

About the project

I'm writing a book as a set of lenses, offering a variety of perspectives on the nature of the Chevrah Kadisha. The main body of the book will use the counting of the Omer, the marking of the forty-nine days between Passover and Shavuot, as a way to structure an extended meditation on the Chevrah, offering as a starting point my daily meditations from 2019. Other lenses employed by the book include Kaballah, the central path of Jewish mysticism (intimately connected to both the Omer and the Chevrah), as well as a variety of historical vignettes and personal reflections. The book will be illustrated with artwork I made as I counted the Omer this year. When completed, I hope that my book will serve as, both an introduction to the Chevrah, and as a source, example, and tool, for others wishing to embark on similar meditations.

The accompanying PDF, "Preface to 'Through a Clouded Lens,'" encompasses the first pages of the book through the Preface and its footnotes. The Foreword has yet to be written. This is not yet a finished draft.

Bio

Matt Harle is an artist, musician and writer living in the Hudson Valley in Beacon, NY. He is the founder and chair of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance Chevrah Kadisha. For more information, go to www.mattharle.com.

Short video of Drawings for the Project

Over the course of this Omer period, I made a drawing of forty-nine lines, one drawn on each day of the counting. Accompanying the book, the drawing will assemble day by day until it's complete on day forty-nine. I made a short stop-motion video showing the drawing assembling and coming apart. You can see it here:

<https://vimeo.com/423661814/5a66b5a67d>.