

# Lifting Up Jewish American Staff Voices



## Valerie Gutwirth

Cragmont Elementary,  
John Muir Elementary  
Dance Teacher

### Favorite Books:

Persuasion, Jane Austen  
Teaching to Transgress, bell hooks  
Tales for the Perfect Child,  
Florence Perry Heide

**Favorite Food:** Chicken Marbella  
and Anything Dark Chocolate

**Favorite Movie:** Summer of Soul  
Ideal Dinner Guests: Joseph  
Pilates, Raja Feather Kelly, Joni  
Mitchell

"My great grandfather used to take my mom and my uncle out of Hebrew school early and get them sweet treats. On those days, he'd tell them, "here's all you need to know: Judaism is a spiritual practice, an ethical tradition, and a system of organizing history."

Words to live by."

# Jewish American Heritage Month

**Berkeley**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS