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SWFL Jewish leaders react to anti-Semitic threats

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**SOUTH FORT MYERS, Fla.** Despite Friday's arrest in connection to threats made to multiple Jewish Community Centers nationwide, it's not lost on Southwest Florida's Jewish community.

"We're very upset about that but there haven't been violent attacks against Jewish people — and we are grateful for that," Rabbi Marc Sacks of Temple Judea said.

This community is no stranger to these kinds of anti-Semitic threats. Three months ago, Temple Shalom's sign in Golden Gate Estates was riddled with bullets from a shotgun.

Both Sacks and Alan Issacs, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte counties, have maintained constant communication with law enforcement to ensure the congregation's safety in the event of an incident, they said.

"We're constantly vigilant — we have to be, Issacs said. "We as Jews, not just organizationally, but as individuals because of our history. It's in our DNA now."

Those interested can RSVP to attend a personal safety class, which will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Temple Judea on 14486 A and W Bulb Road.

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