

## *Eruv errata*

*To The Editor:*

As immediate past lay president of the Pittsburgh Eruv Fund, I feel compelled to bring to your attention several factual misstatements and omissions in your recent article concerning the Pittsburgh Eruv. The idea of a Pittsburgh Eruv was not conceived by the Rabbinical Board of Greater Pittsburgh but was instead conceived by Rabbi Eliyahu Safran and a group of lay people in September, 1976.

These lay people, in cooperation with Rabbi Safran who was then the spiritual leader of Congregation Poale Zedeck, succeeded in having a feasibility report for the construction of a Pittsburgh Eruv drawn up by Rabbi Jeffrey Adlerstein. This report was completed in May, 1978. Ultimately a formal proposal for a Pittsburgh Eruv was presented to the Rabbinical Board of Greater Pittsburgh in May, 1980. The Rabbinical Board rejected the concept of a Pittsburgh Eruv at that time.

Despite this rejection, Rabbi Safran and I persisted in our informal efforts to create a Pittsburgh Eruv. These efforts included the sending of a letter to Rabbi Shimon Eider of Lakewood, NJ informing him of the growing desire for a Pittsburgh Eruv. Rabbi Eider is a recognized halachic expert on Eruvim.

It was not until 1983 that the Rabbinical Board sanctioned the erection of a Pittsburgh Eruv. Shortly thereafter Rabbi Eider made the first of his trips to Pittsburgh to

review the Eruv boundary and to ultimately approve the Eruv's erection. It is, therefore, clear that much more time and effort went into the creation of the Pittsburgh Eruv than the year and one half which was stated in the article.

The function of the Committee for Halachic Review is to review, analyze, and, if necessary, correct any and all halachic decisions which the appointed area Rabbinic authority makes in regard to the Eruv. The committee's function is relegated strictly to the halachic aspects of the Eruv. This committee is an important safeguard for the halachic integrity of the Eruv. The Pittsburgh community is indebted to Rabbi Miller of Congregation Poale Zedeck for this wonderful innovation.

Finally, clarification is needed with regard to the Eruv Hotlines. The phone lines noted in the article are only available for Eruv information on Fridays before the onset of the Sabbath. The Eruv Fund is indeed in need of financial support and everyone is invited to help by sponsoring a weekly Eruv inspection (not message as was noted in the article) by contacting Sharon Zuckerbrod. The Eruv Hotlines will announce the sponsorship in honor or in memory of those chosen by that week's sponsor.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the above mentioned matters.

Jeffrey Joseph  
Pittsburgh