

“the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to resist occupation” is false.

There is also concern that a number of Shabbat-observant Jewish students will not be able to stay for the full debate, which is scheduled to start at 2.15pm.

Calling the motion “disgusting,”

ions go beyond student union politics,” he contended.

Cassie Williams, chair of the SOAS Jewish society and an Israeli Studies student, “found the motion very offensive. This is a criticism of our identity, and we certainly won’t take it lying down. I am a Zionist and I am not causing suffering to Palestinians.”

forward of discussion of divide minority groups.

Amid a surge of motions on UK campuses, has convened a series of activism seminars.

One held on Sunday at 100 students from universities around Britain.



ב"ה

**With the imminent launch of the  
North West London Eruv**

**Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu**

*(Rosh Beth Din – London Beth Din)*

will deliver a

**PUBLIC SHIUR**

on the laws of *Eruvin* and  
their application to the new Eruv

**Monday 24th February 2003**

Finchley United Synagogue, Kinloss Gardens, N3  
8.15pm (Doors open at 7.30pm)

**Free Admission**

For further information on the North West London Eruv  
visit [www.nwlonondoneruv.org](http://www.nwlonondoneruv.org)

*The United Synagogue Eruv Committee is a registered charity, number 1081160*

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## **SPEECH AT DAYAN'S SHIUR – 24 FEBRUARY 2003**

### Preamble:

This is a very special occasion for the North West London Jewish community but for our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael, it has been yet another day of anxiety and, in many cases, anguish. Accordingly, before the Dayan presents his shiur, in view of the tense world situation and particularly that in Israel, we feel that this large gathering makes it an appropriate moment to say some tehilim together. You have all been given sheets with a number of tehilim on them and Dayan Ehrentreu will lead us in reciting them responsively. May I remind you that these sheets should be treated with appropriate respect, as they contain divrei kodesh and after the service they will be collected to be disposed of in the customary fashion.

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Dayanim, Rabbanim, Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Synagogue and the United Synagogue Eruv Committee, I would now like to welcome you to this very important shiur. It is close to fifteen years since the project of creating an eruv, to serve the North West London community commenced and it is hard to believe that, at long last, it is about to become a reality. Although a small number of individual streets have self-contained eruvim, this is the first large-scale communal eruv in this country, creating a facility that will greatly enhance Shabbat for many, many people. The Jews of North West London will now be able to carry and to wheel pushchairs and wheelchairs as do their fellow Jews in many large cities in the world that have significant Jewish populations.

I do not propose this evening to dwell on either the benefits of an eruv or the detailed history of this eruv. Both would be the subjects of lengthy discourses; the latter being the stuff of which TV sit-coms are made! I do feel however that this occasion should not be allowed to pass without making mention of the small group of individuals who undertook what they knew would be a Herculean task and have been responsible for turning the vision into reality.

Let me simply say that I believe that the whole community is deeply indebted to a number of people, many of whom have, throughout the period since the inception of the project, worked extraordinarily hard and extremely effectively in a rather unconventional, informal structure, with no thought to status or reward but simply leshem shamayim. Inevitably, a project such as this has involved many other people who have played important parts in bringing it to fruition and to single them all out would be an impossible task. Our thanks go to them all but particularly to -

Rabbi Alan Kimche, whose initiative this project was and who has been a wise source of counsel throughout.

David Schreiber who has been the main driving force throughout, notwithstanding the fact that for the majority of the period he has been living in Israel. His contribution and attention to detail throughout has been immeasurable and he deserves a large part of the credit due.

Edward Black and Laurence Begner are the other founding members of the team. Edward, in particular has borne much of the brunt of the belligerence of those few individuals who have campaigned so aggressively against the eruv and his diplomacy and tact in dealing with difficult issues, a sceptical press, regulatory authorities and poles of different colours has been enviable. Laurence's skills in securing finance as the project has progressed, as well as his active participation in certain thorny issues of securing the Eruv perimeter has been invaluable.

Alan Perrin who has spent hundreds of hours dealing with surveying and planning issues and Graham Morris whose legal expertise, provision of administrative support and attention to detail have each made priceless contributions to the project.

As the project gathered momentum, it was brought under the umbrella of the United Synagogue and the halachic guidance and constant encouragement of our Rosh Beth Din, Dayan Ehrentreu. The importance of his role has been beyond measure. His attention to detail, not made simply at his desk but particularly through his innumerable walks around the Eruv perimeter, often in the most inclement weather, has been formidable and he has shown a constant fortitude and determination in dealing with a number of halachic challenges. His stature and knowledge, combined with the great care that he has taken to ensure that every aspect of the Eruv is based on appropriate halachic

authority, has ensured that the North West London Eruv's validity is beyond reproach. Dayan Ehrentreu, we cannot thank you enough.

The United Synagogue became even more closely involved in the project within the last two years as the last hurdles were being cleared and Lionel Shebson, who provided additional vigour and I joined the founding group, together with Rabbi Jeremy Conway, who took responsibility for the supervision of the halachic aspects of implementation. Rabbi Conway has had the difficult task of ensuring that every last detail of the eruv is in order as well as establishing the comprehensive monitoring procedures that will validate the eruv each week.

I would also like to use this public opportunity to pay tribute to several non-Jewish professionals without whose contribution we would simply not have succeeded. The late Mr. Eric Fibbens, of Planning Consultants, Fibbens Fox, gave expert evidence at the Public Enquiry, in an exhausting session from which he was taken directly to hospital. Tragically, he died only a few days later. On his deathbed, he dictated a moving parable to his wife, addressed to the government inspector. Details of this moving story and Eric's parable appear on the eruv website. His colleague, Graham Murdoch, has worked well beyond the call of any professional requirement and at very modest cost, to see the project through from planning inception in 1990 to completion. Our success at the Public Enquiry, which was pivotal in changing not only the decision but also the political mood in our favour, was achieved by the outstanding advocacy of Mr. John Steel QC. Those who sat through the hearings will not forget his incisive performance, on our behalf, in dealing with the substantive issues while exposing the prejudice and in some cases blatant anti-Semitism that we faced.

We should also acknowledge the contribution of a number of people at Barnet Council and Transport for London, who have been faced with unusual planning and regulatory issues that are unique to our situation and have handled them with considerable understanding and sympathy.

In addition to thanking those who have played such important roles in this enterprise, I would like to thank the many generous individuals who have provided the funds that have allowed us to reach this point. Our work however is far from finished and in a week when we have read about the "machatsit hashekel", I make

no apology for expressing the hope that each and every one of you will make your own contribution to the ongoing costs of the eruv, and be counted as one of its supporters. The leaflets that you have been handed will enable you to do so. Either by filling in the forms or via our website, you can become partners and sponsors of the eruv, both ensuring its continued viability and enabling you to receive weekly direct information on its status. In addition to several thousand pounds that we have still to raise to meet all of our liabilities, we need to raise annually around £20,000, to cover the costs of supervision, maintenance, insurance and administration. Unlike the machatsit hashekel, where the Bnei Yisrael were told "Haashir lo yarbe vehadal lo yamit" – "the rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less", I ask each of you to be as generous as you can in ensuring that the result of the efforts of the few, that will benefit so many, will be guaranteed for as long as there is a community that needs it.

Finally, before I stand aside so that Dayan Ehrentreu can begin his shiur, let me answer the question that you have been waiting for. Our inspections indicate that, subject to unforeseen circumstances, the eruv will be operational this coming Shabbat. However, please bear in mind that neither this Shabbat nor on any future Shabbat, should you assume that the eruv is in use unless, for those who are partners or sponsors, you have been advised by email or text message that it is operational, or for those who have not subscribed to this service, you have checked its status via the telephone hotline or website, whose details are on the forms handed to you. There can be no guarantee that an event invalidating the eruv has not occurred and we will not know, until the full weekly inspections have been completed each Friday, that the eruv is valid for that week.

Ladies and gentlemen, with that, I hope, positive news, I am delighted now to ask Dayan Ehrentreu to deliver his important and eagerly awaited shiur.