

MEDIA CONTACT: Carol Lewis
561-297-0245, clewis36@fau.edu

Jewish Cultural Society at FAU Hosts Salon Concert Featuring Maestro Aaron Kula and KCO at the Wimberly Library
Concert Proceeds Help Fund Kultur Festival and Student Employment Award

BOCA RATON, FL (December 23, 2009) – The Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at Florida Atlantic University celebrated its first anniversary recently by hosting a Salon Concert featuring Maestro Aaron Kula and members of Klezmer Company Orchestra at the Wimberly Library on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

The intimate concert, hosted in the library’s newly renovated atrium lobby, attracted 55 guests, including FAU Interim President John F. Pritchett and First Lady Ginger Pritchett. The event raised approximately \$6,500 for JCS’ philanthropic endeavors, including the library’s annual six-day Kultur Festival, which celebrates Jewish music and arts, and the JCS Student Employment Award. Guests sipped wine and nibbled hors oeuvres while listening to the music of KCO, the only professional ensemble-in-residence at an academic library in the country.

The Wimberly Library, like others across the country, for years has opened its doors to the public for lectures, art receptions, film screenings, exhibitions and other events. This is the first time, however, that an FAU fundraising arm has hosted a fundraiser at the Wimberly, said Dr. William Miller, dean of libraries at FAU.

“We were happy for the opportunity to showcase our professional ensemble-in-residence and show our library to a number of new supporters who are helping to underwrite the cost of the Kultur Festival in March,” said Miller. “This event highlights our support of FAU’s community service goals and illustrates that academic libraries today have missions that go beyond serving as storage and retrieval facilities.”

Since Kula, who is also director of music collections and performance at FAU Libraries, founded KCO in 1997, the ensemble has successfully taken music in the library’s collections “from shelf to stage.” The ensemble also is the recipient of two international music awards. During the concert, Kula discussed highlights of the various musical selections. Guests sat in the atrium, surrounded by contemporary and fine arts and crafts that had been recently gifted to the library by donors, and a current exhibition of books by artist John Eric Broadus.

The concert, which was underwritten by JCS President Dottie Pierce and husband Stanley, and JCS Vice President Evelyn Solomon, was planned for Solomon’s home but was moved to the library to accommodate more guests. “I was thrilled at the response to our invitation to the concert,” said Solomon. “What we had planned to be a small event blossomed into a magical afternoon of camaraderie and wonderful music at FAU.”

Dottie Pierce said the event was appropriate for the library since JCS’ mission is to advance Jewish cultural traditions, development and education at FAU and its libraries through philanthropic endeavors and programs. “It was wonderful to see so many people interested in supporting this event and Jewish cultural programs at FAU,” said Pierce.

Among other honored guests at the concert were FAU Senior Vice President Randy Talbot and his wife Susan Talbot; Marleen Forkas; Sydelle and Michael Lazar; Edward and Gaby Brill; JCS vice presidents Roz Hoffer and Howard Hoffer; JCS Secretary Barbara Dobbin; and board members Bea Samit and Harvey Katz. Serge Treyger, the first recipient of the JCS Student Employment Award, also addressed the guests.

For information on joining JCS, contact Dottie Pierce at 561-852-9720 or dottiepierce@comcast.net. For more information and tickets for the Kultur Festival, which will be held March 6-11, 2010, call the FAU Box office at 1-800-564-9539 or visit www.faevents.com <<http://www.faevents.com>> .

-FAU-

Cutlines

Photo #1: Left to right, Evelyn Solomon, FAU President Dr. John Pritchett, FAU First Lady Ginger Pritchett, Dottie Pierce and Stanley Pierce.

Photo #2: Left to right, Dottie Pierce, Sydelle Lazar, FAU Senior Vice President Randy Talbot and Michael Lazar.

Photo #3: Left to right, Aaron Kula, Klezmer Company Orchestra conductor, and Marleen Forkas.

Photo #4: Left to right, Aaron Kula, Klezmer Company Orchestra conductor, and KCO members.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students on seven campuses. Building on its rich tradition as a teaching university, with a world-class faculty, FAU hosts ten colleges: College of Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science, the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Graduate College, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.