



**ADULT EDUCATION – WORKSHOPS – CHANCES TO LEARN**  
**March, 2012**

**Adult Education - “ETHICS OF THE ANCESTORS”**  
**March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> (special Purim edition) 10:45am – 12:00noon**  
**Note: March 15<sup>th</sup> class has been replaced by YJCC class – see below**

This new, daytime class will read the *Pirkei Avot* section of the Mishnah, sometimes translated as "Ethics of the Fathers" or "Ethics of the Ancestors." The wisdom and favorite sayings of ancient rabbis were originally gathered together as an instructional manual for young rabbis, so that they could become good teachers, fair judges, and better human beings. Many of the sayings are well-known quotations in and beyond Jewish life. Hillel famously asked in Ethics, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am [only] for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" The goal of the class is to read the text thoughtfully enough to apply it to contemporary ethics - in politics and society and for ourselves. There is no charge for this class; however, attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the local food pantries.

**“ARAMAIC AS A LIVING LANGUAGE” – Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**  
Westwood Free Public Library, 49 Park Avenue in Westwood, NJ **Led by Rabbi Orenstein**

Rabbi Orenstein leads a talk about "Aramaic as a Living Language" as related to the popular book, My Father's Paradise by Ilan Sabar. Yona Sabar grew up in an idyllic Jewish enclave in Kurdistan Iraq called Zakho. It was a corner of the world so isolated that he grew up speaking the ancient Aramaic of Jesus. In this memoir, his son, Ilan, writes about what it was like for his father -- and for him -- to bridge two worlds. Rabbi Orenstein will explore the legacy of Aramaic, a language dear to both Christians and Jews. Jesus spoke it; the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) and the Talmud include it; Jews and some Christians use it in prayer still today. English speakers are usually unaware that they already know some words and phrases in -- or derived from -- Aramaic. Can the language itself be a bridge between past and present? The talk will incorporate a lesson in basic Aramaic and its connections to both Hebrew and English. The Program is part of the "One Book, One Community Program" sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey.

**“LIFECYCLE AND SPIRITUALITY CLASS AT YJCC in Washington Township**  
**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12noon – 1:30pm** (bring kosher brown bag lunch) **Led by Rabbi Orenstein**

Sing to God a New Song: Lifecycle, Spirituality, and Creative Ritual taught by Rabbi Debra Orenstein In the last century, Jewish feminists began acknowledging lifecycle events that had been neglected -- from Bat Mitzvah to baby namings and covenant ceremonies for girls, from abuse and recovery to elderhood and Simchat Chochmah. Yet, we still have a great deal to explore. How have the changes in the way we regard and practice lifecycle impacted the spirituality of the Jewish community? What is still neglected or missing? How can we address individual needs, without undermining or splintering the larger community? How can we find meaning in all our rituals, whether ancient or new?

**“SEDER SOLUTIONS” – March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** **Led by Rabbi Orenstein**

Why will this Passover seder be different from all other Passover seders? Thanks to "Seder Solutions!" This interactive workshop will offer tips and techniques for engaging people of all ages and backgrounds in meaningful and enjoyable seders. Come learn new stories and interpretations that you will want to share to enhance the experience around the table. Discover crowd-pleasing ice breakers and discussion starters. Whether you will be leading a seder, or a guest at someone else's seder, you will have the tools you need to make this your best seder yet!

**Meet Ariel and Yona Sabar, author and subject of My Father's Paradise**  
**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** **“One Book, One Community” Program**  
Temple Emeth, 1666 Windsor Road, Teaneck, NJ Free of Charge RSVP to Nancy Perlman: NancyP@jfnnj.org