

YEP.

Your Ethiopian Professionals

YE EAR 15

THE POWER OF US

15 YEARS OF TURNING VISION INTO IMPACT

ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE

A Publication by Your Ethiopian Professionals Network



Explore YEP

April 25, 2026

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED: ISTANBUL

Connecting more countries than any other.



TURKISH AIRLINES

TÜRKİYE

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

There are moments in life you only understand in hindsight. Moments that seem small at the time, but quietly shape what comes next. A conversation that stays with you. A room that feels different. A sense that something is missing, and the realization that it does not have to be. YEP began as one of those moments. What stayed with us was not just what we experienced, but what we did not see. A deeper connection across industries. A stronger sense of community among Ethiopian professionals. A space where people could show up fully and grow together. That realization did not come with a clear plan. It came with a shared sense of purpose. And from that point forward, everything that followed was built on one idea. That people matter. From the very beginning, YEP has never been about events or programs alone.

It has been about creating spaces where people feel seen, supported, and connected. Spaces where conversations lead to opportunity, and relationships grow into something lasting. We still remember the feeling of those early gatherings. Not because of their size or structure, but because of the energy in the room. People leaning in. Conversations unfolding naturally. A sense that something meaningful was happening, even if we could not yet define it. That feeling became the foundation. Over time, what started as moments began to turn into momentum. And that momentum was carried by people. Volunteers who gave their time after long days. Community members who showed up, again and again.

Individuals who believed in something before it had scale. YEP grew because people chose to invest in each other. That is what makes this milestone meaningful. Not just the number of years. But the depth of connection behind them. We believe in what is possible when people come together with intention. We believe our collective impact is greater than anything any one of us can achieve alone. That belief has shaped every step of this journey. And it will define what comes next. Because this moment is not just about reflection. It is about responsibility. If the first 15 years were about building a community, the next chapter is about building something that lasts. Something stronger. Something more expansive. Something that can serve not only where we are today, but where we are going. We see a YEP that extends beyond one region, with chapters across the country and connections that reach globally.

We see a community strengthened through technology, where members can connect, support one another, and access opportunities from anywhere. We see a physical space, a YEP Center, where ideas are exchanged, mentorship happens in real time, and our community has a place to gather and grow together. This vision is within reach, but it requires all of us. Growth at this level does not happen by chance. It happens when a community decides to invest in itself. If YEP has ever been part of your journey, whether through a conversation, a connection, or an opportunity, then you are already part of what makes this possible. Now we ask you to be part of what comes next.

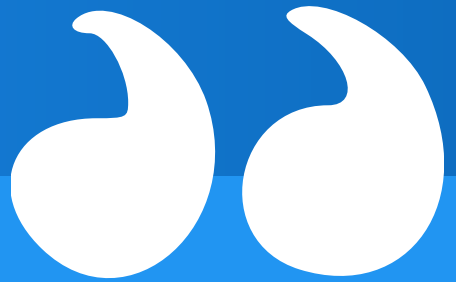
Support it.
Invest in it.
Help build it.

Let us expand this platform together.
Let us deepen our connections across cities and generations.
Let us create something that will continue to serve long after this moment.

With gratitude for everything that has brought us here and belief in what we can build together.

Mesfin, Shimelse and Lulit





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you know me personally, you're likely already familiar with YEP. It changed my life. My nonprofit, Birara Genet in Addis Ababa, would not have reached this scale without YEP. I wouldn't have achieved the professional success I currently enjoy at Lockton had it not been for the opportunities YEP provided to hone my skill set in critical areas. When I speak about YEP, I speak with deep passion, because I'm often trying to bridge a gap. YEP has always shown up.

Consistently, quietly, and without expectation. But so much of what it has built lives in moments that were never fully captured, stories that were never formally documented, impact that was deeply felt but not always widely recognized. There are connections that changed the course of someone's life, opportunities that came at exactly the right time, and communities that formed in ways that can't be easily measured. And yet, many of these stories sit at the risk of being forgotten, simply because YEP has spent far more time doing the work than telling the story of it.

YEP has done more than what meets the eye. It has filled gaps that no one else was filling. It has been a first step, a second chance, a turning point. But when that impact isn't consistently reflected back by the very community it serves, it creates a disconnect between what YEP has given and what is collectively remembered.

Many speakers and attendees have told us how polished YEP looks from the outside. We take that as a compliment but it also concerns us. We make magic with very little. Our financial reality does not reflect our decade of impact. That's why we're pushing hard on our fundraising goals.

As you flip through this magazine, I ask you to fully absorb the content. Look at the screenshots of emails from individuals whose lives were changed. Pay attention to the voices, whether in video, in person, or in these pages, that YEP helped. And take a moment to sit with what isn't immediately visible, the countless stories that were never documented, the quiet moments of support, the introductions that turned into opportunities, the guidance that shifted someone's path.

The impact you see here is only a fraction of what exists. Let it challenge you to think about how much has happened because this platform existed, and how much more is possible if it continues to. YEP has shown up for so many. Now is the time to show up for YEP.

The next 15 years depend on you. What will you choose to be part of?

Sinafik



OUR JOURNEY FROM 2010 TO TODAY

2010

2026

THE STORIES THAT BUILT THIS PLATFORM

There was no blueprint. No funding. No large audience waiting. Just a simple but urgent realization: Ethiopian professionals in the DC metropolitan area were navigating their careers without a true sense of community. Before YEP was an organization, it was a question. Why doesn't something like this exist for us?



Your Ethiopian Professionals (YEP) began with Mesfin Getaneh, Shimelse Mekonnen and Lulit Tesfaye, who, like many others, were navigating their careers while attending conferences, networking events, and professional gatherings across industries.

Rooms filled with energy.
Opportunities exchanged in conversation.
Connections that opened doors.

There was no shortage of access in those spaces. But there was a clear gap. What they didn't see was a platform that brought Ethiopian professionals together across industries. There was no place that reflected the full spectrum of the Ethiopian professional identity.

No space to exchange ideas across industries.
No platform to learn from one another at scale.
No ecosystem built around both professional growth and community impact.

A big part of what drove that realization was something even more practical. Many new immigrants were defaulting into the careers of whoever they lived with. If your host worked in transportation, that often became your path. Not necessarily because it was the right fit, but because it was the only visible option. There was no networking platform. No active social media presence. No real way to exchange knowledge across the Ethiopian professional community. Even established professionals, those already thriving in their fields, didn't have a structured way to find or connect with each other.

The gap wasn't just about community. It was about access.

Access to information.
Access to opportunity.
Access to people who could expand what you thought was possible.

YEP was born out of that gap. A deliberate effort to create a space where exposure was not limited to proximity, where career paths weren't dictated by circumstance, and where the Ethiopian professional identity could be seen in its full range.

It wasn't just about bringing people into the same room. It was about expanding what that room made possible.

They saw firsthand what was possible when people came together with intention.

And they also experienced what happened when that intention wasn't there.

At one point, they came across an existing Ethiopian meetup online and decided to check it out at Busboys and Poets. It felt like a step in the right direction, a sign that maybe something was already forming. But when they arrived, no one else showed up.

Just the two of them.

What could have been a dead end became something else entirely. In that quiet moment, sitting across from each other in an otherwise empty meetup, they had the conversation that would ultimately shape everything. If the platform they were looking for didn't exist, then they would build it themselves.

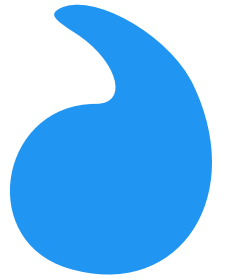
It was a simple realization, but a defining one.

Because from that point forward, it was no longer about finding community. It was about creating it, intentionally, and making sure no one else would walk into a room expecting connection and find it empty.

FROM IDEA TO FOUNDATION

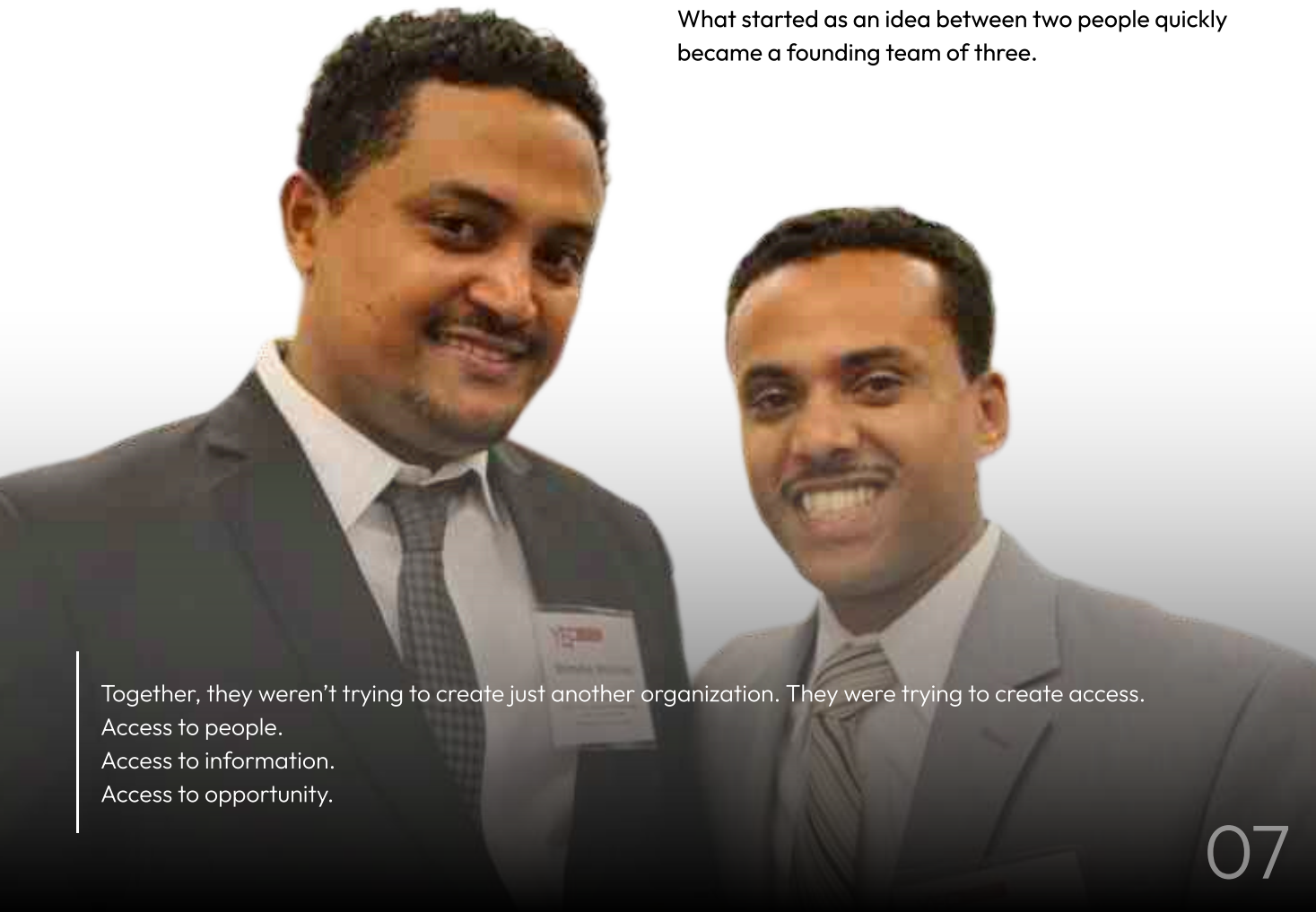


In November 2010, Mesfin and Shimelse made a decision to build what didn't yet exist.
Not with funding.
Not with infrastructure.
But with clarity of purpose.



At the time, both were new to DC, navigating unfamiliar spaces and trying to find their footing. Mesfin had just moved from New Orleans after completing his engineering degree, and Shimelse had recently arrived from Europe after finishing his studies in economics. As they attended networking events across the city, they kept running into each other. And they kept noticing the same thing. They were often the only Ethiopians in the room. What started as a shared observation quickly turned into something deeper. It wasn't just about representation. It was about access, visibility, and the absence of a space where Ethiopian professionals could show up fully, connect meaningfully, and grow together. That recognition is where the idea began to take shape.

They didn't wait for the perfect moment or a formal structure. They started with what they had. A network of peers, a belief that there were others looking for the same sense of community, and a willingness to bring people together. The first official step happened at Sankofa Video Books & Café. Four people sat down together. Mesfin, Shimelse, and two friends, one from each of their circles. That meeting became the foundation. It's where the first agenda came together. It's where the name YEP, Young Ethiopian Professionals, was created. What began as a simple effort to create connection would go on to become a platform that has impacted thousands. Shortly after those early efforts began, Lulit joined them, bringing critical experience in grassroots organizational development and helping shape the structure behind the vision. What started as an idea between two people quickly became a founding team of three.



Together, they weren't trying to create just another organization. They were trying to create access.
Access to people.
Access to information.
Access to opportunity.

THE FIRST STEP FORWARD

In November 2010, that vision took its first real step. A small group came together. There was no guarantee of what it would become. No clear roadmap. Just a shared belief that something meaningful could be built. That first meeting, captured in a simple agenda, wasn't just about planning an event.

It was about defining a purpose.

A platform where Ethiopian professionals could connect across industries.

A space where experiences could be shared openly.

A community where people could see themselves reflected in one another's journeys.

At the time, YEP stood for Young Ethiopian Professionals. The focus was clear: create meaningful networking opportunities in a space where many felt disconnected professionally and culturally.

But what began as a small, localized effort quickly revealed something bigger.

People didn't just want networking.

They wanted community.

They wanted access.

They wanted a sense of belonging.

YEP First Meeting Agenda Nov 2010

General Description

- a group of young Ethiopian professionals in the DC area who have an interest in Ethiopia...

Purpose

- encourage professional and social networking between young Ethiopian professionals living in the DMV area

Objectives

- short-term
 - facilitate discussion exchange and dissemination of ideas
 - cultivate relationships through dialogue and idea solicitation from members
 - develop personal relationships within the professional community
 - exchanging life experiences and success stories
 - facilitate an environment where people can discuss job and business opportunities (career development and business opportunities)
 - learning excursions and trips and summer trips
 - post job opportunities
- medium-term
- long-term
 - intellectual support and mentoring to young people
 - learn about other cultures (i.e. Nigerian independence celebration in NYC, embassy events)
 - develop website for Ethiopian professionals (2-3 years)

Marketing Plan

Name

- YEPN- Young Ethiopian Professionals Network
- EPN- Ethiopian Professional Network
- YEP- Young Ethiopian Professionals

Promotions

- Online
 - Craigslist groups
 - Facebook groups
 - Twitter
 - Meet-up
 - Yahoo group lists
- Word of mouth
 - Invite who you know

Next Steps

- website
- set up meetup group and see who else signs up (Mesfin)
 - put up description (short and/or long)
- organize a meeting next month
- visit other meetup groups to get ideas (i.e. African meetup)

FROM A ROOM TO A MOVEMENT

Over time, YEP evolved from a single gathering into a growing platform. What began as one room, one conversation, and one intentional moment of connection slowly started to take shape into something more consistent and recognizable. In the early days, many of the events were informal and unstructured, built around a simple goal: bring people together and see what happens. And something always did.

People stayed longer.
Conversations carried beyond the room.
Connections started to repeat.

That momentum created a natural shift. What began as unstructured gatherings evolved into more intentional experiences. YEP introduced guest speaker sessions, bringing in seasoned professionals to share their journeys, lessons, and perspectives. These weren't just talks. They were windows into what was possible.

Over time, those sessions became more refined.
More curated.
More purposeful.

Events turned into programs.
Conversations turned into collaborations.
Introductions turned into jobs, partnerships, friendships, and in many cases, life-changing moments.

What was once occasional became consistent.
What was once informal became structured.
What was once small began to scale.



FROM A ROOM TO A MOVEMENT

As the community grew, so did the vision. YEP expanded beyond age, beyond industry, beyond geography. What was once Young Ethiopian Professionals became Your Ethiopian Professionals, a deliberate and important shift. It reflected something deeper: this platform was never meant to be exclusive to a specific stage of life.

It was meant to be inclusive of a community.

This platform belongs to you.

Whether you were just starting your career, navigating a transition, building something of your own, or leading in your field, YEP became a space where you could plug in, contribute, and grow. Today, YEP has grown into a vibrant network of thousands of members across industries—tech, healthcare, business, public service, and the creative arts.

But what makes that growth meaningful is how it was built.

Entirely volunteer-driven.

Powered by people who believed in the mission before there was scale.

Sustained by a community that continues to show up for each other.



BUILDING SOMETHING THAT LASTS

Fifteen years later, it's easy to look at YEP and see the scale.

THE EVENTS. THE SPEAKERS. THE PARTNERSHIPS. THE COMMUNITY.

But what matters more is what's underneath all of it. Every single milestone was built on consistency, sacrifice, and belief.

Late nights planning events after full-time jobs.

Volunteers showing up again and again with no expectation of recognition.

A community choosing to invest in each other.

YEP was never handed momentum. It was built, step by step, by people who believed in what it could become before it fully existed.



YEP IMPACT



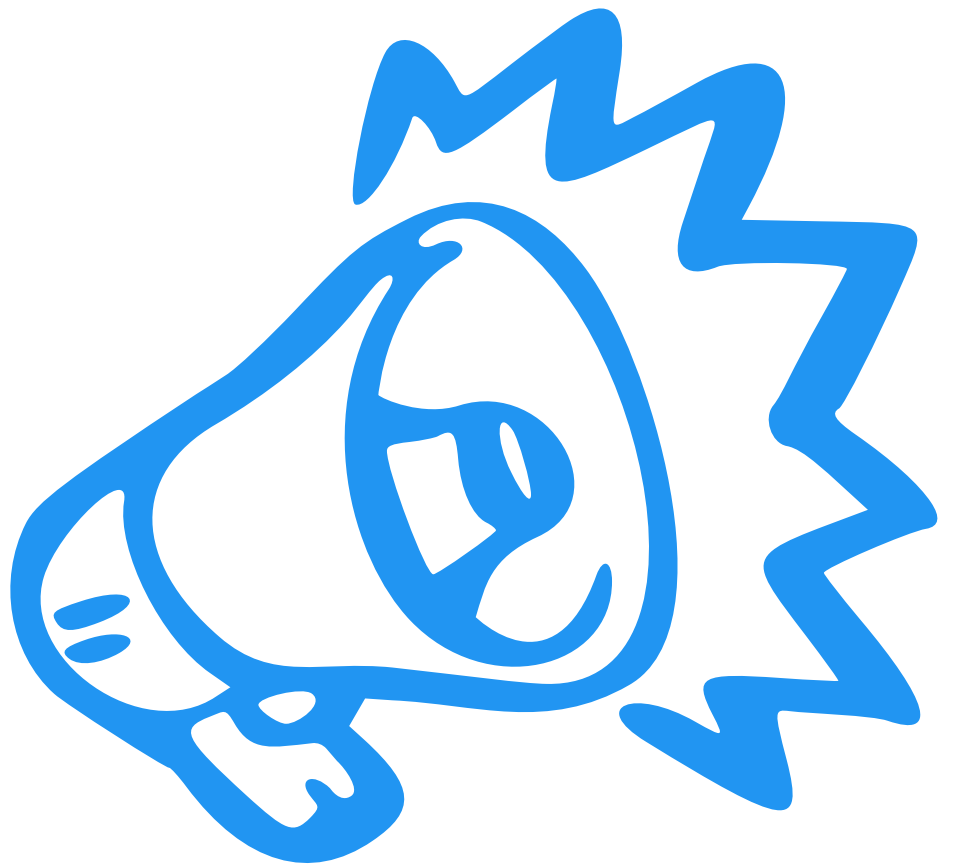
For 15 years, YEP has been more than a network. It has been a starting point, a connector, and in many cases, a turning point. What began as a single gathering has grown into a platform that has consistently created access, opportunity, and community across the Ethiopian diaspora.

By the Numbers

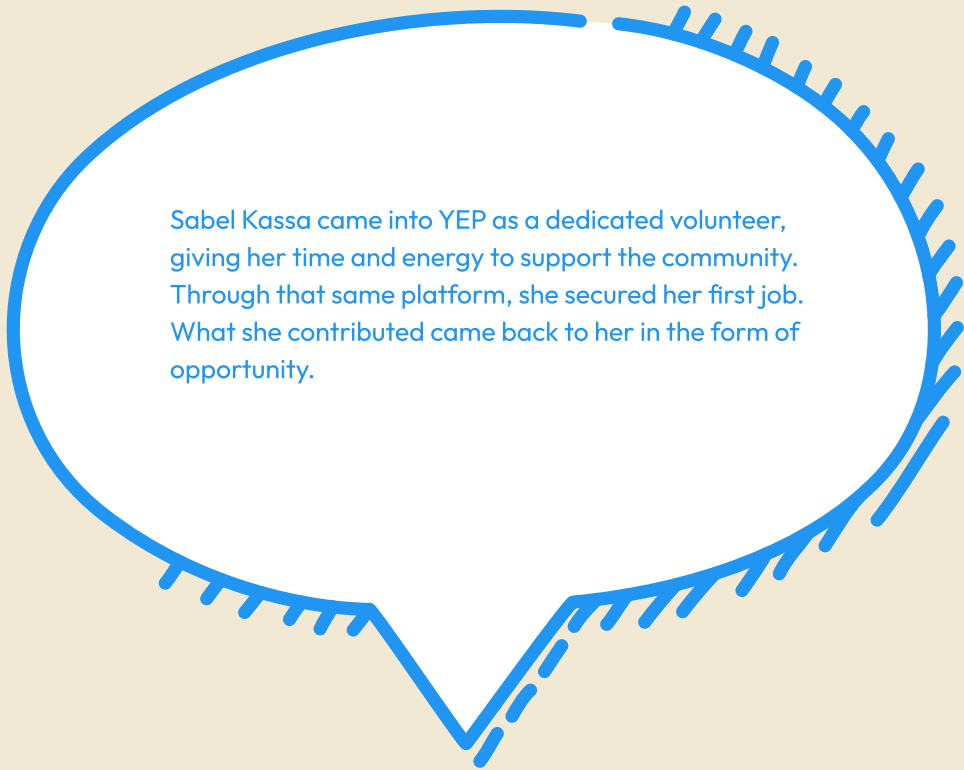
- 15 years of sustained community impact
- 150+ events hosted across professional, social, and community spaces
- 100+ speakers sharing expertise across industries
- Thousands of professionals engaged across the diaspora
- Multiple flagship programs supporting career development, entrepreneurship, and community building
- A fully volunteer-led organization powered by individuals who work tirelessly to provide resources and connections

Behind these numbers is something harder to quantify:

- Thousands of volunteer hours.
- Countless introductions.
- Moments that changed trajectories.




**THE
STORIES
BEHIND
THE
NUMBERS**



Sabel Kassa came into YEP as a dedicated volunteer, giving her time and energy to support the community. Through that same platform, she secured her first job. What she contributed came back to her in the form of opportunity.

Good News! YEP x YEP/History of YEP x ✕ 🖨 🔗

 **Sabel Kassa** Fri, Sep 21, 2012, 12:32 PM ☆ 😊 ↩ ⋮

to me, Anna, Dee, Henok, Henok, Hiwi, Maraki, Mawit, Semere, Tadu, Tigest, Shimelse, Lulit ▾

Hey Team,

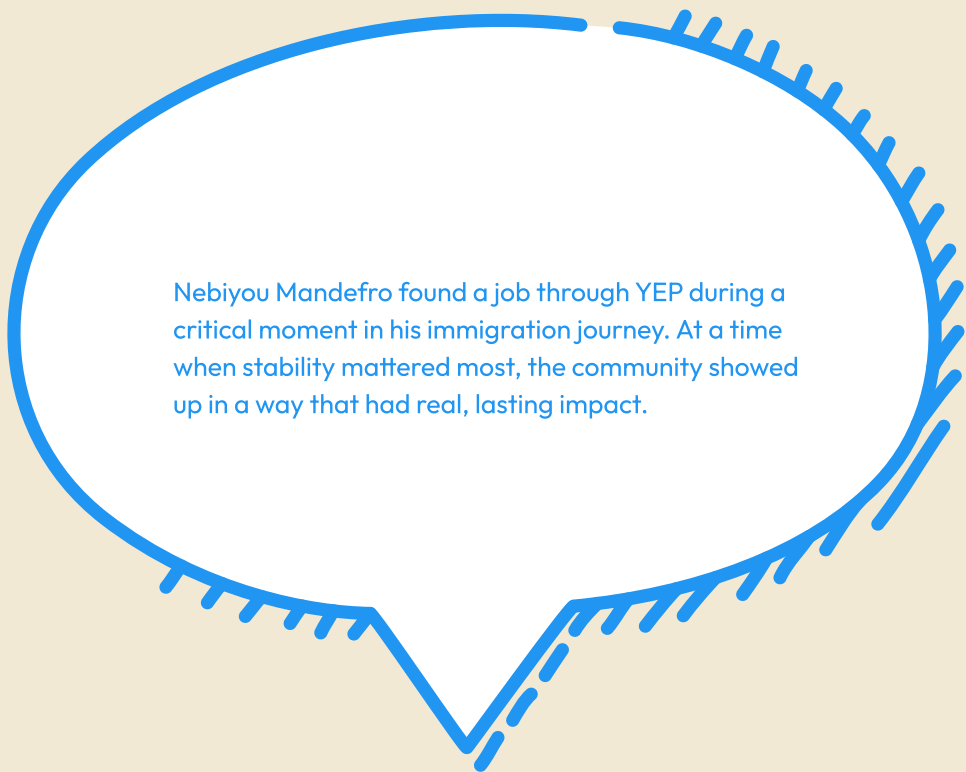
I got good news. I got an offer from Micromanos for business development manager position. I talked to Abebe- one of the panelist from Micromanos, and gave him my resume after the pannel discussion.

it is
is a great opportunity and good spring board. And I am very happy and thankful for all you guys & girls who had shared your experience; gave your advice; gave encouragement; gave comments on my resume and created a platform to meet Micromanos.

I am a true believer of the impact of Young Ethiopian Professionals ! lol
it's not even a week since we had our event and look at what it does!

I am looking forward for our next meeting.

Sabel



Nebiyou Mandefro to me ▾ Tue, Jan 28, 2014, 5:24 PM ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Dear Mesfin,

I hope you are doing well. I am not sure if you remember me but I am the same person who was in a situation where I was looking for a job despite my visa being about to expire. I am deeply relieved to say that owing to your great help and connections, I now have signed a contract with GlaxoSmithKline, the company in Rockville, MD where Semere currently works. I am really happy about the position and Semere had been and still is a great help throughout the process. He gave his supervisor my resume, and his supervisor invited me for an interview a couple of weeks ago. I passed the interview and I am due to start my first ever job the Monday of next week. I am grateful to the both of you and i look forward to meeting you in person sometime in the near future.

Best of Regards,
Nebiyou
...

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

Mesfin Getaneh to Nebiyou ▾ Tue, Jan 28, 2014, 5:32 PM ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Hi Nebiyou,

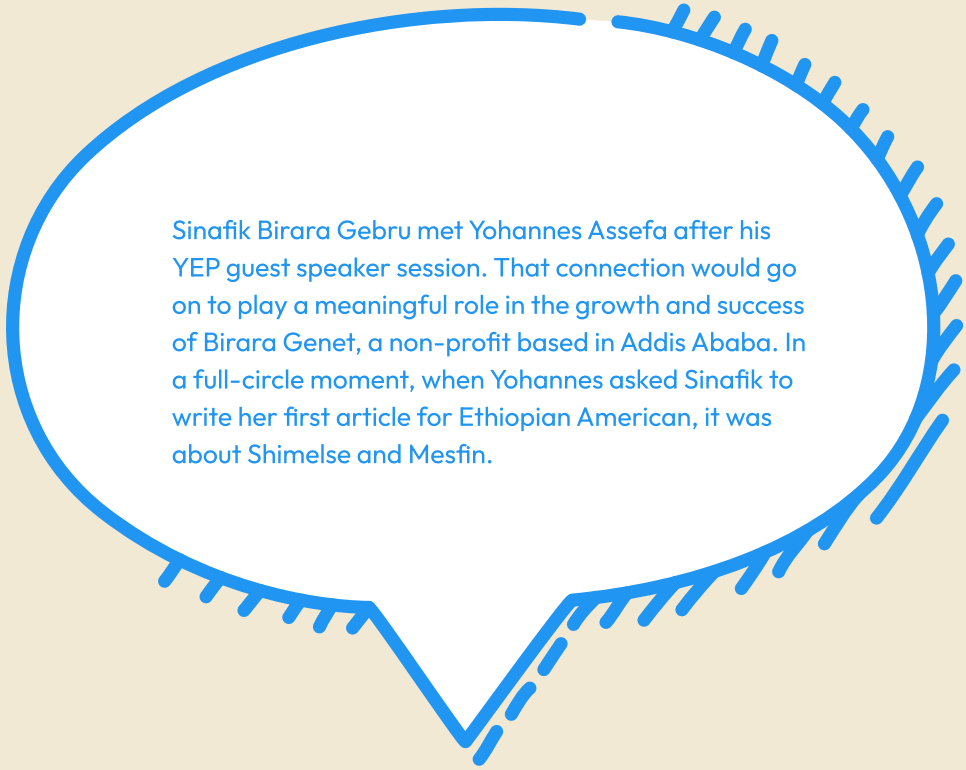
I'm beyond excited for the great news. You just made my day. This is exactly why YEP was created to make connection and make a difference in each other's life. Semere is a great guy and always helpful. I'm glad everything worked out and looking forward to meet you in person soon as well. Is it okay to share this great news with my YEP team members? These are the news that keeps going.

Wish you the best at your new job,

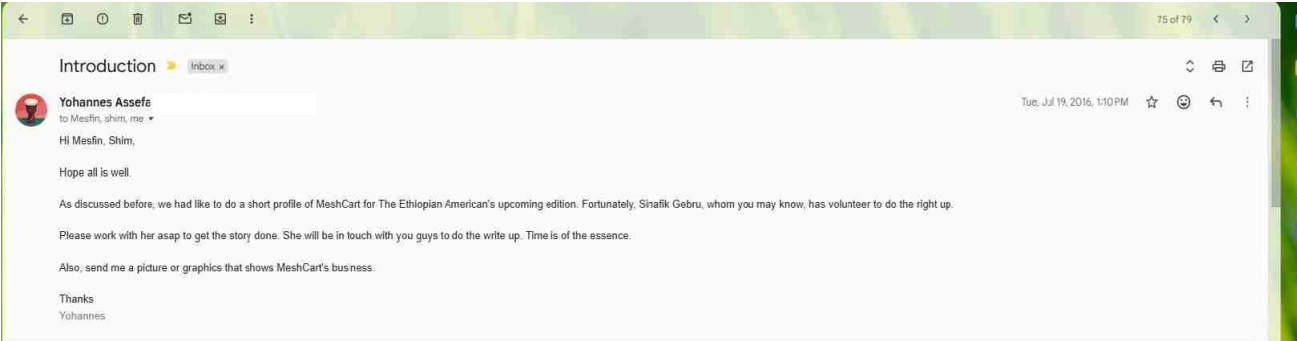
Mesfin Getaneh


Yony Kifle and Dee Harris of Your DMV Team Realty met at a YEP Happy Hour. What started as a casual introduction turned into a professional partnership, and today, they are still building together.





Sinafik Birara Gebru met Yohannes Assefa after his YEP guest speaker session. That connection would go on to play a meaningful role in the growth and success of Birara Genet, a non-profit based in Addis Ababa. In a full-circle moment, when Yohannes asked Sinafik to write her first article for Ethiopian American, it was about Shimelse and Mesfin.





Almaz Abedje found mentorship through YEP in Dr. Menna Demessie. It was through YEP's structured three-month mentorship program that this relationship was formed, creating space not just for connection, but for intentional guidance, growth, and long-term impact.

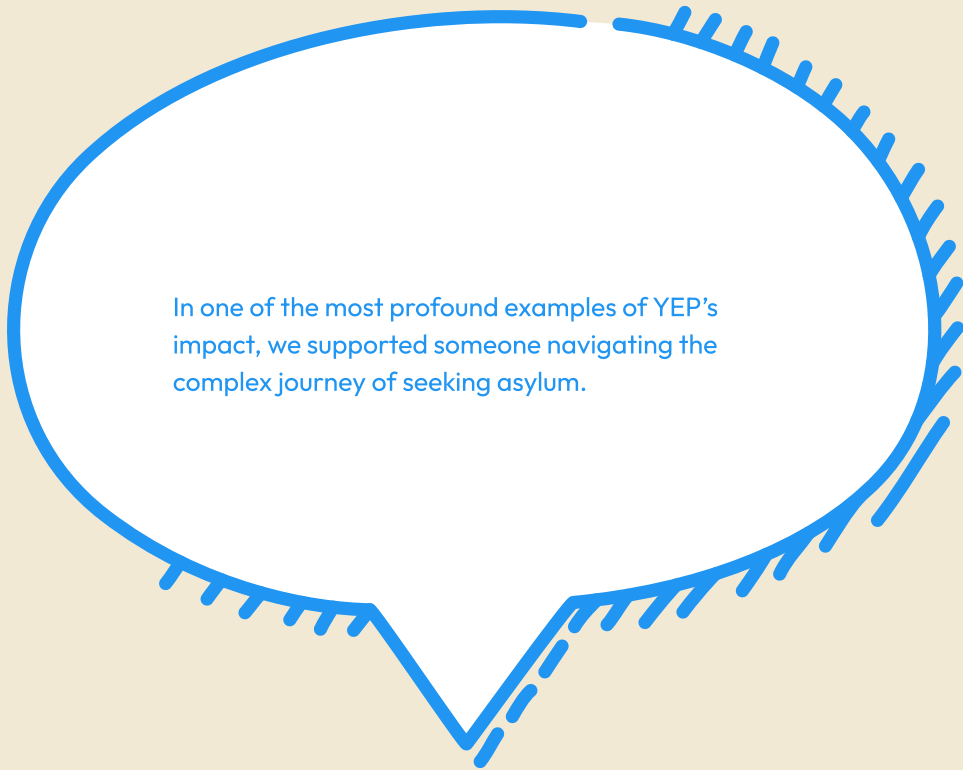
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

THIS IS AWARDED TO

ALMAZ ABEDJE

in recognition of completing YEP's 2019-2020 student mentorship program.

YEP
Your Ethiopian Professionals

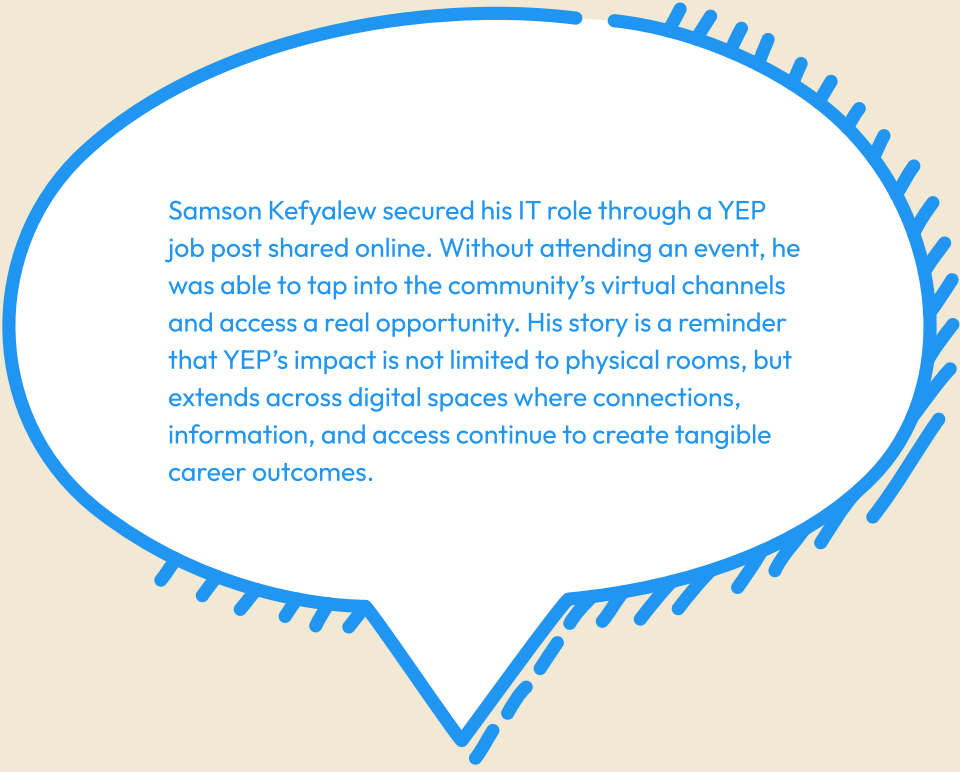


In one of the most profound examples of YEP's impact, we supported someone navigating the complex journey of seeking asylum.

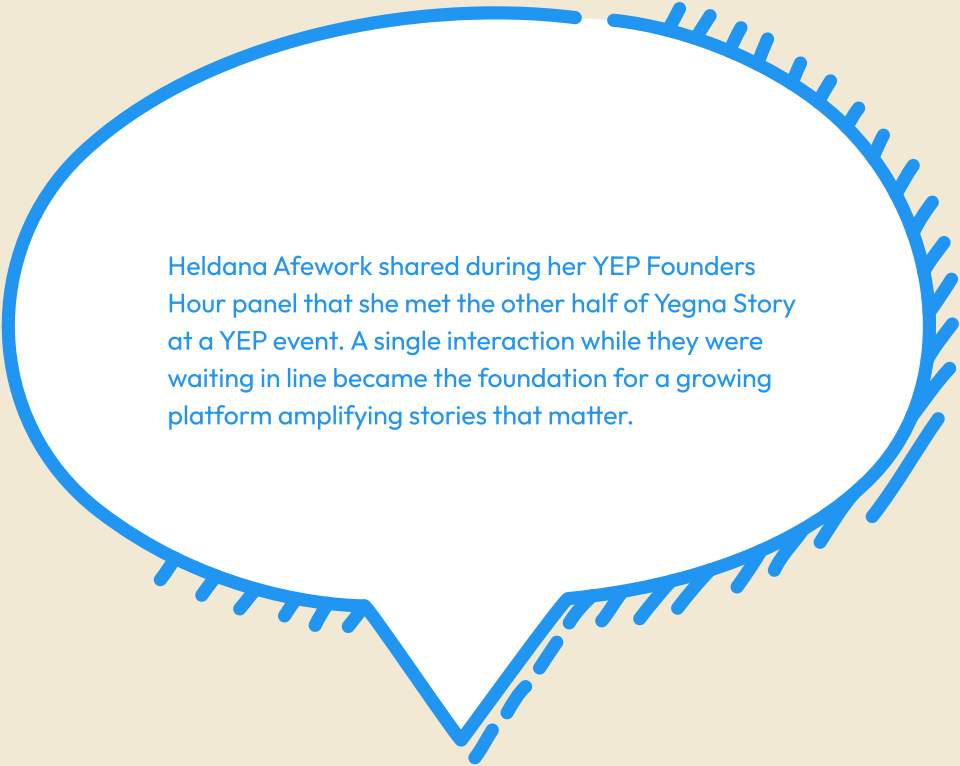
I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the support letter from YEP. I applied for my green card application this Monday, and surprisingly, it was approved in just 4 days. Everyone who supported me in the process added value to this success.

My lawyer also said this is his first to hearing this kind of fast response. I am super happy and super grateful.

Thank you for your kind and supportive self, and Thank you for YEP for making me do what I love and supporting me in the process as well.



Samson Kefyalew secured his IT role through a YEP job post shared online. Without attending an event, he was able to tap into the community's virtual channels and access a real opportunity. His story is a reminder that YEP's impact is not limited to physical rooms, but extends across digital spaces where connections, information, and access continue to create tangible career outcomes.



Heldana Afework shared during her YEP Founders Hour panel that she met the other half of Yegna Story at a YEP event. A single interaction while they were waiting in line became the foundation for a growing platform amplifying stories that matter.



During the pandemic, when many faced sudden loss of income and stability, YEP mobilized to provide direct financial support to families in need. It was a reminder that beyond professional growth, this community takes care of its own.

Over time, these connections have grown into something deeper. Many YEP alumni and former team members have built what they call a Mahiber, a consistent gathering rooted in trust, shared values, and showing up for one another. They meet regularly, celebrate life's milestones together, and stand beside each other during difficult moments, offering support when it matters most. It reflects what YEP has always been at its core, a community that extends beyond events and continues to show up in real life.

These are not isolated moments. They are a reflection of what happens when people are in the right room, at the right time, with the right intention.

**Introductions turn into jobs.
Conversations turn into companies.
Moments turn into momentum.
That is the impact of YEP.**



YEP EVENTS

**YEP EVENTS ARE
KNOWN FOR THEIR
ABILITY TO CREATE AN
INTIMATE
ATMOSPHERE, EVEN IN
A LARGE ROOM**

Each gathering is carefully curated to foster meaningful dialogue and lasting connections, ensuring every attendee feels engaged and valued.



YEP GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

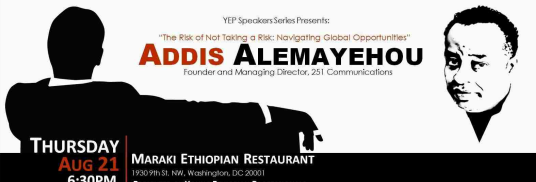
Since YEP's inception, we have welcomed industry leaders and subject matter experts, whether in-person or virtually, to share insights on pressing topics. These talks, ranging from emerging industry trends to real-world challenges, spark conversations that continue far beyond the event itself.

At the same time, this platform has never been reserved only for the most visible voices. YEP has been intentional about giving flowers to individuals who are making a meaningful impact, often quietly and without recognition. Through the Guest Speaker Series, we've created space not only to learn from established leaders, but to elevate and showcase members of our own community - those building, leading, and contributing in ways that deserve to be seen. In doing so, YEP has helped shift the narrative from who is already known to who should be known.

YEP Speakers Series Presents:
 "The Risk of Not Taking a Risk: Navigating Global Opportunities"
ADDIS ALEMAYEHOU
 Founder and Managing Director, 251 Communications

**THURSDAY
 AUG 21
 6:30PM**

MARAKI ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT
 1935 9th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001
 PRESENTED BY YOUNG ETHIOPIAN PROFESSIONALS




YEP GUEST SPEAKERS SERIES
 "Change Agent: Cultivating Social Impact Through Media"
 Featuring
Bofa Yimam
 2013 Emmy Award Winning
 Journalist
 General, Editor-in-Chief for International Group
 Channel 5000
 1770 Massachusetts Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20006
 March 22, 2013 @6:00PM
 www.yepnetworks.org




YEP GUEST SPEAKERS SERIES
 "A Conversation on International Business and Entrepreneurship"
 Presenting
YOHANNES ASSEFA
 Director of Foreign Management Consulting, PL and
 Chief, Director of Change Management Services/Team

THU. MARCH 24 @6 PM
 RENAISSANCE WASHINGTON HOTEL
 899 9th St NW
 Washington, DC 20001



Young Ethiopian Professionals (YEP)
 Presents:
 "Career Opportunities and Resources in Diplomacy and Development"
THOMAS DEBASS
 Economist and Deputy Special Representative for Global
 Partnerships at US Department of State

THURSDAY APRIL 30 2015 | @6 PM
 EMBASSY ROW
 2100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
 www.yepnetworks.org




DISTINGUISHED PAST SPEAKERS



Marcus Samuelsson
 Chef, Restaurateur, Author,
 Activist



Yohannes Abraham, MBA
 Distinguished Policy Fellow,
 Former U.S. Ambassador to
 ASEAN



Mimi Alemayehou, MA
 Founder & Managing Partner at
 Semai Ventures, LLC



Thomas Debass, MS
 Director of the Global
 Partnerships Unit at the U.S.
 Department of State



Amir Aman, MD
 [[Country Operation Lead &
 Former Health Minister of
 Ethiopia]]



Menna Demessie, PhD
 [[APSA Congressional Fellow at
 Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)]]



Senait Fisseha, MD, JD
 Vice President, Global Programs
 Professor of Obstetrics &
 Gynecology



Solomon Bililign, PhD
 Professor of Physics and Applied
 Sciences and Technology



Issac Kinde, MD, PhD
 VP Technology Assessment, Co-
 Founder and former Head of
 Research & Innovation at Thrive



Tesfaye Telila, MD
 Interventional Cardiologist, Co-
 founder and Executive Director at
 Heart Attack Ethiopia



Heman Bekele
 Scientist & TIME Kid of the Year



Noah Samara
 CEO of Worldspace and
 Founder of Satellite Radio



Helen Mesfin, CMP
 Media Producer & Host, Founder
 ECW & Empower Addis



Mehret Mandefro, MD, MSc
 Emmy-nominated Producer, Writer,
 & Educator, TED Speaker



Mawi Asgedom, MBA
 Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur



Dr. Lekidelu Tadesse
 [[]]



Dan Gebremedhin, MD, MBA
 Healthcare Software / Services
 Venture Capital Investor



Eleni Gabre-Madhin, PhD
 Economist and Global Thought
 Leader

WOMEN'S POWER HOUR

Conceptualized by Aster Mengesha Gubay, Women's Power Hour is YEP's formal celebration of women's achievements in the diaspora. Over the years, we've spotlighted women excelling in diverse fields, from content creation and media to the medical field, health and wellness, and creative industries. This event creates a space where women can connect deeply, share their journeys, and reflect on purpose and growth, bringing both inspiration and actionable wisdom.



Influential Women of the Diaspora



Laly Kassa
Managing Director,
Chevy Chase Trust Investment
Advisors

Dr. Doe Kumsa
Scientific Program
Manager

Yodit Gebreyes Endale
Owner and Event
Principal,
Favored by Yodit Events
and Design

Hannah Giorgis
Staff Writer,
The Atlantic

MARCH 28, 2019 • 6:00 PM • MARRIOTT METRO CENTER WASHINGTON, DC

YEP
Your Everyday Professional

WOMEN'S POWER HOUR

LIGHTS. CAMERA. CONTENT

MODERATOR:
ASTER MENGESHA GUBAY

JOIN US FOR
A real conversation

Building Your Brand
Owning Your Voice
Creating Content

Panelists:
 AYDA BIRU @BALEM01A
 ASKALE DAVIS @ASKALEDAVIS
 WINTANA ALEM @WINTANA

Tuesday, March 31st
 DIVINO Ristorante Enoteca
 Rock Creek Ballroom
 2505 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC
 6PM-9PM

Sponsored by: Kesh | Lays | Signature | Balloon Vibes and Decor



FOUNDERS HOUR

Founders Hour is a curated panel where we dive into the journeys of founders across industries - tech, beauty, hospitality, retail, and creative ventures. Each session unpacks the triumphs and challenges of building something from the ground up. Participants leave with a deeper understanding of the founder's mindset, from startup spark to sustained impact.



YEP CON: FUTURE SIGHT

YEP Con, our flagship event, is designed to lead critical conversations about the evolving workforce. Titled “Future Sight,” it brings together thought leaders, innovators, and professionals at the forefront of change to unpack the trends, opportunities, and challenges shaping what comes next.

A key focus of the conference is the role of artificial intelligence and its growing impact across industries. From how AI is transforming the way we work, to what it means for job creation, skill-building, and leadership, the conference creates space for honest, forward-looking dialogue that is both practical and thought-provoking. The 2026 edition, our third, will be held on Saturday, August 15, continuing to challenge and inspire attendees to not just adapt to the future, but actively shape it.



THE YEP ANNIVERSARY GALA

Our annual YEP Gala is more than a black-tie event, it's a celebration of impact, a gathering of leaders, professionals, and community members. Whether seasoned or rising, attendees join to reflect on the year's journey, celebrate milestones, and deepen the bonds that propel us forward. It's an evening that not only honors who we are but also amplifies the collective vision for what's next.



YEP PROGRAMS

BEYOND OUR EVENTS, YEP IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO CREATING LASTING RESOURCES THAT EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY TO GROW BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

These programs are designed to be accessible, impactful, and tailored to meet the evolving needs of our members.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Career development is at the heart of YEP, acting as a partner throughout your professional journey.

Whether you're job hunting, aiming to pivot careers, or stepping into leadership roles, we provide end-to-end support. Our YEP Elevate newsletter sources job opportunities from our network, delivered monthly to our subscribers. We also host monthly office hours with a dedicated recruiter and organize virtual sessions to break down industry trends and market dynamics. These resources are complemented by in-person events, keeping members attuned to real-world opportunities.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Our mentorship program remains one of YEP's most impactful initiatives. It fosters collaborative relationships between mentors and mentees, resulting in some of the most powerful testimonials from lifelong connections. The program offers a structured framework, from initial matching to goal-setting, ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes. We provide templates, virtual platforms when needed, and a careful onboarding process to ensure the perfect mentor-mentee alignment.



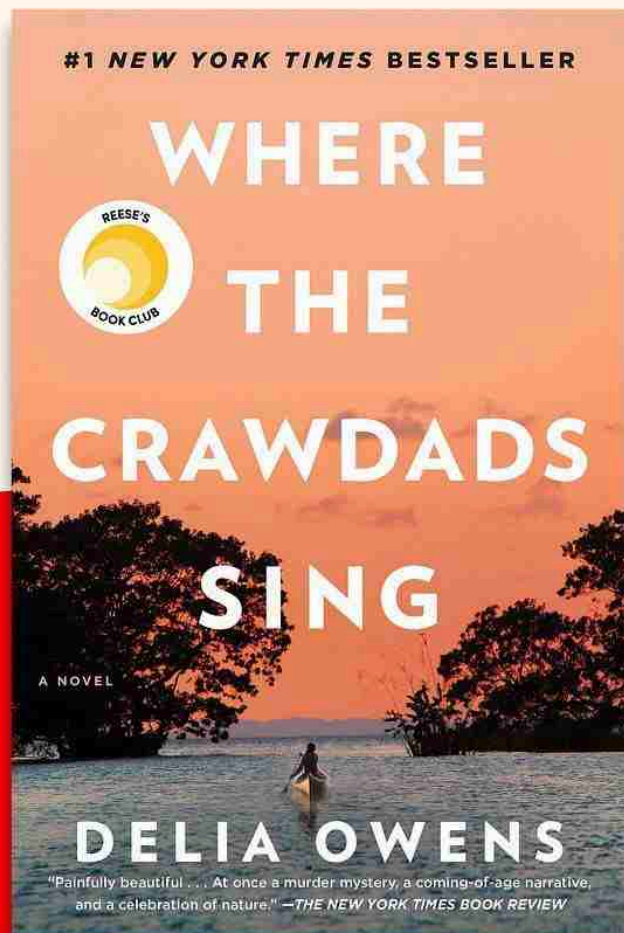
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

While professional growth is a key focus, YEP recognizes that true progress is holistic. Personal development has always been an underlying thread across our work, creating space for individuals to reflect, grow, and navigate life with intention. Through curated conversations, workshops, and community-driven dialogue, we explore topics that extend beyond careers, including identity, purpose, leadership, relationships, and resilience. These moments allow members to connect on a deeper level, fostering not only professional advancement but personal clarity and confidence. By investing in the whole individual, YEP helps ensure that growth is not only external, but internal and sustained.



August Book Club Selection

JOIN OUR VIRTUAL DISCUSSION ON WEDNESDAY, AUG 17TH @7PM EST




DIASPORA AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

YEP's Diaspora and Community Engagement Program is rooted in the belief that professional growth does not happen in isolation, it is deeply connected to community, identity, and access to the right information at the right time. This program is designed to ensure that our community feels informed, supported, and empowered to navigate both personal and professional realities as members of the diaspora.


Through this initiative, YEP creates space for timely, relevant conversations that address real-life challenges and opportunities facing our community.


A key example is our Know Your Rights series, which provides critical information on topics such as immigration, workplace rights, and navigating complex systems in the U.S. These sessions are designed to be practical, accessible, and immediately useful. Beyond informational sessions, this program serves as a bridge, connecting individuals to resources, to each other, and to a broader sense of belonging. Whether through panels, workshops, or community-centered discussions, the goal is to ensure that our members are not only advancing in their careers, but also grounded, informed, and supported as they do so.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS SEMINAR

*Speaker: Ethiopian-American Bar
Association Board Member*

 **SUNDAY FEB 20, 2022 | 4 PM EST**
ZOOM VIRTUAL EVENT:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81150256300](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81150256300)



SATURDAY
07 DEC
2024

CELEBRATING
14 YEARS OF IMPACT

BUILDING
BRIDGES
INSPIRING



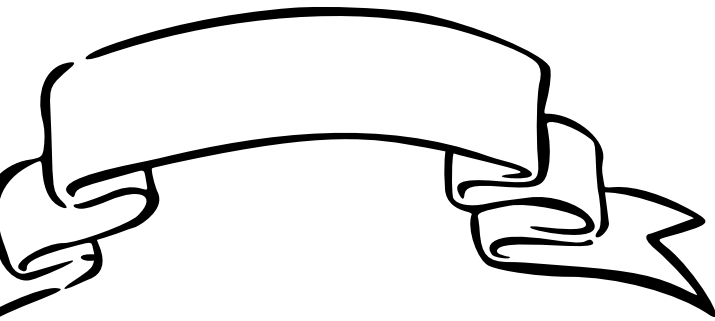
THE YEP TEAM

CELEBRATING EVERY HAND THAT BUILT YEP

The YEP team is the heart of the organization. Entirely volunteer-driven, it is made up of individuals who have given their time, energy, and talent over the years to build and sustain what YEP is today. Behind every event, program, and moment of impact is a group of people who chose to show up, not because they had to, but because they believed in the mission.

What makes YEP special is that contribution does not end when a role or initiative does. Once someone supports YEP in any capacity, they become part of the YEP family, permanently connected to a community that continues to grow with them. That sense of belonging carries forward, showing up in the way alumni return as speakers, mentors, partners, and advocates for the next generation.

At the same time, this is not a team built on passion alone. YEP is powered by professionals who are accomplished in their respective fields—bringing real expertise, perspective, and credibility into everything they do. It is this combination of heart and excellence that allows YEP to consistently deliver meaningful experiences and lasting impact.



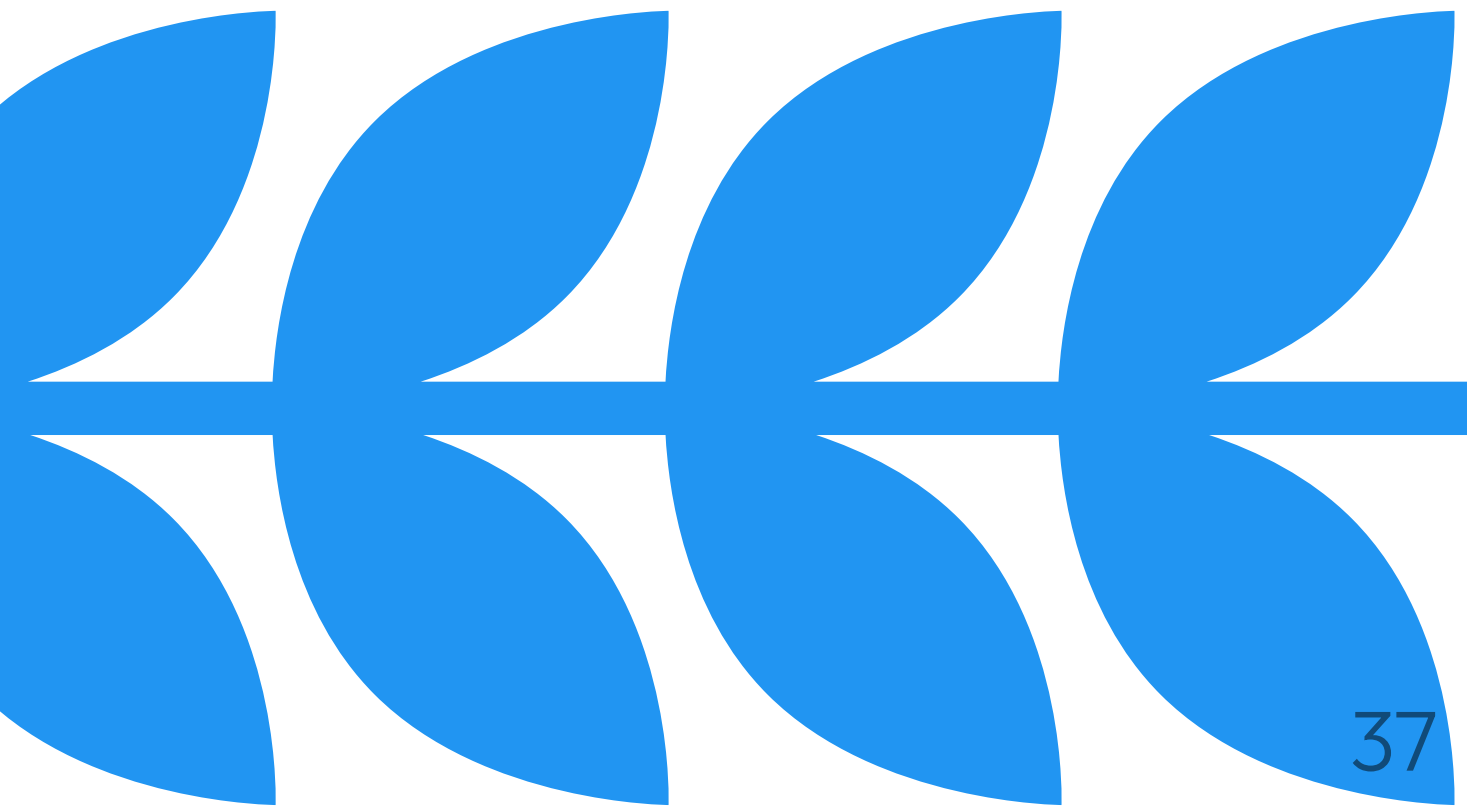
Abel Tadesse
Aden Abiye
Adey Chekol
Amanuel Zegeye
Anaf Wako
Anna Ayni Argaw
Anteneh Debebe
Anteneh T Yalew
Asnake Gelaw
Aster Mengesha Gubay
Ayalew Taye
Ayda Mohammed
Bakal D
Bethel Dawit
Bemnet Yemesgen
Bersabeh Berhanu
Betelhem A
Beth Siyoum
Bethel Alemu
Bethel Deresu
Bethlehem Agize
Bethlehem Demissie
Betty Almaw
Betty Wudaasie
Beza Abebe
Beza Ayele
Beza Worku
Bezawit Berhaneselassie
Biniam Berhe
Birhanu Abate
Biruk Fare
Bisrat Gebremeskel
Dagmawe Berhane
Deborah Wondmu
Dee Harris
Dinia Abduljelil
Dunia Mekonnen
Elbethel Gebrehiwot
Elizabeth Addis
Eman Ahmed
Escadar Alemayehu
Eshetu Ejigu
Ewnet Meshesha
Feben Teshome
Fitsum Mekuria
Habenom Tesfai
Hana Worku
Hanna Yamir
Hanna Zewdu
Hara Bayissa
Haroni Getahun
Hawi Bekele
Helen Addis
Henok Alem
Henok Asfaw
Henok Tedla
Henok Worku
Henok Yemane
Hermela Adnew
Hiba Said
Hiwot Maru
Hiwot Yirgu

Kirubel Demissew
Lidya Cheru
Lidya Teka
Lulit Beshah
Lulit Tesfaye
Mahlet Makonnen
Manahat Thomas
Maraki Shimelis Kebede
Mary Tesfaye
Mawit Girma
Maya Kassahun
Mekdes Tegegnework
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Meron Berhanu
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Meron Ruga
Mesfin Getaneh
Mitku Workie
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Nati Abebe
Natalie Soucy
Rahma Abdella
Rahwa Haile
Redate Haile
Rediet Tilahun
Reisa Tomlinson
Rumana Abubeken
Sabel Kassa
Samson Chemir
Seblewengel Belete
Selamawit Gizatu
Semere Tekelu
Semret Yibass
Shimelse Mekonnen
Sinafik Birara Gebru
Solome Lemma
Solomon Garedeu
Sori Aga
Sosina Woldesen
Tadu Yimam
Teklemariam Berhane
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Tigest Alemu
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Tsedonia Abay
Tsega Tadesse
Tsega Taye
Wubrest T. Bekele
Yanit Belachew
Yeabsira Zewde
Yemisrach Seifu
Yemsrach Dessalegn
Yohannis Guta
Yonas Amdie
Zekarias Seid
Zewdu Beyene

**A TRIBUTE TO
TEAM
MEMBERS PAST
AND PRESENT.
FROM ONE
HOUR TO A
THOUSAND,
YOUR
DEDICATION
SHAPED OUR
JOURNEY.**

**STAY
CONNECTED.
STAY
INVESTED.
BE PART OF
WHAT'S NEXT.**

**YEP HAS ALWAYS BEEN
POWERED BY COMMUNITY—
AND THAT INCLUDES YOU.**



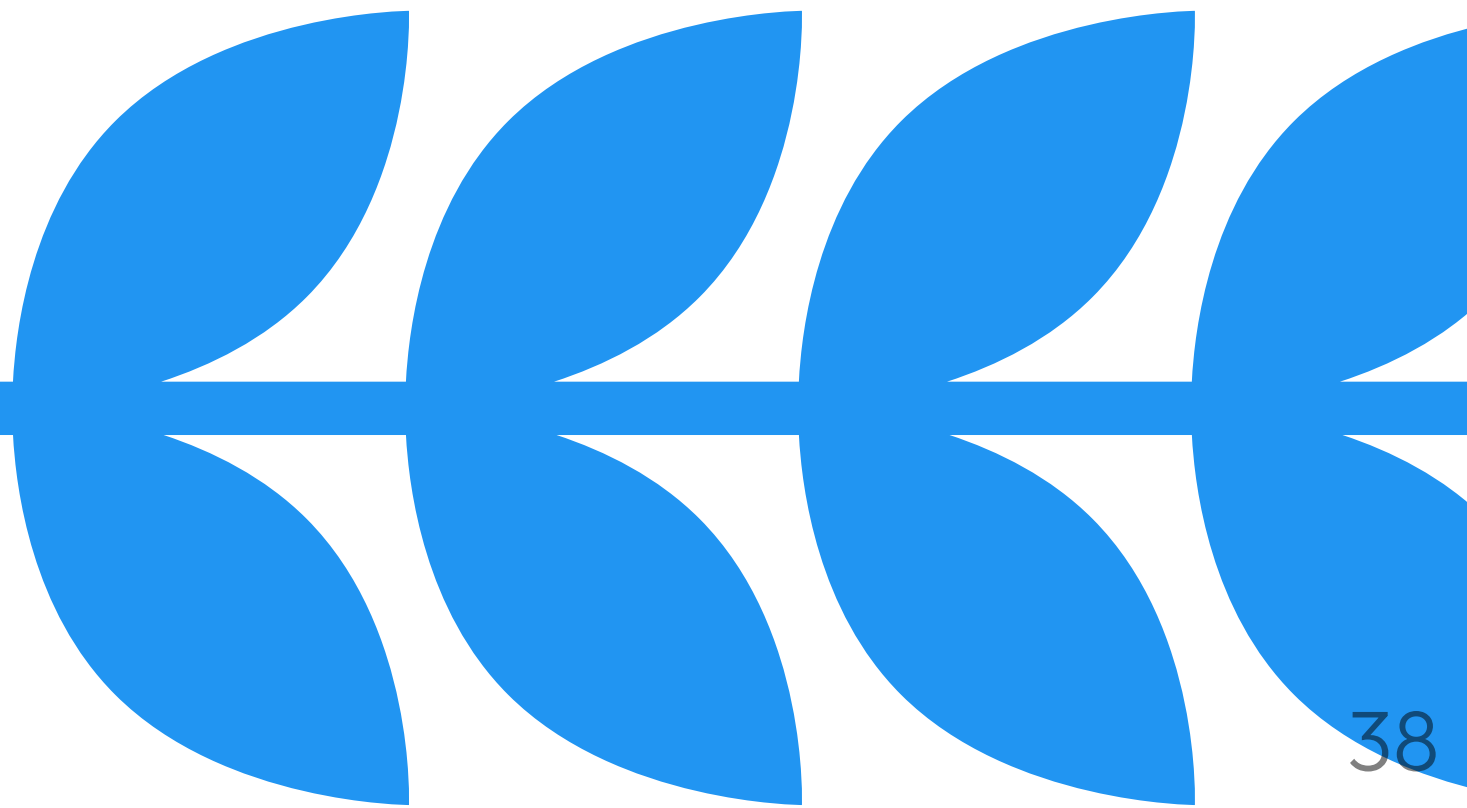


SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Stay up to date on opportunities, events, and insights through YEP Elevate, our career development newsletter. From curated job openings to industry insights and upcoming programming, it's designed to keep you informed and ahead.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

Be part of the day-to-day energy of YEP. From event highlights to community stories and real-time updates, our platforms are where the network comes to life.



SUPPORT THE MISSION

FOR 15 YEARS, YEP HAS BEEN ENTIRELY VOLUNTEER-RUN. WE'VE BUILT A POWERFUL PLATFORM WITH LIMITED RESOURCES BUT IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE WITH MORE.

We envision a future where YEP has dedicated, paid staff to expand our reach and deepen our impact. A future where we have a physical community space, a place where professionals can gather, access career support, attend workshops, find mentorship, and build meaningful connections in real time.

This is about creating infrastructure for our community. Not just moments, but sustained support. Not just events, but a home.

If YEP has ever added value to your journey—or if you believe in what it represents—this is your opportunity to invest in it. Every contribution moves us closer to building something lasting.

Be Part Of The Next Chapter.

WHY THIS STORY MATTERS

This isn't just a look back. It's a reminder. Everything you see today started with a small group of people deciding to show up & that same energy is what will define the next 15 years.





**POWERED BY
PARTNERSHIP**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED: ISTANBUL

Connecting more countries than any other.



TURKISH AIRLINES

TÜRKİYE



Birara Genet



Kinetibeb
Studios

SERENE

EVENTS

The logo consists of the letters 'W' and 'J' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A black ampersand (&) is positioned between the two letters, overlapping them.

WILLIAMS & JENSEN

Est. 1970 | PLLC

HANNA ABEBE

TTR

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



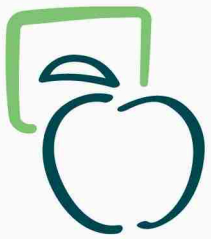
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KodemSonTang



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Investors



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