




PROGRAM GUIDE

2023-2024 • 5783-5784



OUR PROGRAMS





Adult Chapter
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Birthday Celebrations
Camps
Children's Circle
Community Events
Friends At Home
Friendship Day & Walk
Holiday Programs
Parent Events
Special Events
Volunteer Club

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Our offices are located at
48 Union St. • Stamford, CT 06906

FRIENDSHIPCT.COM





NEED TO REACH US?





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.

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 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 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

PADDLE 4 FRIENDSHIP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00 PM

Participate in a pickle-ball tournament. Have fun with the whole family and support a great cause, too!

Location TBD

FRIENDSHIP DAY & WALK

SUNDAY, MAY 19

12:30 PM Registration and festivities

1:30 PM Walk begins

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.

*Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Rd., Stamford*

www.FriendshipDayCT.com





COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7 PM

*At Chabad of Westport
79 Newtown Turnpike*

CHESSSED DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Join us for a family volunteering opportunity on MLK Day.

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*





FRIENDS AT 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 special friends in their homes, providing friendship through shared experiences. These teens are trained for their invaluable role as a friend and mentor.



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.





ADULT CHAPTER

SOCIAL EVENTS

ADULT CIRCLE

SUNDAYS
1:30-4:00 PM

October 15
October 29
November 12
November 19
December 3
January 7
January 21
February 25
March 3
March 17
March 31
May 5*

*At the Stamford JCC
1035 Newfield Ave.*

CLOSING LUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 5
*1:30-2:30 PM

*At the Stamford JCC
1035 Newfield Ave. Stamford*

NEW!

PARENT HANGOUT

SUNDAYS AT ADULT CIRCLE
1:30-2:30 PM

*At the Stamford JCC
1035 Newfield Ave. Stamford*

NEW!

SUPERBOWL PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
6:00-7:30 PM

At a private home



CHILDREN'S CIRCLE



Children's Circle is an immersive and engaging program that spans over 14 Sundays throughout the year. With a dedicated team of qualified instructors, therapists, and caring volunteers, parents can confidently entrust their children to a nurturing environment. In addition to learning about Judaism in a meaningful way, the children and their friends are treated to a diverse range of activities including music, art, cooking, and sports.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE DATES

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

(Volunteers 9:30 AM-12:00 PM)

October 15*

November 12, 19

December 3, 10

January 7, 21, 28

February 11, 25

March 3, 17, 31

May 5

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

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE ORIENTATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Volunteer Orientation 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Family orientation 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

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



FAMILY SUPPORT

DADS BEER WITH THE BOYS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
8:00-9:30 PM

At a private home

DADS MARCH MADNESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 28
8:00 - 9:30 PM

At the Pilnik home

GRANDPARENTS CONNECT ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
7:00-8:00 PM

Together with an experienced professional, gain insight on supporting your grandchild, their parents, and family, while connecting with fellow grandparents.

At your home



MOMS & DADS NIGHT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

8:00 - 9:30 PM

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.

At the Wachsman home

PRIVATE YOGA SESSIONS

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

MOMS ZOOM GET TOGETHERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Color Pallettes

7:30 PM

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Tu Bishvat Fruit Boards

7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Mezuzahs and Mimosas

7:30 PM

At your home







NATAN'S CAMP

In memory of Natan Warmflash

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

*At the Stamford Nature Center
39 Scofieldtown Rd., Stamford*

WINTER CAMP

TUESDAY-FRIDAY • DECEMBER 26-29

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

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.

*At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy
2186 High Ridge Rd., Stamford*



SPECIAL EVENTS

FAMILY BOWLING LEAGUE

SUNDAYS

1:00-2:00 PM

October 22

November 5

December 17

March 10

April 7

June 2

*At Nutmeg Bowl
802 Villa Ave., Fairfield*

TRIP TO THE ZOO

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

1:00-2:00 PM

*At Beardsley Zoo
1875 Noble Ave., Bridgeport*



FAMILY WELCOME BACK PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

10:00-11:00 AM

*At Twin Meadows Boundless Park
(Behind Stillmeadow Elementary School)
800 Stillwater Rd., Stamford*

VIRTUAL COOKING CIRCLE

WEDNESDAYS

5:15-6:00 PM

January 24

January 31

February 7

At your home

FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

*At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy
2186 High Ridge Rd., Stamford*



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.

ROSH HASHANA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
6:30 PM

At the Kamman home

PURIM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
4:30 PM

At the Kamman home

CHANUKAH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
5:00-6:30 PM

*At Stepping Stones Museum
303 West Ave., Norwalk*

PASSOVER SEDER

MONDAY, APRIL 22
7:00 PM

At the Shmotkin home

TU BISHVAT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
11:30 AM-12:30 PM

*At Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy
2186 High Ridge Rd., Stamford*

SHAVUOT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
4:30 PM

At the Kamman home





HOLIDAY PROGRAMS





BIRTHDAYS

MOMS & DADS BIRTHDAY PACKAGES

With our special birthday package delivered straight to their door, we tell parents, “You got this!”

KIDS BIRTHDAY PACKAGES

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

SIBLINGS BIRTHDAY PACKAGES

Siblings of individuals with special needs have their own unique beauty. Receiving a package in the mail helps them feel seen and excited!

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.



We take birthdays seriously. The day you were born is the day that G-d said this world cannot 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!



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.

VOLUNTEER KICKOFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:00-8:00 PM

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*

MOVIE NIGHT & TRAINING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

7:00-9:00 PM

At the Price home

TRIP TO THE REBBE'S RESTING PLACE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 AM

We will carpool together

VOLUNTEER & PARENT BAKE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30-9:00 PM

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*





VOLUNTEER CLUB

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
7:30-9:00 PM

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*

er Kickoff

e Stamford



MISHLOACH MANOT PACK & TRAINING

SUNDAY, MARCH 10
7:00-8:30 PM

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*

VOLUNTEER TRAINING 101

SUNDAY, MARCH 31
7:00-8:30 PM

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*

SENIORS` CLOSING

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
7:00-8:30 PM

*At Six Thirteen restaurant
108 Prospect St., Stamford*



VOLUNTEER CLUB

TEEN LEADERSHIP 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.

SUNDAYS

September 6, October 15, November 19, January 7, March 3, May 5, June 2

Sarah Ballas
Charlotte Bunin
Matthew Goodman
Solomon Green
Annie Hanna
Allie Klein
Abby Malkin

Shayne Mehl
Zach Price
Jonah Rosenberg
Emily Sherman
Isabel Sigman
Maddie Winarsky
Alex Young





UMATTER MENTAL HEALTH GROUPS

UMatter is a teen-led mental health group with the goal of providing a safe space to discuss sensitive topics and to support one another. Teens share tips, hear from a professional, and do a fun activity.

SUNDAYS

6:30-7:30 PM

STAMFORD SESSIONS

November 5
January 21
April 7

*At the Friendship Circle Center
48 Union St., Stamford*

FAIRFIELD SESSIONS

December 3
February 25

*At Chabad of Fairfield
452 Brookside Dr., Fairfield*

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 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 great prizes!





DEVELOPMENT

WAYS TO DONATE

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 special needs children and young adults.

If you would like to help sponsor a program, please email Malya@FriendshipCT.com, send a text to 44-321 and write FRIENDSHIPCT, or donate online at www.FriendshipCT.com/Donate. Checks may be addressed to "The Friendship Circle" and mailed to our offices.

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



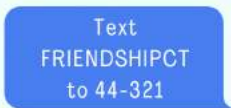
Website



Paypal



Venmo



Text 2 Donate

LIFE & LEGACY

Life & Legacy Giving promotes after-lifetime giving in order to sustain the viability and perpetuity of The Friendship Circle in the future. By signing a letter of intent, you can support The Friendship Circle's future in your will, life insurance plan, or other areas. Please email Malya@FriendshipCT.com for more information.



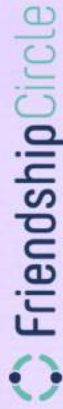
BOARD MEMBERS

*President: Mr. Fred Springer **

Mr. David Ariyeh
Dr. Tanya Barton
Mrs. Robin Fischel
Mr. Jason Kaplowitz
Mr. Mort Lowenthal
Mrs. Susan Mark *
Mr. Jared Mehl
Mr. Eliaz Niedober
Mr. Brian Roitman *
Mr. Howie Schwartz *
Mr. David Wayne *
Mr. Greg Wachsman
Mrs. Lauren Zalis

**member of the executive committee*





Fairfield County

48 Union St. #25

Stamford, CT 06906

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE IS AFFILIATED WITH:

CHABAD OF FAIRFIELD

452 Brookside Drive

Fairfield, CT 06824

(203) 373-7551

www.ChabadFF.com

CHABAD OF SHELTON & MONROE

7 Rosedale Circle

Shelton, CT, 06484

(203) 384-4149

www.JewishShelton.com

CHABAD OF GREENWICH

38 Field Point Road

Greenwich, CT 06830

(203) 661-2200

www.ChabadGreenwich.org

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

770 High Ridge Road

Stamford, CT 06905

(203) 324-2223

www.ChabadStamford.org

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN & DARIEN

137 Putnam Road

New Canaan, CT 06840

(203) 912-7708

www.NewCanaanJewish.org

CHABAD OF HARBOR POINT

101 Washington Boulevard #110

Stamford, CT 06902

(203) 912-7708

www.JewishHarborPoint.org

CHABAD OF RIDGEFIELD

27 R West Lane

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 403-5372

www.ChabadRidgefield.com

CHABAD OF WESTPORT,

WILTON, & NORWALK

79 Newtown Turnpike

Westport, CT 06880

(203) 226-8584

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'll be happy to assist you.

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