



**Atlanta InterFaith Leaders Fellowship**

## **Refugee Challenges in Clarkston, GA**

***October 13, 2013 - 3:00PM***

**The next meeting of our Fellowship will be held on Sunday, October 13 beginning at 3:00PM. We will meet at the Dallo Restaurant, 4047 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083, 678-973-2944. Together we will hear a presentation on the challenges faced by refugees from Africa, Nepal and other troubled places who have fled to Atlanta from the disruptions of their homeland. Following the presentation we will enjoy a dinner with food tasting from the African traditions.**

Please invite your friends to join you for this event. No registration is required. RSVP's would be helpful in planning for dinner. Look forward to a stimulating presentation by three community leaders and a tasty dinner experience.

### **Our Leaders**

A three member refugee team with substantial direct experience in dealing with refugee issues will join in the presentation. Samia Abdullah is a Muslim volunteer involved in numerous refugee programs and services. She is a Muslim from Somalia and has been the lead person in planning the group's presentation. Dr. Asha Ahmed, also a Muslim, works with the Center for Torture and Trauma Services of the DeKalb County Board of Health where she works on issues refugees face. Dr. Inuka Midha is Hindu. She is actively involved in community health issues and also instructs refugee groups emphasizing cultural competency and non-communicable diseases. Both Dr. Ahmed and Dr. Inuka are part-time faculty with the Emory Center for the Study of Human Health.

### **The Program:**

Our leader's presentations will focus on interfaith and social issues for the refugee community centered around Clarkston. The challenges of being simultaneously a refugee, whether Muslim, Christian, Hindu or Buddhist, create stress-filled days that most of the AILF members have never experienced.

As we learn what such experiences involve, perhaps we can become better qualified to meet these new neighbors as brothers and sisters. We can learn to welcome them as full members of the Atlanta community at large and hopefully learn how best to treat them with compassionate understanding, respect and love. Hopefully, we will apply these lessons of interfaith respect as we get to know these newcomers in our midst.

Following the presentations there will be a question and answer period which will create a starting point for dialogue.

As we share in the closing dinner, we will have an opportunity to speak with members of the Clarkston refugee community and to deepen our knowledge and understanding of those who live in our neighborhood. This time together will give us a further opportunity to learn what it means to arrive in Atlanta as a refugee and how we might participate in making these newcomers full members of our community. A \$10 per person contribution for the dinner is suggested for all for whom such cost is not a burden.

Members interested in learning more about one Somali Refugee community in the United States may wish to read *Somalis in Maine – Crossing Cultural Currents*, Kimberly A. Huisman et al (editors) – a book I can wholeheartedly recommend.

**Who Should Attend? Registration**

Like all AILF meetings, this event is open to both members and friends. Registration is not required. However, if you are attending an RSVP to me at [vossduck@mindspring.com](mailto:vossduck@mindspring.com) would help us in seating and dinner planning.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam!

Bill Voss, AILF Secretary

September 12, 2013