



RUDERMAN SYNAGOGUE INCLUSION PROJECT



A LOWER-COST ALTERNATIVE TO VIDEO STREAMING

For smaller congregations, audio streaming may be a more viable option than video streaming, which tends to be both higher-tech and higher-priced.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek (CDT) in West Newton relies on audio streaming to make High Holiday services accessible to members who cannot attend. CDT introduced audio streaming in 2015 and, in response to positive feedback, is committed to continuing the practice.

CDT uses [Mixlr.com](https://www.mixlr.com) as its audio streaming site. Since the streaming service is used only during the High Holidays, CDT pays \$100 per year for the basic membership package, which limits the length of recordings to three hours per day and provides fewer statistics on who is listening. Then, for the one- to two-month High Holiday season, CDT upgrades to a premium membership level for an additional \$10 per month.

CDT member Mark Bronstein sets up and oversees the audio streaming. He recommends researching current offers from different streaming sites to find the best fit for your congregation. With so many competing sites, prices and features change frequently.

Audio streaming equipment and technology requirements are minimal: an audio patch cable, an inexpensive analog to digital converter (ADC) box, a laptop, software for the laptop supplied by the streaming vendor, and a broadband internet connection. Mark uses the patch cord to connect the output jack on the sanctuary PA system to the ADC box, which then connects to the laptop's USB port.

At the beginning of each service, Mark uses the simple interface in the Mixlr software to set the audio level. With the press of a button, the live audio feed upload begins – from the PA, through the internet, to Mixlr's server. Listeners can tune in via the CDT website or by logging into CDT's landing page at Mixlr.com, www.mixlr.com/cdt-live. After a service is over, CDT publishes the audio in both locations.

Mark cautions that the streamed audio will be no better than the output of the PA system. If the PA system is not high quality, the same will be true for the audio stream. To enhance the experience of the remote listener, he suggests setting up mikes to pick up the sound of congregation. Otherwise, listeners will only hear the service leaders on the bimah.

Finally, Mark recommends using a wired internet connection to connect the laptop to the internet. Depending on the speed and bandwidth of the Wi-Fi signal, Wi-Fi may be adequate.