

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

**RUTGERS**

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*For immediate release*

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## **SOUTH JERSEY HERITAGE TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT FOLK FESTIVAL**

New Jersey's Historic Cold Spring Village, based in the state's southernmost tip in Cape May, will showcase several styles of historical crafting, native to early American traditions, at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual New Jersey Folk Festival. Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) is an open-air, living history museum comprised of 26 restored, historic buildings on 22 acres of land. Admission to the festival is free for this all-day family event, which will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine, on the grounds of the Eagleton Institute, George Street and Ryders Lane, on the Douglass campus of Rutgers, the State University, in New Brunswick.

Historic Cold Spring Village recreates life in an agricultural South Jersey community during the "Age of Homespun," the years between 1790 and 1840 in the United States. Historical interpreters in period garb present the trades, crafts, and lifestyles of this unique time period. Open during the summer months, HCSV practices traditional arts such as blacksmithing, basket weaving, spinning, pottery-making, bookbinding, tin-smithing, woodworking, printing, open-hearth cooking, and broom-making.

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual New Jersey Folk Festival will feature five individuals from Historical Cold Spring Village, who will demonstrate their respective crafts in the festival's heritage area. Donn Shearer will demonstrate chairmaking, while Patricia Zackey – a graduate of Rutgers University's Douglass College – will show off her talents in spinning. John Fulginiti will showcase his woodcarving skills, and Merrill Miller will demonstrate his knowledge of bookbinding. Liz Miller will also showcase Domestic Arts of Early America, which includes herb drying, butter churning, and the preparation of fresh sun tea and lemonade.

Shearer has resided in New Gretna, N.J. for the past 15 years, and serves as a village interpreter at Historic Cold Spring Village. For the past seven years, he has been the instructor for Advanced Historical Swordsmanship in the continuing education program of Cape May County Technical School District, providing combat training and a historical perspective to Renaissance-era swordplay. He maintains a strong background in the history of both the Renaissance and of Tudor England. His interests range from metal crafting and art to historical reenactment.

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Zackey is a Gloucester County native and former teacher in the Norristown Area School District in Pennsylvania, having taught most elementary and secondary grade levels. With an avid interest in needle-working, Zackey enjoys embroidery and knitting. She has traveled to London to study with the Hampton Court Embroiders Guild and to Copenhagen to study with the Danish Handcraft Guild. At the festival, she will show off her talents in spinning, in particular. Since retiring from education, Zackey has worked for the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts as a museum educator, presenting programs to Elder Hostel groups on Victorian Architecture, Etiquette and Manners, and Victorian Women. She is also highly involved at HCSV.

A village interpreter and volunteer at HCSV, Merril Miller is a Pennsylvania native and former industrial arts teacher, where he shared his long-time love of printing with students for 30 years. Miller taught the wide-ranging areas of graphic arts, wood, metal, mechanical drawing, photography, lettering, keyboarding, and computer programming. At HCSV, Miller has also shared with guests his knowledge of weaving, casting, bookbinding, and calligraphy. He became the village's historical interpreter in 2001.

Liz Miller, a village volunteer as well as board member, is a retired Pennsylvania educator now residing in Cape May. She taught health and physical education, in addition to her duties as a high school coach, for 30 years in Penns Grove, N.J. and in West Grove, Pa., school systems. Miller is also affiliated with the Herb Society of America, the National Arboretum, the South Jersey Italian Cultural Institute, Regional Reporter Garden Railway Magazine, and the Good Samaritan Program at Our Lady of the Sea church. At HCSV, Miller has been involved with the study of domestic arts through research of many topics. She is knowledgeable of bake-oven baking and open hearth cooking, as well as those she will share at the festival.

The New Jersey Folk Festival is the oldest and largest continuously held festival of its kind in the state. Wheelchair accessible, it offers selected programs with ASL interpretation; large-print program books and audio assists are also available. Preferred parking is a nominal \$5 charge.

The festival is only five minutes off of exit 9 on the New Jersey Turnpike. For further details including stage schedules and directions visit the web at <http://www.njfolkfest.rutgers.edu> or call the festival office at (732)-932-5775 or Rutgers Campus Info Services at (732)-932-INFO.

The 2008 New Jersey Folk Festival is presented by Rutgers University and Douglass Residential College. It is sponsored in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Additional sponsorship is provided by The Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of Rutgers, Picture-It Awards, Inc., the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, the City of New Brunswick Department of Parks, the Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick, and CF Martin and Company. The festival is produced by the Department of American Studies at Rutgers, The State University, under the technical direction of Angus K. Gillespie and Erin Clarke.