

The Delray Democrat

Rabbi Barry Silver

*Char Lane*¹

It was September 20, 2022. DeSantis was scheduled to attend an Educational Freedom Event hosted by Florida's Jewish and Faith Communities in Boca Raton. It sounded like a good sign-wave opportunity so David, June, Michael, and I headed there. We had to stand across the street from the venue, and shortly thereafter Rabbi Barry showed up, chatted with us, and then entered the den of Republicans.

He had with him a motion to mediate related to the abortion lawsuit that he'd filed and wanted to deliver to the governor. When DeSantis began talking about the constitution Rabbi Barry called out "separation of church and state" and was then told by the police that it was a private party and they escorted him out of the gathering. As he was being led out of this private party he called out "love the immigrants as yourself" in Hebrew in relation to the misrepresentation to and transport of immigrants to Martha's Vineyard.

I knew him only slightly, but that was sufficient to realize that he was a very special person and a true force of nature. What I remember most is his focus, dedication, intelligence, and sense that he could make a difference. And he usually did.

¹ [*The Delray Democrat*](#), April 2024, page 5.