

“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

THIS 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

Shabbat Morning

Yehi Hasdekha (p. 215) #1 | Traditional

Tehilat (p. 216) #6 | Jonathan Koch

Ubnuho Yomar (p. 218) | Leon Hyman

ENCLOSED BUT OPEN AT THE HEART

— HAZZAN RABBI IRA ROHDE —

“He made the enclosure: On the south side, the twined linen hangings were 100 cubits long, held by 20 poles and 20 bronze bases, with silver pole hooks and bands. The north side was also 100 cubits long, held by 20 poles, with 20 bronze bases, and silver hooks and bands. On the west side, the curtains were 50 cubits wide, with 10 poles, 10 bases, and silver hooks and bands. The east end, toward the sunrise, was also 50 cubits wide. Curtains 15 cubits long were on one side of the entrance, with 3 poles and 3 bases, and curtains 15 cubits long were on the other side of the entrance to the courtyard, with 3 poles and 3 bases” (Ex. 38:9-15)

Although it may be hard for us to picture, the majority of the tabernacle compound in the desert was enclosed open space. The Hatzet, often translated as “courtyard,” but also translated as “enclosure,” took up most of the area. Fabric “hanging curtains” held in place by pillars, hooks, sockets, and pegs, served as a fence/wall/partition around this rectangular enclosed courtyard, measuring 100 X 50 cubits, or let's say 150 X 75 feet. Within this enclosure/courtyard, mostly towards one side, there was a “tented” section which was covered over, let's say about 45 X 15 feet. The “tented” section consisted of two parts: the “Holy Place” section, with the showbread table, the Menorah, and the Incense Altar, plus the additional section called the “Holy of Holies.” But most of the Tabernacle compound simply consisted of the Hatzet, the uncovered but fenced-in “yard” area. Critically, that was where the sacrificial altar was located, near the center of an area in front of the “tent.” And it was in this outer “courtyard” with its altar that most of the activity of the Tabernacle took place.

In the later Temple, the open “courtyard” area for sacrifices came to have other “chambers” around it, not just a fence or wall. But still, the open-to-the-sky “courtyard” with its sacrificial altar remained the most active part. Of course, if you want to barbecue, you need good air to burn as well as good ventilation, and that alone is reason enough to require the open-air space.

But perhaps there is a lesson to be learned as well: For the heart needs enclosures, fences, and partitions. The heart must be protected. The heart also needs gates and entranceways to pass through and purify it. But the heart also needs to be open, most especially to the sky: its aspirations, its hopes and dreams. Many religious structures symbolically signify the Created World, and, of course, even our Little Synagogue has a sky-blue ceiling! But the original Created environment intended for Man, the Garden of Eden, had both this openness to the sky, but was also called a “garden;” i.e., it was enclosed and tended. As it says in Song of Songs 4:12: “*You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.*” But the Garden was also open, open to the sky, and from thence, open to the Four Corners of the World.



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CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

Year of Years Celebration

CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayak'hel-Shekalim

March 1-2, 2019

Hertz Pentateuch: p. 373; Haftarah p. 992

Shekalim: p. 352

Kaplan Living Torah: p. 464; Haftarah p. 1270

Shekalim: p. 440

CANDLE LIGHTING | 5:29 pm

EVENING SERVICES | 5:30 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Greatest Shabbat Shekalim Debar Torah in Jewish History” | *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

LECTURE | Rabbi Soloveichik | “The Ancient Shekel and the Future of Jerusalem”

KIDDUSH | Levy Auditorium | *Sponsored by Raquel & Ian Lentnek in honor of the first birthday of their daughter, Dakota Peri (Nachama Lev).*

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik | 4:25 PM | “The Metaphysical Mishloach Manot” | Levy Auditorium

EVENING SERVICES | 5:25 pm

HABDALA | 6:20 pm

Rosh Hodesh Adar II is on Thursday and Friday.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

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

Evenings:

Sunday-Thursday (Minha & Arvit): **5:45 pm** (note new time)

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Send *Mishloah Manot* to a Member

DEADLINE EXTENDED: FRIDAY, MARCH 8 AT 11:00 AM

Send Purim greetings to our Shearith Israel community! This project will support the Sisterhood's many projects. More information has been sent out via email. For questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Rohde at lirohde-csi@yahoo.com or Mrs. Carla Schein at scheinc6@gmail.com.

A Very Fishy Purim Dinner

Wednesday, March 20 | Following *Megillah* Reading
For Registered Guests

Come celebrate the *mazal* of Adar, the constellation of Pisces (the fish) at this year's annual Purim Dinner, featuring herring and smoked fish from the world-famous Russ & Daughters and other fine purveyors, with an entertaining talk from Rabbi Soloveichik! (Note to parents: don't worry, there will be plenty of food for kids who don't like fish!)

To register or sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/purimdinner5779.

CSI Youth Presents: 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 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 and Nat will supervise (children under 2 must be accompanied by their own caregiver).

If you would like to sponsor our Purim youth festivities, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-youth.

Annual Purim Breakfast

Thursday, March 21 | Following *megillah* reading

Every year we treat our congregation to a festive Purim Breakfast, following the reading of the *megillah* on Purim morning. To help ensure that we have we have plenty of hamentashen to go around, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-breakfast.

Don't Forget to Give *Matanot La'Ebyonim*

It is one of the *mitzvot* of Purim to give charity to the poor.
Go to shearithisrael.org/matanot to donate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pre-Purim Lecture

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

Tuesday, March 12 | 7:00 pm (following 6:30 pm services)

"The Triumph of Mordecai:

A Tale of Art, Torah, and Jewish History"

To sponsor, visit shearithisrael.org/purim-lecture.

The Simpsons and Other Jewish Families

With *The Simpsons* Writer, Mike Reiss

Monday, March 11 | 7:00 pm | *Free and open to the public*

Mike Reiss has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award during his thirty years writing for "The Simpsons." In this fun-filled presentation, illustrated with rare cartoon clips, Reiss talks about Jewish themes in the show: Jewish writers, actors, guest stars, and Jewish-themed episodes. Reiss also explains how he somehow wound up writing seven Christmas books, two Christmas specials, and jokes for Pope Francis... really!

Bring your copy of Mike's book to this event and get it signed by the author!

The event is free, but registration is encouraged at shearithisrael.org/mikereiss.



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 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, or any other Judaica articles of interest you may want to share.

\$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

THIS 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

We welcome new member Judith Roumani to our growing Shearith Israel family.

Condolences to **Melvin Newman** on the passing of his brother, William Newman. Condolences as well to William's niece, **Diana Newman**.

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.