

# ECMAA Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021



## FEATURED EVENTS

### Soccer and Fitness Day at Riverside Park

**Saturday, November 27th, 1:30pm**  
**W. 101 St. and Riverside Dr, NYC**  
**\*inside the park\***

Join us for a fun day of outdoor activities! We will be hosting a soccer game for adults and teens but there will also be a track, basketball and ping pong at the park. Please [register here](#) if you are interested in playing!

### Thanksgiving!

Sign up [here](#) if you'd like to be hosted, want to host, are a student without a place for Thanksgiving or want to contribute financially.

### Enetewawek: A singles mixer

**COMING SOON..**

Single and ready to mingle? After taking a year off from matchmaking, ECMAA is back to facilitate more connections within the community.

## From the Board

We are heartbroken for the losses in Ethiopia; it is more critical than ever to stand by together and by each other. It all feels very personal and during these difficult times we may all feel helpless.

Please hold on to what has gotten us through this past year: let's take care of ourselves, lean into each other for support and know that together, we can overcome more than when we're struggling alone and divided. We missed you at the New York City Marathon Sunday. We were able to encourage Ababel Yeshanet (3rd) and Kenenisa Bekele (6th), the top Ethiopian finishers up close. We needed to be there for them and for each other. We waved our flags and had a great time together.

Thank you to all who participated in our recent elections. 94% of those who voted agreed to expand our Board of Directors by two members. We are delighted to announce that all seven candidates for Board member were selected. Please welcome to the Board, Kasahun Neselu, Lili Wondwosen, Martha Solomon, Phoebe Gebre, Samrawit Solomon, Selam Alemu and Tiberah Berhan. We're excited by what's ahead. We'll start off by selecting our Executive Board on December 5 and planning the year ahead.

Additionally, on **11/27** we will hold our next **soccer game at 1:30pm in Riverside Park** and hope to have our *Enetewawek* event by the following weekend. We will keep you posted. Thank you as always for your support. As we hold our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia in our thoughts, we do the same of you. Take care of yourself, but also don't hide away. Join us, reach out to connect. Particularly, as we're approaching **Thanksgiving**, let us know by [signing up here](#) if you'd like to help or would like to be part of a Thanksgiving recognition day.



# COVID-19 UPDATES

## JUST ANNOUNCED!

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for anyone 5 years and older (those 5-17 years are only eligible for Pfizer). Booster shots are available for Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson, they are recommended to all to boost immunity.

## 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.

## NEW YORK CITY

**NEW!** New York City continues to enforce vaccination requirements for all public indoor activities.

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

**NEW!** New Jersey has developed **The Excluded New Jerseyans Fund (ENJF)** to provide a one-time, direct cash benefit to eligible households who have suffered an economic hardship due to COVID-19 and were excluded from both the federal stimulus checks and COVID related unemployment assistance - including undocumented individuals, residents re-entering from the justice system, and any other individuals otherwise excluded. Applications can be found [here](#).

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.



# Giving Tuesday

Instead of Amharic Corner this month we will be sharing information on how you can support ECMAA for **Giving Tuesday**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Amharic Class

#### **\*\*POSTPONED\*\***

Due to a lack of enrollment, the Amharic Level 2 class has been postponed for a later date. The class typically meets twice a week for 1.5 hours for 10 weeks, cost of attendance is \$100. The Level 2 class is for those with basic understanding of reading, writing and speaking Amharic. For those interested please email us at [ecmaany@gmail.com](mailto:ecmaany@gmail.com). Class dates will be confirmed when/if there is enough interest.

### HAVE AN IDEA?

The David Prize is an annual Open Call for New Yorkers with ideas for a better, brighter city. Each year 5 visionary New Yorkers win \$200,000, no strings attached, to support their work & ideas. The deadline for submissions is December 21, 2021

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving. Meta will match \$8 million USD in qualifying donations made on Facebook during GivingTuesday. For ways to get involved and support ECMAA see below!

- Update your Facebook page and cover photo using GivingTuesday's logo and images (ECMAA will be sharing a page as a template)
- Create a fundraiser for ECMAA on your Facebook page that runs through *Giving Season*
- ECMAA will be promoting its goals using the #GivingSeason hashtag (3posts/week).
- We will be sharing images and graphics with calls to action.
- If you don't already, please like and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ecmaany>.



# OUR THANKS TO THE BOARD

We're developing a new tradition. Every November, right after the annual meeting, we celebrate the entry of new members to the Board and thank and say farewell to members of the Board who are leaving their responsibilities. This continuity is one we cherish. We are reaching further and wider, and we have members of our community who are ready to give back more formally. Ready to help build up ECMAA. We'll be introducing them all to you in the next newsletter. This month, we take a moment to recognize each exiting Board member who has been critical in moving our agenda forward.



## **Hanna Yesuf, Vice President**

Hanna joined the Board in November 2020. We recruited her at annual meeting where she expressed her love of our shared culture, history and language and in interest in contributing to ECMAA's programming to enrich it. Whether on the Board or as a volunteer, she has been instrumental in ECMAA's cultural programming. She has facilitated several book reviews. In a historically male dominated discussion of history she brought her exceptional balanced voice and moderation skills to the discussion of Borana, the history of Addis Ababa. She moderated a discussion with Jeff Pearce and Nicola DiMarco for recognition of Yekatit 12. Most recently, she is the source of our Amharic Corner of the monthly ECMAA Newsletter. We are honored to have her continue in our Advisory Council, her participation has not only been impactful, she's been the source of humor and warmth on our Board.



## **Yishak Desta, Vice President**

Yishak joined the Board in 2019. He walked into an annual meeting late, just as we were recruiting Board members. As a recent college graduate who humbly said he'd do whatever is asked of him, he gracefully and graciously stepped into the Vice President role. He blew us away with his vision his maturity and all the ways intelligence is measured. He prioritized engaging the younger Ethiopian community. He set up our online payment system and helped to get our website to its next stage. Beyond this work, he brought his vision and passion to ECMAA and the community. We're honored to continue to have him as a member of the Advisory Council.



## **Rahel Getachew, Secretary**

Rahel has served on the ECMAA Board for three years in the role of Secretary. Rahel brought her family along with her in the exceptional service that she has provided to ECMAA and the Ethiopia community. In her three years, she has served in the role of Secretary. She was nominated (drafted) by another Board member. Her passion, organizational skills and dedication to serving the community has been indispensable in getting ECMAA going and standardizing our practices. Rahel developed a Statement of Responsibility document that each board member and advisory council signs laying out the expectations of participation. She is the reason we have a newsletter. She helped create the monthly newsletters that is going strong three years in. She's been part of our College Planning planners and a key part of our picnics and our Spring Fair. We're ever grateful for all she's given to ECMAA and the community. Beyond her contributions, her husband Janin and her daughters Hanna and Hilina have been reliable contributors to ECMAA. Hilina in particular serving as an intern who created ECMAA's Resource page on its website. We're honored to have Rahel continue to contribute as a member of the Advisory Council.



## **Tezeta Roro, Board Member**

Tezu joined the Board in 2018 and she with her husband Mickey and her boys. She was instrumental expanding our social media reach. Whether on Facebook or Instagram, she's made sure you all heard about ECMAA and what it's been up to. She became our go to Mistress of Ceremony-facilitating many of our big events, our annual picnic, our Spring Fair, Yekatit 12, Yelugnta and Gemmena. She's had her fingerprint on everything - connecting many of you with each other and us with you with warmth, smarts, grace and humor. These contributions don't match her forward thinking, keeping us at forefront of our fundraising efforts through company matching and on Facebook. She's had a strong belief in sharing what she knows and everyone giving just what they can - for her, it's been her dancing, joy, passion for connecting with her dually defined identity as someone who grew up here but with a strong Ethiopian core, Real Estate and Finance. ECMAA is transformed as a result of her contribution. We're honored to have her continue her role in the Advisory Council.



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

Mike joined the Board in November 2020. Before joining the Board he was active in ECMAA fitness activities, a fierce soccer competitor. Mike was not able to complete his role on the Board but we are grateful for all that he's contribute in the past year.



## SUPPORT THE ARTS

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](mailto:ecmaany@gmail.com).

## 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 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](#).



### **FILM: *Grandpa was an Emperor***

If you missed the chance to watch the *world premier* in person you can stream online the story told by Yeshe Kassa, great-granddaughter of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, as she investigates what happened to her beloved father after the 1974 coup.

**November 15th-28th, Tickets and more information can be found [here](#).**

### **ECMAA'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**

Are you an Ethiopian-owned business in the tri-state area? Are you looking for a way to promote your project(s) for the holiday season? ECMAA is organizing a holiday gift guide to encourage shopping with local small businesses. If you'd like your business to be featured in next months Holiday Gift Guide, please fill [this form](#) by **December 1st**.

