



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Program Guide

2016 - 2017 · 5776 · 5777
FRIENDSHIPCT.COM



OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Program Guide

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Need to Reach Us?



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Our Vision



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 community member who would like to volunteer or learn more about what we do, we would love to hear from you, too. If you or someone you know might benefit from our programs, please do not hesitate to call us.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friendship Day / Walk

FRIENDSHIP DAY / WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 · 12:30 PM

The Friendship Circle Center, Stamford

This fall, The Friendship Circle will be hosting an exciting day of activities and entertainment to raise funds for The Friendship Circle's year-round programs. In addition to the free Family Fun Day of entertainment, activities, and food concessions, there will also be a Walk!

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

Registration & Festivities	12:30 PM
Walk begins	1:30 PM
Show Time	2:30 PM

Register as a Volunteer, Participant, Donor - or all three!

FriendshipDayCT.com



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Have you ever met someone with special needs and wondered how they feel? Wondered what is the right thing to say or do? These evenings will give people a better understanding of the challenges that many people with special needs face each and every day.

STAMFORD EVENT

with Izzy Ezagui



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 · 7:00-8:30 PM

Stamford JCC · 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford

This program is open to the community

Izzy Ezagui is an American-born, one-armed squad commander in the Israel Defense Forces. He was injured in combat, losing his dominant arm but returned to the fight. Izzy speaks on topics of motivation, success and overcoming obstacles.

**Sponsored in part by the JCC and JFS*

FAIRFIELD EVENT

with Daniel Tratt



SUNDAY, APRIL 23 · 7:30-8:30 PM

Chabad of Fairfield · 452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

This program is open to the community

An episode in college left Daniel with a Traumatic Brain Injury and paralyzed from the waist down. After rehab, Daniel returned to school to finish his degree eventually completing his MBA. As a motivational speaker, Daniel discusses his challenges and overcoming adversity.

WESTPORT EVENT

with Joseph Bensmihen



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 7:00-8:00 PM

Chabad of Westport

This program is open to the community

Joseph, who lives with cerebral palsy, was instrumental in changing laws for people with disabilities in his native Canada. He is a small business owner and an advocate for competitive employment of people with disabilities.

Community Awareness Events



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 valuable role as a friend and mentor.

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 child with special needs and his or her family.

Birthday Club

SUNDAYS · PUMP IT UP · 145 MAIN STREET, NORWALK

Who doesn't love birthdays? Celebrate your birthday with The Friendship Circle at Pump It Up. Bring your friends and enjoy an awesome, sensory-friendly party in an accepting and loving environment!

NOVEMBER 20 · 1 - 2:30 PM

Celebrating friends who have birthdays
in September, October, November

JANUARY 15 · 10 - 11:30 AM

Celebrating friends who have birthdays
in December, January, February

MARCH 19 · 10 - 11:30 AM

Celebrating friends who have
birthdays in March, April, May

JUNE 11 · 10 - 11:30 AM

Celebrating friends who have
birthdays in June, July, August

In addition to the exciting birthday party at Pump it Up, let The Friendship Circle help you celebrate your Jewish birthday in a meaningful and spiritual way. Call us and we will arrange everything from the friends to the cake. We'll make it a party you will always remember!



SOCIAL EVENTS

SUNDAYS

MEET AND GREET

OCTOBER 30 · 1:00 PM

The Friendship Circle Center,
770 High Ridge Rd, Stamford

HARBOR'S POINT TRIP

DECEMBER 11 · 2:00 PM

Pinot's Palette, 25 Harbor Point Rd, Stamford

RESTAURANT SOCIAL

JANUARY 8 · 2:00 PM

Six Thirteen, 108 Prospect St, Stamford

RESTAURANT SOCIAL

MARCH 26 · 2:00 PM

Soosh, 2701 Summer St, Stamford

SWIMMING LEAGUE

SUNDAYS · 6:00 - 7:30 PM

NOV 13, FEB 5, APRIL 23

The Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue

BOWLING LEAGUE

SUNDAYS · 11AM - 12:30 PM

APRIL 30, MAY 7, MAY 21, JUNE 4

Bowlmor Lanes, 701 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk

EARLY SPRING BRUNCH

MARCH 26 · 10:30 AM

The Friendship Circle Center
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

Adult Branch

The Adult Friendship Circle is an innovative program that serves adults with a full range of physical, mental, and cognitive special needs through one-on-one friendships and social opportunities with other adults in our community.



Children's Circle

Children's Circle takes place on 15 Sundays throughout the year. Parents leave their children in the hands of qualified professionals and loving volunteers. In addition to learning about Judaism in an engaging and meaningful way, the children and their friends enjoy various activities including music, art, cooking, and sports.



SUNDAYS

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE STAMFORD

CHILDREN:
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

VOLUNTEERS:
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The Friendship Circle Center
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

SEPTEMBER	18	JANUARY	8, 22
OCTOBER	30	FEBRUARY	5, 12, 26
NOVEMBER	6, 13	MARCH	12, 26
DECEMBER	11, 18	APRIL	2, 23

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE WESTPORT 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Chabad of Westport Jewish Center

OCTOBER	30	FEBRUARY	12
NOVEMBER	13	MARCH	26
DECEMBER	11	APRIL	23
JANUARY	22		

Teen Scene

Teen Scene gives teens with special needs the opportunity to participate in social and educational programs with teen volunteers.

TEEN CIRCLE

Teen Circle takes place on Sundays at the same time and on the same dates as does Children's Circle. In addition to learning about Judaism in an engaging and relevant way, the teens and their Friendship Circle friends will enjoy "Musical IQ", cooking, and sports.

BOWLING LEAGUE

Teens and young adults meet on Sunday morning for an hour of socializing, snacks, and bowling.

SUNDAYS · 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

APRIL 30, MAY 7, MAY 21, JUNE 4

Bowlmore Lanes · 701 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk

SWIM NIGHT

Friendship Circle participants are invited to join us for an evening of swimming, playing games, and sharing dinner together.

SUNDAYS · 6:00 - 7:30 PM · Ages 13+

NOV 13, FEB 5, APRIL 23

The Stamford JCC · 1035 Newfield Avenue, Stamford

*Co-sponsored by the Stamford JCC



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 THERAPY

We all need "me time"! This newly launched initiative gives the opportunity for a mother of a child with special needs to receive up to six free therapy sessions as a gift from The Friendship Circle. If you are a therapist or a mom that would like to participate, feel free to reach out to us today!

MOMS SHABBATON

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 - 4, 2016

RELAX · REJUVENATE · RECHARGE

You are invited to join us for an unforgettable weekend of relaxation, camaraderie, and discussion. Laugh, learn, share, and connect with other women who "walk in your shoes".

NEW DADS SOCIAL

A special evening dedicated to dads of children with special needs! Dad's night out at the new Stamford trap't Escape Room Adventures is a great way to socialize with other Friendship Circle fathers in a fun and relaxing setting.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 · 8:00-9:30 PM

Trap't Escape Room Adventures

76 Progress Drive, Suite 262, Stamford

Chaired by: Garry Berger, Todd Palker, David Radin, Mitch Zucker

Grandparents Day

Calling all grandmas and grandpas, Bubbies and Zadies! Come kvell as you enjoy a morning of art, socializing, and fun with your special grandchild.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 · 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

The Friendship Circle Center

770 High Ridge Road, Stamford



Shabbat with the Friendship Circle

FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLES

Part of the beauty of The Friendship Circle is making lasting family connections beyond the weekly visits and programs. A highlight for many is when the "Full Circle" (families of the volunteers together with the families of their special friends) comes together for a Friday night Shabbat dinner at the Shmotkin home. The Shabbat atmosphere adds an uplifting spiritual element to these special gatherings.

Alumni Events

A cherished part of The Friendship Circle is our alumni volunteers. Their dedication and love is what creates the "magic" and brings countless smiles to the faces of our children and adults. In turn, the experience of volunteering is a transformative one for them as well. These various events during college breaks offer past volunteers the opportunity to take part in The Friendship Circle's programs and reconnect with their special friends.

ALUMNI SOCIAL

With some drinks, friends, and games, you are sure to enjoy catching up with fellow alumni volunteers in a relaxed and fun environment.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 · 7 PM

Six Thirteen Restaurant
108 Prospect St, Stamford
Chaired by: David Wayne

ALUMNI SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 · 7:15 PM
At The Shemtov's Home
10 Brandt Street, Stamford



Winter Camp

During winter break, The Friendship Circle offers Winter Camp - four fun-filled days of trips and activities, including swimming and gym time. Each child has a special friend to accompany him or her throughout the day's activities.

Ages 5-12

DECEMBER 26 - 29

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Friendship Circle Center
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford





Family Camps

NEW NOVEMBER 8 · 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

At Bi Cultural Day School · 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

Election time! Don't worry, we've got the kids covered. For the first time ever, the Friendship Circle is partnering with BCDS and will be joining the students for a day of friendship in their classrooms! Ages 5-12

NATAN'S CAMP

JANUARY 16 · 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center · 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

On a vacation day, The Friendship Circle will host a mini-camp experience. This allows parents a few hours of respite while their children enjoy a trip to SPORTIME USA as well as music and more! Ages 13+

* In Partnership with Carmel Academy

FEBRUARY 20 · 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center · 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

The Friendship Circle will host a full-day fun mini-camp experience for the entire family! Enjoy a family trip to Rockin Jump where every child will have the chance to get out their energy in a safe and supportive environment.

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.



STAMFORD

SUNDAYS: NOV 6, 20* JAN 8, 29
7:00 - 8:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center,
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

* Please note that the second
session will take place at the
Stamford JCC from 6:30-8:30 PM.
See "Community Awareness Event"

MITZVAH VOLUNTEER AWARD CEREMONY

SUNDAY, MAY 7
6:00-7:00 PM

At a private home

WESTPORT

SUNDAYS: JAN 22, 29, FEB 5,
6:30-7:30 PM

Chabad of Westport

NEW FAIRFIELD

SUNDAYS: NOV 6, 13, 20
10:30AM-12:00 PM

Chabad of Fairfield,
452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield

NEW GREENWICH

TUESDAYS: MARCH 14, 21, 28
6:30-7:30 PM

Chabad of Greenwich,
75 Mason Street, Greenwich

Holiday Programs

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

ROSH HASHANAH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

11:00 - 12:30 PM

At The New Canaan YMCA,
564 South Avenue, New Canaan

CHANUKAH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:00 - 6:30 PM

At The Stepping Stones Museum
303 West Avenue, Norwalk

PURIM

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

PASSOVER

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford



Special Events

FRIENDSHIP ZONE

Friendship Zone is an after school program for children with special needs. This program includes creative cooking, sports, and more for children ages 5-12.

THURSDAYS: NOVEMBER 3 and 17 · 4 – 5:30 PM
Bi Cultural Day School · 2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford

* In partnership with Bi Cultural Day School

NEW CHALLAH BAKE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 · 7:30 - 9:00 PM
At a private home in Stamford

For teens and moms: Friendship Circle Moms, volunteers, and their moms, are all invited for a special evening to get some tips, great recipes, and enjoy making delicious homemade challah!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 · 4:00 - 5:30 PM
At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford
For Friendship Circle children and their families; All Friendship Circle kids and their families are invited to a Mega Challah Bake!

NEW A NIGHT AT THE RESTAURANT

Always wanted to take your family out to eat but didn't know of a friendly, non-judgmental place where you could go? Join other Friendship Circle families for a chance to take your family out to dinner in a comfortable environment at a local kosher restaurant.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 · 4:30 - 5:30 PM
Six Thirteen Restaurant, 108 Prospect St, Stamford

* Special family packages will be offered for the evening.

NEW TRIP TO DETROIT HEADQUARTERS

Join Malya and other Friendship Circle members for a day's trip to Detroit, MI and visit the original Friendship Circle Headquarters! Get a tour of the renowned Lifetown Friendship Circle center, Soul Center, and enjoy a day of inspiration, empowerment, and new connections.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

* Fee \$300

END OF YEAR EVENT

Join other Friendship Circle volunteers and families for an afternoon of games, activities, BBQ and more as we celebrate another great year of friendship!

TUESDAY, MAY 23 · 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Scalzi Park, 100 Bridge St, Stamford



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.

NEW FIRST AID COURSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 · 10 AM - 12:00 PM
At The Friendship Circle Center · 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford
Training led by: Dr Berkun

VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 · 7:00 - 9:00 PM
At Chelsea Piers, 1 Blachley Road, Stamford
Speaker: Mrs. Judi Anders

NEW GIRLS CHALLAH BAKE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 · 7:30 - 9:00 PM
At a private home in Stamford

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



Volunteer Club



SHALOCH MANOT PACKING & VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 · 7:00 – 8:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center · 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford
Training led by: Jill Sherman

NEW RIVKY'S COFFEE BREAK

A casual get together for girls. We meet at a local coffee shop for an informal discussion with Mussie Kantor on a relevant Jewish topic.

In memory of Rivky Berman

8:00 – 9:00 PM

NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16

JANUARY 10, 17, 24

MARCH 6, 13, 20

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 FriendshipCT.com or go to 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 prizes!

NEW ANONYMOUS Q & A

Introducing our new Anonymous Q & A website! In this space you can contact our online therapist, Abby Dunn M.S., BCBA, who will answer all of your questions related to your special friend, privately. Go to the volunteer section on our website, www.FriendshipCT.com to get started.

NEW MYRNA SPRINGER FUND

Did you ever want to do something fun with your special friend but didn't have the means to do it? Introducing the new Myrna Springer Fund for volunteers in which you'll be able to receive financial assistance to do special activities with your friend such as getting a manicure, going to a museum, and more! Go to the volunteer section on our website, www.FriendshipCT.com to see the guidelines and to get started.

13.1 OR 26.2 MILES TO CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE.

BE LEGENDARY.



MIAMI LIFETIME
MARATHON:
JANUARY 27TH-29TH

ALL-EXPENSE PAID
MEANINGFUL WEEKEND

REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.TEAMFRIENDSHIP.ORG

AT YOUR SIDE TILL YOU CROSS THE FINISH LINE.

TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE

BE FEARLESS: GET

Training 🕒 Expert Coaches 🧑‍🏫 Support 🙌

BE PAMPERED: WITH

Luxury Resort 🌞 Food 🍴 Fun 😊

BE INSPIRED:

FOREVER CHANGE THE LIFE OF
A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Miami Lifetime Marathon · JANUARY 27 - 29

TEAMFRIENDSHIP.ORG

SELECT TEAM FC OF CONNECTICUT

Email Malya@FriendshipCT.com for more information
and to sign up for this incredible experience!



Board 2016/17

TEEN BOARD

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

Carly Barocas
Gaby Baum
Zachary Blomberg
Jackie Fahey
Will Gold
Jacob Herz
Sam Meyers
Jake Montgomery
Roni Moskowitz
Eli Pinker
Natalie Shclover

ADULT BOARD

Chairman: Mr. David Wayne
Mr. Ron Avidan
Dr. Tanya Barton
Mrs. Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz
Dr. Josh Hurwitz
Mr. Joshua Levine
Mr. Roger Lob
Mrs. Susan Mark
Mr. Brian Roitman
Mrs. Julie Rosenberg
Mr. Howie Schwartz
Mr. Fred Springer
Mrs. Lauren Zalis

Resources & Development

Each year The Friendship Circle serves over 100 children and families with special needs. While many of the Friendship Circle programs are volunteer-driven, it takes extensive management, time, and supervision to deliver high quality programs and activities for special needs children and young adults.

SPONSOR A PROGRAM

If you would like to help sponsor a program – please call Mrs. Malya Shmotkin at (203) 329 0015 x 131 email Malya@FriendshipCT.com or donate online: FriendshipCT.com/Donate

PARLOR MEETINGS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 8:30 PM
At the home of Joe and Lauren Zalis

Meet other young couples and learn more about The Friendship Circle and ways that you and your family can get involved.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 7:00 PM
At the home of Len & Susan Mark



THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
is affiliated with:

CHABAD OF FAIRFIELD
452 Brookside Drive
Fairfield CT 06824
203.373.7551
www.ChabadFF.com

CHABAD OF GREENWICH
75 Mason Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
203.661.2200
www.ChabadGreenwich.org

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN
137 Putnam Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
203.972.7708
www.NewCanaanJewish.org

CHABAD OF RIDGEFIELD
27 R West lane
Ridgefield CT 06877
203.403.5372
www.ChabadRidgefield.com

CHABAD OF STAMFORD
770 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06905
203.324.2223
www.ChabadStamford.org

CHABAD OF WESTPORT
79 Newtown Turnpike
Westport, CT 06880
203.226.8584
www.ChabadofWestport.com



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