

“A MASTERPIECE OF MODERN RELIGIOUS LITERATURE”

~THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ruby Namdar, author of *The Ruined House*
in conversation with

Shira Hecht-Koller of Drisha

Wednesday, March 6 | 7:00 pm

Free and open to the public

Join Ruby Namdar and Shira Hecht-Koller of
Drisha for a lively discussion of *The Ruined*

House, Namdar’s award-winning debut novel

that draws heavily on Talmudic themes and structures,

juxtaposing them with modern, secular Jewish

intellectual life.

Learn about the author’s unique perspective on the Talmud,

and how it has influenced him, his writing, and the

book’s protagonist.

The event is free, but registration is encouraged—and
signing up enters you to win a signed copy! Register at

shearithisrael.org/rubynamdar.

Ruby Namdar was born and raised in Jerusalem to a family of
Iranian-Jewish heritage. His novel *The Ruined House* won the

Sapir Prize, Israel’s most prestigious literary award. He

currently lives in NYC and teaches Jewish literature,

focusing on Biblical and Talmudic narrative.

CHOIR SELECTIONS THIS SHABBAT

Support for this week's choir has been provided by
Felicia Warshawsky.

Friday Night

V'Shameru (p. 166) | Leon Hyman (New)

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Rev. H. P. Mendes

Yigdal #9 (p. 177) | Traditional

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | Leon Hyman

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Rev. H.P. Mendes

Adon Olam (p. 232) | David Aaron de Sola

את הכבש האחד תעשה בבקר ואת הכבש השני תעשה בין הערבים
DAILY SERVICE: A MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

—Z. EDINGER—

Toward the end of Chapter 29 in this week’s *Parasha* we read about the regular daily service
in the Tabernacle:

*Now this is what you shall offer upon the altar: two lambs each day, always. You shall offer the one lamb in
the morning, and you shall offer the second lamb at twilight.*

Surprisingly, this seemingly mundane verse is ascribed great significance in a *Midrashic* tradi-
tion found in Rabbi Yaakov ibn Habbib’s *Ein Yaakov*. There we find:

*Ben Zoma says: We find that the entirety (of the Torah) is contained in the verse: "Hear O Israel, the Lord
our Gd is one". (Deut 6:4)*

*Ben Nanas says: We find that the entirety (of the Torah) is contained in the verse: "Love thy neighbor as
thyself." (Lev. 19:18)*

*Shimon ben Pazi says: We find that the entirety (of the Torah) is contained in the verse: "You shall offer
the one lamb in the morning, and you shall offer the second lamb at twilight." (Ex 29:39)*

Several well known *midrashim* address the question: what is the most important verse in the
Torah? Thus in *Beresheet Rabbah* we find: *Ben Azzai said: "These are the generations of Ad-
am" (Genesis 5:1) is the great principle of the Torah. Rabbi Akiva said: This is the great principle of
the Torah: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18).*

Several other similar sources exist. One late midrashic compilation (*Sefer Pitron Torah*) con-
tains the following: *The Sages have said: All of the commandments in the Torah are contained in
two verses; the first "and you shall love the Lord your God" (Deut 6:5) and the second, "And you
shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18).*

We can readily understand the central importance of verses like *Hear O Israel* or *Love thy
Neighbor* these are tenets of our faith. But why does ben Pazi elevate to this level a verse about
sacrificing two lambs every day?

The key to understanding our midrash is that it is likely a polemic against the Christian
belief that after Jesus’ crucifixion sacrifices were no longer necessary. Two passages from the
New Testament will illustrate this: In the Gospels we find Jesus debating in the Temple about
our question, what is the most important commandment in the Torah? (Mark 12: 28-34:)

*And one of the scribes came up and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus
answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love
the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your
strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment
greater than these." And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that He is one, and
there is no other besides Him. And to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all
the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, we find that early in their divergence from Judaism Christians
viewed the death of Jesus as a sacrifice that absolved them from needing to bring sacrifices.
(Hebrews 10: 11-12) *And the priests stand day after day at their service, offering again and again the same
sacrifices that can never take away sins. 12 But when this one [Jesus] offered a single sacrifice for sins for all time,
he sat down at the right hand of God.*

Ben Pazzi’s assertion that the most important verse in the Torah instructs us to bring a twice
daily sacrifice is a vehement rejection of the idea that the sacrificial order had been superseded.
For almost 2000 years now we have not been able to bring the daily sacrifice. But in all that
time we have never stopped praying for its restoration. Ben Pazzi’s dictum reminds us that
regular daily service is important. Consistent and Regular worship is as important as all the
ethical tenets of our religion.

We may no longer be able to bring sacrifices in the Temple, but we can attend daily wor-
ship in the synagogue. The morning and afternoon prayers were instituted by the Rabbis to
mirror the daily sacrifices. In fact every day we ask God: *May it be it Thy will, that the prayer of
our lips be acceptable to Thee as if we offered the Korban Tamid at its proper time*. Our daily ser-
vices meet in the small synagogue every morning and every evening, Your attendance in syna-
gogue is important, perhaps even the most important mitzvah of them all. Hope to see you
there!



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tetsavveh

February 15-16, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 339; Haftarah p. 350
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 414; Haftarah p. 1124

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:13 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 5:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

MORNING SERVICES | Main Sanctuary | 8:15 am

TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Elias Room

JUNIOR CONGREGATION | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

SPECIAL PRESENTATION | Leon Hyman will speak to us about his
experience being Choirmaster of Shearith Israel for the past 64 years.
The choir will also perform one of Leon Hyman’s own compositions,
annotated with special insights and commentary by Mr. Hyman.

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Marco di Laurenti in honor
of Leon Hyman's birthday. Thank you also to our anonymous Kiddush Fund
contributor.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

EVENING SERVICES | 5:05 pm

HABDALA | 6:02 pm

Our offices will be closed on Monday for Presidents Day.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday & Monday: 8:00 am | Tuesday-Friday: 7:15 am

Evenings:

Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 5:15 pm

Monday-Thursday (Arbit only): 6:30 pm

Central Park West at 70th Street, New York City • www.shearithisrael.org

Minyan Schedule Alert: Sunday Evening Services

Sunday evening services in February will include both Minha and Arbit.

Please note the following new Sunday evening service times:

February 17 evening services at **5:15 pm**

February 24 evening services at **5:15 pm**

Regular weekday evening services (Monday-Thursday) will remain at 6:30 pm for Arbit only.

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Send *Mishloah Manot* to a Member

ORDERING DEADLINE: MARCH 1 AT 11:00 PM

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to send special Purim greetings and to reach out to our Shearith Israel community. This project will support the Sisterhood's many projects. More information has been sent out via email—if you haven't seen it, check your spam folder!

For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

Participate in Our Annual Women's *Megillah* Reading

2 rehearsals: Sunday, February 24 | 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 10 | 7:00 pm

This year, our Annual Women's *Megillah* Reading falls on Thursday morning, March 21. Services start at 7:15 am and *Megillah* is scheduled for 8:00 am.

Any woman or girl who has passed their 12th birthday is eligible to participate! Assignments can be as short as 3 verses, and audio is available on the synagogue website to study on the go, so don't be afraid to give it a try.

Anyone who wants to participate should contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lrohde-csi@yahoo.com as soon as possible for an assignment.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
**Wednesday, March 13, at
11:00 AM**

Parnas Office Hours

Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at
parnas@shearithisrael.org.

SOLD OUT—Knitting for Teens

THIS Saturday Night, February 16 | 7:00 pm

The final session of this Sisterhood initiative, led by experienced knitter Karen Daar, will take place in a private home.

UPCOMING LECTURES

Major History Lecture

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Monday, February 25 | 7:00 pm | Levy Auditorium

Details to follow.

Special Guest Speaker

Rabbi Raif Melhado

Rabbi of Kahal Joseph Congregation of Los Angeles

THIS Wednesday, February 20 | 7:00 pm | Elias Room

*“Rabbi Shem Tob Gaguine and the Preservation of
Western Sephardic Liturgy”*

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Mitzvot Workshops with Shamash, Z. Edinger

For Children Aged 5-12

Select Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am

Sunday, March 3 | Sunday, April 14

These Mitzvot Workshops are a wonderful opportunity for our elementary school age youth - both boys and girls - to learn to sing the melodies of selected prayers from the Shabbat and holiday services as well as learn about the parts of the Torah service, and receive training in the hands-on parts of the service.

Sign up for March 3 (it's FREE!) at shearithisrael.org/mitzvot-workshop.

Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik

For Elementary School Aged Children & Their Parents

Sundays, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Final Session of the School Year: March 10

On several Sundays over the course of the year, children and their parents start the day together with morning services after which they will proceed to a topical "Brunch and Learn" with Rabbi Soloveichik.

Register at shearithisrael.org/brunch-learn.

Presidents Week Schedule Alerts

- Our offices will be **closed** on Monday for Presidents Day.
- Rabbi Silber's Sunday class will **not** meet this week.
- Rabbi Soloveichik's Tuesday Morning Women's Class will **not** meet this week.
- Toddler Program will **not** be held on Monday.
- PTTS Hebrew School will **not** be held on Thursday.

Judaica Appraisal Day

Sunday, March 10 | 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Presented by

*The Sisterhood of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue
with contributions from the Shearith Israel League*

Jonathan Greenstein, a noted antique Judaica authentication expert, will enlighten us about the field of antique Judaica. Some of Shearith Israel's treasured objects will also be highlighted. Mr. Greenstein will then evaluate and discuss pieces brought by the attendees at this event (our own kind of "Antiques Road Show").

So bring your menorahs, *kiddush* cups, spice boxes, *etrog* cases, *megillot* or any other Judaica articles of interest you may want to share. Limit two items per person. Mr. Greenstein will talk about as many items as possible in the time allotted. Given the history and diversity of our congregation, this should be a fascinating event!

\$18.00 pre-registered or **\$25.00** at the door

\$100 Sponsor (includes 2 tickets and a listing)

To register, visit shearithisrael.org/judaica.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tob to Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes, the *Live the Mission* honoree at the 8th Annual Sephardic Academy of Manhattan masquerade gala. The gala will be held at Moise Safra Center on Monday, April 8. To attend or sponsor, visit sephardicacademy.org/gala.

Mazal Tob to Dr. Lu Steinberg, the Distinguished Alumna of the Year at the Ferkauf Graduate School's 2019 Alumni Dinner. The dinner will be held at Lincoln Square Synagogue on Thursday, March 28. To attend or sponsor, visit tinyurl.com/lu-alumna.