

37 Days Completed

Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider **selling the city** on this journey, undertaking to know more each day about the workings of oppression, so that we might get ourselves, all of us, out from under this millstone that is the Narrow Place.

Douglas Development is one of the largest developers in DC, the largest for commercial real estate (according to *Washington Business Journal* in 2021). Douglas owns property along H Street Northeast and a mixed-use development at 501 H NE, about five blocks from Union Station.

To sell potential tenants on the eastern end of the H Street corridor, the developer cites a "renaissance" led by "a hip arts scene, inclusive of quirky bars, eclectic restaurants, art galleries, and regional music destinations—most locally owned." For the mixed-use project, they say:

THE H STREET VIBE is unlike any other in the District. Unique and authentic, this is where the residents of Washington DC live, work, and celebrate. Here, a vibrant collection of shops, bars, restaurants, and retailers serves a residential base that has experienced – and continues to experience enormous growth as H Street transforms into one of DC's most happening corridors.

No people appear in visuals for the four eastern properties, but they do promise "hip." The flyer for 501 H includes only white people. This is not un-common for Douglas. They are selling "unique and authentic," but not to or for those who provide that "authenticity."

Return for a moment to those high-end dwellings in Pitom (Day 37). A tale of housing already for sale is one story, with an obvious starting place. But, let's consider...

Who convinced potential residents that the area was "hip"?

How do long-time residents and formerly-enclaved people fit into the story of the new, hip Pitom?

What kind of stories about the not-so-hip, old Pitom helped pave the way for the new?

Also, how long did developers let properties sit, waiting for the day they could cash in, instead of contributing to the vibrancy of Pitom all along?

Ritual Focus

Here I am, ready and prepared

[use traditional *kavanah* and/or continue here]

Here I am, ready and prepared to fulfill this project of counting 49 days,
from Narrowness to Expansion,
seeking to examine oppression and envision liberation,
inspired by the Torah's counting of the Omer,
counting seven full weeks, from Liberation to Revelation,
until I reach fifty days,
and prepare to bring new thoughts before the Eternal and into the world.

Bless

[See "Blessing" page for masculine or feminine God-language]

Brukheh ateh YHVH

Elohéinu hei ha'olamim

asher kidshétnu

bəmitzvotéihe vatzivétnu

al sefirat ha'omer

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הַעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוִּיתָנוּ

עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר

Blessed are you, YHVH,
our God, Life of endless worlds,
who made us holy
with Voix commandments and commanded us
to count the Omer.

Count

הַיּוֹם שְׁמוֹנֶה וְשָׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם שֶׁהֵם חֲמִשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְשָׁלֹשׁ יָמִים לְעוֹמֵר.

Hayom sh'monah ushloshim yom

shehem chamishah shavuot ushloshah yamim la-omer.

Today is thirty-eight days,
which is five weeks and three days of the Omer.

visit <http://Rereading4Liberation.com> for more on Recounting Exodus
and Rereading Exodus along the Anacostia