

ECMAA: SERVING NEW YORK|NEW JERSEY|CONNECTICUT AREA

Ethiopian
Community
Mutual
Assistance
Association
(ECMAA)
2017
Annual
Report



ECMAA established, 1981 in New York City

2017

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Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association (ECMAA) Board of Directors

2017 ECMAA Board Annual update

Date: January 11, 2018

Summary

In 2017 ECMAA had a very productive year. We were able to organize different activities in which our community was able to participate. Among the activities organized by ECMAA include:

- ❖ Remembrance Day Program
- ❖ Autism awareness program
- ❖ Discussion on the significance of Adwa
- ❖ Book presentation and discussion
- ❖ Film Screening

Remembrance Day Program 1935- 1941:

The Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association of New York and Global Alliance -the Ethiopia cause organized a Town Hall Meeting to pay tribute to victims of Rodolfo Graziani cowardly attack that claimed thousands of innocent Ethiopians lives on February 19, 1937 (G.C). 2017 is the 80th



Anniversary commemoration day of the massacre of thousands of people in Addis Abeba. The event included remembering Ethiopian patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our beloved country during the Italian aggression from 1935 -1941.

The invited speakers for the event were Dr. Girma Abebe, Mr. Howard Parker and Ambassador Imru Zelleke who joined us by Skype. Dr. Girma and Ambassador Imru were an eye witness of the atrocities committed by the Graziani soldiers on the people of Addis Ababa. The meeting was held on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 220 Manhattan Ave NY, NY.

Autism awareness program:

In 2017 we combined 5K Walkathon for Autism awareness campaign and our Ethiopian Day picnic. It was a chance for everyone to get together, relax, have fun in the annual picnic activities and create awareness and support to the brave



Autistic children as they battle the disease. The 5K walk began about 2:00PM making its way from West 135 Street Nicolas Avenue to 7th Ave. and made a turn at 129 West Street and back to West 135st. St. Nicholas.

Before the awareness walk began an opening remark was made by Dr. Zergabatchew Asfaw. He spoke about the importance of autism awareness. Dr. Zergabatchew provided us a list of organizations in US that help children with Autism and urged each of us to get involved and show our support for autistic children and their families. We thank Dr. Zergabatchew for accepting our invitation to speak to our community and provide us important information that will increase our awareness about Autism. ECMAA would also like to thank all those who have participated in our successful autism awareness program Please visit for more reading :

<http://www.zehabesha.com/ethiopia-5k-walking-for-autism-in-new-york-city-by-berhane-tadese/>

Discussion on significance of the Battle of Adwa

A Round Table Discussion on Battle of Adwa was held on Friday, October 6, 2017 in Harlem, New York City. The invited speaker was the notable historian Dr. Ayele Bekerie. He explained the significance of the battle in which an Ethiopian army decisively defeated the heavily armed European colonial Army. He stated that all Ethiopians should be proud of this history and defend it from those who try to minimize



its significance or distort the historical facts about the war.. At the end of the discussion, the speaker, Dr. Beker gave answer to several questions raised by the attendees. The dialogue on this event improved our knowledge, understanding of the battle and its significance in modern African History. Dr Ayele stated that the battle of Adwa is striking example which showed that all Ethiopians were united in defending their land and their Ethiopiawinet.

Book presentation and discussion:

History of the Haile Selassie I University: Development and Expansion of Higher Education in Ethiopia. (In Amharic) by Dr. Aklilu Habte.

On December 3, 2017 ECMAA co-hosted the book presentation and discussion with Tafari Makonnen School Alumni Association in North America (TMSAANA, <http://www.tmsaana.com>) at Columbia University. Brief Overview of the Book was made by the author, Dr. Aklilu Habte. Additional remarks and observations about the book were made by Prof Getatchew Haile and Kibur-AtoTekaligne Gedamu. followed by Q&A and book signing session.

Please visit <http://www.tadias.com/index.php?s=book+talk>.

Film Screening Events:

ECMAA's support and encourage young Ethiopian film makers by introducing and showing their work to our community. We were pleased in organizing two films screening event in 2017. On October 29, 2017 Bed Space- ደባሎቹ film was screened. The film is based on true story of Ethiopian migrant workers living in Middle Eastern countries in particular in the glamorous city of Dubai. The film producer is Tigist Berhanu.

On December 10, 2017 : Yengen Alewldem film (**የነገን አልወልድም**) also screened by the film maker Fortuna Moges. The film takes the audience on a journey through the terrible living memories of the red terror period during 1974 Ethiopian Revolution. Please visit for film review:

<http://www.satenaw.com/film-review-berhane-tadese-yenegen-alweldem/>

We look forward to your feedback on how to further strengthen ECMAA.

Best regard,

ECMAA Board.