

*"When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind."
~ African Proverb*

K **W** **A** **N** **Z** **A** **A**

A CELEBRATION RESOURCE

December 26 - January 1



KWANZAA

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are called the Nguzo Saba (n-GU-zoo SAH-bah). They were drawn from communitarian values found throughout the African continent. During the week of Kwanzaa, families, and communities come together to share in a healthy feast, honor their ancestors, affirm bonds, and celebrate African American culture.

Each day, a candle is lit to highlight the principle of that day. Meaning is brought to the principles through various activities, such as reciting sayings of great Black thinkers, reciting original poetry, African drumming, and dressing the table with Kwanzaa symbols.



Source: National Museum of African American History and Culture

KWANZAA

Seven Principles NGUZU SABA

UMOJA (OO-MO-JAH) UNITY: To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and people

KUJICHAGULIA (KOO-JEE-CHAH-GOO-LEE-AH) SELF-DETERMINATION: To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves

UJIMA (OO-JEE-MAH) COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY: To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together

UJAMAA (OO-JAH-MAH) COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS: To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

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

KUUMBA (KOO-OOM-BAH) 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 we inherited.

IMANI (EE-MAH-NEE) FAITH: To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

KWANZAA

Call to Worship A Vision from Ezra

LEADER: Rise in the Spirit. Rise with your voice. Rise with your limbs. A foundation has been established. Let us affirm the African American holiday of Kwanzaa.

PEOPLE: When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests were stationed to praise God with trumpets and the Levites with cymbals. They sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to God.

LEADER: From the Motherland to this land, God's steadfast love has endured and shall forever. We see this in the phenomenal overcoming of enslaved African descendants in the Western world.

PEOPLE: Let us respond with a great shout, because history has provided us lessons to live by. Let us shout aloud with joy for the return of an exiled culture--one that reveals the beauty of God's diverse family.

LEADER: Kwanzaa is about community. It centers the good that community provides and produces. Kwanzaa honors African American people who had to make a way out of no way to rebuild.

PEOPLE: Faithful ancestors have gone before us and there are prophets among us, helping us to be diligent. The work of our hands is prospering. We are the limbs of God, beloved of God, and worth celebrating. In the spirit of Kwanzaa, let us dedicate ourselves to a faith that lives, learns, and serves with God's community in mind.

KWANZAA

Ancestral Meditations

DAY ONE

Umoja means unity.

"Before a group can enter the open society, it must first close its ranks."

-Stokely Carmichael

Umoja means unity.

DAY TWO

Kujichagulia means self-determination.

"Philosophers have long conceded that every man has two educators: that which is given to him, and the other that which he gives himself. Of the two kinds, the latter is by far the most desirable...It is that which constitutes our real and best nourishment." -Carter G. Woods

Kujichagulia means self-determination.

DAY THREE

Ujima means collective work and responsibility.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." -Ida B. Wells

Ujima means collective work and responsibility.

DAY FOUR

Ujamaa means cooperative economics.

"If you can, individually, feed and clothe and help yourself, you can, combinedly, clothe and help others."

- Maggie L. Walker

Ujamaa means cooperative economics.

DAY FIVE

Nia means purpose.

"I was going through the hardest thing, also the greatest thing, for any human being to do; to accept that which is already within you, and around you." -Malcom X

Nia means purpose.

DAY SIX

Kuumba means creativity.

"This is one of the glories of man, the inventiveness of the human mind and the human spirit: whenever life doesn't seem to give an answer, we create one." -Lorraine Hansberry

Kuumba means creativity.

DAY SEVEN

Imani means faith.

"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers." -Bayard Rustin

Imani means faith.

KWANZAA

Prayer of Affirmation

Holy One,

We breathe your faithful love into our being--a love that calls us good. Your love is one of presence. Your love is one of memory. Your love is a vision of wellness that will not die.

Come to us in the strength of rich heritage during this Kwanzaa season. Pour out your Spirit. Stir imagination. Restore confidence. Host our hope. Scatter seeds of ancestral wisdom in our vineyards.

*Through your divine gift of community, we are connected to everything we need.
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Through your divine gift of community, we are connected to everything we need.*

We offer this prayer of affirmation believing our partnership with you is unmatched in power, from age to age. In the name of Jesus, Freedom's Lamb, Amen.



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