

“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 #2 (p. 166) | Samuel Naumbourg

Psalm 23 (p. 174) | Leon Kramer

Yigdal #1 (p. 177) | Samuel de Sola

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) | Julius Mombach

Tehilat (p. 216) | Leon Hyman

Ubnuho Yomar #4 (p. 218) | Traditional

GOD’S BLUEPRINT

—HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE—

“According to all that I show you, the pattern of the Tabernacle, and the pattern of all the vessels thereof, even so shall you make it” (Ex. 25:9)

“Hollow with tablets shalt thou make it: as it was shown you in the mountain, so shall they make it” (Ex. 27:8)

As our synagogue’s the chief Chanter of these sections describing the construction of the Tabernacle for so many years, I’ve always been struck by their poetry, a poetry which perhaps doesn’t come out so much in the English translation, but which becomes quite apparent to someone who regularly chants them in Hebrew: these aren’t merely a repetitive recitation of architectural plans; these are architectural plans written as High Poetry. Many times I’ve been congratulated especially for memorizing and reciting through all these detailed and “difficult” sections so well, and yet I’ve often thought to myself that, in fact, after a while, they have become not so difficult—due to their literary/musical structure they stick in my memory so well that I can recall whole sections by heart. Although this is officially prose, not poetry, the writing is so poetic that I often think of these sections as a kind of song. Indeed, along with others of the many songs, sacred and secular, I’ve learned during my life, this “Plans of the Mishkan Song” will take turns popping into my head at random times!

So I’ve always been aware in some ways that the sections about the Mishkan are High Literature, with a great deal of poetic stylization, and presumably quite ancient. But I was rather intrigued by the argument of a modern academic Biblical Critic that something like these “Plans of the Mishkan” might have been written on the Tablets at Sinai. That would make sense of many of the passages like those I’ve quoted above, which state clearly that Moshe was “shown” how to construct the Tabernacle “on the Mountain,” and we are left wondering how and when that “showing” happened. And even for traditionalists, there remains some ambiguity of how much the Tablets included: After all, in the narrative order Moshe doesn’t receive the Tablets in Parashat Yithro, after the Ten Commandments, but rather at the end of last week’s *parasha*, Parashat Mishpatim, so it could be argued that a good deal of Parashat Mishpatim might very well have been included. And there are ambiguities in what was written and who wrote what: God Himself seems to write some things on Tablets, but we also are told in last week’s *parasha* that “Moshe wrote all these words,” (Ex. 24:4) presumably some type of Torah, which might or might not be same as some “Book of the Covenant” (Ex. 24:7) in addition to the Tablets. And it’s not completely clear which parts of what come down to us in our Torah was originally written where. So, if it could be argued that something like Parashat Mishpatim with its civil law might have been included on the Tablets, it’s not that far-fetched to extend the argument and suggest that the following “Plans of the Mishkan” poetic section in our *parasha* and following might also have been included.

That conception would imply, of course, that the Mishkan, the aim of God’s dwelling among us, is part of the very center of the Revelation at Sinai. And it might strengthen the sense we have that to follow in the Law of the Torah is truly to follow the Great Blueprint, the Great Pattern, that God Himself, by His Very Own Hand, intended for the world.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Terumah

February 8-9, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 326; Haftarah p. 336
Kaplan Living Torah: p. 380; Haftarah p. 1120

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:04 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Tabernacle Choir and the Tabernacle Fire” | *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

SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Ark of the Covenant and the Cordoba of Judah HaLevi”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored in honor of Barbara Herlands Smith, by her children and grandchildren.*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 4:00 pm | “The Secrets of the Temple Blueprint” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 5:00 pm

HABDALA | 5:53 pm

PARENT CHILD LEARNING | Z. Edinger | 7:00 pm | Elias Room

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings:

Sunday (Minha & Arbit): 5:00 pm

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

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 21st. 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.

Minyan Schedule Alert: Sunday Evening Services

Beginning this week, our Sunday evening services will include both Minha and Arbit. This Sunday evening, February 3rd, evening services will begin at 5:00 pm.

Please note the following new Sunday evening service times:

February 10 evening services at **5:00 pm**

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

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

This change will only affect Sundays in February. Regular week-day evening services (Monday-Thursday) will remain at 6:30 pm for Arbit only.

Join Our Tour Guide Team

Shearith Israel is an historical landmark in addition to being the lively congregation we all know and love. Tours are frequently requested by groups coming from near and far—in addition to our monthly public tour—and our team of volunteer docents are all members of our community, just like you.

If you would like to learn how to become a Shearith Israel docent, contact zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Public Tours

Our next public tour is
THIS Wednesday,
February 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.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Caring Connection is seeking volunteers to help make phone calls or visits to elderly or homebound members of our community.

If you can help, or wish to find out more, please contact:

Vicki Bengualid at vbengualid@gmail.com or
Zachary Edinger at zedinger@shearithisrael.org.

Send *Mishloah Manot* to a Member

ORDERING DEADLINE: MARCH 1 AT 11 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.

Parent-Child Learning & Pizza

Final Session of the Season:

THIS Saturday Night, February 9 | 7:00 pm

Led by Z. Edinger

For Children Aged 5-12 & Their Parents or Grandparents

A wonderful opportunity for parents (or grandparents) to study Torah with their children together with Shearith Israel's clergy.

Pizza and prizes help make this a fun-filled evening of inter-generational learning.

Register (only \$5 per person) at
shearithisrael.org/parent-child-learning.

Brunch & Learn with Rabbi Soloveichik

For Elementary School Aged Children & Their Parents

Sundays, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

THIS Sunday, February 10 | 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.

Special Commemorative Baghdad Booklet

Our limited edition "*Remembering Baghdad*" booklet, available exclusively through Shearith Israel, can be ordered online at shearithisrael.org/baghdad-book.



*This booklet is part of our many
Year of Years, 365th Anniversary events,
showcasing the extraordinary diversity and
heritage of our congregation.*

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, please. 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

We welcome new members **Daniel Bassiri & Angelina Drahi** to our growing Shearith Israel family.

Mazal tob to **Norman S. Benzaquen**, upon his grandson, Max Jacob Schlanger, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

A warm welcome to Congregation Rodeph Shalom, from Tampa, FL, who are visiting us this Shabbat.