

The Path Between

culture and news that connect us



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Get Connected

Join Culture Connect's [Facebook fanpage](#) to stay up to date with current legislation, news pertaining to immigrants and refugees, and updates about our programs!

A Special Welcome

Culture Connect would like to welcome all of our new volunteers, mentors, and interpreters. Your work in support of Culture Connect is valued and very much appreciated!

Cultural Spotlight: Haitian Culture

How much do you know about Haitian Culture?

Did you know:

-In Haiti, Easter is a major holiday. As a majority of Haitian society

Welcome to the Path Between!

Culture Connect Program Highlights

Mark your calendars for Culture Connect's annual fundraiser, Meet the World in Atlanta! This event is being held from 6-10PM at the Defoor Centre on May 1st. Please join us for an evening of international cuisine, wine, silent auction, and cultural trivia. [For more information on the evening and to purchase your ticket, visit our website!](#)



In March 2010, Culture Connect hosted Culturesmart founder Gregory Figaro for a weeklong train-the-trainer course. Six of Culture Connect's interpreters were trained to be lead trainers or language coaches for the Culturesmart "Essential Piece" Medical Interpreter course. This training was made possible by the generous Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Georgia grant.

"The Essential Piece" is a 45-hour training to equip qualified bilingual individuals with the skills they need to deliver accurate and complete

is Christian (i.e. 90% of the country is Catholic, Baptist, Protestant, etc.), the Easter holiday is both a religious and a festive celebration, incorporating elements of both the Christmas and American Thanksgiving holidays.

-Traditionally, during the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday, once the sun has set, there are processions through the streets, with people singing religious songs. This lasts for several hours. The following day, on Easter Sunday, itself, the celebratory colors of choice are red and white:—there are red and white flowers placed throughout the church and the clergy, themselves, are dressed in red and white. It is a glorious day of great rejoicing!

-After church services, people return to their homes and eat foods that one might eat in the U.S. during Thanksgiving: turkey, rice and kidney beans (the Haitian national dish), macaroni and cheese (made with béchamel sauce, which is indicative of Haiti's French influence) and a variety of other regional dishes.

-During this time, the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, a period of the nation's greatest natural disaster, the spirit of the Haitian people and their continued faith helps them continue to celebrate the Easter holiday. Although the churches and the monuments may be gone, the celebration and the singing will continue in the hearts of the people.

A special thank you to Haitian interpreter Berthine Crevecoeur-

medical interpretation in healthcare settings. Culture Connect has been a licensee of Culturesmart since the fall of 2009, and with our additional trainers and language coaches, we will be able to deliver this much-needed resource to many more interpreters, limited English proficiency individuals, and hospitals in the Atlanta community. [Click here for more information about the Culturesmart "Essential Piece" training offered through Culture Connect.](#)



From L to R: Culturesmart founder Greg Figaro, interpreters Andrea Garcia, Berthine Crevecoeur West, Samy Girguis, Grace Cruz, Semra Ramosevac, Grisselle Lares-Bazzani, and Culture Connect Executive Director Alexis Dalmat.

Culture Connect is a proud recipient of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services' Asian American Women's Leadership Development Grant! This generous grant helped fund the training for Ms. Thy Nguyen, Culture Connect's first lead trainer for the Culturesmart Medical Interpreter Training course.



Second from right: Culture Connect Executive Director Alexis Dalmat accepting the award with the other 2010 C3 honorees (Photo Credit: Boon Vong)

In the Community

In the wake of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti,

West for sharing her culture with us!

Culture Connect has held two interpreter trainings specifically for qualified Haitian Creole speakers to meet the need of local hospitals that are experiencing an influx of Creole-speaking patients. Participants learned about the legal framework for interpretation, the ethics of interpretation, and procedures to conduct an efficient, accurate, and professional interpretative session. We encourage everyone to continue to support the Haitian relief efforts.

Census 2010 is here! An accurate count of the United States population is a vital part of ensuring that all individuals living in the U.S. receive the services and representation that they deserve. Immigrants are historically underrepresented in Census data collecting, so helping get the word out that Census 2010 is an easy and safe way to benefit your community! Language Assistance Guides will be available in 59 languages at Question Assistance Centers closer to the date of the Census. For more information on the 2010 Census, [click here](#).

In the News

On Tuesday March 30, 2010, the Georgia Senate passed Senate Bill 67. This bill, which is now up for vote in the Georgia House of Representatives, seeks to mandate English-only driver's license written exams, which are currently offered in approximately 13 languages. This bill directly violates Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and would potentially prevent tens of thousands of Georgians from receiving a driver's license.

If SB 67 is passed, Georgia will be the only state in the nation that does not provide language assistance for Limited English Proficiency individuals who are seeking to obtain a driver's license.

To learn more about legislation pertaining to immigrants and refugees or to contact your Georgia legislators, please visit:

<http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>

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