



# K | W | A | N | Z | A | A

Dec. 26, 2008 - Jan 1, 2009



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# WHAT IS KWANZAA?

Kwanzaa, a holiday (or Holy Day) based upon the African tradition of celebrating the harvesting of the first fruits, was created and introduced for Black People in the United States by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966.

Kwanzaa is the ingathering of the people, a special reverence for the Creator and creation, a commemoration of the past, a recommitment to our highest ideals, and a celebration of all that is good. It is a time of reflecting, reassessing, recommitting, rewarding, and rejoicing in an atmosphere of peace, love and unity. Kwanzaa is a cultural and political expression to reaffirm our African Heritage and, organize our people for the struggle of total Black Liberation.

Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days: December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. The seven days are based upon the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles), with each day being symbolic of one of the principles.

- December 26<sup>th</sup> - Umoja (Unity)
- December 27<sup>th</sup> - Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
- December 28<sup>th</sup> - Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)
- December 29<sup>th</sup> - Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
- December 30<sup>th</sup> - Nia (Purpose)
- December 31<sup>st</sup> - Kuumba (Creativity)
- January 1<sup>st</sup> - Imani (Faith)

## THERE ARE SEVEN SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

**Mkeka (Straw Mat)** - tradition and history; the foundation on which all else rests • **Kinara (Candle Holder)** - original stalk from which we come; our African ancestors • **Mishumaa Saba (7 Candles)** - Nguzo Saba; The Seven Principles firmly rooted in the traditions of our ancestors • **Muhindi (Ears of Corn)** - represents children and all the hopes and challenges attached to them. • **Kikombe cha Umoja (Unity Cup)** • **Mazao (Crops)** - the collective fruits of our labor, seeds sown by the children • **Zawadi (Gifts)** - rewards for our achievements

## WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

December 19<sup>th</sup> - gather and arrange Kwanzaa symbols. Any other decorations (African carvings, straw baskets) should be in a red, black and green color scheme, symbolizing the bendera ya taifa (Flag of the Black Nation):

- Red - the liberation struggle of our people
- Black - the collective color of all Black people
- Green - land, life and our future (we build together).

### Arrange the symbols on a low table as follows:

1. Spread the Mkeka
2. Place the Kinara in the center of the Mkeka
3. Place the Muhindi on either side of the Kinara, one ear of corn for each child, or one as a symbol of prosperity
4. Creatively place the Zawadi, Kikombe, and a basket of Mazao on the Mkeka
5. Place 1 Black Mishumaa in the center of the Kinara, with 3 Green on the right, and 3 Red on the left.

## DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> - JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>

**Greeting** - greet each other in Kiswahili asking "Habari Gani?" (What's the news or what's happening?) Answer with the principle for that day. For example, on December 26<sup>th</sup>, respond with "Umoja."

**Economic Empowerment** - only shop at Black-owned businesses during the seven days of Kwanzaa. In the spirit of Kwanzaa and Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) we as African people should support these same Black businesses, such as trade in the African marketplace in the calendar, all year round.

**Fasting** - fast from sunrise to sunset to help cleanse the body, discipline the mind, and uplift the spirit.

**Libation (Ancestral Communion)** - an elder or leader should pour libation, using water or juice, from the Kikombe into a bowl or potted plant, to honor our ancestors.

**Candle Lighting Ceremony** - light one Mishumaa each day for the principle of that day, beginning with the black candle, which represents the first principle Umoja. Each day thereafter, alternately light the red and then the green candles. After each lighting, discuss the principle of the day. The ceremony should be held at a time when all family members, especially children, can participate.

**Karamu (The Feast)** - the Karamu is held on the night of December 31<sup>st</sup>, and should be a festive occasion. When possible, observe traditional African practices, e.g., African music, dance and storytelling, sitting on the floor or on pillows, and eating with the hands (no utensils). Libation, Candlelighting and Harambee are conducted at the Karamu.

**Zawadi** - (They should not be mandatory, expensive or excessive). It is suggested that Zawadi be given to the children in one or two ways:

1. One gift each day, reinforcing the principle of that day.
2. One or more gifts on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the last day of Kwanzaa.

Personally made gifts are strongly encouraged over commercial purchases. Regardless of what else is given, there are two strongly suggested items: a book and heritage symbol. These two items reinforce our commitment to education and the richness of our cultural heritage.

The essence of Kwanzaa is a true appreciation of ourselves as Black People, collectively coming together to reflect on and enjoy the infinite beauty of being in the same family, organization, and community, sharing the same values, interests and aspirations, engaging in and committing to the same struggle.

# NGUZO SABA (The Seven Principles)

**UMOJA (Unity)** - To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

**KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)** - To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

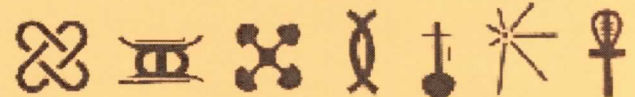
**UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)** - To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and solve them together.

**UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics)** - To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and profit from them together.

**NIA (Purpose)** - To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

**KUUMBA (Creativity)** - To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

**IMANI (Faith)** - To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



## The United Black Community (UBC)

The United Black Community (UBC) is a coalition of individuals in the Pan-African Community that belong to many different progressive Pan-African organizations.

One of UBC's principal objectives is to sponsor community wide events that bring the BLACK COMMUNITY closer together and project the philosophy of Pan-African Nationalism to the broader Black Community.

UBC Currently Sponsors two main events: Kwanzaa and Kuzaliwa. For Kwanzaa we organize various events and publicize the events of others that we feel remain true to it's original standards.

In order to honor Brother Malcolm X, we hold our Kuzaliwa (Happy Birthday) celebration in May and present the Umoja Award to individuals that honor his memory by helping to unite Black people through their work. UBC also sponsors monthly programs. See page 4 for more details.

If you are interested in working with UBC, contact us at: 202.529.3635, 301.277.7809, 202.526.4122, PO Box 10011, Washington, D.C. 20018, [www.unitedblackcommunity.com](http://www.unitedblackcommunity.com) or [ubcinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:ubcinfo@yahoo.com).

Asante Sana! (Thank You Very Much) And Have A Happy,  
Wholesome, and Peaceful Kwanzaa.  
The United Black Community

# Kwanzaa Events Calendar 2008-09

## Pre-Kwanzaa Events

- **12/12: DC Community Movie Premier of "The Black Candle."** A new film about the celebration of Kwanzaa worldwide. 7:00 PM. 100 Peabody St. NW. Special appearance by Dr. M.K. Asante Jr., the creator and director of "The Black Candle". Reception after the film. Call (202) 526-4039 or (202) 309-3443 for more information.
- **12/20: Children's Kwanzaa Party** sponsored by the Temple of Nyame. Tayari Casel Martial Arts Academy, 949 Bonifant Street, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. 2 – 5 PM. (followed by a Martial Arts Extravaganza at 5 PM) For more information, call (202) 678-3100 or email us at: templeofnyame@aol.com.

## UMOJA (Unity) - Fri., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Candle-lighting Celebration & Program; the Afrocentric Academic Challenge, Dinner Sales & African Marketplace;** 7:00 pm. Sponsored by the **UBC & the Independent Afrikan Schools** at Roots Public Charter School, 15 Kennedy St. NW. Call (301) 277-7809 or (202) 529-3635 or (202) 526-4039.
- **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration Performance of the African Heritage Dancers & Drummers,** 7:30 pm. The ARC Recreation Center, Miss. & Southern Ave. SE. Call (202) 399-5252.
- **Kwanzaa Children's Program** 5:30 pm. Location: 3417 23rd Street SE Washington, DC 20020. For more information email afsani@aol.com or call (240) 565-7486.

## KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination) - Sat., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

- **Kwanzaa Candle-lighting Celebration & Program;** 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the **Ausar Auset Society**, at Kima Public Charter School, 100 Peabody St. NW. Call (202) 723-5566. (Enter through parking lot in rear.)
- **Self-Determination Celebration** presented by UNIA-ACL Legal Defense Committee, Nubian International Hand Dance Association and the Nubian Youth Division at Garfield Terrace Apartments. 7:00 PM to 1 AM. (202) 636-6116 or (301) 503-8784.
- **Kwanzaa Harvest Festival** sponsored by the Yoruba Temple of Spiritual Elevation & Enlightenment, at 4226 Eads St. NE. Call (202) 388-5354.
- **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Children's Celebration,** NationHouse, 770 Park Road NW 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Sponsored by **Kwanzaa Children's Party, Inc.** Ages 3 – 12, adult must accompany children. Call (202) 390-3164.

## UJIMA (Collective Work & Responsibility) - Sun., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Candle-lighting Service** sponsored by **House of Ra Inner Attainment and Friends.** Hip-Hop, Go-Go, Neo-Soul & Poetry with a performance by Afi Soul. 7 pm. Atmosphere — 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mt. Rainier, MD. Call (202) 635-0445.
- **Kwanzaa Program and Candle Lighting Ceremony** sponsored by the African Wholistic Health Association (AWHA). Being responsible for your health and healing the community. Program will include a drumming circle, spoken word and Kwanzaa video, vocalists, etc. 2315 18th Pl. NE, Washington, DC. Call for more information: (301) 277-2942.
- **Odwira/Ancstral Akom** sponsored by the Temple of Nyame. Tayari Casel Martial Arts Academy, 949 Bonifant Street, Silver Spring MD, 20910. 3 – 6 PM. For more information, call (202) 678-3100 or (301) 736-787 or email us at: templeofnyame@aol.com.
- **Kwanzaa Candle-lighting Celebration & Program at St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church,** 700 Saint Michael's Drive, Mitchellville, MD 7:30 pm.
- **Kwanzaa Children's Program, Akom Worship Service & Feast -** 11 am. Location: 3417 23rd Street SE Washington, DC 20020. For more information email afsani@aol.com or call (240) 565-7486.

## UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics) - Mon., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>

- **Kwanzaa Candle-lighting Celebration & Program;** 7:00 pm. Sponsored by **Ujamaa Shule,** 8<sup>th</sup> & Q Sts. NW. Call (202) 232-2997.
- **Candle-lighting Celebration and Discussion** on cooperative ventures as a survival and empowerment strategy and ways to practice Ujamaa. 6:30 PM. Sponsored by Beautiful World Cooperative and Business Services, Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, and ONE DC. Dinners for sale. Transportation to and from Brookland Metro. For more information call (202) 538-0007 or email ajawa.ifatayo@gmail.com.

## NIA (Purpose) - Tues., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Kwanzaa Candle-lighting Celebration & Program;** 6:00 pm. Sponsored by UNIA-ACL **Woodson Banneker-Jackson Bey Division 330.** "ONE GOD, ONE AIM, ONE DESTINY, ONE NIA". at NationHouse, 770 Park Road NW, Washington, DC. Call (202) 529-3635 or (240) 498-5133. African marketplace, spoken word, Pan African feast, children's village.

## KUUMBA (Creativity) - Wed., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

- **Kwanzaa Candle-lighting Service & Karamu (Feast),** 7:00 pm, Spoken Word & Dance Music. Presentation of Dear Ancestors, Love Muffin by Shebah Aqeel. Sponsored by **UBC,** Umoja House, 2015 Bunker Hill Road NE. Bring a wholesome African natural food dish to share and come bring in the new year with us! Call (202) 526-4039 or (202) 529-3635.

## IMANI (Faith) - Thurs., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

- **Kwanzaa Imani Celebration and African Consciousness Award Presentation,** 7:00 pm. Union Temple Baptist Church, 1225 W St. SE. This year's recipient: **Mama Nia Kuumba.** Sponsored by **UBC & ADACI.** Call (202) 526-4039 or (301) 277-7809.
- **Imani Celebration** sponsored by AFSANI. 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Karamu to follow. 3417 23rd S.E. Washington DC 20020. For more information call (240) 565-7486.

\* Union Temple Baptist Church is holding a candle-lighting program each night of Kwanzaa. 1225 W St. SE — 202-678-8822.

# UBC Forums and Programs 2009

This year's theme: We must always remember that the Change we seek is the Change that We are willing to Create.

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February 20<sup>th</sup>



**Science, Technology & the Changing Environment: Implications on Black Life from a Pan-Africanist's Perspective** A lecture and discussion on emerging sciences and technologies and their impact on Black life. A critical and necessary discourse on surviving climate change/global warming within the Black community will be explored. 7:00 — 9:30pm

March 22<sup>th</sup>



**Economic Development in the Pan African World** This forum will look at the current worldwide economic crisis from the perspective of the Pan African businesses in our community. Businesses and organizations that appear in the African Marketplace will be invited to share their perspectives while networking with each other and the community about this situation. 7:00 — 9:30pm

April 17<sup>th</sup>



**Back to Africa Projects** UBC will present our annual update on a number of projects being conducted by individuals and organizations in our community on the continent of Africa. This forum is designed to make all of us aware of these projects as well as to increase support for an participation in these efforts. 7:00 — 9:30pm

May 15<sup>th</sup>



**Kuzaliwa 2009** Each year UBC honors the greatest Pan African leader of our generation, Brother Malcolm X, by holding a day-long conference on an important area of concern for the future of our people. UBC will also present the UMOJA award to individuals we feel Brother Malcolm would have wanted to honor for their work in that field. This year we will look at the topic **The Congo/ Central Africa: Understanding and Solving the Problem at the Heart of Africa.** 1:00pm until 10:00pm

June 19<sup>th</sup>



**The Expanding Black Underclass** This forum will take a look at the reality of the increasingly large number of African people falling into poverty and despair. A situation that often leads to a life of crime, drug abuse, prostitution, premature death and/or imprisonment as well as a community that preys on itself. We ask ourselves the question: What can and should be the Pan Africanist community's response? 7:00 — 9:30pm

July 17<sup>th</sup>



**Education for Liberation Revisited** Education has long been a primary means of socialization for any community or society. This is also true of the Pan African community. We have long sought a strategy of building independent African-centered schools while trying to bring African-centered curriculum into the public schools. In this forum we will look at this strategy in light of such issues as the charter schools movement, a Black US president, and the worldwide economic crisis, etc. 7:00 — 9:30pm

Aug 21<sup>st</sup>



**Mortality and Morbidity in the Black Community** It has long been known that the life expectancy of Black people and the number of Black people suffering from those things that contribute to a shorter life span is higher than any other ethnic group in America. The real question is what can we do about it? This forum will explore effective ways of altering the lifestyles that kill our people. 7:00 — 9:30pm

Sep 19<sup>th</sup>



**A Tribute to John Coltrane on his Birthday** This annual event features a look at the development of inspirational Black music and it's impact on our movement by exploring the life and influence of John Coltrane. 7:00-9:30 PM

Oct 16<sup>th</sup>



**The Role of African Religion in our Liberation Struggle** This discussion will focus on the important role that the practice of practicing our religious traditions can play in our march toward freedom. 7:00-9:30 PM

All activities are free and will be held at Umoja House unless otherwise stated.

2015 Bunker Hill Rd NE, Wash, DC. Call (202) 526-4039.

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# VBC Editorial: A Challenge to the Pan African Community with the Election of America's First President of African Descent

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The election of Barack Obama to the office of the president of the United States of America represents both a challenge and a potential opportunity to the Pan African community. A challenge in that many individuals of African descent will view his victory as evidence that the path to full integration into American society is both desirable and achievable, if not already achieved. His ascendancy to the highest office in the land reinforces some African people's inclinations towards an integrationist answer to our problems, thereby potentially weakening the resolve of Pan Africanism among our people. Further, Obama's presidency, at the same time, provides the white supremacist movement a rallying point that could serve to help mobilize their forces against our community. However, we have the opportunity to figure out how to use the election of Barack Obama to advance the goals of Africans worldwide.

The critical questions for Black people under an Obama presidency must be:

- 1) Will the goals of the Black liberation struggle be enhanced by his election? and
- 2) What can we do to insure that his victory becomes our victory?

Clearly articulated answers to these key questions are essential to African people making real advancement under an Obama presidency. For us, the election of Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States must be viewed in light of its potential to contribute to the strength, well being and unity of African people, and not as the achievement of those goals in and of themselves. What will his election mean for our principal concern, the collective well being of our people?

Pan Africans want to build a strong international Pan African relationship in the world, which is able to protect Black people's interests everywhere we find ourselves. The Pan African agenda puts emphasis on independence, unity and strength for our people, not integration into US society. This should not be seen as contrary or against a movement that places emphasis on peace and justice, but as an extension: to insure peace and justice in the world through strength in Black people.

The Pan African agenda for a President Barack Obama should have as its primary focus, improving the quality of life and the collective strength of African people with regard to politics, culture, food and hunger, health, global warming and climate change, security, education, family, epidemic incarceration, and economic globalization.

**READ MORE on the agenda at [WWW.UnitedBlackCommunity.COM/BlackPaper.htm](http://WWW.UnitedBlackCommunity.COM/BlackPaper.htm)**

For the past 500 years, Black people have had a valiant history of struggle to regain their humanity and establish their presence in the world. Barack Obama's presidency of the USA will probably bring about some degree of positive change here in the USA and in the rest of the world. But for that change to have any real impact on African people, other than through the positive image of Black familyhood that Barack Obama's family represents, we must work even harder than in the past, in large part because the possibilities are greater.

Over the many years of struggle, one thing has become clear; we can't just wait for a savior and should not now. Our oppressive condition has dictated that courageous African men and women rise up and continue to strike a blow for liberation. Nothing less is required now.

**The United Black Community (UBC)**  
**[www.unitedblackcommunity.com](http://www.unitedblackcommunity.com)**  
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**JANUARY**

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**MAY**

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### DECEMBER

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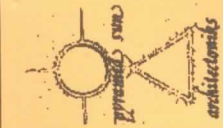
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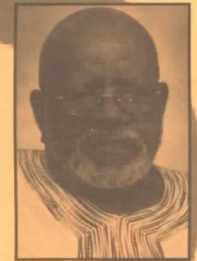
*Sheila High King*



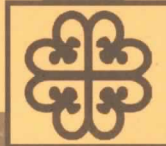
*Miriam Makeba*



*Shemsut Kes Sa  
Myers*



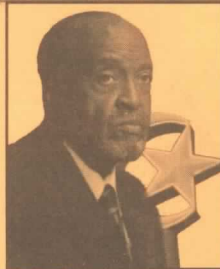
*Eskia Mphahlele*



*The Unknown Warrior*



*Mashata  
Muhammad*



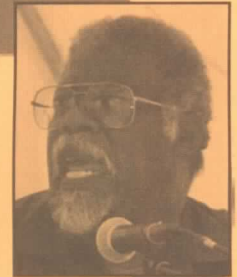
*W.D. Muhammad*



*Baba Ngoma*



*Odetta*



*Rev. James  
Orange*



*Levi Stubbs*



*Coleman Reed Tuckson*



*Nandini Towns*



*Lawrence Wheatley*



*Amina Zola*

