

NUEYS-DC

ERI-DC Youth Profile

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Youth-led activities fill Washington, DC Festival 2006

If you were one of the many thousands who attended this year's Eritrean Festival in Washington, DC, then you must have seen the NUEYS-DC booth!

This year, NUEYS-DC proudly sold custom-made greeting cards displaying images from Eritrea, taken by photographers Salome Tewelde and Emily Schmidt, during their summer internships in Eritrea this past summer.

The greetings cards include a range of images, depicting both the stunning scenery in Eritrea as well as much of its historic beauty.



Market in Asmara

Proceeds from the cards will help strengthen and expand NUEYS-DC's activities to empower Eritrean youth in the DC metro area.

These greeting cards can be used for all occasions and make great gifts. If you are interested in purchasing some, email NUEYS-DC at nueysdc@yahoo.com.

Also, to celebrate the close of the festival, local and visiting youth converged for a barbeque sponsored by NUEYS-DC at Haines Point Park, on Sunday, August 13.

Beckoned by warm sunny weather and beautiful views of the National Monument, Potomac River, and Washington National Airport, about one hundred peo-

ple joined NUEYS-DC for an afternoon of good food, good tunes, and even better company.

For a nominal donation, attendees enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Over games, old friendships were rekindled and new relationships forged.

The barbeque provided an opportunity for youth to enjoy one another's company and to celebrate their common culture and identity in a laid-back surrounding.



Youth enjoying the picnic

Be on the lookout for NUEYS-DC at the next festival! You don't want to miss all the fun!

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

For more information, contact NUEYS-DC at nueysdc@yahoo.com or visit us at www.nueysdc.org.

NUEYS-DC's Quarterly Newsletter

Youth associations go national! NUEYS-NA

From August 10-11, 2006, Eritrean youth representatives from all across North America met in Washington, DC to discuss ways to strengthen the mission and network of Eritrean youth associations in the US and Canada.



Youth reps create NUEYS-NA

After much in-depth discussion and review of the current needs and future goals of Eritrean youth in North America, representatives from these cities emphasized the importance of a national youth organization and thus established NUEYS-NA.

Under this umbrella organization, member city branches now will be part of one cohesive national organization with the common

goal of creating a strong, conscious and patriotic youth movement by coordinating key activities that promote the cultural, professional and educational development of Eritrean youth.

This organization will serve as a national source of information and resources for the Eritrean youth community in North America.

Congratulations to all Eritrean youth across North America! We are on the rise!

Diaspora Youth participate in 2nd International ERI-Youth Festival in Sawa

From July 19-22, 2006, NUEYS-Eritrea hosted its second international Eri-Youth Festival in Sawa, Eritrea. Similar to the inaugural Eri-Youth Festival held in July 2004, the festival was a celebration of Eritrean youth and their potential both in and outside of Eritrea.



Youth attending seminar at 2nd Eri-Youth Festival in Sawa, Eritrea

Around 1,000 Diaspora youth from Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Southern Africa joined approximately 40,000 Eritrean youth participants in this 4-day festival that included numerous activities such as fashion shows, concerts, theatrical performances, cultural exhibitions, tree-planting and technological and research presentations.

NUEYS-DC was proud to assist in preparations for the festival, including advertising the festival internationally, brainstorming ideas for youth discussions and encouraging the participation of all youth.

NUEYS-DC would also like to highlight the Eri-Youth Camp, a biannual youth summer program that allows participants not only to tour all over Eritrea, but also to take part in a community service activity that gives back to the country.

Besides participating in the Eri-Youth Festival, Eri-Youth camp provided computers and photography equipment to NUEYS' Dekemhare youth center, awarded cash prizes to young Eritrean track athletes, donated art supplies to Mai Nefhi College, visited an orphanage and conducted mogogo projects.

The camp is organized by a dedicated team of individuals primarily from the Washington, DC area. Chaperones and youth participants hail from all over the US.

NUEYS-DC wants to congratulate the Eri-Youth Camp for its dedication to ensuring that Diaspora Eritrean youth engage



Eri-Youth Camp Group (Photo courtesy of Saba Sebhatu)

with their country and wishes it even more success in the future. For more information, the Eri-Youth Camp can be contacted at steklu@brownscar.com.

September 1 - Why we celebrate this day in Eritrean History

September 1, 1961 is a date that holds special meaning in Eritrean history and is celebrated around the world by Eritreans. Do you ever wonder why this date is of importance or why we have a national holiday to commemorate it?

In order to understand the significance of September 1, 1961, we must first know what took place on this day and how these events came to influence the fate of an entire people and nation.

Eritrea's struggle for independence, which culminated on May 24, 1991, began 30 years prior on September 1, 1961. Having lived for decades under harsh Italian and British colonial rule and then forced into an unacceptable federation with Ethiopia, where the rights and identity of Eritreans were systematically destroyed, the desire for independence in Eritrea grew with intensity and fervor.

When the many peaceful attempts by Eritrea's population to gain its rightful independence fell upon deaf ears internationally or was instead returned with brutality locally, it became clear that the fight for independence and self-determination

would only come through armed struggle.

During this tumultuous period, history saw the emergence of multiple actors in the fight for independence, including the ELM or "Mahber Showate."

With the formation of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) by students based in Cairo, Egypt the struggle moved to a new level.

At the same time, a man by the name of Hamid Idris Awate, who had received military training in Italy and was disgusted by the internal conflicts existing among

the people as a result of the "divide and rule" tactics being used by the foreign occupiers, moved to the countryside, where he began his own campaign of resistance.

Joining with the ELF, Hamed Idris Awate on September 1, 1961 led a victorious attack in Adal, Eritrea on an Ethiopian police station that marked the beginning of the Eritrean struggle for liberation. From this point on began the concerted and growing movement for national independence.

The many years to independence that followed this igniting event were long and filled with great challenges. Many obstacles were also overcome. This period also witnessed the formation of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). With a determination and steadfastness rarely seen before in history, the people of Eritrea heralded in the birth of Eritrea as a nation on May 24, 1991.



Hamid Idris Awate

YOUTH IN FOCUS

Lillian Kidane - An up and coming force in the international health field

Born in Silver Spring, MD and raised in Fresno, California, Lillian began her undergraduate career at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, as a pre-med student and biology major.

Also fascinated by the social sciences, Lillian pursued sociology and Arabic studies. In her spring semester of 2001, Lillian spent a semester studying at the American University in Cairo, Egypt to enhance her understanding of the Middle East and improve her language skills. Her experience in Egypt further fueled her passion for the developing world, and after graduating in 2002, Lillian joined the Peace Corps, an internationally-renowned volunteer organization.

Lillian served as a maternal and child health volunteer in two remote villages in Morocco-Ouaoula and Tafrouet-where she led training sessions in early childhood care and health education for rural mothers and young children as well as assisting in the man-

agement of a small health clinic.

Lillian completed an intensive 3-month language and cultural training course in Tashleheet, a Moroccan Berber language, to effectively provide services for and engage with the community.

Upon her return to the United States, Lillian joined Abt Associates in Washington, DC as a finance and contract administrator for the Health Systems Strengthening Project in Iraq. A year later, she became task manager for the National Health Accounts Initiative with the Partners for Health Reformplus (PHRplus) Project, a multilateral contract awarded to Abt Associates Inc through the U.S. Agency for International Development

(USAID). While with the PHRplus Project, Lillian gained valuable technical and managerial experience with HIV/AIDS research and policy formulation practices.

After remaining at Abt Associates Inc for a total of 3 yrs, Lillian was awarded the

Health and Child Survival Scholarship, a full scholarship provided by USAID, to two students a year who have exhibited exemplary leadership skills, to obtain a masters degree in public health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. She is focusing on achieving sustainable development through the use of health economics for developing countries, and plans on pursuing a PhD in the same field after she graduates in 2007.

Lillian is eager to go to Eritrea and contribute to ensuring that Eritreans benefit from a sustainable health system. She advises young people to be organized and confident when planning their academic and professional pursuits, especially when juggling different interests or transitioning from different fields. Lillian also encourages young people to take full advantage of all the resources available to make their goals a reality.

Feel free to contact Lillian at lmkidane@yahoo.com, with any questions about her experiences with the Peace Corps, work and study in international health, and/or advice in general. NUEYS-DC wishes this bright and accomplished young lady even more success!



Lillian Kidane

Want to Go to College? NUEYS-DC to hold college preparatory workshops

It's that time of year! All over the U.S., high school seniors are narrowing down their list of schools and preparing to submit their college applications. At the same time, sophomores and juniors are researching colleges and identifying their academic interests.

Eritrean youth in the DC area have no reason to be under-prepared because NUEYS-DC is hosting two college preparatory workshops this fall, in which participants can learn more about the admissions process and how to select the right college, get hands-on help

with their admissions essays and master the financial aid process.

Whether you are a sophomore, junior, senior or recent graduate, you will definitely gain from these interactive and informative workshops.

The workshops will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 11am-2pm and Saturday, Oct. 29 from 11am-2pm at ECCC. For more information, contact nueysdc@yahoo.com.

Eritrean Language School to start again!

Always wanted to learn Tigrinya and Arabic??

Don't let this chance pass you by!

NUEYS-DC will begin the second session of its Eritrean Language School for beginner and intermediate students of Arabic and Tigrinya Saturday, October 21, 2006.

Registration for classes will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 12-6pm at ECCC (6th and L sts, NW).

If you know of someone or are yourself interested, contact NUEYS-DC at nueysdc@yahoo.com.



NUEYS-DC

We're on the web!

www.nueysdc.org

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

NUEYS-DC Personal Advancement Seminar Series: Tackling issues of identity

- Are you struggling to balance Eritrean and American culture?

- Do you have questions about the challenges young Eritrean-Americans face and how these issues affect their personal and professional development?"

Well, look no further!

NUEYS-DC invites all Eritrean youth to the next installment in its Personal Advancement Seminar Series, which will feature an open discussion with Dr. Tesfay

Aradom, an Eritrean psychologist and parent, on pressing issues facing Eritrean-American youth.

Dr. Aradom, who has worked closely on psycho-social issues and immigrant communities, will address topics including stress management and mental health, communication across gender and age in the Eritrean community among others.

Look-out for announcements on the date and location of this important and timely event!

ER Mix N' Mingle: Where will you be Oct. 19??

NUEYS-DC's monthly ERI-youth Mix N' Mingle is moving ahead with full speed this fall. After a calm and relaxing summer, students are back in town and all are back from vacations to different destinations.

Come out and share the news on

what you've been up to!

Know of any cool and fun places where Eri-youth can meet and mingle in a relaxed and entertaining environment? Let us know! We're always looking for new places to



explore.

Next happy hour is on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006. Information on location will be sent out soon.

Just how "belih" are you??? Try this new Sudoku puzzle for a change. Solution will be in the next issue.

7	6		3		1			
				5		1		
	4			6	9			
9		6				8	5	
	1	2				3	9	
	5	4				6		2
			1	8			4	
		8		9				
			2		3		6	8

Each column, row and box must contain the numbers 1-9, but only once.

Thank you to our BBQ sponsors!

NUEYS-DC would like to thank:

Dahlak Restaurant
RedSea 1.com &
Danny-o

for their generous financial support and sponsorship of NUEYS-DC's Festival Weekend BBQ send-off! The BBQ was a success and next year's event is sure to draw an even larger crowd and more good times!

If you would like to sponsor some of NUEYS-DC's future events or advertise your business in our quarterly newsletter, email NUEYS-DC at nueysdc@yahoo.com.