

# ECMAA Newsletter

JUNE 2020



Standing up for for what's right, safely....

## 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.

[Zoom call ID 409-087-377](#)  
or call at (201) 870-0335

### WEEKLY CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR - Tuesdays, 4pm

ECMAA' Story hour is continuing in English and Amharic for kids 3-12 yrs old. Sign up your kids [here](#) and tell others to do the same so we can better tailor the stories.

[Zoom Call ID # 814 7743 4706](#)

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Date and Time TBD

ECMAA is holding a virtual book review with the author of [Barara \(Former Addis Ababa\)](#). Grab your coffee and join us for a great discussion. You can purchase the book [here](#).

## From the Board

We held a series of successful events in May. Our Career Planning Event which was held on May 21st was a success. We want to thank Yayne Gebremarian who joined us for the second year in a row to lend her talents to the community.

On May 23rd, ECMAA hosted a virtual College Planning Workshop. Turn out was great and several students from DC and Virginia also participated. Our graduating seniors and our first year college freshmen helped facilitate the discussion and shared strategies on topics for admission essays, maintaining grades, time management and how to identify and select colleges that fit their interest and goals best. You can find the presentation on our [website](#). Finally, it is important to relax and center at this time, so we hosted a virtual social hour to connect with those far and near and discuss everything from the weather to homeschooling and coping with life under COVID.

We work hard at bringing funding to the community. In April and May, we applied to the NYC Civic Impact Fund and to the World Education Service Mariam Assefa Fund. Though we were not selected for the Civic Impact Fund, we are hopeful for the second. The Mariam Assefa fund is focused on immigrant workforce development. Funding will allow us to support our strategic plan in a meaningful way by funding a position and securing dedicated space for our community. If we get past the first cut, the second round will include interviews and additional documentation .... We will keep you posted.



Need Summer Plans? Check out Amharic Class and Interhip opportunities below.... our graduates and past interns pictured above.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Discussions on Race, Identity and the Black Lives Movement

Many groups have had conversations about the current movement, all around us and particularly within our community. Below are some past sessions and one scheduled for Thursday at 6pm.

Excel in Calgary Canada on how to talk to kids about racism. Below is the link to the [video](#).

Additionally, this Thursday, **June 18, 6pm** our regional partner ECAC is hosting a similar conversation on identity in children. You can [join live](#).

### The Yoftahe Facebook Show [Facebook.com/yoftahe](https://www.facebook.com/yoftahe)

Our Massachusetts partner from MESA.

**June 20th 1-3pm, Autism-Breaking the Stigma.** Connect with several doctors and professionals.

**June 20th, 8-10pm. World Refugee Day.** Hear from those that have lived in refugee camps and their experience. There will be music, poetry and more.

The Yoftahe show has regular programming on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## Fetene Hailu Covid 19 Relief Fund Update

We want to thank everyone for their generous contribution to the COVID Relief Fund in honor of Ato Fetene Hailu. Your generosity has provided financial support for five families and ECMAA is in the process of contacting two additional families. The award amount was \$300 and each family was thankful for the assistance. If you know others in need who do not qualify for any government assistance ask them to [apply here](#). We can assist a few more.

## Supporting Ethiopia's Effort In Fighting COVID-19

Your generous contribution has helped YeAbe Medical Center and Rehab Group meet its fundraising goals. Last week Ethiopia's COVID efforts were mentioned in several articles. Still, the infection numbers are rising rapidly. In the last week, ECMAA has received a request from both the Embassy of Ethiopia to the US and the Mission to the UN for urgent assistance from the Ethiopians in the diaspora. As the rate of infection is significantly growing, our continued financial support is even more critical right now. A regional committee will be created to facilitate this initiative. It'll involve direct work with the Mission and with the Embassy if needed. Can you bring your skills, time or experience to this initiative? [Please sign up to help](#).

Funding raised will be used to provide much needed support. There's a meeting tentatively schedule

## weWomen Plus (IWWP) study

ECMAA has been asked to share with the community information about a study that could bring potential benefits. The study will assess risks to immigrant women's safety and health and provides them with resources tailored to their unique needs. Additionally, participants are eligible for up to \$130 a year.

You are eligible if you:

- Are between ages of 18-64
- Are a foreign born immigrant woman
- Married or in a relationship for at least past 1 year
- Are able to speak and read English on a smart phone or tablet

Please contact Pooja Goel (Research Project Recruiter) 201-675-0028 or [poojagoeirs@gmail.com](mailto:poojagoeirs@gmail.com)

## GET INVOLVED

Visit our website [www.ecmaany.org](http://www.ecmaany.org) for ongoing updates, to become a member or donate. 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.

### Census 2020

Make sure our community is counted and complete the census!

# Congratulations!!

## to our Graduates

We are so proud of our graduates! Whatever path is ahead for you, know our immense pride in your accomplishments and how grateful we are for all you do to help your community while you excel academically. Congrats to our very own Helena Rajalingam and Naomi Habtu who elegantly contributed to our College Planning workshop this year as they head off to college in the Fall. Congrats to Mihret Moges, Aida Ayalew and many more who celebrated their special day virtually. We look forward to fully celebrating you in person soon!

## Summer Amharic Class for Teenagers and Adults

Our Amharic Classes have focused on children in the past. We're arranging a ten week, twice a week class starting in the next two weeks. Classes will be an hour and half long and will cost \$150. All funds raised for up to ten students will go to the teacher and additional funds used to support other ECMAA programming. It's a level 1 course that's provided to UN staff members generally. Sign up here. Once students complete level 1 classes, they may sign up for a second level.

At the same time, we're looking for a story teller and an Amharic teacher to continue our programming for children. Please email us at [ecmaany@gmail.com](mailto:ecmaany@gmail.com) if you're interested.

## ECMAA Internship Opportunity

ECMAA is looking for interns. Apply here. Enclosed with this newsletter is an internship description. This opportunity is available for highschoolers, college students, professionals and anyone interested in learning a new skill and sharing what they have.