SILVER SPRING ERUV ASSOCIATION, INC.

BOX 2635

SILVER SPRING, MD 20915

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September 7, 2004

SSEA has already announced that there will be NO ERUV for Shabbat Shuvah (September 17-18) because ongoing construction has been damaging the eruv. We have had to replace ten to twenty lechis each of the past three Fridays. We cannot rely on a Wednesday inspection of the eruv. It is likely that these problems will continue at least through the end of the Yom Tov season. Therefore, you should not expect that we will have the eruv for Shabbat Chol HaMoed Sukkot or for the Shabbat after Shemini Atzeret. We will inspect the eruv for Yom Kippur.

To help you cope with the possibility of not having the community eruv for Shabbat Chol HaMoed, we have prepared the attached pamphlet which gives general guidance on how to construct an eruv for your sukkah. SSEA and our halachic advisor, Rabbi Anemer, are concerned that people will rely on the pamphlet without obtaining competent advice on specific construction of their own eruvs. The are many halachic details involved in building a kosher eruv, and it is very easy to make a mistake. We have seen a variety of errors, many of them being beyond differences in halachic opinions. Obviously, your Rabbi and the SSEA volunteers cannot be expected to go check every home eruv on the Friday before Sukkot. Nevertheless, we are making this pamphlet available through SEHC, YISE, SSJC, and KMS. We hope you will use the information wisely, with proper respect for halachah.
• IF YOU MAKE AN EREUV WITHIN YOUR OWN YARD, NO OTHER STEPS ARE NECESSARY.

• IF YOU MAKE AN EREUV WITH YOUR JEWISH NEIGHBOR, YOU MUST ALSO MAKE AN EREUV CHATZEROT. PROCEDURE IN BIRNBAUM OR ART SCROLL SIDDUR. CHECK WITH YOUR RABBI.

• IF YOU USE PART OF A NON-JEWISH NEIGHBOR'S YARD OR HOUSE TO MAKE AN EREUV, CHECK WITH YOUR RABBI. (THE EREUV MIGHT NOT BE VALID UNLESS YOU ObtAIN HALACHIC RIGHTS FROM THE NEIGHBOR)
Basic arrangement for making an eruv for your succah.

Carrying is permitted in the area enclosed by the house, the succah, and the two tzurat ha-petach's (between the wires).

You may carry between house and succah if you stay between the wires.
TOP VIEWS OF
VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS

SUCCHAH
ENCLOSED AREA
HOUSE

GAP OF 12" OR LESS IS OK
SUCCHAH
HOUSE

SUCCHAH
ENCLOSED AREA
HOUSE

SUCCHAH
ENCLOSED AREA
HOUSE

SUCCHAH BUILT ON A DECK OR PORCH WHICH IS RAISED AT LEAST 40" ABOVE GROUND ALL AROUND MAY BE OK - CHECK WITH YOUR RABBI
WALLS AND FENCES

- WALL OR FENCE MUST BE AT LEAST 40" TALL
  - BOTTOM MUST BE WITHIN 9" OF THE GROUND
- VERTICAL GAPS UP TO 9" ARE OK
- PICKET FENCE MAY BE OK
  - AT LEAST 40" TALL
  - SPACING LESS THAN 9"
- CHAIN LINK FENCE IS OK (IF IT MEETS THE 40" AND 9" REQUIREMENTS
- GATES ARE OK IF, WHEN CLOSED, THEY MAKE A KOSHER FENCE (BUT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO BE OPEN)
- LARGER GAPS ARE OK ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS - ASK YOUR RABBI
TZURAT HA-PETACH
FUNDAMENTALS

- **Lechi** (bottom 40") must be within 9" of the wall.
- **Lechi** may lean.
- Lechis may be different heights if the angle is less than 45°.

* Minimum height is 40".
* Horizontal may sag.
  - Never below 40".
* Total sag less than 9".
* Must have at least 16" opening (without blockage) between the lechis.
* No maximum height or width.

Try to keep the wire/string clear — deflections (horizontal or vertical) can possul the wire.

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- If you have a lechi under a flat roof (or soffit or ceiling), including s’chach, which extends 12" or more, check with your rabbi.
KEEPING THE STRING ON TOP OF THE LECHI

ALL THESE ARE OK

IF THE WIRE/STRING IS DEFLECTED EITHER HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY (SAY, BY A TREE OR A POST), IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. KEEP THE STRING CLEAR TO AVOID PROBLEMS.

9/17/2004
P OSSUL

STRING IN NOTCH IS NOT OVER TOP OF LECHI

STRING IS NOT OVER TOP OF LECHI

GUIDE NOTCH IN ENCE
Do not use a fence board for a leech.

Leech should be distinct.

Leech can be shorter than a fence, as long as the leech is at least 40 feet tall.

Can be in middle of fence.

OK.
LECHI SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATELY ENCLOSED

WALL OR FENCE

LECHI ATTACHED TO WALL

FENCE, AS FOR
GARDEN, DOG HOUSE,
COMPOST HEAP, OR
WHATEVER.

POSSUL
LECHT SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATELY ENCLOSED #2

WALL OR FENCE

BUSH OR HEDGE MIGHT MAKE AN ENCLOSURE WITH THE FENCE

POSSUL

HEDGE OR BUSH ENCLOSES LECHT