

# News & Fun Activities

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**Tri-Valley Cultural Jews**  
Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community  
**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**  
[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)  
(925) 399-8029

**Affiliated with the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization**

**Our mission statement:** "A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion."



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# ***October 30th, 2021***

## **TVCJ Community News**



*[Click here to Like Our Facebook Page](#)  
and **share our content.***

*[trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org) website has  
content that you can share. At the end  
of each of our website pages are  
buttons to **share our content** on  
**Twitter** and **Facebook.***

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Havdalah Dates**

**11/20/21** Virtual Havdalah Please check Evite for the time and Zoom information.

**12/18/21** Havdalah Details TBD

Join us for a short Secular Humanistic ceremony!

**Cost:** Free to members, suggested donation \$10.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

**Email:** [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

### **November 4th Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group**

**Day:** First Thursday of each month (next one is November 4th)

**Time:** 7:00p.m.

**Place:** Zoom (Please see Evite for Zoom information)

**Cost:** Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Our lively Philosophers' Cafe discussion in October focused on the de-extinction movement. Participants brought up ethical and economic issues as well as regulatory questions and the idea of using something splashy to create interest in species preservation.

Philosophers' Cafe is a monthly discussion on topics variously serious and lighthearted - we never know what the topic will be until we show up on Zoom, so there's no homework. Join us the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 568 599 7884 for an interesting discussion with interesting people. We discuss topics timely and ancient, serious and lighthearted. You never know what the topic will be until you show up, so there's no homework! If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please let us know by emailing [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

If you have questions, please contact Jazz at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029**.

**Celebrate Chanukah with Us**



**Date:** Sunday, November 28, 2021

**Time:** 10:30a.m.

**Cost:** Free to members; suggested donation \$10/non-member

**Place:** Mogilefsky's Home - Zoom details to follow in evite for remote attendance.

Join us to celebrate the Festival of Lights at the Mogilefsky's home (address to follow in evite). Come for games, music, and a short secular, humanistic ceremony. Jelly donuts and gelt will be available to take home. **Masks are required for all in person attendants.**

**Questions?** Contact [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029**.

## Seeking Eden Interfaith Representative

TVCJ is looking for a new representative to Eden Area Interfaith Council. As our representative, you would attend a monthly Interfaith meeting and report back to the TVCJ Board about any action items or community news that would affect our membership. Meetings are currently via zoom, but will one day resume in person at their location in Castro Valley. Eden Area Interfaith engages in many social action campaigns and you can find out more at <https://edeninterfaith.weebly.com/> Please contact us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

## A Climate Call-to-Action from the TVCJ Board

Khevre,

The end of October is a crucial time in the fight to steer humanity off a path of self-destruction.

- Humanity's current course will soon lock in at least 3 degrees Celsius of climate warming (about 5 and half degrees Fahrenheit. One study calculates economic impacts of \$551 trillion if the world warms by 3.7C. **That is more money than exists on earth.** By taking dramatic action to tackle the problem, we may still be able to limit warming to 1.5C. The damages are calculated to be 10x less at that level but still cost \$54 trillion. ([reference](#))
- These dollar amounts alone do not convey the devastating impacts ahead for humanity if we do not take immediate, disruptive action. The difference between 1.5C and 3C of warming will determine whether an additional 300 million people living in coastal regions are displaced from their homes, and whether some cities are merely damaged or lost completely, including New York and Miami ([reference](#)). Those numbers determine how we will all be impacted by fires, flooding, storms, and food and supply chain disruption no matter where we live.

- To meet the magnitude of this crisis, the Build Back Better bill under negotiation in Congress originally proposed critical policy changes and spending (merely!) \$3.5T (over 10 years, or \$350B/year), paid for completely by taxes on corporations and the wealthy. The subset of changes dedicated specifically to climate action are [widely supported](#) and may be enough to put us on the path to 1.5C. \$350 billion a year would be a small amount to pay for an enormous boost to the viability of our civilization, alongside other changes with broad appeal to the public. ([reference](#))
- Whatever that top-line number ends up being after negotiations are complete, the critical factor is that a focus on climate action remains central, and that our strongest policy changes start NOW... Despite the popular desire for this plan to succeed, the entire bill is under threat by the 52 Senators who are refusing to take the action needed, including two Democrats and all Republicans.

There are elements here that are touchstones of Jewish history: Refugees. Social justice. Tikkun olam... The climate crisis needs every Jewish voice speaking out and demanding a commitment to action. **We have three calls to action for TVCJ members today:**

- **Please make one call to Congress:** <https://call4climate.com/>  
It doesn't matter that we live in a blue state with Democratic Senators. They must hear our voices to know how strongly they must fight against those who would stop, delay, or water down climate action. Senator Diane Feinstein in particular has been cavalier about climate action, and claims it's because she never hears from her constituents about it. We must change that!
- **Please consider the [Youth vs Apocalypse Climate Event](#) on Friday, October 29th, and future events.**

Our kids have the most to gain or lose in the climate fight, and it's not too early for them to get involved in demanding a better future. Talk to your kids about the youth-led movement, and support them if they want to participate. If you'd like to coordinate with other people from TVCJ who will attend the mural-painting and march in San Francisco on October 29th, mail [culturaljews+oct292021@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews+oct292021@gmail.com).

- Please consider “liking” [the Facebook profile for Dayenu](#).

The TVCJ Board is working to coordinate more closely with other Jewish organizations for climate action through [Dayenu](#). Increasing their Facebook presence helps further that goal.

## Jewish Culture School (JCS)



- Historically people were allowed in
- All people deserve a safe place to live
- larger population = more tax dollars
- The current situation is similar to when Jews were coming to the U.S. and it ended up working out
- Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- You have the ability to save lives, so do it
- They can bring in new skills
  
- Let in immigrants

JCS students show off some protest signs they made as we learned about how Jews were treated in the American colonies. We also drafted a letter to the president about welcoming immigrants, using some of the same arguments used by the Jews of New Amsterdam in their letter to the Dutch West Indies Company. [If you want to learn more about Jewish Culture School click here.](#)

### **Keeping up with our JCS grads:**

Rebecca Ireland organized the Castro Valley Women's March for Reproductive Justice, one of 650 marches held all over the nation held on October 2nd. About 100 people attended - a great turn-out! Thanks, Rebecca!

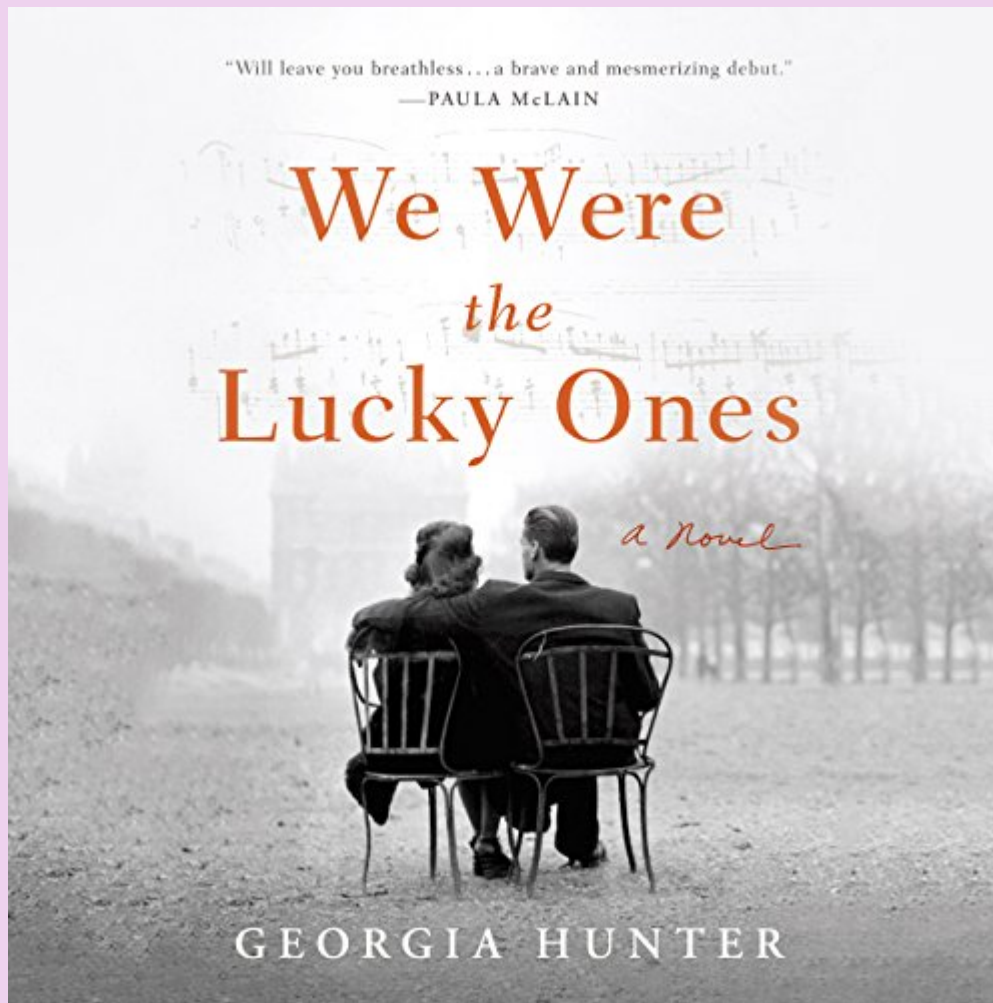
### **Book Review**

[\*We Were the Lucky Ones\*](#)

**By**



## Georgia Hunter



This book is a historical novel based on the lives of ancestors of the author. The Kurcs were a Jewish family that grew up in Radom, Poland around the time of World War II. The parents had five children. They were very close. However, at the start of the war they were all split up because the parents foresaw the danger they would face if they all stayed together. By various means they made their ways to France, Austria, Italy, and South America. Each of the siblings demonstrated amazing courage and resourcefulness in order to survive at the hands of Nazis, Russians, and others who would do them harm because they

were Jewish. Some were arrested, captured, sent to Siberia, and concentration camps. What kept them going and surviving, while not knowing the fates of their siblings and parents, were the dreams of reuniting as a whole family. I feel that this was the main theme of the book.

This was truly an amazing, courageous and inspirational family. It is a story that we should all read to remind us how important families are to us even if we have to face the harshest of circumstances. I feel that the book was very well written even though some parts were somewhat graphic.

[Click here to find this book on Amazon.](#)

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**



**October Online Short film of the Month**  
***The Violin Upstairs*      Director: Asali Echols**

**[Click here to watch the short film The Violin Upstairs](#)**

**About The Short**

An animated documentary that tells the story of the previous owners of the filmmaker's violin.

For a special message from the director, and additional Filmmaker Q&A's, visit the JFI Blog, [The Cinegogue](#). For a list of all Online Monthly Shorts, visit our [Online Shorts Page](#) on the JFI Website.

## One Bay One Book

The 2021-2022 One Bay One Book is "*The Hidden Palace*" by Helene Wecker.



**One Bay One Book** is a year-long conversation centered around a single book and its themes - a project of the Jewish Community Library, sponsored by

Jewish LearningWorks.

This year's selection is **Bay Area novelist Helene Wecker's *The Hidden Palace*, a historical epic infused with Jewish and Arab mythology.** It's a story about people (and mythical creatures) of all ages growing, maturing, and learning to cope with change.

Though the novel itself is for the mature reader, its moral quandaries are ever **relevant for educators thinking about social-emotional learning:** how Chava—a baker-golem turned school teacher—learns to balance empathy and responsibility for strangers with her obligations to herself and her loved ones; how Kreindel, a young orphan, struggles to hold on to her heritage and identity while learning to adapt and thrive in new situations; and how all of the characters are faced with **the challenge of learning to accept and welcome those who are different.**

You can borrow a [printed copy](#), [eBook](#), or [audiobook](#) from the Jewish Community Library and join the conversation!

## **New Lehrhaus The Bay Area Hub for Adult Jewish Learning**

New Lehrhaus will be offering a rich diversity of lectures, workshops and courses on Jewish culture, religion and history. **All of the classes are on Zoom. Most of the classes are FREE.**

**Sample Fall Programs** (More on their website <https://newlehrhaus.org/> )

- Inaugural Lecture: A Revolution in Jewish Life and Learning - Lehrhaus Then and Now: Fred Rosenbaum
- Two Traditions, One Home: Dawn Kepler
- Cultural Memory: Ladino Music and Poetry: Rivka Amado
- Inspired by Light, Driven by Fire: Hanukkah Arts Workshop (Adults & Kids 10+): Adina Polen

- Jews of Color - Inside and Out: Lessons from the New Jews of Color Study: Bruce D. Haynes and Bruce Phillips
- Hebrew - Multiple Levels: Jehon Grist, Orna Morad; Yiddish from Scratch: Ken Blady

[Click here for a full list of courses.](#) [Click here and scroll down to the bottom to join their mailing list.](#)

## Interfaith Interconnect: Religion Chat

**Date:** Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

**Time:** 5:00p.m.- 6:15p.m. via Zoom. Meeting room opens at 4:45p.m.

**Topic:** Share a tradition of gratitude that you observe, or a reading, prayer, poem, or song of thanksgiving from your religion or culture. Any participants who wish to share a brief (under 3 minute) response to the topic are invited to do so! **Note that we will not record this Religion Chat.** All are welcome!

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86122322478>

[For more information go to their Facebook page by clicking here.](#)



### In October We Remember

Adina Senensieb  
Mary Gates  
Seymour Seid  
Taki Greenberg

### Who We Are

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

#### Board Members:

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski 718-578-7876

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404

Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956

Jesse Pino 925-605-6003

Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel

**Webmaster:** Noah King

**JCS Teachers:** Jazz Salwen-

## October Birthdays



Grabowski, Judith Seid

**Holiday Coordinator:** Jazz  
Salwen-Grabowski

**Movie Coordinator:** Bret  
Mogilefsky

Happy Birthday October babies!

**Joke:** Where does Batman buy groceries? A super market.

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