

ECMAA Newsletter

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
2020



Photo credit: Haditi.Africa

FEATURED EVENTS

ECMAA OFFICE HOURS

Thursdays, 8-8:30pm

ECMAA has Zoom office

hours on Thursdays from 8-

8:30 to answer COVID 19

related questions, help

complete benefit forms and

discuss any topics of

interest. Thanks to Muna

Said for hosting these.

[Zoom call ID 409-087-377](#)

or call at (201) 870-0335

Barara, Book Review

Sunday, September 6, 3pm

ECMAA is holding a virtual book review with Dr. Habtamu M. Tegene, the author of Barara (Addis Ababa' Predecessor): Foundation, Growth, Destruction and Rebirth (1400 1887). "The untold story of Ethiopian history."

Dr. Aklog Birara and Professor Haile Larebo will join us for a thoughtful discussion.

[Zoom call ID 813 2588 0476](#)

or call at 646 558 8656

From the Board

Melkam Addis Amet. As the new year approaches, ECMAA has continued programming online and is helping the NY-Tristate Wegen Le Wegen initiative in fighting COVID-19 in Ethiopia.

For the New Year, we look forward to a safe, socially distanced in person, outdoor opportunity to gather to celebrate while doing good. Wegen Le Wegen – NY Tri-Sate for Ethiopia is hosting a walk to raise the funds needed to help Ethiopia mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Ethiopia has reached 880 deaths. We need to stay strong in our fight against COVID.

Join us for a 5K walk on September 12 at 10am at 97th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan (A New Jersey walk will be scheduled soon). The entrance fee is \$30 and each walker can ask for sponsors to raise as much as possible. Those who raise \$200 or more will receive a tshirt by mail after the walk.

All walkers and those who want to walk virtually can register [here](#). Each walker is encouraged to ask friends and family to sponsor them [here](#). Please spread the word and sign up yourself. Attached is a flier for distribution. Masks are required to participate and we ask that those with symptoms only provide financial support and stay home. Those reluctant to walk together, can do it in their neighborhood or just make a financial contribution.

In these tense times for Ethiopia, we focus on the resources that build us up. We share resources and programming we learn about and remain committed to being the organization for all independent of religion, ethnicity and political beliefs.



From last year's Ethiopia Day Picnic

Spring Fair 2019

Enetewawek 2 To Be Confirmed

This year, we're considering modifying our annual Ethiopian Day picnic and instead having a smaller scale outdoor version of our very popular Enetewawek dating event. ECMAA's February Enetewawek left many wanting more. We would limit participation to 50 and take all social distancing measures. There will be an entrance fee to go to COVID-19 Relief for Ethiopia. Those interested can sign up [here](#) if we move ahead with plans.

ECMAA Annual Membership Meeting October 18, 5pm

We will be holding our annual membership meeting virtually this year and look forward to seeing you to update you about our activities, plan ahead and hold elections. Are you interested in becoming more engaged and getting on the Board?

Besides joining a collaborative, fun and dedicated group of your fellow community members, it's a good opportunity to give back and further develop any interest you've had. ECMAA events such as book reviews, college planning workshops to soccer games, real estate seminars have been the result of Board members sharing their interests, knowledge and skills.

Send us an email at ecmaany@gmail.com if you'd like to be on the board.

The Teen Experience

In August, ECMAA held The Teen Experience for ages 10-20. The virtual events were designed to build the Ethiopian teen community, provide a platform for teens to reflect on their experience as an Ethiopian American and the effect recent events (Covid-19 and broadcasting of racial injustice) had on them.

During both events the teens got to know each other, shared laughs, and had thoughtful discussions. All of them were engaged and openly expressed their perspectives on Ethiopian-American identity, remote learning, Ethiopian-American culture, and racial awareness. During discussions, many recognized the commonalities and differences of their Ethiopian-American experience in relation to other teens. The teens also discussed the importance of mental health and self care with a mental health professional.

Overall, the teens appreciated having a space to meet other fellow teens and share thoughts on the mentioned important topics. We will keep you posted about other similar events.

Amharic Class

The summer session Level 1 beginner class has now concluded where students from all backgrounds came together via zoom to learn the fidel alphabet, and by the end of the course were able to translate and construct sentences in Amharic. The next Level 2 intermediate class for ages 16+ will meet once a week. Look out for an email for more info and how to register. We will also offer a level 3 class that may require assessment, students must read the alphabet. Please sign up [here](#) if you're interested, classes will begin early October.

OTHER EVENTS

The US Administration is considering reducing aid to Ethiopia as a result of GERD related policy differences. If you'd like to help, you can participate in a campaign [here](#). You can also join a task force to help Ethiopia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in longterm planning around the GERD, sign up [here](#).

Separately, find out more about an Engineering & International Development Fellowship at USAID by going [here](#).

GET COUNTED

Make sure our community is counted and complete the census today! Door knocking has begun, it's best to just complete by phone or online. From local and federal government, to schools, services the census affects what happens for the next ten years. It is critical that each of us complete it [here](#). If you have not already, please do it now, if you know people who have not, please encourage them to complete it.

GET INVOLVED

Visit our website

www.ecmaany.org for ongoing updates and to [become a member](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [instagram](#) for the most up to date information on what's going on.

Finally, if you or those you know need immediate food and other assistance click on the links based on where you live [New York](#), [New Jersey](#). For more general COVID related assistance, go to [ACCESS NYC](#).

Conversation on Returning to School

On Saturday 8/29 we held a Conversation on Preparing for School Reopening where Sofia Mohammed, a school Principal in NYC, and Tezeta, who is a parent, a PTA leader and ECMAA board member, shared much practical and timely information on starting this unique school year off right. It included creating structure for success, technology, language barriers, special needs considerations as well as social and emotional well-being. Missed it? Be sure to watch the replay on [Facebook](#) and on [YouTube](#). If you have any questions after watching the replay, feel free to send an email to ecmaany@gmail.com. As we approach the upcoming school year, let's equip ourselves and our kids with the tools we need to have a successful academic year. Attached are resources that will help facilitate a positive and supportive environment for families. We are hoping to hold a second session after school starts. Stay tuned for more on that.

Thank you to Sofia Mohammed, Tezeta Roro and Martha Desta for planning this event and creating this much needed resource for us.

Farewell and thanks to our Summer Interns

Thank you to our interns for the Summer. Bethania Tadese and Meron Admasu helped build up ECMAA this Summer. ECMAA has a youtube channel and the Wegen Le Wegen is all over social media. They did research, compiled resources for how to help members of our community manage crisis and helped us set up salesforce as our customer relationship management system.

In the tradition of everyone who steps in to help strengthen our community, they leave us stronger than we started. We thank them and look forward to being a resource for them as they continue to develop professionally. Besides just plain satisfaction from giving back, one of our interns was able to get college credits for her work with us. We'll let you know when we're ready for the next round of interns. We are always looking for volunteers and your engagement!

Our strength comes from you.