

ECMAA Newsletter

JANUARY 2021



Yekatit 12 Remembrance Day (2020)

FEATURED EVENTS

Yekatit 12

February 21 at 3pm

ECMAA's annual event commemorating Yekatit 12 Remembrance Day (የከግዕድ ቀን). (More details on Pg. 2)

Guest Speakers:

- **Jeffery Pearce, author of "Prevail: The inspiring Story of Ethiopia's Victory over Mussolini's Invasion"**
- **Nicola DeMarco, member of Global Alliance for Justice: The Ethiopian Cause.**

Amharic Class

Registration Open for Level 1 class for Adults

We're finalizing a schedule for a level 1 class and will share with those how sign up. If you're interested, please [sign up here if you haven't already](#).

From the Board

As the new year begins, the Board is getting ready to launch its plans for the year. We met, along with our Advisory Council members, to look at what worked last year, what new and relevant activities we can consider for 2021, and what we need to adjust, given all that we're facing with COVID-19. We'll continue to plan, as we did last year, to move things to remote activities and when it becomes safe again, we will meet in-person. An exciting new series of activities will center on creating connections for senior members of our community. Please do reach out with any of your ideas to ecmaany@gmail.com.

We do our work in the midst of heartbreaking loss, both here and in Ethiopia. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our brothers and sisters back home. Please continue to do what you're best able to in order to support those displaced in and out of Ethiopia. We take that work on as individuals in our community while ECMAA aims to provide support to those in the NY tristate area.

Our goal is to provide information and resources available in the community. It's critical that everyone continue to practice social distancing and take safe measures to reduce the spread of COVID. The availability of a vaccine should not reduce our vigilance. We recognize that there are different thoughts on the vaccine, we provide resources and information for those who're interested. It's best to consult your medical provider about what's best for you, taking the vaccine is a personal decision. [Linked here is information from the University of Michigan](#) and attached a hand out about basics on the vaccine from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

We look forward to sharing our tentative calendar of events for the year with our next newsletter.



Wegen Le Wegen

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

We'll be featuring small Ethiopian owned businesses in this corner every month, please send us information you'd like featured at ecmaany@gmail.com

Save Buunnii Coffee

[Buunni Coffee](#) in Riverdale is being forced to close by the end of January because its landlord will no longer accept a reasonable rent during this pandemic. Community members in Riverdale created a petition to help keep Buunni and all small business's doors open. You can read more about it and add your signature to the petition [here](#).

Share Settepani's Video

A long-standing pillar in the Harlem community, [Settepani](#), owned and operated by Leah Abraham and her family, is looking to gain funding through [The Barstool Fund](#). Her daughter, Bilena Settepani, made a touching video asking the fund to support their small business during this difficult time. If you are on Instagram, [please watch, share, and tag @barstoolfund](#) to support.

Wegen Le Wegen

Wegen Le Wegen remains focused on its goal of helping Ethiopia fight COVID-19. At a recent event, Dr. Lia Tadese, Ethiopia's Minister of Health shared that the country is focused on safely returning children to school. Even more recently, we heard from Dr. Senait, her senior advisor, that Ethiopia is investing in creating personal protective equipment in Ethiopia. Financial assistance to help these efforts is still needed.

To date, through multiple outreach efforts, the NY/NJ community has raised \$84,000 to help Ethiopia fight and recover from COVID-19. To meet its goal of raising \$100,000, Wegen Le Wegen is holding a raffle for two Ethiopian Airlines round trip tickets to Ethiopia. Each raffle entry is \$50. The drawing, on 1/30/2021 at 2pm will be broadcast on [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#). [You can purchase online raffle "tickets"](#). Each \$50 entry will serve as one entry (for example, a contribution of \$200 will serve as four entries).

Yekatit 12 - 2021

Every year, ECMAA commemorates Yekatit 12 Remembrance Day (የሰማዕታት ቀን) by inviting historians, artists, human rights activists and eyewitnesses of the event to make presentations on the significance of the day.

This year's event will be held on February 21 at 3pm. We will have two esteemed guest speakers: Jeffery Pearce, the author of "Prevail: The inspiring Story of Ethiopia's Victory over Mussolini's Invasion" and Nicola DeMarco, a member of Global Alliance for Justice: The Ethiopian Cause. Presentations will be followed by Q&A, a slide show and poetry reading. Please be on the lookout for a separate email that will have the registration details.



Wegen Le Wegen

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](#).



COVID-19 Updates and Resources

As we enter a new year, COVID-19 cases in New York and New Jersey continue to rise and continue to impact us on a personal and collective level. Our aim is to continue to share updated resources for you as we receive them to ensure that our community is protected in all aspects. Below please find some COVID-19 resources:

- **Vaccine Schedule:** Interested in knowing when you might be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine? Vaccine schedules are now available for [New York](#) and [New Jersey](#).
- **Rent Relief:** Many of our community members have lost their jobs and ability to cover their basic payments during this time. There are programs provided by the city and state that can help relieve some of the burden. Please check out [NY State's COVID Rent Relief Extension Program](#).
- **Paycheck Protection Program:** This [toolbox by Fiscal Strength for Nonprofits](#), provides a myriad of resources for loan forgiveness programs for your small business or non-profit. Take a look at what is available and share with folks in your communities.
- **FREE Tax Preparation:** This is not specifically COVID-19 related, but as tax season approaches, we know that we could use all the help that we can preparing for it. Please take a look at free tax preparation resources in [New York](#) and [New Jersey](#).