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JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER BOOK CLUB and NCJW WELCOME CHARLES LONDON, AUTHOR OF "FAR FROM ZION"

New Orleans, March 11, 2010, 7:30 PM - The New Orleans Jewish Community Center and the National Council of Jewish Women proudly welcome Charles London, author of "Far from Zion" on Thursday, March 11 at 7:30 PM at the Uptown Jewish Community Center, 5342 St. Charles Avenue.

A fascinating narrative of community and faith, Charles London's *Far From Zion* explores the Jewish Diaspora in some of the most unexpected places—from Burma to Tehran to Cuba, Bentonville, Arkansas plus an entire chapter just on *New Orleans*. In New Orleans, after the storm, Mr. London is exposed to all of the different elements that make our city unique and our Jewish community, but especially to the deep and abiding love we have for our city.

Raised in a nonreligious Jewish family, London knew his heritage but had no strong desire to experience it personally. But in the summer of 2004, while doing relief work with children in Bosnia, he stumbled upon a community the likes of which he had not seen before—where Jews worked alongside Muslims and Christians to rebuild a city ravaged by war. London liked this idea of a humanitarian Judaism, and though he didn't realize it at the time, this encounter gave him the idea for a journey that would take him around the world and back to his roots.

Far from Zion is the story of these Jews in far-flung places, and it's through their experiences that London examines his own identity.

Charles London grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, attended The Gilman School, and studied Philosophy at Columbia University. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *TheNation.com*, *The Baltimore Times*, *The Blue & White*, *The Columbia Review*, and the *Baltimore City Paper*. In 1999, he won the *Rolling Stone* College Journalism Award. His first book, *One Day the Soldiers Came: Voices of Children in War* was published in the U.S. by Harper/Perennial.

"Far From Zion" is available at [Octavia Books.com](http://OctaviaBooks.com) or by calling the store at 504 899-7323. Mr. London's visit is made possible through help of his publisher Harper/Collins. We thank them and National Council of Jewish Women for their support.



For more information, contact Brook Bissinger, Marketing Director, at brook@nojcc.org or refer to the JCC website for more details - www.nojcc.org.

The Jewish Community Center of New Orleans is a non-profit organization that continues to serve the entire New Orleans community with quality programming in the areas of pre-school education, daycare, summer programming, adult programming, physical education, public affairs, political forums, lectures and especially Jewish education. The mission of the Greater New Orleans Jewish Community Center is to promote and insure the well being of our Jewish community and to instill an understanding of Judaism and its heritage by providing a Center where all can enjoy, learn, experience and share in quality activities in a Jewish environment.

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