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## **New Jersey Educator uses Culture and Innovation to Teach English**

Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers introduces to the literary world *Learning English the Cultural Way*, Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19

**(Cherry Hill, NJ)** (April 15, 2009) – For nearly 30 years, Gail Mitchell has used the innovation of arts and culture to reach a population of students that society deemed to be challenged and handicapped because they lacked comprehension of the essential English language. The technique of making language come alive through visual arts and the dynamics of creating and shaping cultural works with their own hands has become a trademark that has garnered Mitchell years of teaching success. The students in her English as a Second Language (ESL) class happily make quilts to show the histories and cultures of America and their native lands. Sewing by hand and machine, they create wonderful creations that are a mixture of fabric, art, photography, and poetry. In their journey through the school year, Mitchell teaches the ESL students important facts, dates, and events that they share with each other, their families, and friends. *Learning English the Cultural Way* is a visual and literary delight of photographs and poetry that exemplifies the learning techniques used to teach English to students from all over the world.

On Sunday, April 19, Mitchell will appear in person during the Free Library Festival at Parkway Central Library in Philadelphia, Pa. *Learning English the Cultural Way* is Mitchell's visual and poetic collage of her students' work and the technique used to teach them. This is her first book.

Gail Mitchell is a native of New Jersey who hails from Newark and East Orange. She graduated from Trenton State College and began her teaching career in the East Orange public school system. She has a master's degree in TESOL, teaches English to speakers of other languages, and has taught ESL to adults as well as children. Among her hobbies are speaking Spanish, biking, and writing poetry. She also plays a mean game of ping pong! Mitchell started quilting in 1989.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Mitchell in person and experience the visual delight of her work. Her book signings will be at the Free Library Festival in the Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers' exhibit booth #10 on Sunday, April 19 from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. For personal interviews and additional signing events contact her directly at (609) 275-0001.

*Learning English the Cultural Way* by Gail Mitchell, ISBN 978-0-9653308-9-3, Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, \$20.00.