



Ethiopian Millennium Celebration in San Jose, California

For the third time, the Ethiopian flag is flying high in the heart of the Silicon Valley, at the San Jose City Hall from September 7, 2007 and will remain flying until September 14, 2007 and already declared Ethiopian Week in commemoration of the Ethiopian 2000 Millennium by the City of San Jose in the presence of the Mayor and Council members on August 28, 2007.

The Ethiopian flag was raised for the first time two years ago, in 2005, at the San Jose city hall and the tradition continued at present. The Ethiopian flag is the first foreign flag flying at the heart of the Silicon Valley.

In the occasion on August 28, 2007, it was mentioned once again that Ethiopia is one of the oldest countries in the world with a long history, tradition and culture. It was also noted that Ethiopia still remains, the place where the remains of the first human beings were discovered and attract many tourists and scientists to glance at the history of mankind. During the commemoration of Ethiopian Week, a plaque was awarded by the Mayor of San Jose, Chuck Reed, to the Ethiopian Community through Dr. Birku Melese, the Executive Director of ECS.

As more and more Ethiopians are forced to move to the United States and other parts of the world due to lack of good governance in their home country, many of them are accepted in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and residing in most of the metropolitan areas. Today, Ethiopians rank as one of the highest number of African immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area and their number is estimated at about 40,000 strong community.

The first generation American-born children are graduating from universities and colleges in numbers, posing new challenges in the way Ethiopians are represented.

The beginning of the third millennium celebration organized by the Ethiopian Community Services in San Jose and Oakland with other organizations will be celebrated for 2 days, September 8 and 9, 2007 at Guadalupe River Park @ H.P. Pavillion from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. both days. Entertainment and various cultural shows will be presented by renown Ethiopian artists. One of the anxiously expected groups are the Mesgana Dance Group directly from Ethiopia, composing young children performing various Ethiopian cultural dances.

Geresie Bonkie August 30, 2007 San Jose, California