

# Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association

## ECMAA

### Monthly Newsletter

#### FEATURED EVENTS

##### **Petros at the Hour, *Written by Laureate Tsegaye Gebremedhin***

**Sunday, February 16, 2020, 2pm**  
**National Black Theater Inc.**

Join us for a special production of *Petros at the Hour* by the Tayitu Cultural and Educational Center. In 1928, Abune Petros was appointed Bishop of central and northern Ethiopia. During the Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, he taught people to stand up against fascism and preached that God would visit the Ethiopian people soon. In 1936, he was arrested for treason by Italian soldiers and was asked to accept the Italian occupation. He refused the ultimatum and was sentenced to death. He is a true Ethiopian 20th Century Martyr. A statute of Abune Petros was raised in Addis Ababa 10 years after his death in honor of his sacrifice. Poet Laureate Tsegaye Gebremedhin has written a play documenting the last three days of his life. ECMAA and the Global Alliance for Justice are collaborating to bring this play to New York City on February 16, 2020 in their annual Commemoration of Yekatit 12. You can purchase tickets and also renew your membership on [Eventbrite](#).

##### **ECMAA Social Hour - *Enetewawek!***

**Ginjan Cafe, February 27th, 6-9pm**  
**85 E 125th St, New York, NY 10027**

ECMAA is hosting its first ever singles mixer "enetewawek" on February 27th. Come and join the coolest young Ethiopians for fun after-work mixer at Ginjan Cafe. We will have fun activities and interesting discussion topics surrounding singles' life in NYC area. If interested complete the [RSVP Form](#)

##### **Yelugnta, Gemena, and Communication in Our Community**

**March 7th, 2020, 10-3pm**  
**African Service Committee, 429 W. 127 street**

#### **Mental Health First AID**

It's hard to watch members of our community struggle with mental health and not know how to help. The Mayor's Office, Thrive NYC, in collaboration with ECMAA is offering a free program, Mental Health First Aid to the Ethiopian Community. Those who complete the full day training will receive a certificate and will learn how to give mental health advice. The goal is to have as many of us trained as possible so that each church/community group has a support system for our community. Taking the training does not commit you to anything....

The Benefits include:

- A two-year certificate that can be included in your resume
- Skills to recognize signs of anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and behaviors, psychosis and other signs of mental illness
- Concrete guidance on how to support someone with mental health problems
- Feeling confident about how to help someone who needs help (sometimes, it's just listening)

This training is like becoming a first responder for mental health issues. It's free, it's for our community, and it's something you can carry into all aspects of your life. Register for the training through the following link: <https://ecmaa.timetap.co>

**Saturday, 02/01/20, 9am-5pm**  
**427W 127th Street, 3rd Floor**

#### **2020 Census**

The 2020 census will be conducted between mid-March and the end of July. This period is divided into two phases: the "self-response-only" phase and the "non-response follow-up" phase.

By mid-March of 2020, every household in the United States will receive a letter from the Census Bureau with information on filling out the census online. During the self-response-only period, the census will be available online and by phone. At the end of the self-response-only phase the Census Bureau will send paper forms to households which have not responded online.

Within Ethiopian culture, “Gemena” and “Yelugnta” are concepts that can keep us from talking to each other and reaching out for help. If unconsidered, they can leave some of us alone and isolated because of a fear of being judged or talked about. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, ECMAA, African Services Committee, Ethiopian Edir Mutual Assistance Association, and Habesha Health will hold a workshop with Yelugnta and Gemena as an overriding theme. Topics that will be explored include Mental Health, Autism Spectrum and Intimate Partner Violence.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Ethiopian Community Association in Connecticut-General Assembly

**Saturday January 18th, 1-4**  
**East Hartford Public Library**  
**840 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108**  
 The Ethiopian community in Connecticut is establishing Ethiopian association.

### Design, Sew and Sell-Free Fashion-Training Open House

**Riverside Church, Harlem**  
 Learn about free fashion career training for low income and immigrant women. Multiple dates in January. Register at <http://www-customcollaborative.org>.

## GETTING INVOLVED

### Become a Member

You can complete the form at <http://www.ecmaany.org/membership/>. The suggested contribution of \$30 can be sent by check (sent to POBox 1349, NY, NY 10027) or through Venmo to ECMAA NY

### Follow Us

- Like us on Facebook (ECMAA)
- Follow us on Instagram @ecmaany
- Share our material with your Friends

In approximately mid-May, the Census Bureau will begin to send enumerators, or "door-knockers", to conduct non-response follow-ups for households that have still not completed the census. If no one answers the door after several attempts, the enumerators will either use administrative records or proxies to try to determine the information for that household. These estimates by enumerators are often inaccurate and can leave many New Yorkers out of the count, impacting our fair share of \$650 billion in federal funding for vital programs and our representation in Congress. That is why increasing the self-response rate is imperative to strengthening our ability to achieve a complete and accurate count next year.

For more information, please visit [2020 Census Website](#)



*Seeds for Africa event. We went to support Adom Gebregiorgis who's running for Congress from the Bronx/Yonkers.*

### Diaspora Trust Fund

Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust fund has announced the completion of project proposal reviews. More than 300 project proposals were received, and 22 projects have been shortlisted. For more information visit [EDTF approves projects](#)

### Share Resources

Many of you have been making suggestions and offering your assistance, please let us know your special skills and talents and we'll help connect you with a way to share your talents.