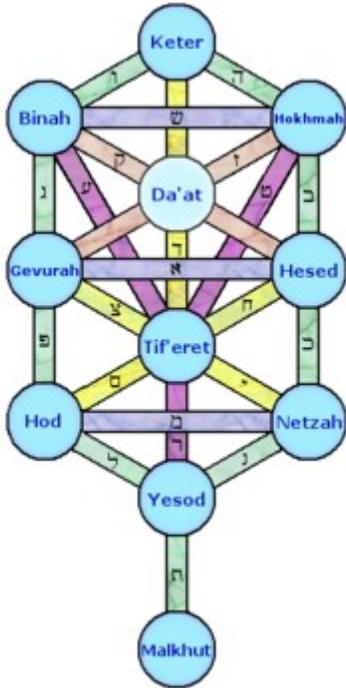




Course Syllabus for Boundless Judaism: A Systematic Approach to Jewish Learning

Boundless Judaism: It's more than the sum of its parts! Judaism is hands on, practical and detail oriented. As Jews, we want to know what to do and how to do it. We love our history and rituals. Our culture and art are everywhere. However, this leads most of us to learn our Judaism piecemeal. We learn about weddings before we have one. We learn about keeping kosher when we set up our kitchen. We read parts of the Torah each week, but rarely have the opportunity to take a step back to look at the big picture.



If you've ever felt lost in the beautiful woods of Judaism, the Boundless Judaism program will help. If you've ever wondered how it all fits together, this is for you. Judaism is a mosaic made up of millions of pieces but they are not placed randomly. Each and every piece fits perfectly according to the larger themes, values and goals of our faith. This course, by starting with a bird's eye view of these values during each session, brings all the pieces together more clearly. We'll erase the borders between text, ritual, history, ethics and culture until Judaism becomes the seamless whole it was meant to be.

If you are new to Judaism or Jewish learning, this will give you a framework to sort all your new experiences and ideas you come across. If you are a life-long learner looking for a little more structure, this will help you see the patterns and connections like never before. Each session is self contained, but the more you attend, the more sense Judaism will make.

Our Unifying Theme and Course Schedule

We have chosen the 10 Sefirot (The Tree of Life) from the Kabbala as the unifying theme of the series. The tree represents the series of divine emanations of God's creation itself, the nature of revealed divinity, the human soul, and the spiritual path of ascent by man. Kabbalists used the symbol as a model of reality and to depict a map of Creation. Following this map we will present an Introduction, a lecture on each Sefhira and a Concluding lecture. The classic illustration of the Ten Sefirot or Tree of Life is shown to the left.

Administrative Details

The course will begin on the Wednesday, Dec 3, 2014 and will continue every Wednesday for twelve weeks. Each session will be 60-90 minutes in length and will start at 7:00PM in the Temple Israel Roth social Hall. The series will begin with an introduction and continue with 1 lecture on each Sefhira followed by a summary lecture. Presenters will include **Rabbi Joshua Neely, Michael Fineberg, Natan Brener, Bernie Kahn, Susan Bernstein & Cathy Swerdlow.**

Lectures will be presented on our new audio-visual system in the social hall and will be audio-taped and uploaded to our website for future study.

The following fee schedule applies:

- Members Free
- Non-members: 10\$ per session or \$72 for the series

Each participant will receive a binder in which to collect our lecture handouts

Presentation/ Sephira Title	Presenter	Date	Comments/Themes
1. Keter Introduction	Rabbi Neely	12/3	Keter refers to the oneness of God and how it is reflected in different values which influence our laws, practices, customs and experiences.
2. Malchut	Natan Brener	12/10	Malchut is defined as the sovereignty of God, an elusive idea in the modern world because we have such a poor view of monarchs. It asks us to accept God as the ultimate law giver, ruler and protector and inspires us to thank and petition Him to provide us with a stable sense of purpose.
3. Chochmah	Rabbi Neely	12/17	Chochmah or wisdom is gained through the application of information and experience in order to choose the best course of action in any situation. Wisdom is received, revealed and crafted on an individual basis.
4. Binah	Cathy Swerdlow	12/24	Binah is defined as understanding that is the product of analysis. Judaism asks us to analyze what we think we know, to take it apart so we truly understand how it works. We need to be able to distinguish one thing from another clearly in order to eventually gain wisdom.
5. Gevurah	Natan Brener	01/07/15	Gevurah is God's might. Judaism relies on God's might as a source of comfort and stability in life. Gevurah inspires awe and devotion but also peace and heroism.
6. Daat	Mike Fineberg	01/14	Daat is knowledge. Judaism celebrates knowledge as a spiritual goal. Correct understanding and wisdom can only come when we have learned the material first
7. Chesed	Bernie Kahn	01/21	Chesed or kindness is so intrinsic to Jewish practice that is we might miss how powerful it is. Kindness calls us to serve each other and God's world in ways that go beyond the letter of the law.
8. Tiferet	Cathy Swerdlow	01/28	Tiferet is the appreciation of beauty that is everywhere in Judaism. Physical, emotional and spiritual beauty are all valued.
9. Netzach	Bernie Kahn	02/4	Netzach denotes the concept of eternity which is important across all facets of Judaism because we see ourselves as part of the long term path of the universe. From the angelic chorus to Mashiach to redoubled efforts to dedicate ourselves, we know this is an eternal effort that will outlast any one of us.
10. Hod	Susan Bernstein	01/11	Hod refers to our sense of splendor and glory that leads us to see the higher path of life as a joy instead of a burden. We also work to live in ways that reflect this splendor.
11. Yesod	Mike Fineberg	02/18	Yesod is our foundation. Although Judaism encourages us to elevate ourselves, some values and behaviors are so fundamental and essential that they form a Foundation for our identities and futures.
12. Summary & Conclusion	Rabbi Neely	02/25	