

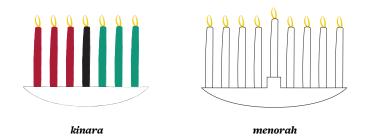
NTROUCTION N ROUCE NO

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:

UJASIRI / OMETZ LEV / HEART

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.



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

קרובה אַתְ שְּבְנָה אֱאַצַעוּ רוּתַ הַזּאָם שֶּהֶתֵיאַעי וְהִיְשְׁעני וְהִיָּטְאַעי אַצַּאַן הַצַּה 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

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

הְרוּבָה אַאָ שְׁבְנָה אָאַנַינוי רוּחַ הַעּאָשְ אַשָּר קדְּשְׁנְנוי הִיאּדְאָיו וְדָּאֶנני אְהַדְּאִיק וֵר שָׁא חַיֻבָּה וְקוווַנַּאָה

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 אַנָּה אַדּוָ אַלּהִינוּ אָלָר הַטּאָם אַשר קדּשנו בּוּנו אווני ובּוָנו אַהַדְּאִיק וֵר שָׁא תַוְכַּה וְקוווַנַּדעָה Barukh atah adonay eloheynu 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

جَها (الرَحْتَى) المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى المَحْتَى الم عمل المَحْتَ الم

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



KWANZAKKAH 5782

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.



KWANZAKKAH 5782

The Eighth Principle

Ometz Lev literally translated means strength of heart or more commonly—courage. During Kwanzakkah we understand it in three parts:

LOVE OF **Self**

The courage to be and love our full selves. Just like different veins come together to feed the heart, so do all of our identities come together to create us. We use affirmations to remind ourselves of our beauty. *Each person is encouraged to create a*

LOVE OF OUR PEOPLE

new affirmation to share with the family.

Jews come in all races, ethnicities, and levels of observation. We are beautiful and diverse. We must meet our people where they are and love them through their opportunities. We must hold ourselves and each other accountable. We must speak truth to those we love- we take risks because we love. Our heart is a muscle the size of our fist.

LOVE OF THE PLANET

We are passionate for justice and have the heart/courage to love the earth. Cornel West said "Justice is what love looks like in public." We have reverence for Shechinah all around us and as seen in nature.





Materials: Selection of quotes/prompts for each principle Objectives:

- \Leftrightarrow To create a space for people to share in a meaningful way.
- \Leftrightarrow To connect with each other through story sharing.
- 🔅 To bring to life the principles of Kwanzakkah through reflection and self-discovery.

Instructions:

- 1. Everyone is encouraged to sit in a circle (as close to a circle as possible.)
- 2. Both Judaic and Afro-diasporic communities are rich with oral traditions. For many centuries both these communities shared their origin stories through oral tradition. This makes story sharing of particular importance to Afro-diasporic Jews during Kwanzakkah.
 - a. The oral tradition in Judaism has a long and storied past. Many Jewish scholars believe that G-d transmitted The Oral Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai during the Exodus from Egypt. For centuries after, Judaism's leading rabbis resisted writing it down. Teaching the law orally compelled students to maintain close relationships with teachers, and they considered teachers, not books, to be the best conveyors of the Jewish tradition. But with the deaths of so many teachers in the failed revolts, rabbis feared that the Oral Law would be forgotten unless it were written down. The Talmud was subsequently compiled between 200-300 CE, and many more compilations were written down over the next several hundred years. Jewish learning has therefore always relied on the interpersonal aspect of oral traditions, which was a fundamental part of keeping Jewish history alive during horrific periods of Jewish persecution.
 - b. There are many components to the African American Oral Tradition as well, from the African tradition of community griots who were historians as well as storytellers, wordsmiths, poets, and actors to the longstanding practice of reciting folktales which often serve as moral guidelines, establishing socio-cultural legacies for generations. Enslaved Africans kept oral traditions alive when they were prohibited from learning to read or keeping their reading practice a secret —and for centuries to come as a form of establishing familial connection, preserving ancestral knowledge, and learning personal and political histories.
 - c. There are many parallels here to draw from that could be great discussion points as to why the practice of Kwanzakkah is particularly special for Afro-diasporic Jews and their families.
 - d. Kwanzaa was born in the Black Freedom movement of the 1960's. Kwanzaa is an act of freedom being one of the largest cultural organizing projects created and sustained without the support of the dominant society. Kwanzaa is resistance and liberation, celebrating our African selves, family, and community. Kwanzaa is sankofa- a remembrance of ancient visions and values directed toward grounding and enriching our lives and advancing the interests of our liberation struggle. Kwanzaa offers us a guide towards liberation by practicing the principles of the Nguzo Saba+



- 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.

Kwanzakkah offers us an 8th principle, Nguzo Saba+: Ujasiri - Ometz Lev - Heart

3. Kwanzakkah is about returning to the self in our spiritual development. We have everything we need to be our full selves and we have always had it. Each person will share their name, gender pronouns, one Kwanzakkah principle that they'd like to return to and integrate further into their life this year, and one thing they will do to integrate it.



Handmade Ethiopian Embroidery c/o North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry

Resources For Your Celebration

Book for youth: *I Like Myself*! by Karen Beaumont Cartoon for youth: bimbam.com/episode/ometz-lev/



As our celebration of Kwanzakkah comes to a close, we invite you to sing in the light with two songs:

I am light by India.Arie (youtu.be/ism8dBjxKvc)

[Hook x4]	[Hook x3]
I am light, I am light	
	[Verse 3]
[Verse 1]	I am not the color of my eyes
I am not the things my family did	I am not the skin on the outside
I am not the voices in my head	I am not my age
I am not the pieces of the brokenness inside	I am not my race
I am light, I am light (x2)	My soul inside is all light, all light
	Oh light, all light
[Hook x3]	
	$[Hook x_2]$
[Verse 2]	
I'm not the mistakes that I have made	[Verse 4]
Or any of the things that caused me pain	I am divinity defined
I am not the pieces of the dream I left behind	I am the God on the inside
	I am a star, a piece of it all
I am light, I am light (x2)	I am light

Ache O Kwa by Melanie DeMore (youtu.be/60Ocr5TRStw)

Ache O	Ache O
Ache O Kwa	Ache O Kwa
Ache O	
Ache O Kwa	Umoja, unity
	Umoja, unity
Umoja, unity	Ache O
Umoja, unity	Ache O Kwa

Playlist Links

SPOTIFY

tinyurl.com/KwanzakkahJams



African Soul Fried Rice

The red, black, yellow and green components in the dish represent the Pan-African dream. (Afroculinaria.com)

Note: Soumbala, sometimes called nete or netetou powder, is available at African grocers.

INGREDIENTS (4-6 servings)

- \updownarrow 2 tablespoons canola or peanut oil
- 3 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 4 scallions, cut thin on the diagonal (trimmed; use white and all green parts)
- 2-inch piece peeled fresh ginger root, minced (1 tablespoon)
- \ddagger 1½ teaspoons fine sea salt, or more as needed
- \Leftrightarrow Generous pinch crushed red pepper flakes (may substitute hot sauce)
- 3 1¹/₂ cups combination diced red, green and yellow bell peppers (seeded)
- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup thinly sliced fresh okra (optional)
- 1 cup stemmed, thinly sliced collard greens (ribbons; packed)
- 4 cups cooked rice, preferably long-grain, at room temperature
- 4 1 cup cooked, no-salt-added black-eyed peas (not mushy)
- \updownarrow 1 teaspoon ground soumbala, or more as needed (see headnote)
- 3 large eggs, lightly scrambled (optional)
- \updownarrow 1 cup cooked chicken or firm, drained tofu, coarsely chopped (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a wok or large skillet over medium-high heat. Once the oil shimmers, stir in the garlic, scallions and ginger; reduce the heat to medium and stir-fry for 2 minutes, or just until softened and fragrant.

Add the remaining tablespoon of oil, then the salt, crushed red pepper flakes, the bell peppers, okra, if using, and the ribbons of collard greens; increase the heat to medium-high and stir-fry for 3 minutes, then add the cooked rice, black-eyed peas and ground soumbala; stir-fry until the rice is heated through and looks evenly seasoned, breaking up any large clumps as you cook.

Stir in your choice of optional cooked eggs or chicken or shrimp or tofu, if using; once they're heated through, remove from the heat. Taste and add a bit more salt, or ground soumbala, as needed.



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Notes

How to remove tough strings from celery: I find that the strings in celery stalks make the celery hard to chew, so I usually take them off. I typically use a vegetable peeler to lightly remove the top layer, getting rid of all the strings.

Toasting Nuts and Seeds: Toasted nuts and seeds add texture, unique flavors, and protein to salads, stir-fries, and other dishes. To bring out their natural oil and enhance their taste, toast them in a dry skillet over medium heat, shaking often, until fragrant, about 4 minutes; or toast on a baking sheet in an oven at 325°F for 5 to 7 minutes, shaking the pan a few times for even cooking. Nuts and seeds contain oils that will go rancid, so store them in a freezer.

Green Slaw With Dijon Dressing

Bryant Terry is a celebrated chef based in Oakland, CA, and author of the cookbook *Afro-Vegan*. Below is his recipe for coleslaw—a staple at many Jewish delis and Black BBQs.

"This dish is my modern take on classic coleslaw. The delicate flavor of the green peas and sugar snap peas make this an exceptional dish, and the crunch from the celery and pumpkin seeds is extremely satisfying. The tangy dressing is top-notch, too, so reserve any extra to use on another salad.

All my recipes have music, book, or film recommendations to accompany them. The soundtrack for this dish is "Mobius Streak" by Hiatus Kaiyote (Dufrane Remix) from TAWK TAKEOUT (Tawk Tomahawk Remixed)."

Dressing

- ⁴ ¹/₄ cup silken tofu
- 1 tablespoon freshly-squeezed lemon juice
- ☆ 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ☆ 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- ☆ 1 clove garlic minced
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Slaw

- 3 cups very thinly sliced green cabbage
- 2 teaspoons coarse sea salt
- ⁽²⁾ ¹/₂ cup shelled green peas about 8 ounces peas in the pod
- 8 ounces sugar snap peas trimmed and thinly sliced lengthwise
- 2 stalks celery strings removed and thinly sliced diagonally (see notes)
- 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup husked raw pumpkin seeds toasted
- \therefore $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lime zest

Instructions

To make the dressing, put the tofu, lemon juice, mustard, vinegar, garlic, and salt in a blender and process until somewhat mixed. With the motor running, slowly pour in the oil and process until creamy. Taste and season with more salt if desired.

To make the slaw, put the cabbage in a large bowl and sprinkle with the salt. With clean hands, massage the cabbage until soft and wilted, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a colander and rinse the bowl. Put the colander in the sink, put a plate atop the cabbage, and weight it (a 28-ounce can of tomatoes works well). Let sit for 1 hour.

Rinse the cabbage under cold water, then squeeze with clean hands to extract as much liquid as possible. Return the cabbage to the large bowl and add the shelled peas, sugar snap peas, celery, and pumpkin seeds. Pour in enough dressing to lightly coat the vegetables (start with 3 tablespoons). Toss with clean hands, then taste and add more dressing as desired (reserve any extra for another use).

To serve, with clean hands, transfer the slaw to a serving bowl, leaving any juices behind. Garnish with the parsley, chives, and lime zest.



Kwanzakkah since the day I was born! by Shoshana Brown

Growing up mixed race my parents thought it key that I celebrate my full self and thus both parts of my heritage. While I attended Yeshiva, I also went to African dance class where we learned to celebrate Kwanzaa. My mother quickly integrated Kwanzaa into our family's winter holiday celebrations. Celebrating Kwanzaa and Hanukkah always felt like a welcomed way to ground our family in both traditions and also practices where we get to share time with each other, consider what practices we may put in place for the coming year (according to the gregorian calendar), and ground ourselves in the values of our community's liberation. Kwanzakkah has always been a space where I have taken pride in educating my community about both of the celebrations- Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. Kwanzakkah is family, community, love, unity, grounding, celebration, and guidance.

Kwanzakkah Reflections/Meditations/Affirmations by Dr. Tarece Johnson

Kwanzakkah is an opportunity for us to reconnect with our community and remember the miracles of light, love and hope. As we reflect on miracles, we also affirm the power we play in the dynamic energies of the universe. We accept our grandeur and work together to repair our community.

Cleanse yourself on the first day of Hanukkah and the last day of Kwanzaa (New Years Eve). I suggest a Yoruba cleansing that purposefully focuses on clearing energy on the first day of Hanukkah and submerging into the mikvah on the last day of the secular new year. As you partake in the traditions of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, also consider the meditations of your heart.

The following meditations will reconnect you to the energy of the earth and the spirit of your being. The reflections will also provide you with affirming beliefs that will remind you of "home". A place of acceptance, peace and unconditional love.

Day One:

I am the universe and I hold within me the power to bind the moon, stars and the sun to the sky. I connect the planets because I am the force that inspires them to orbit. I am the light that gives hope to the night and warmth to the day. I am the power that gives birth to generations and connects our heritage in one community. We are in community as one family. We are in community as one people. We are in community as a unified human race that bonds together in one love.

Day Two:

I have my own voice and will not allow anyone to speak for me. I have found freedom in my being and liberation in my self love. No one can speak for me or represent me... because I am like no other being in this universe. No one has walked my walk and therefore, cannot talk my talk. I am determined to be the greatest person I can be and to use my own voice without fear and intimidation. I am self-empowered to accept myself and love all of me.

Day Three:

The colorful candles melt under the flames and they blend into one. Together they create a beautiful mixture with each color clearly defined, yet they all bond to create the flame that brings light into the world. Just as this candle has its purpose, so do we. We must understand that what impacts one, impacts us all. If one fails, we all fail. If one suffers, we all suffer, and if one succeeds, we all succeed. We must be determined to do what we can to make sure that everyone is cared for and everyone thrives.



VOIGES

Day Four:

We support one another and understand that the power we have is related to our authentic care for one another. We must invest in one another and help one another, but more important than money, we must do what we can to invest in the emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of our sisters and brothers. We must contribute to the education and upliftment of our community to ensure that we all benefit from the talents, gifts and wisdom of everyone young and old.

Day Five:

I embody the extraordinary. I am excellent in all things and believe that being bold and free is the key to experiencing joyfulness. I do everything with purpose and grit. There is nothing I cannot do because I come from a people who have persevered through treacherous times. I come from strong warriors and thus I am a modern-day fighter. I fight for tzedakah (justice) and ahava (love). I celebrate my heritage and claim my throne. I am a regal being that brings forth the light of the galaxies... I am the glory in the essence of the universe.

Day Six:

Innovation requires courage and confidence. It may even demand for one to be tenacious. So, I will always challenge myself to be creative. I dare to not only make changes, but BE the difference that is needed to make my community, nation and world great. I will use my creative genius to purposefully add value to my community and evolve to ensure our infinite survival.

Day Seven:

I believe in myself. I have faith in the miracle of redemption, restoration and revelations. I know that miracles have sustained us and will continue to light our path. We have endured slavery, wars, persecution and hate. We will continue to collaboratively connect and work as a team to ensure healing and peace. During the bleak moments when we can't see, we will know that the light we embody within us will glow like the brightest moon... powerful and purposefully

Final day:

The miracle of light is like freedom to love it is like an eagle that soars liberated from a cage and flying above the mountains and streams peering below she sees the landscape and dreams.

She leads the flock and the light she beams onto the seas moves souls it captures the essential energy and throws it up into the sky and sparkles so many lights twinkling in the beautiful darkness and reminding us all of community, miracles, love and resilient hope.



PRACTICING THE PRINCIPLES QUOTES FOR STORY SHARING:

"Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up." – James Baldwin

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." – James A. Baldwin

"And the speaking will get easier and easier. And you will find you have fallen in love with your own vision, which you may never have realized you had. And you will lose some friends and lovers, and realize you don't miss them. And new ones will find you and cherish you. And you will still flirt and paint your nails, dress up and party, because, as I think Emma Goldman said, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." And at last you'll know with surpassing certainty that only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth. And that is not speaking." – Audre Lorde

"I want to live the rest of my life, however long or short, with as much sweetness as I can decently manage, loving all the people I love, and doing as much as I can of the work I still have to do. I am going to write fire until it comes out of my ears, my eyes, my noseholes--everywhere. Until it's every breath I breathe. I'm going to go out like a fucking meteor!" – Audre Lorde

"A strong spirit transcends rules." - Prince

"You always have two choices: your commitment versus your fear." – Sammy Davis Jr.

Love when you really don't even feel like it. It's not about your mood and how you feel. It's about your commitment to love. – Lenny Kravitz

"I have learned how to love myself by how I treat myself, how I talk to myself, and by building a community of love around me. They say self-esteem comes from esteemable acts. You cannot feel your way into a new feeling, but you can act your way into one. Action and behavior. I have days that I am at odds with myself, months, sometimes. But I choose to stay with myself no matter what, and to treat myself kindly and lovingly. And if I'm falling short, someone close to me is hopefully able to love me when I can't love myself. – Tracee Ellis Ross

"Some say we are responsible for those we love. Others know we are responsible for those who love us." – Nikki Giovanni

"Kindness eases change, Love quiets fear."

- Octavia Butler, Parable of the Sower

"The leaves believe such letting go is love, such love is faith, such faith is grace, such grace is God. I agree with the leaves." – Lucille Clifton, *the lesson of the falling leaves*

"I found God in myself, and I loved her, I loved her fiercely." --Ntozake Shange

"If we lose love and self-respect for each other, this is how we finally die." – Maya Angelou

"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." – Martin Luther King Jr.

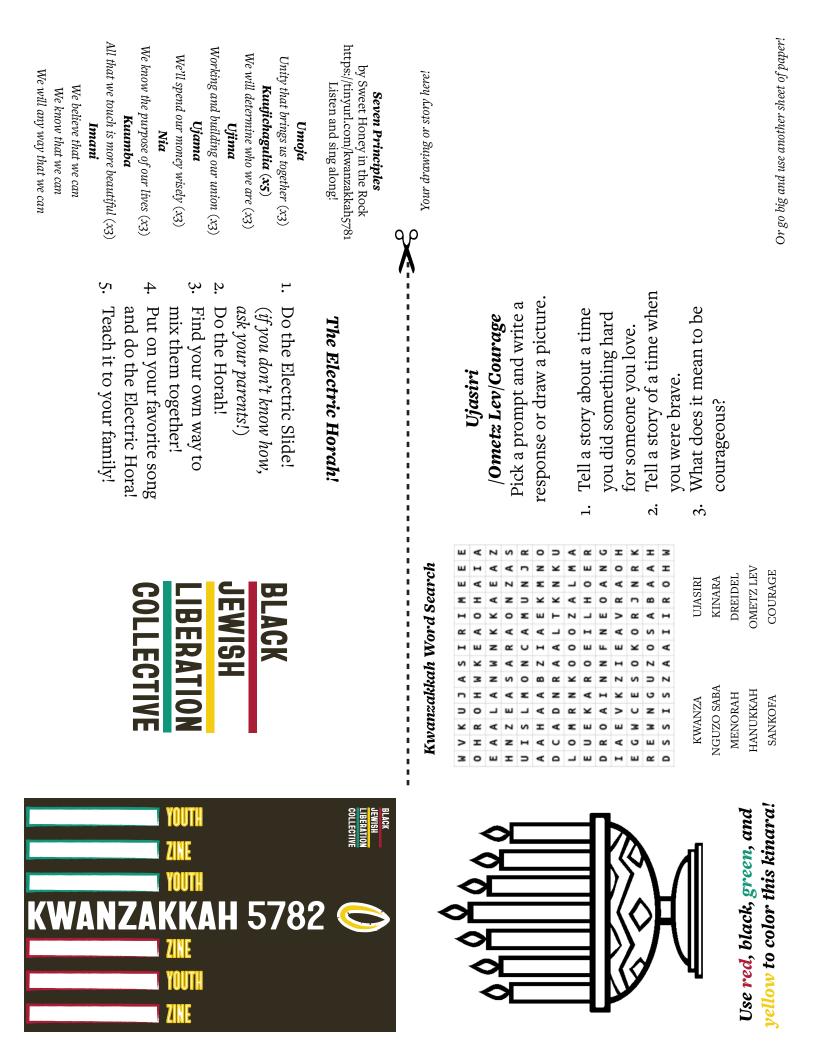
"Where there is no vision, there is no hope." – George Washington Carver

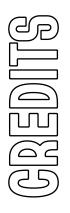
"The history of progress is written in the blood of men and women who have dared to espouse an unpopular cause, as, for instance, the black man's right to his body, or woman's right to her soul." – Emma Goldman

"It's exhilarating to be alive in a time of awakening consciousness; it can also be confusing, disorienting, and painful." – Adrienne Rich

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." – Anne Frank







This Kwanzakkah Guide is authored by members and friends of Black Jewish Liberation Collective including Shoshana Brown, Jess Valoris, Leah King, Dr. Tarece Johnson, Megan Madison, Graie Hagans, Kyle Rocco, Autumn Leonard. Edited by Erica Walker. Thanks to Leo Ferguson, and Koach Baruch Frazier, Yehudah Webster. Graphics by Philip Leff.

Recipe of Michael Twitty published in the *Washington Post* and Bryant Terry in the cookbook *AfroVegan*.

