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# The Path Between

*culture and news that connect us*



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## Get Connected

Join Culture Connect's [Facebook Fan Page](#) to stay up to date with current legislation and news pertaining to our community, immigrants and refugees!

## Cultural Spotlight

### [Eid-Ul-Fitr: How we do it in Malaysia](#)

*by Rafyadah Ramli*

*[Note: this is an excerpt from a beautiful piece. For the full text, please visit [this page.](#)]*

In the Malay language, **the holiday is commonly named Hari Raya Aidilfitri** ('hari' means 'day'; 'raya' is 'festive'; 'festival'; 'celebration'). Sometimes it is also referred to as **Hari Raya Puasa** ('puasa' meaning 'fasting'). In the old days, *Hari Raya* was a festive but simple affair,

## Welcome to The Path Between!

## The Culture Connect family is growing!



Culture Connect has grown and added two new staff and two new Americorps\*VISTA volunteers! Please join us as we welcome (from left to right) Ms. Lacell Joseph, Go-Betweeners® Mentoring Program Manager; Mr. Recharad Hile, Partnerships Cultivation Specialist; Ms. Deanna Warren, Go-Betweeners® Mentoring Program Coordinator; and Mr. Detavious Coleman, Community Engagement Coordinator.

You can read more about each of the new members of the Culture Connect family on our [About Us](#) page.

Welcome to the Culture Connect family!

## Doubling our office space... we're growing quickly!

marked by prayer, visits to the mosque, and small family gatherings. Thanks to the staggering growth in Malaysia's prosperity over the past thirty years, however, the core festival alone has evolved into a **lavish, month-long celebration**. The follow-up social activities fill up everyone's calendar for several weeks, throughout the Islamic month of Syawal.

I have been away from home for 15 years. I could have stayed and continued my tertiary education in Malaysia but the rebellious angst of my teenage years plucked me away from the comfort and solace of family and threw me deep into a new world, which I now call home. But no matter how jaded I have become, and how much I revel in my independence, every year when Ramadan starts, I turn into an emotional ball of goo. **When you're deprived of food and water from dawn till dusk, and you're too tired to even move, much less cook – you tend to hallucinate about food, especially your mother's home-cooked meals. And you start to miss the sights and sounds that accompany the ritual.** And suddenly it hits you – you are all alone, so far away from home, helpless and what's worse is you lack the culinary skills to cook yourself a decent Malaysian meal. You grew homesick for everything you used to take for granted. And you go through this emotional roller-coaster ride for a whole month and on the first day of Eid is when you hit rock bottom. **For me, Eid-ul-Fitr is about**



In June, Culture Connect expanded into new office space, more than doubling our work area! We debuted it to a few close friends and associates on August 9th.

More than 60 of Culture Connect's close friends, family, and partners turned out to support us that evening. Together, we shared

light appetizers and the story of Culture Connect's origins and future plans.



**Thank you**

**to each and every one of you! Your support and dedication has helped us double our staff and grow our operations this past year.**

**Without you and your support, we would not be able to serve more than 8,000 individuals in the Atlanta community annually. Thank you for being part of the Culture Connect family!**

## Program Updates

### Education & Advocacy

#### **CultureSmart:**

**Culture Connect** would like to invite all qualified interpreters to apply for its upcoming **CultureSmart** medical interpreter trainings, which will take place from **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** at **Piedmont Hospital** on the following dates:

- October Session: 10/31, 11/2, 11/7, 11/9, 11/14, and 11/16

Culture Connect is also accepting applications for its 2012 sessions, which will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Piedmont Hospital on the following dates:

**being with family, not just your immediate ones but the entire clan, the extended and super-extended. My happiest memories are when the whole family is together; chit-chatting and cooking/eating together. That is what Eid-ul-Fitr is about – family and togetherness.**

*[Note: this is an excerpt from a beautiful piece. For the full text, please visit [this page.](#)]*

### Our Sponsors

Diamond Level Sponsor:



Gold Level Sponsors:



Silver Level Sponsors:



- January Session - 1/28, 2/4, 2/11 2/18, 2/25, 3/3
- April Session - 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19
- July Session - 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11
- October Session - 10/1, 10/3, 10/8, 10/10, 10/15, 10/17

CultureSmart is a training program for medical interpreters that offers participants a unique opportunity to learn more about a wide variety of topics pertinent to the field of medical interpretation. Participants who complete the course and pass their assessments will be awarded a Certificate of Proficiency, which is nationally recognized by the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA). There is a 25 participant limit for each class. To qualify for this course, participants must have previous experience interpreting in a medical setting and must be able to read and write in their target language.

To learn more about Culturesmart and any of our upcoming sessions, contact the **Education & Advocacy Coordinator** at:  [\(404\) 292-8457 x5#](tel:(404)292-8457) or [program.coordinator@cultureconnectinc.org](mailto:program.coordinator@cultureconnectinc.org).

### Language Services

We are currently looking for qualified and experienced interpreters in the following languages to join the Culture Connect Language Services team:

- Amharic
- Nepali
- Burmese

If you are interested in becoming a professional interpreter, please submit your resume and cover letter to [application@cultureconnectinc.org](mailto:application@cultureconnectinc.org).

### Go-Betweener® Mentoring Program

We are currently looking for mentors in Dekalb, Gwinnett, and Cobb counties! If you are someone who:

- Cares about the immigrant, refugee, and asylee youth in the community
- Speaks another language fluently
- Proud of your international heritage and are a 1st, 1.5, or 2nd generation immigrant
- Excited to help empower a young person who shares your experience of coming to America

We need you!

#### Bronze Level Sponsors:

Red Queen Design Studio  
Key Bridges  
First Medical Care, Inc.  
The Little Wine Shop  
Piedmont Hospital

Right now, we have kids who are on our waiting list in need of mentors. If you want to help a young person (ages 7-17) by becoming a mentor, please contact Recharad Hile at 404-292-8457 ext. 8#.

#### Dekalb & Gwinnett

- Russia (Male Mentors Urgently Needed)
- Haiti
- Ethiopia (Female Mentors Urgently Needed)
- Nepal
- Vietnam
- Tanzania

#### Cobb

- Vietnam
- Mexico
- Peru
- Honduras
- Kenya

**We are also looking for sponsors for our mentor & mentee pairs! If you, your family, or your company would like to sponsor a pair in the Go-Between® Mentoring Program, please contact Ms. Caitlin O'Donnell, Director of Development, at 404-292-8457 ext. 6#.**

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#### In the Community

- Thursday, September 8th at 8:00 a.m. ["Hispanic Corporate Leadership Forum: Best Practices for Business Resource Groups \(BRGs\) & Affinity Groups"](#) The Latin American Association, 2750 Buford Highway, Atlanta, Ga, 30324
  - Saturday, September 10th, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [Dragonboat Festival](#). Lake Lanier Olympic Venue, 3105 Clark's Bridge Road, Gainesville, Georgia 30506
  - Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m. [Hispanic Professional Social 14th Mega Social Mixer with NAAAP](#). No Mas Cantina, 80 Walker St SW Atlanta, GA 30313.
  - Saturday, October 8th at 9:00 a.m. [TEA Walk: Together Empowering Asian Americans](#).
  - Saturday, November 5th. [Chopstix for Charity](#). Havana Club, 3112 Piedmont Road Atlanta, GA 30305
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#### In the News

Read Hilda L. Solis' piece, "[Immigrant Labor Plays a Vital Role.](#)" In it, she challenges major myths about immigrant labor in the U.S. economy.

As part of the H.B. 87 implementation, Governor Deal created the Immigration Enforcement Review Board (IERB) and filled the position with seven men named in [this article](#). Note that Section 20, which included the IERB provision, was never included during the public hearings and is now filled with seven men with limited, if any, immigration experience. For more interpretations of this, please see [Attorney Charles Kuck's public blog](#) on immigration current issues.

For more news, please check [our Facebook page!](#)

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