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The Sraiah and Chana Shoubin Memorial Lecture

Sunday, March 29, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at BHU

5800 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD

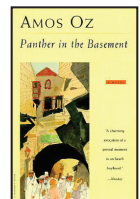
Amos Oz, the Hebrew Language, and the Jewish Library on the Wall



Dr. Joseph Lowin

Amos Oz is one of the main contributors to the flourishing of a Jewish renaissance in Israel. During a long career as a writer of stories, he has worked diligently to create a language and an approach to Jewish culture appropriate for modern times. Lately, in his writing, he has returned to his childhood and to the roots of the state to try to explain — to himself, to his fellow Israelis and to the world at large — where Israel is coming from and how Israel has arrived at its present state. In this lecture, we will study together Oz's novel, *The Panther in the Basement* (with allusions to his *Tale of Love and Darkness*) to see how Oz himself uses the Hebrew language and the Jewish textual tradition to understand the human condition in Israel.

A Ph.D. in French and Italian literature from Yale University, Joseph Lowin has held faculty appointments at Yale, the University of Miami, Touro College, Yeshiva University and the State University of New York. He has also been director of the National Center for the Hebrew Language, the Midrasha Institute for Jewish Studies, and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Dr. Lowin has been a Fulbright Fellow at the Sorbonne in Paris and a Jerusalem Fellow at the Hebrew University in Israel. For the past 25 years, he has been the Hebrew-Language columnist for Hadassah Magazine. Dr. Lowin has published three books, one on the literary universe of American-Jewish writer Cynthia Ozick and two, Hebrewspeak and Hebrewtalk, on the Hebrew language as a key to understanding Jewish culture. He has also written more than 120 articles and reviews on the art of Jewish narrative. He is currently preparing a book-length study of contemporary Hebrew fiction.



Dessert reception to follow lecture.

Free and open to the public. Reservations suggested.

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