

Zed Wondemu

Official Biography Author of Slanted Justice

Zed Wondemu has served the Washington area in different capacities for over 40 years. She started gift shops and restaurants and used her business to help others gain employment and provide jobs. She mentored young people and made them marketable to the Western workforce.

Born in Ethiopia, Zed Wondemu combined her remarkable drive with a desire to promote her culture through sharing good food and Ethiopian hospitality. She became one of DC's most successful foreign-born women restaurateurs. Zed is Board Emeriti of the National Restaurant Association, Restaurant Association of Metro Washington, and NRA Education Foundation.

Zed's Ethiopian Restaurant opened in Georgetown in 1988. As owner, president, and manager, it became an area favorite, winning Washingtonian's '100 Very Best Restaurants' for 23 years. She was also involved in real estate ventures in the USA, Ethiopia, and Bulgaria.

The second Zed's Ethiopian Restaurant opened in January 2009, becoming a popular place for lunch and dinner with catering at both locations. Zed enjoys philanthropy the most and has a special heart for observing women succeed in education, politics, and employment.

Zed engaged in non-profit organizations (EDG) providing micro-loans to low-to-medium-income individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. She is a recipient of The Thomas Carvel Immigrant Entrepreneur Award and has been profiled in national magazines and newspapers, including 'Making it in America: Conversations with Successful Ethiopian American Entrepreneurs.' Currently she extends her expertise through Zed's Consulting Services.

Recognition & Awards

Thomas Carvel Immigrant Entrepreneur Award

Washingtonian Magazine: 100 Very Best Restaurants 23 consecutive years

Featured in national magazines, newspapers & television

Profiled in Making it in America: Conversations with Successful Ethiopian American Entrepreneurs

Education

M.S. Business Management University of Maryland, University College

M.A. Education Bowie State University

B.S. Psychology & Social Work Bowie State University

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