

MAHEBER

Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago Monthly Newsletter

March 2013

BATTLE OF ADWA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Adwa on Saturday March 2nd with a screening of Haile Gerima's documentary "Adwa: An African Victory". The event celebrated the Ethiopian victory over Italian colonial interests on March 1-2, 1896 and the film chronicles the voices of Ethiopian historians, elders, priests, poets and singers along the historic routes and landmarks of the war.

Professor Haile Gerima, an accomplished film producer, was present to introduce the film and share his personal journey of self-discovery that prompted the film. It was a greatly successful event with more than 230 people filling the large 2nd hall at the ECAC Community Center located at 1730 W. Greenleaf Avenue. Both Ethiopians and non-Ethiopians were present to share in the celebration and the discussion that followed. A special thank you to Professor Haile Gerima for gracing us with his presence. We also want to thank ECAC's Membership Committee for envisioning and making this event happen.

For more information on Professor Haile Gerima's work, go to <http://www.sankofa.com/haile-gerima.php>.

TESFAYE LEMMA

The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago mourns the loss of Tesfaye Lemma who passed away Friday February 1, 2013. What a great man who contributed so much to Ethiopian culture and music!

Tesfaye Lemma was a composer, choreographer, conductor, and cultural expert and the longest serving director (1966-1975) of the famous Orchestra Ethiopia. In this role he led a group of up to 30 traditional instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers from all over Ethiopia on a twenty-city tour of the United States and the release of 2 LPs.

Tesfaye later immigrated to the United States where we founded the Ethiopian-American Cultural Center, the Nile Ethiopian Ensemble and the Tesfa Museum. In 2007, he was awarded the Ethiopian Millennium Award for his significant contribution to musical art profession and musical art growth in Ethiopia.

His generous donation of thousands of Museum Artifacts to the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago has inspired us to build a museum in Chicago. Efforts are continuing to realize the building of the museum and honor Tesfaye by making the museum, and his dream, a reality. Listen to the message he sent to the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago regarding his dream for the [museum](#).

Tesfaye has touched the lives of millions of people over the past several decades and he will be dearly missed. Here is a [documentary](#) about the creative and accomplished life of Tesfaye Lemma. The documentary brings so many memories and helps us appreciate the outstanding contribution he has made.

ECAC MUSEUM



Since its inception, the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago has been a venue for community gatherings and cultural exchange and this was the inspiration behind the purchase of a community center in late 2009. In 2010, the late Tesfaye Lemma donated more than 2,000 artifacts to the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago. The donation filled us with the motivation and determination to build a cultural museum following in the footsteps of Tesfaye. Architectural designs for the museum have been completed and a capital campaign is

in progress. With all the support of Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia, we hope to complete the museum with all its cultural magnificence by the year 2016.

The vision for the Museum is to promote the cultures, traditions and history of the diverse people of Ethiopia and contribute to the global cultural exchange necessary for cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. Our current collection includes artifacts reflecting the social, cultural and material cultures of Ethiopia's ethnic groups; icons, ancient crosses, church and folk paintings, Islamic calligraphy, and photography reflective of Ethiopia; a variety of Ethiopian musical instruments, including the Begenna, Kerar and Washint. Additionally, the Museum houses several historically significant magazines, including the magazine Menen, which was published in the 1960s, during Emperor Haile Selassie's era. We hope to continue to expand our collection through acquisitions, donations and loans, including loans from museums in Ethiopia; initial conversations with staff at the Ethiopian Museum of National History in Addis Ababa are promising.

The Museum will also provide learning opportunities for both children and adults, educating them about the rich traditions, cultures and history of Ethiopia, one of the ancient civilizations of the world. We plan on partnering with local schools and communities to offer guided tours and educational activities to classrooms and groups. In addition to themed exhibitions at the Museum, we plan on conducting off-site exhibitions to reach diverse audiences. The museum will also give Ethiopians an opportunity to relate and share their traditions with others and learn from one another. It will be a source of pride for the nearly 700,000 Ethiopians that have settled all over the United States as the first museum of its kind. It will also give the many families in the Midwest that have adopted children from Ethiopia an opportunity to teach their children about their heritage and create a venue to meet and network with other Ethiopians and adoptive families. We plan on tapping the skills of Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian artists locally and nationally to offer art and dance classes for children, youth and adults as part of the Museum's programming.

We hope you will join us in making this dream a reality by supporting our capital campaign. Make a [donation](#) today!

ECAC RECEIVES SMALL GRANT FOR ELDERLY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

ECAC was recently awarded a small pilot grant from the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group and the American Medical Association for an Elderly Physical Activity Program. The main goal of the program is to encourage daily physical activity, such as walking, among our elderly clients.

We hope to inspire our elderly client to be like Miki – a 104 year old Ethiopian who has been walking everyday for 12 years! Watch Miki's inspiring story [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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1730 W. Greenleaf
Chicago, IL 60626

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Saturday March 30th 2013

WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

Starting at 10am

Presentation & Discussion on Heart Health **with Dr. Kinfe Gebeyehu**

- *Learn about the causes, signs and treatment/prevention of heart disease*

FREE Health Screenings provided by Impala Laboratories (Alex Gebreselassie) for:

- *Blood Pressure*
- *Blood Glucose*
- *Cholesterol*

ECAC ON CANTV

Every 1st Wednesday
6:30pm - 7:00pm CST

Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago

CAN TV

Watch **LIVE** at CAN TV Channel 21

or

LIVE ONLINE STREAM at
www.cantv.org/live

CALL IN with QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

Wednesday April 3rd 2013

ECAC ON CAN TV!

Join a live discussion on issues important to our community.

Every First Wednesday of the Month!

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Call in with your questions and comments.

Spring 2013 Walk-a-thon

"I WALK FOR ECAC", is organized by the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago to support its educational & charitable mission of serving the cultural, psychological & socio-economic needs of refugees & immigrants in & around metropolitan Chicago. The Walkathon is part of the strategic fund-raising effort of ECAC's ongoing Capital Campaign to raise \$3 million toward the renovation & revitalization of its community & cultural center.

When: April 20, 2013 @ 9:00am.

Where: Lakefront Trail at Bryn Mawr Ave.

For more information & Registration visit:

www.ecachicago.org



1730 W Greenleaf Ave
Chicago, IL 60626
(773) 508-0303
skottoring@ecachicago.org
[facebook.com/ECACChicago](https://www.facebook.com/ECACChicago)



Saturday April 20th 2013

I WALK FOR ECAC!!

Support the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago Capital Campaign by participating in our **SPRING 2013 5K WALKATHON!**

Registration is FREE! All Walkers get Free T-SHIRTS!

We ask that walkers secure pledges/sponsorships for the walk to raise funds towards our campaign.

Walker Check-in @ 9am | Walk begins @ 10am

Register to Walk at <http://www.ecachicago.org/walkathon.aspx>

ABOUT ECAC

You are among more than a 400 other advocates/friends of ECAC who have received this email. Become part of this growing organization to expand our services and resources.

Join ECAC today.

- **Membership:** [Join](#) Today
- **Donate:** [Support](#) ECAC
- **Connect:** [Join](#) Our Mailing List or [Update](#) Your Information

ECAC is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code.