

Juneteenth

A Romemu Community Poem

To tell a new story requires release,
revelation of the old never-told story of owning slaves,
of holding the mastery of being a master.
A story blocked by shame, no-name, and pain:
the secret pleasures of privilege.

To tell a new story...
a story where we remember we are all made from One God.
requires that we first listen.
To profess the past, take ownership for previous wrongs, and to begin anew, the
blessing of the journey of life
And know we all breathe the same breath.
Requires courage.
Requires freeing the caged bird.
We need a Pesach Shlishi [third Passover] to recognize our role in our own
enslavement and the enslavement of others.
Where we remember that we are all made equally in Hashem's eyes
T'Zelem Elohim!n [being created in the image of God]
Requires humility.
Understanding that we Brooklyn Jewish immigrant kids have benefitted from
white supremacy throughout our lives
Requires acknowledgement of privilege and disadvantage, broken hearts and
feeling the ways we have been oppressed and the ways we have oppressed
requires us to have empathy and to listen.
Even if our families did not live in this country during this slavery, we are still
white.
Learning to love ourselves through the pain and discomfort of seeing fully our
own complicity.