

38 Days Completed

Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider **displacement** 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.

Geographical Note: Rock Creek and the park surrounding it form a geographic feature in DC's northwest developed and used for more than a century for segregationist purposes -- some formal and legal; some informal.

The Anacostia River, to the east, has also been a severe demographic divider for decades.

Both are also lovely natural resources apart from politics.

DC has lived with decades of income disparity linked with de facto segregation, as described in this DC Policy Center report:

Between 2000 and 2017, the most notable change in the maps is that, as most of D.C. between Rock Creek and the Anacostia gentrified, the region's poorest neighborhoods almost all became concentrated east of the Anacostia River.

-- D.W. Rowlands, "How household incomes in the D.C. area have changed since 1980," DC Policy Center

The District experienced more gentrification than any other city in the U.S., between 2000-2013, according to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) report of 2019. A more recent report puts DC thirteenth on the national list: "Gentrification continued there, but it surged elsewhere."

All told, DC lost 80,000 Black residents between the years 2000 and 2020, according to the U.S. Census. Black residents dropped from 60% of DC's population in 2000 to 41.4% in 2020, while white residents rose from 30% of the population in 2000 to 39.6% in 2020. DC's population in 1970 had been 71% "Negro," 2.1% "Spanish language," and 27.7% white.

Consider the numbers: 80,000 Black residents lost in twenty years. The percentage of Black residents dropping by half in fifty years.

Is this "just" a result of market forces?

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 הָעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוִּיתָנוּ

עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר

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 תִּשְׁעָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם שֶׁהֵם חֲמִשָּׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְאַרְבָּעָה יָמִים לָעֹמֶר.

Hayom tishah ushloshim yom

shehem chamishah shavuot v'arbaah yamim la-omer.

Today is thirty-nine days,
which is five weeks and four days of the Omer.

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