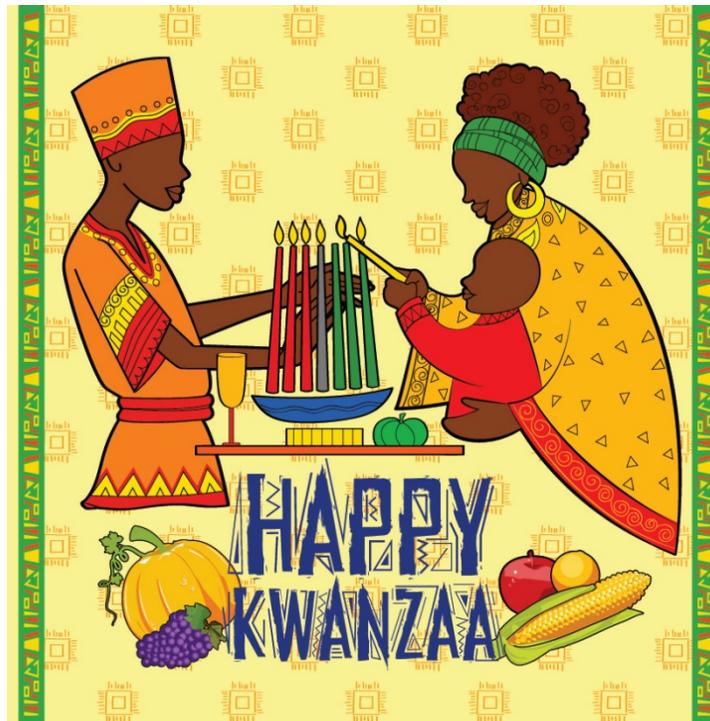

KWANZAA HOLIDAY

By Ngoc Vo



Kwanzaa holiday focuses on greetings of celebration, solidarity between people, and to honor the continuity struggle for the virtuousness in the world. Kwanzaa holidays are the exclusive time for African American people to honor the reflection, remembrance, reaffirmation, and recommitment. More than that, the Kwanzaa holidays are the especial and unique time to remember and honor the ancestors; the precious time for African Americans to take a look back at themselves and honor the meaning of being an African and being a human in the most expressive and significant sense.

Kwanzaa is celebrated annually, and the holiday length is seven days. Each day holds a different principle, as well as to remind the African Americans of the significant viewpoints that a person should have in order to make the world a better place.

1. UMOJA (Unity)
2. KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)
3. UJIMA (Collective Work & Responsibility)
4. UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics)
5. NIA (Purpose)
6. KUUMBA (Creativity)

7. IMANI (Faith)

Throughout seven principles, the meaning of the holidays is to urge a moral sensitivity and caring kinship with each other. Also, the principles teach us not to forget about ourselves, but taking good care of ourselves is essential as we can take care of others and the environment around us. The holiday promotes the value of shared works and shared wealth, reminds people to halt their mindless consumerism and to withstand the wasteful use of both environmental and societal products. This holiday shows human beings as injured doctors, who can repair, reform and update social and environmental practices. The meaning of the holiday also teaches people to practice sharing the goodness to the other people around them and together building a better world for future generations. The holiday also comes with a purpose that if one practices goodness towards each other and to the world, they are also doing good for themselves.

Source:

Karenga, Dr. Maulana. "Annual Founder's Kwanzaa Message 'KWANZAA AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE WORLD: LIVING AND UPLIFTING THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES.'" *Official Website Dr. Maulana Karenga*, www.maulanakarenga.org/.