



## FAIRFAX ERUV QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

Your ultimate source for the latest news about the Fairfax Eruv

Fairfax is home to the Northern Virginia Jewish Community's eruv, a ritual enclosure of geographically contiguous neighborhoods to facilitate community sharing and activities otherwise prohibited on Shabbat.

The eruv project is managed by the Fairfax Eruv Committee, a nonprofit organization and exempt organization (Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code), incorporated in the State of Virginia, and is supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and members of the local community.



# ANNUAL ERUV CELEBRATION

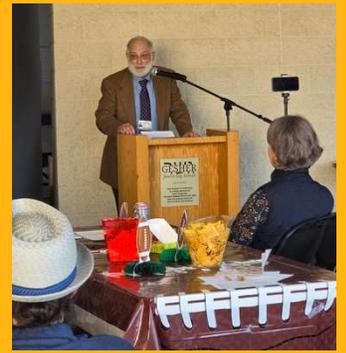
**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US ON DECEMBER 7 TO HELP US CELEBRATE THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE FAIRFAX ERUV AND RECOGNIZE OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, AL GOETZ**

The Fairfax Eruv Committee recently celebrated its fourth annual celebration on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at Geshher Jewish Day School. The theme this year was Football Watch Party! It was everything a football party should be and more, including football-themed food like chili, hotdogs, popcorn, and a big cake. A giant inflatable screen was set up to watch the Commanders vs. Vikings football game, with a raffle and word games as well.

Prior to watching the game, the following prominent guests spoke about the importance of the eruv to the northern Virginia Jewish community: Aviva Wells, Head of Geshher Jewish Day School; Mayor Catherine Read of Fairfax City; newly-elected James Walkinshaw, U.S. representative for the 11<sup>th</sup> congressional district; Gil Preuss, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; Jeff Danick, Director, JCC; Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, spiritual leader of Chabad of Northern Virginia; Rabbi David Kalender of Synagogue Olam Tikvah; Rabbi Sholom Simon, past president of the Eruv Committee. Vicki Fishman of the JCRC also attended.

Our volunteer honoree of the year was Albert Goetz, whose diligent and exacting work as inspector, scheduler and coordinator for the past year earned him this award. An unexpected special guest appearance was made by rapper, singer and spoken word artist Ari Lesser, who was in the area for a performance at GMU. He performed a spontaneous Jewish-themed rap that entertained everyone.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to all who made donations during the weeks leading up to our event. These donations are vital to the continuity of the eruv and go directly to its maintenance and the costs of weekly inspections.





## Mazel Tov to the 5758 Eruv Volunteer of the Year, Al Goetz

Albert Goetz was our Fairfax Eruv Volunteer of the Year for 5785 (2025). Al has been a huge contributor to the Fairfax Eruv since its inception in 2021. He has been an eruv driver since the beginning of our eruv inspections and has been our inspection scheduler and coordinator since early 2024. He works hard every week to send out spreadsheet assignments, reminders, and coordinate changes to the inspection schedule so that our eruv inspection system runs smoothly. We truly would not have the awesome record that we have (our Eruv has never been down since we started) without his efforts.

A little about Al: After 35 years of teaching high school and college mathematics in New York, the Goetzes relocated to Northern Virginia in 2005 so that Al could assume the position of Journal Editor for *Mathematics Teacher*, an academic journal published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Esther could take a leadership position in the speech department of the Katherine Thomas School in Rockville, MD. Under Al's aegis, *Mathematics Teacher* celebrated its 100th year of continuous publication in 2008. From shortly after his arrival in NoVA until his retirement in 2017, Al served as an adjunct at George Mason University, first in the mathematics education department and then in the mathematics department. He also tutored local high school students, mostly in calculus. He is proud of being one of three co-authors of a college textbook in mathematics published by the Mathematical Association of America. Both Goetzes are currently at leisure, raising their puppy, Argos. In his spare time, Albert plays tennis, golf, and rarely, pickleball. The Goetzes are birdwatchers and have traveled extensively in Central and South America, the US and Europe with seeing birds their primary goal.



### **FUN FACTS ABOUT Eruvim:**

#### **Question:**

*What is the literal meaning of the word, eruv?*

#### **Answer:**

*Eruv means, literally, mixture or blending, referring to the mixing of private domains.*

## Please support the Fairfax eruv and help us grow the Fairfax Jewish Community.

Even if you don't directly use the eruv right now, by supporting the eruv, you are supporting the growth and vibrancy of our local Jewish Community. The eruv is a foundational structural element of any growing Jewish community. This year, the Fairfax Eruv Committee had the pleasure to welcome several young couples who chose to make Fairfax their new home—in no small part because of the Fairfax eruv, which enables young families to fully participate in communal life and events.

Expenses to maintain the eruv run the gamut from materials to insurance to paying inspectors—and other costs. We encourage all members of the community who have not yet done so to consider supporting the eruv by making a recurring monthly contribution. Especially if you live within the eruv and frequently use it, then we invite you to consider making one of the following commitments:

- **\$30 per month** (at \$360 annually, your contribution will earn you status as a “Members” contributor)
- **\$60 per month** (at \$720 annually, your contribution will earn you status as a “Lechis” contributor)

We also welcome you to visit [www.fairfaxeruv.org/donate.php](http://www.fairfaxeruv.org/donate.php) to support the eruv. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Calling all Eruv Enthusiasts and anyone who wants to consider becoming an Eruv Enthusiast...

We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in serving on the Fairfax Eruv Committee. The Committee is the governing body of the Fairfax Eruv and is responsible for maintaining the Eruv website, managing the Eruv's finances, planning the annual community event, engaging in outreach with public officials, overseeing the Eruv's inspection process, and much more.

If you are interested in helping, or if you just want more information about what is involved, please email us at [fairfaxeruv@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxeruv@gmail.com). We welcome you to sit in on one of our Committee meetings to observe and learn more about what the Fairfax Eruv Committee does and how it operates.



## **The Fairfax Eruv Committee**

Shana Simon, President

David Goldberg, Vice President

Esther Goetz, Treasurer

Melinda Hofstetter, Secretary

Mandy Book, At-large Member

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