

AGAZI ALUMNI NEWS

Vol. 12 No. 1. Official Newsletter of Agazi School Alumni Association - North America April 2008

Agazi is a high school located in Adigrat, Tigray, Ethiopia.

July 5-6, 2008

Our 13th annual meeting and fundraising event in Washington DC area is to be held on July 5 and 6, 2008. After an exceptional reunion in Seattle last year, everyone is anticipating what kind of event this year's reunion will be. Seattle might have raised the bar but this year's activity in DC could be as good by attracting more members to come because there are also the Ethiopian Soccer games during the same week. Of course, this means you have to make your reservation on time.

We are inviting our members and friends outside of North America to join us for our annual reunion.

Our party will be held on July 5, at:

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
3149 Glen Carlyn Road
Falls church, VA 22041

No words

After the most successful and enjoyable event we had in Seattle, instead of a headline with the best description for it, we were quiet with no words. It is not that the newsletter was not ready, it was. But, as a few days pass we keep waiting to add more information regarding more fundraising news from Denver and DC area, then I personally kept waiting to add ore news which I never succeeded in getting. As time goes by, all that could go wrong went wrong. In December, my laptop was stolen and with it all my data and files. All that almost finished newsletter and other important personal documents was lost.

To all those in Seattle who really worked hard and made such a big impression on everyone that was there, thank you for your hard work and I am sorry that the newsletter did not make on time to let everyone that missed it know your work. I am personally sorry to have dampened the energy that was generated after Seattle. It has been hard to get back to normal even after I bought a new computer. Those of you who are in our e-mail system did get a brief report of how

Seattle was and of course those who saw the video already know how exciting it was.

Below, you will find the financial report for Seattle, 2007. This report includes all pledges made after July, in Denver and Washington DC. At the end of the newsletter, I have included what was reported to our online community through e-mail.

Financial report for July 7, 2007 (Not audited)

Source	Pledged	collected
Pledge (Seattle)	\$9,750	\$6,000
Seattle group donation	\$8,475	\$8,475
Pledge (Denver, Aug 19)	\$6,790	\$5,990
Pledge (DC, Sept 2)	\$3,200	\$1,500
Donation (other state)	\$2,100	\$2,100
Auction & lottery sale		\$2,692
T-shirt & hat sale		\$1,320
Sale of drink at the event		\$5,602
Tickets sold (July 7)		\$14,610
Tickets sold (Cruise)		\$6,500
Total Pledge	\$30,315	\$24,065
Total from activities		\$30,724
Total Revenue Collected		\$54,789

Expenses

Drinks & food	\$4, 897	
Entertainment (includes cruise rental & DJ, entertainers' fees & travel & lodging)	\$4,000	
Hall rental, etc	\$5,815	
Auction materials & misc. expenses	\$1,371	
Total expense paid (Seattle)		\$16,083
T-shirt, hat, video expenses	\$5,729	
Entertainment (includes fee, travel & lodging)	\$3,142	
Total expense paid ASAA-NA		\$8,871
Total expense for event	\$24,954	\$24,954
Net profit		\$29,835
When remaining pledge is collected, add this →		\$6,250

As you can see from the tables above, our Seattle hosts raised \$8,475 before July 7, 2007 and covered most of the expenses except for expenses related to musicians (fees, airfare, and lodging), T-shirt and hat which were paid from ASAA account.

Together with the pre-July 7, donation, the total collected by our Seattle group was \$35,885. After paying expenses of \$16,083, the difference is \$19,802. Our treasurer received (wire transfer), a total of \$19,802.42 from Seattle. Thank you.

The following is a list of people who contributed for the preparation of Seattle's event.

Samuel Zeru	\$200
Tafere Asefa	\$200
Azmera Kahsay	\$300
Moges Mebrahtu	\$500
Tesfay Desta	\$300
Yonas Gebregziabher	\$200
G.Hiwot Gebru	\$200
Solomon Zeru	\$300
Aboy Reda G.Hiwot	\$200
Yihdego Berhe	\$200
Alem Seyoum	\$200
Girmay Asefa	\$500
G.Slassie Abraha	\$200
Zenebech Lenlem	\$200
Asfaw Mengesha	\$300
Haileselassie Teklay	\$300
Hadush Bisrat	\$500
Hadush Zahkay	\$200
G.Slassie Hish	\$200
Kahsay Negusse	\$300
Kahsay Abraha	\$100
Aregawi Hailu	\$300
Mouz Atsbaha	\$200
Mulualem Hailelassie	\$200
Hagos Gebru	\$150
Yemane Gebreselassie	\$200
Tsighe Hadgu	\$200
G.Michael Hadush	\$100
Gebru Kebede	\$100
Berihu Araya	\$500
Haftu Hadush	\$300
G.Mariam Abay	\$100
Yonas Berhe	\$100
Solomon Kassa	\$300
Girmay Alemu	\$25
Alem G.Tsadik	\$100
Total	\$8,475

The following people made cash or other (labor and/or material) contribution to make it happen.

Contribution for meiss	cash	
Awetash Kahsay		112
Abeba G.egziabher		112
Belainesh Asfaw		112
Genet Abagobez		112
Genet Gebregziabher		112
Megbi Fesehaye		112
Frehiwot Lemlem		112
Total		784
Injera		
Gezu Mehari		120
Abeba Kebede		120
Likyelesh Nega		120
		360
Meat		
Hana Misgna		495
Himbasha	Cash value	
Meaza Desta	75	made meiss
kidane G.egziabher	75	made meiss
Hibshti		
Rigbe Yemesel		100
Tihlo with sauce	Cash value	
Negisti K.mariam	300	
transportation	Cash value	
Solomon Kassa	120	
Habtu Hadush	120	

Announcement

DC chapter will have its annual picnic on May 25, 2008 from 11:30 AM till ?

Picnic Place:

**Blue Mont Park in Arlington
329 N Manchester St. Arlington, VA**

Denver chapter will also have its annual picnic on May 25, 2008 from 2:30 PM till ? at the usual Park.

INVITATION

The Atse Yohannes Alumni Association (AYAA) USA cordially invites you, your board and your wider membership to its fifth anniversary reunion celebration to be held in Washington, D. C. on the night of May 24, 2008.

Donation pledges made before the event, at the event and after the event. (pd means the pledge is paid. Others have not paid yet when this table was prepared).

Seattle, before and after July 7, 2007

	Pledge
1	Abeba G.Egziabher \$100 pd
2	Alem G.T Negusse/ Manna Hailu \$300 pd
3	Alem Gebretsadik \$100 pd
4	Alemtsehay Gebru \$100 pd
5	Andom Hailu \$125 pd
6	Aregash Abrha \$200
7	Asfaha Teklehaimanot \$100 pd
8	Asmelash Abrha \$100
9	Atse Yohannes Alumni Association \$1,000 pd
10	Awlaelo Alumni \$350 pd
11	Axum Alumni (pledge) \$300
12	Azeb Assefa \$200 pd Azeb Hadgu, Bereket Hadgu and Solomon Hadgu \$200 pd
13	Azmera Kahsay Syum \$100 pd
15	Berihu Araya and Abeba G.Tsadik \$200 pd
16	Bruck Girmay \$500 Daniel Teklay (Dr.) & Eyerusalem Hailemariam \$500
17	Embaye Teamrat & Yorgalem Abraha \$200 pd
18	Enthabu Berhe and Freweini Hadgu \$100 pd
19	Gebreyesus Engida and Aregash Demewoz \$300
20	Hagos Gebrai \$100 Hailelassie Zeresenay & Genet W.Mariam \$100 pd
21	Kahsay Abraham \$200
22	Kasa Seged and Abeba Minasie \$100 pd
23	Lemlem Kahsay \$100
24	Mebrahtu T.Haimanot & Yeshe \$250
25	Mekonen Ambaye & Tegeb Abagobez \$200
26	Michael Gebre and Selam \$200 Michael Gebru and Saba Taddesse \$200
27	Mulugeta Girmay & Zuryash \$200 pd
28	Musie Hadish Tesfai \$100 pd
29	Ogbazghi Melles/Desta Asbeha \$200 pd
30	Sebhatu M. Gebre & Almaz \$200 pd
31	Senait Abrha \$100 pd
32	Tadesse W. Gebru and Giday Kindeya \$200 pd
33	Tafere Haileselassie & Hiriti Berhane \$100
34	Teame Embaye, Dr. \$500
35	Teka and Zebi Sahlu \$100 pd
36	Tekie G. Melles and Genet Desta \$200 pd
37	Teklit Fitwe Weldu \$100 pd
38	Tesfay Abraha \$100 pd
39	Tihish Gidey and Solomon Medhanie \$200 pd
40	Tom Desta Yeabyo & Meaza Alemayo \$200 pd
41	Tomas Tekle and Alganesh Tesfay \$200 pd

45	Welela Haileselassie \$200 pd
46	Kahsay Gebretsadik & Birtukan Molla \$100 pd

Pledges from Denver, Aug 19, 2007

47	Axum Alumni \$140 pd
48	Habesha Rest. \$100
49	Zaid Desta \$50 pd
50	Rahwa Gebretsadikan \$200
51	Tsegay Halefom \$100
52	Solomom Assefa \$100 pd
53	Nugusse Hailu & Abnet Asefa \$200 pd
54	Fitsum Gebru & Helen Abebe \$200 pd
55	Haile Gebretsadikan & Rosa Kalayu \$100 pd
56	Alem Desta & Tsega \$200
57	Hailemariam Abagobez & Yodit Desta \$200 pd
58	Hirut Gigar & Semere Dawit \$100
59	Mesob Restaurant \$100
60	COORS \$5,000 pd

Pledgs from DC, September 2, 2007

61	Berhane Hagos \$200 pd
62	Biniam Tsehaye \$200 pd
63	Hailemariam Asefa/Mebrat \$200
64	Birikti Hagos \$200 pd
65	Alem G. Mariam \$200 pd
66	Aster Michael \$100
67	Berhan Hailu/Kassahun H. Mariam \$100 pd
68	T. Mariam/L. Mariam Woldu \$100 pd
69	Almaz Hagos Atsbeha \$200 pd
70	Adanesh Fessahaye \$100 pd
71	Mizan Tsegay/Woldai \$200 pd
72	Yohannes Hagos \$200 pd
73	Teklay Kahssay \$100 pd
74	Mulageta Tedla \$100 pd
75	Eyasu Sebhat \$100
76	Hagos Gebre \$200
77	Haile Sadik \$500
78	Kassahun Hagos \$200 pd After event from other cities
79	Tesfalem Gebremeskel, Dr. \$2,000 pd
80	Elsa Negusse \$100 pd
81	Aster Eyob \$250 pd

Miscellaneous information

Denver and DC chapters have transferred the following to our main account in preparation for this year's project (building teachers' lounges).

Denver: \$25,000

DC: \$15,000

We have sent letters to high schools around Adigrat to send us estimates for the project and we already have received response from some of them.

ON THE WEB

We are moving our website to agazi.org which you can check its construction. With this website, if you are active member, you can get an e-mail account (webmail) with your ID@agazi.org, we will have 200 accounts to give.

Outstanding Student Award 2007 winners from Agazi high school:

Grade 9	Award (Birr)
1 st . Bereket Mesfin	\$200
2 nd . Ermyas G.Medhin	\$150
3 rd . Kiflom Teka	\$100
Grade 10	
1 st . Neguse H.Mariam	\$200
2 nd . Tessema Baraki	\$150
3 rd . Kidus Kebede	\$100
Grade 11	
1 st . Senait Fesseha	\$200
2 nd . Hayesh Desta	\$150
3 rd . Henock Eyob	\$100
Grade 12	
1 st . Wntana Mammo	\$200
2 nd . Dori Woldu	\$150
3 rd . Tsegay G.Medhin	\$100

Outstanding Female from each grade (\$200 Birr each)

Grade 9:	Birey Abera
Grade 10:	Rigaat Derres
Grade 11:	Senait Fesseha
Grade 12:	Yalem Gidey

Other news from Agazi

One other news that we had that is now old news but need to be reported is the generous gift from one of our Alumni in Ethiopia.

Dr Mekonnen Hagos and his family have agreed to build the Teachers' Lounge at Agazi High School. You can see the breaking ground of this gift on a new video that came from Adigrat which happened during the Meskel celebration (see detail at www.agazi.org).

Videos for sale

We have copies of the two volume Seattle video and two volume video from Adigrat . Just give us a call.

The following was fresh report (sent July 11, 2007) that was e-mailed to readers online. I am including it here for those who keep copies of our newsletter for the record. Had I not lost my computer, most of what is below was in the newsletter that was written in August. It is also at www.agazi.org

From: Michael

To: agazi@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 12:53 AM

Subject: 12th Annual meeting of Agazi Alumni in North America, 07-07-07, Seattle, WA

Selam all:

I know many of you are eagerly awaiting to hear how our Seattle event was both in fundraising and enjoyment for those who made it to Seattle. We will have a detailed and more information on the success of the event when it comes to money later. For now, just the highlights.

First let me say **thank you** to those who made it despite the surprisingly high prices for air lines and hotels. We were rewarded for that by our hosts in Seattle.

In the morning the meeting to get reports of activities, accomplishments, audit report, and discuss future projects was held. As usual, we had open discussion on issues concerning ASAA-NA activities and which projects to support and fund. A letter from the Mayor of Adigrat, Ato Sahleselassie Teka regarding the City of Adigrat's decision to open a new high school to reduce the overcrowding of other high schools was read. We will share the contents of the letter to all of you in our newsletter in the future.

As a priority of our own project, it was agreed that we need to support the construction of teacher and student lounge in each high school but start with one or more schools depending on our budget and how much it costs.

After the official meeting, it was the fundraising dinner party. This was planned and executed completely by our hosts in Seattle with the exception of getting the

musicians to the event which was done by the Board of ASAA. One thing we found out in Seattle unlike other cities is, people do respect the time. If you say, 7 PM, you have to show up by 7 pm. They were very organized in every aspect for the event. Each individual assigned to an activity did his/her job and arrived on time. I have been so impressed that I could keep talking about it in more details, but for now, let me just say it great.

They also surprised us by bringing the "Gear Shifter", Miruts Yefer (paid for by the Seattle group, not ASAA-NA). The only words he said were he was honored to be present among friends and family who are working to help our brothers and sisters back home.

Due to the early start, there was plenty of time for music.

On the fundraising part, the women of Seattle prepared Tihlo and Meiss ((there was plenty of both) and auctioned it with four "birle" and "gofla". The auction generated \$1450.

Another auction was for an enlarged and framed picture of "Beles". I do not have the figure for that. The winner was our Alumni ato Hailu who came from Kenya.

A traditional dress could not be auctioned due to time shortage but they immediately decided to sell it through a lottery and it worked. Again, I do not have the figures yet.

On Sunday, we had to be ready for a picnic that was held at a beautiful park. From there, we had to go load ourselves on a Boat Cruise where we had plenty of food and music hosted by two DJs. You would not believe how good the selection was. Then, we went to a community center for more food, I mean Tihlo and more Tej. there was of course plenty of beer and liquor as well.

I know you feel bad for missing this one.

Attendance was very large. We were told it could have even been more crowded had it not been some had to go to a wedding. Despite a plea from the coordinators for the wedding date to be changed since it was not announced until recently while our meeting was announced a year in advance, they decided to hold the wedding anyway. Despite that, we had about 450 people.

On pledges, we raised \$9150. Of this amount, \$4000 was collected at the event. The remaining \$515 is pledge. Together with what Coors donated (\$5000) here in Denver, we are starting the fundraising season with a pledge and cash of \$14,150. Denver is going to hold its annual fundraising event in early August and DC members who did not make it to Seattle will make their donations later by Labor Day.

We sold out our T-shirt (golf shirt). If you need one, let us know so that we can re-order.

We will list donors names as soon as we get the remaining financial information from Seattle.

This year's video should also generate good income based on the beautiful scenery added to it besides the music from Saturday and Sunday nights. Also, even those who did not stand up for dances were video taped on their seats so, you will see the faces of all of our members and supporters.

Next year, by popular vote, we will meet in Washington DC. The date may be July 5 (Saturday) but not decided yet.

Until we send the full report in our newsletter, (with all the exiting news from Seattle, the newsletter should be out as soon as we get the financial data.

Thank you Seattle. We had real fun and a chance to talk to more people than usual.

On my part, I apologize to many of those in Seattle, whom I used to see once in a while when I visit Seattle back in 1996 to 1998 but forgot them or their names and I have to say, and you are

To all those that made this event such an exciting one, we know how tiring it was but the result should compensate for your hard work. It was more than successful (S-squared).

Thanks

Michael

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