

ECMAA Newsletter

APRIL 2022



In this Issue:

Feature

Autism Acceptance Month

Spotlight

Getting to Know ECMAA'S Board
-Tegest Hailu, President

Congratulations to Bolé Road Textiles

COVID-19: Helpful Links

Reminder: Tax Day, April 18

Amharic Corner: Poetry

Arts corner:

- Awol Erizku's exhibition, "Memories of a Lost Sphinx"
- Yeshe Kassa's documentary film, "Grandpa was an Emperor"
- Hana Yilma Godine's exhibition, "Love as Substance"

Upcoming Events & Internship Deadlines

- ECMAA's Soccer and Fitness Day
- Real Estate Workshop with Tez Roro
- Microsoft's high school internship for NY/NJ students
- SYEP internship application

From the Board

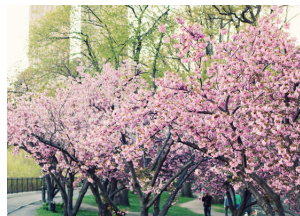
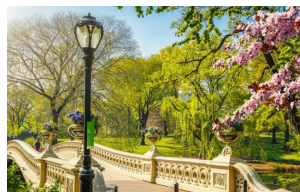
On behalf of ECMAA's board, **Happy Spring!**

As we are ever so busy in our personal and professional lives, let us be intentional on taking a moment to pause and take it all in. Whether this means pausing to gaze at the daffodils that have fully bloomed, or looking at the little ones in our lives for a second longer to appreciate how far they have come academically this year...don't miss an opportunity to bask in all the glory!

Autism Acceptance Month is observed in April. We reflect on the community outreach efforts of our members and ECMAA in spreading awareness and understanding of autism. In this issue's feature, we briefly touch on treatment services and valuable resources that provide a deeper understanding of the condition and information on how to obtain services for the different treatment types available.

This month, we are starting a new series on **Getting to Know ECMAA'S Board**. We hope you enjoy getting to know our backgrounds and our passions- which includes serving our community. It is our hope that during our upcoming in-person events, you will be able to come to us and put a name to the face. Speaking of in-person events, our first event- **ECMAA's Soccer and Fitness Day**, will be held on **April 16th at 2 PM**. We hope to see you there! And save the date for our first real estate workshop of the year - **April 27th at 6:30 PM** - by our very own Tez Roro and learn the tips and necessary tools on how to win in this competitive market.

Until then - be well!

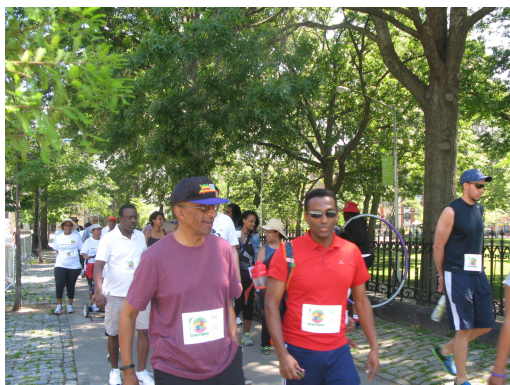


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INSTAGRAM @ECMAANY

Autism Acceptance Month

"If you've met one individual with autism, you've met one individual with autism."

-Dr. Stephen Shore, autistic professor of special education



Last year, the Autism Society of America announced that the old reference of "Autism Awareness Month" was being retired for the new terminology "Autism Acceptance Month," in order to reflect the continuing efforts of fostering acceptance in all aspects of society that a person with autism interfaces with. A tremendous amount of work has been done by advocacy groups which include members of the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities both locally and nationally in spreading awareness of the condition, advancing research and creating policies that serve the needs of the autism community.

ECMAA is immensely proud of the awareness and advocacy work that continues to be done by its members and the past autism-focused events we have hosted which include workshops on what autism is, debunking myths, information on how to obtain and navigate resources for a person with autism and fundraising walks to support the NIA Foundation Ethiopia. As an organization, we are committed to continuing this dialogue and supporting work that aims to have people with autism live fully.

What is Autism?

Formally known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), autism is a developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people **differently** and to varying degrees. The importance of early detection and being connected with early intervention services cannot be stressed enough. These services include different forms of therapies that have shown to result in significant developmental gain and symptom reduction; **it's never too late to obtain services** (even in adulthood). These treatments are offered **FREE** through a federal program called the Early Intervention Program and include services like speech, occupational and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapies. The process to access these services may be different in each state and local autism advocacy groups are there to assist a person navigate this process.



Advocacy groups to become familiar with:

Autism Speaks

Autism Society

Reach Families Advocacy and Support Group

(A support network for Ethiopian and Eritrean families)

Ethiopian Eritrean Special Needs Community (EESNC)

Autism focus in Ethiopian media:

The Yoftahe show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW93uCQx78Q>

The Helen show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyluFlw1Xqo>



Getting to Know ECMAA'S Board

ECMAA'S Board is made of passionate individuals volunteering their time with the goal of supporting the organization in its efforts to serve the needs of the Ethiopian community in the NY tri-state area. Each month, we will highlight a member of ECMAA's Board so that you can get to know them better. When you see them in one of our upcoming in-person events, please give them a shout out by name!

"My vision for ECMAA is to create a network for Ethiopians in the tristate to lean on in crisis, and to create opportunities for leisure, social events, and enrichment."

-Tegest Hailu, President, ECMAA



Tegest Hailu

Role: President

Born: NY (raised in NJ)

Occupation: Nurse (Intensive Care Unit)

Hobbies: Hiking, yoga, art museums, live music

Tegest has been involved with ECMAA for a "lifetime" - her father, Fetene Hailu, founded the organization 40 years ago. "My involvement during childhood included attending the plays, comedies and graduation events ECMAA hosted. I also attended my father's monthly meetings after church, patiently waiting before we could go home to New Jersey."

Over the past few years, Tegest became more involved with ECMAA after a transition in leadership. The focus expanded from immigration and resettlement services to include social and educational forums. "I want ECMAA to be *the* resource people turn to and endorse when new Ethiopians settle in the tristate."

Congratulations to Bolé Road Textiles

A New York-based home decor company founded by Ethiopian-American Hana Getachew, Bolé Road Textiles pays homage to Ethiopia's rich handweaving traditions with designs that are inspired from the country's diverse cultures and natural beauty. As mentioned on the company website, "[Bolé Road Textiles] works with weaving collectives and small woman-owned businesses in Ethiopia, providing fair wages and helping them grow their businesses and revitalize their local economies." Today, the company's products are available in the well-known furniture and home decor store, West Elm! Consider a purchase from Bolé Road Textiles for your next gift and highlight Ethiopian artistry and craft while supporting weaving artisans and small business owners back home.



COVID-19: Helpful Links

As the world begins to open for in-person gatherings, and mask mandates are lifted, New York City, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey are seeing a rise in COVID cases, amid the spread of the dominant omicron subvariant, BA. 2.

The New York Times' coronavirus tracker for New York City showed that cases had risen by more than 49 percent in the last two weeks while the cases rose by more than 76 percent in D.C.

	DAILY CASES PER 100,000	PCT. OF PEAK	14-DAY CHANGE	DAILY DEATHS PER 100,000	PCT. OF PEAK	14-DAY CHANGE
New York City, N.Y. >	20	<div><div></div></div>	+49% ↗	0.05	<div><div></div></div>	-41% ↘
New York >	22	<div><div></div></div>	+61% ↗	0.04	<div><div></div></div>	-14% ↘
United States >	9	<div><div></div></div>	+2% ↗	0.17	<div><div></div></div>	-29% ↘
New Jersey >	18	<div><div></div></div>	+66% ↗	0.09	<div><div></div></div>	+10% ↗
Washington, D.C. >	20	<div><div></div></div>	+76% ↗	0.03	<div><div></div></div>	-54% ↘

In New Jersey, the seven-day average for confirmed cases increased to 1,255 Friday, up 40% from a week ago and 40% from a month ago. The state has reported more than 1,000 confirmed positive tests in eight of the last 10 days.

While we can hope that life will go back to normal, in the near future, one thing is for certain - COVID is here to stay. **Remain in-the-know by referring to the links below.**

NYC Links

[NYC Testing Location](#)
[Vaccinations](#)

- At-home
- Walk-up vaccination sites
- NYC Mobile & Pop-Up Vaccine Sites

[Vaccine Finder](#)
[Latest Data](#)

NJ Links

[Information Hub](#)
[Testing](#)

- Test finder
- Free at-home testing
- Free public testing

[Re-opening](#)

Sources:

[NJ.com](#)
[UCLA](#)
[NYTimes](#)

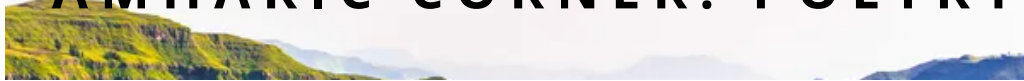
Tax Day: April 18

Tax Day is officially Monday, **April 18, 2022**. April 15 is recognized as a holiday, Emancipation Day, in Washington, DC, the home of IRS headquarters.

Taxpayers in Maine and Massachusetts, have until April 19 because of the observance of Patriots' Day in those states.

For more information, including other states that have extended tax filing deadlines, visit [CNET](#).





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AMHARIC CORNER: POETRY

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Upcoming Events & Internship Deadlines



ECMAA'S Soccer and Fitness Day

Date: April 16th at 2 PM

Location: Riverside Dr. & W. 101 St.,
Riverside Park, New York, NY, 10025

Register: [here](#)



Real Estate Workshop with Tez Roro (Virtual)

Date: April 27th at 6:30 PM

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/tZMocuqrrjluGd0NDW8XNAIM6vxe--qotsBY>

Blacks At Microsoft (BAM) NY/NJ 2022 Summer Mentorship Application

Deadline: April 25 at 5:00 PM

Description: "The Microsoft BAM New York Chapter cordially invites you to participate in the application process for the Hybrid 2022 BAM New York Student Mentorship Program. Please join us in identifying high school students interested and qualified to complete the online application. To be eligible for this program, each student must be 14 years of age by June 30, 2022, entering high school in the Fall of 2022, or have graduated high school in the Spring of 2022 and have an interest in STEAM."

The online application can be found

Apply: <https://aka.ms/bamny/smp22/apply>

Questions? Contact

bamnymentorship@microsoft.com

2022 SYEP Summer Youth Employment Program

Deadline: April 22nd

Description: "Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer. Participants receive the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help to develop their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future."

For more information, visit

<https://application.nycsyep.com/>

Arts Corner

Born in Addis Abeba and raised in the South Bronx, **Awol Erizku** returns to NYC to present his multi-media works at the [Gagosian Gallery](#). Don't miss your last chance to see **Awol Erizku's exhibition, "Memories of a Lost Sphinx"** at **Park & 75, New York (821 Park Avenue)** until **Saturday, April 16th**.



For those who were not able to attend the November screening of **Yeshe Kassa's documentary film, "Grandpa was an Emperor,"** you have another opportunity to view the project- stay after the screening to meet the director, editor, producer and Yeshe herself at a Q&A session. **Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30pm at the IFC Center (323 6th Ave, New York, NY 10014)**



Fridman Gallery presents **Hana Yilma Godine's solo exhibition: Love as Substance**. This will be Godine's third solo exhibit in New York City this year. Learn more about the Addis Abeba artist at [this link](#). **Opening reception, Saturday April 16, 4-7pm. Exhibit will run April 16 - May 31, 2022 at Fridman Gallery, 475 Main St, Beacon, NY.**

