

SJIMON R. DEN HOLLANDER

Personal Information

Sjimon René den Hollander
Date of Birth 09/08/1960
Place of Birth Dordrecht, Netherlands
Website www.SjimonDenHollander.com
Biographical info: shorturl.at/pxD09

Academic Background and Degrees

2018 Yeshiva University, New York, NY
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
Rabbinical Ordination

Yeshiva Mekor Hayyim – Bet Din Tzedek, Flushing, NY
Rabbinical Ordination

1998 Ichthus Teachers College, Rotterdam, Netherlands **B.Ed.**
Elementary School Teacher’s Certification

1990 University of Leiden, Netherlands
Doctorandus Arabic Language and Literature M.A.

1978 Evangelical Seminary “Jong en Vrij / Vredeheim”, Rockanje, Netherlands
Christian Theology, Apologetics, and Outreach

Work Experience

2015-present **Hunter College, Dept. of Classical and Oriental Studies, New York, NY**
Adjunct Professor; Courses:
* Masterpieces of Medieval Hebrew Literature
* Introduction to Jewish Texts and Writing
* Hebraic and Judaic Culture and Thought in the Medieval Islamic World
For some of the lectures taught, see: shorturl.at/dNPTW

2014-present **Freelance Translator English-Arabic, Arabic-English**

- 2004-present **Congregation Shearith Israel, New York, NY**
Religious Educator for Adults:
* Medieval Hebrew Poetry (International study group on Zoom)
* Bahya ibn Baquda's *Duties of the Heart*
* Saadia Gaon's *The Book of Beliefs and Opinions*
* Yehuda ha-Levi's *Sefer ha-Kuzari*
* Modern Orthodox Outlook on Society
* Introduction to Talmud
* Essential Teachings of Judaism
- 1999-2000 **Ichthus Teachers College, Rotterdam, Netherlands**
Comparative Religion Teacher, Internship Counselor, Thesis Supervisor
- 1998-2000 **Elementary School "De Horizon", Dordrecht, Netherlands**
Elementary School Teacher and Special Aid Teacher
- 1998-1999 **Dutch Reformed Theological Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands**
Comparative Religion Teacher
- 1998 **Jewish Elementary School "Rosj Pina", Amsterdam, Netherlands**
Jewish Education Teacher for Jewish students
- 1997-1998 **Public Elementary Schools in Gorinchem, Netherlands**
Teaching Islam to Muslim Students
- Public Elementary Schools in Sliedrecht, Netherlands**
Teaching Arabic to Students from Arab Lands
- 1990-1999 **Courses on Islam and Judaism** - Alblasterdam and Dordrecht, NL
Arabic Classes for Arabic Children - Elementary Schools in Sliedrecht, NL
Hebrew Classes for non-Israeli Children and Adults - Sliedrecht and Gorinchem, NL
- 1980-1982 **Nursing Home "De Plantage", Brielle, Netherlands**
Nurse in training
- 1978-1980 **Municipal Hospital "Gemeenteziekenhuis", Dordrecht, Netherlands**
Nurse in training

Clerical Experience

- 2020-present **Western Correctional Institution, Cumberland, MA:**
Religious and pastoral support for high-security prisoners
- 2012-present **Netherlands, Denmark, Indonesia:** Officiating weddings, funeral
- 2001-present **USA, Netherlands, Uganda, Israel:**
Conducting services (incl. Cantillation, Torah Reading, Sermons)
- 2005-2020 **Congregation Shearith Israel, Manhattan, NY**
Annual High Holiday sermons

Community Service / Voluntary Activities

- 2010-present **Chairman of Sephardi Jews of Uganda Assistance (SJUA)**
(Formerly: Putti Village Assistance Organization, PVAO)
Charity organization supporting Jewish communities in Uganda.
- 2009-present **Shearith Israel “Hebra Hased Va-Amet” Society**
Member of Jewish Burial Society
- 2012-2017 **New York Andalus Ensemble**
Vocalist and Linguistics Director (Arabic, Hebrew, and Ladino repertoire)
Performances: NY: New York City, Brooklyn, Spring Valley
CA: Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Cruz
CO: Stamford
- 2003-2009 **Founder of “Magen Yisrael”; Charity Organization for Putti Village, Uganda**
(Succeeded by Putti Village Assistance Organization, PVAO)
- 1994-2000 **Co-founder and Chairman of Dike Synagogue Foundation, Sliedrecht, NL**
Organization for the Renovation of pre-World War II Synagogue,
the Rejuvenation of Jewish Life in the Region, and Inter-Religious Dialogue.
- Co-organizer of Annual Interreligious World War II Memorials**
Dordrecht, Netherlands
- 1996-1999 **Founding Member of *Bene-Dor* Jewish Society, Dordrecht, Netherlands**
- 1986-1998 **Co-Founder and Committee Member of Dutch Noachite Alliance**

Further Relevant Experiences

- 2023 **Thousand Abrahamic Circles (Circle no. six)**
 Three-weeks-long program of living together, thought exchange, and panel discussions of a rabbi (me), a priest (from East Timor) and an imam (from Indonesia) with the goal of engaging the monotheistic religious communities in conversation and fostering mutual respect. Locations: Jakarta, Dili, New York.
- 2010 **World Leadership Program**
 Georgetown University, DC, in cooperation with Al-Azhar University, Cairo
 Two-weeks-long conference with participants of multiple religions together with Islamic religious students from the Al-Azhar University of Cairo.

Publications

- 2014 *Interpretatie*, Magazine for Biblical Theology, Barneveld, Netherlands.
 Contributing article (in Dutch): *The Amnesiac Nerve; Jacob's Struggle*
- 2013 **www.AIYahudiyya.com**, Arabic Website on Judaism
 * *Critical edition of Maimonides' commentary on Mishna Chapter Héleq*
 (both in Judeo-Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic)
 * *Jewish Attitude towards Non-Jewish Prophets* (in Arabic and English)
 * *Death Penalty in Judaism* (in Arabic)
- 2013 *Conversations*, Biannual Magazine for the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals, NY
In Search of an Authentic Judaism; Blessings and Challenges of Modern Orthodoxy
- 2005 Rabbi Marc D. Angel, **Choosing to be Jewish**, The Orthodox Road to Conversion, KTAV, Jersey City, NJ. Contributing pages: 25-35
From Dutch Reformed to Portuguese Israelite
- 1998 *Ad Rem*, Remonstrant monthly, Utrecht, Netherlands.
 Contributing article: *Jewish Humor*
- 1995 *Eet van de Goede Dingen (Eat of the Good Things) – Essays on Culinary Cultures in the Middle East and Islam*, Coutinho, Bussum, Netherlands
 Contributing article: *Historical and Current Aspects of Islamic Dietary Laws*
- 1988-1994 **Lech Lechaa**, (Magazine of the Dutch Noachite Alliance)
Berit Olam, a study in twelve articles on the Biblical basis of the Noachide Laws
Using the Divine Name in Godly Conduct; On the Use of divine names in Judaism.
The Names of God in Islam
The Sadducees' Position on the Hereafter

1990 *Al-Halāl wa-'l-Harām fī Ta`ām al-Islām;*
Islamitisch Eten in een Westerse Maatschappij
(Islamic Dietary Practice in a Western Society),
Master's Thesis, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden

Editorial Experience

1988-1999 Chief editor of "Lech Lechaa" (Magazine of the Dutch Noachite Alliance)

Lecturing Experience

2023 **Amsterdam Modern Orthodox Shul (AMOS), Amsterdam, NL**
The Mishna's Spiritual Depth, on Tractate Berakhot

Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Bronx, NY
Islamic-Jewish Dialogue in Past and Present
A New Theory on the Assimilation of Hebrew Consonants

2022 **Congregation Mikveh Israel, Philadelphia, PA**
The Esther Story in Jewish and Islamic Sources Compared

2021 **Congregation Mikveh Israel, Philadelphia, PA**
Yosef and Yusuf; The Joseph Story in Torah and Qur'an Compared

2019 **Municipality of Dordrecht (Netherlands)**
Yom ha-Shoah Holocaust Commemoration Lecture

2018 **Pikesville Jewish Congregation, Birmingham, MD**
The Ten Commandments in Non-Rabbinic Traditions and Religions

Dutch Reformed Church, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Netherlands
How to Become a Rabbi

2017 **Sephardic Institute Synagogue, Brooklyn, NY**
Practicing Torah Without the Rabbis; What Would It Look Like?

Study Group "Scotch and Heresy", Brooklyn, NY
Jesus in Protestant Theology

Dutch Reformed Church, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Netherlands
The Jewish Community of Uganda

2013 **Congregation Beth Israel, Omaha, NE**
Possibilities and Pitfalls of Jewish-Muslim Dialogue

JICNY Culture Salon (Jewish International Connection New York)

The Jews of Uganda: Origins, History and Current Situation

Dutch Reformed Church, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Netherlands

*Yehudah and Tamar: Incest, Hypocrisy & Repentance in Jewish Perspective
From Dutch Reformed to Portuguese Israelite*

Noachide Community Center 'Ohel Abraham', Rotterdam, Netherlands

The Challenges of Noachide Pietism

2012 **Dutch Reformed Church, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Netherlands**

*On Sephardi Jewish History and Liturgy in the Netherlands
Sukkot, Hanukka and Christmas; A Holy Triangle*

JICNY Culture Salon (Jewish International Connection New York)

From the Lowlands to the New World

2011 **Congregation Beth Israel, Omaha, NE**

My Way to Judaism

2010 **Congregation Shearith Israel, Manhattan, NY**

Lecture on the movie "Jesus Christ Superstar"

Congregation Mikveh Israel, Philadelphia, PA

On Karaism: It's Hard to be a Karaite

Shearith Israel League, Manhattan, NY

One Man's Journey to Judaism

2006 **Queens Gymnasia Yeshiva, Rego Park, Queens, NY**

One Man's Journey to Judaism

2004 **Union Hill Congregation, Manalapan, NJ**

A Calvinist Christian Turns to Judaism

2003 **American Sephardi Federation, Manhattan, NY**

Congregation Shearith Israel, Manhattan, NY

One Man's Journey to Judaism

2001 **City-As School, (High School) Queens, NY**

Introduction to Judaism

Introduction to Islam

1990-2000 **University of Nijmegen, Netherlands**

The Islamic Dietary Laws (International Conference on Middle Eastern Cuisine)

Society for Arab-Dutch Relations, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Islamic Dietary Laws

Moroccan Mosque, Gorinchem, Netherlands

The Fast of Ramadan in Comparison with Jewish and Christian Fasts

Dike Synagogue Foundation, Sliedrecht, Netherlands

Pilgrimages in the Holy Land

Sacrifices as the Origin of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Liturgy

Mysticism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Today's Relevance of Tu BiShvat

Rotary Clubs, Netherlands

Islam in Western Society Judaism

Minorities in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Ichthus Teachers College, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Jesus According to Jewish Perspective

The Prophet Jonah (Yūnus) in the Qur'an

Ruth in the Midrash

Jesus and his Contemporaries

Reform Synagogue, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Judaism and Islam

Protestant Churches in Dordrecht and Surrounding Towns

Christianity and Islam

The Position of Women in Islam

Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Mourning and Consolation

The Role of Sacrifices in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Islamic Art and Mysticism

Prayer in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

1997-1999

Inter-Religious Platform, Dordrecht, Netherlands

Holocaust Memorial Services

Dutch Noahide Alliance, Almere, Netherlands

The Sadducean position on the Hereafter

The Sadducean position on the Messiah

Religious Problems Concerning Genetic Engineering

Christian Women Association, Sliedrecht, Netherlands

Jewish Family Life

Birkat Olam, Society for Jewish Education, Deventer, Netherlands

Gentiles in Judaism

The Noachite Covenant

The Synagogue

Shabbat

Adult Education Center, Hardinxveld-Giessendam, Netherlands

Pilgrimages in the Holy Land (Jews, Samaritans, Muslims, and Christians)

Social Media

2019-present www.Hunter-Cuny.Academia.edu/SjimonDenHollander
Scholarly Contributions

www.SjimonDenHollander.com
Contributions on (mostly Jewish) religion, history, liturgy, etc.

www.AIYahudiyya.com
Arabic Website on Judaism

www.youtube.com/@Lectures-on-Judaism/videos
YouTube Channel with Lectures

www.youtube.com/@AIYahudiyya/videos
Jewish YouTube Channel in Arabic

www.youtube.com/@Liturgy-and-Art/videos
Jewish YouTube Channel in English

www.youtube.com/@Liturgia-Sefarad/videos
Jewish YouTube Channel in Spanish and Portuguese

www.youtube.com/@Kitab-Suci-dan-Seni/videos
Jewish YouTube Channel in Indonesian

2015-present www.KKSY.com
Sephardi Jews of Uganda Assistance; website and calendar

Languages

Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew