

Diaspora Dialogues

2ND ANNUAL BAHAI' I INSPIRED KWANZAA



SUNDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

DECEMBER 26, 2021 TO JANUARY 1, 2022

BEGINS 11AM (EST) ON SUNDAY UNTIL 7PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY EVENINGS 7-11 PM EST

FINAL DAY, SATURDAY 12NOON TO 5PM EST

PROGRAM CHAIR: BARBARA TALLEY

2ND ANNUAL DIASPORA DIALOGUES BAHA'I INSPIRED KWANZAA

December 2021

- 26** **UMOJA**
Unity **11-7 P.M. EST**
- 27** **KUJICHAGULIA**
Self-Determination **7-11 P.M. EST**
- 28** **UJIMA** **7-11P.M. EST**
Collective Work and Responsibility
- 29** **UJAMAA** **7-11P.M. EST**
Cooperative Economics
- 30** **NIA** **7-11P.M. EST**
Purpose
- 31** **KUUMBA** **7-11P.M. EST**
Creativity
- 1** **IMANI**
Faith

12-5P.M. EST

January 2022

A PUPIL
OF THE
EYE **ONLY**
EVENT

A multi-day Town Hall gathering that brings together African-Americans, Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, Afro-Latinos, and others of African Descent.

A TIME TO **HEAL**, **CONNECT**, AND **CELEBRATE** OUR
UNIQUE HERITAGE AND **STRENGTHEN** OUR UNITY



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UNITY/UMOJA

Sunday, December 26, 11am-2pm



BARBARA TALLEY

Conference Chair (Poet, Author, Keynoter, and Change Mgt. Specialist)

Welcome to our 2nd Annual Baha'i Inspired Kwanzaa program. Are people of African descent destined to be victims of discrimination forever or are they blessed and highly favored by our Creator? A special message from The Guardian of the Baha'i Faith inspired me almost 3 years ago, perhaps it will inspire you too! bahaipote2019@gmail.com for more information about events uplifting black folks.



KEVIN GENUS

Voice Over Talent

Kevin will help me bring that 1927 conversation to life between Mrs. Sadie Oglesby and Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith. The conversation will hopefully help our entire family of African descent understand our special station, calling, and the divine blessings promised to us in the Baha'i Writings.



MASUD OLUFANI

"Praying with Our Feet: The Importance of Solidarity in the Midst of Building Unity."

Masud Ashley Olufani is an Atlanta based actor, mixed media artist, and writer whose studio practice is rooted in the discipline of sculpture. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, and The Savannah College of Art and Design where he earned an M.F.A. in sculpture in 2013. Masud has exhibited his work in group and solo shows nationally and internationally. Masud will invite the ancestors in with a gospel medley and speak on the topic of unity.



TASHA CAMPBELL & BERRIS SAVARY

Retired Army Major Mr. Effiom Whyte's two mentees

Ms. Tasha Campbell, a final year medical student at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and Mr. Berris Savary, a Master Auto Mechanic and long standing mentee of Effiom Whyte, will highlight that it takes more than a village to support success.



LAYLI MAPARYAN

Layli Maparyan, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Wellesley Centers for Women and Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts

Layli has published two groundbreaking books on womanism. She will share LIVE from LIBERIA her love of Africa and what being in the motherland does for the heart and soul of black folks reared in America.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UNITY/UMOJA

Sunday, December 26, 2 pm-7pm

PROGRAM CURATED BY GERI PEAK AND KATURA FELIX

Facilitator of Our Afternoon Program.



Geri Lynn Peak, DrPH (she/they) is Chief Insight Facilitator, Two Gems Consulting Services and Virtues Project(tm) Master Facilitator. Craft-y (spinner/crocheter/knitter/metalsmith-ish/beadworker/dyer/weaver/sewer) designer, poet, african/modern/middle eastern dancer, djembe drummer, handpan newbie, guitar pretender, avid organic vegetable gardener, cat whisperer, native angelina, baltimore import, world traveler, introvert, nerd/blerd, trekkie, techie, gamer, afrofae, wisdom conjurer, spiritual warrior, collaborator, action-taker, maker, evaluator, coach, guide, degree-holder, entrepreneur, daughter, mother, wife, elder, learner, empathetic, recovering-sarcastic, Baha'i, black/pupil-of-the-eye, cis woman transforming.

Looking for Love: Conversations on the Love of the Creator, Self-love, Love among African peoples, Envisioning world transformation.

LOVE FROM AFRICANS TO THE CHILDREN OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Wanjiku Kigara, Tola Salau, and Vicky Idoko-Pope



VICKY IDOKO-POPE

Panelist

Vicky was born in Okpoga Nigeria and now lives in Abuja Nigeria. Seasoned independent consultant (25+ years in Institutional and organizational development; Pan Africanist: Extreme passion about the plight of people of African Descent worldwide; Leaders most admired: Malcolm X, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia; One wish: bring people of African descent back to together, heal the wounds, make Africa great again. Lived in the US for almost 2 decades. Married an African American man...learned a lot about African American experience during my stay here.



WANJIKU KAGIRA-KARGBO

Panelist

Wanjiku was born in Kenya and married in Sierra Leone.

UMOJA (UNITY): MAINTAINING UNITY AS A FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND RACE OF PEOPLE.

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



UNITY/UMOJA

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Looking for Love: Conversations on the Love of the Creator, Self-love, Love among African peoples, Envisioning world transformation.



ANOKWALE ANANSESEMFO

Repatriation to Ghana

Co-founder and owner of Lon Don GH Fitness located in Cape Coast, Ghana where I currently reside. I am the former president of the Griots Circle of Maryland Inc. which is a chapter of the National Association of Black Storytellers. I am also the founder and president of the Black Diamonds Girls Club Inc. for girls ages 13-18 years, former National Park Ranger and Adjunct History Professor.

LOVE LETTERS FROM THE AMERICAS TO AFRICA

John Wesley Days, Mindelyn Anderson, Ida Gordon, Isoke Sims, Karla Wynn, and Martha Bradshaw



JOHN WESLEY

John Wesley Days, Jr. is an educator, multi-media artist, facilitator, musician, and Brazil Country Director for The Lion Shade Group

John's area of expertise includes group process facilitation, intercultural communication and global project management with a focus on mediating manifestations of conflict by creating conditions conducive to uproot its causes over the long term. From his work with the United Nations to his contributions in numerous global non-governmental organizations, Wesley is well-practiced in generating opportunities to reveal the interactive complexity of conflict that expose us to a world of uncertainty. Currently his projects include: Conflict & Capoeira: Ukraine/Slovakia, O Barrio da Paz no Fluxos Internacionais—Bahia, Brazil, and Music, Movement and Ritual Theater in Conflict Transformation at the Living Well Center for Social and Economic Vibrancy, Baltimore, MD.



MARSHA BRADSHAW

Spiritual Practitioner

As a Spiritual Practitioner, my role is to see the good in all things – to see God in everything. I have been a Spiritual Practitioner for 32 years and hold a Masters Degree in Spiritual Psychology. Currently, I am the President of the Spiritual Practitioners at Ahiah Center for Spiritual Living in Pasadena and the Co-Director of the Freedom Light Ministry at Agape International Center of Truth in Beverly Hills. Agape's Freedom Light Ministry is a Ministry responsible for supporting individuals that are experiencing/serving time or have served time in the Criminal Justice System. As a Spiritual Practitioner and Coach I support individuals in seeing their spiritual purpose.

UMOJA (UNITY): MAINTAINING UNITY AS A FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND RACE OF PEOPLE.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UNITY/UMOJA

Sunday, December 26, 2 pm-7pm

Looking for Love: Conversations on the Love of the Creator, Self-love, Love among African Peoples, Envisioning World Transformation.

LOVE LETTERS FROM THE AMERICAS TO AFRICA (CONTINUED)

John Wesley Days, Mindelyn Anderson, Ida Gordon, Isoke Sims, Karla Wynn, and Martha Bradshaw



MINDELYN ANDERSON
A LOVE LETTER TO AFRICA

I come to you as the great granddaughter of share croppers and landowners, granddaughter of Southern migrants and Midwestern educators, daughter of first generation college student and servant leader, wife of a man for all time and mother of four Black joyful babies. I am grateful to contribute to this space of creativity, purpose, and healing.



IDA GORDON
A LOVE LETTER TO AFRICA

Ida Gordon's greatest dream was to serve malnourished children and their families in Africa. But God had a better plan....



ISOKE SIMS
A LOVE LETTER TO AFRICA

Since childhood, Isoke Sims always wanted to go to Africa, even though people in her church said that Africa was sin because of Egypt. After two friends went to Senegal, and had a reception sharing their trip upon their return, she decided to go when she turned 40. She traveled to Senegal West Africa three times in the late 1990s to early 2000s. Isoke worked in the community, she was a social worker and taught at Bowie State University and Sojourner Douglas College.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UNITY/UMOJA

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Looking for Love: Conversations on the Love of the Creator, Self-love, Love among African peoples, Envisioning world transformation.



KARLA WYNN

A LOVE LETTER TO AFRICA

Karla is a student of African Cultures from a young age and has visited and lived in Africa. She is married to an African from Senegal, and has visited several African countries including: Senegal, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa while living as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Namibia. She is an expert Career Coach, Recruiter, Workforce Development Professional, and Workshop Trainer with five industry certifications: GCDF; CWDP; CPRW; CCSP; and Certified Practitioner of MBTI Step I and Step II Instruments.

BLACK LOVE DAY

Eliza Cooper will introduce us to Black Love Day and shares her transformative journey in organizing for this event over the past several years.



ELIZA COOPER

How fostering Love in Action Builds Humanity and Compassion

Eliza Cooper, has been celebrating and helping others learn about and celebrate Black Love day for over a decade -- for 5 years in DC in the early 2000s and the past 7 years in Baltimore. Her business, Live Holistically Balanced, partners with community organizations, to provide Holistic Health education, relationship, and community engagement information, resources, and instruction through workshops and events. Eliza is a Community Anchor, Natural Health Educator and Couples Coach and Director for Thriving Communities Collaborative. Eliza is a certified: Emotional Emancipation Healing Circle Facilitator & Virtual Parent Cafe Facilitator

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

Dakara Saunders

UMOJA (UNITY): MAINTAINING UNITY AS A FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND RACE OF PEOPLE.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

KUJICHAGULIA
SELF DETERMINATION

Monday, December 27, 7pm-11pm



BARBARA TALLEY - MONDAY FACILITATOR

Conference Chair (Poet, Author, Keynoter, and Change Mgt. Specialist)

"How do we navigate our multiple identities? Kujichagulia, the second day of Kwanzaa says we define ourselves! What does it mean to be a POTE or pupil of the eye? Is this a unique "Baha'i category, a station, a calling, or just a new-age descriptive fad? We people of African descent have, like others, been created noble, and unlike so many others have been labeled negatively by those who refuse to see our nobility. This talk will focus on our Divine destiny, identity, and true calling.



RADIANCE TALLEY

Radiance Talley is the community & content Manager at BahaiTeachings.org. She has a degree in communication from the University of Maryland and gained ample knowledge of theory building, negotiation, conflict management, interpersonal, intergroup, intercultural, and organizational communication, as well as anthropology, sociology, and cross-cultural psychology.

Radiance's talk will be on "Benevolent vs. Hostile Sexism. Radiance Talley, an accomplished writer, public speaker, and poet, discusses the intersection of racism and sexism, and the types of privileges and discrimination that women experience because of their race.

Why Are You **Not** Angry? PANEL



CAROL MANSOUR



SUE ST. CLAIR

If he exercises his anger and wrath against the bloodthirsty tyrants who are like ferocious beasts, it is very praiseworthy; but if he does not use these qualities in a right way, they are blameworthy.

Then it is evident that in creation and nature evil does not exist at all; but when the natural qualities of man are used in an unlawful way, they are blameworthy.

(Abdu'l-Baha)



KEVIN GENUS



OAK RITCHIE



MASUD OLUFAN

KUJICHAGULIA (SELF DETERMINATION): DEFINING, NAMING, CREATING, AND SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UJIMA

**COLLECTIVE WORK
AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Tuesday, December 28, 7pm-11pm

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKING OUR BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S PROBLEMS OUR PROBLEMS AND SOLVING THEM TOGETHER.



TUESDAY FACILITATORS

Geri Peak and Willis Burris

Geri Lynn Peak, DrPH (she/they) is Chief Insight Facilitator, Two Gems Consulting Services and Virtues Project(tm) Master Facilitator. Willis is the Author of the biographical memoir, "THE MAN I LOVE AND ME: From The Caribbean to Carmel." This book combines a moving tribute to his late father Anderson, who was Willis's first mentor, with an autobiography of the his first 40 years.



EYES ON THE PRIZE

FROM SHARING THE SKILL, TO ELEVATING COMMUNITIES



EFFIOM WHYTE

Retired Army Major Mr. Effiom Whyte

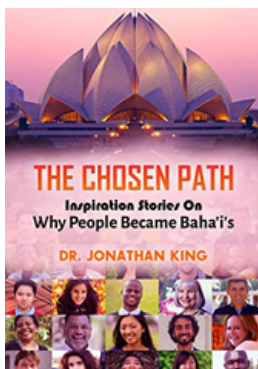
Effiom B. Whyte was born in Kingston, Jamaica and credits his parents for a strong value-driven upbringing, and his father's words, "Stand for something, lest you fall for anything," which he continues to live by each and every day. From humble beginnings on Slipe Pen Road, Effiom set his eyes to the skies to pursue a career in the military, followed by commercial aviation. Following his retirement, he found ways to foster growth and development in Jamaica's youth, local communities, and around the world.



JUNE THOMAS

June Thomas is an author, a Centennial Professor of Urban Planning and Regional Development at University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, a former professor at Michigan State University, and on the faculty at the Wilmette Institute

June will share from her forthcoming book on "Struggling to Learn: The Rural South pre-Civil Rights Era." She also authored, "Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit" (John Hopkins University Press, 1997; Wayne State University, 2013).



JONATHAN KING

Former College Vice-President, Author of the Chosen Path, and Education Consultant

Jonathon is the author of 'The Chosen Path,' an anthology of stories that chronicles the unique lives of forty-five people from different walks of life who became Baha'i's from every corner of the globe.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

UJAMAA
COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

Wednesday, December 29, 7pm-11pm

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKING OUR BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' PROBLEMS OUR PROBLEMS, AND SOLVING THEM TOGETHER.



WILLIS BURRIS - WEDNESDAY FACILITATOR

Education As a Tool to Economic Prosperity

Willis holds a Master of Business Administration degree, specializing in International Economics with a minor in Finance. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree, specializing in Accounting, with minors in Economics and Journalism. He also holds a diploma of Education, and was the Rookie Teacher of the Year in Florida. For five years Willis was a member of the four-person management team of the Finance Department/Treasurer's Office, in the position of the Internal Controller at the Bahá'í World Center.



MARTINE HUBBARD AND HWALING COFFEY

Professional Financial Experts and Coaches.

Their talk will be on "Basic Concepts of Personal Finance." Martine's Financial Services help and educate people on how to build a solid financial foundation for their families for generations! Hwaling has worked in the Financial Services, Real Estate & Investing, Skilled in Debt Strategies, and was financially Independent before the age of 40.



JO'AN SHANNON

President of The Worldwide Children's Trust

From food and books, to flowers, to dear skins, to protecting children from lead poisoning, JoAn has served the most vulnerable in the community. Tonight she will speak on: "Empowering and Protecting Children as a Tool for Economic Prosperity"



BAJI VARNER

Owner of Created Noble at BE on Edgewood in Atlanta GA, studied at Florida A&M University, went to Maxwell International School

Bahji Varner, is a middle school teacher and mother of three. She will share the story of Mr. Burns who first built the property her business now resides on. She is passionate about social justice, unity, education, and empowerment and has also been supporting other small businesses and the community with weekly vendor markets, food & clothing drives, and other activities.



JAMYE WOOTEN (WITH GERI PEAK)

CLLCTIVLY: Building Black Futures Together

Jamye is an organizer, born to a family of entrepreneurs and shaped by the Black Church tradition. He is the former director of the Collective Banking Group, working with over 200 churches in faith-based economic development; the founder of KINETICS, a digital communications company and most recently; the founder of CLLCTIVLY, a place based social change organization that centers Black Genius, Narrative Power, Social Networks, and Resource Mobilization.



DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021

NIA PURPOSE

SPECIAL GUEST: AYO HANDY- KENDI, THE BREATH SEKOU

AYO WILL FACILITATE THE POURING OF LIBATIONS TO HONOR THE ANCESTORS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE A BREATH VISUALIZATION AND SACRED SOUND. SHE WILL ALSO FACILITATE IN THE CLOSING PROGRAM WITH A UNITY LOVE CIRCLE.

She is an Author, Speaker, Storyteller whose focus on culture and wholistic health is embodied in her, "Power of the Breath" and "Keepers of the Culture" series of books, plays, dvd's and cd's. She performs "tune-up" music with her husband, John Davies 3, drummer/composer featured as "Earth Love Tune Up Crew" (ELTUC). Ayo Handy-Kengi is a master teacher of the breath since 1970. Founder/CEO of PositivEnergyWorks in 2004, her service offers private, group sessions, courses & presentations that encourage self-care, stress/trauma/ depression management & healing racism from a BIPOC perspective. She is Founder of Optimum Life Breathology™, a system of breath trainings which includes her signature modalities, Transcendence Breathwork™, Relearn How to Breathe™, Women, Breathe Away Trauma™, Breath Circles to Heal the Divides™, It's a PlayShop™, Birthing Breath™, Art of Self-Pleasure™ and Power of the Breath to Breathe Through Burn-out™. She integrates wholistic, transformative & daily practices as breathology/breathwork techniques, sound, drumming, toning, embodiment, movement, play, visualization, reiki, silencing/meditative writing, prayer, reconciliation & forgiveness. **She is also the founder/CEO of African American Holiday Association (AAHA) which stewards the commemorative holiday, Black Love Day, Feb. 13, since 1993.**

Ayo's Breath techniques helped her overcome many adversities. She has "breathed" with millions offering life-changing inspiration to "Breathe Better, Live Better" to ignite our "PositivEnergy".. Contact her at www.PositivEnergyWorks.com, 202-667-2577.



**Thursday,
December 30,
7:15pm-8pm
10pm-10:45pm**

**Certified Breathologist,
Laughter Yoga Teacher,
Reiki Master 3, QiCong
2, Sound Healer,
Speaker/Storyteller,
Diversity Trainer,
Cultural & Spiritual
Rituals Facilitator.**

**NIA/PURPOSE: WORK COLLECTIVELY TO BUILD COMMUNITIES THAT WILL
RESTORE THE GREATNESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE.**

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



**NIA
PURPOSE**

Thursday, December 30, 7pm-11pm

'2017 Sisters' Love Brew' PANEL



KATURA FELIX - FACILATOR: 2017 SISTERS' LOVE BREW

Kay is a trained executive and leadership coach, internal medicine physician, and community-based participatory researcher.

Kaytura Felix is an optimistic leader with deep expertise in leadership development, collaborative teams, and racial equity. For the past 20 years, Kay has led teams of highly talented professionals to generate top results through commitment, collaboration, and learning. Most importantly, she is a committed spiritual activist who supports community members to become protagonists in their quests for justice.



RUHA BENJAMIN

Ruha Benjamin is a writer, teacher, and professor of African American Studies at Princeton University.

Her forthcoming book, *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* (2022) examines the relationship between COVID-19 and police violence, mapping the many vectors through which racism gets under the skin, into the blood stream, attacking our bodies and body politics. She offers a vision of change, "viral justice" - as a practical and principled approach to transmuting a hostile racial climate into one that is more habitable, hopeful, and just. For more info please visit www.ruhabenjamin.com.



CECILE EDWARDS

Cecile is an Educator, Facilitator and Postpartum Doula.

Cecile was born in St. Ann, Jamaica and now lives in Somerset, NJ. She has the urge to leave the fast pace, stress filled life style of the USA. She is on the journey of self reflection on how the values of the world, country and Mt family worked or didn't work for a healthy current reality and finding ways to reimagine and live. Truth telling of herself and others has been a cornerstone to this upheaval and restructuring process.



ERMINE SMITH



PAM SLATER



BERNADETTE ALEXANDER

*Truth Telling, Healing,
Friendship,
Enduring/Pandemic,
Devotions,
Movement & Outdoor Time
Joy.*

NIA/PURPOSE: WORK COLLECTIVELY TO BUILD COMMUNITIES THAT WILL RESTORE THE GREATNESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE.

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



**KUUMBA
(CREATIVITY)**

Friday, December 31, 7pm-11pm



VOLARI (TAQI) MORGAN - FRIDAY FACILITATOR

Author, Speaker, Domestic Violence Survivor

She is a Quality Assurance Manager during the day and serves as the Founder and Executive Director of Shifted Masterpiece Inc. at night. She is the author of Shifted Masterpiece: A story of Love & Horror in Savannah, GA, a Life Coach, DV Survivor, and Advocate raising awareness against domestic violence and helping women renew, reclaim, and revitalize their voice and soul.



BARBARA TALLEY

Author, Speaker, Poet

Has been writing poetry since she was twelve years old. She has published six books, two of which are poetry, one in 1999, and the other in 2008 and she writes regularly. She will be sharing a couple of her favorites. She currently has 14 books of poetry ready to publish.



MASHALLAH SALAAM

Art Director for Partners in Racial Justice

She produces a podcast for Webb Squared, which is a non profit program that focuses on helping black entrepreneurs build their businesses. She created Afro Future Productions to share positive stories about black people and encourage unity through inspiring messages and help promote people who are creating positive change in the world.



DAMITA HICKS

The Sacred Art of God in the Universe and The Roots of Mama A'free'ca in Racial Healing and Harmony

She is an artist and loves to educate and inspire all of humanity with her art. She invented her own special way of painting with crayons. She has started the Mama A'free'ca Movement to bring love and gratitude for our deep genetic connections.



DERIK SMITH

Professor, Artist, Activist

He is a professor of literature at working on issues related to education, incarceration, homelessness, as well as the arts. He's been trying to adopt a humble posture of learning in the effort to discover effective ways of bringing the Revelation to black people and others. He speaks on the station of the pupil of the eye and professionally on other race-related topics. He works/has worked in the field of criminal justice, also works with media, and can speak on the portrayal of POTE.



MARTINE HUBBARD

Baha'i for 52 years, Mother, Grandmother, Artist, Financial Services Educator and Coach

Martine will share her art and the artist's process, giving us a sneak preview of a few pieces of work in progress.

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



**IMANI
FAITH**

Saturday, January 1, 12pm-5pm



BARBARA TALLEY - SATURDAY FACILITATOR TRUSTING IN DIVINE MISSION

Visionary for Arise, Black and Native, and Diaspora Dialogue Conferences, Black Friday, and Foundation Hall University

"In 2019, I had a 3-part vision in response to the sorrow I was feeling from witnessing so many black and brown people being murdered in the street. Watching helplessly made me angry. And so, after 50+ days of meditating, my course of action was clear. First, help restore dignity to black people; second, connect with Indigenous people; and third, hold a Bridge conference to bring us all together. Faith allowed me to complete my mission."



EFFIE BALDWIN "THE GODDESS MA'AT-WEIGHING THE HEART"

Doula, Kemetic Yoga Practitioner,

Effie will speak on: "By the Grace of God, I've been blessed to participate in Spiritual and Cultural pilgrimages. I've traveled to Haifa, Israel for Spiritual development and to Cairo, Egypt for cultural transformation. Learning about the principles of Ma'at and applying them to everyday living is a walk of Faith (Imani)!"

Stories of Faith, Struggle, and Triumph



SUE ST. CLAIR



JAMES WILLIAMS



VOLARI MORGAN

Stories of Faith, Survival, and Love

Sue St. Clair

Collective and Continuous Prayer

James Williams

Faith: Surviving Domestic Violence

Volari Morgan

Sustaining Almost 13-years of

Stories of Faith After Losing a Child

Carmen Brown

Trusting Without Visible Evidence

Charli Smith

My Heart Connection with Ali

Nakhjani

Wanjiku Kagira-Kargbo



CARMEN BROWN



CHARLI SMITH



WANJIKU KAGIRA-KARGBO

**IMANI/FAITH: THE BELIEF IN GOD, FAMILY, HERITAGE,
LEADERS, AND OTHERS THAT WILL LEAD TO VICTORY.**

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



KWANZAA PRINCIPLES

BAHA'I VERSES ON THE PRINCIPLES

DECEMBER 26

THE FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA SIGNIFIES TOGETHERNESS IN THE FAMILY, COMMUNITY, NATION, AND RACE.

"The well-being of mankind," He declares, "its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established." "So powerful is the light of unity," is His further testimony, "that it can illuminate the whole earth. The one true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words... This goal excelleth every other goal, and this aspiration is the monarch of all aspirations."

UMOJA UNITY

DECEMBER 27

THE SECOND DAY OF KWANZAA SIGNIFIES THAT WE SHOULD DEFINE OURSELVES, NAME OURSELVES, CREATE FOR OURSELVES, AND SPEAK FOR OURSELVES, RATHER THAN BEING DEFINED, NAMED, CREATED FOR OR SPOKEN FOR BY OTHERS.

IF WE ARE TO BE DEFINED, IT MUST BE BY OUR CREATOR AND NOT BY EVIL MEN!

O SON OF SPIRIT! Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created. (Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Bahá'u'lláh...once compared the colored people to the black pupil of the eye surrounded by the white. In this black pupil is seen the reflection of that which is before it and through it the light of the spirit shineth forth. "Now the dark-skinned people," he said, "would have an upsurge that is both spiritual and social. This spiritual upsurge will rapidly bring them great gifts because it is an act of God, and it is so intended. ...a cream that has latent gifts only to be brought out by divine bounties.

KUJICHAGULIA

SELF
DETERMINATION

DECEMBER 28

THE THIRD DAY OF KWANZAA SIGNIFIES THAT WE MUST BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKE OUR BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' PROBLEMS OUR PROBLEMS AND WORK TO SOLVE THEM TOGETHER.

It is enjoined upon every one of you to engage in some form of occupation, such as crafts, trades and the like. We have graciously exalted your engagement in such work to the rank of worship unto God, the True One. Ponder ye in your hearts the grace and the blessings of God and render thanks unto Him at eventide and at dawn. Waste not your time in idleness and sloth. Occupy yourselves with that which profiteth yourselves and others. ..

Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, pp. 26

UJIMA COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY

DECEMBER 29

THE FOURTH DAY OF KWANZAA RECOGNIZES THAT OUR ECONOMIC GOALS SHOULD NOT BE INDIVIDUAL; THEY SHOULD BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE.

Strive, therefore, to create love in the hearts in order that they may become glowing and radiant. When that love is shining, it will permeate other hearts even as this electric light illumines its surroundings. When the love of God is established, everything else will be realized. This is the true foundation of all economics. Reflect upon it. Endeavor to become the cause of the attraction of souls rather than to enforce minds. Manifest true economics to the people. Show what love is, what kindness is, what true severance is and generosity. This is the important thing for you to do. Act in accordance with the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. .. Economic questions will not attract hearts. The love of God alone will attract them. Economic questions are most interesting; but the power which moves, controls and attracts the hearts of men is the love of God.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, 23 July 1912, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 238-239

UJAMA COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS

DIASPORA DIALOGUES 2021



KWANZAA PRINCIPLES

BAHA'I VERSES ON THE PRINCIPLES

DECEMBER 30

THE FIFTH DAY OF KWANZAA STATES THAT WE MUST MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOCATION THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPING OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO RESTORE OUR PEOPLE TO THEIR TRADITIONAL GREATNESS.

NIA PURPOSE

He Who is the Day Spring of Truth is, no doubt, fully capable of rescuing from such remoteness wayward souls and of causing them to draw nigh unto His court and attain His Presence. "If God had pleased He had surely made all men one people." His purpose, however, is to enable the pure in spirit and the detached in heart to ascend, by virtue of their own innate powers, unto the shores of the Most Great Ocean, that thereby they who seek the Beauty of the All-Glorious may be distinguished and separated from the wayward and perverse. Thus hath it been ordained by the all-glorious and resplendent Pen....

Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 70-71

DECEMBER 31

THE SIXTH DAY OF KWANZAA CELEBRATES THE ABILITY NOT TO HAVE TO RELY ON OTHERS TO CREATE THINGS FOR US IN ORDER TO LEAVE OUR COMMUNITY MORE BEAUTIFUL AND BENEFICIAL THAN WE INHERITED IT.

KUUMBA CREATIVITY

Having created the world and all that liveth and moveth therein, He, through the direct operation of His unconstrained and sovereign Will, chose to confer upon man the unique distinction and capacity to know Him and to love Him—a capacity that must needs be regarded as the generating impulse and the primary purpose underlying the whole of creation.... Upon the inmost reality of each and every created thing He hath shed the light of one of His names, and made it a recipient of the glory of one of His attributes. Upon the reality of man, however, He hath focused the radiance of all of His names and attributes, and made it a mirror of His own Self. Alone of all created things man hath been singled out for so great a favor, so enduring a bounty.

Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 65

JANUARY 1

THE SEVENTH AND LAST DAY OF KWANZAA ENCOURAGES US TO BELIEVE WITH ALL OUR HEART IN OUR PEOPLE, OUR PARENTS, OUR TEACHERS, OUR LEADERS, AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND VICTORY OF OUR STRUGGLE.

IMANI FAITH

I say unto you that anyone who will arise in the Cause of God, at this time shall be filled with the Spirit of God. And God will send his hosts from heaven to help you and nothing shall be impossible to you if you have faith. And now I give you, a commandment which shall be for a covenant, ... that ye have faith; that your faith be steadfast as a rock which no storms can move, which nothing can disturb, and that it endure through all things even to the end. ... Be not shaken in your faith. ... As ye have faith so shall your powers and blessings be. This is the balance; this is the balance; this is the balance." Abdul-Baha

KWANZAA IS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL HOLIDAY -

CELEBRATED PRIMARILY IN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND THE CARIBBEAN - BASED ON THE AFRICAN TRADITION OF CELEBRATING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE HARVEST. IT WAS CONCEIVED AND DEVELOPED BY DR. MAULANA RON KARENGA IN 1966 TO CELEBRATE THE BOND BETWEEN THE ANCIENT ROOTS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE AND HER DESCENDANTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

OBSERVED DECEMBER 26TH THROUGH AND INCLUDING JANUARY 1ST, IT IS A TIME SET ASIDE FOR BLACK PEOPLE OF THE DIASPORA OR 'CHILDREN OF AFRICA,' TO HONOR THEIR PAST, EVALUATE THEIR PRESENT, AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO A MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURE. EACH OF THE SEVEN DAYS IS DEVOTED TO ONE OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF THE NGUZO SABA, WHICH IS DRAWN FROM THE BASIC VALUE SYSTEM OF AFRICAN PEOPLE. SINCE ITS BEGINNINGS IN THE PAN-AFRICANIST MOVEMENT OF THE 1960S, KWANZAA HAS GROWN TO INCLUDE AFRICAN-AMERICANS, AFRICANS, AND THOSE FROM MULTIPLE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS WHO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION.



Now that your eyes are open,
make the sun jealous with
your burning passion to start
the day. Make the sun jealous
or stay in bed.

MALAK EL HALABI



THIS PROGRAM IS AN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND IS SELF-FUNDED.

WHAT BEGAN AS A VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT IN 2019, HAS BECOME A FULL-TIME AROUND THE CLOCK EFFORT TO PROVIDE SAFE SPACES TO NURTURE, ENCOURAGE, HEAL, AND CONNECT PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.

ALL OF THE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE SINCE COVID.

SO, If you enjoyed this, or any of the other 400+ days of programming offered the past 3 years and would like to see them continue in 2022, **please consider showing your financial support. Here's what we've done!**

1. *Three Annual ARISE POTE (PUPIL OF THE EYE CONFERENCES)*
2. *Two Annual Black and Native Conferences. (Just in 11/2021, 2 days, 17 hours, 16 speakers, 600+ attendees)*
3. *This 2nd Annual Kwanzaa-Inspired Diaspora Dialogue Conference. We have 7 days, over 45 presenters, and 33 hours of programming scheduled.*
3. *First Annual Bridge Conference on December 3-5, 2021 (33 hours, 3 days, 33 countries, over 1100 people, and 109 presenters)*
4. *Monthly Black/Native Unity programs.*
5. *Monthly Diaspora Dialogue programs.*
6. *Weekly Safe-space Black Friday programs with speakers. (50 this year)*
7. *Daily study of Baha'i Teachings on the topic of race unity/justice at Foundation Hall University. www.worldembracing.net.*

[HTTPS://WORLDEMBRACING.NET/FINANCIAL-SUPPORT](https://worldembracing.net/financial-support)

Thank you!



ANOTHER SAFE-SPACE PUPIL OF THE EYE EVENT

"THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE PLANNING SUPPORT OF MY COLLABORATORS (SHOWN BELOW : GERI, WILLIS, KAY AND WANJIKU). AND, A HUGE THANKS TO MY TIRELESS TECH TEAM ANYA AND VOLARI WHO SUPPORTED ME THE WHOLE YEAR TO MAKE SO MANY PROGRAMS COME OFF PROFESSIONALLY. YOU LADIES ARE PRICELESS!"



Barbara Talley



Geri Peak



Willis Burris



Kaytura Felix



Wanjiku Kagira-Kargbo



Volari Taqi Morgan



Anya