

## FAIRFAX ERUV QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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.



## **INVITATION**

### Annual Eruv Honoree Recognition Event

**December 8, 2024**  
**7 Kislev 5785**  
**1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

See page 4 below for an invitation to our annual event to be held at Chabad of Northern Virginia.

### **Mazel Tov to 5784 Eruv Honoree, Erica Statman**

Erica has been an eruv inspector since the eruv's establishment. When asked about her interest in the eruv, Erica says, "I feel strongly about supporting the Fairfax Eruv, not only because it helps to bring friends, family, and community members together on Shabbat and chagim, but also because it supports Jewish diversity and unity in Northern Virginia."



Erica has lived in Fairfax, VA for 25 years, and she met and married her husband, Michael, at Chabad of Fairfax 21 years ago. Erica and Michael have two children, Yosef and Chaya, and a dog, Zusha.

In addition to serving as an eruv inspector, Erica has served as a mikvah attendant for the women of Northern Virginia for the last ten years. When not volunteering in the local Jewish community, Erica owns and operates Maimonides Chiropractic in Fairfax City. Erica is a board-certified Diplomate in Pediatrics and Pregnancy care through the International Chiropractors Association and Palmer University. She is also currently a candidate for a Diplomate in Applied Kinesiology through the International College of Applied Kinesiology. Erica has served Northern Virginia families since 1999.

### **Mazel Tov to 5784 Eruv Honoree, Lucy Lapidus**

Lucy was born and raised in Arlington, VA and stayed in the DC area to be near family. Thirty-six years ago, she married Mark Lapidus - a fellow Arlington native - and they became integral members of the Fairfax Jewish community as well as founding members of the Fairfax Chabad. Their three kids, David, Rose and Ezra, attended Gesher JDS and Camp Gan Israel and continue to feel lucky to have grown up in this vibrant place.



For ten years, Lucy served as mashgiach at the JCCNV, a wonderful experience that further connected her to the greater Jewish community. She also has been a potter for many years and enjoys making Judaica.

Like Erica, Lucy became a Fairfax Eruv inspector from its beginning. Her enthusiasm for the eruv is her support for the many ways in which it helps people connect more easily with others on Shabbat, whether young families with strollers or someone sharing food with friends. Lucy sees the eruv as a solid, spiritual part of Jewish life that elevates and unites us. She is also energized by the hope that Jews who are relocating will consider the value of our eruv in their decision.

## NVMHI needs volunteers for gardening project

Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI) is working on developing gardens in and around its facility with an eye toward residents having the opportunity to maintain some of the gardens. NVMHI is looking for local community members who would be interested in helping. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shana Wallace ([shana1020@outlook.com](mailto:shana1020@outlook.com)) for more information.

## We continue to engage with Fairfax City officials

Maintaining the eruv's integrity requires the support of Fairfax City and Fairfax County and the officials of various agencies and jurisdictions. Thanks to the incredible groundwork of engagement laid by Sholom Simon and Eliot Goldberg (and others), the Fairfax eruv has garnered the support of many elected officials and staff across the various jurisdictions and agencies. Of note, we continue to engage with Fairfax City as we watch the progress of several planned development projects that could impact the eruv. We are very grateful for the support of Fairfax City elected officials and staff who have taken an interest in the eruv and are committed to including the eruv in the city's future development plans.

## We need your financial support!

The Fairfax eruv needs your support! 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 to support 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)

The Committee plans to make fundraising calls to community members after the Holidays. We look forward to catching up with each of you individually and discussing your interest in supporting the Eruv.

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 generosity.

# FAIRFAX ERUV CELEBRATION



B"H

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**1:00 to 2:30 PM**

Chabad of Northern Virginia  
3939 Prince William Dr., Fairfax, VA

Join us for a light lunch as we honor the dedicated volunteers  
and community members who maintain the eruv.

Presentation of the Annual **Dr. Robert A. Book Z"L**  
Honorees of the Year Award to  
**Erica Statman and Lucy Lapidus**

To RSVP or make a donation:  
[www.fairfaxeruv.org/Event.php](http://www.fairfaxeruv.org/Event.php)

**RSVP Requested by 1 December**

Minimum suggested donation:  
\$18/person, \$36/family  
Donations of \$180 or more will be recognized in the event  
program.

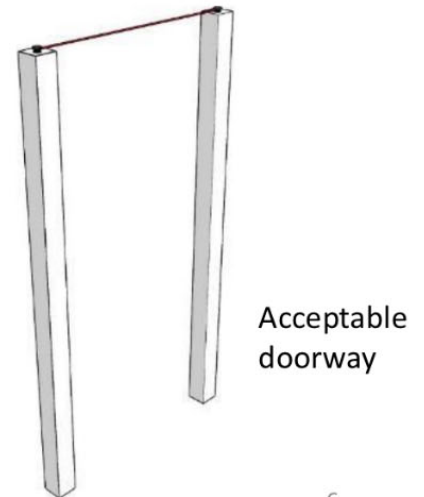
[www.fairfaxeruv.org](http://www.fairfaxeruv.org)

**Fun facts about Eruvim:** the Fairfax Eruv consists of hundreds of “doorways” utilizing existing infrastructure, like utility poles and power lines.



## How is an Eruv “built”?

- Eruvs in modern times typically utilize existing utility infrastructure (e.g., power lines, telecom cables, highway sound walls).
- Eruvs can often utilize existing infrastructure without any attachments. We are utilizing over 500 poles across the region for the Eruv in their “as is” status.
- Most area utility poles have a center power line that passes directly over the pole itself – the concept of a lintel resting on doorposts – a key Eruv requirement. Our Eruv consists of hundreds of doorways.



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### The Fairfax Eruv Committee

Shana Wallace, President  
 David Goldberg, Vice President  
 Esther Goetz, Treasurer  
 Melinda Hofstetter, Secretary  
 Mandy Book, At-large Member