

NUEYS-DC

ERI-DC Youth Profile

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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

NUEYS-DC Member Retreat in Nags Head, NC - The First of Many

The first NUEYS-DC Members Retreat was held Sept. 14-16, 2007 in Manteo, North Carolina, marking the beginning of an ongoing initiative to create memorable and motivating experiences for NUEYS-DC members.



The two-day trip to the Outer Banks Beach enabled the group to get away and focus on the strategic and organizational goals of the upcoming year, and to provide an opportunity to discuss relevant issues facing the Eritrean-American community in the Washington, DC area.



The purpose of the weekend retreat was two-fold. It was an all-inclusive intense work weekend, but also an opportunity for members to connect



and get to know one another on personal and professional levels. The retreat provided the venue for members to assess in detail the organization's progress, intro-

duce new ideas, and articulate a clear and concise vision and mission for NUEYS-DC.

Topics discussed included the up-and-coming mentorship program, the Eritrean Language School, the newly designed Culture Series, fundraising, committee formation, PASS topics, elections and website development. And it wasn't all work either. Members took part in a number of trust and team building activities, and enjoyed an evening barbeque with lively discussions and a spirited game of taboo!

Milen Zerabruk of NUEYS-DC said: "The retreat was a great way for everyone to get to know each other and plan out the year's events. We all bonded and got a lot of work done." Another member Suri Neg added: "Although I am new to the group, I feel like I've been a part of the team for years. I feel more obligated now to NUEYS-DC than ever before."

So often, monthly meetings can be spent on administrative tasks and event planning. The retreat is

intended to encourage organiza-



tion and team building. In a few words, the weekend was beyond successful! The annual retreat has become the foreground for



NUEYS-DC's organizational development and is spearheading NUEYS-DC's ability to stand out as an exemplary organization.

Make sure to join us next year at yet another exciting destination!

~ Saba Sebhatu



Going Once, Going Twice, Sold!

Weeks of hard work and planning culminated with the first annual NUEYS-DC date auction. This past July 5th over 100 Eritrean youth packed Georgetown's Blue Gin lounge to raise money for a good cause. The date auction was held in conjunction with the National Eritrean Sports Federation Festival during the first week of July in Washington, DC.



worked diligently to secure sponsors, a location, and recruit volunteers to auction themselves off. On the night of the date auction, Eritrean youth from all over the country mixed and mingled, filling up the lounge until the date auction began. For their donations, bidders would not only win a lovely date, but also a gift certificate to one of Washington, DC's finest restaurants. Many in the audience were armed with paddles ready to signal their bids, while others crowded around with curiosity.



NUEYS-DC organized the date auction as a fun and original way to bring Eritrean youth together and raise money for its many programs. With thousands of people traveling to Washington, DC for the sports festival, it was also a great way to publicize the hard work NUEYS-DC does year round.



Once the bidding began, the auction quickly flew by. From the ten attractive and eligible male and female volunteers, daters were auctioned off one after another, quickly getting snatched up by enthusiastic bidders. A colorful contestant presented himself in his finest garb - traditional all white garb - hat

and all! Thanks to the lively masters of ceremonies Eritria Pitts and Sirak Zewoldi,

For months, NUEYS-DC members

the crowd was hyped up and ready to spend some money. The competition was fierce but friendly. The record bidder went to a young man from Seattle who garnered over \$180!

The proceeds will go to support NUEYS-DC's activities, such as the Eritrean Language School, the Professional Advancement Seminar Series (PASS), and much more. In addition, the money raised will allow NUEYS-DC to plan more events that fulfill its mission of Eritrean youth empowerment in the future.

The night carried on with music and dancing until the lights came on! The



date auc-

tion was a festive addition to the sports festival week, and a great introduction to DC nightlife. No word yet if any love matches were made, but NUEYS-DC's first date auction was definitely a success.

~ Milen Zerabruk

A Reflection on History - "Endorsing the Cause of Liberation" - Yesterday and Today

All too often, history books will have its readers believe that the parameters of African history and culture can only be defined in relation to "pivotal" periods, such as the slave trade and the European colonial era. Such oversimplification belies the complexity of the African identity.

"What Eritrea's struggle lacked in manpower and weapons, it more than made up for in psychological strength."

The nationalist movements that precipitated Africa's Independence Era in the late 1950s and early 1960s battled against this reactive identity in an effort to redefine what it meant to be African. Similarly, the need to recreate identity was a major component of Eritrea's struggle for independence.

Eritrean leaders understood that the

struggle for sovereignty could not be won through military means alone: fighters must also be made aware of the importance of self-rule. Toward that aim, every fighter was required to attend intensive political education sessions in addition to their military training. Awareness during these sessions was not forced but rather was stimulated through frank dialogue, providing fighters with the critical thinking tools to attain the level of consciousness necessary to debunk historical myths and to deconstruct their struggle against oppression.

Theirs was not merely a war against Ethiopian imperialism, but part of a larger global struggle to redress an uneven world order where demands for self-determination could be ignored in pursuit of "the strategic interests of the United States in the Red Sea basin" (John Foster Dulles, US Secretary of

State, 1952). In addition, the participation of fighters in the creation of a new Eritrean self fostered a sense of ownership over a struggle they believed to be just. Therefore, expanding the struggle beyond a military conflict transformed Eritrea's independence struggle into a mass movement endorsed by all who participated.

What Eritrea's struggle lacked in manpower and weapons, it more than made up for in psychological strength. It is this level of consciousness that would set the stage for the eventual forging of a distinct Eritrean identity, one created in defiance of the constricting parameters established by colonial powers, and one which leads us with clarity, determination, and purpose today.

~ Selam Kebrom

YOUTH IN FOCUS

Amleset Kidane - Life Coach and Strategist

Amleset Kidane is founder of both the Genesis International Consulting Firm (GICF) and Coaching Institute. Read our conversation below to learn about this young Eritrean-American entrepreneur.

Please tell us about yourself.

I have been living in Maryland since I was 5. I received a track scholarship to a university in Louisiana and obtained my MA in national security and international affairs with concentrations in strategic communication and planning in Washington, DC. I worked in management for several years, and after a period of reflection, decided to go into business for myself. I started working full-time for myself in 2006.

What is Genesis International Consulting Firm?

Genesis is a life-coaching company that seeks to transform the lives of individuals and American communities, particularly communities of color. When I was considering career options, I thought about what I was good at. I realized that I was good with people, had good communication skills, and liked to help people become more successful. I couldn't find an industry that embodied all these characteristics, and decided on my own to pursue life coaching and acquired clients, without knowing that it was an established industry. Once I found that I could get certified, I completed my certification requirements, added clients, and made it a full-blown venture. I also started the GICF institute, in which I train life coaches 3 times a year.

Where do you see GICF in the next couple of years?

I have huge expectations. I don't want to just focus on life coaching. I plan on getting more staff so I can focus more on management, as well specializing within life coaching. I also would like to do motivational speaking engagements, workshops, write books, and create DVDs. It will be easier to do that once I expand GICF.

What inspired to be in the business of helping others?

As a youngster, when my classmates used to ask for my notes, instead of just giving them I would always try to encourage them to work through things themselves. I always could see great things in others, sometimes when they didn't even see them in themselves. I just never knew there was an industry for this. I also was an athlete and have a competitive drive. I have been able to use this energy in my work.

How do you envision empowerment amongst Eritrean-American youth?

One problem is that Eritrean parents have one plan for their kids while their kids might have another. Once GICF expands our youth coaching programs, I'd like to reach out more to the Eritrean community. It can really make a difference, especially for young people dropping out of college. I would like to play a role in serving as a bridge between par-

ents and youth. I'm still in the planning period now because I want to make it effective. But if any parents are interested in individual counseling, I am available to do that now. I have had a few Eritrean clients.



Amleset Kidane
Founder of GICF

As for Eritrean young professionals, I would like to pool them into our activities; we offer leverage for competing better in U.S. society. Americans go to executive and life coaching because they want a competitive edge. If our community is more informed about this, it can also give us more of an advantage. Our generation can really take our community to the next level. I see a lot of potential amongst us.

Is there a message you want to give to young people?

Don't wait, act today in what you really want to do. If you are sitting on an idea that makes you want to wake up every morning, do it.

For more information about the Genesis International Consulting Firm, visit www.gicfirm.com or call (301) 675-4854.

Sand . . . Beaches . . . Ocean view Homes . . . All at NUEYS-DC's retreat





NUEYS-DC

We're on the web!

www.nueysdc.org

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



Just how “belih” are you??? Here’s some Eritrean trivia for you.

- 1 ~ What animal is on the official Eritrean seal?
- 2 ~ Which Russian literary figure is of Eritrean descent?
- 3 ~ What is the name of the popular prickly fruit in Eritrea available during the rainy season?
- 4 ~ Who was the first athlete to win an Olympic medal for Eritrea in running? In what year?
- 5 ~ What does the Sept. 1 national holiday celebrate?

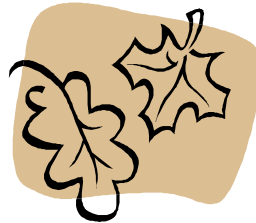
(Answers: 1. Camel; 2. Alexander Pushkin; 3. Beles; 4. Zeresenay Tadesse, 2004; 5. Start of the Armed Struggle for Independence)

ER Mix ‘N Mingle: Scope Out the Latest Hotspots this Fall

As the summer winds down and fall begins, Eritrean youth in the Washington, DC area are eyeing out the newest hotspots in town. Students are back, summer break is over . . . It’s time to reconnect!

The summer season had its share of exciting times, with NUEYS-DC hosting happy hours at places like the Reef in Adams Morgan, Selam Reson U Street and Jin Lounge on 14th Street.

Make sure to come out and mingle new and old friends before the temperature drops. Next happy hour is day, October 5, 2007 at a location to be announced.



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For more info or to be added to the mailing list, contact NUEYS-DC by email at nueysdc@yahoo.com.

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*Graduation Ceremony, Independence Day Picnic
May 26, 2007, Washington, DC*

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events . . .

NUEYS-DC has a number of exciting events planned for the next several months. Make sure to mark your calendars.

The return of **Eritrean Language School, Session III**: Classes will be offered again in Tigrinya and Arabic for new and returning students. Registration is on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at ECCC from 12-5pm. Classes will begin Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 10am-2pm at ECCC.

The start of NUEYS-DC’s **Mentorship Program**: to match Eritrean youth with a mentor who will provide guidance and serve as a resource to assist Eritrean youth in their professional, personal and academic development. NUEYS-DC is looking for responsible, community-minded Eritrean youth to serve as mentors. If you or someone you know is interested in making a positive contribution to a young Eritrean’s development, please contact NUEYS-DC at nueysdc@yahoo.com.

A new series is about to take off . . . NUEYS-DC’s **Culture Series** . . . Come get your hands dirty in our **cooking class** that is sure to be so much fun, we’ll have you in tears - literally!! Other activities in the series will include seminars on history and culture, film viewings, book discussions and much more!