

Holiday Celebrations around the world

KWANZAA

Honoring the values of ancient African cultures



This is the 42nd annual celebration of Kwanzaa, the African American holiday celebrated from December 26 to January 1.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, nor is it meant to replace Christmas.

It was created by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga.

The name comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits of the harvest."

Celebrate the Seven Principles

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa honors a different principle. These principles are believed to have been key to building strong, productive families and communities in Africa. During Kwanzaa, celebrants greet each other with "Habari gani," or "What's the news?" The principles of Kwanzaa form the answers.

UMOJA— (UNITY) --To Strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

KUJICHAGULIA— (SELF DETERMINATION) --To define ourselves, names ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves rather than to allow others to do these things for us.

UJIMA— (COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY) --To build and maintain our community together to make our sister and brothers' 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 hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.