

## 47 Days Completed

### Learning Focus

Here I am ready to consider **the collective shrug** 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.

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Among many similar pieces of legislation, DC Council recently considered giving "surplus" land to a developer for what was originally promoted as a "Truly Mixed-Income Community, Centered Around The Arts & Culture." In the end, the "arts & culture" focus disappeared, and the "mixed-income" aspect became more like "a mix of housing for higher incomes."

The Council Office of Racial Equity (CORE), a relatively new agency of the District, did its job, analyzing this proposal and reporting its findings. The CORE report warns that the project will squander a precious opportunity to reverse some of the long-standing wrongs in DC's land use. Still, despite its own agency explaining the lack of benefit to those most in need, DC Council agreed to give the developer the land for pocket change: \$1/year for 99 years (no zeros missing there: total of \$99.00 over the course of a century).

To recap: Giving the developer this land would

- provide housing at rates inconsistent with the City's goals of developing more deeply affordable units;
- take no step toward racial equity in housing,
- fulfill no promise of housing for already displaced communities.

The Council's response: "No problem. Maybe next time."



Rendering by KGD Architects of Monument Realty's plans for 2 Patterson

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As we plod along towards one destination, what have we learned that will serve us on the next legs of this journey?

What new ideas or commitments have we grown that we can now reap?

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## 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 vətzivétnu*

*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 עָרְבָעִים יוֹם שֶׁהֵם שֵׁשָׁה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְשֵׁשָׁה יָמִים לְעוֹמֵר

*Hayom sh'monah v'arbaim yom  
shehem shishah shavuot v'shishah yamim la-omer.*

Today is forty-eight days, which is six weeks and six days of the Omer.

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