

**NUEYS-DC**

# ERI-DC Youth Profile

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

15th Independence Day Anniversary celebrated!	1
8th International Eritrean Youth Congress in Nakfa	1
Eritrean Language School concludes 1st session	2
NUEYS-DC hosts 3rd Personal Advancement Seminar Workshop	2
Sawa Youth Festival & August Youth Conference - History in the Making!	2
Youth in Focus - Medhane Teclay, an up and coming artist	3
NUEYS-DC carwash a success!	3
Opening of new youth branches	3
Just how "belih" are you??? Brainteasers for the mind.	4
Must See TV! Eri-Youth take it to the screen.	4
Youth soccer takes off!	4
ER Mix 'N Mingle - Still Going Strong!	4

## 15th Independence Day Anniversary celebrated by youth in Washington, DC

On May 27, 2006, hundreds of youth from the Washington, DC metropolitan area came out to celebrate Eritrea's 15th Independence Anniversary in a day filled with fun in the sun!

Activities ranging from soccer and basketball games to tug-of-war, paired with endless supplies of hot-dogs, hamburgers and stebhi, kept the youth running all day. The ever present green-red-blue and yellow flag of Eritrea seen from all corners



**Youth potato sack racing**

of the park flew gracefully in the breezy summer air that provided for the perfect outdoor activity climate.

NUEYS-DC celebrated the conclusion of its Session I Language Courses at the picnic with the nearly 1,000 people in attendance.

Recognizing the accomplishments of over 60 Eritrean youth, who for the past 4 months actively participated in Arabic and Tigrinya classes at the ECCC, NUEYS-DC awarded certificates of achievement to the numerous students.



Parents of the students enrolled in language classes also presented NUEYS-DC and the four instructors with community service plaques in recognition of their efforts to enrich youth knowledge of their Eritrean culture.

Congratulations to all the students and parents of Session I language classes! Yohana! Mabruk!

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students-DC is a non-profit organization with a mission to empower Eritrean youth.

For more information, contact NUEYS-DC at [nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com) or visit us at [www.nueysdc.org](http://www.nueysdc.org).

NUEYS-DC's Quarterly Newsletter

## 8th International Eritrean Youth Congress held in Nakfa

History repeated itself in a place called Nakfa this past May, the base of the Eritrean liberation struggle.

Over 300 youth from across Eritrea and communities abroad participated in the 8th congress of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, which lasted 4 days in the northern city of Nakfa.

Here, not only did they charter

a strategic plan for the youth to carry out in the coming years but also recommitted their dedication to the values of community service, national development and youth empowerment as cultivated in the same place decades ago.

The youth also tackled a number of important issues concerning their group including gender discrimination, youth participation in national issues,

development of youth leadership and professional skills to name a few.

The congress wouldn't have been complete without a night filled with dancing and celebration, enjoying the performances of some of Eritrea's great youthful Eritrean singers including Tirhas Gwal Keren and Wedi Tuquabo.

## ELS concludes its 1st session language classes

Saturday, May 20, 2006, NUEYS-DC held the last class of its first session of Eritrean Language School, which taught Arabic and Tigrinya language classes to Eritrean youth from the Washington, DC area.



Students prepare presentations

For the last 4 months, students diligently studied two of the languages spoken in Eritrea, Arabic and Tigrinya, and reached a level of flu-

ency, including knowledge of the alphabet and key phrases.

As part of the end of classes, students gave original group presentations in both Arabic and Tigrinya, which they worked on for the last three classes with the assistance of their instructors.

Classes would not have been possible without the commitment and skill of our volunteer instructors. At the end of the last class, NUEYS-DC presented awards to the four instructors to express its gratitude for their contributions on behalf of the organization, the students and parents.

NUEYS-DC will begin the second session of the Eritrean Language School in early



Students giving presentations

September 2006, offering both beginner and intermediate levels for adults and youth.

If you are interested in being a part of the language school coordination committee or to enroll in the 2nd session of classes, contact NUEYS-DC by email at [nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com)

## Personal Advancement Seminar Series - Empowering the Eritrean-American Community, One Step at a Time

On Saturday, June 3, 2006, NUEYS-DC hosted its second workshop at the Andover House, entitled "From Rent to Mortgages: What Young People Need to Know about Home Ownership".



Tihisha Girmai speaking on home ownership

The workshop was led by two young and talented Eritrean-American professionals in the mortgage and financial services fields.

Our first presenter, Tihisha Girmai, challenged the common perception that home ownership is difficult and discussed the

benefits and feasibility of buying a home.

Samuel Kubrom, the second speaker, emphasized vigilant monitoring of one's credit and gave useful advice on how to improve one's score and avoid common pitfalls in opening and managing lines of credit.



Samuel Kubrom discussing the importance of good credit

This seminar was a part of NUEYS-DC's Personal Advancement Seminar Series, regularly-offered workshops on a variety of topics to empower Eritrean-American youth and their community, including financial planning, social and physical well-being, academic excellence, and professional success.

Kevin Konkala, a seasoned financial planner, led our successful kick-off seminar about financial planning and investment in March 2006.

Look for the next seminar, on identity, psychological, and other social challenges facing Eritrean youth, to be held in September 2006.

NUEYS-DC encourages all members of the community to attend these events and would like to applaud the speakers for their amazing presentations and thank all those who have participated. Thanks also go to Starbucks Coffee and Caribou Coffee for their generous donations.

## Sawa Youth Festival & August Youth Conference - History in the making!

They're doing it again! The **2nd Eri-Youth Festival is taking place in Sawa, Eritrea from July 19-22, 2006**. This event follows the successful conclusion of the first international youth festival in 2002 where over 50,000 Eritrean youth from all over the world took part in a monumental 4 day festival, developed, organized and celebrated by the youth! Don't miss out on your chance to be a part of history! Recent graduates will also be honored for their accomplishments at the festival. Deadline for registration is June 30, 2006. For more information on the festival, Zur Hagerka and registration forms, email [nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com) or click on the banner at [www.dehai.org](http://www.dehai.org) or visit [www.eriouth.org](http://www.eriouth.org).

Be involved in another great youth event. The **2nd nationwide North American youth conference is taking place in Washington, DC from August 10-11, 2006**, before the August festival. At the last conference, representatives of Eritrean youth associations participated from cities across the US and Canada, including Boston, Columbus, Denver, the Bay Area, Toronto and more. Be a part of a growing nationwide movement that aims to empower Eritrean youth! And celebrate afterwards at **NUEYS-DC's all-out-fun barbeque on Sunday, August 13, 2006**. For more information, contact NUEYS-DC at [nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com).

# YOUTH IN FOCUS

## An Up and Coming Eritrean Artist - Medhane Teclay

Medhane Teclay vividly remembers beginning to draw as soon as he learned to write his name. In school, his fellow classmates would crowd around his desk to watch him, and eventually his first-grade teacher allowed him to stay after class ended and draw all over the blackboards.



**Medhane Teclay, a Senior at Robert E. Lee High School**

Medhane, now an 18-year old graduating senior from Robert E.

Lee High School in Springfield, VA, has continued pursuing his love for art. He is skilled in various artistic techniques including charcoal drawing, oil and water-color painting, print-making, and even pottery. Medhane's primary themes are nature, animals, still-objects, and animation, drawn in true-to-life form. He has also recently focused on portraiture, specifically self-portraits.

Medhane's skill has been recognized and awarded by many others. His art teacher

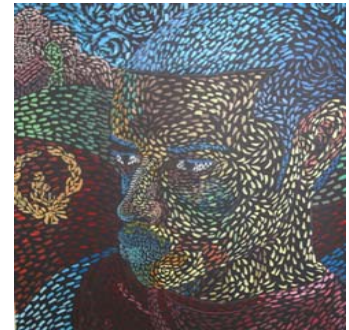
submitted two of his pieces, as part of a 12-piece submission in the Scholastics Art competition, a national art competition. One of them was an oil self-portrait and the other was a drawing of his face made up of bright, colorful dots with the Eritrean flag in the background.

Medhane was awarded silver for both of his entries in a national award ceremony in the spring of 2006. In an art competition sponsored by Lockheed Martin, Medhane was also recently awarded the Employees Choice Award.

This bright young artist affirms that art is an important part of his life and wants to pursue a professional career in the arts. Medhane will be enrolling at Virginia Commonwealth University's renowned School of the Arts in the fall of 2006, which is the nation's highest ranked arts and design program at a public university.

Medhane is also passionate about Eri-

trea, where he calls home. In 2004, he participated in a 3-week youth summer tour of Eritrea, led by organizers from the DC area. He enjoyed learning more about his country, and says that he couldn't get enough. He is eager to re-



turn to Eritrea and draw the scenery that inspired him, primarily the dramatic landscape.

As advice to other young artists, Medhane urges them to practice their craft with discipline. In the future, Medhane is eager to introduce his work to the Eritrean community. NUEYS-DC wishes this up and coming talent all the best!

## NUEYS-DC holds successful carwash in VA!

On May 06, 2006 NUEYS-DC held its first car wash of others this year to help



**Getting that car squeaky clean!**

raise funds to support the numerous programs and activities NUEYS-DC has running for Eritrean youth in the DC area.

NUEYS-DC would like to thank all of its

members and supporters who made



**Look at these convincing faces**

the event a success.

We would also like to give special thanks to Tesfay Berayes & Genet Tekle-haymanot for the use of the Alexandria Sunoco.

## Opening of new youth branches

NUEYS-DC would like to congratulate the new NUEYS-NA branches that have formed across the US. A warm welcome to Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle!

We would also like to recognize our partner organizations who are also working to empower the youth, including the Eritrean Youth Leadership Development Program in Minnesota, the Eritrean Youth Organization of Colorado, Eritrean Youth Club of Philadelphia, NUEYS-Boston, and those in Davis, Oakland, San Jose & Santa Rosa.

NUEYS-DC is actively working with Eritrean youth across the US to promote national solidarity and would like to commend everyone for their efforts!



**NUEYS-DC**

We're on the web!

[www.nueysdc.org](http://www.nueysdc.org)

*United for a strong, conscious,  
and patriotic youth!*



**Just how “belih” are you???** A few brainteasers to keep those brain waves moving! See if you can figure these out.

1 ~ I run, he runs, I stop, he runs?

2 ~ Tool of thief, toy of queen. Always used to be unseen. Sign of joy, sign of sorrow. Giving all likeness borrowed.

3 ~ I come out of the earth, I am sold in the market. He who buys me cuts my tail, takes off my suit of silk, and weeps beside me when I am dead. What am I?

(Answers: my watch, a mask, an onion)

## Must See TV! ERI Youth take it to the screen.

The Eritrean experience is the greatest story never told. That's why NUEYS-DC is developing a local television program featuring comedic and dramatic sketches, profiles about notable Eritreans in the community, coverage of the DC lifestyle and entertainment scene, and much more.



*Be a creative force in front of  
or behind the camera*

[nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com) for info about how to participate.

Classes and training opportunities in studio production have also become available. So don't miss out on this chance to develop a new and exciting skill.

Let's tell our story!

~ ~

Interested in acting?  
Ever wanted to see yourself on the screen? Have experience behind the camera? Then email

## Youth soccer kicks off!

The Eritrean Youth Soccer Program in the DC area has kicked off in full gear. Every Saturday morning, veteran soccer players train 30 youngsters from the ages of 7 to 15.

These future star athletes have enjoyed the training and friendships they've made and a team of these youth will be traveling to Seattle to the soccer tournament.

NUEYS-DC wishes the team good luck and congratulates all the participants and coaches for their success thus far!

## ER Mix N' Mingle: Still Going Strong!

If you haven't heard about NUEYS-DC's ER Mix N' Mingle, then you have been missing out on all the fun! Since November 2005, NUEYS-DC has been hosting monthly happy hours as an opportunity for young Eritreans to network in stylish and relaxed environments.

Whether you are new to the city or a native of the area, the ER Mix N' Mingle has proven to be the perfect spot to meet new friends, catch up with old

ones, and make professional contacts. Don't just take our word for it though, come and see for yourself!

The ER Mix N' Mingle has been held in DC's finest lounges around the city, including in Dupont Circle, Chinatown, and the U St. District.

So here's your chance again . . .

Next happy hour is on Thursday June 29, 2006 at a location soon to be announced.



Make sure to keep a look out. For more info or to be added to the mailing list, contact NUEYS-DC by email at

[nueysdc@yahoo.com](mailto:nueysdc@yahoo.com).