

FLORIDA NEWS

Surfside's Orthodox Jewish Mayor Receives a Death Threat

Surfside Mayor Shlomo Danzinger received an email on August 4th from a person claiming affiliation with The Fourth Reich, a potential revival of a Nazi party, saying that he would come to his house to “teach his family a lesson.” The email was sent two days after an altercation took place between the commissioner and the mayor at a town commission. Commissioner Nelly Vasquez interrupted the mayor repeatedly during his presentation of a proposal, and the mayor repeatedly asked the commissioner to stop interrupting him. Finally, the mayor requested that a Spanish speaker translate his request to the commissioner. As a result of this comment, the mayor was accused of being a racist. Mayor Danzinger feels that the patterns of interruptions during town meetings are attempts by his opponents to discredit him before the March 2024 mayoral election. He explained that his comment came from frustration and was not meant to be hurtful.

After receiving the threatening email, Danzinger immediately forwarded it to the town attorney and police chief. The email was then sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Federal Bureau



of Investigations, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the State Attorney's office.

Danzinger discussed the issue with his wife and children.

“I told them that they weren't leaving the house unless someone comes with them and that if they see flashlights around the neighborhood, it is people who are protecting us, just as a precaution,” Danzinger said.

The Danzinger family spent *Shabbos* and Sunday inside their home with a strong police presence surrounding their home. Danzinger intends to prosecute the person responsible for the email since it is an attack on an elected official and anti-Semitic.

Ladies Pre-Elul Event at Young Israel of Boca Raton

On Tuesday evening, August 15th, the Young Israel of Boca Raton held a ladies' event with author Mrs. Bracha Goetz at the Young Israel. Mrs. Goetz's speech was titled “The Greatest Lesson I Learned at Harvard: One Woman's Candid Journey in Judaism.”

The boys left feeling rejuvenated and uplifted after spending a productive few

weeks together.

The Cheder of Miami Opens Its Doors

The Cheder of Miami is opening its doors to the Miami community for this school year. Founded by Rabbi Tzvi Neuhaus and directed by *menahel* Rabbi Yaakov Burstyn, the Cheder will provide its students with an authentic Torah and secular education.

Rabbi Burstyn has inspired young children with a love of Torah and *Yiddishkeit* for many years. While still a *bochur*, he was chosen by his *rebbe*, Rav Yaakov Kulefsky, to help Rav Eliezer Breitowitz found Darchei Torah of Toronto. His career in *chinuch* continued when he served as an assistant to the *mashgiach* of Ner Yisroel. Upon moving back to Miami, he became the *rebbe* for twelfth grade and first-year *bais medrash bochurim*. Noting his passion for *chinuch*, Rabbi Neuhaus, *mara d'asra* of Khal Ahavas Torah Miami Torah Center, invited Rabbi Burstyn to head the new Cheder of Miami, the only *yeshiva ketanah* in Miami Beach.

Years ago, Miami Beach boasted three boys' schools; now, largely due to demographics, there are none in the vicinity. Many buses and carpools are needed to transport students to the school in North

Miami Beach, creating a lot of traffic and related challenges. As time passed, the need to have a Cheder in Miami Beach became increasingly clear.

Rabbi Neuhaus has toiled devotedly to provide the community of Miami Beach with the infrastructure a Jewish community needs, including a beautiful *shul*, a Torah center, and a *mikvah*. Now, with the Cheder opening its doors, the residents of Miami Beach will have the opportunity to send their boys to an excellent local institution without the hassle of a commute.

“We have a building,” Rabbi Burstyn says, “and as we grow, we plan to get a second building. Our vision is that even when we grow, we will stay in Miami Beach.”

The Cheder is starting with pre-K through second grades and hopes to grow with each passing year. They are offering a hot lunch program as well as pick-up and drop-off options for their *talmidim*. Their staff is comprised of dynamic and experienced teachers, including Mrs. Shira Oziel, Mrs. Rivka Silber, Mrs. Esther Malka Burstyn, and Rabbi Yaakov Burstyn.

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Comments or submissions to this column are welcome and can be emailed to acrossfruitedplain@gmail.com.



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