

# Parent Connection

January 2015

## Ruth Freeman Positive Parenting Workshops

Ruth Ettenberg Freeman, LCSW will return to Ellington with her **Positive Parenting Workshop** series on Thursday evenings February 19, 26, March 5 and 12 (19th as a snow date) for parents of children ages 2 to 12 years old. She will discuss discipline and communication methods that increase cooperation and strengthen a child's self-worth. This will help develop a child's emotional intelligence and decrease conflict in the family. Ruth has been teaching parenting skills



to parents for 30 years. This workshop series is free of charge and free babysitting is offered as well.

It will take place from 6 pm to 8 pm at Youth Services on 31 Arbor Way in Ellington. To register, please contact Youth Services at 860-870-3130 or email Debbie Stauffer at [dstauffer@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dstauffer@ellington-ct.gov). Space is limited.

To learn more about Ruth Freeman, please visit her website at [www.positiveparentingct.com](http://www.positiveparentingct.com). She is also on Facebook.



## Rise Above Celebrates the Arts with Gallery Night

Ellington artists of all ages will have an opportunity to showcase their work at a community **Gallery Night** to be held on Saturday, February 28th from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Ellington Senior Center. Join Rise Above for this exciting free event that will include a variety of art displays, demonstrations, musi-

cal entertainment and refreshments.

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS !

If you are an artist interested in

showcasing your work, please contact Megan at

[EllingtonGallery15@gmail.com](mailto:EllingtonGallery15@gmail.com).



## Youth Services is on Facebook!



Connect with us on  
**Facebook!**



## Small Town Big Talent Community Variety Show



Rise Above, in conjunction with the Opening Knight Players will present the 3rd Annual Small Town Big Talent Community Variety Show on Saturday, March 21st at 7 pm in the Ellington High School auditorium. Proceeds from the show will benefit the **Austin P. Tautkus Memorial**

### Scholarship Fund.

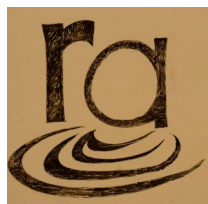
This community event has proven to be memorable for all those who have participated. Rise Above members are involved in every part of the planning and organizing of this special event. They invite members of the community to join them.

**Open auditions will be held on Tuesday, February**

**17th or Wednesday, February 18th from 6 pm to 8 pm at Ellington High School.** Community members of all ages and all varieties of talents are encouraged to attend the auditions. Please let us know if you plan to attend the auditions. For more information, contact Carling at

[BigTalent2015@gmail.com](mailto:BigTalent2015@gmail.com)

## Rise Above Student Leadership Group



Members of Rise Above have been busy this year and have been making plans for a busy spring. Fall Festival in November was a cold and rainy Saturday, however, some brave families laughed at the weather and came to enjoy crafts and games with Rise Above members. In November and December, Rise Above hosted their annual dodge ball tournaments for Ellington High School students and Ellington Middle School students. The middle school tournament served also as an outreach and the

theme of the night was “*Ready, Aim, Inspire.*” Rise Above members talked about the value of leadership and wrist bands with those words were given out to every middle school student in attendance.

Some recent happenings and future ones as well:

- Five Rise Above members volunteered at the Annual Hartford Children’s Holiday Party sponsored by the CT Youth Forum on December 15th.
- Members Kelly and Sarah continue their *Just Girls* program

for middle school girls sponsored by Youth Services.

- Member Megan is planning the first ever *Gallery Night* for artists on February 28th.
- Member Carling is organizing the *3rd annual Small Town Big Talent Community Variety Show* on March 21st.

Rise Above meets every 2nd Wednesday at the Ellington Senior Center at 7 pm and is open to all high school students in Ellington. For more information on joining, visit our website under Rise Above. Rise Above is also on Facebook.

Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture—DPYC—is a subgroup of Ellington Youth Services

Diane Lasher-Penti, Director, Ellington Youth Services—[dpenti@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dpenti@ellington-ct.gov)

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# The Power of Parents



**M o t h e r s  
A g a i n s t  
D r u n k   D r i v -  
i n g   o r   M A D D**  
as it is referred to has developed a program with a handbook called *Talking With Teens About Alcohol*. According to a report by MADD, 74% of kids turn to their parents for guidance on drinking. It is their hope that by reading and following the guidelines in the handbook, parents can help equip their teens to make smarter, safer choices. The handbook can be downloaded from the MADD Power of Parents website at [madd.org/power\\_of\\_parents](http://madd.org/power_of_parents). The website has useful resources and parents can sign up to receive an electronic newsletter.

Here are *Seven Tips for Connecting with Your Teens* provided

by MADD Power of Parents:

**1. Communicate before a problem starts**

Have important discussions now, before there's blaming, anger, or punishments. Agree on a time to start talking together about the dangers of alcohol.

**2. Discuss rules and consequences**

Explain how you expect your son or daughter to act, and why. Tell your teen plainly that you don't want him or her drinking. Agree on consequences or broken rules.

**3. Show you care**

Gently touch your teen on the arm or back to show affection. Tell your teen you love them and want them to be healthy and safe. Explain that's why you need to talk

together about the dangers of underage drinking.

**4. Pay attention**

Even when life gets hectic, take time out to listen to your teen. Monitor where your teen is and what your teen is doing, constantly.

**5. Share family activities**

Have dinner together at least three times a week.

**6. Give and get respect**

When your teen talks to you, listen and reply respectfully. Insist that your teen treat you with respect, too.

**7. Enforce consequences consistently**

If your teen breaks the rules, stay calm and enforce the consequences.

# Social Host Law



A Social Host refers to adults who host parties where alcohol is served on property they control. Through social host liability laws, adults can be held responsible for these parties if underage people are served, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol.

The State of Connecticut has a Social Host Law. It was originally passed in 2006 and it is referred to as Section 30-89a of the CT General Statutes. When first passed, social hosting was considered an infraction that came with a fine. In October of 2012 Section 30-89a

was repealed and changed. It prohibits anyone who owns or controls private property, including a dwelling unit, from knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence, permit any minor to possess alcoholic liquor. The new wording also states the adult must make a reasonable effort to halt such possession. The offense was changed from an infraction to a class A misdemeanor (only one step below a felony!). This means the penalty for a class A misdemeanor is punishable by a maximum one year imprisonment or up to a \$2,000 fine. The

property owner can still be in violation even with no knowledge of the underage drinking taking place. In addition, the underage drinkers can be ticketed and fined which can also subject them to a 30 day suspension of their licenses. Other issues that a social host can encounter is cancellation of homeowners insurance and a civil suit from other parents of underage drinkers at the party.

The statute can be found at

[http://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_545.htm#sec\\_30-89](http://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_545.htm#sec_30-89)