



International Women's Day was Celebrated in Oakland, California

DaEro Bay Area organized International Women's Day celebration in Oakland California on Saturday March 8, 2014. For Eritreans March 8th is celebrated to commemorate the heroic role of our sisters and mothers in the struggle for independence. Furthermore, it is to commemorate post independence struggle that is waging by Eritrean women against the repressive junta in Asmara. Bay Area residents participated in mass and were treated by the popular six women band plus Wedi Afro to an exceptional entertainment night. Mrs. Lovitta Tugbeh, a Liberian citizen, from the Coalition for Justice in Liberia participated as a guest of honor. Her participation sealed a working relationship with sister countries from our continent.



The event started with a national anthem and followed by a slide show prepared by DaEro board referencing the role and participation of heroine Eritrean women in our struggle for independence and post independence. As the slide show was happening, Veronica Solomon croon sang (Awlo) with her lovely vocal that brought a lot of sentiment and emotion. Dinner was served earlier and was mixed cuisine that left the audience with more appetite.



After Veronica's crooning, the stage was given to Asgedet Mehreteab, a board member, to read the board message about the International Women's Day. The board message focused on the heroic contribution of Eritrean women during the struggle for independence and the oppression they are facing under PFDJ; in Sawa, in the border of Sudan, in the desert of Sinai, in route to Libya and the Mediterranean.



Finally, the stage was left for the unique and exceptional musical band of six women and one man, Wedi Afro. Every member of the band was very talented and masters in their field. They played tigrina songs, tigre song and Arabic song by Albelabil that brought some nostalgia to the audience. They played contemporary dance songs and old Ma.Ta.A (mahber theatre Asmara) songs that lifted the spirit of the evening. The audience fell in love with the band and enjoyed the treatment they were given. DaEro Bay Area appreciated the band and the following is their names:

1. Veronica Solomon – Vocalist/ Habesha Krar
2. Azieb Tesfamichael – Vocalist
3. Sahar Miller – Saxophonist
4. Almaz Berhe – Oganist
5. Eden Kahsai – Violinist
6. Yordanos Solomon – Guitarist
7. Rusom Tesfai (Wedi Afro) – Organist



The best waited for last. A seven year old boy named Sham Sebhat treated the audience with incredible song, Lean on Me. Sham sang as a professional with an amazing voice. The audience

cheered and applauded him. Sham has huge potential to be a successful artist and definitely he has a bright future.



In conclusion, the mood of the audience was in sync with the time and didn't want to let go, but everything has to come to an end and the evening closed with a high note. Many people from the audience wanted the band to come back.

