ECMAA Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

40th anniversary edition

EVENTS

ENKUTATASH WITH M.O.R.E

September 9th, 2021 at 6pm, 196 Lenox Ave, NY, NY

Medhen Orphan Relief Effort (M.O.R.E.), is a non profit organization dedicated to orphaned and vulnerable children in Addis Abeba. The group is hosting a New Year celebration with Ethiopian food, wine, beer, music and a silent auction. Proceeds will support their initiative. For more information about M.O.R.E visit www.morechildren.org

COMING SOON...

ECMAA Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 2021

From the Board

Resilience and perseverance are not valued highly enough. We don't celebrate managing challenges and still standing and growing. We will celebrate this and ECMAA's 40th anniversary at the annual Ethiopian Day Picnic. In 1981, a group of refugees who felt that they could decided to gather and figure out how to help those who've newly arrived. In 2021, we're Ethiopians of significantly varying backgrounds living in the tri-state area still creating a community while we rush and struggle through day to day life in New York City.

We'll get together as a full community in this large setting for the first time since March of 2020. It's telling that our last in-person gathering was Yelugnta and Gemena – a program focused on talking openly about things that are hard to talk about without worrying about what others may think. Because we tend to define strength as managing things on our own when others could get so much from our struggles because it is theirs too.

We celebrate still standing after many ups and downs for ECMAA from its inception, we celebrate still standing as a we face a global pandemic that forced us to separate and yet still grow stronger in support of each other, we celebrate our place of birth or heritage even as it struggles with multiple challenges that can shake us, we celebrate the flowers that still bloom, our children that still grow and our community to keeps working at being a resource to the community. We celebrate as we also mourn the losses our community and our country has sustained. We're long-distance runners – marathoners who keep going despite the challenges that come our way. We are ECMAA and invite you to come honor our past, celebrate life and solidify our future. Join us on Sunday September 19, at 2pm in Sakura Park in Manhattan.

REMINDERS

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR ETHIOPIAN DAY PICNIC 2021

Please be respectful and abide by current CDC guidelines in regards to COVID-19. Although the picnic takes place outside we advise everyone to maintain social distancing and wear masks when not eating or drinking. We all want to have fun and be safe!

PICNIC DAY LINE-UP

2PM: ARRIVE! Sign in, grab a name tag and renew your ECMAA membership or formally join ECMAA. Existing members can pay dues at the picnic. Start mingling and eating.

3PM: Welcome message from ECMAA board past and present

3:45PM: FUN and GAMES! Join games for adults (Quiz Games, Sem Ena Werk etc...) and kids. Enjoy some dancing and tunes, catch up with old friends, challenge the kids to tug-of-war, but make sure you've met someone you've not met before and have some cake!

AMHARIC CORNER

We include Amharic content in order to connect to all our readers. Please submit any Amharic stories or anecdotes you'd like to see featured in future newsletters to ***ecmaany@gmail.com***

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ቀን:- እሁድ ሰፕቴምበር 19, 2pm
ቦታው:- Sakura Park, Manhattan

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ECMAA OVER THE YEARS

In honor of our 40th year, take a glimpse into some of the things ECMAA has done.

August 1, 1983
Only two years after ECMAA was founded, by newly emigrated Ethiopians in New York, ECMAA is featured in a New York Times article about young men seeking asylum from Ethiopia. check out the article **here**.

ECMAA commemorates Ethiopia's history.
Annually ECMAA hosts events in remembrance of the thousands of Ethiopians killed on Yekatit 12 and at the Battle of Adwa

Guest speakers left to right, Dr. Syoum Gebre Egziaber, Mr. Nicola DeMarco and Dr. Girma Abebe at 2014 Yekatit 12 event

Guest speaker, historian, Dr. A. Bekerie. at the round table discussion on the significance of Battle of Adwa, October 2017

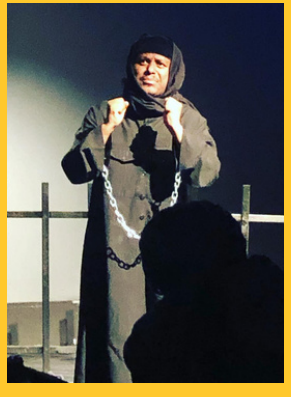
ECMAA loves to read!
Over the years, we have sponsored book clubs written by Ethiopian authors. See below photos and titles from book reviews we have hosted in the past.:

- **KeAmen Bashager** ከአሜን ባሸገር; by Bewketu Seyoum
- **Fistum Naew Emnetae** "ፍፁም ነው እምነቴ"; by Nesibu Sebhat
- **History of the Haile Selassie I University: Development and Expansion of Higher Education in Ethiopia**; by Aklilu Habte.
- **Barara (Addis Ababa's Predecessor): Foundation, Growth, Destruction and Rebirth (1400 – 1887)** by Dr. Habtamu M. Tegene

ECMAA advocates for mental health and wellness.
We partnered with ThriveNYC to provide mental health first aid training to members. We've tackled stigma around mental health by getting members of our community Mental Health First Aid certified.

2019 THRIVENYC Mental health first aide trainees, 2019

ECMAA loves the arts!
From theater, to visual art, we embrace all forms of artistry.



Photos from PETROS AT THE HOUR:
A Play by Laureate Tsegaye Gebremedhin, 2019

COVID-19 UPDATES

Just Announced!
NYC now requires vaccinations for entry into restaurants, fitness centers and enteratianment venues.

RESOURCES

VISIT THE CDC WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SAFE ACTIVITIES FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVUDIALS

ALL RESIDENTS OF NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT 12 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO BE VACCINATED

NEW YORK CITY

Across all five boroughs, 55% of residents are fully vaccinated. As the new Delta variant continues to spread nationwide, the CDC reports vaccinations are the best way to slow the spread of the virus.
NEW! NYC is now offering all residents at home vaccinations, to register **click here!**

To register for a COVID-19 vaccine, visit:
https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/

NEW JERSEY

To schedule an appointment for a vaccine visit:
https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/finder
Residents 65 or older that need assistance with scheduling support can call the senior hotline from 8am-8pm (846) 249-7007.

CONNECTICUT

You can schedule vaccine appointments **online** or by phone at (877) 918-2224- available 8:00am to 8:00pm EST, 7 days a week.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Do you have rental arrears? Are you a property owner with renters who could use financial assistance? **Go here** to learn more about the New York Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP) . Applications will be available soon. You can **click here** for New Jersey which is already accepting applications. Our understanding is that this program is available to undocumented members of our community.

GET INVOLVED

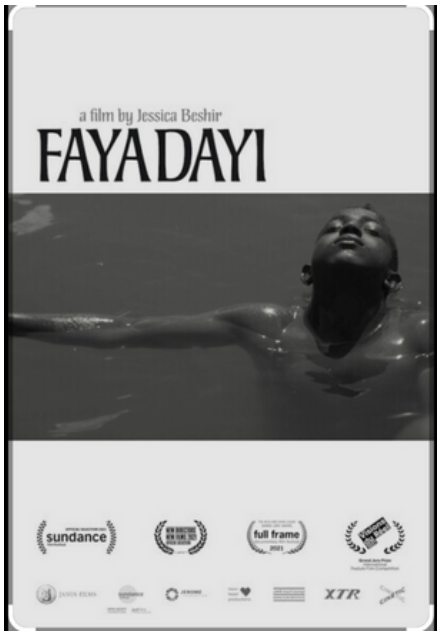
Visit our website www.ecmaany.org for ongoing updates and to [become a member](). Follow us on [Facebook]() and [instagram]() for the most up to date information on what's going on between the newsletters.

Feel free to circulate information you receive and to encourage others to join. We also welcome volunteers.

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.]()

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: WORKU TEZERA

Are you looking for some Ethiopian-inspired products. Support a local business owner and friend of ECMAA. Worku Tezera imports and exports traditional clothing, aromatic spices and organic coffee. To shop products visit **https://workutezera.com/**



ARTS SPOTLIGHT

We'll be featuring arts and culture events by and about the Ethiopian Community around the tri-state in the newsletter. Send us information you would like featured. Let us know if you'll join us on our next outing at ***ecmaany@gmail.com****.*

Ethiopian-Mexican filmmaker Jessica Beshir introduces her new film *Faya Dayi* at Lincoln center. Her latest project is a poetic depiction of the complex cultlure of the khat plant in rural Harare, her hometown. **Now showing until September 9th**, for showtimes and tickets visit. **https://www.filmlinc.org/films/faya-dayi/**