

## Greater Toronto Area

# Bands get set to battle for education

Compiled by CJN Staff

Local teens have planned a benefit concert for Free the Children, with proceeds directly supporting the building of schools in developing countries through the organization's Brick by Brick campaign. The concert will be from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. March 6 at Dufferin Clark Community Centre, 1441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

Founded in 1995 by then 12-year-old Toronto-area child rights activist Craig Kielburger, Free the Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education.

"The Brick by Brick program is great because it empowers us to promote the importance of education while also raising money to build much-needed schools in places like Haiti, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, among others," said 17-year old Eli Krapivnik, one of four teens involved in planning the event.

Hosted by two of the Toronto-area's leading Jewish teen movements – B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) and Canadian Young Judaea (CYJ) – the

show will feature five local teen bands, said Kevin Goodman, program director at BBYO.

"The bands competing are all young local groups – Pursuit of Reality, Suburban Addiction and Vybe Tribe have so far been confirmed. Demand for auditions was high, and with only five spots, we're expecting an evening of phenomenal talent, while raising awareness as teens for a cause we're passionate about," said Simon Axelrod, representing CYJ on the event's planning committee.

Axelrod expects a crowd of about 200 teens. Each band will play a 40 minute set, with the top bands set to receive prizes that include gift certificates to stores and attractions as well as recording time courtesy of Soundhouse Studio.

The concert is an example of tikkun olam, organizers said, adding that helping to give every child an education is an important step in breaking the cycle of poverty for future generations.

Tickets to the show are available for \$12 from participating bands or by contacting BBYO at 416-398-2004 or info@bbyo.ca.



**JEWISH STUDENTS MEET:** Students from Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Saskatoon were in Edmonton last month for the annual Canadian Federation of Jewish Students' conference. Some 50 students attended the conference, which was held Jan. 15 to 17 and focused on the importance of Israel advocacy on campus. The weekend included speakers such as David Tal, chair of Israel studies at the University of Calgary and a student-led panel discussion on topics such as the recent UN Goldstone report on last year's Gaza war.

[National Jewish Campus Life photo]



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