

Volume 66, No. 3 \* Cheshvan 5775 \* November 2014

# WELCOME BACK TO SYNAPLEX! Friday, November 14, 2014

# PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH ANDREW SOLOMON

author of the bestselling book Far From the Tree



Andrew Solomon is a writer and lecturer on psychology, politics, and the arts; winner of the National Book Award; and an activist in LGBT rights, mental health and the arts. His best-selling book, Far from the Tree, is a journey of generosity, acceptance and tolerance...and that love can transcend all prejudice. *The New York Times* hailed the book, writing, "It's a book everyone should read...there's no one who wouldn't be a more imaginative and understanding parent—or human being—for having done so... a wise and beautiful book." Andrew lives with his husband and son in New York and London and is a dual national.

This Synaplex event has been made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Joseph and Janet Zuckerman.

Please see page 16 for more details and to sign up for dinner.

Save the Date

For the Celebration and Installation of Cantor David Rosen

Friday, December 5, 2014 at the 6:15pm Shabbat Service A festive Oneg to follow

#### SERVICES

Saturday, November 1

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

5:30 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bat

Mitzvah of Sydney Knecht

Friday, November 7

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in

**Atrium** 

6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in

Sanctuary

Saturday, November 8

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

5:30 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bar

Mitzvah of Daniel Rose

Friday, November 14

5:00 pm SYNAPLEX

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in

Atrium

6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in

Sanctuary

Saturday, November 15

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bat

Mitzvah of Sarah Rose

Thursday, November 20

5:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Avery Kraus

Friday, November 21

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in

Atrium

6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in

Sanctuary

Saturday, November 22

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

Friday, November 28

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in

Atrium

6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in

Sanctuary

Saturday, November 29

**SPIRITUAL LIFT** in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

## Weekly Torah Portions for November

# Week ending November 1, 2014 Parashat Lech L'cha Genesis 12:1-17:27

The story of our ancestors begins in earnest in *Lech L'cha*. Abram is promised he will be the father of a great multitude if he follows God's call. Abram leaves Haran for Canaan with Sarai and his nephew Lot. As a sign of the covenant they each receive a new name, Abraham and Sarah. When it seems Sarah is unable to conceive a child, Sarah gives her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham to bear a son for him. Then, sensing Hagar's arrogance at becoming pregnant, Sarah asks Abraham to send Hagar away. God promises Abraham (at the age of ninety-nine) and Sarah a son of their own (named Isaac) through whom the covenant will be fulfilled.

## Week ending November 8, 2014 Parashat Vayera Genesis 18:1-22:24

Parashat Vayera opens with Abraham receiving a visit from messengers who bring predictions of Isaac's birth. Abraham stands up to God to protest the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Isaac is born and begins to grow. The final scene in this parashah tells the story of the "Binding of Isaac" where Abraham attempts to fulfill God's request that he sacrifice his son Isaac.

## Week ending November 15, 2014 Parashat Chayei Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18

The first words of this *parashah* translate as "the life of Sarah," but it begins with her death. Abraham purchases land in which to bury her, and then sends his servant to the village of his brother to acquire a wife for his son Isaac. The servant observes Rebekah, who offers water to him and to his camels to drink. Rebekah follows Abraham's servant back home and becomes Isaac's wife.

# Week ending November 22, 2014 Parashat Toldot Genesis 25:19-28:9

Isaac marries Rebekah, and after 20 childless years they become parents to twin boys, Esau and Jacob. The brothers are quite different from one another and are at odds with each other well into adulthood. Rebekah favors Jacob, whereas Isaac seems aligned with Esau. Rebekah and Jacob conspire to deceive Isaac into giving the blessing due his firstborn son, Esau. The sibling rivalry between Esau and Jacob reaches a feverish pitch, and becomes a recurring theme in Genesis.

# Week ending November 29, 2014 Parashat Vayetze Genesis 28:10-32:3

Vayetze, meaning "and he went out," refers to Jacob's journey to Haran, his mother Rebekah's birthplace. On his journey, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and is given the same promise that God gave Abraham and Isaac, i.e., that he will inherit the land and be blessed. Jacob meets Rachel at the well and works for her father (his uncle Laban) for seven years in order to marry her. Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau, is himself the victim of deception. Laban substitutes Leah (his older daughter) for Rachel. Jacob must serve Laban an additional seven years in order to wed his intended spouse. Jacob eventually has a total of twelve sons and decides to return to his homeland.

# A Month Without Holidays??



Running pretty much parallel to our months of September, October, November, and December are the Hebrew months of Elul, Tishrei, Cheshvan, and Kislev.

Tishrei, the first month on the Jewish calendar, is the month of Rosh Hashana,

Yom Kippur and Sukkot; Kislev is the month of Hanukkah. Sandwiched between them is the month of Cheshvan, the only month of the Jewish year without any holidays or days of remembrance

Feeling sorry for this undecorated month, some have the custom of calling it "mar Cheshvan" or "Sir Cheshvan", in an attempt to elevate its so-not-special status.

But at Kol Ami, this month is filled with reasons to celebrate. November/Cheshvan features the first Synaplex Shabbat of the new year. Through the generosity of Drs. Joe and Janet Zuckerman, Andrew Soloman is our November Synaplex speaker. He is most recently the author of the *New York Times* bestseller "Far From the Tree."

From the book's publisher: "Andrew Solomon tells the stories of parents who not only learn to deal with their exceptional children but also find profound meaning in doing so. He writes about families coping with deafness, dwarfism, Down Syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, with children who are prodigies, who are conceived in rape, who become criminals, who are transgender. While each of these characteristics is

potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal, as are the triumphs of love Solomon documents in every chapter."

What does this have to do with us? Everything! Andrew Solomon explores the endless reaches of love—and the explosion that emerges when love and identity crash into each other. In his words, "in the subconscious fantasies that make (having children) so alluring, it is often ourselves that we would like to see live forever, not someone with a personality of his own...

"Insofar as our children resemble us, they are our most precious admirers, and insofar as they differ, they can be our most vehement detractors... Though many of us take pride in how different we are from our parents, we are endlessly sad at how different our children are from us."

We are all human beings—and the ways we have loved and been loved, the ways in which our "difference" have been nurtured or suppressed have shaped us in profound ways.

Andrew Solomon is an intrepid explorer of the human spirit. He speaks on Friday, November 14th—the 22nd of Cheshvan—following Shabbat services and dinner.

As with every Synaplex Shabbat, the keynote presentation is free and open to the community; dinner requires a reservation. Join us for this Kol Ami holiday.

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## **Our Cantor's New Home**

If our new Cantor only had a magnificent and transformative voice, *dayeinu*. If Cantor David was only a warm and caring person who can touch the hearts of people of all ages, *dayeinu*. If Cantor David Rosen was only a seasoned yet youthful musical director who can make sure that there is beautiful melody in all of the corners of Kol Ami life, *dayeinu*. And if our Cantor David was known only for being a leader of cantors as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Conference of Cantors and performed internationally, *dayeinu*.

Well, how lucky are we to have found the voice, the warm soul, the musical wisdom and the leadership in one gifted and giving individual! We encourage the whole community to gather on Friday evening, December 5th at 6:15PM so that we can welcome and celebrate the installation of Cantor David Rosen as Cantor of Congregation Kol Ami. These festivities will also give us the opportunity to fully welcome David's family, Rabbi Ilyse Glickman and their son Joel.



I look forward to celebrating out new Cantor with all of you,

for

#### Ritual Riches: Is Swordfish Kosher?

 $B^{\mbox{\scriptsize eing}}$  a foodie, it is sometimes difficult for me to resist the temptation of some of life's greatest culinary delicacies. My family and I, though, have made certain choices when it comes to the major tenets of the Dietary Laws within Judaism. While I respect everyone's individual choices when it come to kashrut, I am always amazed to discover that no two people are alike in how (if any) Kashrut was observed in their home growing up or how they choose to observe it present day.

The dietary laws found in Leviticus about what we "can" and "can't" eat can often be confusing and feel incomplete, as they are not always name-specific in the animals they are describing. When we think of creatures found in the sea, for example, we are taught that fish may be consumed provided they have both fins and scales (thereby excluding all forms of "seafood" other than the kosher species of fish).

One fish that has caused much discussion in the halakhic discussion of kashrut is swordfish. The majority of opinions within our tradition remain of the opinion that swordfish is "not-kosher" and, therefore, not permissible for us to eat. The reason behind this is that an adult swordfish contains fins but no scales. Having said this, when one further studies the anatomy of a swordfish, marine biologists will be the first to tell you that swordfish most definitely have scales when they are first born. As the swordfish matures and grows, these scales disappear.

Rabbis and scholars continue to debate the issue of swordfish. Some feel that the scales of a young swordfish are not true scales. Another opinion is that fish is only kosher if it has scales that can be removed from the skin and the scales of swordfish cannot be removed without destroying the skin. Therefore, they argue, swordfish is not

While the discussion of whether or not swordfish is kosher may continue, there is perhaps a different reason why the consumption of other types of fish that fit the definition of "kosher" should be considered as "non-kosher".

In 12th century Spain, Naichmonades wrote that the mitzvah of "shiluach haken" (not taking a mother and baby bird at the same time) teaches us that we should not cause a species to become extinct. When we eat fish that are harvested from unsustainable fisheries, should

just as - if not more - important to observe.

they be deemed as "kosher" even if they fit the dietary rules as found in Leviticus? Should our desire to consume these animals be more important than leaving them for future gener-

fish for their survival? Whether or not the laws of kashrut are important in our own spiritual quests to live a holier existence, we must be careful that our choices do not overshadow other ethical Jewish principles that are

ations or for other species in the food chain that require these same

As inhabitants of this precious and fragile earth, each of us has the responsibility to be l'ovdah u'lshomra - fulfilling our obligation for human stewardship of the planet in which God created. Everything that exists on our earth is divinely created and as a result, we need to treat it with respect and with a sense of being mindful of its existence for future generations.

Next time we visit our local grocery store, I would encourage you to consider where the fish comes from, in addition to whether or not we are influenced by the laws of Kashrut. The benefits of sustainability must far outweigh our personal culinary preferences.

May we all seek to be sustainable in our choices in our effort to create a better world for us and for our children.



# Love to Sing?

Please join Cantor David Rosen, Lenora Eve (accompanist), and the Choirs of Kol Ami:

### Or Chadash (A New Light) for children in K-6th grade

Children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade meet on Sundays from 11:00 am-12:00 noon when Religious School is in session

### Congregational Choir for High School Students and Adults

meets on Thursdays from 7:45-9:30 pm

New to either group? Please contact Cantor David Rosen at  $914-949-4717 \times 114$ or at cantordavid@nykolami.org to be added to the rosters and receive our emails

#### From Our President

# My dispute which is for the sake of Heaven will ultimately endure." PIRKEI AVOT 5:20

In rabbinic tradition, complete agreement is not a goal. Rather, our Talmudic traditions value openness and controversy: all disagreements expressed in a respectful and open way - for the sake of strengthening our commitments and our community - are those which will endure.

One of the interesting conundrums of synagogue leadership is whether a synagogue is a house of worship or a business. In my opinion, it's a bit of both. Clearly, our purpose for existing is to provide a spiritual home for all of us. We learn, study, pray, rejoice and mourn together. But, in order for us to maintain this spiritual home, we need to provide for the business needs of our community.

It's pretty clear to all of us who leads us on our spiritual side. While we all participate together as a community, our clergy are our spiritual guides. It's less clear to many of us who leads us on our business side. Most of you know that I am the President, but who else is responsible for the business of the temple? The business side of the temple is run by the Board of Trustees, which also includes the Presidents of our Auxiliaries (Sisterhood and Men's Council) as well as all of the Past Presidents (a list of all of the Board members is available on our website). The officers of the Congregation (the President, 3 Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary) comprise the Executive Committee.

Both the Board and the Executive Committee meet once a month, with the Board meetings being held on the third Thursday of every month (unless approved otherwise by the Board). The clergy, our Executive Director and our lead educators participate in the Board meetings, while the clergy and our Executive Director also participate in the Executive Committee meetings. If you want, you can read about our business structure in the By-Laws, which govern the actions of the clergy, the staff and

the Board. While you can always talk over issues with an Officer or Trustee, what you haven't been able to do is to attend the Board meetings. But that's changing.



As of the December Board meeting (which will be held on Thursday, December 18 at 8:00pm), once a quarter, the Board of Trustees meetings will be open to the entire Congregation. We welcome and encourage you to attend to get a better understanding of the business side of our synagogue. The Board meetings generally follow a standard format. They open with a bracha, D'Var Torah, and Clergy Word, which are followed by approval of the Minutes, Committee Reports, Treasurer's Report, Updates, Upcoming Programs and then New Business. If there is a confidential issue, the Board will then go into Executive Session where only Board members are present.

On behalf of the Board, I invite all of you to attend the December 18 Board meeting (the dates for the future open Board meetings will be made available at a later date). This change was made in order to provide even greater transparency in how we all will be moving forward with the transformation of our synagogue. We hope that you will attend and help us strengthen our commitments and our community.

On a personal note, Jean and her family and I would like to thank everyone for the love and support that you've shown us since Jean's mother's passing. As soon as people started to hear, we were embraced emotionally, spiritually, physically and electronically. It's easy to say that, as a community, we're warm, welcoming and embracing, but our actions in times of need are the true measures of our words. We have been so blessed by your actions.

L'shalom

dank

In accordance with changes in New York State laws, Congregation Kol Ami has adopted Whistleblower, Conflict of Interest and Self-Dealing policies.

Copies of these policies are available for review in the office.

#### From the Religious School

It has been such a busy start to the year. As we settle into routines and plan our participation in all that lies ahead, I look forward to getting to know our new families and reconnecting with parents, students and teachers.

The air is cool, the leaves are changing and it really feels like Fall. After weeks of celebrating our Fall holidays, for me, November is the month of Thanksgiving.

We have experienced many changes and transitions in our Kol Ami community over the past months and weeks. As Alix Brown, the Assistant Director of the Religious School for the past 6 years, departed to have more time with her family, we are fortunate to welcome a new Assistant Director. Pam Pass has worked as a teacher and tutor at Kol Ami for the past two years. Many of you already know her. Those who haven't yet met her, please make the time to welcome her into her new position. I'm so grateful to have her in this new roll and know we will all benefit from her amazing skills.

So, I feel thankful. Life is so full of challenges for most of us... so finding that space in which to feel grateful is often not easy. Usually, for me it involves stepping away from the daily stress and pressure and taking a broader view of my life. When I'm able to get past the pile of work on my desk, or the pile of bills at home, I can see with some clarity the blessings in my life—family that I love and loves me, and the care and support of friends. A Jewish community, where I

both work and live, that provides me with constant ways to learn and grow, to both give and receive.

One of the things I know is that when we take the time to listen to one another, something changes in the dynamic of our interactions. Withhold judgment, and just listen. When we hear each others



stories we can better understand each of our places in the world. We all construct meaning through inquiry, problem solving and discovery. We have so much to learn from each other!

This prayer inspires me to find that place of gratitude. Open my eyes, God. Help me to perceive what I have ignored, to uncover what I have forsaken, to find what I have been searching for. Remind me that I don't have to journey far to discover something new, for miracles surround me, blessing and holiness abound. And You are near. Amen—A Prayer for Daily Insight (Rabbi Naomi Levy)

So, as the leaves begin to fall from the trees and we feel the physical changes around us, take a moment to listen. To your children, your partner, your friends. Then, take a moment to listen to your own heart.

Wishing us all a season filled with the opportunity to feel gratitude.

Felice

# We Point with Pride

Nine years ago, members of Congregation Kol Ami called together a group of people of different faiths to engage in dialogue for the common goal of understanding and appreciating religious diversity within our community. On Wednesday, October 22nd the Turkish Cultural Center of Westchester held a dinner at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown in order to recognize three individuals or groups that have worked to improve the community. The Interfaith Connection, the group we initiated, was honored that night with the Center's Peace and Dialogue Award. It was a wonderful evening and Kol Ami was proud to be recognized in this way. Our group includes Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Protestants, Catholics,

members of the Ethical Culture Society and others. Through study groups, educational programs, musical events and shared holiday celebrations, we learn about each other's religious beliefs, spiritual practices, and cultural traditions.

We encourage Kol Ami members and the public to share our next event—our exciting annual "Music of Freedom" concert celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Westchester's broad diversity. Save the date -- Sunday, January 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM -- at Congregation Kol Ami!

If any 7th grade boys are interested in playing on a Kol Ami basketball team in the Westchester Jewish Basketball League, please contact Andy Sommers at 914-472-6556 or asommers@eplp.com. Thank you.

#### From the Director of the Early Childhood Program

One doesn't have to walk far to hear the sounds of laughter coming from the children and staff of our Early Childhood Program. It's everywhere—on our playgrounds, in our classrooms and during our special instruction activities. Our curriculum is full and enriching with learning and exploration and extracurricular opportunities in Gym, Israeli Dance and Movement, Music, Art, and Torah Alive!

This month the ECP is once again pleased to host our annual **Book** Fair from November 10 through 14. You are invited with your children to our annual Story Hour on Monday, November 10 at 4:00pm. This year we are particularly thrilled to welcome *Sarra J. Roth*, one of our ECP moms and author of the new children's book *Not the Quitting Kind*. Autographed copies of these books will be available for purchase at our Book Fair. Please see our flyer below.

Our 7th Annual Family 2K Turkey Trot will be held on Sunday morning November 16th beginning at 9:15 am. This year we will be sponsoring this event with the Men's Council. We'll be there rain or shine in the front entrance of the Temple and hope you will be too! Admission for this fabulous family morning will be smiles, sneakers, frozen turkeys, bags of apples, bags of potatoes, boxes of stuffing, and cans of pumpkin or cranberry. Please see our flyer on page 9 and remember that everyone in the community is welcome,

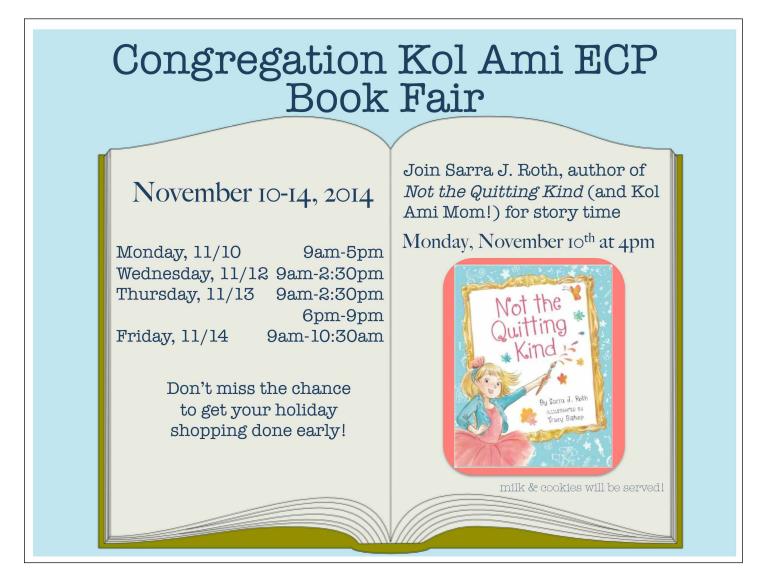
and "Don't be Chicken 'cause we need Turkeys!"

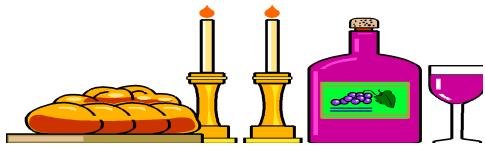
Our 4's will be hosting their annual Intergenerational Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday, November 26th—this is always a very special event. Our 5's will be hosting their families, our 3's will be feasting as one community and our 2's will enjoy some delicious treats in their individual classrooms.



This month also marks the beginning of our Pre-Registration for the 2015-2016 school year. Next year, we will again be offering our very popular Toddler Program for children 14-22 months, First Friends, 2, 3, 4 and 5- day, 2's classes, 3, 4 and 5-day 3's classes, a 4's morning program, and a 3-full and 2 half-day program for 4's, an extended day choice for 4's and 5's and our A Step Ahead! Kindergarten Readiness Program specifically designed for children turning 5 from September to December. Please feel free to call the ECP office for more information about any of our programs and our nursery school—we look forward to talking with you and touring you around our school.

Nan





Congregation Kol Ami
Invites Families with Young Children
To Join Us
At Our

Fall Shabbat Dinner
On Friday Evening, November 7<sup>th</sup>
At 5:30pm

Meet New Friends and
Catch Up With Old Friends
And Help Us Welcome Shabbat
As One Community
Shabbat Services Begin at 5:30pm
Dinner Begins at 6:00pm
Immediately Following Dinner
Your children can enjoy a Magic Show

The Great Charlini

With

Let us know if you'll be coming!

Please RSVP no later than November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Family Name	Phone		
Number of Adults	Number of Children		
Dinner	\$48.00 per family		
Or 15.00 per adı	ılt and 10.00 per child over 2		

# Trot on over to Kol Ami's ECP's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Family 2K Turkey Trot!

Co-Sponsored with the Men's Council

Sunday, November 16th at 9:15 a.m.

Bring your strollers, wagons, sneakers and lots of friends! Everyone with a young child or children is welcome.

Tasty donuts & apple cider will be served,



Frozen turkeys, bags of apples,
bags of potatoes, cans of
cranberry sauce or cans of
pumpkin, boxes of stuffing, or
any of the fixin's for a perfect
Thanksgiving dinner.
All food will be donated to local

Don't be a chicken 'cause we need Turkeys!

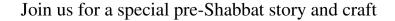
food pantries.



Meet us at: 252 Soundview Avenue

RAIN OR SHINE

# Getting Ready for... Tzedakah



Friday, November 21, 2014 4:45 – 5:30 PM

In the Gallery

Please bring a box of crayons or markers to donate to our local family shelter

Followed by



Shabbat in the Woods

A Service in Story and Song for Young Families

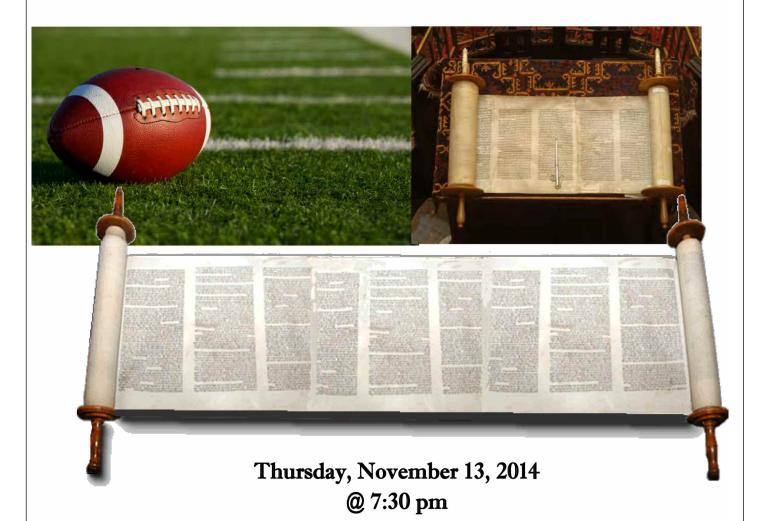
At 5:30 PM

For more information please call Nan Blank at 949-4717

Everyone is welcome!



# **TORAH & TOUCHDOWNS**



The Kol Ami Men's Council Invites You to Join us in the Auditorium

For a fun and thought-provoking discussion hosted by Rabbi Tom followed by Thursday Night Football

#### Refreshments will be Served

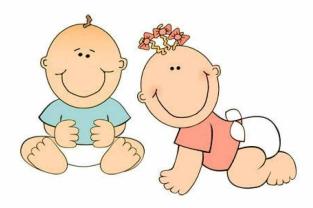
Please RSVP by Sunday, November 7, 2014
To: Anthony Zitrin (anthonyzitrin@aol.com) or
Leave with Office: Kol Ami-Attention: Men's Council

Name:	Email Address:
Number Attending	_

### **Congregation Kol Ami Early Childhood Program**

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# Cuddles & Conversation



Drop in and be part of our group...

Designed for parents/grandparents and babies 2 to 14 months.

We will meet weekly to play, chat and discuss topics related to parenting.

Twice a month our sessions will be led Susan Davis, CSW.

# Thursday Mornings

(Coinciding with the ECP calendar)

October - June

(beginning October 2, 2014)

9:30-11:00 AM In the Gallery

Please bring a play mat/blanket and small toys for your child.

Come and see what we're all about...Everyone is Welcome!

Questions - Please call Nan Blank in the ECP office at 949-4717 x107

Congregation Kol Ami Early Childhood Program • 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606 • www.nykolami.com



# NUTRITION..... "Beyond The Label"



Congregation Kol Ami's Early Childhood Program invites you to join us on

Tuesday, November 4th

for an evening with Geralyn Plomitallo, Registered Dietitian

Learn how healthy eating is not always about buying "low fat" or "all natural" but about knowing what our food is made of and how to feed your family healthy choices.

7:00 Coffee

7:30 Presentation

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY

RSVP to Nan Blank at (914)949-4717 x107

Everyone in the entire community is always welcome!

### **Coachman Corner**

The Coachman Family Center located in downtown White Plains serves homeless families until they find a more permanent home. This year we are partnering with the Coachman on several initiatives.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Your assistance is needed on all of the projects described below.

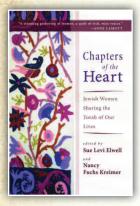
PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT LEADERS	
Book bags and school supplies	To start off the new school year, we donated over 200 book bags plus school supplies for every child at the Coachman	Jess Lorden jlorden@us.ibm.com Dave Lorden dfloden@gmail.com Alison Adler aadler3@verizon.net	
Monthly birthday parties	We are hosting a monthly birthday party for children ages 3-18.	Diane Litvak dmlitvak@mac.com Annie Rotberg annie.rotberg@gmail.com	
Baby supplies & equipment	Each month we are delivering baby supplies and equipment to young families.	Nan Blank njbtt@aol.com	
Providing sports equipment	We are donating sports equipment so that every child has the equipment needed to fully participate in after-school sports programs and recreational activities at the Coachman Family Center.	Gerri Sommers gerrisommers@mac.com Andy Sommers asommers@eplp.com Ben Sommers bensommers@gmail.com	
Providing board games	We are delivering board games to challenge the children and enhance their fun.	Beth & Jack Tomkiewicz mb1795@ gmail.com	
After-school tutoring	We are offering free tutoring so that the middle school and high school students at the Coachman receive the academic support they need to achieve success.	Josh Rosenthal: josh@nykolami.org Jess Lorden jlorden@us.ibm.com	
Art Projects	On Monday afternoons for one hour Caitlin Barotz (daughter of Carrie Lederman) will lead a small group of children (ages $6-8$ ) on an art project.	Carrie Lederman Barotz carrieledermanbarotz@gmail.com	
Thanksgiving Dinner	We are bringing a Thanksgiving dinner to the Coachman.	Allison Danzig Allisondanzig@yahoo.com	

Torah reflects on the past, interprets today, and envisions our future.

# Kol Ami Women's Oasis at Home

Realize the relevancy of Jewish text in the context of our everyday lives.

Stepping off from here...



# Chapters of the Heart

Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives edited by Sue Levi Elwell and Nancy Fuchs Kreimer

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 • 7:30-9:30pm Section I: All the Days of Our Lives (Psalm 27:4) with Rabbi Shira Migrom LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

#### Sunday, December 7, 2014 • 9:15-11am

Section II: From the Narrow Places (Psalm 118:5) with Dr. Ellen Umansky, the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies and Director of the Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University, CT SCHULMAN CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

Thursday, March 5, 2015 • 7:30-9:30pm

Section III: Opening the Gates (Psalm 118:19) with Rabbi Shira Milgrom LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sunday, April 26, 2015 • 9:15-11am

**Section IV: Be Still and Know** (Psalm 46:10) with Rabbi Pamela Wax, WJCS Spiritual Care Coordinator

SCHULMAN CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

# Register for the Oasis at Home Series Today

- ☐ Four sessions \$60
- ☐ Individual sessions \$18
- ☐ Session 1 Tuesday, October 21, 2014
- ☐ Session 2 Sunday, December 7, 2014
- ☐ Session 3 Thursday, March 5, 2015
- ☐ Session 4 Sunday, April 26, 2015

Books will be available for pick up in the Rabbi's study starting on 9/1.

Refreshments will be served at each session.

TO REGISTER: Please print this flyer and return with a check payable to KOL AMI. Mail to Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606.

INAME	
ADDRESS	

EMAIL ADDRESS

PHONE

NAME

For further information, call Jill Abraham 472-5806 or Lauri Carey 472-8076.



# **NOVEMBER 14, 2014**

#### Friday evening schedule:

#### 5:00 pm

Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen and special guests

#### 5:30 pm

Shabbat -in- the -Woods for families with young children (newborn - kindergarten); followed by supervised childcare, light supper & Shabbat crafts

#### 6:00 pm

Unwind with hors d'oeuvres

#### 6:15 pm

**Shabbat Services** 

#### 7:15 pm

Shabbat Dinner (RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE)

#### 7:30 pm

Tzedakah sandwich making and arts and crafts

#### 8:00 pm

Supervised sports and games with Coach Steve for children in grades K-6

#### 8:15 pm

THE MAIN EVENT

#### 9:15 pm

Relax at the end of a long day and week with dessert and coffee

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DINNER

#### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GUESTS

# Explorations in Jewish Music with Cantor David Rosen and our accompanist, Lenora Eve

The Joy of Kabbalat Shabbat ~

Join us as we unpack the magic of Kabbalat Shabbat. "Shiru Ladonai Shir Chadash-Sing a New Song unto God"--- be one of the first people to preview and learn some of the exciting new melodies that will be introduced during our Friday night worship this year.

# The Main Event Andrew Solomon, author of best-selling book "Far From the Tree"

Andrew Solomon is a writer and lecturer on psychology, politics, and the arts; winner of the National Book Award; and an activist in LGBT rights, mental health and the arts. The New York Times hailed the book, writing, "It's a book everyone should read..there's no one who wouldn't be a more imaginative and understanding parent - or human being - for having done so... a wise and beautiful book." Andrew lives with his husband and son in New York and London and is a dual national.

This Synaplex event has been made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Joseph and Janet Zuckerman.

For further information, contact Ilene Miller at 914-949-4717 x115/imillerkolami@gmail.com or visit www.nykolami.org

CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI 252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 NO LATER THAN NOV 12, 2014

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING  SYNAPLEX EVENTS  Dec 12, Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 20 & May 1		Adult Name/s
<b>"Quiet Conversation Dinner</b> " # AdultsX \$25	" Adults Only = \$	Children's Name/s & Ages
<b>"Community &amp; Family Dinne</b> #AdultsX \$25 #Children/teensX \$15 #Children 5 and under	= \$ = \$ = N/C	Phone #  Email address  Please seat me with
TOTAL ENCLOSED	= \$	Seating is planned 2 days in advance. Last minute requests cannot be quaranteed.



# Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering

Providing endless opportunities for connection and caring in times of joy and in times of sorrow.

We call bereaved families, help, lead or participate in shiva services for families in mourning, visit the sick and connect with the homebound. We also work to support the larger Westchester and world communities by knitting for our troops, preparing food for the hungry and through many other activities of mitzvoth.

Several of our congregants no longer drive or have difficulty getting to services and special events. Kol Ami Cares maintains a database of members willing and able to provide transportation as needed. Offering a ride even once in a while is hugely appreciated.

Also, within our Kol Ami community are older congregants who would welcome a visit in their homes. Many do not have family living nearby and would appreciate the company. Please join our growing list of members who spend time with our housebound congregants. (B'nai mitzvah students may choose this activity as a Mitzvah Project.)

In addition, Kol Ami Cares delivers meals to our members recovering from illness or surgery. We welcome anyone who can provide a meal for those unable to shop or cook for themselves or their families.

If you need one or more of these services or would like to be included in our database of volunteers, please contact Ginny Ruder 914-589-5283 ginnyruder@gmail.com Betsy McCormack 914-960-9390 betsyrmc@aol.com

#### **KOL AMI SINGERS**

It's a mitzvah to bring an hour of music, companionship and smiles to those in need.

Sarah Neuman Home, 845 Palmer Avenue, Mamaroneck

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 2:30 pm

Questions? Please contact Murray Shapiro, 946-7789

#### **COOKING FOR THE HOMELESS**

Members have been participating in this program for many years. Newcomers are welcome. Drop in ready to lend a hand on Sunday and Monday mornings. Food is prepared in our kitchen and driven to a local shelter.

Contact Laura Green greenlg@mac.com (Mondays) Nancy Marcus larrymarcus@aol.com (Sundays) Sundays at 11:00 am: Nov 16, Dec 7, Jan 11, Feb 11, Mar 1, Apr 26, May 3

Mondays at noon: Nov 3, Dec 1, Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 13, June 1

# Looking for a Mitzvah Project? Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity for Your Family? Look no further than our own congregation!

Kol Ami Cares can help. We can match you with an older congregant who would love to get to know you and your family. Several of our members are home-bound or have no relatives nearby and would greatly benefit from a meaningful connection with you.

Visit as often as you can—bring a game, puzzle, story to share. Celebrate a Shabbat dinner together, offer a ride to services, develop a lasting relationship that will enrich your lives.

Maybe your extended family lives out of town. By "adopting a grandparent" perhaps you and your children can fill a void in your own lives—hear stories from the old country, pick up some Yiddish, gain insight into World War II, learn to cook homemade mitzvah ball soup.

Please give this idea some thought and decide if it is right for you. We would be happy to meet with you and help you get started.

Ginny Ruder, ginnyruder@gmail.com

Betsy McCormack, betsyrmc@aol.com



## **WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM — Our New Season**

The following is the opening prayer that was recited during our Sisterhood meeting in our beautiful Sukkah, as we shared a festive potluck of snacks and desserts and planned for upcoming events and our new year of WRJ.

"Adonai, we thank you for bringing us to this beautiful season - as the autumn winds gently blow the leaves from the branches, we consider the introspection and renewal of the High Holy Days that have just passed. Thank you for giving us intelligence, insight and the ability to change, and a free will to choose our own destiny.

We are eternally grateful to live in a country that allows religious freedom and let us never forget the hardships our ancestors endured to secure that privilege. Grant us the courage to tenaciously guard our Constitutional rights.

We pray for guidance to reverse the pervasiveness of

absolutism and fundamentalism which are eroding the freedom we hold so dear. We ask your blessing that the spirit of renewal and commitment will follow us throughout this new year." (modified from "Covenant of the Heart Prayers, Poems, and Meditations from the Women of Reform Judaism")

We are excited for new beginnings and a new season. In that spirit, we invite you to renew your membership and participation in our Sisterhood. Invigorated by our just held Sisterhood Boutique which was a great success, we look forward to Wine and Wisdom, the first event of our Havdalah Series, which will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on November 8th. Please join us for what is sure to be a wonderful afternoon of socializing, provocative learning, and delicious refreshments.

Sheryl Brady Judy Sarch Rachel Eckhaus





# Westchester's Outstanding Day Camp In Scarsdale, New York A SUMMER TRADITION FOR 87 YEARS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 3-13

For Information, call (914) 949-8857, or visit our website at www.camphillard.com

- · Full Day Programs for children ages 3 to 13
- · Mini Day Program for 3 and 4 year olds
- · Outstanding swim program in 7 heated pools designed for children
- · Variety of team & individual sports taught by experienced instructors
- · Performing and Creative Arts programs for all ages
- · Many special events and activities
- · Air-conditioned transportation and lunch and snacks provided daily

One Family Four Generations Established 1927

# Adult Education

Please read more about offerings for the whole year in our Adult Ed brochure or visit our website, nykolami.org, and click on AdultEducation to view an even more detailed brochure.

## Spiritual Journeying Groups Mussar Classes

facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax,
Spiritual Care Coordinator,
Westchester Jewish Community Services
Mondays, 12:30—2:00 pm
This workshop will introduce Mussar practice
through tikkun middot ("repairing ourselves
from the inside out"), so that we can act with
greater compassion, kindness, and love in our
homes, friendships and work.

Contact Rabbi Wax at pwax@wjcs.com or 914-761-0600 x149 to register.
Nov 10, Dec 8
Schulman Chapel in the Woods

# Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Group will begin its 4th year!

The group meets every Thursday morning (except for holidays), 9:30-10:45, in the Chapel in the Woods. Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection.

Contact Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, and certified meditation teacher, at WJCS, 914-761-0600 ext. 148, for further information. Free of charge, donations accepted, no prior experience required.

#### **Current Events**

with Beth and Gene Kava
Each session will provide an opportunity to
examine a current issue in depth,beginning with
an overview of the issue. Participants will examine issues, through various perspectives, using
readings, video or a guest speaker.

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in Room 20
Nov 3 & 17, Dec 1 & 15

Jan 12 & 26, Feb 9 & 23, Mar 9 & 23,
Apr 6 & 20, May 4 & 18

#### Weekly Torah Study: Parashat Hashavua

Friday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 am Room 20

Meets every Friday except when temple is closed. Led by Kol Ami Members

#### **Prophets Seminar**

Mondays, 7:30 pm

The bible chronicles the history of the Hebrew people from approx. 740 BCE to 520 BCE through the eyes and hearts of the prophets, from Isaiah to Malachi. Who are these men? How do they see their world? What are their messages; are they relevant today? We will explore these questions and more. Contact Paul Davis at paullawrencedavis@yahoo.com

#### Parenting Workshops First Friends:

an ECP Program for Toddlers 13–22 months (accompanied by a parent or caregiver) This program runs from October–December and January–April and provides a wonderful segue to our Early Childhood Program and to our Kol Ami. If you have a toddler and you're looking to make some new friends what are you waiting for? Maybe the time is right to think about joining us! For more information

and membership details please call Nan Blank, ECP Director at 949-4717x107

#### **Sunday Parenting Group**

with Susan Davis, LCSW
Raising resilient, self reliant children—
a morning discussion group for parents focusing on a variety of parenting issues and stresses.

Meets the 1st Sunday of the month 9:15 - 10:45 am

#### **Adolescent Parenting Workshops**

with Susan Davis, LCSW
Discussion of a range of parenting issues related to adolescence, including physical and emotional development, trust and control issues, and staying connected in the midst of the turmoil.

First Thursday: 12:00 noon

#### **Grandparenting Workshops**

with Susan Davis, LCSW

Exploring intergenerational experience and Jewish wisdom as we share the challenges and opportunities of grandparenting.

First Monday of the month
9:15 - 10:45 am

#### NEW CLASS THIS YEAR! Wise Aging

Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW,
WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami
Being 60 years of age and above can be a time
of continued growth, new experiences, and life
repair. Using texts, discussion and experiential
exercises, we will identify the many possibilities
that this stage of life offers.

To register, contact Ruth at rrosenblum@wjcs.com.
Suggested donation for non-synagogue members is \$136. 8 Thursdays
11:00—12:15 pm
Schulman Chapel in the Woods

#### Kol Ami Reads/Book Club

Meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year. 9:15 am, Room 20, Main Building For more information call Doris Dingott at 289-0869

#### Women in Transition

Are you attempting an adjustment to a major life change? Join us in an interactive discussion group. Topics to be discussed include: retirement, widowhood, aging, changing relationships with adult children, and other life transitions.

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room.

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Led by Kol Ami Members

Space is limited and original group members have priority. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sheila Sturmer at sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

#### Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah

Second year of a 2 year course with Rabbi Shira Milgrom. This course includes study of Jewish beliefs and practices, conceptual introduction to holidays, life cycles, rituals, new friendships and the art of asking good questions.

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 pm

Nov 11 & 18, Dec 2 & 16, Jan 20,
Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24, Apr 14

#### Mah Jongg & Bridge

Open To All: Experienced and Novice Wednesdays 11:00 am in the Kol Ami Atrium Email Wendy Roos Wendyroos I @aol.com to be added to the email distribution

## Westchester Adult Jewish Education at Kol Ami:

A discussion of Jewish Ethics. with Dr. Carol Diament For more information please contact Nina Lubin, WAJE Director at 914-761-6309 or waje@wjcouncil.org

#### Lunch and Learn in New York City

with Rabbi Tom Weiner
Issues ancient and modern with texts,
ancient and modern.
Fall, Winter and Spring session.
Dates and locations to be determined.

#### Free University

Start a study group, discussion group or seminar at Kol Ami. Cover any topic that falls under the broad umbrella of Reform Judaism. Contact Paul Davis at paullawrencedavis@yahoo.com with your ideas for leading a study group or if you would like to join the currently planned study group on the prophets.

#### Women's Roundtable Breakfasts

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Join Kol Ami's remarkble, multigenerational
women for learning and friendship.
Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am
Nov 5, Dec 3, Feb 4, Mar 4,
Apr 1, & May 6

# Kol Ami Reads Book Club

#### Annual Poetry Session: Dead White Male Poets

November 5, 2014

#### Daniel Deronda

by George Eliot December 3, 2014

#### The Gift of Rain

by Tan Twan Eng January 7, 2015

#### Officer and the Spy

by Robert Harris February 4, 2015

All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15am in Room 20. *Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively.* 

For further information, contact Doris Dingott, 289-0869, DLDingott@gmail.com or Elaine Cohen, 725-0248, elwilco@verizon.net

# MITZVAH KNITZ

We will be meeting on Thursday November 20, 2014 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Join us.
Knitters of all skill levels
are welcome.
For further information,
call Elaine Cohen,
725-0248 or
elwilco@verizon.net

#### Adult Education continued

#### Welcome to Kol Ami's Winter Jewish Film Festival

Screening of Israeli films and films with Jewish content Moderated by Roger Seti Selected Monday evenings at 7:30 pm

#### November 17 **Dancing in Jaffa**

Renowned ball-room dancer Pierre Dulaine takes his program, Dancing Classrooms, back to his city of birth, Jaffa, to teach Jewish and Palestinian Israelis to dance and compete together.

# December 8th Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness

Discover the man behind the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" in this biography of Sholem Aleichem. Vintage photographs, film clips and interviews with historians reveal Aleichem's world and how he portrayed turmoil into a new Jewish cultural identity.

#### Hebrew Classes for Adults\*

Pending sufficient enrollment

#### Hebrew Classes for Adults

with Emily Fields
Sunday mornings at 9:00 am
Beginners Hebrew: 9:00 am
Advanced Beginners: 10:00 am
Intermediate Hebrew: 11:15 am
Starting Sept. 14 Cost: \$175
Please contact Emily at
efgraph@optonline.net
if you are interested or
require additional information

## Intermediate/Advanced with Alice Seidman

Conversational Hebrew, grammar, vocabulary, reading, and translating current Israeli publications.

An informal learning environment.
Sundays, 9:30 am
Contact Alice Seidman
at 953-8455
for further information
free of charge

Calendar is subject to change. To check listings, call the temple's voice mail. For temple events, service schedule, and office hours, call ext. 137. For weather info, call ext. 145.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 10:30am K/1st GRADE FAMILY SHABBAT & BRUNCH 11:00 am SERVICE 5:30pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bat Mitzvah of Sydner Knecht
9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School 9:15am Parenting Group 11:00am Or Chadash 11:30am Teen Madrichim Institute	9:15am Grandparenting 11:00am Cooking for the Homeless 11:00am Current Events 7:30pm Prophets Seminar	12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 7:30pm ECP Speaker – Geralyn Plomitallo, Registered Dietitian 7:30pm WRJ meeting	7:45am Round Table Breakfast 9:00am KA Reads Book Club 9:45am WAJE 4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	9:15am Jewish Meditation 11:15am Wise Aging 12:00pm Teen Parenting 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	10:00am Torah Study 4:00pm 4th/5th/6th/7th GRADE RETREAT 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 4:00pm WINE AND WISDOM 5:30pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Rose
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	12:30pm Mussar class 7:30pm Prophets Seminar	11:30am Women in Transition 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 8:00pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class	9:45am WAJE 11:30am Mah Jong Lunch 4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School 4:30pm 8th Grade to NY Tolerance Center 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	9:15am Jewish Meditation 11:15am Wise Aging	10:00am Torah Study 5:00pm SYNAPLEX 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bat Milzvah of Sarah Rose
9:00am 2nd Grade "What's in a Name?" 9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School 9:00am RS Committee Meeting 11:00am Cooking For The Homeless 11:00am Or Chadash	11:00am Current Events 3:00pm 9th Grade to HUC Soup Kitchen 7:30pm Screening of "Dancing in Jaffa"	18 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages	9:45am WAJE 4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	9:15am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Mitzvah Knitz 11:15am Wise Aging 5:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Avery Kraus 8:00am Board of Trustees Meeting	2 1 10:00am Torah Study 4:00pm CONFIRMATION RETREAT 5:30pm VOLUNTEER FAIR 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS In Atrium 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary 6:15pm SHABBAT OF GRATITUDE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School 11:00am Or Chadash	7:30pm Prophets Seminar	25 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 8:00pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class	26 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	27 THANKSGIVING DAY ECP CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED	ECP CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

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# When it's time to remember.

White Plains

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December Connection Deadline

November 15, 2014

Congregation Kol Ami A Reform Synagogue (914) 949-4717

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

#### Rabbis

Shira Milgrom Tom Weiner 328-4549 684-6991

Cantor: David Rosen
Exec. Director: Jane S. Friedberg

Religious School

Director: Felice Miller Baritz
ECP Director: Nan Blank
Program Manager: Ilene Miller
President: Hank Rouda

Rabbis Lawrence W. Schwartz\*
Emeriti: Maurice Davis\*

Mark L. Winer
Cantor Emeritus: Raymond Smolover

\*of blessed memory



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