

# New school accepting applications for K- 2nd grade

By ROBERT GREEN  
Jewish Press

Plans now call for the proposed Tampa Bay Jewish Academy to open Monday, Aug. 16 at Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater with classes for kindergarten, first and second grades — if at least 20 students enroll, according to Robby Cicco of the school's organizing committee.

"We're set to open. If we have enough enrollment we will. We need at least 20," Cicco told the *Jewish Press*. He said 10 students had enrolled as of mid-July.

"We need commitments," he said.

The TBJA was created to replace the Pinellas County Jewish Day School, which



closed on June 1 after 30 years of operation. Efforts to keep that school going failed when parents lost faith in the school's financial ability to continue. Consequently there were far too few commitments for the new school year to make that kindergarten — eighth grade entity viable.

Cicco said committee members have con-

tacted the families of PCJDS students from the last school year seeking to enroll them. "It's been tough," he said.

He said some families do not want to have older and younger siblings in different schools, while others say they want to wait until next year to see how the Academy does in its first year.

"If we wait until next year, there won't be a next year," Cicco said. "Hopefully, we can keep this alive."

Tuition for the Academy has been set at \$6,000 a year or \$600 per month.

Cicco said the Academy would be denominationally-independent and would welcome

**SCHOOL continued on PAGE 2**

# Jewish Press

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## Rubashkin sentenced to 27 years

Kosher meatpacking executive Sholom Rubashkin was sentenced to 27 years in a federal prison for his conviction on federal financial fraud charges. Rubashkin was convicted last November on 86 counts of fraud in connection with the Agriprocessors plant in Postville, Iowa.

The prison term will be followed by five years of parole, according to U.S. District Judge Linda Reade's ruling. Rubashkin also will be required to make restitution of nearly \$27 million to several financial institutions.

Prosecutors had requested a 25-year sentence, according to the *Des Moines Register*. Rubashkin lawyer Guy Cook, noting the prosecutors' request, called the sentence "essentially a life sentence for a 51-year-old man, and it's not in the public interest."

Rubashkin was acquitted earlier this month in an Iowa state court on 67 counts of child labor violations relating to 26 teenagers from South America. The Agriprocessors plant was the site of a federal immigration raid in May 2008 in which 389 illegal immigrants were arrested.

## Clinton makes plea for Cuban detainee

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asked Jewish groups to press the case of Alan Gross, an American Jew imprisoned in Cuba. Gross, 60, has been held since his Dec. 3 arrest for assisting the Cuban Jewish community to connect to the Internet. He was contracted to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"Our government works every single day through every channel for his release and safe return home," Clinton said at a State Department reception. "But I am really making an appeal to the active Jewish community here in our country to join this cause." Jewish leaders said they would reach out through third parties who deal with Cuba.

## American university heads visit Israel

JERUSALEM — A delegation of American university presidents visiting Israel met with their Israeli counterparts and discussed opportunities for academic collaboration. The 13 presidents, including the heads of the University of Miami, Cornell University, California Polytechnic State University, the University of South Carolina, Oregon State University and San Jose State University, were in Israel July 5-11 under the auspices of Project Interchange, an educational institute of the American Jewish Committee.

# CULTURE SHOCKS

## 'Cultural intifada' declared as stars cancel Israel plans

By MARCY OSTER  
JTA News Service

JERUSALEM — Actress Meg Ryan's decision to cancel her appearance at this month's Jerusalem Film Festival didn't garner the same attention in Israel as British rocker Elvis Costello when he nixed his Israel concert this spring.

Both, however, were a reminder to Israelis that in the eyes of much of the world, Israel's politics and culture are inseparable.

The cancellations were part of a string that Israel has experienced over the past few months, including appearances by the indie rock band The Pixies, singer Devendra Banhart, alternative rockers Gorillaz, the British band the Klaxons and American soul singer Gil Scott-Heron. In February, rock legend Carlos Santana withdrew from a sold-out performance reportedly due to pressure from pro-Palestinian groups.

Israelis have taken to calling this a "cultural intifada" — borrowing a term used by the Palestinians to describe their uprisings against Israel.

"Intense pressure is being applied to foreign artists not to come to Israel," prominent Israeli promoter Shuki Weiss, who has brought such top-name acts to Israel as Madonna and Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, told the Israeli business daily *Globes*.

After The Pixies canceled last month, Weiss called it "cultural terrorism."

"I am full of both sorrow and pain in light of the fact that our repeated attempts to present quality acts and festivals in Israel have increasingly been falling victim to what I can only describe as a form of cultural terrorism which is targeting Israel and the arts worldwide," Weiss wrote in a statement.

The most recent high-profile cancellation by Ryan, **CANCEL continued on PAGE 20**



Carlos Santana



Elvis Costello



Klaxons



Meg Ryan



Aubrey "Drake" Graham adds some Chai to a recent cover of *Vibe*.

## Black Jew making name on hip-hop scene

By DANIELLE BERRIN  
LA Jewish Journal

LOS ANGELES — In a culture of misfits and outsiders, Aubrey "Drake" Graham is the ultimate outsider — a big-time black Jewish rapper.

His star is rising rapidly on the hip-hop scene.

Though fans have followed the Jewish-Canadian Drake since his days as basketball star Jimmy Brooks on the Canadian soap *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, a recent spate of press has introduced the 23-year-old artist to the broader public.

**HIP-HOP continued on PAGE 3**

# Tax-exempt bond sales could end Inn on the Pond construction delay

By JIM DAWKINS  
Jewish Press

After two years of trying, Menorah Manor Senior Living has secured financing to build its \$24 million Inn on the Pond — if community members provide equity by purchasing \$3 million of subordinated tax-exempt bonds. The bonds must be sold by September 2010.

"The 6.5 percent tax exemption

is the obvious benefit to draw businesses and private bond purchasers," said Executive Director/CEO Marshall Seiden, "and it will give us a way to get this project off hold, because the need is still there."

In retrospect, Seiden added, "The days when banks would accept pledges (as collateral/ equity) are long gone. The banks want cash now."

The \$3 million in tax-exempt

bonds is being sold in \$100,000 increments, but not necessarily one purchaser per increment.

"We already have one business interested and inquiries from individuals, plus groups of people (or several members of one family) who are interested in joining together to purchase bonds," he said.

Despite the fact that Menorah Manor is not a mammoth hospital



Artist's rendering of Menorah Manor's Inn on the Pond assisted living residence to be built on the former Golda Meir/Kent Jewish Center property in Clearwater.

or nursing home with huge endowments, Seiden said the project is "highly regarded" in the financial world.

But, Seiden noted, the \$3 mil-

lion in equity does not have to all come from bond sales.

"If there's an angel out there who wants to make a large

**BONDS continued on PAGE 9**

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