

Tzedek DC's 2019 Eat Well, Do Justice: Celebrity Chef Knish Knockout!: A Recap

On September 23, 2019, an inspiring group of nearly 400 people celebrated Tzedek DC's mission at *Eat Well, Do Justice: Celebrity Chef Knish Knockout!* We ate well and did justice, raising over \$200,000 to fund Tzedek DC's work safeguarding the rights of low-income DC residents facing debt-related crises.

Attendees heard from Tzedek DC leadership and from Tzedek DC client **Ms. Glenda Richmond**, a long-time DC resident, UDC alum, and grandmother who shared her inspiring story. Glenda recounted her struggles with debt and an especially difficult six month period of homelessness, and how even when she had a job and income once again after that, how debt collectors had contacted her relentlessly for her decades-old student loan. She recalled: "I started receiving constant letters and calls from debt collectors. I felt like I was drowning." She shared how Tzedek DC assisted her in securing a reduced monthly debt payment obligation, one her cash flow can handle. She also powerfully reminded us all of the importance of coming together in these times, invoking the teaching of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "*we may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.*"



Attendees at the event, held at UDC's Student Center, feasted on a delicious variety of knishes created and donated by five talented and generous DC-area chefs recruited by honorary event chair **Bonnie Benwick**. Thank you to **Cathy Barrow**, [Cookbook author](#) and Washington Post Food columnist, **Ian Boden**, Chef, [The Shack](#), **Todd Gray**, Chef-owner [Equinox](#) and Executive

chef of Manna in the Museum of the Bible, **Johanna Hellrigl**, Partner, Fat Baby Restaurant Group, Executive Chef of [Doi Moi](#), and Chef **Ed Hardy** of [Cookology](#) for donating your time, talent, and delicious knish creations!

Chef **Ed Hardy** from Cookology was this year's winner with his take on a traditional knish, featuring potato, garlic, herb and goat cheese inside a flaky shell, topped with a mustard caviar and dill sauce covering the pastry.



We are grateful to guest judges Congressman **Jamie Raskin** as well as **Dahlia Lithwick**, Legal Writer, Slate, **Renée McDonald Hutchins**, Dean, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, and chef **Alex Levin** of the [Schlow Restaurant Group](#), the winner of 2017 Eat Well, Do Justice!

The brainchild of Board of Directors' member **Courtney Weiner**, Eat Well Do Justice! was in this third year of the event co-chaired by, along with Courtney, **June Kress**, **Laura Kumin**, and **Nina Simon**. The event's host committee and sponsors were also instrumental to the evening's success. Thanks to our host committee and all of our many generous supporters who made the event possible. Visit our Facebook page and our Twitter feed [@TzedekDC](#) to view terrific photos of the festivities taken by Jeffrey Baker Photography.

As announced at the event, gifts to Tzedek DC are being matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 thanks to a generous pledge from **Thorn and Sharis Pozen**. Please consider [donating now](#) to help us take advantage of this generous offer.

A final note: **Eat Well Do Justice! 2019 sold out ten days before the event.** We hope you will **make plans to join us for 2020's *Eat Well, Do Justice!*, and secure your tickets when they became available this coming summer!**