

RECESSION RELIEF

Area schools weather the current economic storm

BY PHYLLIS STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

B'nai Aviv, a Conservative congregation in Weston, is tightening its belt and has recently balanced its budget for the coming year.

"There are real challenges for us," said Allan Ross, executive director of the congregation.

The synagogue has an award-winning preschool program, nationally accredited by the National Association of Education for Young Children (NAEYC) serving about 80 children.

"We have had to cut teacher positions and cut salaries," Ross said. "We're doing the best to maintain the services we have and at the same time, we are watching the dollar."

The day school at Tem-



Despite the current economic situation, the Rohr Bais Chaya Academy located in Tamarac, had its first graduating class this past June.

EFG File Photo

ple Beth Emet in Cooper City has not felt the effects of the recession.

"Our enrollment is up," said Michal Medina, assistant director of the day school. "Our parents are

willing to invest in their children's education and are going the extra mile to provide it for them."

Medina said the kindergarten class for the fall is full. The Temple Beth

Emet Day School has 70 students.

"We haven't had to make any cuts in tuition or salaries," Medina said. Medina added that requests for scholarships

has not increased.

Temple Beth Sholom in Miami Beach has a daily capacity for 178 children in their pre-school program and they are filled to capacity.

Margie Zeskind, director of the Foundation School at Temple Beth Sholom said she has had an increase in enrollment from 121 students three years ago to 178 students.

"I have seen parents sign up for a half-day of camping instead of a full day program, probably due to the recession, but the education program is thriving. We are a young urban community with lots of young families and we are NAEYC accredited which is important to parents with young children."

Zeskind said she has not had an increase in scholarship applications so far this year.

"That could change later in the year, but as of this date we have not seen an increase in scholarship requests," Zeskind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

▼ STORM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Mindy Bernstein, early childhood director of the David Posnack Singer Early Childhood Learning Center in Davie, said scholarships for tuition for the pre-school have doubled.

"Our enrollment has increased," Bernstein said. "We now have many families with two working parents and our enrollment has increased from 168 to

185 this year."

B'nai Torah Congregation's Early Childhood Program in Boca Raton has received more requests for scholarships this year due to the recession.

"We have tried to hold down costs and have not increased our tuition because we are sensitive to the needs of our community" said Noah Lautin Davis, B'nai Torah Congregation, director of communication. "However, we have

had more requests for scholarships and reduced fees this year."

Laurel Kenigsberg, pre-school director at Temple Beth David in Palm Beach Gardens said that enrollment was the same as last year.

"We are at capacity and have 116 children in our pre-school," Kenigsberg said. "Our school serves children 18 months to five years. The recession has not had an effect on our enrollment."

The David Posnack Hebrew Day School in Plantation and Davie has closed its elementary division in Plantation and will have elementary classes in the Davie location only.

"We have basically the same enrollment as last year but by combining the two schools into our Davie location, we will need less staff," said Laurence Kutler, DPHDS head of school.

"Our biggest challenge is to maintain and increase

our enrollment because these day school students represent the future of Judaism," Kutler said.

Donna Klein Jewish academy (DJJA) in Boca Raton is also feeling the effects of the recession, but has 700 students enrolled for the coming year.

"In these challenging economic times, while many Jewish day schools, as well as other independent schools, have suffered enormous setbacks, we are proud that Donna

Klein Jewish Academy (DKJA) continues to stand so strong," said Karen Feller, head of school.

Lehrman Community Day School in Miami serves children from early childhood through grade 8. Rabbi Seth Linfield, head of school, said the enrollment in the school is stable.

"We are proud that we are keeping our current families in these hard times," Linfield said.