

## Community To Celebrate Kwanza Dec 30

The community is invited to participate in a celebration of Kwanza on Sat. Dec. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Doolittle Community Center.

The youth are especially encouraged to attend so that they may celebrate and learn more about their heritage.

### Kwanza -- Our Black Holy Days

There is no actual "Kwanza" celebration in Africa. However, throughout the African world -- among each people and culture -- a celebration or Festival is held to commemorate the end of harvest and the beginning of the new planting season. Well known Festivals such as the Yam Festivals, Egungun Festival and the various masquerades and dances encompass the various New Harvest, New Moon, Rebirth, Fertility and similar celebrations of affirmation that take place in the Black world.

During such festivals and celebrations, the people come together in an expression of thanks to nature, their gods, the ancestors and to re-dedicate themselves to the survival of their community and way of life.

Based upon the traditions of our ancestors, the African-American concept -- "Kwanza" -- was developed in the early sixties by Ron Karenga, founder of the US

organization in Los Angeles, California. Kwanza has since then been celebrated each year during the seven day period, December 26, -- January 1. It has been widely adopted among African-American families and institutions because of the positive values -- Nguzo Saba -- it instills and affirms in our youth.

The Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles of Blackness) are the foundation of the Kwanza celebration. They are:

1. UMOJA (Unity) -- To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

2. KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination) -- To define ourselves, name ourselves, and speak for ourselves, instead of being defined, and spoken for by others.

3. UJIMA (Collective Work and responsibility) -- To build and maintain our community together and to make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

4. UJAMAA (Co-operative Economics) -- To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other business and to profit together from them.

5. NIA (Purpose) -- To make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

6. 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.

7. IMANI (Faith) -- To believe with our heart in our parents our teachers our leaders our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

All symbols and decoration for KWANZA should be Red, Black and Green.

(a) MKEKA is a mat on which all the items for KWANZA are placed. The MKEKA is put on a low table or the floor. It represents the foundation upon which all else rests.

(b) KINARA is a candle holder for seven candles. Each candle is labeled with a principle. On the first day one candle is lit. On the second day two candles are lit, and so on...until Imani, the 7th day, when all the candles are lit. It represents the original stalk from which we all strong.

(c) MUHINDI is an ear of corn. We use as many Muhindi as we have children. The kernels represent the children and the stalk represents the father.

(d) At each family meal during KWANZA we:

1-Light some of the candles on the KINARA, 2-Say something inspirational about KWANZA, 3-Sing a song, 4-Enjoy our meal, 5-Everybody take a drink from the Unity Cup.

**Education**  
Will Lead To the Truth

## HHS Urges College Women To Help Stop Teen Mothers, Male Homicides

by Larry A. Still  
NNPA New Correspondent

Members of the nation's four major black college sororities were urged to work together with public and private resources "to prevent teen-age pregnancy and help reduce the tragically high rate of violence among young black men as the top problems facing black communities."

Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, made the plea at the recent Black Women's Political Action Forum sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi and Beta sororities in Washington. He was the keynote speaker at the conference, Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, president of the Delta, explained since "we're trying to form a partnership with Dr. Sullivan because health is the foundation of our concerns."

After urging the former coeds to promote adoption as "an alternative" to pregnancy "for those mothers who wish to pursue it," Sullivan said the women must recognize that "today, more than ever, black males urgently required the nurturing and support of the community." Focusing on increasing suicide, homicide and overall genocide among African-Americans, Sullivan said studies show that black males are seven times more likely to die of homicide than white males.

"We must begin to treat homicide as a public health problem, rather than simply as a criminal justice problem. By doing so, we can help put a stop on violence before our young men arrive -- broken in body and spirit -- in the courtrooms and trauma centers of our nation."

Referring to the "fraternal spirit (that) binds," as necessary in rebuilding our communities, he said "you are the most effective messengers of personal responsibility" as mother, community leaders as role models for young women. But, the black community "needs the participation, contribution, and support of proud, independent, productive, nurturing men and fathers."

The only African-American in President George Bush's cabinet, Sullivan paid tribute to sorority members with leadership roles in the Department of Health and Human Services. He cited Gwen-

dolyn King, the Commissioner of Social Security, an AKA; Senior Special Assistant Nancy Silvers, Sigma; and Dr. Elaine Johnson, director, Office of Substance Abuse Policy, a Zeta. He also cited "independents" as extraordinary public servants such as Kay James, assistant secretary for public affairs; Dr. Audrey Manley, deputy assistant secretary for health; Bonnie Guiton, chief, Office of Consumer Affairs; and Stephanie Lynch, special assistant.

The BWPAF also presented awards to four sorors for outstanding contributions in their fields. They were Dr. Constance Clayton, Delta, and Dr. Charlotte K. Brooks, AKA, in the field of Education; Judge Joyce William Warren, Sigma, Judicial System, and Dr. Elaine Johnson, director of the HHS Office of Substance Abuse Policy.

Resolutions were passed regarding Housing, the

Judicial System, Political Empowerment, the National Council of Negro Women, Substance Abuse/AIDS, Education, Redistricting and Reapportionment, Mammography, Gerontology, Black Health Professionals, Fair Representation on Committees, "Border Babies", and "Harlem Nights", the movie. Text of the resolutions were not released.

Sullivan noted that government could not solve all the problems alone. "We need the sort of personal, caring touch that not government can ever provide. "The HHS Department recently announced final regulations implementing the Family Support Act of 1988 -- regulations that will bring education, job training, work experience, and child care to teen mother -- and a new self-sufficiency, independence and dignity to them and their families, the chief executive officer of the department said.

### King-Week Activities Scheduled

Plans have been finalized for the 9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Parade and weeklong activities celebrating the birthday of the late human rights leader.

The birthday parade is set for 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 13th in downtown Las Vegas. The deadline for individuals, groups, and organizations to participate is Monday, January 8th. Awards for various categories in the parade will be presented on the evening of the 13th at the Annual King Banquet to be held at the Palace Station. The keynote speech will be delivered by Dr. Delores Spikes, President of Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA.

For parade entry forms or

information about King-Week, call 646-1018.

Events scheduled are as follows:

Jan. 7 \*Directions Breakfast -- Chez Polle Cafe -- 8:30 a.m. \*Reception -- Las Vegas Art Museum.

Jan. 9 \*Census & Reapportionment Forum

Jan. 10 \*Youth Night -- West Las Vegas Library

Jan. 11 \*Interfaith Services

Jan. 12 \*Grand Marshalls & Guest Speaker Reception

Jan. 13 \*9th Annual Parade -- 12:00 noon \*Banquet -- Palace Station -- 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 15 \*Bell Ringing ceremony conducted by Gov. Bob Miller 9:30 am -- \*King Salute -- West Las Vegas Library -- 6:00 pm.

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