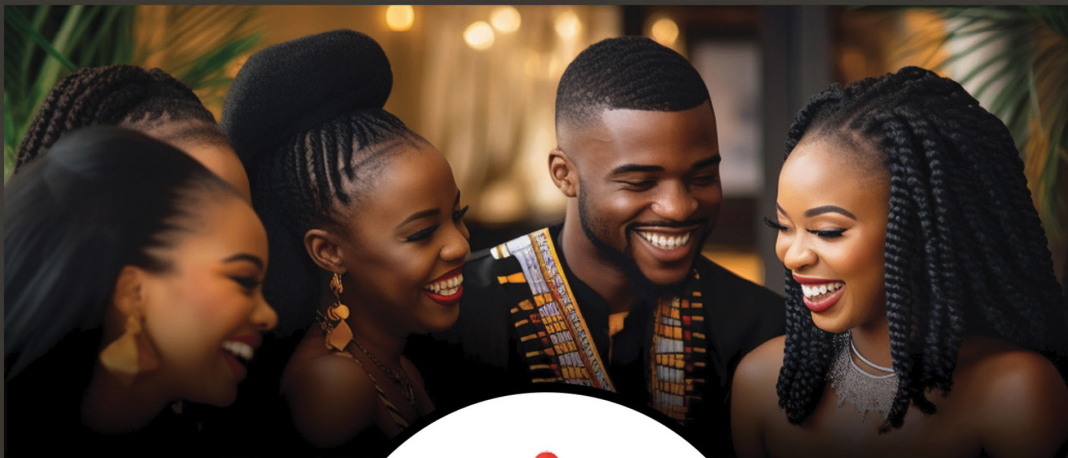


Akron African American Cultural Association Presents

KWANZAA



CELEBRATION



GUYS & GALS
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, INC.

December 30th, 2025 | Vincent House 6-9pm

838 E. Exchange St., Akron, OH 44306

(Across from Dave's Supermarket)

Contact Jerome Moss – Email: ggcpinc7@gmail.com
www.ggcpinc.org



CELEBRATION



NIA (PURPOSE)

KWANZAA EVENT HOSTS 2025

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
PROJECT UJIMA
AKRON NAACP
GUYS & GALS COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP INC.
GREATER/AKRON-CANTON
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS
KANUNITRIBE

EVENT HOSTED BY:



GUYS AND GALS COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP INC.

Contact

P : (330)689-8816

E : ggcpinc7@gmail.com

WEBSITE : GGCPINC.ORG

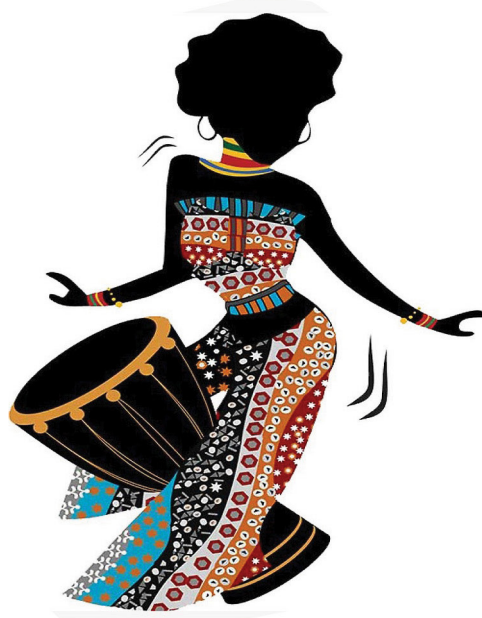
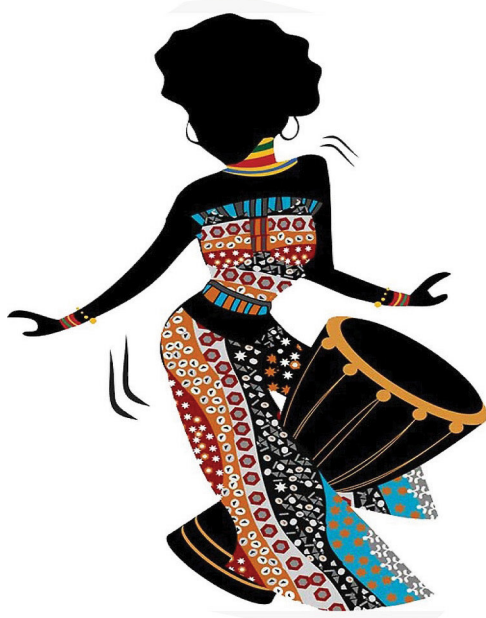
OUR VISION

Our vision for the Akron Afrikan American Rites of Passage Village Community is that our families are sound vibrant, holistic, humane, safe, self-sustaining, healed, liberated historically, culturally, educationally, and spiritually.





AGENDA



DRUM CALL

SEATING OF ELDERS

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FROM THE ELDERS

LIBATIONS

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

PROVERBS AND POEMS

EXPLANATION OF KWANZA SYMBOLS

PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE STATEMENT

REMARKS AND WORDS OF WISDOM

BENEDICTION [SELF ESTEEM MANTRA]

REFRESHMENTS

KWANZAA



WHAT IS KAWANZAA?



DEFINITION:

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with a focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors, and their culture.



Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, has gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide, as reported by the New York Times. When establishing Kwanzaa in 1966, Dr. Karenga included an additional "a" to the end of the spelling to reflect the difference between the African American celebration (kwanza) and the Motherland spelling (kwanza). Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance, and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

KWANZAA



7 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 & RESPONSIBILITY:

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.



UJAMAA-COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.



NIA-PURPOSE:

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.



KUUMBA-CREATIVITY

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.



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.



KWANZAA TERMS



PRONUNCIATIONS

"Habari gani?" (Ha-ba-ri ga-ni) is the question asked at the start of every Kwanzaa celebration. This is Swahili for, "What is the news?" Celebrants answer with the Nguzo Saba (principle) of the day.

Kwanzaa (KWAN-za) comes from the Swahili word Kwanza, which means first fruits

Nguzo Saba (n-GU-zo SAH-bah) refers to the seven principles upon which Kwanzaa is based. There is one principle for each of the seven days of Kwanzaa. They are celebrated in the following order.

Umoja (o0-MO-jah), which means unity

Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah), which means self-determination, is celebrated on the second day.

Ujima (o0-JEE-mah), which means collective work and responsibility

Ujamaa (o0-jah-MAH-ah), which means cooperative economics

Nia (NEE-ah), which means purpose

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah), which means creativity

Imani (ee-MAH-nee), which means faith

Mkeka (em-KEH-kah), refers to a straw mat which serves as the foundation on which all other items are placed. It is the symbol of history and tradition

Kinara (kee-NAH-rah), refers to a candleholder central to the celebration. It represents African ancestry.

Kikombe cha umoja (kee-KOHM-bee chah oo-MOH-jah), a unity cup. It symbolizes the foundation principle of the Nguzo Saba, Unity,

Mishumaa saba (mee-shoo-MAH-ah SAH-ba), are the seven candles of the kinara that represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Mazao (mah-ZAH-oh), a bowl of fruits and vegetables, especially those native to Africa. It represents the reward of collective and productive labor.

Muhindi (moo-HEEN-dee) or vibunzi (vee-BOON-zee), ears of corn that represent the number of children in the family. There is to be one ear of corn for each child in the family. There should at least one ear of corn on the table as each adult is responsible for the outcome of all children.



KWANZAA TERMS



PRONUNCIATIONS

Zawadi (zah-WAH-dee), gifts

Bendera (byn-day' rah), the Marcus Garvey flag, the poster of the seven principles and a live plant

Karamu (kah-RAH-moo) is the big feast traditionally held on December 31, the sixth day of Kwanzaa.

"Harambee!" (hah-RAHM-beh) is a call of unity cried out at the end of each nightly celebration, meaning "Let's pull together!"

Tip

Swahili consonants are pronounced like English consonants. The "R" is like the Spanish "R" and is pronounced by rolling the tongue. In most Swahili words, the accent is placed on the next-to-last syllable. Swahili vowels are pronounced as follows: a (ah), e (ay), i (ee), o (0e), u (00).



KWANZAA



WHAT IS KAWAIDA?



PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS OF KWANZAA - Kawaida

What is Kawaida (Ka-waa-ee-da)

The Kawaida -philosophy is an ongoing synthesis of the best of African thought and practice in constant exchange with the world. One of its central tenets is that culture is the fundamental source of a people's identity, purpose and direction. Thus, Kawaida is, in fact, a continuous dialog with African culture, asking questions and seeking answers to central and enduring concerns of the African and human community. At the heart of this philosophy is the continuing quest to define and become the best of what it means to be both African and human in the fullest sense. This involves an ongoing search for models of excellence and paradigms of possibilities in every area of human life, but especially in the seven core

areas of culture: history; spirituality and ethics; social organization; political organization; economic organization; creative production (art, music, literature, dance, etc.) and ethos. It also involves creating a language and logic of liberation, one of opposition and affirmation, and a corresponding liberational practice to create a just and good society and pose an effective paradigm of mutually beneficial human relations and human possibility.

Kawaida is part of the Black value system developed with seven levels of blackness designed to preserve, revitalize and promote African-American culture. Consider the seven levels of blackness as concentric circles beginning at the center, moving outward. They are self, family, household, community, neighborhood, nation/race and world. As one supports a new level within this structure, increasingly, there is a higher level of responsibility.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa, when practiced together, forms the basis of a productive lifestyle inherent in the philosophy of Kawaida.

KWANZAA



LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING



Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod.
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.





SIFA



May we always remember those who have gone before us;

May we be inspired by their vision and valor;

**May their lives continuously remind us-
that service is more important than success;
that people are more important than possessions;
and that principles are more important than power.**

**May whatever we do be shaped and molded by honesty,
competence, and commitment.**

**May our children and our children's children carry forth pride, and
the nobility of our history and traditions.**

**To the Creator of all of us, we dedicate our lives to make this world
better and beautiful.**

Ashe!

**Harambee! Harambee! Harambee! Harambee! Harambee! Harambee!
Harambee!!!!!!!**





SELF-ESTEEM MANTRA



Minute by minute hour by hour...If you lose your faith,
you lose your power... Minute by minute, hour by hour
...If you lose your history you lose your power...Minute
by minute hour by hour...if truth is light, then
knowledge is power...If it's to be, it's up to
me!.....I feel good about myself!.....I feel good
about the people around me!.....I feel goodness
all around me!...And it will follow me the rest
of my life. Cause I walk with good...and I talk
with good...and I am good.and that feels real
good.... Good better best..never let it rest..
'til your good is your better.and your better is
your best...Minute by minute hour by hour..
You regain your faith, you regain your
power...Minute by minute hour by hour... You
regain your history, you regain yourpower...young
people, you wereonce great...and you shall be great again...
lose not faith...lose not courage...go forward.....uplift the world.

Harambee, harambee, harambee,
harambee, harambee, harambee,
HARAMBEE!...



Akron African American Cultural Association Presents

AKRON 2025 CITY WIDE KWANZAA

 CELEBRATION 

Guys and Gals Community
Partnership Inc.



www.ggcpinc.org