



# Friendship Circle

Fairfield County

## Program Guide

2019 - 2020 · 5779 - 5780

[FriendshipCT.com](http://FriendshipCT.com)





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# Our Programs

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# Need to Reach us?

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**Our offices are located in the Springdale Shopping Center:**

1074 Hope Street, Suite 201, Stamford, CT, 06907

**FriendshipCT.com**



Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Friendship Circle!

Whether you are one of the many people already involved in The Friendship Circle or a newcomer, we invite you to take a look at the wonderful programs we have planned for this year.

At The Friendship Circle, we extend a loving hand of friendship to individuals with special needs and their families. We work to create a warm and accepting environment and to form relationships that last a lifetime. Our network of more than 300 teen and adult volunteers helps us offer a full range of social and Judaic programs for children, teens, and adults.

Like a circle, with no beginning or end, at The Friendship Circle everyone benefits. Our teen volunteers - through active involvement with their special friend - become empowered, enriched, and profoundly transformed.

If you are a teen, we invite you to join our ever-growing group of volunteers. You will have a chance to make a meaningful difference in a child or adult's life.

If you are a family member of an individual with special needs, we are glad you are here. Like the many families who have already joined the circle, we know you will benefit from and appreciate the inclusive network of friendship, support, love, and respect.

If you are a community member who would like to volunteer or learn more about what we do, we would love to hear from you too.  
Together we can make a world of difference.

We dedicate this publication to the one who is the inspiration behind everything we do, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory.

Sincerely,

*Malya Shmotkin*

# Our Vision





**Sunday, June 7**

At Westhill High School  
125 Roxbury Rd, Stamford

This spring, The Friendship Circle will be hosting an exciting day of activities and entertainment to raise funds for The Friendship Circle's year-round programs.

Join us for a day of family fun and community solidarity, and walk hand-in-hand in support of individuals with special needs and their families.

Registration & Festivities **12:30 PM**

Walk Begins **1:30 PM**

**FriendshipDayCT.com**

# Friendship Walk





The image features three young men sitting together, smiling, against a white background with colorful abstract brushstrokes. The man on the left is wearing a black and white striped long-sleeved shirt. The man in the middle is wearing a black t-shirt. The man on the right is wearing a red jacket with a blue hood. The background has a large purple brushstroke on the left and a green and blue brushstroke on the right.

# Friends @ Home

## Bringing Friendship Where It's Needed Most... at Home

Friends At Home is at the heart and soul of our organization. Every week, pairs of teenage volunteers visit children in their homes, providing friendship through shared experiences. These teens are trained for their invaluable role as a friend and mentor.

*Sponsored by Roger Lob & Nancy Heller*

## Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Everyone deserves to celebrate his or her Bar or Bat Mitzvah surrounded by family and friends. The Friendship Circle can help create an individualized experience to meet the needs of every special needs child and his or her family.



The Adult Friendship Circle Chapter is an innovative program that serves adults with special needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community.

*Sponsored in part by Larry & Debbie Hilibrand*

## Social Events

### Sundays

**1:30 - 4:00 PM**

**October 6, November 17,  
December 8, January 5, January 19**

At The Stamford JCC  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

**February 23, March 8, March 29**

At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Dr, Fairfield

**April 26, May 17, May 31\***

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Closing Brunch *NEW!*

**Sunday, May 31**

**\*10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Job Opportunities

The Friendship Circle is excited to once again partner with Soosh to give our adults some employment opportunities. If you have a business and are interested in hearing how you can employ adults with special needs, please contact us.

*In conjunction with Soosh*

**Mondays • 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**September 16, October 7, November 11, December 9,  
January 6, February 3, March 9, April 20, May 18, June 22**

At Soosh (located in the Stamford JCC)  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

## Outings

The Adult Chapter participants have become a group of friends who enjoy spending time with each other! The Friendship Circle provides opportunities for them to hang out in a fun social environment.

### Bowling League

#### Sundays

**November 3, January 26**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

At Nutmeg Bowl  
802 Villa Ave, Fairfield

### Superbowl Party

**Sunday, February 2**

At The Friendship Circle  
Conference Room  
1074 Hope St., Suite 207, Stamford

### Shabbat Dinner *NEW!*

**Friday, February 28**

**5:30 PM**

At the Shmotkin Home  
15 Francis Ave, Stamford

### Girls Spa Night

**Sunday, March 15**

**5:00 - 6:30 PM**

At Chabad of Greenwich  
75 Mason St, Greenwich

# Adult Chapter





# Children's Circle

Children's Circle will be taking place on 16 Sundays throughout the year. Parents leave their children in the hands of qualified and professional instructors, therapists, and loving volunteers. In addition to learning about Judaism in an engaging and meaningful way, the children and their friends enjoy activities including music, art, cooking, and sports.

*Sponsored by Fred & Eileen Springer*

## **Sundays**

**10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

(Volunteers 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM)

At BI Cultural Hebrew Academy

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

September	22*
October	6, 27
November	10, 24
December	8
January	5, 19
February	2, 9, 23
March	8, 15, 29
April	26
May	17

## **Children's Circle Orientation *NEW!***

**Sunday, September 22\***

**9:30 AM-12:30 PM Volunteer Orientation**

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM Family Orientation**

At BI Cultural Hebrew Academy

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford





# Mitzvah Volunteer Program

The Mitzvah Volunteer Program gives Bar/Bat Mitzvah age children the opportunity to take part in The Friendship Circle's activities, as well as to get training in how to work with children with special needs. This program is designed to teach young teens about accepting differences as well as the importance of giving to others.

*Sponsored by Raph & Lori Gilbert*

## Fairfield

**Sundays: November 24,  
December 8, 15  
4:30 - 6:00 PM**  
At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

## Greenwich

**Tuesdays: November 12, 26,  
December 17  
6:30 - 7:30 PM**  
At Chabad of Greenwich  
75 Mason Street, Greenwich

## Stamford

**Sundays: November 3, 10, 17, 24  
6:30 - 8:00 PM**  
At The Friendship Circle  
Conference Room  
1074 Hope St., Suite 207, Stamford

## Westport

**Sundays: November 24,  
December 8, 15  
6:45 - 8:15 PM**  
At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Chanukah Gift Packing Event *NEW!*

**Sunday, December 15  
5:00 - 7:00 PM**  
At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

## Mitzvah Volunteer Award Ceremony

**Sunday, May 3  
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM**  
At Congregation Agudath Shalom  
301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford





# For the Parents

The true unsung heroes at The Friendship Circle are the parents of individuals with special needs. They are the ones who tirelessly work day and night to improve the lives of their beloved children. For all this and more, they deserve some pampering themselves!

## Moms Trip to Lifestown *NEW!*

Lifestown's recreational, therapeutic and educational facilities – the first of its kind in the region – is a place not to miss! Join us for a special spa experience and lunch with other Friendship Circle moms, gain some inspiration, and get a tour of the brand new Lifestown!

*Sponsored by Ediel Pinker & Monica Becker*

**Monday, November 18**

**9:45 AM**

Leaving from The Friendship Circle Center

1074 Hope St., Suite 201, Stamford

Going to Lifestown Center: 10 Microlab Rd, Livingston, NJ

## Moms Visit to the Rebbe's Resting Place

The Rebbe's resting place- otherwise known as the Ohel- has become a place where thousands come to receive inspiration and tremendous blessings. Join other moms for a meaningful and inspiring trip, ending off with a delicious lunch.

**Thursdays: October 3, March 26**

**9:30 AM**

Leaving from The Friendship Circle Center

1074 Hope St., Suite 201, Stamford

## Caffeine for the Soul

A casual get together for Moms to meet once a month for an informal discussion with Chanie Kamman on a relevant Jewish topic over delicious coffee and a light lunch.

*Sponsored by Ari & Shari Levine*

**Thursdays: September 19, October 17, November 14, December 12, January 9, February 6, March 12, April 23, May 21, June 18, July 16**

**11:30 AM**

At The Friendship Circle Conference Room

1074 Hope St., Suite 207, Stamford

## Moms Social

**Wednesdays: October 30, April 29**

**10:00 AM**

At Chabad of Fairfield

452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

**Mondays: December 9, February 10**

**10:00 AM**

At Chabad of Westport

79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Dads Social

*Sponsored by David & Tirza Boxer*

**Beers with the Boys *NEW!***

Back by popular demand, join other Dads for this adventurous evening in the 2 new escape rooms at Trapp't

**Thursday, December 5**

**8:00-9:30 PM**

At Six Thirteen

108 Prospect St, Stamford

**March Madness *NEW!***

**Thursday, March 19**

**8:00-9:30 PM**

At The Lob Home

## Moms & Dads Night *NEW!*

Mom and Dad need some "Me" time too! This event will be filled with connection, inspiration, and fun with other like-minded Friendship Circle parents.

*Sponsored by Doni & Leah Perl*

**Sunday, January 12**

**6:00-8:30 PM**

At The Wachsman Home

## Grandparents Day

Calling all Grandmas and Grandpas, Bubbies and Zadies! Come kvell as you enjoy some meaningful and fun times with your special grandchild as well as meet other grandparents.

*Sponsored by David & Joan Berger*

**Sunday, April 26**

**11:00 AM- 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford





# Birthday Packages

We take birthdays seriously. The day you were born is the day that G-d said this world can not exist any longer without you! We celebrate birthdays with the following packages. In addition, if you would like to celebrate your Jewish birthday, call us and we will arrange everything from the friends to the cake. We'll make it a party you will always remember!

## Moms Birthday Packages

With our special birthday package delivered straight to their door, we tell the moms, "You Got This!"

*Sponsored by Dr. Eitan Burstein and Ms. Raquel Spilka*

## Kids Birthday Packages

There's nothing like getting a package in the mail, addressed to you, in honor of your birthday.

*Sponsored by the Myrna Springer Fund*





# Winter Camp

During winter break, The Friendship Circle offers four fun-filled days of trips and activities. Each child has a special friend to accompany him or her throughout the day's activities. Ages 5-12

*Sponsored in part by: Rick & Amy Hannah and Dror & Caitlin Niv*

**Monday - Thursday**

**December 23 - 26**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford





# Natan's Camp

*In memory of Natan Warmflash*

*Sponsored by Jason & Robin Fischel*

## Election Day

Election time! Don't worry, we've got the kids covered. The Friendship Circle is once again partnering with BCHA's 8th graders who will be joining the students for a day of friendship and inclusion in their classrooms!

**Tuesday, November 5**

**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

At BI Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## MLK Day

The Friendship Circle families will gather for a program where every child will have the chance to release his or her energy in a safe and supportive environment.

**Monday, January 20**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Chelsea Piers  
1 Blachley Road, Stamford





# Holiday Programs



The Friendship Circle holiday programs unite the entire family in celebration with innovative and meaningful activities, programs, and personal family invites. This enables all to enjoy the warmth and joy of the Jewish holidays in a comfortable setting.

*Holiday Programs have been sponsored by:*

*Cliff & Laurel Asness*

*Josh & Stephanie Bilenker*

*Neil & Debbie Gershon*

*Michael & Sharon Glick*

## Sukkot Board Meal

**NEW!**

**Sunday, October 13**

**6:30 PM**

At The Shmotkin Home  
15 Francis Ave, Stamford

## Pre Chanukah

**Monday, December 16**

**5:00 - 6:30 PM**

At The Stepping Stones Museum  
303 West Avenue, Norwalk

## Virtual Chanukah Party

**NEW!**

**Sunday, December 22**

**5:00 PM**

At Your Home!

## Tu B'Shvat

**Sunday, February 9**

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Pre Purim

**Sunday, March 8**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Pre Passover

**Sunday, March 29**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Passover Seder

**Wednesday, April 8**

**7:00 PM**

At The Shmotkin Home  
15 Francis Ave, Stamford



# Special Events



## Friendship Olympics *NEW!*

The Friendship Circle Kids will have the opportunity to shine with our mini version of Special Olympics.

**Sunday, November 10**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Challah Bake

All Friendship Circle families and grandparents are invited to a Challah Bake. Enjoy making a Challah, craft, and more!

*Sponsored by Richard & Tara Shapiro*

**Sunday, November 17**

**4:00 - 5:30 PM**

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Volunteer Parent Brunch *NEW!*

Our teen volunteers are incredible, and their parents deserve some of the credit! Join other volunteer parents for a morning of awareness, appreciation, and a great parenting discussion.

*Sponsored by Jeff Trell & Janet Welkovich*

**Sunday, December 8**

**11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Kids Night Out *NEW!*

Babysitting is on us! Drop off your child(ren) for a special night out of activities, food, and fun!

This unique program will give you (and your spouse) a chance to enjoy a worry-free night out.

*Sponsored by Michael & Sharon Feldstein*

**Saturday, December 14**

**6:00 - 9:00 PM**

At Soosh (located in the Stamford JCC)  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

## Friends of FC Trip to Lifestown *NEW!*

Join us for a trip to the brand new simulated Lifestown Center in Livingston, NJ! Enjoy its recreational, educational, and therapeutic facilities.

**Sunday, December 15**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Traveling to The Lifestown Center  
10 Microlab Road, Livingston, NJ

## Family Bowling Programs *NEW!*

*Sponsored by Parry Berkowitz & Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz*

**Sundays: January 12, March 1**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

At Nutmeg Bowl  
802 Villa Ave, Fairfield

## Family Shabbat Dinner *NEW!*

**Friday, January 31**

**6:00 PM**

At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Dr, Fairfield

## Family Summer BBQ *NEW!*

*Sponsored by Daniel & Rachel Schilowitz*

**Wednesday, July 15**

**5:00 PM**

At the Twin Meadows Boundless Park  
(behind Stillwater Elementary School)  
800 Stillwater Rd, Stamford

## SIBLING SUPPORT

### Sibling Therapy *NEW!*

This newly launched initiative gives the opportunity for siblings of an individual with special needs to receive free therapy sessions, as a gift from Mihal Hanna LMSW. If you have a child that can benefit, please reach out.

### Sibling Event

All siblings are invited for an afternoon of bonding, facilitated conversations, fun, and pizza!

*Sponsored by Jeff & Rhonda Maron*

**Sunday, March 22**

**3:30-5:00 PM**

At Best Time Ever  
633 Hope St, Stamford



# Volunteer Club



Join other Fairfield County high school students as we kick off the year with a fun program! Hear from Unstoppable Tracy, who was born a 4-way amputee, who is a bestselling author, #1 international TedX speaker with over 30M views, and so much more!

## Volunteer Kick-Off

Join other Fairfield County high school students as we kick off the year with a fun program!

*Sponsored by Jared & Sondra Mehl*

**Sunday, September 15**

**6:00 - 8:15 PM**

At the Rosen Home

## Volunteer Training Event *NEW!*

**Thursday, November 14**

**7:30 - 9:00 PM**

At The Israel Home

## Alumni Event *NEW!*

Calling all alumni who are home for winter break- join us as we catch up and connect!

*Sponsored by David Wayne*

**Saturday, December 21**

**7:00 PM**

At Six Thirteen

108 Prospect St, Stamford

## Volunteer & Parent Challah Bake

Friendship Circle volunteers and their parents are invited for a special evening to get some tips, great recipes, and enjoy making delicious homemade Challah together!

*Sponsored by Jeff & Marlene Gatz*

**Sunday, January 26**

**7:30 - 9:00 PM**

At a Private Home

## Shaloch Manot Packing & Volunteer Training

Help us pack Shaloch Manot for our special friends, while gaining important and useful tools as a volunteer.

*Sponsored by Brian & Sonia Roitman*

**Sunday, March 1**

**7:00 - 8:30 PM**

At The Welkovich Home

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

It's time to applaud the incredible work that our wonderful volunteers do. Friendship Circle volunteers will receive awards and more at the appreciation event.

*Sponsored by Dr. Marc & Sherry Silver and Kuti*

**Sunday, May 3**

**11:00 AM**

At Congregation Agudath Shalom  
301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford

## Seniors Closing Event *NEW!*

Seniors...we'll miss you tremendously! Please join us for an evening as we give you our best wishes, hear about alumni opportunities, and share your Friendship Circle highlights!

**Sunday, May 17**

**7:00 PM**

At The Jaffe-Berkowitz Home



# Volunteer Club

## Coffee Break

A casual get together for girls to meet at The Friendship Circle conference room for an informal discussion with Chani Cunin on a relevant Jewish topic.

*In memory of Rivky Deren-Berman*

## Mileage Program

The easy-to-use mileage program, FCconnect, is a web-based tool where volunteers log their friendship visits, get exciting prizes, and communicate with staff. Access the mileage program through our website [www.FriendshipCT.com](http://www.FriendshipCT.com) or go to [CT.FriendshipCircleApp.com](http://CT.FriendshipCircleApp.com) with your assigned username and password. There is also a free app for smartphones - FCconnect - which makes it quick and easy to enter your hours and earn great prizes!

## The Nancy Haron Leadership Program *NEW!*

The Nancy Haron Leadership Awards are presented to the volunteers who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to their special friends. Volunteers qualify for this prestigious honor by consistently volunteering and expanding their knowledge in the field of special education. Recipients receive a college scholarship and beautiful award.

*Sponsored by The Haron Family*

## Teen Board

The Friendship Circle teen board members- each a leader in his or her own Fairfield County high school- hold planning and assessment meetings throughout the year:

**September 8, October 27, January 5,  
March 8, April 26, May 31**

Emma Goldberg  
Rebecca Kanfer  
Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz  
Remi Levitt  
Zevi Mehl  
Ella Rosen  
Yoni Semel  
Ashley Shapiro  
Josh Sherman  
Zach Ostroff





FEBRUARY

7-9

2020



Run the Miami Marathon with Team Friendship and enjoy the experience of a lifetime. A meaningful Shabbat weekend with a luxury hotel stay, gourmet catered meals, on-site coaching & staff support and much more.



» [TeamFriendship.org/Miami](https://TeamFriendship.org/Miami)



[TeamFriendship.org](https://TeamFriendship.org) Select Team FC of Connecticut

Email [Malya@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com) for more information  
and to sign up for this incredible experience!



FEBRUARY 7, 2020

[www.ShabbatTogether.com](https://www.ShabbatTogether.com)

A Global Shabbat of Disability Inclusion  
& Mental Health Awareness



# Resources & Development

Each year The Friendship Circle serves over 400 individuals with special needs and their families. While The Friendship Circle programs are volunteer-driven, and free of charge, it takes extensive management, time, funds, and supervision to deliver high quality programs and activities for special needs children and young adults.

If you would like to help sponsor a program, please email [Malva@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malva@FriendshipCT.com), or donate online: [www.FriendshipCT.com/Donate](http://www.FriendshipCT.com/Donate)

## Board Members

Chairman: Mr. Roger Loh  
Dr. Tonya Barton  
Mrs. Robin Fritzel  
Mrs. Debra Jaffe-Berkowitz  
Mr. Jason Kaplowitz  
Mrs. Melissa Litvak  
Mrs. Susan Mark  
Mr. Eli Hachover  
Mr. Brian Korman  
Mr. Howie Schwartz  
Mr. Fred Springer  
Mr. David Wayne  
Mrs. Lauren Zals







# Friendship Circle

## Fairfield County

1074 Hope Street, Suite 201,  
Stamford, CT, 06907

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### The Friendship Circle is affiliated with:

#### **Chabad of Fairfield**

452 Brookside Drive  
Fairfield CT 06824  
203.373.7551  
[www.ChabadFF.com](http://www.ChabadFF.com)

#### **Chabad of Shelton & Monroe**

7 Rosedale Circle  
Shelton, CT, 06484  
203.364.4149  
[JewShShelton.com](http://JewShShelton.com)

#### **Chabad of Greenwich**

75 Mason Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203.661.2200  
[www.ChabadGreenwich.org](http://www.ChabadGreenwich.org)

#### **Chabad of Stamford**

770 High Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06905  
203.324.2223  
[www.ChabadStamford.org](http://www.ChabadStamford.org)

#### **Chabad of New Canaan & Darien**

137 Putnam Road  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
203.972.7708  
[www.NewCanaanJewish.org](http://www.NewCanaanJewish.org)

#### **Harbor Point**

1 Harbor Point, The Beacon  
Stamford, CT 06902  
203.864.4440

#### **Chabad of Ridgefield**

27 R West lane  
Ridgefield CT 06877  
203.403.5372  
[www.ChabadRidgefield.com](http://www.ChabadRidgefield.com)

#### **Chabad of Westport, Wilton, & Norwalk**

79 Newtown Turnpike  
Westport, CT 06880  
203.226.8584  
[www.ChabadOfWestport.com](http://www.ChabadOfWestport.com)

Every Chabad community is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. If you require an accommodation in order to attend, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

**FRIENDSHIPCT.COM**