Celebrating Eid
A Muslim Family in Connecticut Keeps Traditions Alive

Nuzhat Jahan

Life is very busy. We cannot frequently be together with our loved ones. Therefore we have organized celebrations so that we can relax and spend time with each other.

One holiday that my family celebrates is called Eid. Eid is a Muslim holiday that starts at the end of Ramadan, which is a 30-day period of fasting. We celebrate Eid for the first three days of this month.

My country of Pakistan, my community, and my family celebrate the Eid festival. Eid is very important in my life. For Eid, we make new clothes, buy new shoes, and cook a lot of food, especially sweet dishes called sheer-korma. During Eid we exchange gifts with each other.

I want to pass all my traditional and religious celebrations to the next generation of my family. Because my kids were born here in the USA, they won’t know how to celebrate or how to organize this holiday unless I show them.

Therefore, every year at home I celebrate Eid. My family members and friends come and see each other. I make a lot of food and I give gifts, especially bangles, henna, little amounts of money, and traditional clothing.

I feel very happy and good when my kids see this celebration. We must teach our children to give respect to all holidays, but at the same time we don’t want them to give up their own heritage. Therefore, parents must commit to practicing their traditions and celebrating their holidays so that the next generation will learn.

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The new moon (not visible) is opposite the full moon (bottom center). Eid-al-Fitr begins when the crescent moon (to the right of the new moon) is visible in the sky. During this phase, the moon waxes. After it becomes full, it starts to wane.