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## **Jewish Motorcycle Club – King David Bikers Finds Motorcycle Riding Rabbi**

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida...When Jeff Mustard, President of King David Bikers, South Florida's Jewish motorcycle riding association, rolled out his club one month ago he was seeking a "motorcycle riding rabbi" to serve as the spiritual leader of the organization. The announcement seemed improbable, the request ridiculous and it made headlines, literally around the world. "A motorcycle riding rabbi" – impossible!

Well, one month later not only has the club found a motorcycle riding rabbi in South Florida, but responses came in from across the country and, around the world. "There were at least 4 motorcycle riding rabbis in South Florida," says Mustard, who was shocked by the hundreds of emails and phone calls he received in reaction to the request. "I received emails directly from Rabbi's who knew of Rabbis who rode, I received emails directly from Rabbi's who rode, I received emails from people who knew of people who knew of Rabbi's who rode and I received emails from people who knew of rabbis directly who rode – it was amazing." Mustard even received an email from an Orthodox Rabbi in California who was ready to leave the west coast and come to Florida to lead this new, two-wheeled flock.

Mustard got the idea to form a group of Jewish motorcycle enthusiasts after he bought his 2002 Yamaha Road Star Silverado in August of 2002 and went to other groups and organizations to participate in group rides. "I never really felt comfortable there," says Mustard who is an advertising and marketing executive, "I did not feel any connection to these people." Mustard adds that, "The clubs I went to and the people I met were 'bikers' I am more of a "motorcycle enthusiast. I am a professional, I ride a nice bike and like to eat good food at good restaurants, I felt there were others like me, Jewish people, who would want to share that same experience."

Mustard was right. While it took 15 months to construct the club's website, ([www.kingdavidbikers.com](http://www.kingdavidbikers.com)), in the one month since the announcement that the club was "officially launched," King David Bikers has swelled to 40 members, and, the club has found a Rabbi. After meeting with Rabbi's and talking with Rabbi's and following up with leads about Rabbi's, Rabbi Zachery Betesh is the man with the Tfillin, Tallas and Torah in his saddlebag leading the pack.

Rabbi Zack is the perfect Rabbi for this group says Mustard. "He looks more like a biker than most bikers," says Mustard, "but most importantly, he understands exactly what I wanted to do and the vision I had for integrating Judaism into our group's experience."

Rabbi Betesh rode to one of Mustard's meetings held every Sunday morning at the Rascal House in Boca Raton on his '96 Harley Davidson Fatboy" where he promptly introduced himself and handed Mustard a letter of introduction from Rabbi Moishe Meir Lipszyc, the Founder of the Chabad Lubavitch of Fort Lauderdale. The letter said: "I

have spoken at great length with Rabbi Zachery Betesh, who is not only one of the founders of our Synagogue in Fort Lauderdale and a pillar in our community, but he is also an avid motorcycle enthusiast. I believe his understanding of the Jewish learning experience, service to the community and pure love of Yiddishkeit are very much in synergy with your philosophy. His presence will most certainly illuminate the Spirit of the Jewish Experience within your organization.”

“Jeff has performed a great “Mitzvah” in bringing the Jewish experience closer to many Jews throughout South Florida, and G-d willing wherever one wishes to extend the Jewish experience, regardless if it is sitting in synagogue or in a motorcycle seat,” says Rabbi Zack who also owns a 2002 Ultra Classic Harley with a custom two-tone grey paint job which includes Hebrew writing on the front fairing that spell out the words “Harley Ben David,” which in English translates to “Harley Davidson.” “Rabbi Zack adds that, “in the one month that this club has been formally organized, it is clear that our membership in King David Bikers is very much like the Congregation we have at the Chabad in Fort Lauderdale, it is truly the family of Eretz Yisroel, we ride together, we learn together and we continue to grow and serve Hashem through Torah and Mitzvot in service to Hashem our community and each other.”

Says Mustard, “I get an indescribable amount of nachas (the Jewish word for great happiness) seeing Rabbi Zack ride with his King David Bikers patch on the back of his black vest. Adds mustard, “forget the fact that he is a Rabbi, Rabbi Zack likes to ride long and hard, he is amazing.”

At this week’s Sunday meeting held regularly at the Rascal House, Rabbi Betesh will do an official “blessing of the bikes.” The Rabbi has secured “traveling Mezzuzah’s” tiny Mezzuzah’s that attach to the front fork of the motorcycle complete with scroll. Another member of Mustard’s King David Biker’s congregation includes a Cantor. Carole Kantor, a true and legitimate Cantor, who rides shotgun with her husband Mel on weekends, will participate in the official service/ceremony this Sunday complete with religious headdress and robe. After the blessing and song, the group will saddle up, head out and ride. Says Mustard, “we love our religion, but at the end of the day, it’s about the ride.”

For more information visit King David Bikers website: [www.kingdavidbikers.com](http://www.kingdavidbikers.com)

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