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Judaica Sound Archives at FAU Features Legendary Yiddish Entertainment Family on its Website

BOCA RATON, FL (June 12, 2008) – The Judaica Sound Archives® (JSA) at Florida Atlantic University Libraries has obtained the rights to offer on its website a major collection of performances by the Bursteins, one of the most enduring family names in Yiddish entertainment.

The JSA, located on FAU's Boca Raton campus, created the collection from holdings that had been donated to the archives at different times and from different sources. It includes 33 albums and features the combined works of Pesach Burstein, who produced musicals for audiences worldwide in the 1920s; his wife, Lillian Lux, who joined his troupe when she was 17; and their twins, Susan Burstein-Roth and Mike (Burstein) Burstyn. One can listen to the Burstein family audio collection and read about the family's accomplishments at www.fau.edu/jsa.

Mike Burstyn, the only member of the popular "Four Bursteins" who is still performing, said he is delighted to share his family's legacy with the world. "There is a resurgence of interest in Yiddish culture, but not many people are actually able to *hear* Yiddish the way it was spoken," said Burstyn, who lives in Los Angeles. "Being able to listen to these great old Yiddish songs will ensure that Yiddish will not become a dead language like Latin. This will be educational and an inspiration to future generations. I am extremely pleased with what the JSA has been able to accomplish."

Burstyn's appearances on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in concert halls in the United States, Israel, and around the world qualify him as a cross-over entertainer who is appreciated by both Yiddish-speaking and English-speaking audiences.

The history of the Yiddish musical theater as told through the experiences of the Bursteins was documented in the 1999 award-winning film, *Die Komediant*, which is now on DVD. The film, based on an autobiography that Pesach Burstein co-authored with his wife, was released after he died in 1986 at age 90. An English translation of Burstein's memoirs, edited by Gershon Freidlin, was published by Syracuse University Press in New York in 2003 and was titled: *What a Life! The autobiography of Pesach'ke Burstein*. Lillian Lux died in 2005 at age 86.

Susan Burstein-Roth, a successful writer and philanthropist who lives in New Jersey, praised the JSA's online collection of recordings, many of which she herself didn't know existed. "I am extremely pleased, overjoyed," said Burstein-Roth. "I was so overwhelmed that it made me cry. The beauty of the website is stunning. It is just wonderful."

Burstein-Roth left the stage at 19 to marry and to raise a family. She is a passionate supporter of Israel, founder of the Eshet Chayil Foundation and has become very involved in the Davidic Dynasty project and the King David Museum.

The JSA has been accumulating recorded music and voices of the early 20th century since 2002. It has become a major center for the collection, preservation and digitization of Judaica audio recordings.

For more information about the Burstein collection or the JSA, call Nathan Tinanoff at 561-297-2207 or Dr. Maxine Schackman at 561-297- 3765. Visit www.fau.edu/jsa for additional information about the JSA or to listen to music.

-FAU-

Photo #1 cutline: Front row, twins Susan and Mike Burstein, shown with their parents Pesach and Lillian Lux, on the back row, in dark clothing. The others in the photo, taken in Argentina circa 1955, are unidentified.

Photo #2 cutline: Mike (Burstein) Burstyn