

“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

Friday Night

V'Shameru (p. 166) #1 | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Leon Kramer

Yigdal (p. 177) | Samuel de Sola

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) #2 | Traditional

Tehilat (p. 216) #6 | Traditional

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Salomon Sulzer

DEBAR TORAH: PARASHAT KI TISSA

— RABBI YANETZ —

One of the most critical times for the Jews after they left Egypt was in this *parasha*: the sin of the golden calf.

It is hard to understand. How could this special people — the same people who saw the miracles in Egypt, the splitting of Yam Suf, and received the Torah on mount Sinai only 40 days ago — could tell a statue of a little calf: “**You** are the god who took us out of Egypt”?

Even if they were really missing Moshe, and were afraid of what had happened to him after he didn't show up after the 40 days, why didn't they get another person as a leader instead of him? Why an animal?

Rashi quotes the *midrash* that that *Erev Rav* (mixed nations that joined the Jews from Egypt) initiated the golden calf and encouraged the Jews to do it. But this explanation is still somewhat incomplete. Even if there were other people initiating this behavior, how could the Jews join that?

The *midrash* describes that the *Satan/Yetser Hara* showed them a vision of Moshe in a coffin, frightening the Jewish people into feeling that Moshe would no longer be with them. This caused confusion, insecurity, and panic.

Rambam (Maimonides) explains that in such a situation of great confusion and fear, some of the Jews acted—by default—as they used to do in Egypt: worshipping a similar animal. It was engrained deep in their mind after so many years of idolatry, and they turned to it instinctually, despite what they had seen in the recent two months.

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz concludes that this can teach us two great points:

First, the *Yetser Hara's* strategy is first to make one confused and insecure, a confusion about what is coming next and what is allowed, and this opens the door to major sins.

Secondly, from educational perspective, this section of the Torah teaches us that what you show your children for years, such as keeping *mitzvot*, Shabbat, or the experience of Pesah (Passover) cleaning, is what will stay deep in their mind and will impact their actions even many years later. If bad habits like idolatry can become instinctual due to constant exposure, so too can good habits like proper religious observance.



• 5414 • 5779 •

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Ki Tissa

February 22-23, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 352; Haftarah p. 370
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 440; Haftarah p. 1130

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:21 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 5:15 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Eighth Day of the Week” | *2018-2019 Season sponsored by the Julis Family.*

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

SERMON | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Luhot and the Grave of Menasseh Ben Israel”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Mrs. Lisa Rohde & Family of Herbert Brun, in memory of Herbert Brun.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 4:15 PM | “The Anatomy of a Megillah” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 5:15 pm

HABDALA | 6:11 pm

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings:

Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 5:15 pm

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

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: THIS 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.

Megillat Esther Puppet Show

Wednesday, March 20 | Arrive at 7:00 pm

We welcome back **The Talking Hands Theatre puppet show** during the reading of the *Megillah* this year! All children are invited for Anna Sobel and her cast of Purim characters to entertain them with an interactive Purim puppet show featuring big, colorful, Carnivale-inspired puppets. The audience is invited to sing, dance, learn a Middle Eastern rhythm, play "Haman Says," and get to know the characters of the Purim story.

Liz will oversee childcare for the younger children (children below two years old must be accompanied by their own caregiver) while Nat will be supervising the older kids.

Minyan Schedule Alert: Sunday Evening Services

Sunday evening services in February include both Minha and Arbit. Please note the following new Sunday evening service times:
This Sunday, February 24 evening services at **5:15 pm**
Regular weekday evening services (Monday-Thursday) will remain at 6:30 pm for Arbit only.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Major History Lecture

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Monday, February 25 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm Arbit)

"Israel and the Vatican:
Jews, Catholics, and 25 Years of
Diplomatic Relations"

Judaica Appraisal Day

With Jonathan Greenstein, Judaica Expert

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.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Mitzvot Workshops with Shamash, Z. Edinger

For Children Aged 5-12

Select Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am

Next 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.

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.

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.