KULTUR festival kicks off at FAU

KULTUR Festival 2009, an inaugural five-day celebration of Jewish music and arts, will kick off Feb. 25 at Florida Atlantic University, with a multimedia presentation of the award-winning children’s book, Mendel’s Accordion, and conclude March 1, with Tantz, Samba & Soul, a concert re-uniting the 25-member Klezmer Company Orchestra and the 40-voice Ebony Chorale of the Palm Beaches.

The celebration is the first of its kind in South Florida. New York City Cantor Jacob Mendelson, filmmaker David Weintraub and authors Rabbi Irwin Kula and Heidi Smith Hyde are among the featured artists and speakers.

Events are presented in four locations on FAU’s Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. Concert tickets range from $18 to $42. Tickets for other events range from $5 to $8. Festival passes are $55 and include entrance to all events, premier seating at the concert, a copy of KCO’s CD “Beyond the Tribes” and the exhibition catalog “Women of the Book.”

The celebration kicks off with Klez4Kidz, a multimedia presentation of the award-winning children’s book Mendel’s Accordion, featuring author Hyde and KCO members, at 7 p.m. Feb. 25, at the Live Oak Pavilion in the University Center. For tickets and a schedule of events, call 800-564-9539 or visit www.fauevents.com. Festival passes can be purchased by phone or in person at the FAU Box Office. For more information about the festival, visit www.library.fau.edu/news/kultur.htm; for more information about KCO, visit www.klezmercompany.com.