

[PHOTO ATTACHMENTS]

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## **Author Moustafa Soliman to Present Message of Coexistence in ‘An Arab, a Jew and a Truck’ during FAU’s Annual Kultur Festival**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (January 30, 2014)** — Moustafa M. Soliman, a 77-year-old Egyptian American author and peace activist whose book “An Arab, a Jew and a Truck” inspired a nonprofit foundation Arab-Jewish Truck to Peace, is among the artists booked for Kultur Festival 2014, the sixth annual celebration of Jewish music and arts that will take place from Saturday, March 1 through Saturday, March 8, at various locations at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus.

Soliman will accompany two professional actors in a semi-staged reading of “An Arab, a Jew and a Truck” on Tuesday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Wimberly Library. The story is about a devout Palestinian Muslim and an American Orthodox Jew in the Bronx who are forced by circumstances to live together and share a kosher kitchen, but become friends and business partners by choice. Proceeds from book sales support Soliman’s peace initiative.

“The festival’s theme has consistently embraced cultural coexistence within the context of Jewish diaspora,” said Aaron Kula, director of music performance and education at FAU Libraries and the festival’s artistic director. “This year the diversity and quality of presentations exceeded my expectations with renowned artists representing an international community.”

### **The Kultur Festival’s schedule of other events is:**

On Saturday, March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Wimberly Library, there will be a screening of “Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness,” a riveting documentary about Aleichem, a rebellious genius whose story became the basis of the Broadway musical “Fiddler on the Roof.”

On Sunday, March 2 at 3 p.m. at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, Kula’s 27-piece Klezmer Company Orchestra, with guest vocalist Graham Fandrei, will present the festival’s main event concert “¡JubanoJazz!” The program features Klezmer and Yiddish melodies fused with Latin percussion, Argentinian Tango and Afro-Cuban dance beats. The program’s 24 songs are new energetic arrangements and feature reimagined orchestrations of vintage music from FAU Libraries.

On Monday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at the Wimberly Library, “My Religion is Funnier than your Religion, Part II,” will feature Henry Abramson, Ph.D., dean at Miami’s Touro College; the Rev. Bernard Pecaro, the rector at St. Martin Episcopal Church in Pompano Beach; and the Rev. William Burton, O.F.M., assistant professor of sacred scriptures at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

On Wednesday, March 5 at 2 p.m. at the Wimberly Library, Martin Bookspan, the PBS announcer for the series “Live from Lincoln Center” from 1976 until his 2006 retirement, will share personal stories about his friendships with legendary conductors and performers, including William Steinberg, Leonard Bernstein, Isaac Stern and Richard Tucker. The program will be sponsored in conjunction with FAU Libraries’ Judaica Sound Archives.

On Thursday, March 6 at 2 p.m. at the Wimberly Library, pianist Leonard Lehrman and his wife, soloist Helene Williams, both of New York, will team up with two New York cantors Faith Steinsnyder, a soprano, and David Perper, a tenor, to perform “Jewish Opera Lives,” a unique concert of opera in various languages.

On Friday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at the Wimberly Library, acclaimed artist Beatrice Coron will be featured in “Contemporary Paper Cutting in the Jewish Tradition.” The Hebrew book arts workshop, lecture and art display will be presented in conjunction with FAU Libraries’ Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts.

Tickets have sold out for “Israeli Jazz Night with music director and accordionist Aaron Kula and drummer Reuben Hoch,” which will be presented on Saturday, March 8.

FAU Libraries co-sponsor the annual Kultur Festival with the Jewish Cultural Society at FAU to promote the libraries’ special collections.

Parking is free in non-metered spaces at the library, the nearby garage and on Volusia Street. For more information or tickets for Kultur Festival 2014, call 1-800-564-9539 or visit [www.fauevents.com](http://www.fauevents.com). Tickets can also be purchased at the FAU Box Office, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.

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### **Photo Captions**

**KFestival1jpg:** The book jacket for Moustafa M. Soliman’s “An Arab, a Jew and a Truck.”

**KFestival2jpg:** An image from “Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness,” a documentary.

**KFestival3jpg:** Acclaimed artist Beatrice Coron’s art work.

**About Florida Atlantic University:**

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*