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SPRING PROGRAMS & COVID-19 UPDATE

We have been monitoring the news and the unfolding events regarding the spread of COVID-19.

This is a moment that is calling on all of us to be CRASH-flex, resilient, and more deeply aware of our interconnectedness. As we all move through this rapidly changing world knowing that our realities may shift at a moment's notice, we are sending you all so much love and strength.

We're reaching out to let you know that we're here for you through this, and to share some updates about upcoming SVARA programs. In order to do our part to help everyone stay safe, we've decided to postpone our March & April Pedagogy Intensives and Spring Pop-Ups in Boston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and New York. We'll be in touch with those of you who are registered for each of these programs with additional information and next steps.

In the hope that these risks will, God willing, be behind us by summer, we're moving forward as planned with Queer Talmud Camp, and the first round of acceptance emails will be coming out later this week. We are, of course, continuing to monitor the situation and will share more information should anything in our QTC planning shift.



Want to know what's happening at SVARA? Jot down your email and we'll let you know!

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This is a time where many of us are unsure about how to be in public space and are being advised to physically distance ourselves from one another. Ironically, in moments like these, we also need our connections to each other and to our broader community most deeply.

תניא ר"ש בן יוחי אומר בוא וראה כמה חביבין ישראל לפני הקב"ה שבכל מקום שגלו שכינה עמהן

It is taught in a baraita: Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai says: Come and see how beloved the Jewish people are before the Holy One, Blessed be G!d. In every place they were exiled, the Divine Presence went with them.

- Talmud Bavli, Megillah 29a

The Talmud was born in diaspora, and it has, for centuries, lived as the connective tissue that holds our communities together across the many corners of where we are. **In this spirit, we're cookin' up a slew of virtual learning spaces that will help us come together as a community across time and space, and we'll share more about these opportunities to connect and learn virtually with the SVARA community in the coming days.** In the meantime, we encourage y'all to reach out to us and each other—grab your masechet, find a (virtual) chevruta, and dig into a sugya to ground in this practice that has helped anchor our communities for generations.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions you might have, and may you all stay safe, healthy, and whole.

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