



ROOT & BRANCH

Deepen Your Jewish Journey

A Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland Initiative

WINTER/SPRING 2026 CATALOG



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland



Root & Branch is a new initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland that offers local adults opportunities to deepen their Jewish journey. Our programs offer an invitation into Jewish life as something to grow into, not something you need to already know.

Across our fall 2025 offerings, over half of attendees were new to the Federation, and many had never engaged in Jewish learning as adults. This reflects both the diversity and vitality of the local Jewish community, and a clear desire for entry points that are welcoming, flexible, and intellectually serious without being intimidating.

Facilitated by Dr. Yosef Rosen, the Federation's Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Root & Branch is designed for adults who are curious, searching, and often juggling full lives. Some participants come with deep Jewish backgrounds, others with fragments, questions, or long pauses in their Jewish journey.

Please browse through our Winter-Spring 2026 catalog and discover which program might offer a meaningful step along your Jewish journey.



ROOT & BRANCH
Deepen Your Jewish Journey

Overview of Offerings Winter—Spring 2026

Melton Courses are Back!

Jewish Journeys:
Collective Memories through Place and Time

Enter the Pardes: An Introduction to Early Jewish Mysticism

Reset & Refresh: For Multi-Heritage Young Couples

Zohar & Zhug

Jewish Magic School

A Day of Jewish Renaissance: Learning and Arts



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UNPARALLELED EDUCATION UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES



MELTON IS A TRUSTED VOICE FOR JEWISH COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

After a long hiatus, Melton is back in Portland!

Now with more courses, more variability in length
(10 session + 6 session long courses),
and offered online.

These virtual courses are exclusive to the Greater Portland
Area, include an in-person meetup, and are facilitated
by Dr. Yosef Rosen.

The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning offers
courses expertly crafted by Hebrew University scholars that
stress depth and accessibility—they are designed for you to
interact and engage with Judaism on your terms
and questions.



Jewish Journeys: Collective Memories through Place and Time

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Melton

Jewish Journeys: Collective Memories through Place and Time

Fridays, 9:00-10:30am | April 17 - May 29, 2026

On Zoom, with an in-person celebratory meetup
at the course's conclusion

Price: \$119, with discount-code: JFGP60



Embark on a captivating exploration of Jewish history
and culture.

This six-part course will take you on a journey through time and
space, examining how our shared past shapes our present and
future.

We will explore the hidden stories and untold narratives of
Jewish communities in Greece, Spain, Morocco, Poland, and
Israel.

Join us as we unravel the mysteries of the past and study the
impact of collective memory on contemporary Jewish identity.



Enter the Pardes: An Introduction to Early Jewish Mysticism

A Lunch & Learn Series

Eastside Jewish Commons

2420 NE Sandy Boulevard , Portland, OR 97232-2784

March 12-April 23

Thursdays, 12 PM - 1:30 PM

Kosher lunch provided



Across Jewish history, Jews have asked daring questions:
Can a human encounter the divine directly? Is spiritual
experience accessible to all? Are there religious or psychological
dangers to the mystical quest?

To explore the answers given to these questions, this lunch &
learn series turns to one of Judaism's most mysterious and
compelling stories: the Four Who Entered the Pardes. We'll use
this legend to map a wider history of Jewish mysticism in Late
Antiquity and examine how its insights and warnings might still
speak to modern spiritual seekers.

Reset & Refresh

A community-building experience
for young couples.



**Monday Evenings 2026: April 20, May 4, May 18,
June 1, June 8
+ A Shabbat Experience: June 12-13**



Reset & Refresh invites young couples of mixed heritage* into a welcoming Jewish space for self-discovery, rejuvenation, deepening relationships, and building community.

This seven-session program uses Shabbat as a compass to explore Jewish life, deepen relationships, and make meaningful connections with other couples.

*Being mixed heritage includes a myriad of combinations that cross religions, denominations, spiritual practice, race, ethnicity, and backgrounds. Participating couples might include two people who identify as Jewish and have varied Jewish lived experiences and a couple where one member identifies with another religion or is an agnostic, along with many other variations.

Monthly Zohar Study

Zohar & Zhug

Join for mystical learning and delicious spicy zhug
(a Yemenite hot sauce). This will be a monthly program!
Free to attend. Please RSVP.



ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/zohar-and-zhug
6686 SW Capitol Hwy

ZOHAR & ZHOUG @ AHAVAT ACHIM

Thursday Evenings, 8:00-9:30pm

January 15, February 12, March 19, April 16, 2026

FREE



REGISTER NOW

Once a month, on Thursday night, join us as we study passages of the Zohar (in English), the classic work of Jewish mysticism, and savor the flavors of zhoug—a fiery, fragrant Yemenite schmear—on crackers, to add a bit of heat and joy to our conversations.

Whether you're well-versed in Kabbalah or just curious to taste these mystical texts (and the zhoug), you're warmly invited.



Jewish Magic School

Leikam Brewing

5812 E Burnside Street

Portland, OR 97215

June 2, 16, 30

Tuesdays, 5:30- 7:00 PM

Themes:

Dream Interpretation + Angels + The Art of Amulets



Step through the welcoming doors of Leikam Brewing
for a new semester of Jewish Magic School.

In this three-session adventure into the witchier parts of Judaism, we'll
learn about dream interpretation, angels, and the art of amulets.

Each 90-minute workshop combines an historical overview of the topic
with an exploration of its contemporary expressions. No wands or
Jewish knowledge required.

Come for all three or drop-in as your schedule allows.



A Day of Jewish Renaissance

June 21, 2026, 10am-6pm

Eastside Jewish Commons

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

A Day of Jewish Renaissance is a full day of choose-your-own Jewish adventure, featuring the best of Portland's local Jewish teachers, artists, and creative voices. A collaboration between the Federation and Art/Lab, this festival brings Jewish learning, Jewish art-making, and Jewish community into the same space.

Across four time slots, you'll be able to pick from four different offerings each round: art workshops, two learning options, and one experiential option, such as a cooking class, movement, singing, etc.

Attend a lecture, join a hands-on arts workshop, take a cooking class, or pause to schmooze;
come for what draws you, skip what doesn't,
and leave recharged and inspired.