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PRESS RELEASE

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Bikila Award Announces The 2023 Award Recipients and Guest Speakers

August 15, Toronto, ON — The prestigious Bikila Award has unveiled the esteemed recipients for its 2023 edition, alongside a lineup of distinguished guest speakers. The Bikila Award Celebration and Gala Dinner is slated to transpire on **Saturday, September 23, 2023, at Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas Street East, Toronto, commencing at 6:00 pm**. This annual affair stands as a highlight of the African-Canadian community calendar.

An event of grandeur and significance, the Bikila Award Celebration and Gala Dinner attract a myriad of attendees from both the Ethiopian-Canadian community and beyond. Recognizing remarkable contributions to society and community, as well as excellence across diverse professional domains, including academic prowess among the youth, the awards emphasize a commitment to honour distinction.

The categories encompass Scholarships for students achieving Academic Excellence and distinguished individuals and institutions who will be lauded in the realms of Extraordinary Achievements, Community Services, Professional Excellence Awards, and the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award.

The accomplished Author, and Political-Economic Analyst on Africa, **Mr. Lawrence Freeman**, will grace the occasion as the Keynote Speaker. The **Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine**, a prominent leader, the first black woman to serve as a Federal Minister of the Crown and a Member of the Canadian Parliament, shall hold the honorary mantle as Honorary Guest Speaker.

The event's presentation will be eloquently orchestrated by the very talented **Eden Debebe**, Anchor and Reporter at CP24.

In a tribute of utmost respect, the Order of The Shining Star of Ethiopia will posthumously honour **H.E. Ketema Yifru**, for his unparalleled dedication and achievement in the creation of the OAU and reputable representation of his country on the world stage.

The esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award will be bestowed upon **Ato Girma Wake**, acknowledging his extraordinary service, transformative contributions, and dedication to elevating Ethiopian Airlines to unparalleled heights.

Bikila Award Salutes Ethiopian Airlines' CEO, **Mesfin Tasew** with the Exemplary Global Airline Excellence Award for the Airline's impressive journey of over seven decades and its unparalleled commitment to innovation and aviation excellence. *Continued on page 2*

Among the luminary honorees from the 2023 Bikila Award event are:

Fesseha Atlaw, a pioneer in Ethiopic Computerization is honored with the Professional Excellence Award.

Rebecca Haile, Founder and Executive Director, Ethiopian Education Initiatives – Haile-Manas Academy is honoured with the Academic Institute of Excellence Award.

Dr. Berhanu Bulcha, NASA Research Scientist is lauded with the Professional Excellence Award.

Jomo Tariku, Artist, and Industrial designer who is recognized with the Professional Excellence Award.

Betelhem Dessie, Founder and CEO of iCog – ACC, a high-tech initiative receives the Professional Excellence Award.

Comedian Eshetu Melese, Founder and CEO of Donkey Tube is honored with the Community Service Excellence Award.

Liben Gebremikael, CEO of TAIBU Community Health Centre is recognized with the Community Service Excellence Award.

People To People Canada, a long-serving Community lead Aid Organization, receives the Community Service Excellence Award.

In a testament to their academic prowess, the recipients of the Academic Excellence Award and the 2023 Bikila Scholarships include **Dr. Maclite Tesfaye**, **Adam Awoke**, and **Lilian Abebe**.

The evening's allure is augmented by cocktails, delectable cuisine, the soulful strains of live **Ethio-Jazz by the renowned Barnes/Woldemichael Ethio-Jazz Quartet**, enthralling door prizes, and captivating entertainment.

Limited tickets are available for purchase by calling 416-709-5647 and 416-857-4820 or visiting the following locations:

Lalibela Restaurant (1202 Danforth Avenue), **Rendezvous Restaurant** (1408 Danforth Avenue), or **Abyssinia Restaurant** (884 Danforth Avenue)

The Bikila Award organization, established in 2013, seeks to foster excellence in academia, professions and business while championing volunteerism among individuals of Ethiopian heritage. Guided by its non-political, non-religious, and not-for-profit ethos, the Bikila Award strives to empower the young generation to achieve their highest potential and celebrate their exceptional accomplishments.

For more information about the organization and awards ceremony, including a [full list of award recipients](#), [please click here](#) or visit: www.bikilaaward.org

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