

Year In Review

2023



SHOREISH

CANADIAN SOIL • JEWISH ROOTS

From our Directors

This year, Shoresh has drawn on **the power of the forest** to understand our impact. Together, we've tended our community ecosystem, founded on deep connections with the earth, Jewish tradition, and each other.

In May, the thousands of saplings we planted at Bela Farm turned six. In awe of how our baby trees have evolved into a young Forest for the Future, we realized that Shoresh, too, is like a forest that continues to grow.

In 2023, we planted seeds by launching Nitzanim, our new program for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers. We continued to lead, inspire, and empower our sprouts (Shoresh Outdoor School and Camp Shoresh) and our saplings (Yesod and Kehillat Yesod) to become Shomrei Adamah, protectors of the earth, while deeply nurturing the trees and roots of our forest to ensure long-term sustainability (Zmanim, Dawne's Garden, Community Programs, and the Shoresh Shuk).

As we move into 2024, we will continue to deepen our focus on nurturing these lifelong opportunities for Jewish Nature Connection.

Whether you hiked, learned, gardened, or celebrated holidays with us, we are so glad you are part of the Shoresh forest! We hope our Year-In-Review brings you inspiration and hope as 2023 comes to a close.

With light,
Sabrina, Allie, and Tiferet



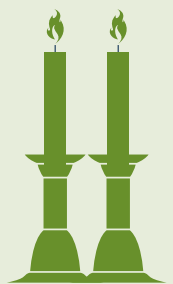
2023 by the Numbers

**\$18,000 in
Program Scholarships**

181 Shoresh
Outdoor Schoolers

8 Yesod B'nei
Mitzvah Grads

13,000
Ritual Beeswax
Candles Lit



Infinite Moments of Jewish Nature Connection

10 Overnights in
the Wild



1000 Pounds of Produce
Harvested by Dawne's
Gardeners



120,000 Bees made
1200 Jars of Honey

10,500 Trees
growing tall



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Planting our Seeds

Nitzanim



“ My toddler loved exploring nature and learning Jewish songs! He kept asking me to sing all the songs from Shores! Nitzanim is a fantastic program, in its multidimensional form, and is instructed superbly for this age group.”



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Nitzanim

Nitzanim (sprouts in Hebrew) is our new baby and toddler program designed to bring Jewish Nature Connection to life for 18 months to 4-year old children and their caregivers.



This year, **20 families gathered weekly** at Bickford Park and Cedarvale Ravine to explore the forest, sing Hebrew songs, create their own *lulavs* (palm branches used during Sukkot), play gently with bugs and plants, and connect with one another.



From Seed to Sprout

Shoreish Outdoor School & Camp Shoreish



“Our kids felt really proud of their wild-foraged pesto and being able to climb and explore. Being part of Shoreish truly has allowed them to start identifying Jewishly.”

“I could see our kids growing in confidence and being grounded by being in nature each day.”



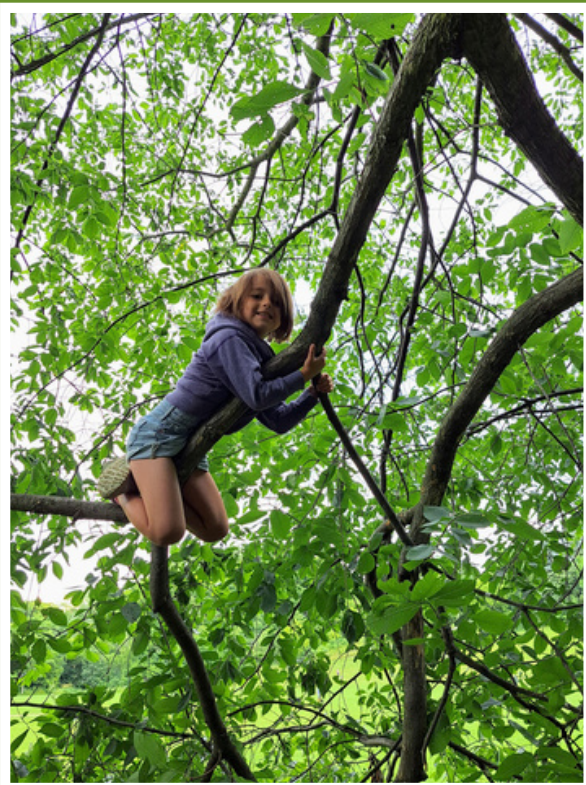
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Shores Outdoor School

Our forest-based Jewish supplementary school weaves together Jewish environmental values, nature connection, and fun, experiential learning outdoors, for participants ages 4-11.

This year, **120 students** built Jewish identity, community, and wilderness skills, while exploring their local ravines through the changing seasons.



Camp Shoresh

Our urban summer camp for kids ages 5-11 welcomed 60 campers and 6 Leaders-in-Training (middle-high school aged youth).

Campers were guided by Jewish creation stories (Genesis/*Bereishit*) and survival stories (In the Wilderness/ *Bamidbar*) to deepen their Jewish Nature Connection through exploration, developing naturalist skills (plant and animal identification) and wilderness skills (shelter building and navigation). Our LITs developed leadership skills and built community while supporting the younger campers in their activities and crafts.



Nurturing our Saplings

Yesod & Kehilat Yesod

"I cannot recommend Yesod enough! The ShoresH educators are deeply kind, thoughtful, creative, enthusiastic, and bring profound wisdom and experience to all engagements. It is a real journey of growth and my child feels challenged, empowered, curious, and proud of all she has learned and accomplished."



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Yesod

Yesod (foundation in Hebrew) is our 10-months long, nature-based B'nei Mitzvah journey.

In 2023, 8 middle schoolers journeyed through the rite of passage to becoming an adult by learning timeless Jewish teachings, asking big questions, learning bushcraft and survival skills, creating their own natural ritual objects, facing challenges, forming community, and having fun! After a culminating canoe trip Shabbaton, we hosted an epic graduation ceremony for our 2022 cohort and their families on the summer solstice.



Kehilat Yesod

Kehilat Yesod (Hebrew for the community of the foundation) builds upon our Yesod Bnei Mitzvah program by offering continued Jewish Nature Connection opportunities to deepen community, Jewish learning and naturalist skills, (fire-building, tracking, plant and animal identification) , while building leadership through mentorship and volunteer opportunities.

In 2023, we our Yesod B'nei Mitzvah graduates came together at monthly urban fire circles, full-day forest field trips, and a camp-out at Bela Farm.



Tending to our Trees



Zmanim



"Delight delight delight, to
be welcomed so warmly,
and feel so comfortable
with so many new faces."

"This Is an AMAZING
group of people and you
have all energized me so
much!"



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Zmanim

Zmanim (seasons in Hebrew) is our new 8-month adult cohort program, with immersive camping and Jewish learning.

In 2023, we piloted this program with **12 adults** seeking to deepen their connection with the earth, Jewish tradition, and community. So far, we've learned **fire skills** (bow drill and flint fire) and **carving**, planted **1,800 heads of garlic** and **studied Jewish cycles of time and water wisdom** at a Bela Farm Shabbaton.



Flourishing Forest Community Programs



"I am so grateful to be a part of ShoresH.
It has not only saved me from feeling
overwhelmingly isolated and alone but it
has made me feel a part of something
both within the Jewish community and
on the earth."

- Dawne's Garden participant



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Community Programs

We deepened our partnerships with dozens of Jewish organizations while engaging thousands of individuals of all ages at community events.

We gathered in nature for Shoresh-led hikes to celebrate holidays. We hosted a 3-day Farm Camp, Family Farm Days, and Stewardship Days at Bela Farm throughout the growing season.



Dawne's Garden

For 7 years, Shores and Jewish Family & Child Services (JF&CS) have been growing food, community, and biodiversity in the heart of Kensington Market.

Operating out of the Kiever Shul, JF&CS clients plant, tend, and harvest from a vegetable, herb, and pollinator garden, while learning about Jewish time, holidays and rituals.



The Shoresh Shuk

Our social enterprise has grown exponentially in 2023!

Using a **new online platform**, we are now able to share our **sustainable ritual items** (e.g. honey for Rosh Hashanah, Beeswax Shabbat, Chanukah, and Havdallah candles) with community members far and wide, enabling them to bring the beauty from our hives to their homes while **demonstrating that sustainability is a Jewish value.**

In 2023, we partnered with **Leo Baeck Day School's Shabbat Program** as well as **10 local retailers** who helped us broaden our reach.



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