



TALXAN

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The Somali News Link

Special Edition

Now delivering to you the one and only Somali publication in San Diego:

Community Comes Out in Numbers for Refugee Health Fair

By Nathan Bauer, SFS Intern

Somali Family Service's first Health Fair in Honor of World Refugee Day on June 20 in City Heights Community Park was a testament to the strength of the refugee community. Elected officials joined numerous community members for the four-hour event, which included free health screenings and education, giveaways, entertainment and more.

Jesse Mills, Ph. D. and Chair of the Board for Somali Family Service, was the emcee. His brother, Dr. Steven Mills, a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) and Certified Personal Trainer, provided the keynote speech on fitness and



Health Fair Planning Committee and Community Members

Weight loss fundamentals, emphasizing the importance of rest, exercise and nutrition.

Various health partners collaborated for the event, cover-

ing tables with informational pamphlets, posters and other items. The County of San Diego, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Molina Healthcare educated parents

about healthy families. The American Diabetes Association provided materials on meal planning and diabetes prevention, while Mental Health America had giveaways and information on depression and other mental health issues. Dr. Taddese T. Desta had free blood pressure and diabetes checks available, and Dr. Steven Mills, D.C. gave spinal screenings at no cost.

The San Diego Refugee Forum, The American Civil Liberties Union, Horn of Africa Community, and Survivors of Torture, International, had tables at which they outlined their organizations and services. The International Rescue Committee presented some

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City, School and Police Officials Support Youth Graduation Ceremony

By Ali Artan, Editor-in-Chief



Graduates with Event Organizers

Somali Family Service is the lead agency of the East African Youth Organization (EAYO) in partnership with The San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) Multi-Cultural Community Relations Office. Ahmed Sahid and Paige Newman of Somali Family Service, along with Muktar Hirsi and Asad Mohamed of SDPD, organized the 6th Annual EAYO Graduation. The ceremony was for 42 EAYO members who graduated from local high schools in

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Community Leaders and Elected Officials



Health Fair Attendees Collect Information



Congratulations to the East African senior class of 2009! You all are the best!

groundbreaking ideas for community gardens as a crucial component to healthy neighborhoods, and the Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego offered information on tuberculosis, smoking, and HIV/AIDS, as well as shopping guides for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants.

Bonnie Copland, Manager of the Central Region Public Health Center, and Bryan Nazareth, Analyst, Community Action Partnership, Health and Human Services Agency, both with the County of San Diego, attended in support. City Councilmember Todd Gloria greeted the crowd, saying, "There's a lot of work that needs to be done, and I'm grateful to Somali Family Service for providing the services we need to welcome our families to our community, to help them get connected and to help them become successful."

Ron Lacey of the Mayor's office addressed the audience, saying "Not just today but every week, every month we need to have some type of

event where we can address these issues because that's what is going to keep us strong, not just as communities but as a nation."

Poet Yusuf Farah Ahmed graciously shared some of his Somali writing with the crowd, DJ drdiggs and DJ Artistic provided all the musical entertainment for the day, and youth African dance performances gave way to an amazing event. Safari Grill provided a delicious array of authentic East African food and refreshments for health fair participants.

Somali Family Service thanks Molina Healthcare for their financial support of the Health Fair. For more information about Somali Family Service events, please visit our website at www.sfssd.org/events.html

Taageeridda Caafimaadka Fiican: San Diego Somalis Learn to Advocate for Community Health

By Leslie Bruce
Advocacy Consultant

San Diego Somalis are learning to advocate for themselves and their community. Thanks to a grant from the California Endowment to Somali Family Service (SFS), members of the local Somali community have been developing their potential to lead, communicate and advocate successfully on healthcare issues for themselves and other local Somalis.

SFS sought training expertise from Nonprofit Management Solutions (NMS), a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping San Diego nonprofit organizations succeed. NMS consultants Karen Harris and Leslie Bruce began training sessions in April, first training participants in communication, leadership and then advocacy skills. The sessions will culminate with the adoption of a specific recommendation to advance community health. Trained advocates will then implement their new skills and train other local Somalis to do so as well.

"Healthcare is so different here," said one Somali participant. The group learned just how different the U.S. and Somalia are in the ways they provide healthcare services to their citizens. They learned how the U.S. federal, state and local governments affect healthcare and how to influence elected and appointed government leaders to improve health for the Somali community. Participants also learned about the power of their vote and how to develop an advocacy plan.

"We need this," said another participant who contributed to the recent health needs assessment report on the local Somali community. Somali Family Service performed in partnership with San Diego State University's Institute for Public Health.

"We need to better understand how the U.S. system works so maybe we can make it work better for us."





A Summer of Fun for the East African Youth Organization

By Paige Newman, Communications Director/Youth Services, SFS

Several years ago the East African Youth Organization (EAYO) was formed when Somali Family Service saw significantly lacking services for refugee youth and built a partnership with the San Diego Police Department. Schools were not equipped to work with refugee youth, and parents lacked the language capacity to communicate effectively with the schools. The youth had difficulties performing academically because of years spent without education in refugee camps. Many youth were dropping out of school and facing expulsion; there was a need to encourage youth toward higher education and positive activities. Somali Family Service teamed up with a wide range of agencies to address youth violence, safety and neighborhood improvements.

A daylong trip to Disneyland in June was a highlight for 25 EAYO members. Then the youth performed cultural East African dances at Somali Family Service's Health Fair in Honor of World Refugee Day on June 20 at City Heights Community Park.

The youth group also danced at one of their most important events all year – the 6th Annual East African Youth Graduation Ceremony on June 27 for EAYO members graduating from high school. Youth received certificates from City Councilmember Todd Gloria's office and acknowledgment from Ron Lacey of the Mayor's office. Graduates and their family members enjoyed dinner, talks by several speakers, and the company of many community members, police and school officials.

Also in June at the monthly meeting, Steven Hansen from Comprehensive Financial Group, who is also a Board member of Financial Planning Association, gave a highly informational talk about money management and savings. The youth learned many new things about what to expect once they move away from their families and become financially independent.

At the monthly EAYO meeting in July, the discussion centered around many upcoming activities for August, including National Night Out at Colina del Sol, a trip to Sea World, and a day-long picnic with other youth groups at Mission Bay.

Thanks to Price Charities and The Parker Foundation for generously funding the EAYO program.



SFS President/CEO Ahmed Sahid with EAYO

Today EAYO is a very successful youth-run empowerment program for youth ages 13-18, under the supervision of adult mentors. By keeping youth actively engaged in the community, they are less likely to engage in drugs and alcohol, crime, violence and other negative activities. This spring and summer the East African Youth Organization (EAYO) planned many exciting and inspirational activities.

In May the group enjoyed a bowling field trip. At the May monthly meeting, the youth had a very intriguing speaker named Azim Khamisa from The Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF). Azim, whose son was killed by a young gang member, started a non-profit dedicated to "Breaking the Cycle of Youth Violence by Empowering Kids, Saving Lives, and Teaching Peace." TKF works with elementary, middle, and high school students implementing school-based nonviolence programs and curriculum.

Iftin Charter School Secured High School Status

By Ali Artan

On August 5, The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board approved Iftin Charter Elementary School's plan to expand into a high school. The SDUSD trustees had a heated debate on the issue and the viability of such a move. Nevertheless, three out of the five trustees were in favor of the motion.

Iftin Charter Elementary School has been in existence for roughly four years and has shown tangible academic excellence in its sphere. Shelia Jackson, SDUSD Board President, said Iftin's academic standing has been proven through its high state test scores. On that fateful day when the trustees' decision was declared at the Board meeting, many participants including community leaders, parents, and school officials in particular rejoiced. However, during the session everything didn't go smoothly because of some issues raised by the opponents.

"Approximately 90% of the students at Iftin are currently Somali; diversity comes first," said School Board member Katherine Nakamura, who voted against the plan.

When school officials were asked about the lack of diversity in the school, they promised to reach out to non-Somalis so the campus in the future would reflect the community's true social makeup.



Iftin Students



Taariikhda Farta Soomaaliga

Qalinkii Ahmed Haybe

Qaybtii 3-aad

Farta Laatiinka

Aqoonyahanada shisheeyaha ah ee farta Laatiinka u adeegsan jirey qoraalka af Soomaalig waxay kala ahaayeen Ingiriis, Talyaani, Jarmal, Aawstiryaaan iyo Faransiis. Bilowga abaaraha sannadkii 1887, Dhamme J. S. King oo Ingiriis ay dhalashadiisu tahay ayaa waxaa uu arkay dhibaataada qoraal la'aanta af soomaaliga haysata. Kedib aqoonyahanadii ka dambeeyey waxay kala ahaayeen: Mario Maino, Enrico Cerulli, Martino Moreno, Bruno Panza (oo Talyaani ah); C.R.V. Bell, Liliad E. Armstrong, I. M. Lewis, B.W. Andrzejewski, John Drysdale (oo Ingiriis ah); aqoonyahanada Jarmalka waxaa ka mid ahaa A. Klingnheben iyo Carl Lang iyo Reinisch Austrian. Waxaa beryo dambe ku soo biirey Maraykanka oo Barnaamijki Peace Corps ahaa darteed ku xiiseyey qoraalka far Soomaaliga (Joseph Pia, Jeanne contini iyo Dr. Castagno).

Beryo dambe ayey dad Soomaali ah door bideen in farta Laatiinka loo isticmaalo qoraalka af Soomaaliga: Dadkaas waxaa ka mid ahaa (Marwo) Xaliimo Maxamed Cali, Cabdi Kheyre Cawaate, Cabdulaahi Xaaji Maxamed, Muuse Galaal iyo Shire Jaamac Axmed. Dadkaas doodoodu waxay ku salleysneyd faa'iidooyinka xaga farsamada iyo macquulnimada. Soo bixitaanka in farta Laatiinka lagu qoro af

Soomaaliga waxay aad u yareysay inaysan farta Cusmaaniyada caan sii ahaanin, sababtoo ah dad xubno ka ahaa Ururkii SYL oo horey farta Cusmaaniyada rabey ayaa qeybsamey, waxaana markii dambe soo baxay qaar farta Laatiinka jecel.

Soomaaliya waxay dawlad daakhliyad ah heshay sannadkii 1956 dii. Sannadkii 1957 dii ayaa Wasiirkii Koowaad (Rasul-wasaarihii) dalka ee la odhan jirey Cabdulaahi Ciise wuxuu warar Soomaali ah ku daabacay wargeys af Talyaani ku soo baxa oo rasmi ah, isagoo adeegsaneya Farta Laatiinka. Waxaa aad arrintaas uga cadhoodey Guddigii Dhexe ee Ururka Dhallinyarada Soomaaliyeed (SYL), waxayna weydiisteen in qoraalkaas la joojiyo. Ugu dambeystii, waxay ku heshiyeen in arrinkaas ku saabsan qoraalka Soomaaliga dib loo dhigo inta xoriyada laga qaadaneyo.

Guddigii Luuqada ee 1965 tii waxay ogaadeen in qaadashada Farta Laatiinka aysan carruurta horey dugsiyada ugu baratey af Ingiriisiga ama af Talyaaniga wax dhib ah kala kulmeyn. Run ahaantii, barashada Farta Laatiinka ay carruurta afkooda ku bartaan waxay marka dambe u sahleysaa inay bartaan luuqada kale oo ajinebi ah. Ugu dambeystii, waxay guddigaasi ku andacoodeen in marka farta Laatiinka loo adeegsado qoraalka af Soomaaliga, inaan qofna inkiri karin xaqiiqda ah inay fartanu si toos ah uga soo jeedo Farta Waqooyiga

Seemtik (the phoenician branch), halka Farta Carabiguna ka soo jeedo isla Farta Waqooyiga Semetik (the Aramaic branch).

Guddigii Luuqada ee 1961 kii

Bishii Luuliyo 1 deedii 1960 kii ay labadii gobol ee Soomaaliyeed middoobeen, waqooyiga oo uu Ingiriisigu gumeysan jirey iyo koonfur oo uu Talyaanigu gumeysan jirey. Middowgaas ay labada gobol isku darsameen waxay keentay in dhibaatooyin badan oo ku saabsan qoraal la'aanta far Soomaaliga lala kulmo. Sababtoo ah labada gobol waxay ku kala duwanaayeen xaga maamulka iyo waxbarashada, kuwaas oo kala ahaa Ingiriis iyo Talyaani. Dhawr bilood markii xoriyada la haystay ayey Golihii Shacabku ka codsadeen dawlad inay guddi ka baaraandegga sidii af Soomaaliga loo qori lahaa sameeyaan, kedina wixii talooyin ah dawlada u soo gudbiyaan. Arrintaas waxaa baarlamaanka la hordhigey bishii Sebtember 16 keedii 1960. Bishii Oktoobar, 1960 ayuu Wasiirkii Waxbarashaddu Cali Garaad Jaamac wuxuu magacaabay guddi ka kooban sagaal nin sidii ay far loogu sameyn lahaa af Soomaaliga, kedibna warbixin arrintaas ku saabsan u soo gudbiyaan. Guddigaas (waxaa loo yeqaanaa Guddigii Luuqada Soomaaliga) waxaana la farey inay:...soo baadhaan sida ugu habboon ee af Soomaaliga loo qori karo, iyagoo qaddarineya dhammaan dhinacyada luuqada, waxaana laga rabaa



Ahmed Haybe

inay il gooni ah ku eegaan xaga farsamada, warbixina u soo gudbiyaan dawlada ugu dambeys bisha Maarso, 1961 iyagoo ku muujineya dhammaan faruhu meelaha ay ku fiican yihiin iyo weliba haday macquul tahay talo ku soo jeedineya mida ay isleeyihiin in far Soomaali ahaan loo qaato wey habboon tahay ([Linguistic Report](#), 1961, p.2) Xubnihii guddigii koowaad waxay kala ahaayeen:

1. Muuse Xaaji Ismaaciil Galal Guddoomiye
2. Yaasiin Cismaan Kenadiid Xubin
3. Maxamuud Saalax (Ladane) Xubin
4. Dr. Ibraahim Xaashi Max'mud Xubin
5. Khaliif Suudi Xubin
6. Mustafe Sheekh Xasan Xubin
7. Shire Jaamac Axmed Xubin
8. Xuseen Sheekh Axmed (Kaddare) Xubin
9. Yuusuf Meygaag Samatar Xoghayn

Magacaabidii raggaasu waxay ku salleysneyd arrimahan soo socda:-

Waxay ahaayeen dad horey ugu mashquulsanaa sidii af-Soomaaliga far loogu sameyn lahaa.

Waxay ahaayeen dad aqoon u leh hab-dhismeedka af Soomaaliga

Waxay kala mateleyeen lahadaha dhawrka ah ee ay Soomaalidu leedahay iyo

Waxay kala taageersanaayeen faraha kala duwan ee guddiga la soo hordhigeyo

*Qaar ka mid ah Soomaalidu ...
Way socotaa!..*



Youth Graduation continued from p1

the class of 2009. The event was held on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at the East African Cultural Center on Fairmount Avenue. Different segments of the community were represented at the graduation, including community leaders, government officials, parents and other family members of the graduates.

At 8:00 p.m., Sgt. Patti Clayton of the SDPD gave the opening remarks. The emcee was Ahmed Maani, who graduated as the first Somali valedictorian at Crawford High School and won seven scholarships, enabling him to attend Stanford University.

Mim's Grill, a locally-owned restaurant, served a delicious East African dinner, and then some members of EAYO gave presentations about their achievements of the last year. The youth also described EAYO to the crowd, stressing that EAYO develops leadership and decision-making skills, fosters a safe and friendly envi-

ronment, creates positive interactions with law enforcement agencies, and promotes community involvement.

SDPD Mid-City Captain Lawrence McKinney then approached the podium. He congratulated the class of 2009, thanked the parents and everyone else who sacrificed their time and resources for making the event possible. Ron Lacey presented a Proclamation to EAYO from the Office of Mayor Jerry Sanders, who was unable to attend.

Travis Knowles, a representative of City Councilmember Todd Gloria's office, reminded the youth that they have already reached a milestone, and advised them to continue their efforts of becoming productive citizens. Knowles gave Somali Family Service a Special Commendation.

Next the crowd enjoyed Dhaanto, a Somali folklore dance performed by EAYO members. Five males and five

females took to the stage, making some marvelous moves. The audience was exalted by what they saw and before they knew it they were mimicking the lyrics of the song playing in the background.

Abdi Mohamoud, community leader and Executive Director of Horn of Africa Community, addressed the crowd. Mohamoud gave a brief but profound speech in which he emphasized the influence immigrants and refugees have had on human history. Likewise he urged the new graduates to be ready for the challenges to come and to make a difference in their communities.

It was then time for the keynote speaker, Jesse Mills, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies at University of San Diego. Mills talked about the importance of pursuing one's passions, which enables the individual to excel in their chosen field. Mills reminded the graduates that they are at the crossroads in their

future goals and advised them as soon as they register for colleges and universities in the fall to enroll in diversified classes for the first semester. That way they can build a better understanding of what different fields entail and eventually choose their career paths wisely.

"Seeing someone changing his/her career multiple times is not something unheard of," said Mills.

After Mills' speech, Muktar Hirsi, along with school and community leaders, presented recognition certificates to the 2009 graduates.

The entertainment resumed with a group of youth performing an Ethiopian dance followed by the youth, parents and audience intermingling and dancing for some time. Finally, Asad Mohamed gave the closing remarks and it was a night well spent.

Sponsors included Price Charities, Somali Family Service, Minnehaha Market and Safari Market.



Youth Performing a Somali Cultural Dance

your ad could be here...
contact us for more information

**Taxan Newsletter
will soon launch
a new section for
youth activities.
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**Contributors
Needed!!**





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Events Calendar

FREE financial workshop. Learn to:

- Be financially independent and save money
- Pay off debt
- Maintain good credit & use credit cards wisely

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the San Diego Police Department Multi-Cultural Storefront, 5348 University Avenue, San Diego. For information, please contact Paige Newman at 619-265-5821.

Coming soon (On Oct. 10 from 1:30-4:30 pm): SDPD, 5348 University Avenue. SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Parent Outreach & Engagement Department in collaboration with the SDPD/Multi-Cultural Storefront and SOMALI FAMILY SERVICE present the HEALTH and EDUCATIONAL FORUM for SOMALI FAMILIES Contact Paige Newman at 619-265-5821 for more information.

Performers Wanted (Eid Show Coming Soon)!!!

Host: Isku Dayitaan
Type: Music/Arts—Audition
Network: Global
Start Time: Thursday, August 20, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.
End Time: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 11:00 p.m.

Some of the Somali Students in San Diego are putting together a show that will combine dialogue, poetry and other talents to explore the issues in the Somali community. This event will also benefit a non-profit dedicated to helping people in need in East Africa.

<http://www.soomaalirelief.org/index.aspx>

They're also looking for all types of talent (spoken word artists, singers, actors, stand up comedians, etc.)!!! So, if you're interested, please contact any of the following people:

- Nima (nimahadji@yahoo.com)
- Hafsah (hfsh_mohamed@yahoo.com)
- Hodan (hodanugas@yahoo.com)
- Ilyas (ilyaas858@yahoo.com)
- Asma (asmabdi@gmail.com)
- Asiya (jamaasiya@yahoo.com)
- Muna (munamahmoud@yahoo.com)

Look out for more information about the event coming soon on Facebook!!



Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Dinner



Taxan is sponsored by the Somali Family Service of San Diego located at 6035 University Ave., Ste. 6 San Diego, CA 92115 Tel: 619-265-5821 Email: editors@sfssd.org

Newsletter Staff

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- Marketing Director **AHMED SAHID**
- Somali Column Writer **AHMED HAYBE**
- Editor/Writer **PAIGE NEWMAN**

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