

Ocean and Michele in 1993, when they met at a YES! camp, fell in love, and went on to co-direct YES! together.

### A Message from YES!'s Founder, Ocean Robbins

"Wow, 25 years! When I started YES!, I was 16 years old. And I was on fire with a passion that went to the core of who I was. A passion to inspire my generation to reclaim our world from the clutches of greed, violence, and apathy. And a passion to stand up for a thriving, just and sustainable human presence on this planet. Now, 25 years later, I am in awe of all that we've learned and accomplished -- all the lives that have been touched and all the ripples that continue to radiate outwards. I have deep appreciation for all the people who have stepped forward to make YES!'s work possible -- staff, board, facilitators, participants, volunteers and donors. And, I'm filled with gratitude for Shilpa, whose brilliant leadership has enabled work that I spent 20 years of my life developing, and that meant so very much to me, to deepen and flourish. As a founder, I don't know if I convey what it means to me to see my passion living, evolving, and thriving on. I am so infinitely grateful."

## Stay Tuned for Upcoming Jams 2015-2016

- Evolving + Emerging Economies Jam, October 13-18, 2015, San Francisco Bay Area, CA, USA
- Middle East Youth Leadership Jam, October 23-30, 2015, Amman and Wadi Rum, Jordan
- Egypt Youth Leadership Jam, November 5-10, 2015, Fayoum, Egypt
- South India Youth Jam, December 27-31, 2015, Bangalore, India
- Pakistan Youth Leadership Jam, February 2016, Karachi/TBD, Pakistan
- Delhi/NCR (National Capitol Region) Jam, March 2016, New Delhi, India
- Arts and Social Change Jam, April 5-10, 2016, Ben Lomond, CA, USA
- India Youth Jam, April 23-30, 2016, Himachal Pradesh, India
- New England Jam, April 20-25, 2016, Springfield, NH, USA
- Toronto/GTA Jam, May 2016, Toronto, ON, Canada
- Law and Social Change Jam, June 2016, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- North America Leadership Jam, September 11-18, 2016, Ben Lomond, CA, USA

### And More to Come...

Invitations, applications and updates for these Jams, and info on new Jams and other programs, can be found at [www.yesworld.org/connect/jams](http://www.yesworld.org/connect/jams)



CELEBRATING **25** YEARS of TRANSFORMATION 1990-2015



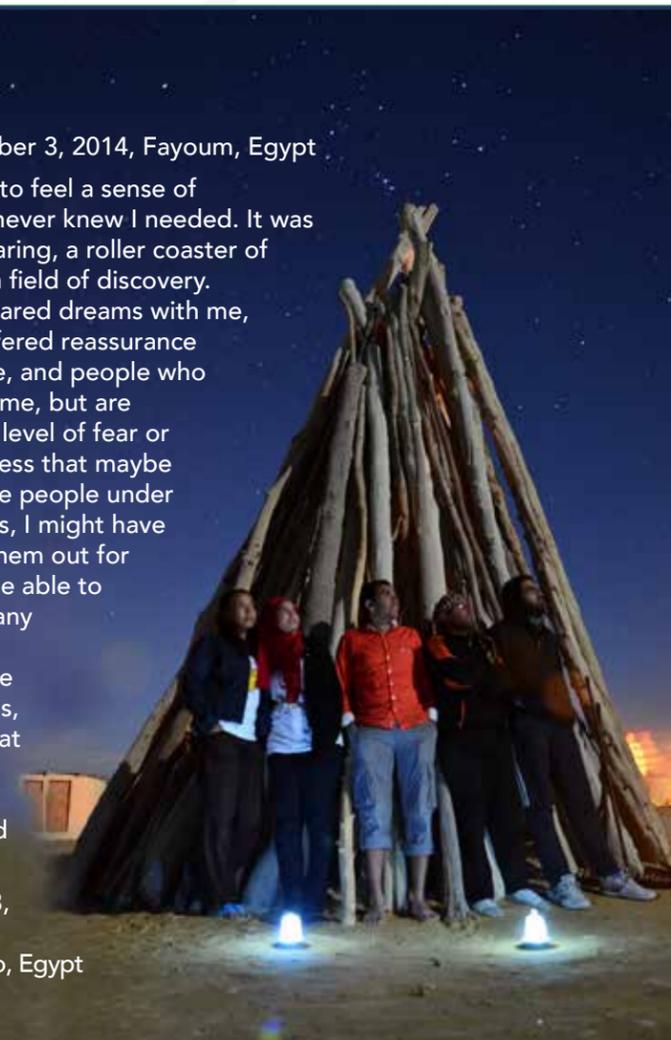
YES! connects, inspires and collaborates with young and multi-generational changemakers to build thriving, just and sustainable ways of life for all. We work at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal and systemic transformation, realizing that all layers of change are interconnected and interdependent. Our programs seek to expand the vision and effectiveness of changemakers at all levels — visionaries, artists, social entrepreneurs, activists, and more, to support their leadership, commitment to service, and profound sense of possibility for and creativity towards making a better world.

### Egypt Youth Leadership Jam

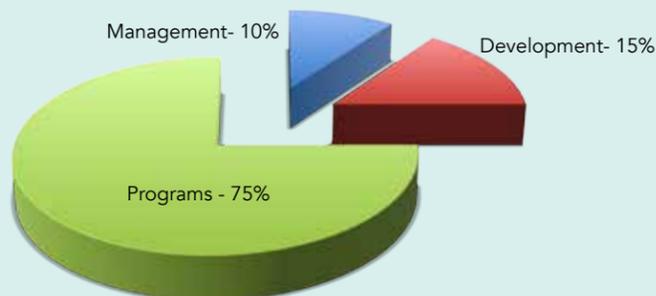
October 30 to November 3, 2014, Fayoum, Egypt

"The Jam allowed me to feel a sense of companionship that I never knew I needed. It was an extravaganza of sharing, a roller coaster of discovery and an open field of discovery. I found people who shared dreams with me, people who readily offered reassurance through their presence, and people who are worlds apart from me, but are somehow at the same level of fear or discomfort. I also confess that maybe if I had met those same people under different circumstances, I might have judged them or shut them out for fear that I would not be able to support them or play any other role in their life. I was reassured that we are all carrying burdens, heavy and light and that we all are made of the same stuff, we are all human and we all need human connection."

- Hala Mohie Eldin, 33, Environmental and Social Consultant, Cairo, Egypt



### YES! Annual Expenses: \$245,510 Oct 1, 2014 – Sept 30, 2015



**BIG THANKS** to the many generous people, foundations, partners and participants who co-created this fantastic year! For a complete list of 2014-15 contributors, please visit our website, [www.yesworld.org](http://www.yesworld.org).

Unaudited numbers indicate a balanced budget, and an unrestricted general reserve funds balance (as of September 15, 2015) of \$151,723. Our general funds, along with our restricted funds, are held in our local social justice-focused community credit union. If you would like to see a more detailed statement of activity, please contact us.

We could not share all the details of our work with you in this Annual Report, as we aim to minimize paper consumption. To read more information about our past and upcoming programs, please visit [www.yesworld.org](http://www.yesworld.org) and remember to sign up for ongoing updates and news



YES! has a new address and phone!  
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[www.yesworld.org](http://www.yesworld.org)



[facebook.yescommunity](https://facebook.yescommunity)



[@yeschangemakers](https://twitter.com/yeschangemakers)



### Facilitators and Organizers Retreat

November 26-30, 2014, Bangalore, India

"I would not be exaggerating to I say that the Jam has transformed my life. It has helped me in improving my relationships and given me a new lens to view the world and gain clarity in my vision. It has definitely made me a more confident and better facilitator. Last, but not least, it gave me a community with which I can share my vision as well as my vulnerabilities. I am deeply grateful to the Family for all that it has given me."

- Shraddha Bharatiya, 28, Peaceful Society Gandhian Organization, Goa, India



### 7th Annual Middle East Youth Leadership Jam

November 7-14, 2014, Wadi Rum, Jordan

"As a Palestinian, I have asked so many questions about what does peace mean and how does one get there both internally and externally? As a human, I have set so many intentions to find this internal and external peace and harmony and balance and find an end to all human suffering. I feel the Jam so intensely fits my life intentions and higher purpose; it is a great part of my healing and being whole again. Thank you YES! for making this possible for me. I feel my heart is so open, and I take with me a sense of hope and inspiration for what I am also to make this world a better place."

- Deema Dabis, 33, Co-Founder, Fajr Falastine Film Collective, Amman, Jordan

### Morocco Youth Leadership Jam

March 12-16, 2015, Tafoughalte, Morocco

"Thank you for making me realize that I'm much more than my mistakes and sadness. Thank you for creating a safe place where I can express myself freely. Thank you for shared tears and shared laughter. Thank you for the unconditional love and kindness you showed me. Habibi Jam, shine, keep shining. Your light is shining brightly in this world. Wherever you go, keep shining in the dark. Keep shining for those who think they've lost their way. Use your million talents and inspiring stories to help other people find their own. I love you, I love you to infinity and beyond."

- Soukaina, 28, Idmaj, Sidi Moumen Cultural Center, Casablanca, Morocco



### 4th Annual India Youth Leadership Jam

March 8-15, 2015, Udaipur, India

"True healing is emerging. Very literally the skin condition (eczema) that I've lived with since the time I was born, seems to be leaving my body. Your love is helping me release and surrender what I have identified as the root cause - fear."

- Priya Prabhakaran, 27, yoga/healing practitioner, Bangalore, India

### 12th Annual North America Leadership Jam

September 6-13, 2015, Ben Lomond, CA, USA

"This experience has rejuvenated my spirit and created a solid source of power and inspiration that I will be drawing upon for the rest of my life. You have given me concrete, tangible tools to be a more evolved human being, and you have shifted my perspective on how to create real, lasting changes in my community. Through the Jam, I was able to own my gifts and experience giving them freely without a sense of exploitation or depletion. I now know that being of service can truly be a rejuvenating force in my life. I have expanded my personal spectrum of emotion which will greatly enhance my ability to be fully present in the work that I do. I have learned how vital it is to sloooooowwwwww doooooowwwnnn and notice all of the abundance that lies before me and within me."

- Gino Pastori-Ng, 32, Co-Founder & Co-Director, Youth SEED, Oakland, CA, USA



### 5th Annual Anatolia Youth Leadership Jam

September 11-18, 2015, Bodrum, Turkey

"Love! Love! Love! I was asking myself what love is and saw that the Jam is love. It is realizing my judgments and jealousies; it is to see and to be seen without fear. The Jam is falling in love with this world and celebrating it together, not being afraid of death and mourning, solidarity and memory. It is about hearing a dear friend's voice and being happy. The Jam is remembering that I am not alone and I won't be alone."

- Mustafa Teksoy, 33, environmentally sustainable architect, Izmir, Turkey



### 3rd Annual Nova Scotia Gaels Jam

May 8-13, 2015, Mabou, NS, Canada

"The Jam was such a time of renewal and deepening for me. It has given me the opportunity to slow down and reconnect... reconnect with friends and community members and also to rereconnect and integrate my own sense of being in myself. I feel empowered to take this sense of slowness, attentiveness and listening back to my personal life and my work with the Gaelic community."

- Kathleen Reddy, 35, Gaelic Instructor, Saint Francis Xavier University, Dartmouth, NS, Canada



### Pakistan Youth Leadership Jam

March 22-26, 2015, Karachi, Pakistan

"The Jam allowed me to deepen my relationship with my inner core, my soul. Thank you for supporting me to connect my with myself, to understand my concerns, and encouraging me to open the doors of my heart to trust people and make friends. Thanks for making me feel alive once again."

- Zain Goplani, 24, Training Officer, iACT Program, Habib University Foundation, Karachi, Pakistan



### Education Transformation Jam

August 3-8, 2015, Waitsfield, VT, USA

"I literally feel like I have more room to breathe in my body. Thank you for inviting me to stretch. I came looking for support with transformation and in my transition, in becoming a better educator and human being. I received both in expected ways - new tools for thinking, dialoguing, listening - and unexpected ways - eye contact, time, songs, gifts, the beauty of nature, fire, games, and play. I leave you with a vision of education that includes compassion, joy, love, art, laughter, play, intellect, challenging reflection and conversation, listening, movement, and breath."

- Miyo Tubridy, 33, English Teacher, East Side Community High School, New York City, NY, USA



### Law and Social Change Jam

April 29 - May 3, 2015, Muir Beach, CA, USA

"I truly felt both the safety and support during the Jam to explore myself in deep, spiritual ways that are certainly not covered in other 'professional development' trainings or retreats but are the underpinnings of my leadership style and values. It was a great opportunity to go inward and step back from the move forward, action-oriented social justice work I do. Thanks for lifting up my value and identity as a human BEING vs a human doing."

- Helen Ho, 44, Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Atlanta, GA, USA



### LGBTQ\*/Queer Jam

May 26-31, 2015, Boulder Creek, CA, USA

"At the Jam, I am taken by being a gay person and Buddhist. I never had been in a place that openly accepted both sides of me. This is a profound life-changing experience itself. Compassion, love, generosity, and community is true! And Queer Jam walks the talk. I feel deeply that my wounds with family and queer community have been healed and refreshed. I take with me a new level of deep seeded intimacy, and a renewed commitment one more time to heal all wounds and love with all my heart."

- Weihaur Lau, 37, Founder and CEO, Oneness Health International, Oakland, CA, USA

### New England Leadership Jam

February 25 - March 1, 2015, Springfield, NH, USA

"Community is no longer a noun for me. It's not a static thing you 'have' but a never-ending process that enriches us all. The greatest gift the Jam has given me is the reality that community comes from intentionally, appreciatively asking and then 'letting it become.' And while the community itself seems full of potential, it is the new awareness of 'ease' in community-building that I am taking with me as one of the most powerful tools I can use going forward."

- Bart Westdijk, 33, Program Director, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Burlington, VT, USA



### 3rd Annual Arts for Social Change / ARTivist Jam

July 7-12, 2015, Ben Lomond, CA, USA

"Thank you for the opportunity to take a deep, long and much-needed breath of fresh air, literally and figuratively. The chance to spend five days deep in process with like-minded artist/activist/loving changemakers was wonder-full. This was a chance for me to change myself from the inside-out. To continue to deepen my understanding of my demons and angels, my yin and yang, the light and dark of my heart; so I can move more freely, more openly and with the compassion of joy I want to bring to this world."

- Jayeesha Dutta, 37, Multi-Disciplinary Artist, Cultural Organizer and Entrepreneur, Mind Power Collective, New Orleans, LA, USA

### Facilitators and Organizers Retreat

April 18-22, 2015, Bodrum, Turkey

"The Jam 4 Jammers taught me to let go of control in order to leave space for spontaneity. I did not need to know everything and lead all the time; I could trust the community and my cofacilitators that whatever need that comes in the space could be held within it all. It was a unique experience to be in the shoes of a leader/facilitator. It used to provoke much more anxiety for me, but J4J showed me that there is another way. I am stretching outside of the Jam community now to try creating more such experiences."

- Yaprak Kaymak Özgür, 34, art therapy focus, İzmir, Turkey



### 3rd Annual Southern Leadership Jam

August 11-16, 2015, Fairhope, AL, USA

"You have meant rest and renewal after exhaustion. You've meant grounding during transition. You've meant healing after hurt and support after feeling alone. You've meant making deep and lasting connections to beautiful people. You've given me tools to help create a beloved community in Selma as an example to the world. You've meant receiving and sharing, taking and giving. You've meant dancing and singing, laughing and love. You've meant growth and connection. You've meant redefining needs to nourishment. You've been nourishment to my spirit and soul, energizing me to do the work necessary to build community. You've helped me to learn that "we who believe in freedom cannot rest" but that I must rest. You've taught me that in order to stop the cycle of hurt people hurt people, healed/healing people must heal people. You've given me tools to take care of me at home so I can take care of and build healthy communities. You've allowed me to take care of myself so that I can continue the visioning process started here and turn it into reality. Thank you."

- Ainka Jackson, 36, Director, Healing Waters Selma Center, Selma, AL, USA

## 25 Years of Transformation with Changemakers!

After a quarter century, YES!'s community continues to evolve the field of transformational leadership. We reached our 75th Jam this year, and are currently working with over 20 leadership teams to extend offerings in 10 countries, with more than half of our Jams located in the US.

YES! has long promoted regeneration, means-to-ends consistency, partnerships across historic divides, and intentional space for the role of love and spirit, into movements for social justice, environmental sanity, authentic education, peace, and more. More and more people appear to be embracing the spiritual underpinnings of our approach, to heal lives, relationships, communities, social movements and, ultimately, the planet.

We are also proud to say our alumni network continue to make tremendous collective impact. The quantity and quality of post-Jam collaborations are a testament to our mission to encourage long-term, deep and transcendent social change, with unconditional love and uncompromised truth and justice for all.



*Celebrating the next generation of the Yawanawa!*

### Networking and Resource Building

YES! Jammers helped to raise over \$72,000 towards flood relief for Laura and Tashka Yawanawa's (2000 World Jam alumni) community in Brazil. Josh Thome, founder of Direct Current Media, and a staffer with YES! in the 1990s, led the efforts to spread the word and facilitate the fundraising. Laura and Tashka wrote, "With your support we were able to get basic materials, generators and equipment to rebuild some of the areas that were destroyed. There are still things that need to be done in order to prevent another flood like this since climate change is unpredictable... And, the Yawanawa are strong people, and even while suffering this disaster, we never lost our joy and hope."

### Growing the Work and Expanding the Impact

As an organization that values grassroots mobilization and decentralized partnerships, we aim to seed and empower as much as we can. The latest edition of the YES! Facilitation Manual, expanded and printed in October 2014, has been essential for growing jams and their impact. It is available in print and online at [yesworld.org](http://yesworld.org).

**Angela Sevin**, a 2014 North America Jammer and long-time YES! ally, integrated several YES! tools from the manual into the "Beyond the Culture of Separation: Whiteness and the Emerging Stories of Our Humanity" series in Oakland, California. She remarked, "I am so grateful for all of the support and encouragement I received from this community! The feedback I received from you all made a huge difference in my approach to facilitating this work!"



For information on how to obtain the manual, visit:

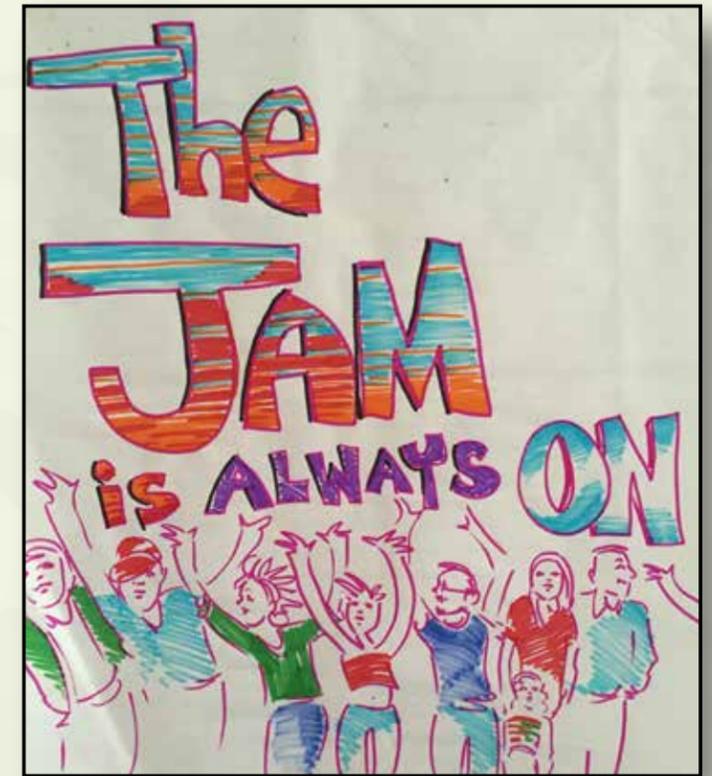
[www.yesworld.org/media](http://www.yesworld.org/media)

## The Jam is Always On Communities of Practice and Tools Sharing

YES! was blessed to partner with so many organizations this year, including **Social Venture Network, Bioneers, the Oakland Peace Center, the Evolutionary Leaders Network**, and more. It was an honor to share our learnings and practices with these wonderful groups.

Also, many of our alumni are creating powerful spaces for ongoing reflection, inquiry and collaboration. Here are just a few examples:

- **Saima Gul**, co-founder of the Pakistan Leadership Jam, coordinated a day-long reunion in Quetta, Pakistan, with alumni from the first Pakistan Leadership Jam.
- **Stalin Boudh**, program officer with Action Aid and 2015 India Youth Jam alum, conducted a two-day workshop called "Vision Development with Meditation" for 15 other change-makers, using many of the tools he learned at the Jam.
- **Rachael Knight**, program director at Namati and 2013 North America Jam alum, brought collaborative visioning and deep community-building back to her land security work in Uganda, Liberia and Mozambique.
- **Golan Yardeni**, Middle East Jam alum and facilitator, has been integrating the Jam into his wilderness therapy work with troubled teens. He spent two full months this summer in the Rocky Mountains facilitating groups of teenagers from all over the U.S. Golan shared, "Finding ourselves in our panic zones is very common when it comes to being out in the vast wilderness, surviving for weeks on end, especially for 16-year-olds with anxiety, depression, eating disorders, drug addictions, some of whom have attempted suicide. Slowing down, speaking from the 'I' and sharing feelings and personal experiences, rather than thoughts or opinions, and learning how to communicate, how to listen and how to be heard: I had the privilege to be a part of these meaningful processes of learning, unlearning and healing for these kids and am so grateful for the Jam support to this work."
- **Susan Brooks**, Drexel University law professor and Law and Social Change Jam alum, has been sharing Jam tools and practices with law faculties and students around the US. They have been tremendously well-received, so she is planning to incorporate them as core teaching materials and expand their usage to other groups, such as legal professionals.



- **Eva Vander Giessen**, Arts and Social Change Jam organizer and alum, took Jam tools and experience into her work with Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem. With 200 young adults, she shared the zones of comfort/stretch/panic, and it caught on like wildfire, helping everyone navigate their ups and downs with support and transparency. Eva wrote, "I am beyond grateful to our Jammy. What we do here spreads out. I experienced that truth – I initiated that truth – in Jerusalem, and the wisdom within the Jam community continues to influence each community we touch."
- **10 Arts and Social Change Jammers** (stretching from the US to Turkey) are collaboratively engaged in an intensive peer coaching, social artist/business development program via phone and Skype.
- **Six India Youth Jammers** organized 'Pause', a three-day gathering in Bangalore for sharing Jam tools and practices with other change-makers.
- **Anatolia Jammers** have launched over 10 different projects in Turkey, from musical collaborations to leadership workshops to traveling service projects! For example, four Anatolia Jammers are now living together in a land-based community, farming, using conscious communication, and hosting Jam-like retreats for changemakers in Turkey.