

PROGRAM GUIDE

2024-2025 • 5784-5785



FriendshipCircle

Fairfield County



OUR PROGRAMS



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Volunteer Club

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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. 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 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. 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,

Maliza Shmotkin

FRIENDSHIP DAY & WALK

Sunday, May 18

12:30pm Registration and festivities

1:30pm Walk begins

Westhill High School, 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.

www.FriendshipDayCT.com

PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISER

Sunday, Oct 27

7-9pm

Intensity Club Norwalk



CHESSD DAY

Monday, Jan 20

10:30am-12:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT

Hear from Pamela Shuller, a renowned disability advocate and comedian, as she shares her inspiring journey of resilience and humor, challenging stereotypes and empowering individuals with disabilities.

Thursday, Feb 6

7:30pm

Chabad of Westport

FC FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Fridays

6pm

Sep 20: the Deren home, Greenwich

Nov 15: Chabad of Westport



COMMUNITY EVENTS



FRIENDS AT HOME



Bringing friendship where
it's needed most...

AT HOME!

Friends At Home is at the heart and soul of Friendship Circle. 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.



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 CIRCLE

Sundays

1:30-4pm
The Stamford JCC
1035 Newfield Ave.

Sep 22	Jan 5, 12, 26
Oct 6, 13	Mar 2, 16
Nov 3, 24	Apr 27
Dec 8, 15	May 4

CLOSING LUNCH

Sunday, May 4

1:30-2:30pm
The Stamford JCC

PARENT LUNCH

Sundays

Oct 6, Dec 15, and Jan 26
1:30-2:30pm
The Stamford JCC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Every other Monday

2-3pm
Napoletana Restaurant, Stamford



KRAU MAGA CLASS

Sunday, Sep 15

1:30pm

Breakthru Fitness Center, Stamford

LINKS OF LOVE

Links of Love connects older adults in the community with adults with special needs to enjoy connections and meaningful activities together.

Thursdays

September 26

October 31*

December 5

January 23

February 27

March 23* *[Sunday]*

Stamford & Greenwich: 11am-12:30pm

*Fairfield: 2:30-4pm

ADULT COOKING CIRCLE

Wednesday, Jan 8

4:30-6pm

Chabad of Greenwich

SUPERBOWL PARTY

Sunday, Feb 9

6-7:30pm

Hosted by the Fischel & Rosenfeld families

ADULT CHAPTER



CIRCLE

CHILDREN'S



Children's Circle is an immersive and engaging program that spans across 15 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.

SUNDAY SOCIALS

10am-12:30pm

*Volunteers 9:30am-12:30pm

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Sep 15, 22	Feb 9
Oct 6, 13	Mar 2, 16
Nov 3*	Apr 27
Dec 8, 15	May 4
Jan 5, 12, 26	

**Seperate program at the Friendship Circle Center from 10:30am-12pm*

ORIENTATION

Sunday, Sep 15

Volunteers: 9:30am-12:30pm

Families: 11:30am-12:30pm

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Mom and Dad need some “Me” time too! Family support events are filled with connection, inspiration, and fun with other like-minded Friendship Circle parents.

DADS BEER WITH THE BOYS

Thursday, Dec 12

8-9:30pm

Six Thirteen Restaurant, Stamford

DADS MARCH MADNESS

Thursday, Mar 20

8-9:30pm

The Wachsman home

MOMS & DADS NIGHT

Thursday, Jan 16

7:30-9:30pm

Virtually



FAMILY SUPPORT



MOMS GET-TOGETHERS

Wednesdays

Nov 18 Mar 25
Jan 29 May 28
Feb 26
7:30pm
Virtually

GRANDPARENTS CONNECT

Wednesday, Feb 12

5:15-6pm

Virtually

PRIVATE PILATES SESSIONS

Pilates private sessions in the comfort of your own home.



NATAN'S CAMP



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.

Monday-Thursday • Dec 23-26

Counselors: 9:30am-1pm

Families: 10am-1pm

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

LIFETOWN FIELD TRIP

Take a trip on Columbus Day with FC families to enjoy and explore Lifetown, including a mini-city and sensory rooms.

Monday, Oct 14

10am-12pm

Lifetown, Friendship Circle in Livingston, NJ



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 BDAY PACKAGES

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

KIDS BDAY PACKAGES

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

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.

BIRTHDAYS



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, Sep 29

11am

The Stamford Nature Center

CHANUKAH

Wednesday, Dec 18

5:15-6:30pm

Stepping Stones Museum,
Norwalk



TU B'SHUAT

Sunday, Feb 9

11:30am-12:30pm
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

PURIM

Friday, Mar 14

6pm
the Kamman home

PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, Apr 12

7pm
the Shmotkin home

SHAVUOT

Monday, Jun 2

5pm
the Kamman home

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS





SPECIAL EVENTS

FAMILY WELCOME BACK PARTY

Sunday, Sep 8

10-11am

Twin Meadows Boundless Park
800 Stillwater Rd., Stamford

BOWLING LEAGUE & BIRTHDAY BASH

Sundays

1-2pm

Nutmeg Bowl, Fairfield

Nov 17 Mar 30

Feb 2 Apr 6

Mar 9 May 11

TRIP TO THE ZOO

Sunday, Jun 8

1-2 pm

Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport



FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE

Sunday, Jan 12

11:30am-12:30pm *(during Children's Circle)*
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

VIRTUAL COOKING CIRCLE

Wednesdays

5:15-6pm
At your home

Sep 25	Nov 20
Nov 6	Feb 12*
Nov 13	March 12

**Grandparents are invited to join on Feb 12*



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 & GREENWICH

Sundays

December 8
December 15
January 5
January 12

6:30-7:30pm
The Friendship Circle Center

FAIRFIELD

Sunday, Sep 15

6-7:30pm
Chabad of Fairfield

WESTPORT

Sunday, Sep 22

6:30-7:30pm
Chabad of Westport



MVP



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.

VOLUNTEER KICKOFF

Sunday, Sep 8

6-8pm

The Friendship Circle Center

MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, Nov 3

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

CHALLAH BAKE

Sunday, Jan 26

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING & WORKSHOP

Sunday, Mar 2

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Sunday, Apr 6

7-8:30pm

Chabad of Fairfield

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Thursday, May 1

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

SENIOR DINNER

Thursday, May 22

7-8:30pm

Six Thirteen Restaurant





UMATTER EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP GROUPS

UMatter is a teen-led group with the goal of empowering our teens to be advocates in their classrooms or whatever environment they find themselves in.

Thursdays

6:30-7:30pm

November 7, 14, &

21

At the Friendship Circle Center

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!



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 5, October 13, November 24,
January 19, March 9, April 27, June 8

Charlotte Bunin
Justin Fuchs
Solomon Green
Annie Hanna
Allie Klein
Abby Malkin

Shayne Mehl
Keren Roitman
Nate Samelson
Emily Sherman
Lylah Spring
Maddie Winarsky



TEEN LEADERSHIP



DEVELOPMENT



BOARD MEMBERS

President: Mr. Eliaz Niedober *

Dr. Tanya Barton
Mrs. Robin Fischel
Mr. Jason Kaplowitz
Mrs. Susan Mark *
Mr. Jared Mehl
Mr. Brian Roitman *
Mr. Howie Schwartz *
Mr. Fred Springer
Mr. David Wayne *
Mr. Greg Wachsman
Mrs. Lauren Zalis

**member of the executive committee*

PARLOR MEETINGS

Join us for a Friendship Circle parlor meeting, where an intimate gathering fosters connection and community while supporting our vital fundraising efforts.

Sundays

7:30pm

Nov 10: the Zalis home

Jan 9: the Fischel home



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.





Fairfield County

48 Union St. #25
Stamford, CT 06906

Sponsored in part by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien;
UJA - JCC Greenwich, and Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County.

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PAID

STAMFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 401

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) 364-4149
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) 972-7708
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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