions due to Covid-19. It complements CDSC's existing mediation services offered through court-connected referrals and those referred from "upstream" community organizations and connections.

# Farewell to Debra Filiurin

For more than 25 years, Deb Filiurin has been a core part of life at the Community Dispute Settlement Center. A psychotherapist and mediator, she has been affiliated with us since she enrolled in one of our basic trainings in 1996. Since 2001, she's led our district court work and overseen our Practicum, launching dozens of new mediators on their journey of peacemaking.



Stepping down from her staff position at CDSC, Deb will continue her work as a therapist in private practice, and as an artist. Says Deb, “When I enrolled in the basic training in 1996, I could never have anticipated the profound influence becoming a mediator would have on my life, personally and professionally, and I celebrate the 25 years of shared learning, thoughtful collaboration, caring and fun. I am so grateful to so many of you who supported me along the way. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to Gail for believing in me.”

CDSC Executive Director Gail Packer notes “Deb is leaving some big shoes to fill. We’ve been blessed with her wisdom and experience for many years, and will miss her so much.”

## You Can Have AmazonSmile Donate to CDSC Every Time You Shop (at no cost to you)!

AmazonSmile donates proceeds to the Community Dispute Settlement Center every time you shop! It is part of their program to benefit nonprofits like us, and it does not cost you anything!

It's easy to register and you can now use it on your iPhone and Android phones. [Click here](#) to learn how to turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app. AmazonSmile will confirm your choice to donate twice per year.

Established in 1979, the Community Dispute Settlement Center (CDSC), is a private, not-for-profit mediation and training center dedicated to providing an alternative and affordable forum for resolving conflict.

CDSC promotes better ways to understand and deal with conflict through skilled teams of pro bono mediators, training programs in mediation and conflict management, and broad community outreach.

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[Community Dispute Settlement Center](#)

