



PROGRAM GUIDE

2025-2026 • 5785-5786



OUR PROGRAMS



Adult Chapter Events
Adult Circle
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Birthdays
Bowling League
Children's Circle
Community Events
Cooking Circle
Evenings of Awareness
Family Support
Friends At Home
Friendship Day & Walk
Holiday Programs
Links of Love
Mitzvah Volunteer Program
Special Events
Teen Leadership Programs
Volunteer Club
Winter Camp

MALYA SHMOTKIN

Director

Malya@FriendshipCT.com

CHANI CUNIN

Adult Circle Coordinator

Chana@FriendshipCT.com

LENORE FOGEL

Director of Development

Lenore@FriendshipCT.com

LEAH GREENBERG

Volunteer Coordinator

Leah@FriendshipCT.com

CHANIE KAMMAN

Children's Circle Coordinator

Chanie@FriendshipCT.com

SARAH LIPSKER

Westport & Fairfield Coordinator

Sarah@FriendshipCT.com

RISHA NEMES

Family Coordinator

Risha@FriendshipCT.com

SHIRA NERENBERG

Special Events Coordinator

Shira@FriendshipCT.com

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

FRIENDSHIPCT.COM



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

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 17

12:30pm Registration and festivities

1:30pm Walk begins

Westhill High School, Stamford

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

CHESS DAY

Monday, January 19

10:30am-12pm

The Friendship Circle Center

INCLUSION FAIR

Sunday, February 8

11am

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy



COMMUNITY EVENTS

YOUNG COUPLES EVENING OF AWARENESS

Saturday nights

7:30pm

Nov 15: The Schwartz home

Dec 6: The Heller home

Jan 31: The Herman home



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 a unique program designed just for adults with special needs, offering meaningful one-on-one friendships and enriching social experiences with fellow adults. It's a space to connect, belong, and build lasting relationships within a supportive community.

ADULT CIRCLE

Sundays

1:30-4pm

The Stamford JCC
1035 Newfield Ave.

Oct 19, 26	Feb 1, 8
Nov 2, 23	Mar 15
Dec 7, 14	Apr 19, 26
Jan 11, 25	May 3

CLOSING LUNCH

Sunday, May 3

1:30-2:30pm

The Stamford JCC

ADULT COOKING CIRCLE

Wednesday, January 14

5pm

Chabad of Greenwich

SUPERBOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8

6-7:30pm

Hosted by the Fischel family

ADULT CHAPTER

LINKS OF LOVE

Connecting older adults in the community with adults with special needs to enjoy connections and meaningful activities together.

Tuesdays

12-1pm

The Friendship Circle Center

September 16

November 11

February 10

May 26

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Every other Tuesday

10am

In partnership with Beldotti Bakery



CHILDREN'S CIRCLE



Children's Circle is an immersive and engaging program designed to give children with special needs a meaningful and joyful experience. With a dedicated team of instructors, therapists, and caring volunteers, parents can feel confident knowing their children are in a nurturing, supportive environment. Alongside learning about Judaism in a fun and accessible way, participants enjoy a wide variety of activities—including music, art, cooking, and sports—together with their peers.

SUNDAY SOCIALS

10am-12:30pm

*Volunteers 9:30am-12:30pm

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

Sep 28

Feb 1, 8

Oct 19, 26

Mar 1, 15

Nov 2, 23

Apr 19, 26

Dec 7, 14

May 3

Jan 11, 25

ORIENTATION

Sunday, September 28

Volunteers: 9:30-11:30am

Families: 10-11:30am

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, November 20

8-9:30pm

Six Thirteen restaurant, Stamford

MOMS & DADS NIGHT

Thursday, January 15

8-9:30pm

Virtually

DADS ESCAPE ROOM

Tuesday, March 10

8pm

Trap't Escape Room, Stamford



MOMS GET-TOGETHERS

Oct 27

Dec 9

Feb 17

7:30pm

Virtual

Apr 23

May 28

GRANDPARENTS CONNECT

Thursday, March 19

5:15-6pm

Virtually

LADIES TRIP TO OHEL

Tuesday, May 19

9:30am

Carpool from The Friendship Circle Center

PRIVATE PILATES SESSIONS

Give yourself the gift of a reset—all from the comfort of your home. Private Pilates sessions offer a calming, strengthening way to care for your body and mind while fitting in some much-needed “me” time.



FAMILY SUPPORT

NATN'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.

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2

Counselors: 9:30am-1pm

Families: 10am-1pm

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

In loving memory of Natan Warmflash



We take birthdays seriously—because the day you were born is the day G-d said the world couldn't go on without you. It's a moment worth celebrating, and we're here to make it extra special.

MOMS BDAY PACKAGES

Celebrate Mom with a heartfelt birthday package delivered to her door—because every supermom deserves a little love, joy, and a reminder that she's doing an amazing job.

KIDS BDAY PACKAGES

Celebrate your special day with your volunteer and a personalized Birthday-in-a-Box—filled with party décor, treats, and a birthday gift, all delivered to your home!

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

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.

ROSH HASHANA

Sunday, Sep 14

11am
The Stamford Nature Center

TU B'SHVAT

Sunday, Feb 1

11:30am
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

SUKKOT

Sunday, Oct 12

11am
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy

PURIM

Tuesday, Mar 3

6pm
The Kamman home

CHANUKAH

Wednesday, Dec 17

5:15-6:30pm
Stepping Stones Museum

PASSOVER SEDER

Wednesday, Apr 1

7pm
The Shmotkin home

SHAVUOT

Saturday, May 23

12:30pm
The Kamman home

FAMILY WELCOME BACK PARTY

Sunday, September 7

11am-12pm

Twin Meadows Boundless Park
800 Stillwater Rd., Stamford

BOWLING LEAGUE

Sundays

1-2pm

Nutmeg Bowl, Fairfield

Nov 9 Mar 22

Jan 18 May 10

Feb 22 May 31

TRIP TO THE ZOO

Sunday, June 7

1-2pm

Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport



SPECIAL EVENTS

FAMILY CHALLAH BAKE

Sunday, January 11

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

VIRTUAL COOKING CIRCLE

Thursdays

5:15-6pm
At your home

Sep 18	Feb 26
Nov 20	Mar 19*
Dec 4, 11	May 7

**Grandparents are invited to join on Mar 19*



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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAINING & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Sundays

Oct 26

Nov 2

Feb 1, 22

6:30-8pm

The Friendship Circle Center



VOLUNTEER CLUB

VOLUNTEER KICKOFF

Sunday, September 21

7-9pm

Skyzone, Norwalk

MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, November 9

6:30-8:30pm

The Malkin Home

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Sunday, November 23

7-8:30pm

Chabad of Fairfield

CHALLAH BAKE

Sunday, January 11

7-8:30pm

The Nerenberg home

MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING & WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 11

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

TEAM CAPTAIN PIZZA PARTY

Sunday, March 15

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL NIGHT

Sunday, March 22

7-8:30pm

Chabad of Westport

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Sunday, April 19

7-8:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Sunday, May 24

6:30-9:30pm

The Friendship Circle Center

SENIOR DINNER

Monday, June 8

7-8:30pm

Six Thirteen Restaraunt



TEEN LE

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!



ADERSHIP

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 7, October 19, December 7, January 25,
March 1, April 26, June 14

Charlotte Bunin
Blake Cortell
Annie Hanna
Wesley Levine
Ethan Malkin
Keren Roitman
Nate Samelson

Lylah Spring
Elissa Tobin
Harrison Tronick
Lily Wachsman
Shelby Weisel
Ben Winarsky



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

**member of the executive committee*

PARLOR MEETINGS

Saturday evening, November 8
The Zalis home

Tuesday evening, February 24
The Fischel home

*Please reach out to malya@friendshipct.com
for more information.*



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.



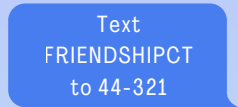
Website



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.

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
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.

FRIENDSHIPCT.COM

