Who are the Korean-Americans?

Korean organizations, associations, and resources

Korean Organizations, Associations, and Resources
Below is a listing of selected organizations who work with the Korean Community. Additional resources are available at www.atlantaglobal.com.

A PERSONAL STORY

Kim drove the Buford Highway corridor and noticed all the new residential development taking shape there. She decided to enter the real estate industry full-time. She worked briefly for Century 21 and Northside Realty, then joined RE/MAX in 1991, finding a case of clients from the community who had moved here earlier, Kim and her husband moved to Atlanta. Again, they opened an office in the核心 of clients from the community.

Soon after she joined RE/MAX she received Top Sales Associate Awards for her individual offices, which had been careers in buying and selling homes. They purchased the Buford Highway corridor and noticed all the new residential development taking shape there. She decided to enter the real estate industry full-time. She worked briefly for Century 21 and Northside Realty, then joined RE/MAX in 1991, finding a case of clients from the community who had moved here earlier, Kim and her husband moved to Atlanta. Again, they opened an office in the community. By going into nursing, Kim found work in nursing, including weekend shifts at Rockdale Hospital and other stints at what is now Dunwoody Community Medical Center.

Korean Life in Metro Atlanta

The Atlanta Regional Commission is the official planning agency for the ten-county Atlanta region including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale, as well as the City of Atlanta and 63 other cities. ARC provides a forum where leaders come together to discuss and act on issues of regionwide consequence.

The Korean community is clustered in four of the region’s counties, almost equally divided between those of higher socio-economic status. The new stores are bigger than those of the past, and they are showing a preference to move to locations farther out into the suburbs. Women also hold some 700 production jobs, half of which are to be found in textile and apparel manufacturing. Men are employed; 300 Korean women hold personal care jobs. There are about 13,000 members of the Korean community, almost equally divided between men and women, working in the region’s economy. They are also engaged in food preparation and service. Other service occupations include building and ground operations, in which some 200 men and women are employed. Korea’s women hold personal care jobs.

Koreans in the Global Atlanta Snapshots

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Koreans in the Atlanta Economy

There are about 13,600 members of the Korean community, almost equally divided between men and women, working in the regional economy. Many of these individuals own or manage small businesses, while others are employed by corporate giants. Korean women have a higher rate of participation in the labor force than the U.S. average. In the Atlanta region, 40% of Korean women work in service occupations, and 19% are employed in personal care jobs. Other service occupations include building and grounds operations, in which lower rates of female employment are found. Many Koreans find employment in the retail trade, manufacturing, and transportation and public utilities industries. Korean professional service activities include legal services, engineering and architectural services, the arts, and health care services. The Atlanta-based Korean American Physicians Association (KAPA) is an example of this type of organization. Korean professional associations and consultants are very important in the Atlanta area.

Koreans in Life in Metro Atlanta

Koreans in Life in Metro Atlanta are a mix of both native and Asian-born residents. The Korean community is a vibrant and diverse place to live, work, and play. From the bustling streets of downtown to the tranquil countryside, the Korean community offers something for everyone. Whether you're interested in exploring the city's vibrant culture or enjoying the natural beauty of the area, you'll find it all in Metro Atlanta. Korean food is a staple of the community, with many delicious restaurants and food trucks offering a variety of dishes. The community is also home to many cultural events throughout the year, including Korean New Year celebrations and other cultural festivals. The Korean community is a close-knit group with strong ties to family and community. They are proud of their heritage and are committed to maintaining traditional values and customs. Despite their differences, Koreans in Life in Metro Atlanta have come together to create a thriving community that is rich in diversity and culture.
Who are the Korean-Americans? (cont’d)

The Koreans arrived in the U.S. in significant numbers beginning from the late 19th century. The majority came to work on U.S. military bases during World War II and later worked as local laborers and other occupations. The Korean community has developed in large part due to the large number of Korean-American military veterans who settled in the Atlanta region after their service ended. The community has grown significantly since the 1970s, and today it is one of the largest and most diverse in the Atlanta region.

In addition to Korean Americans who are second-generation immigrants, there are also first-generation immigrants who have come to the United States to pursue higher education, work, or visit family members. Many Korean Americans have established successful businesses and have contributed significantly to the local economy. The Korean-American community in Atlanta is known for its strong family values and community-oriented culture. They have formed numerous associations and clubs to support each other and to promote Korean culture and language.

The Korean community in Atlanta is active in various volunteer organizations, such as the Korean-American Medical Association, Korean Women's Association, and Korean American Chamber of Commerce. These organizations work to support Korean Americans in the Atlanta region and promote cultural awareness and understanding. The community also celebrates traditional Korean holidays and customs, such as Chuseok, the Korean harvest festival, and Seollal, the Korean New Year. These events attract people from all backgrounds, allowing the community to share its rich cultural heritage with others.

In recent years, the Korean-American community in Atlanta has been growing in numbers and influence. As a result, the community has become more visible and influential in the local political and social landscape. The Korean-American community in Atlanta has also played a significant role in the development of the local economy, with a growing number of Korean-owned businesses and restaurants in the area.

Many Korean Americans in Atlanta have made a significant impact on the local community, with some serving in leadership roles in various organizations and initiatives. Some notable figures in the community include Korean-American business leaders, community activists, and cultural ambassadors, who promote Korean culture and language in the region. The Korean-American community in Atlanta is a vibrant and dynamic part of the local society, contributing to the cultural diversity and richness of the area.

What are Korean Customs and Culture?

Korean customs are deeply rooted in the country's history and traditions. These customs provide guidance for KoreanAmericans throughout their lives, including their social interactions, religious practices, and daily activities. Some of the prominent customs and traditions in the Korean-American community include:

- **Greetings**: In Korean, it is customary to bow when greeting someone, especially in formal settings. The word for hello, **안녕히 (Annyeong)**, is used to say hello or goodbye. When meeting someone, it is polite to use the honorific **한테 (Han-te)** or **네 (Ne)**, depending on the context.

- **Family Names**: Korean Americans often adopt a family name or **한성 (Hanjeong)**, which is typically based on the first letter of their first name. In Korea, the family name is typically placed before the given name, but in the United States, the given name is placed before the family name.

- **Names Day**: In Korean culture, names are considered sacred and are not changed frequently. A Names Day, **한성일 (Hanjeongil)**, is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, **Ch’usok**.

- **Food**: Korean cuisine is known for its variety and complexity. Some popular dishes include **Kimch'i**, **Jajangmyeon**, and **Bibimbap**. These dishes are typically served with a side of **Chapchae**, a cold noodle dish, and **Jang Sundae**, a spicy sausage.

- **Festivals**: The Korean community celebrates several festivals throughout the year, including **Chuseok**, **Seollal**, and **Dano Festival**. These festivals provide opportunities for family members and friends to come together and enjoy traditional foods, music, and activities.

- **Langmage**: In Korean, **랑말 (Eunhae)** is a way to express appreciation or gratitude. It is often used in conversations to show respect or acknowledge someone's efforts.

- **Moving Beyond Ownership of Single Stores**: The Korean-American community has expanded beyond single stores to include a variety of businesses, such as restaurants, retail stores, and service providers. This diversity has contributed to the growth and prosperity of the community.

Korean Life in Metro Atlanta (cont’d)

Korean-American community in Atlanta is a diverse and vibrant group, and the community continues to grow and evolve. As the community expands, it remains committed to preserving its cultural heritage and promoting cultural understanding and appreciation.

In conclusion, the Korean-American community in Atlanta is a dynamic and growing group that continues to contribute to the cultural richness and diversity of the metro Atlanta region. The community's traditions, customs, and contributions have helped to shape the area's identity and continue to enrich the lives of those who call it home.
Koreans in the Atlanta Region: By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>408,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>692,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>597,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>118,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
<td>314,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwinnett</td>
<td>339,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>306,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>173,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Region</td>
<td>1,746,558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gwinnett County is home to 43 percent of Georgia’s total population, with 322,543 residents, followed by Cobb County with 692,103 residents.
- Henry County has the lowest population with 30,617 residents.

Who are the Koreans in the Atlanta Region? (cont’d)

- The 10-county Atlanta region is home to approximately 330,000 Koreans, representing 7.5 percent of the total population.
- Korean community centers are found throughout the region, with a large population residing in Gwinnett County.

Languages Spoken

The national language for all Koreans is Korean. The spoken language is Korean, and great pride in this writing system and recognition of its invention each year is a sign of the nation's self-esteem and national identity. Created in the 15th century, it is one of the most scientific writing systems in the world. Its method, structure, and syntax are so well organized that experts have claimed in great detail.

The Korean population is a phonetic alphabet consisting of 10 vowels and 14 consonants. Created in the mid-15th century, it is one of the most scientific writing systems in the world. Its method, structure, and syntax are so well organized that experts have claimed in great detail.

Celebrated Holidays

- New Year’s Day
- Chuseok (Korean Harvest Festival)
- Kite Festival
- Children’s Day
- Arbor Day
- Labor Day (Korean Independence Day)
- Memorial Day
- President's Day (birthday of the late president)
- National Foundation Day
- Columbus Day

What are Korean Customs and Culture? (cont’d)

- Education and family are important in the Korean community. Individuals are expected to be industrious and hard working. Age is respected in this community and elders are treated reverently. Age is also honored by a party given for the birthday of the child. Family members may now raise their children for this special occasion.

Korean Food in Metro Atlanta (cont’d)

- Two of the many traditional festivals celebrated in the Atlanta region are Chuseok, the harvest festival, and the New Year’s Day, held in August, celebrated with food, folk dancing, and traditional costumes. In the United States, it has become incorporated by many families into Thanksgiving Day celebrations. The New Year’s Day is observed at the end of the last month of the year. For New Year celebrations often continue for three days. As families gather during the New Year’s Day festival, young family members share respect for their elders and wish each other good fortune. In return, the children are given advice for the coming year and rewarded with gifts of money, candy or fruit.

Other festivals also highlight the importance of children and the family. On the first birthday, all the gifts are put around the child and the one who picks the first is thought to signal his or her future career. Age is also honored by a celebration on the birthday of the child’s birth. Family members may now raise their children for this special occasion.

- Many people consider the “national food” of Korea to be bulgogi (spiced meat). While most Korean snowboards are eaten fried, heavily spiced versions of sushi, or pulkogi (spiced meat) may be prepared. Other common foods and dishes include honey, rice cake, soy sauce, and other high-quality foods. It is generally served at every meal – even breakfast. Korean food is also composed of rice dishes — some strongly flavored foods. It is generally served at every meal – even breakfast. Korean food is also composed of rice dishes. In addition, many Korean families will adopt “American” first names.

- Buddha, Confucianism, and Shamanism are the traditional religions of Korea. Korean religious practices and beliefs have been strong for over a century and Christianity has gained a foothold. The majority of Korean immigrants are Christians of various denominations, including Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Seventh-day Adventists. There are more than 100 Korean-Christian congregations in the Atlanta region and at least three Buddhist temples.

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<th>Population of Koreans</th>
<th>Total Asians in County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>2,286</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>3,205</td>
<td>85</td>
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Total 10-county region: 17,495

- Gwinnett County is home to, by far, the largest population of Koreans, 7,499 of the 2000 Census. Fulton ranks second with 3,925, followed by DeKalb (3,205) and Cobb (2,286).
- Gwinnett County is home to 49 percent of the region’s Koreans and 43 percent of the Koreans living in Georgia.
- The 10-county Atlanta region is home to approximately 15 percent of Georgia’s total Korean population. (The state’s Korean population is 110,789 as of the 2000 Census.

Korean names are composed of two parts — the family name and the given name. For example, Kim Hyong Sim has the family name Kim and the given name Hyong Sim. In all, there are about 300 family names in Korea, but a handful are most common. These include: An, Chang, Choo, Chang, Ick, Kim, Lee, Pak, Ri, Yi and Yan. Many Koreans in the United States, particularly in major urban centers such as Los Angeles and New York, have Englishized their Korean names.

Who are the Koreans in Atlanta? (cont’d.)

- The majority of Korean immigrants are Christians of various traditional religions of Korea. Missionary activity has been strong for over a century and Christianity has gained a foothold. Buddhists, Confucians, and Shintoists are the traditional religions of Korea and are also represented in Atlanta. A tall shrub with pink, red, purple or white blossoms, it can be found growing in many older neighborhoods in the Atlanta region.

Korean Language

The Korean language is a distinct group of languages that include Korean, Manchu, and Jeju. Korean is a logographic language consisting of 24 vowels and 24 consonants. Created in the fifth century, it is one of the most scientific writing systems in the world. Its method, unique only among the peoples of the world, is easy to learn and pronounce, and has helped to foster higher literacy rates throughout the Korean peninsula.

KOREAN POPULATION IN ATLANTA

Atlanta Region, 2000

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Source: 2000 Census Data on Foreign-Born Population by Region, Country or Area of Birth

MOVING BEYOND OWNERSHIP OF SINGLE STORES, ENTIRE SMALL SHOPPING STRIPS THROUGHOUT RALEIGH COUNTY ARE KOREAN-OWNED.

Korean Cuisines

The national food for all of Korea is rice. The spoken language’s influence on Korean cuisine is so strong that “Korean cuisine” is a phonetic rendering of its name and consists of many phonetic renderings. Created in the mid-15th century, it is one of the most scientific writing systems in the world. Its method, unique only among the peoples of the world, is easy to learn and pronounce, and has helped to foster higher literacy rates throughout the Korean peninsula.

A Symbol of Survival - Mugunghwa

The Rose of Sharon, or Mugunghwa, is the national flower of Korea. This flower, with which Koreanspeople strongly identify, can endure harsh conditions and difficult times even while strong and vibrant. It is a symbol with red, pink, or white blossoms, it can be found growing in many older neighborhoods in the Atlanta region.

Celebrated Holidays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Celebration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>(1st day of the lunar year)</td>
<td>Children's Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents' Day</td>
<td>(5th day of the 5th lunar month)</td>
<td>Arbor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father's Day</td>
<td>(3rd day of the 5th lunar month)</td>
<td>Liberation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean Day</td>
<td>(5th day of the 4th lunar month)</td>
<td>National Foundation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang-gu</td>
<td>(19th day of the lunar month)</td>
<td>Korean Institute Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hang-gu</td>
<td>(5th day of the 5th lunar month)</td>
<td>National Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang-gu</td>
<td>(8th day of the 4th lunar month)</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Liberation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hang-gu</td>
<td>(19th day of the lunar month)</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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</tbody>
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Korean food is served year-round in Korea; dishes are typically served in small portions. Popular dishes include: stone-boat rice, a hearty seafood stew; chaj, a spicy vegetable dish; and meon, a mixture of rice and vegetables. The national food for all of Korea is rice. The spoken language’s influence on Korean cuisine is so strong that “Korean cuisine” is a phonetic rendering of its name and consists of many phonetic renderings. Created in the mid-15th century, it is one of the most scientific writing systems in the world. Its method, unique only among the peoples of the world, is easy to learn and pronounce, and has helped to foster higher literacy rates throughout the Korean peninsula.

A Symbol of Survival - Mugunghwa

The Rose of Sharon, or Mugunghwa, is the national flower of Korea. This flower, with which Koreanspeople strongly identify, can endure harsh conditions and difficult times even while strong and vibrant. It is a symbol with red, pink, or white blossoms, it can be found growing in many older neighborhoods in the Atlanta region.

People's Law School, Bridging the Gap, various churches offering English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and DeKalb Tech offer English language classes and the DeKalb Tech branch office in Clairmont provides essential services to Koreans in need of assistance. Other problems confronting the community are an increase in DEA infractions and cases of domestic violence. In a domestic violence case for both men and women, it is noted that it of out participates in the class are women.

What are Korean Customs and Culture?

The Korean community is making economic and social progress, newcomers in the community are in need of a range of services. For these reasons English language, instruction, assistance is provided by the Center for Pan Asian, located on Buford Highway in Doraville and convenient to the Doraville MARTA station. People’s Law School, Bridging the Gap, various churches offering English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and DeKalb Tech offer English language classes and the DeKalb Tech branch office in Clairmont provides essential services to Koreans in need of assistance. Other problems confronting the community are an increase in DEA infractions and cases of domestic violence. In a domestic violence case for both men and women, it is noted that it of out participates in the class are women.

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Who are the Korean-Americans?

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