KCO Presents ‘2nd Avenue Jazz’n Jive’ Concert on March 3 at FAU

“2nd Avenue Jazz’n Jive,” a concert featuring new arrangements of music that originated in the Yiddish theaters of New York’s Second Avenue and influenced by the jazz clubs of Harlem, will be presented by the innovative, international award-winning Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) under the direction of Aaron Kula, on Sunday, March 3, at 3 p.m. at Florida Atlantic University’s Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium, Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road.

This 16th annual concert will reunite Kula and his 25-member KCO with director Orville Lawton and his 40-voice Ebony Chorale of the Palm Beaches, an ensemble renowned for its preservation of Negro spirituals, for six of the concert’s songs. In addition, two south Florida soloists, Lloyd Reshard and Leo Williams, will debut with KCO as guest soloists. The concert, a cultural music celebration will reflect Kula’s desire to explore diverse musical genres from publications that date back to the 1920s. The audience will hear musical styles that blend traditional Yiddish and spiritual songs with swing, blues, boogie-woogie, and tango. The concert sets the stage for KCO’s 16th season and the annual Kultur Festival, which will be March 2 through March 9 at FAU. The festival is sponsored by FAU Libraries and the Jewish Cultural Society (JCS) at FAU. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 800-564-9539 or visit www.fauevents.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the FAU Box Office on campus.

FAU Presents ‘Lincoln and the American Civil War’ Exhibition at Wimberly Library

“Lincoln and the American Civil War,” an exhibition of rare letters, artwork, artifacts, military uniforms and weapons, documents and portraits that recounts the story of a fragmented United States during the 16th presidency of Abraham Lincoln, will be on display through Thursday, March 28, on the fifth floor of the Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. The materials are on loan from collector Bob Mattis of Hollywood and the FAU Libraries’ permanent collections, including the Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, the Elliot Cross and James A. Cross Civil War Collection and the Arlyn Austin Katims Civil War Collection. The exhibition, which is being presented by FAU Libraries and the Department of History, can be viewed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except Monday, March 4 through March 10, when the exhibition will be closed. Metered parking is available at the Wimberly Library. For more information, call 561-297-2693, or email lysca@fau.edu.

FAU to Send Joy around the World with Letter Writers on ‘Real Mail Fridays’

Florida Atlantic University’s Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts plans to send joy throughout the world during “Real Mail Fridays,” a series of gatherings designed to inspire people to write letters to family and friends. The series will take place on the first Friday of each month beginning on March 8, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Jaffe Center’s book studio at the Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. John Cutrone, the Jaffe Center’s director, said the monthly gatherings will bring back memories for some, and will introduce the art of writing letters by hand, one of the oldest forms of communication, to a younger generation. “We live in a digital world and some of us communicate mostly through text messages and emails,” said Cutrone. “When we receive a handwritten letter in our mailbox, it is a moment out of time and small cause for celebration.” Letter writers can bring stationery and pens, or use some of the center’s complimentary handmade paper, pens and inks, sealing wax and rubber stamps. There will be free postage stamps, and complimentary cookies, tea and coffee will be served. Cost to attend is $10. For more information, call 561-297-0455 or visit www.jaffecollection.org.
Wandering Book Artists in Gypsy Wagon to Stop at FAU’s Papermaking Lab for Gallery Talk

Florida Atlantic University will host Wandering Book artists Peter and Donna Thomas on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 5 p.m. for a gallery talk at the Arthur and Mata Jaffe Center for Books Arts Papermaking Lab in the historic T-6 building, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. The duo is known for traveling the country in a vibrantly painted gypsy wagon to promote artists’ books. “Commercially produced books are like regular RVs, practical and full of information,” said Peter Thomas. “Artists’ books are like our gypsy wagon. They inspire imagination and wonder and share something of the artists who created them.” During their 45-minute gallery talk, the Thomases will present some of their artists’ books, compare artists’ books to traditional books and perform songs on one of their many artists’ ukulele books. The Thomases live and work in Santa Cruz, Calif., where they have been making books as art together for 30 years. Their gypsy wagon features heavy wrought iron hardware, a copper roof, stained glass windows, flowers and birds carved into wooden corbels with herald angels at each corner. A single room holds a propane heater, cook stove, sink and retractable workbench/kitchen table inside and a curtained-off bed covered with patchwork quilts. The event is free and open to the public. Donations for the book artists will be accepted. For more information, contact John Cutrone at 561-297-0455 or jcutrone@fau.edu, or visit jaffecollection.org.