

# 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 Thank You

Culture Connect would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Otani Cheley-Rouse, who has served as Program Coordinator through the Americorps VISTA program in the past year. Otani has brought an incredible combination of warmth and professionalism to her work and will be sorely missed. Culture Connect thanks her for her service and wishes her well as she begins the next chapter of her life.

## Cultural Spotlight: Hmong Culture

How much do you know about Hmong Culture?

Did you know:  
-Traditionally, the Hmong (Hmoob) celebrate New Year around the third or fourth week of

## Welcome to the Path Between!

### Culture Connect Program Highlights

In celebration of National Mentoring Month, on January 10, Culture Connect held our 2nd Annual Go-Betweener Mentoring Program Party to honor our mentors and mentees. Held at Mad Mad Whirled, mentors, mentees, and Culture Connect staff played whirly-ball and laser tag, then bonded over shared experiences and discussions of our cultural backgrounds.

The Go-Betweener Mentoring Program prevents and reverses downward assimilation among immigrant and refugee youth. Each mentee is matched with a mentor who shares the same language, culture and the experience of "going between" more than one culture. Therefore, these mentors understand their mentees and what they are going through in a deep and real way. [Click here to learn more about the Go-Betweener Mentoring Program.](#)

Thank you to all of our wonderful and devoted mentors for the impact they are making in your mentees' life!



Culture Connect is a proud recipient of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia Community Benefit grant! This generous grant will help to fund the 2010 Culturesmart Medical Interpreter Training series, increasing

November. People will dress up in traditional costumes, sing folk songs, play traditional instruments, and visit one another.

-Folk songs or *Kwv Txhiaj* are popular with young and old alike. *Kwv Txhiaj* are used to flirt, tease, and communicate between genders (almost like online chatting via singing!)

-Hmoob also carry a deep belief in shamanism. A spiritual shaman is believed to be able to travel into the spirit world and negotiate to heal the sick. An excellent book on the intersection between this traditional belief and western medicine is *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.

*Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tsiab* (Happy New Year) to all of Culture Connect's friends and a special thank you to Hmong interpreter Cheng Moua for sharing his culture with us!

access to quality healthcare for limited English proficient patients throughout the Atlanta area. [Click here to learn more about the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Culturesmart Medical Interpreter Training series.](#)

On Tuesday, January 12th, Culture Connect hosted the Walgreens Wellness Tour Bus for the second time. Thanks to Walgreens, in partnership with the National Urban League, 86 people (quadruple the number of people at any other Atlanta area tour stop) of 13 different ethnic communities received six FREE health screenings: total cholesterol levels, blood pressure, bone density, glucose levels, waist circumference, and body mass index. *A special thank you to the Dekalb County Board of Health for their generous donation of FREE H1N1 vaccinations.*



### **In the Community**

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is offering free state and federal tax return filing preparation for refugees and asylees who worked in 2009. For more information on the parameters of this service and the dates it is being offered, call the Atlanta office at 404-292-7731 ext 50 or 404-513-3153. [Click here to learn more about the IRC.](#)

Census 2010 is almost 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**

In January 2010, a new law went into effect in Georgia. Commonly known as "HB2," this law is interpreted to require proof of immigration status in order to receive state-funded public benefits such as adult

education and business and professional licenses. This new law should *not* affect access to federal public benefits such as Medicaid, TANF, food stamps, and employment benefits.

With the new legislative session, Senate Bill 67 will be up for vote again. This bill would mandate English-only driver's license exams. Some reasons to oppose this law include: 1) There is no proof the Limited English Proficiency individuals are worse drivers, 2) Public safety will be at risk as more unlicensed drivers will mean more uninsured motorists on the road, 3) It is a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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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