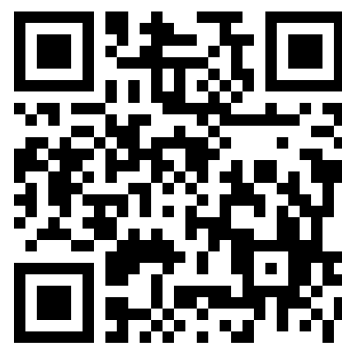




# MID-YEAR REPORT

20  
25

YES! expands social impact by equipping leaders with the necessary tools to build community, navigate conflict and create resiliency in their lives and work.



[givebutter.com/jams2025spring](https://givebutter.com/jams2025spring)

YES! 3240 King St., Berkeley, CA, 94703, USA,  
413 - 275 - 7374, [info@yesworld.org](mailto:info@yesworld.org).



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Angela Sevin**

Co-Founder of The Green Life Project,  
YES! Board Member

The work of YES! is deeply meaningful to me because it lives at the intersection of personal transformation and collective healing - something our world so urgently needs. In these times of polarization and ecological crisis, YES!'s commitment to building awareness, empathy, and authentic connection is not just inspiring - it's essential.

A defining moment for me came during the North American Leadership Jam, where I experienced deeply supportive feedback from fellow participants. I was on the edge of launching a workshop to help white folks support one another in unlearning racism, and it was the brave space co-created by YES! facilitators and participants that gave me the confidence to step into a new level of leadership. That experience continues to ripple out in my work and life.

I'm proud to support YES! and be part of a community that nurtures resilient changemakers. Their work in fostering relational skills and courageous dialogue helps bring much-needed restoration to our communities and strengthens our collective capacity to respond to the challenges of our time.



**Austin Willacy**

Musician, Youth Mentor and Facilitator,  
YES! Secretary General

YES!'s impact transcends the different spaces that I navigate in my life. I am a musician, a youth mentor, I do team-building conflict transformation work and I do environmental peace-building work at the intersection of community building, resiliency and music.

What I have learned and practiced with YES! for the past 20 years allows me to enter all of those spaces feeling comfortable with who I am, and feeling like I know how to work with and collaborate with people in all of those disparate environments. The tools and practices are broadly applicable, deeply meaningful, and very impactful.

In this current time where many of us have been programmed to think of anybody who disagrees with us as an enemy and as not worth talking to, YES!'s focus on connection, slowing down, embracing and learning from conflict is absolutely essential in navigating this moment and visioning towards something better, something more integrated, something healthier, something that allows us to be in harmony with ourselves, in harmony with nature, in harmony with spirit.

# YES! Jams



India Youth Jam,  
Dec 2024, Pune, India

I am so grateful for having had the chance to come to a space which is both critical and incredibly compassionate at both the social and personal levels.

It shed light on the parts of me that need love and support, as well as the ways in which my narrative and ego come in the way of deep connection with my own spirit, my fellow beings, and the Earth.

~Devanshi Srivastava, 26, Journalist, Pune, India

The Jam is a gift. The seeds from this week are going to take time to fully germinate, root, and break through the soil. You brought me joy and play. Release and remembrance. Love and hope.

The beautiful expressions of love. The healthy expressions of anger. The varied expressions of what a man is and can be. **I am in awe at how we held conflict; how we had the courage to share our truth, our critical, impactful feedback and navigate these tensions with care and dignity for self and other.** This week truly was a gift and a blessing!

~Jordan Lyon, 37, Facilitator, Bainbridge Island, WA, USA



Men Raised as Men Jam,  
Feb 2025, Groveland, FL, USA



Anatolia Alumni Jam,  
Mar 2025, İzmir, Türkiye

Experiencing the Jamly tools together in this new cycle has deepened my desire to share and pass them on. The commitment and dedication of our facilitators has been deeply meaningful.

By bringing us together, allowing us to show up with our full presence, and simply being with us, they beautifully reminded us of the spirit of the Jamly. The power of our intentions is still resonating everywhere.

~Melodi Simay Acar, 42, Kinetic Architect, Dalaman, Türkiye





**You have changed me and I am ecstatic to be changed. In a handful of days, you have transformed me more than the last several years.** These days, moments, and experiences will live within me, and the people I have had the honor of knowing will be a part of me for the rest of my life.

The Jam has cracked me open and raw. I could not have foreseen the grief that came through, the vulnerability of check-ins, any of it. I have written pages to my experience here and I will carry it all into every interaction I have and no explanation will do this time justice.

**~Kc Castaneda, 28, Community Builder, Storyteller, Author, New York, USA**



**Asian Diaspora Jam, Apr 2025, Santa Cruz, CA, USA**



**India Eco Jam, Apr 2025, Pune, India**

**I will say that this has been one of the most special times in my life (but not like when people mean 'oh one of a 1000 special times', more like 'one in 4 special times').**

I feel so seen and heard from the Jam, its participants and all five facilitators, together and individually. Holding space for everyone also helped expand my own heart. Thank you!

On water and this Jam's container, one couplet comes to me at this point:

कबीर एक कुआँ है,	The <b>Well</b> is but one,
पानी भरे अनेक,	The <b>Water</b> from which is filled by many,
भांडे ही में भेद है,	The difference only lies in the <b>Pot</b> ,
पानी सब में एक।	As all carry the same <b>Water</b> .

**~Ameya Bokil, 33, Independent Legal Researcher, Bangalore, India**



# YES! Virtual Sessions



I have been following YES!'s work for years even if I haven't been able to participate in an in-person Jam yet. This year I attended a few of their online workshops and I'm very grateful for the open spaces they're creating. I have been a peace activist for 25 years, facilitating cross-cultural and nonviolent communication for groups, and I've especially needed YES!'s support during the current war.

**At YES!'s online sessions, I had the chance to share what I've been experiencing and going through, and I was heard and seen in ways that made me feel that I am not alone and that I have support.** I will continue to be involved with this work online and hopefully also in person soon.

**~ Itaf Awad, Conflict Resolution Trainer, Palestine**

Kazu's workshop made me feel hopeful and whole again, despite the madness of the current political system in the U.S. He reminded us that nature does not operate in binary structures; but rather, in beautiful geometric patterns and ever-evolving spirals.

**If we listen with our skin and our bones, and if we pay heed to nature's ways, we may be able to organize ourselves more genuinely and more sustainably for the long-haul.**


**~Andrea Rocha, Language Justice & Restorative Justice Activist, San Diego, CA, USA**

**YES!**  
**FIERCE VULNERABILITY WORKSHOP**  
**By Kazu Haga**  
25 FEB, 25 | 10 AM PT / 1 PM ET




Join us as we explore how the work of grassroots changemakers, like you, as well as that of organizations like YES! can contribute to creating large scale systemic change in the midst of global collapse of our social, economic and ecological systems.







**Empathy Languages**  
A workshop by Jam Leader Roy Jacob  
November 20, 2024 | 90 Minutes  
8am Pacific / 11am Eastern / 9:30pm IST  
Suggestion Donation: \$10 - \$40 USD

**RSVP!**

## Generational Activism

a storytelling gathering

What can we learn and gift to each other when we look inward to our generational inheritance?

Co-creating space where we will look to each other's stories as a path towards collective acknowledgement and healing.

We hope to meet you with the reverence your story deserves.

December 13th, 2024 90 minutes

11am Eastern 8am Pacific 930pm IST

suggested donation: \$10-40 USD



## Large Scale Social Change Workshop

**Date:** Jan 22nd, 2025  
**Time:** 9am Pacific

This workshop builds off of Sugar's 34-year track record of social impact which includes successful advocacy work, grassroots organizing, large-scale direct service, and social enterprise.



**Steve Nagai-Ma**  
AKA 'Sugar'

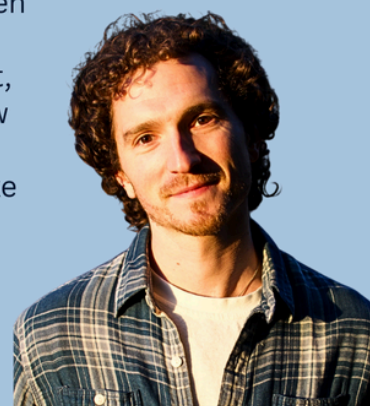




## Reclaiming Aliveness


A Somatic Practice for Resilience with Zacha Belok

**Date:** April 23rd, 2025  
**Time:** 11 am PST, 11 pm IST, 2 pm EST

In a world that often demands we push through, numb out, or disconnect, how do we cultivate practices that make us feel truly alive?

Register here!





# YES! Alumni Gatherings



**Men Raised as Men Jam  
Team Retreat, Oct 2024**



**Egypt Jam Alumni  
Reunion, Jan 2025**



**India Jam Alumni  
Weekend, Mar 2025**



## **Europe Jammers Connection Call**

**April 30th, 2025 at 1pm Eastern / 7pm CET**

Are you a Jam alum from Europe, living in Europe, or otherwise deeply connected to the Old Continent? If yes, you're invited to join this special call bringing together our European Jammy for 2 hours of connection and community building.

**Hosted by**



Kalindi  
Attar



Ayşegül  
Güzel



Nour Elkhataby  
Strauch



**A group of 10 Jam Leaders have  
been meeting monthly to update  
the YES! Facilitation Manual.**



# The Jam is Always On!

## Upcoming Jams in 2025

- Global Eco Jam, May 14-18, 2025 in Morocco
- Anatolia Arts for Social Change Jam, July 2025, in Türkiye
- Education Transformation Jam, August 2025 on Zoom
- Restorying Justice Jam, Aug 10-14, 2025, in California
- H.O.M.E Environmentalists Jam, Aug, 17-22, 2025 in California
- Southern Changemakers Jam, Aug 22-26, 2025, in North Carolina
- North America Leadership Jam, Sep 1-8, 2025 in California
- Egypt Youth Jam, fall 2025, in Egypt
- Toronto Jam, Oct 22-26, 2025, in Canada
- Artists for Social Change Jam, Oct 22-26, 2025, in California



We are deeply grateful to the many generous Jammers, donors and foundations who helped us co-create this eventful year. Please scan this code to support our fundraising campaign so we can sustain and grow our impact in the coming year. [givebutter.com/jams2025spring](https://givebutter.com/jams2025spring).



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