

**Community Acting Now (CAN)
KWANZAA CELEBRATION
ROSELLE COMMUNITY CENTER
1268 SHAFFER AVENUE,
ROSELLE, NJ
Tuesday, December 29th
7pm**



2009

KWANZAA



COMMUNITY ACTING NOW (CAN)

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



Habari Gani! We have hosted and celebrated many Kwanzaa ceremonies over the years. This year is the 43rd year of Kwanzaa's creation by Dr. Maulana Karenga. We welcome you to this very special Kwanzaa which is CAN's first as an organization and our first with 100% youth participation. We're excited!

It has been our life long quest to pass on this important celebration to young people in hopes that they may pass on to their children and so on. If you are celebrating Kwanzaa for the first time you will see that the Nuguzo Sabo (7 Principles) can and should be practiced every day. We're proud of the young people participating today and their contribution has encouraged our hearts and reminded us that the children *are* truly well. But...they need us all to be active and supportive in their lives. Each child belongs to us all for they are truly our future.

For most of these young people, this is their first Kwanzaa celebration! In the short time we've worked with them, we've watched them become more interested in their history and the importance of Kwanzaa. At times, we had multiple volunteers for the same parts for it seemed as their knowledge increased so did their excitement and enthusiasm. Imagine what could be accomplished if we each continued to fill their souls with the richness of their abundant heritage and the assurance of their future—as a daily practice!

As you participate in this program you are seeing youth who will grow up and find a cure for the latest incurable disease, open new, innovative and successful black businesses and schools. Soon they will be teaching others about their history. Today, we expect that they will be teaching you. So, this is your chance to encourage, praise and lift them up with the highest level of enthusiasm for the outrageous success of their work on this Kwanzaa Program. As you do, imagine all that they will grow up to accomplish and let the level of your support for them and belief in them come across to them through our collective wave of love so that this memory will last them a lifetime.

This program could not have been done without the support of the parents, grandparents and guardians, families, businesses and organizations, especially the Girl Scouts Troop #49, Roselle Family Success Center and Rene's Fashion Boutique. Thank You! All of us, coming together for this program is Kwanzaa in action and just one example of how we can live Kwanzaa and practice it every day and what can be accomplished when we do.

In 2009, we created CAN. Our primary areas of interest are: raising cultural consciousness, educating and supporting our youth and each other and quality of life. Our criteria for membership is people who believe things can be better and are willing to get involved and make things better **across the community of the world**. You can learn more about CAN and how to get involved at our website: communityactingnow.com for more details.

May God continue to give each of us the courage and strength to **Act Now! Do Good and Be the Difference!**

BT and Diane Mathis

PROGRAM

Getting Ready For Kwanzaa (Darius , DeAndre , Damon Phillips, Aubrey Williams, Jalil Morris, Akiira Muhammad)	A Family Kwanzaa
Welcome	Adrian Douglas & Shandora Stevens
Permission	Ananda Walton
Kwanzaa Greetings	Myia Williams
Prayer	Dale Ogunfowora
Kasserian Ingera	SaVonne Anderson
Lift Every Voice and Sing	Jasmine Jones/Latecia Johnson
Poem: Principles of Kwanzaa, Principles for Life	Nakaya Prindle
About Kwanzaa	Christian Kelly
Performance	De'Vine Footwork Academy

KWANZAA SYMBOLS: Novelle Fluker

Mazao: Jasmine Jones	Kikombe cha Umoja: Jason Solomon
Mkeka: Timiri Reddick	Kinara: Eric Haye
Muhindi: Alexys Staten	Mishumaa Saba: Anthony July
Zawadi: Jasmine Love	

KWANZAA CEREMONY

Celebrate Kwanzaa	Song
(Arianah Bratcher, Egypt Bratcher, Rasheed Bratcher, Anneesha Jones, Ananda Walton, Tamir Wright. Naseem McCleod, Deva Shim)	

NGUZO SABA: Laur-Asia Clark

Umoja	Lonnisha McCaad
Kujichagulia	Precious Whitfield
Ujima	Richner Leon
Ujaama	Dale Ogunfowora
Nia	Laur-Asia Clark
Kuumba	Latecia Johnson
Imani	Maxwell DeGuire

KWANZAA CEREMONY *(continued)*

About Libation	Basil Carter
Libation	Ebony Stevens
Farewell Statement	Isaiah Banks
Harambee	Kerlyne Gai
Performance	De'Vine Footwork Academy

FEAST

ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry

Music

Dance: DeVine Footwork Academy

HEALTHY FOOD CONTEST

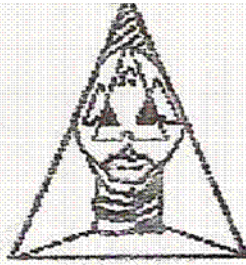
DESSERT CONTEST

KWANZAA GREETING

Habara Gani is derived from a Swahili greeting meaning “What’s the news?”.

Respond by saying the principle of the day, followed by a repetition of the greeting - for example:

Today is the fourth day of Kwanzaa. The principle for this day is **UJAAMA..** So, the correct response for today is “Ujaama, Habara Gani”.



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 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 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.

Maulana Karenga

Lift Every Voice And Sing

James Weldon Johnson

J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing 'til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmony of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning 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 'til 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 thru the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, 'til 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 wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

The symbols used during the Kwanzaa celebration reinforce and give deeper meaning to the purpose of the celebration.

- Mazao - Fruit or crops represent productivity.
- Mkeka - Straw mat represents the tradition or foundation that all of the properties.
- Kinara - Candle holder represents the illumination of the principles. It represents the ancestors and is placed in the center of the table. The principles are rooted in and held up by the Kinara.
- Muhindi - Corn represents children. There should be at least one ear of corn on the table.
- Mishumaa Saba - the seven candles represent the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles).
- Kikombe cha Umoja - Unity cup is used to drink from or pour into a plant as a libation in memory of ancestors.
- Zawadi - Gifts made and given to someone who has earned it through commitment to the Nguzo Saba throughout the year.
- The Bendera or flag (black, red, green) and a display of the Nguzo Saba (seven principles) .



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

KARENGA IS PROFESSOR OF BLACK STUDIES AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - LONG BEACH.

An activist-scholar of national and international recognition, Dr. Karenga is one of the most important figures in recent African American history, having played a major role in Black political and intellectual culture since the 60's. He has, along with his Organization, Us, played a major role in such movements as Black Power, Black Arts, Black Studies, the Independent Schools, Afrocentricity, Ancient Egyptian Studies, the Million Person Marches and currently the Reparations Movement.

In addition, he has lectured on the life and struggle of African peoples on the major campuses of the USA and in Africa, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Trinidad, Britain and Canada.

Dr. Karenga holds two Ph.D.'s, one in political science (USIU) and another in social ethics (USC), as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Durban, South Africa.

Moreover, Dr. Karenga is Chair of the Organization US and The National Association of Organizations.

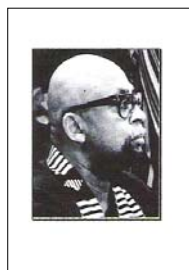
Dr. Karenga is also the author of numerous scholarly articles and book, including:

- (1) *Introduction to Black Studies*
- (2) *Selections From The Husia: Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt*
- (3) *Kawaida: A Communitarian African Philosophy*
- (4) *Odu Ifa: The Ethical Teachings and*
- (5) *Maat, the Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics* from Routledge Press

Dr. Karenga is the creator of the Pan-African Cultural holiday KWANZAA and author of the authoritative book on KWANZAA titled:

KWANZAA: A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Official Kwanzaa website: <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.shtml>



Kasserian ingera - And how are the children?

Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai. It is perhaps surprising then to learn the traditional greeting that passed between Masai warriors. “Kasserian ingera” one would always say to another. It means “and how are the children?”

It is still the traditional greeting among the Masai, acknowledging the high value that the Masai always place on their children’s well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer, “all the children are well.” Meaning, of course, that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless, are in place, that Masai society has not forgotten its reasons for being, its proper functions and responsibilities. “All the children are well” means that life is good. It means that the daily struggles of existence do not preclude proper caring for their young.

I wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our own children’s welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this daily question: “and how are the children?” I wonder if we heard that question and passed it along to each other a dozen times a day, if it would begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in our own country?

I wonder if we could truly say without any hesitation, “the children are well, yes, all the children are well.

an excerpt of a speech by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O’Neill

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COMMUNITY ACTING NOW (CAN)

Communityactingnow.com

ACT NOW!

DO GOOD!

BE THE DIFFERENCE!



GIRL SCOUTS TROOP # 49

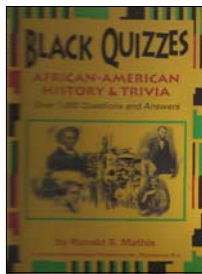
Shandora Stevens, Leader

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

LA AMISTAD PUBLISHING Inc.,

Piscataway, NJ

Ronald S. Mathis



Thank You!

**All the children,
youth & adults
who helped us
decorate, set-up
& cleanup!**

De'Vine Footwork Dance Academy LLC



312 Amsterdam Ave
Roselle, NJ 07203
908-241-6800
Fax: 908-241-6866

Diona Cochran, Owner



ROSELLE FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER 320 Chestnut Street, Roselle NJ 07203

Phone: (908) 445-8043

Hours of Operation: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Roselle Family Success Center is a family centered, support resource within the community to provide empowerment, education and a friendly environment to all Roselle families. The center is a true advocate of family goals while encouraging success with ones self.

<http://rosellefsc.org/>

Sisters of Soul Southern Cuisine

SISTERS OF SOUL SOUTHERN CUISINE is family owned and operated by a mother and brother, husband and son who use only the best and freshest ingredients for their dishes.

Open Tuesday—Sunday, 11am to 9pm

1314 St. Georges Ave., Linden, NJ

908-587-0100

(On site parking)

Rene's Fashion Boutique

1023 Chestnut St

Roselle, NJ 07203

908-241-0424

Rene Rasheed, Owner