

# KWANZAA SPECIAL EDITION

## THE 411

DECEMBER 16, 2023

"ANATOMY OF FASHION"  
PASANT THEATER 5:00PM FOR  
MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 1-800-WHARTON

JANUARY 26, 2024

"AIR PLAY"  
GREAT COBB HALL 7:30PM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 1-800-WHARTON

JANUARY 31, 2023

"EMANUEL AX, LEONIDAS"  
COBB GREAT HALL 7:30PM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 1-800-WHARTON

## HOW TO CELEBRATE KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a holiday invented in 1966 by Maulana Karenga (founder of the Black Power group "Us Organization") through which African Americans can connect with their heritage and culture. It's celebrated from December 26 through January 1, with each of the seven days focusing on one of seven core values, or Nguzo Saba. A candle is lit on each day, and on the last day, gifts are exchanged. Since Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday rather than a religious one, it can be celebrated alongside Christmas or Hanukkah, or on its own, although Karenga wished for it to be celebrated instead of Christmas and Hanukkah, as he felt these holidays were simply symbols of the dominant cultures in America

Decorate your home or the main room with the symbols of Kwanzaa. Put a green tablecloth over a centrally located table, and on top of that, place the Mkeka which is a straw or woven mat that symbolizes the historical foundation of African ancestry. Place the following on the Mkeka: Mazao — fruit or crops placed in a bowl, representing the community's productivity. Kinara — a seven-pronged candle-holder. Mishumaa Saba — the seven candles which represent the seven core principles of Kwanzaa. Three candles on the left are red, representing struggle; three on the right are green, representing hope; and one in the center is black, signifying the African American people or those who draw their heritage from Africa. Muhindi — ears of corn. Lay out one ear of corn for each child; if there are no children, place two ears to represent the children of the community. Zawadi — various gifts for the children. Kikombe cha Umoja — a cup to represent family and community unity. Decorate around the room with Kwanzaa flags, called Bendera, and posters emphasizing the seven principles.



You can purchase or make these, and it's especially fun to make them with the kids. If you or your children enjoy making flags, try making African national or tribal flags in addition to the Bendera.

Practice the Kwanzaa greetings. Starting on December 26, greet everyone by saying "Habari Gani" which is a standard Swahili greeting meaning "what is the news?" If someone greets you, respond with the principle (Nguzo Saba) for that day:

- December 26: "Umoja" — Unity
- December 27: "Kujichagulia" — Self-determination
- December 28: "Ujima" — Collective work and responsibility
- December 29: "Ujamaa" — Cooperative economics
- December 30: "Nia" — Purpose
- December 31: "Kuumba" — Creativity
- January 1: "Imani" — Faith.

Non-African-Americans are also welcome to participate in greetings. The traditional greeting for them is "Joyous Kwanzaa." Light the Kinara daily. Since each candle represents a specific principle, they are lit one day at a time, in a certain order. The black candle is always lit first. Some people light the remaining candles from left to right (red to green) while other people alternate as follows:  
Black candle  
Far left red candle  
Far right green candle  
Second red candle  
Second green candle  
Last red candle  
Last green candle  
Celebrate Kwanzaa in a variety of different ways. Pick and choose some or all of the following activities throughout the seven days of Kwanzaa, saving the feast for the sixth day.

Kwanzaa ceremony may include:  
Drumming and musical selections.  
Readings of the African Pledge and the Principles of Blackness.  
Reflections on the Pan-African colors, discussions of African principles of the day, or recitations of chapters in African history.  
The candle-lighting ritual of the Kinara.  
Artistic performances.

Have the Kwanzaa Karamu (feast) on the sixth day (New Year's Eve). The Kwanzaa feast is a very special event that brings everyone closer to their African roots. It is traditionally held on December 31st and is a communal and cooperative effort. Decorate the place where the feast will be held in a red, green, and black scheme. A large Kwanzaa setting should dominate the room where the feast will be held. A large Mkeka should be placed in the center of the floor where the food is placed creatively and made accessible to all to serve themselves. Before and during the feast, an informative and entertaining program should be presented. Traditionally, the program should involve welcoming, remembering, reassessment, recommitment and rejoicing concluded by a farewell statement and a call for greater unity. During the feast, drinks are to be shared from a communal cup, the Kikombe cha Umoja, passed around to all celebrants. Give out the gifts of Kuumba. Kuumba, meaning creativity, is highly encouraged and brings a sense of self-satisfaction. The gifts are usually exchanged between the parents and children and are given out traditionally on January 1st, the last day of Kwanzaa.



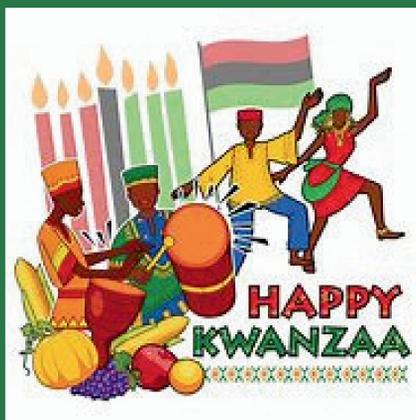
DERRICK'S BIRTHDAY



BLACK BLING



CAROL'S RETIREMENT



SANTA IN A BUBBLE



HAPPY KWANZAA

**KWANZAA**  
DECEMBER 26TH TO JANUARY 1ST  
[www.ListOfNationalDays.com](http://www.ListOfNationalDays.com)

10p - 12:30a  
**DEC. 31**  
Join us for our  
**New Years Eve Bash!**

**HOLLY Dazzle**  
CELEBRATE A RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS

- Meet Christmas Barbi
- Free Gift Bags for Children, Adults & Dogs
- Holiday Token Hunt
- Free Hot Cocoa
- Polar Pub Crawl
- Visit Santa & Get a Keepsake Photo
- Dinners in Heated Igloos
- Meet Buddy the Elf

Nov. 24-26, Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10,  
Dec. 15-24 & Dec. 29-31  
Fridays & Saturdays • 5:00p - 10p • Sundays • 5:00p - 9p

Take a whimsical walk along a spellbinding three-quarter mile outdoor pathway, where a dazzling HollyGrove awaits, decked out with half a million lights!

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HollyDazzles.com • Open Rain, Snow & Shine • 248.634.5552

**MERCEDES BENZ FASHIONS**

5224 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR, BLVD

SILLYBOY PRODUCTIONS • 517 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE LAST DANCE**  
PRE  
*New Years*  
CELEBRATION

CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT  
COMPLIMENTARY FOOD WHILE AVAILABLE  
MUSIC BY DJ LOLO & DJ HAZE

8PM-1AM • \$10 COVER P.W.I. • \$25 TABLES RSVP FEE

**GREGORY'S**  
2510 MLK LANSING MI

Contact Ryan 810.308.6519 to celebrate your birthday or to RSVP tables

There are enough things out there going viral.



Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Help keep your immune system from going viral. Talk to your health care provider.

[Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV)



## TURNING POINT OF LANSING PARENT TESTIMONIAL

I am Merritta Proctor and my son, Justin, is serving his second year with The Turning Point of Lansing.

Each of us, as young people, envisioned what our children would be like, and as parents, we continue to have the vision. We envision how our children will effectively and productively fit into society. The Program Vision of The Turning Point of Lansing is: To meet the cultural and social needs of young, African American males by providing them with an effective support network of role models who are determined to help them realize their fullest potential in society.

The program's Mission: To transform boys into men by providing an Afrocentric group mentoring experience that gives young African American males an opportunity to explore life's challenges all while developing strategies for success in their lives, school, and communities.

Many of our male children live in single-parent homes. That parent is often the mom. We all know the struggles young males have with the challenges in society. Society is recognizing that young people are dealing with more stress than ever before.

I knew that I could share with my son how he should behave, how to respect females, how he should try his best, etc., etc., etc. But I also knew that a positive male role model would have a unique and greater impact on my son while he is in his teens. Learning in a black, all-male, positive environment can only be a plus for Justin.

I knew The Turning Point of Lansing would enhance my vision by establishing greater pride in my African American son. By motivating my son for academic and personal achievement. By providing my son with direction on tough issues. By providing my son a forum to discuss issues affecting him and the world today, and by Establishing meaningful relationships through group mentoring. My son has enjoyed the trips offered by TTPO. He is learning in the educational sessions but most of all, he is learning to positively maneuver in an all-male setting.



My son knows he is black, but he is getting the opportunity to embrace his blackness while coexisting with other young black men and adult elders/mentors. Of course, he likes recreational Sundays, and he enjoys road trips, be they near or far. I see the joy on his face when he boards the bus. I believe he feels a sense of independence while participating. Yes, he loves being with me but needs the camaraderie of being with other positive people who look like him and genuinely care about him. Thank you elders for the dedicated hard work that you do.

I too benefit, from the parent sessions held on the fourth Sunday. The topics are germane to what we as parents are dealing with at home. The sessions provide insight and a perspective of what our children are dealing with as well as how we as parents ought to deal with our sons. They say it takes a village. TTPO is a great village. I encourage all parents to take part in the parent session. You'd be surprised as to how it's the same song but, a different verse. What you're dealing with is no different than what other parents are dealing with. You now get greater, easy-to-understand insight. And the parents offer valid suggestions.

I thank the TTPO for offering the opportunity for AA boys to become strong, productive young men. For offering opportunities some may never gain. Most of all, I thank you for helping me be a positive, observant, patient parent to a young man who could one day be the president of the United States.



Mr. Party®  
The Ambassador of Celebration™  
**Celebration Announcements**  
By  
**Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration**

### Birthdays in December 2023

Mr. Kevin Alexander Tyler celebrates his 30th birthday on December 1st, at home with family.

Ms. Alisha "Happy" Randle celebrates her 39th birthday on December 1st, "just chill'in!"

Ms. Diona Houston celebrates her birthday on December 1st. She will turn 38 years of age.

Ms. Marsha Civils celebrates her birthday on December 2nd.

Mrs. Tracy Faulkner celebrates her birthday on December 2nd, with family and friends.

Mr. "Wolf" celebrated his 59th year of life, December 2nd.

Ms. Markita Atwater celebrates her 32nd birthday on December 4th. "I want to say thanks to my mother, Rhonda Horton, for being here for me and watching me become a grown woman... Love you Mom!"

Ms. Patricia Robinson, (deceased): We celebrate her birth on December 4th.

Mr. T. J. Baldwin celebrates his 36th birthday on December 5th, with family and friends.

Mr. Pone, of the Hood Riders MC, celebrates his birthday on December 6th. He says "Jesus loves you!!!" to his daughter and granddaughter.

Ms. Cynthia Delapaz enjoys her 42nd birthday on December 7th, with family and friends. "Much Love to my daughters!"

Ms. Chantelle Brandon celebrates her birthday on December 8th.

Ms. Jasmine Harris will celebrate her 34th birthday on December 9th.

Ms. Tabitha Fortner celebrates her 36th birthday on December 10th, with family and friends.

Ms. Kaylin "KayKay" Perkins, celebrating her 27 years, on December 12.

Mr. Marc David Tyler II celebrates his 34th birthday on December 13th, with family and friends.

Ms. Candace Clay celebrates her birth, 47 years, on December 15th. She says, "I love Living!"

Ms. Kimmy Herlick celebrates her 53rd birthday on December 15th, with family and friends.

Mr. Andy Brown celebrates his birthday on December 15th, with his wife Coral, daughters and son.

Ms. Cheryl Horn-Bernard will celebrate her birth on December 16th.

Ms. Karen Morrow celebrates her 52nd birthday on December 17th. "God Bless my family, friends and extended family, Love you all!"

Mr. Stafford L. Cobb celebrates his birthday on December 20th. "Life is lived forward and learned backwards" "Peace to all and 1 love!"

Mr. Jameel Cooper celebrates his birthday on December 20th, with family and friends.

Ms. DaQuaria Watkins will celebrate her 27th birthday on December 20th. Grandma says, "She is an excellent student!"

Mr. Tommie L. Boyd will celebrate his 52nd birthday on December 21st.

Ms. Sharita Robinson-Murphy will celebrate her birthday on December 21st, with her husband Michael and children. "Love You, my niece", Uncle Billy

Mr. Tyrell Potts will celebrate his birthday on December 25th.

Mr. Anthony Michael Quarles will be celebrating his 32nd birthday on December 26th with family and friends.

Mr. Al Travis will celebrate his birthday on December 26th.

\*Special Holiday Message from:

Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration

December is the month of the Holy Days (Holiday) season... A time when people celebrate and share GOD's Love...

Love is GOD's Character; choosing to put the needs of others before self.

As you spend time with family (The foundation of a person's life), friends and loved ones...

**Remember:** It is nice to be important, it's more important to be nice!!!

You can never show a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it might be too late!!!

We don't laugh because we're happy, we're happy because we laugh!!!

Smile, laugh; Celebrate a life filled with love every day... May the Love of GOD bring you Peace and Joy!!!

Merry Christmas/Happy New Year 2023  
Joyful  
Hanukkah/Kwanza/Ramadan

### \*Announcements

Please let us know if you have any names to be removed... · Mr. Party Website: [mrpartycelebrationservice.com](http://mrpartycelebrationservice.com) · Face book Page: [www.facebook.com/mrparty](http://www.facebook.com/mrparty) · Sportron International: [www.mrparty.sportron.com](http://www.mrparty.sportron.com) "Offering Optimum Health/Financial Security" · Celebration Gram - A Class Act: Have your special message delivered by Mr. Party for that special someone or special occasion! Call 517-391-4849 or email: [mrparty@comcast.net](mailto:mrparty@comcast.net)

# Gift Something Wonderful



Put Some Play in Your Holiday



Fun to give and great to get, Holiday Instants add more than a little wonder to your gift giving. Everyone loves to scratch and play for a chance to win up to \$500,000 instantly. This year, gift something wonderful with Holiday Instants from the Michigan Lottery.

Make the holiday season even more wonderful with **500X MONEY MAKER** - the newest \$50 Instant Game. With chances to win up to 50 times AND multiply your prize up to 500 times on each ticket, it's the gift that keeps on giving.



Overall odds of winning A Partridge in a Pear Tree: 1 in 4.61. Overall odds of winning Tis the Season: 1 in 4.90. Overall odds of winning Peppermint Payout: 1 in 4.11. Overall odds of winning Holiday Wishes: 1 in 2.01. Overall odds of winning 500X Money Maker: 1 in 3.43. Keeping your hands is always the best bet. Call the Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline for confidential help at 1-800-378-7111.

