

Akron African American Cultural Association Presents

AKRON CITY WIDE 2024

KWANZAA



CELEBRATION



MONDAY, DECEMBER 30TH 6PM

Hosted by: Guys and Gals  
Community Partnership Inc.

**LOCATION-8 POINT BISTRO**  
**1912 BUCHHOLZER RD**



CONTACT-JEROME MOSS 330-689-8816



# CELEBRATION



## NIA (PURPOSE)

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.



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## AKRON KWANZAA



### UJAMAA COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

Sunday, Dec 29th  
5:30 P.M.  
Bounce Innovation Hub  
526 S. Main St  
Contact: Dr. Lathardus Goggins II  
234-542-0939



### NIA - PURPOSE

Monday, Dec 30th  
6:00 P.M.  
8 Point Bistro  
1912 Buchholzer Rd  
Contact: Jerome Moss  
(330-689-8816)



### UMOJA - UNITY

Thursday, Dec 26th  
6:00 P.M.  
Alpha Phi Alpha Center  
662 Wolf Ledges  
Contact: Tony Brown  
(330-252-0214)  
Earl Holmes (571-330-7362)



### KUJICHAGULIA - SELF-DETERMINATION\*

Friday, Dec 27th  
6:00 P.M.  
Mount Calvary Baptist Church  
442 Bell St  
Contact: Dr. Curtis Williams  
(330-459-0832)



### UJIMA COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY

Saturday, Dec 28th  
6:00 P.M.  
Gus Johnson Community Center  
1015 S. Hawkins Ave  
Contact: Lekesh Haynes  
330-529-5672)



### KUUMBA - CREATIVITY

Tuesday, Dec 31st  
4:00 P.M.  
Bayard Rustin Resource Center  
652 W. Market St  
Contact: Lillie Jackson  
(330-618-5278)



### IMANI - FAITH

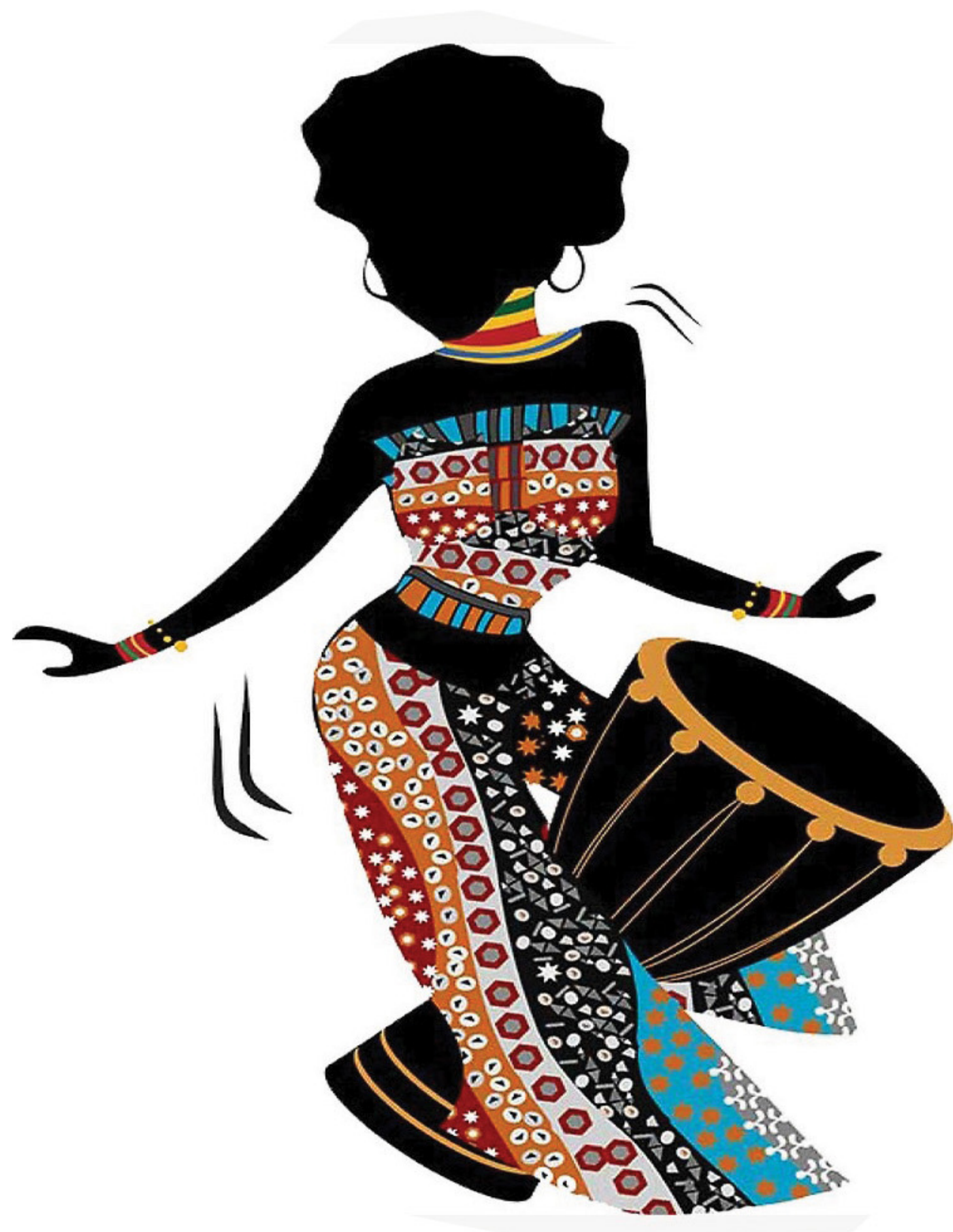
Wednesday, Jan 1st  
3:00 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting  
(Meeting ID: 864-2023-2667)  
Dial-in Phone Number:  
929-205-6099  
Contact: Kwa Hill  
(330-322-9630)







# AGENDA



**DRUM CALL**

**SEATING OF ELDERS**

**PERMISSION TO SPEAK FROM THE ELDERS**

**LIBATIONS**

**PROVERBS AND POEMS**

**EXPLANATION OF KWANZA SYMBOLS**

**PRINIPLES OF KWANZAA AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**PRINCIPLE PURPOSE STATEMENT**

**REMARKS AND WORDS OF WISDOM**

**BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**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 community together and make our 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 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 we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when 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.





# 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 (oO-MO-jah)**, which means unity

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

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

**Ujamaa (oO-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).

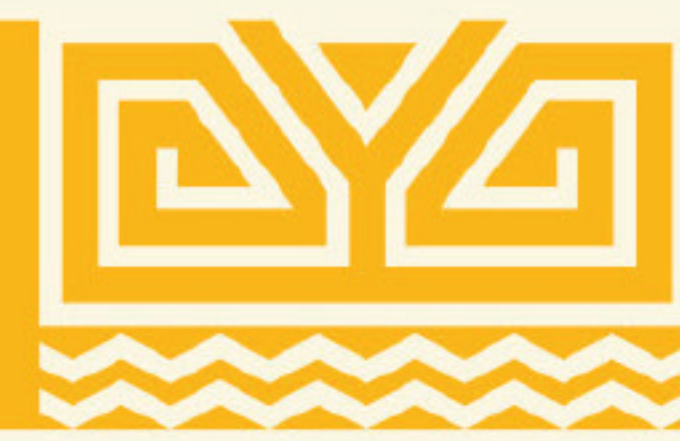




# KWANZAA



## 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.**

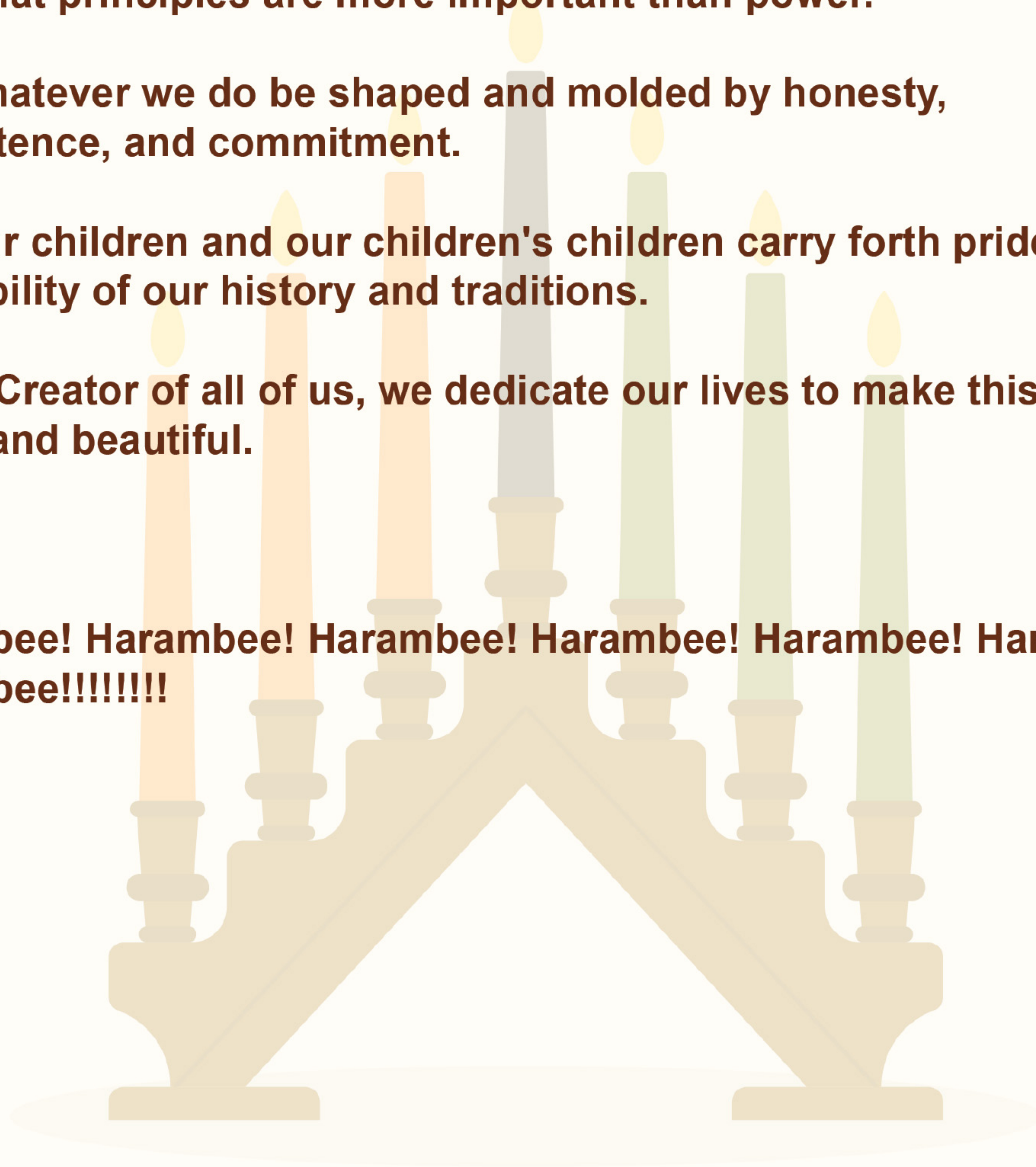
**May whatever we do be shaped and molded by honesty,  
competence, and commitment.**

**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..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 your power...young  
people, you were once 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!...







# UPCOMING EVENTS



# POWER | LOVE ♥ JUSTICE

WEEKEND-AKRON

**JAN 17-20, 2025**

**JOIN US**

## CORPORATE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

LOCATION: PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

CRUCIAL, COURAGEOUS, CONVERSATION TOPICS:

VIOLENCE, MENTAL HEALTH, & SAFETY

CONTACT: CHRISTA SMITH [CONTACT EMAIL: SMITHCHRI@SUMMAHEALTH.ORG](mailto:SMITHCHRI@SUMMAHEALTH.ORG)

**17**  
**FRIDAY**  
**DAYTIME**

## GOSPEL FESTIVAL

LOCATION: GOODYEAR THEATRE

\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION & \$65 VIP (INCLUDES FOOD & PREMIUM RESERVED SEATS)

GOSPEL ARTIST & LOCAL GROUPS/CHOIRS: SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONTACT: WILL BLAKE [CONTACT EMAIL: WILL@ITSWILLIEB.COM](mailto:WILL@ITSWILLIEB.COM)

**17**  
**FRI**  
**7:00PM**

## BUILDING BRIDGES YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

LOCATION: EAST CLC - **FREE GENERAL ADMISSION**

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND CONNECT TALKS ON: PUBLIC SAFETY, TRAUMA, & MENTAL HEALTH

CONTACT: JEROME MOSS [CONTACT EMAIL: GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM)

AND MAR-QUETTA BODDIE [CONTACT EMAIL: MBODDIE@SUMMITCOC.ORG](mailto:MBODDIE@SUMMITCOC.ORG)

**18**  
**SAT**  
**11AM-3PM**

## YOUTH DAY OF DOING

LOCATION: SELECTED SITES THROUGHOUT AKRON

FORUM FOR YOUTH TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE AND

BE ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE AS TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE OF AKRON

CONTACT: JEROME MOSS [CONTACT EMAIL: GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM)

**20**  
**MON**  
**10AM-2PM**



**GREATER AKRON AREA  
EVENT SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND EVENTS  
REGISTRATION & TICKETS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE SOON AT: [GGCPINC.ORG](http://GGCPINC.ORG)**

**FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & INFO CALL JEROME MOSS AT (330)689-8816  
OR EMAIL JEROME AT [GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GGCPINC7@GMAIL.COM)**



# POWER | LOVE ♥ JUSTICE Youth Day

WE WELCOME YOUTH AND ADULTS  
TO EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS

January  
20th  
10am-2pm

Registration will  
be available  
soon on  
[ggcpinc.org](http://ggcpinc.org)



## YOUTH DAY OF ACTION

**CLEANING UP THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE**  
LOCATED AT SELECTED SITES THROUGHOUT AKRON, OHIO | REGISTER ON [GGCPINC.ORG](http://GGCPINC.ORG)

### SPONSORS TO DATE:

DR. KING'S DREAM  
WEEKEND SPONSORS:



RE-IMAGINING  
PUBLIC SAFETY SPONSOR:



CIVIL RIGHTS SPONSOR:



SOCIAL JUSTICE SPONSORS:



Akron  
Urban League



PEACE AND EQUALITY SPONSORS:



DREAM PROMOTER SPONSORS:





Akron African American Cultural Association Presents

# AKRON CITY WIDE 2024 KWANZAA

 CELEBRATION 

Guys and Gals Community  
Partnership Inc.



[www.ggcpinc.org](http://www.ggcpinc.org)