

HOUSING & RACE

In Genesis 12:1, Adonai said to Avram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." And Avram goes. In a midrash on this verse, the sages ask - what on earth could motivate Avram to leave all of these places? And the sages respond: Rabbi Isaac taught: The story of Abraham can be compared to a man who was travelling from place to place when he saw a palace going up in flames. The traveler screamed out "where is the owner of the palace? [Who is going to extinguish the flames]?... Similarly, Abraham, our father, wondered, "Is it conceivable that the world is without an owner?" This text is a metaphor in which the traveler = Abraham, the palace = Our World, the palace owner = God, and the flames = the flames of injustice.

"You are the children of Adonai your God – *lo titgodedu* - you shall not cut yourselves." (Deut. 14:1) What does the verse mean when it says '*lo titgodedu* - you shall not cut yourselves?' it means don't become factions (*agudot*); instead, be one unified group (*agudah*)."
– Sifre Re'eh Paragraph 9

Quotes from Listening Circles:

- "[I would like] "Charlottean" to mean something, like what it means when people say they are a Bostonian or New Yorker. We have no common identity; people say they live in South Charlotte, or West Charlotte or Uptown, not Charlotte."
- "We need a physically integrated city, a city where we live and shop and worship together. When you live closer together, you would notice but it wouldn't matter. Separation is not healthy."
- "What I care about are level playing fields, particularly in housing and education. That's where it needs to start."
- "I don't want to feel guilt for where I live [in South Charlotte.]"
- "Folks need to care about other communities as much as they care about their own."

Did you know:

1. Housing is considered affordable when you spend no more than 30% of your income on rent: \$400/month if you earn NC minimum wage of \$7.25/hour.
2. Average Charlotte rent is now \$1,100 for a 2BR apartment. That rent is affordable if you earn \$44,000/year or more, or more than \$21/hour.
3. In Vancouver, BC, one-third of single-family houses have legal Accessory Dwelling Units (over 25,000 ADUs).