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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Governor's Weekly Radio Message Encourages Participation in Many Faces, One Family Week**

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week Gov. Whitman addresses the state's diversity and encourages New Jerseyans to celebrate our unique traditions and contributions to our society. New Jerseyans come from many different backgrounds and cultures. We speak many languages and have many different faiths. The dozens of activities going on during Many Faces, One Family Week from October 3-10 offer a glimpse of that dynamic diversity and provide an opportunity to learn more about the traditions of our neighbors and appreciate each person for what they can contribute to society.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

#### **Governor's Weekly Radio Message October 2, 1998 Many Faces, One Family**

Muchas Caras, Una Familia. That's Spanish for "Many Faces, One Family."

You have probably heard me use that expression before. In any language, it sums up how I feel about the people I am so proud to serve as Governor of New Jersey. We come from so many different backgrounds and cultures. We speak so many languages, celebrate so many faiths, and carry on so many traditions.

Yet we all share a common humanity, a common residence, and a common desire for New Jersey to be the best state in which to live, work, and raise a family.

The more we appreciate our common humanity, the better able we will be to build the New Jersey our children deserve: a state of harmony and respect ... a place where people come together and look after one another ... a place where solace and strength are as close as the person standing next to you ... just like in a family.

During the first week in October, the State of New Jersey is taking time to immerse itself in sharing the many traditions and cultures from which we draw strength and vitality.

Plainfield High School is holding a fall festival with the theme "Durga Puja" of the Asian Indian Americans. The State Museum is sponsoring "History, Art, and Soul," an event to highlight its African-American fine arts collection. The Hunterdon Museum of Art has an exhibit of Toshiko Takaezu's work. At the Newark Public Library, there is a discussion of the Puerto Rico Journey over the past century. The PNC Bank Arts Center is hosting a Scottish Festival, while Montclair University has planned an Italian Film Festival, and the Praise Presbyterian Church has scheduled a Korean Cultural Night.

This is just a small sampling of the dozens of activities going on around the state during Many Faces, One Family Week, which runs from October 3 to October 10. All of these programs offer a glimpse of the dynamic diversity that makes New Jersey such a special place. Together, they remind us that we have so many things going for us, as long as we respect our differences and work to understand each other.

I invite you to take part in Many Faces, One Family Week if you can by coming to one of the many events going on around the state. You can find out more by calling the New Jersey Department of State at (609) 777-2923 or by visiting the Many

Faces, One Family website at  
<http://www.state.nj.us/state/secretar/faces/facesidx.html>.

You can also take part by making a commitment - a commitment to respect your fellow citizen.a commitment to learn more about the traditions of your neighbor.a commitment to appreciate each person, including yourself, for what we can contribute to society.

The poet e.e. cummings wrote, "To be nobody-but-myself - in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else - means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting."

We all are, in a sense, one family. Yet each of us has unique abilities and interests, hopes and dreams. Let's take time this week to recognize and celebrate that uniqueness. Let's make America's melting pot more like a delightful stew, one we can all enrich and flavor with our own experiences, perspectives, and traditions.