

# ECMAA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



ECMAA Board and Volunteers Planning 2020

## Opportunities

### Chick-Fil-A Employment Opportunity

**A member of our community is opening a Chick-fil-A restaurant in Januray in Jackson Heights, Queens.**

**He's looking to hire about 75 members of his team at various levels. He will be present and ready to coach future leaders and owners.**

**If interested, text QNSCFA to 914-685-6939.**

### Paraprofessional Needed to Assist a Student

**The Board of Education is looking for a Paraprofessional to assist a student who speaks Amharic or Afaan Oromoo.**

**This is a full time job paying \$27,000 - \$35,000 with full benefits and summers off.**

**This**

**will be remote but in the future will involve working at a school in Brooklyn. If interested, email Tom: tpatterson4@schools.nyc.gov.**

## From the Board

A year ago, at this time, the incoming and outgoing board met with our volunteers to plan out 2020. We had an energetic, creative group that helped us develop a calendar that met our mission.

Some of those volunteers became Board Members this year. As we close out the year, we're grateful for all the ways people pulled together. We learned that we need to keep adjusting to new terrain together. Where possible, we learned from and leaned on each other to get through a tough year, even as we've been forced to keep physically apart. We look ahead to 2021 with hopes for peace, health and prosperity for all of us. It was a year that showed us that we can't take anything for granted.

Our hearts continue to break for our country of birth and heritage. Especially for those displaced and facing so much uncertainty. As we continue to think of and keep those displaced in our prayers, there are ways to make a financial impact by donating to the International Rescue Committee. Let's continue to pull together to be there for one another.

More locally, we had our first meeting as a full board in transition, the old, whoops, the former, and new members along with the Advisory Council. We got to know each other, assigned responsibilities and started planning for 2021. Email us with what you want to see next year. We are planning for when we will get together again... whenever it will be!

Please review the side panel for opportunities and resources we are re-iterating from the past month.

## HouseKeeping and Babysitting Resource

An Ethiopian woman is looking for a nanny, babysitting or elder care position (live in or live out) with extensive prior experience. She's experienced in cooking in Ethiopian restaurants and open to cooking and/or home cleaning jobs as well. She's Fluent in Amharic and Tigrinya. References available upon request. Contact info: Ms. Belaynesh, 646 374 5215.

## Recorded Events

Programming has shifted online for ECMAA and other organizations. The benefit is that it's recorded and we can view it based on our schedule. In case you've missed it:

ECMAA - [Tips for Remote Learning](#)  
The Yoftahe Show:  
[Facts vs. Myths - COVID-19 Vaccine](#)  
[The Healing Power of Forgiveness](#)

You are the best decider of what's best for you, ECMAA's goal is to share available information. We encourage you to collect all information before deciding what's best.

## GET INVOLVED

Visit our website

[www.ecmaany.org](http://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](#).



Yelugnta Lunch Break, March 2020

## Thanksgiving Update

This untraditional year, ECMAA reached out to the community to ask who would like some support and who would like to help. Many more gave than asked for help and we were able to provide a Thanksgiving meal to students who were not able to be with family. Lalibela restaurant worked with us to provide an almost home cooked meal to a very grateful group of international students. It took very little to make the connection, it's the best of what we can do. Thank you to all who participated!

## Amharic Class Update

On December 10, the level 2 Amharic class that started this fall was completed. Students are eager for the next level to start, and we have many who've expressed interest in a level 1 class. Please sign up [here](#) if you're interested along with the level you're interested in so that we can plan accordingly. Classes are for those 16 and older. We're grateful to the UN Amharic Club and Amele Desta for continuing to teach these classes.

## Wegen Le Wegen Updates

Ethiopian Airlines and Wegen Le Wegen are partnering to raffle two free Ethiopian Airline roundtrip Ticket to Ethiopia for the lucky winner. Each \$50 contribution to Wegen Le Wegen will serve as a raffle entry. The raffle will be drawn on January 30, 2021. You can enter the raffle by donating to COVID-19 Relief in Ethiopia [here](#).

Extending its work, subcommittees have formed to work on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and Collecting and sending medical supplies to Ethiopia. Please send an email to [ethiopiatristate2020@gmail.com](mailto:ethiopiatristate2020@gmail.com) to join the committees and help.





Abeba Negatu

## Welcome: New Board of Directors

We're very excited about introducing you to our new Board. We represent those born here, and those who've arrived in the last 5 years, men and women and age, religion and other representation of Ethiopia. We're here for everyone. Welcome the board and get to know who we are and what brings us to ECMAA.

### **Abeba Negatu, Board Member**

Abeba has been living in New York City for the last 34 years. She works for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection as a Chemist. She loves Music and loves to dance. Two years ago she joined ECMAA and claimed that is the best decision she made. It is a place where she can be herself without being judged for who she is. The reason why she likes ECMAA is its independence and the fact that it is not affiliated with any religious or political group. The inclusiveness attracts her and she is happy to help her Ethiopian community and friends of Ethiopia. That was the main reason she joined the group.



Adem Ali

### **Adem K. Ali, Board Member**

Adem grew up in Addis Ababa and moved to New York City sixteen years ago. He works as an education data analyst for the city of New York. Outside of work, he enjoys soccer, biking and learning skills that expand his capacities for his work. New York can be a challenging place to live, however, by building a vibrant community we can add values to each other's lives, and that's why he joined ECMAA.



Ammanuel Lemenihi

### **Amanuel Leminih, Board Member**

Known to most as Aman, Aman is an ardent football fan and a foodie. He's been in the US for six years and has lived in New York City for the past 5 years. He has made it a home away from home. When he's not watching/playing football, eating, or exploring NYC, he works as a Software Engineer at IBM. He is passionate about Education and Mentorship and hopes to work on youth engagement at ECMAA.



Assefash Makonnen

### **Assefash Makonnen, Advisory Council Member**

Assefash was born and raised in New York, to parents who were founders of one of the local churches in 1984. She works in communication in the Non-Profit world. Her interests are mental health, drawing, dance, and being in nature (she loves walking in the forest and by the water). She loves ECMAA's commitment to lifting the voice of the community at large and dedication to filling real needs for the tri-state area. She also thinks the ECMAA team is so inspiring and something she wants to be a part of and to learn from.



Berhane Tadese

### **Berhane Tadese, Advisory Council Member**

Ato Berhane has lived in the tri-state areas for 43 years. He is licensed electrical engineer in state of New York. He has over 35 years of experience in the design and construction of technically complex railroad signaling projects for the MTA New York City Transit. He works as a System Engineer at Siemens in design checking, testing and commissioning of Railroad Signal Systems. His interests are Advocacy for Social Justice, community service, reading and travel. He cares about ECMAA's mission. Serving as part of Advisory Board will help ECMAA benefit from his past experiences in ECMAA. He is glad to have a chance to continue to give back in a different capacity and have the opportunity to stay engaged in our community.



Bethlehem Bekele

### **Bethlehem Bekele, Advisory Council Member**

Bethlehem who was a longtime resident of New York is currently living in the Washington D.C area. She's the founder of KinetBet. KinetBet is an organization that focuses on culture as a healing agent for positive change. Its aim is to bridge between communities, highlight how traditions and heritage play a central part in our lives, explore how culture can be changed for the better while keeping intact facets that define our identities. Through arts and conversations, the organization tackles pressing issues from mental health, wellness and ways to flourish as a community.



Dinsiri Fikru

### **Dinsiri Fikru, President**

Dinsiri has lived in New York for 38 years. She works in housing policy and social work for the City of New York. Her interests include connecting people with each other, playing soccer and working to improve the lives and opportunities available to women and girls. After living through childhood, college, young adulthood and parenthood in NYC, she looks forward to sharing anything she's learned along the way to make it easier for others.



Fana Said

### **Fana Said, Advisory Council Member**

Fana, also known as Muna, has lived in New York for 30 years. She works in Pharmaceutical Research. She's interested in community work and is interested in ECMAA to continue to support that work.





Hanna Yesuf

### **Hanna Yesuf, Vice President**

Hanna has lived in the US for 18 years and in the New York area for 10 years. She works in Financial Services and helps Ultra High Net Worth Clients with complex holdings make better investment decisions through tailored & consolidated investment reports. She's interested in arts, music, books & anything Ethiopian! She joined ECMAA because she wants to connect with her fellow Ethiopians in the area.



Michael Ayele

### **Kassahun Negash, Advisory Council Member**

Kassahun Negash, has lived in NYC for 36 years. He is an Electrical Engineer specializing in Traffic and Street lighting design and construction. He has over 30 years of solid and diversified engineering experience in NYC government, that includes lighting projects planning and design, as well as construction management. He worked as Bronx Borough Engineer and was in charge of City-wide Lighting design and construction management for NYC Traffic and Street Lighting capital projects. In February 2012, he left the government job and joined W. Allen Engineering PLLC (WAE) as Senior Vice President in charge of the Traffic Signal and Street Lighting Division. Interested in Community service, reading and traveling.



Michael Ayele

### **Michael Ayele, Advisory Council Member**

Mike moved to the US from Addis 8 years ago. He has lived in New York for the last 6 years. He works as Software Engineer for an Investment Bank. He's interested in music, soccer, biking and coding. He enjoys learning from peers and sharing knowledge with the Ethiopian community. He's been practicing his coding skills with close group of friends and hopes to extend that to those interested through ECMAA.



Rahel Getachew

### **Rahel Getachew, Secretary**

Rahel has lived in the US for 32 years and in New York for 24 years. She works in Healthcare Administration. Her interests include reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends. She joins ECMAA because she's interested in preserving and passing Ethiopia's rich tradition and culture to our children. That ECMAA is an organization that appeals to all age groups and interests and is laid back and accepting appeals to her.



Rediate Derebe

### **Rediate Derebe, Treasurer**

Rediate has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years and has been a New York resident for the last six. Rediate is currently a Vice President at a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) and oversees the company and its operators' financial reporting risk mitigation practices. She has 14 plus years of experience in finance, accounting, compliance advisory, and internal audit. Rediate is passionate about giving back and being a resource to help strengthen the Ethiopian community. She also enjoys the arts, travel, music, running and hiking.



Tegest Hailu

### **Tegest Hailu, Board Member**

Tegest was born and raised in the Tri-state area. She was raised by parents who helped found ECMAA. She works in the healthcare field as a Nurse. Her interests are Yoga and fitness. She's interested in ECMAA to help in building up the community, networking and understanding more of Ethiopian culture and history.



Tezeta Roro

### **Tezeta Roro, Board Member**

Tezeta has been in the tri-state area for 21 years. She's a Real Estate professional who's also interested in community building, storytelling and being a connector. She joined ECMAA because she wanted to contribute to strengthening her community, preserving our culture, sharing her time, talent and resources to help others grow personally and professionally. She loves the BOARD and spending time with them. They complement and elevate her energy!



Yishak Desta

### **Yishak Desta, Vice President**

Yishak has lived in the US for about 13 years and in the NY area for 1 and a half years. He works as a DevOps Analyst in Digital Surgery at Johnson and Johnson. He loves music (creating playlists and such), picture/video edits, fitness and leveraging technology to automate/simplify redundant action items. He joins ECMAA because it will provide the platform to be able to realize his passion to uplift, empower and connect the young Ethiopian community.