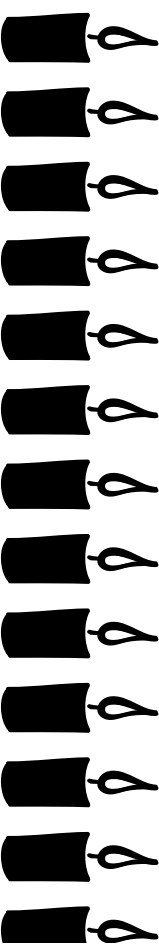




KWANZAKKAH

5783

INTRODUCTION



Kwanzakkah is a celebration of light, faith, and values. It combines the best of both Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Many Black Jews celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa to honor their heritage, beliefs, and culture.

Hanukkah is a reminder of the miracles of Hashem and the faith of the Maccabean Warriors. Kwanzaa honors the African heritage of all Black people and focuses on important cultural and spiritual values. Kwanzaa and Hanukkah both represent traditional ideas related to perseverance, community identity, and overcoming oppressions. Thus, Kwanzakkah is a time to celebrate strength, resistance, existence, and hope. Kwanzakkah is a celebration of exalting the intersectionality of being both Black and Jewish. It purposefully honors the evolution, spiritual development, culture and resilience of the Black and Jewish community. It reminds us to reflect, respect, and return to our full selves.

When We Celebrate

Kwanzakkah is celebrated on the eighth day of Hanukkah. The eighth candle on the hanukkiah (Hanukkah menorah) shall be a black candle or a rare to find red black and green candle. The hanukkiah is lit on the first day of Hanukkah (25 Kislev) and the kinara is lit on the first day of Kwanzaa (December 26). Should Hanukkah and Kwanzaa not fall on the same days, we light all 7 candles of the Kwanzaa kinara on the 8th day of Hanukkah to honor the Kwanzakkah celebration.



Principle

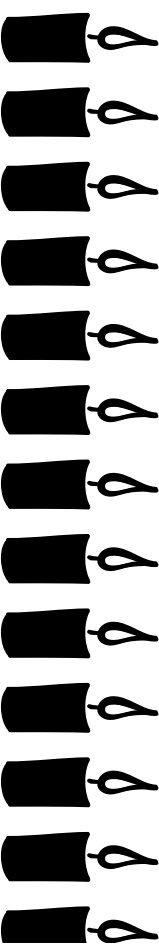
On Kwanzaa we celebrate a different principle everyday (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith). On Kwanzakkah we celebrate the 8th principle of Kwanzaa. The Kwanzakkah principle is:



Colors

During Kwanzakkah, we use the colors of the pan-African flag to decorate — red, black, and green. We use hints of yellow as many African and pan-African countries incorporate yellow into their flags.

CELEBRATION RITUAL



Lighting the Candles

The candles are lit for Hanukkah lighting the black candle last.

Tonight, we say a different brachah (prayer) than the other nights of Hanukkah.

Feminine

ברוכה את שכינה אלתינו רוח
העולם שהחיתנו וקיימתנו והג'עתנו
לזמן הזה

*Brukhah at Shekhinah elotaynu ruach ha'olam
shehekheyatnu vekiyematnu vehigi'atnu la'zman ha'zeh*

You are blessed, our God, Spirit of the world, who keeps us alive, sustains us, and brings us to this moment

ברוכה את שכינה אלתינו רוח
העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו
וצמנו להדליק נר של חנוכה
וקוונזאה

*Brukhah at Shekhinah elotaynu ruach ha'olam asher
kidshatnu b'mitzvotav v'tzivatnu l'hadlik ner shel
Hanukkah v'kwanzaa.*

You are blessed, our God, Spirit of the world, who makes us holy through your commandments and commands us to light the Hanukkah and Kwanzaa candles.

Traditional Masculine

ברוך אתה אדני אלהינו מלך
העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
להדליק נר של חנוכה וקוונזאה

*Barukh atah adonay eloheyenu melekh ha'olam asher
kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel
Hanukkah v'kwanzaa*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes us holy through your commandments and commands us to light the Hanukkah and Kwanzaa candles

למ וניהלא ינדא התא קורב
נע'גהו ונחיקו וניח'הש, סא'ועה
הזה ומצו

*Barukh atah adonay eloheyenu melekh ha'olam
shehekheyanu vekiyemanu vehigi'yanu lazman hazeh.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who keeps us alive, sustains us, and brings us to this moment.



CELEBRATION RITUAL

Pouring Libations

Libations are pan-African rituals used to give reverence to the ancestors.

Pour water into a plant after every name:

We call upon the ancestors to join us for our celebration and lift our hearts and our voices for joy and unity. We call upon Sarah, Rachel, Leah, Rivkah, Yocheved, and Ruth, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Audre Lorde, Nina Simone, Prince, and Sammy Davis Jr.

ANYONE AT THE CELEBRATION MAY CALL OUT A NAME OF AN ANCESTOR THEY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE TO THE CELEBRATION.

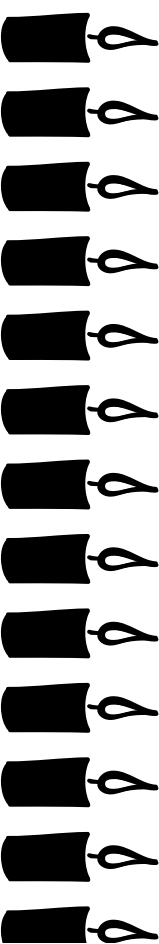
Blessing of Unity

May Hashem/Shekhinah fortify us with:

1. Umoja (*oo-mo'-jah*) – Unity
2. Kujichagulia (*koo'-jee-chah-goo-lee'-ah*) – Self-Determination
3. Ujima (*oo-jee'-mah*) – Cooperative Work and Responsibility
4. Ujamaa (*oo-jah'-mah*) – Cooperative Economics
5. Nia (*nee'-uh*) – Purpose
6. Kuumba (*k-oom'-bah*) – Creativity
7. Imani (*ee-mah'-nee*) – Faith
8. Ujasiri – Ometz Lev – Heart

All say “harambe!”

“HARAMBE” IS THE SWAHILI WORD FOR “UNITY.” WHEN SAYING “HARAMBE” REACH INTO THE SKY AND PULL THE UNITY OF THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS YOU WITH A FIST.



CREDITS

This Kwanzakkah Guide is originally authored by members and friends of the Black Jewish Liberation Collective including Shoshana Brown, Jess Valoris, Leah King, Dr. Tarece Johnson, Megan Madison, Graie Hagans, Kyle Rocco, Autumn Leonard, and edited by Erica Walker.

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