



Message from the Director of Religious Education... Grow the Magic

It is my great joy to enter into Growing the Magic here at Westwood! For me, growing magic involves reaching up and out, and also down and inward into my hopes and dreams for the great potential that seeds planted at this time of year hold for seasons to come.

A few seedlings that I've planted are starting to sprout into Westwood Magic this year! Our youth program has been reaching up and out to forge new connections with The Green Room, a youth organization run by Islamic Social Services, and Temple Beth Ora. Our youth very much enjoyed time spent at TBO last summer, and both

organizations are excited to continue to explore ways of being in relationship with our youth and our congregation. Rabbi Gila Caine's Sunday Service in January was one seed that sprouted from this sowing.

One other seed which is magically growing into being is our Break Bread event series. This is a youth and young adult centred, everyone welcome event series that is in partnership with TBO and The Green Room, with one event at each location. Breaking Bread is focused on sharing food and meaningful conversation as a way to create new connections. We are hoping to make this an annual event series, and I am very excited to see what kind of fruit this baby plant will produce!

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to consider creating magic in the world as part of my job description, so thank you all for your generosity. Your pledges this year will reach places impossible to foresee and guaranteed to reach many hearts.

In gratitude and eager anticipation,
Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet