



# Friendship Circle

Fairfield County



**Program Guide**

2020 - 2021 · 5780 - 5781

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

# 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!

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.

While in the current climate of the Covid-19 pandemic there is a lot of uncertainty, we are choosing to remain optimistic for the upcoming year. After having many months apart, we have no bigger wish than to see our friends again under healthy and safe circumstances. We will work tirelessly to ensure that our programs meet all health department guidelines without sacrificing the warmth and loving connections on which our organization is built.

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.

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. Our teen volunteers - through active involvement with their special friend - become empowered, enriched, and profoundly transformed.

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.

We dedicate this publication to Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory, whose teachings and wisdom inspire us to believe in everyone's infinite potential. His consistent and clear messages continue to teach us that every Jew is an indispensable part of the community.

Together we can make a world of difference.

Sincerely,

*Malya Shmotkin*

# Our Vision



## Young Couple FC Awareness Event

Come learn, explore, and understand more about The Friendship Circle, how we can be more inclusive as a community and how your family can get involved.

**Saturday, January 23**

**8:00 PM**

At The Licht Home

## Suicide Prevention & Awareness Event *NEW!*

This workshop will focus on educating participants on how to notice signs of distress and providing them with tools to assist in times of crisis.

*Sponsored by Michael & Sharon Feldstein*

**Sunday, January 31**

**8:00 - 10:00 PM**

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Friendship Day & Walk

**Sunday, June 13**

**12:30 - 3:00 PM**

At Westhill High School  
125 Roxbury Rd, Stamford

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

**FriendshipDayCT.com**



# Community Events





# Friends @ Home





*Co-Sponsored by Fred & Eileen Springer, Doni & Leah Perl*

## 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.

# Sibling Support

## Sibling Event

Siblings are invited to a series of bonding socials, facilitated conversations, and pizza!

*Sponsored by Jeff & Rhonda Maron*

**Sundays: November 15, December 13, January 24  
12:15 - 1:00 PM**

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

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.

## Social Events

*Sponsored by Larry & Debbie Hilibrand*

### Sundays

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

**October 18, November 1, November 22,  
December 6, December 20, January 10**

At The Stamford JCC  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

**February 21, March 14**

At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Dr, Fairfield

**April 11, April 25**

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Outings & Special Programs

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 and inclusive environment.

*Sponsored by Josh & Stephanie Bilenker*

### Chanukah Game Night *NEW!*

**Thursday, December 17**

**6:00 - 7:30 PM**

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

### Visit to the Rebbe's Resting Place *NEW!*

**Sunday, January 3**

**9:30 AM**

Leaving from The Friendship Circle Center  
1074 Hope St., Suite 201, Stamford

### Bowling League

#### Sundays

**January 17, May 16**

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

At Nutmeg Bowl  
802 Villa Ave, Fairfield

### Spa & Photoshoot *NEW!*

#### Sundays

**January 24, May 2**

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

At The Loft Salon & Spa  
1051 Long Ridge Rd, Stamford

\*Appointment necessary

Made possible by The Loft Salon  
& Steve Labkoff of Luminant Pk

### Superbowl Party

**Sunday, February 7**

**6:00 - 7:30 PM**

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

### Challah Bake with Parents *NEW!*

**Wednesday, March 3**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## Job Opportunities

The Friendship Circle is excited to once again partner with Soosh Restaurant to give our adults an employment opportunity. 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*

#### Tuesdays

**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**October 27, November 24, December 29,  
January 26, February 23, March 23,**

**April 27, May 25**

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



# Adult Chapter



Children's Circle will be taking place on 20 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 Len & Susan Mark*

### **Sundays**

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

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

### **Children's Circle Dates *EXPANDED!***

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 25

November 1, 15, 22

December 6, 13, 20

January 10, 24, 31

February 21, 28

March 7, 14, 21

April 11, 18, 25

May 2

## **Children's Circle Orientation**

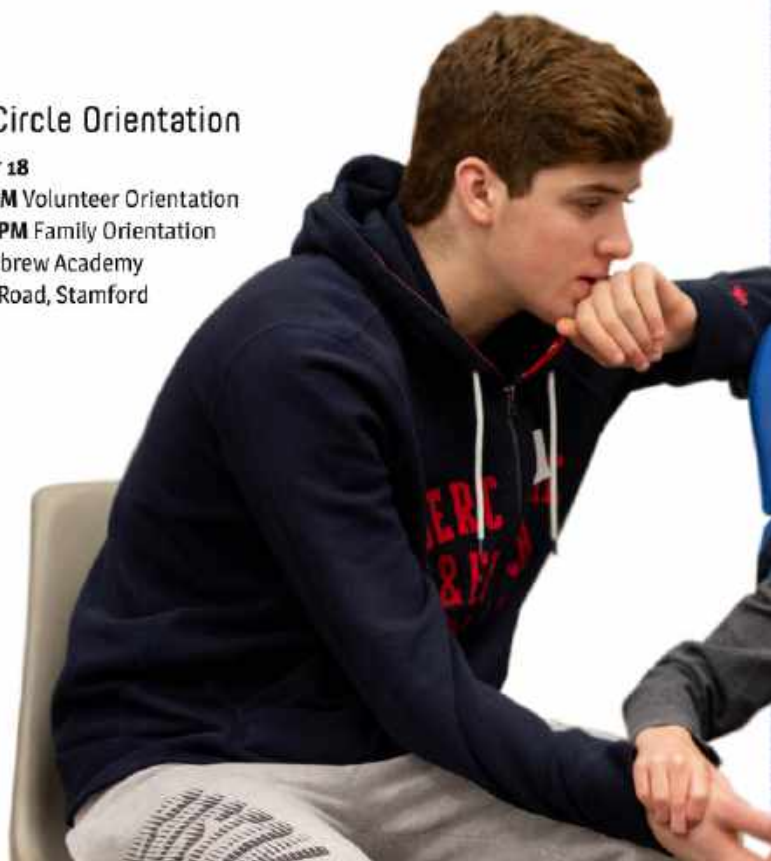
**Sunday, October 18**

**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





# Children's Circle





# 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 receive 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*

## TRAINING SESSIONS:

### Fairfield

**Sundays: December 6, 13, 20**  
**4:30 - 6:00 PM**  
At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

### Greenwich

**Tuesdays: November 10, 17, 24**  
**6:30 - 7:30 PM**  
At Chabad of Greenwich  
75 Mason Street, Greenwich

### Stamford

**Sundays: November 1,**  
**January 17, March 14**  
**5:30 - 7:00 PM**  
At The Friendship Circle Lounge  
1074 Hope St., Suite 207, Stamford

### Westport

**Sundays: December 6, 13, 20**  
**6:45 - 8:15 PM**  
At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

## PROGRAMS TO JOIN:

### Chanukah Holiday Program

**Monday, December 14**

### Purim Carnival

**Sunday, February 21**

### Walk

**Sunday, June 13**

## MITZVAH VOLUNTEER AWARD CEREMONY

**Sunday, April 18**

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

Location TBD



# 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

*Sponsored by Ediel Pinker & Monica Becker*

### Moms Visit to the Rebbe's Resting Place

Join other moms for a meaningful and inspiring trip, ending off with a delicious lunch.

**Wednesdays:**

**September 23, March 10  
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 for an informal discussion.

**Thursdays:**

**October 22, December 17,  
February 18, April 8, June 10  
11:30 AM**

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

### Moms Social

**Tuesday, November 17: 10:00 AM**

**Monday, March 15: 8:00 PM**

At Chabad of Fairfield  
452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

**Wednesday, January 20: 10:00 AM**

**Thursday, May 13: 8:00 PM**

At Chabad of Westport  
79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

### Private Yoga Sessions *NEW!*

Yoga or Mat Pilates private sessions in the comfort of your own home, with the wonderful Sheryl Brauman. Contact [Malya@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com) today to sign up.

## DADS

*Sponsored by David & Tirza Boxer*

### Race with the Boys

Dads have an opportunity to meet other like-minded Dads and enjoy some racing together.

**Thursday, November 19**

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

At RPM Raceway  
600 West Ave, Stamford

### March Madness

Sit back, relax, and watch the Basketball tournament together with other Dads.

**Thursday, March 18**

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

At The Palker Home

## ...AND MORE

### Moms & Dads Night

An event filled with connection, inspiration, and fun with other Friendship Circle parents.

*Sponsored by Greg & Melissa Wachsman*

**Sunday, January 10**

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

At The Theriault Home

### Grandparents Day

A Zoom 'virtual' event to gain support, inspiration, and practical tools to be a support to your family.

*Sponsored by Richard & Ellen Weber*

**Sunday, April 18**

**7:00 PM**

Zoom info to follow

# Birthday Packages

We take birthdays seriously. 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 Lenny & Myrna Springer Fund*

# 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.







## Welcome Back Pre-Rosh Hashanah Fair *NEW!*

**Sunday, September 13**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Parking Lot  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Family Challah Bake

*Sponsored by Richard & Tara Shapiro*

**Sunday, December 6**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Natan's Winter Camp

During winter break, The Friendship Circle  
offers four fun-filled days of trips and activities.  
Ages 5-12

*Sponsored in part by:  
Jason & Robin Fischel*

**Monday-Thursday**

**December 28 – 31**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

*In Memory of Natan Warmflash,  
a Friendship Circle alumni volunteer*

## Family Summer BBQ

*Sponsored by Daniel & Rachel Schilowitz*

**Monday, July 12**

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

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





# Camp & Special Events





# Holiday Programs





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

*Sponsored by:*  
*Michael & Sharon Glick*  
*Neil & Debbie Gershon*  
*Jeff Trell & Janet Welkovich*



## Chanukah

**Monday, December 14**

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

At The Stepping Stones Museum  
303 West Avenue, Norwalk

## Tu B'Shvat

**Sunday, January 24**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Pre Purim Hamentash Bake

**Sunday, February 21**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Purim Celebration *NEW!*

**Friday, February 26**

**4:30 PM**

At The Kamman Home

## Pre Passover

**Sunday, March 21**

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

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Passover Seder

**Saturday, March 27**

**7:00 PM**

At The Shmotkin Home

## Shavuot Celebration *NEW!*

**Monday, May 17**

**5:00 PM**

At The Kamman Home

# Volunteer Club





The Volunteer Club provides The Friendship Circle volunteers with a wide range of activities, giving our volunteers an opportunity to get to know each other and share experiences.

Sign up today to receive our Remind texts and be in the know of what's going on in our Volunteer Club! Text @fcircle to 81010.

## Volunteer Kick-Off

Fairfield County high school students kick off the year with a fun virtual program!

*Sponsored by Jared & Sandra Mehl*

**Sunday, September 6**

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

Zoom Info to follow

## Chanukah Pizza Party *NEW!*

FC volunteers gather for a pizza party!

**Sunday, December 13**

**12:30 - 1:30 PM**

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Mikvah Tour *NEW!*

Find out the Jewish perspective behind this spiritual ritual that guides our intimate relationships.

**Sunday, February 28**

**4:30 PM**

At a local Mikvah

*In memory of  
Rivky Deren-Berman*

## Volunteer & Parent Challah Bake

Friendship Circle volunteers and their parents enjoy making delicious homemade Challah together!

*Sponsored by Jeff & Marlene Gatz*

**Sunday, March 7**

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

At The Links Home

## Seniors Closing Event *NEW!*

High School graduates gather for a closing evening of well-wishes, highlights, and more.

**Sunday, April 11**

**7:00 PM**

At The Sherman Home

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Friendship Circle volunteers will receive awards, gifts, and more, as we thank them for another year.

**Sunday, May 23**

**10:00 AM**

Location TBD

# Volunteer Training Events





*Sponsored by Rick & Amy Hanna*

## Babka Bake & Training *NEW!*

**Sunday, October 25**

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

Zoom info to follow

## Movie Night with Q&A *NEW!*

**Sunday, November 15**

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

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

## Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Workshop *NEW!*

**Sunday, January 31**

**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

At Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## Shaloch Manot Packing & Training

**Wednesday, February 10**

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

Location TBD

## The Nancy Haron Leadership Program

The Nancy Haron Leadership Awards are presented to the volunteers who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to their special friends.

*Sponsored by the Haron Family*

## Mileage Program

The easy-to-use mileage program, FCconnect, is a web-based tool where volunteers log their friendship visits, and can get exciting prizes.



FCconnect

## Teen Board

The Friendship Circle teen board members hold planning and assessment meetings throughout the year:

Jadyn Daniel

Benji Fuchs

Emma Goldberg

Lauren Hartevelde

Rebecca Kanfer

Remi Levitt

Zevi Mehl

Zach Ostroff

Ella Rosen

Yoni Semel

Josh Sherman

Each year The Friendship Circle serves over 100 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 children and young adults with special needs.

**If you would like to help sponsor a program, please email [Malya@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:Malya@FriendshipCT.com), send a text to 44-321 and write FRIENDSHIPCT, or donate online at [FriendshipCT.com/Donate](http://FriendshipCT.com/Donate)**

The Friendship Circle of Connecticut Inc.  
is a Non Profit Organization.  
Our tax exempt 501c3 number is 26-1093886

## Board Members

Dr. Tanya Barton  
Mrs. Robin Fischel  
Mrs. Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz  
Mr. Jason Kaplowitz  
Mrs. Melissa Litwak  
Mrs. Susan Mark \*  
Mr. Eliaz Niedober  
Mr. Brian Roitman \*  
Mr. Howie Schwartz \*  
Mr. Fred Springer \*, Board President  
Mr. David Wayne \*  
Mrs. Lauren Zalis

*\* member of the Executive Committee*





# Resources & Development





## Fairfield County

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

### The Friendship Circle is affiliated with:

#### **Chabad of Fairfield**

452 Brookside Drive  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
203.373.7551  
ChabadFF.com

#### **Chabad of Ridgefield**

27 R West lane  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
203.403.5372  
ChabadRidgefield.com

#### **Chabad of Greenwich**

75 Mason Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203.661.2200  
ChabadGreenwich.org

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

7 Rosedale Circle  
Shelton, CT 06484  
203.364.4149  
JewiShshelton.com

#### **Chabad of Harbor Point**

1 Harbor Point, The Beacon  
Stamford, CT 06902  
203.864.4440

#### **Chabad of Stamford**

770 High Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06905  
203.324.2223  
ChabadStamford.org

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

137 Putnam Road  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
203.972.7708  
NewCanaanJewish.org

#### **Chabad of Westport**

79 Newtown Turnpike  
Westport, CT 06880  
203.226.8584  
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



@FC Fairfield



@friendshipcirclect