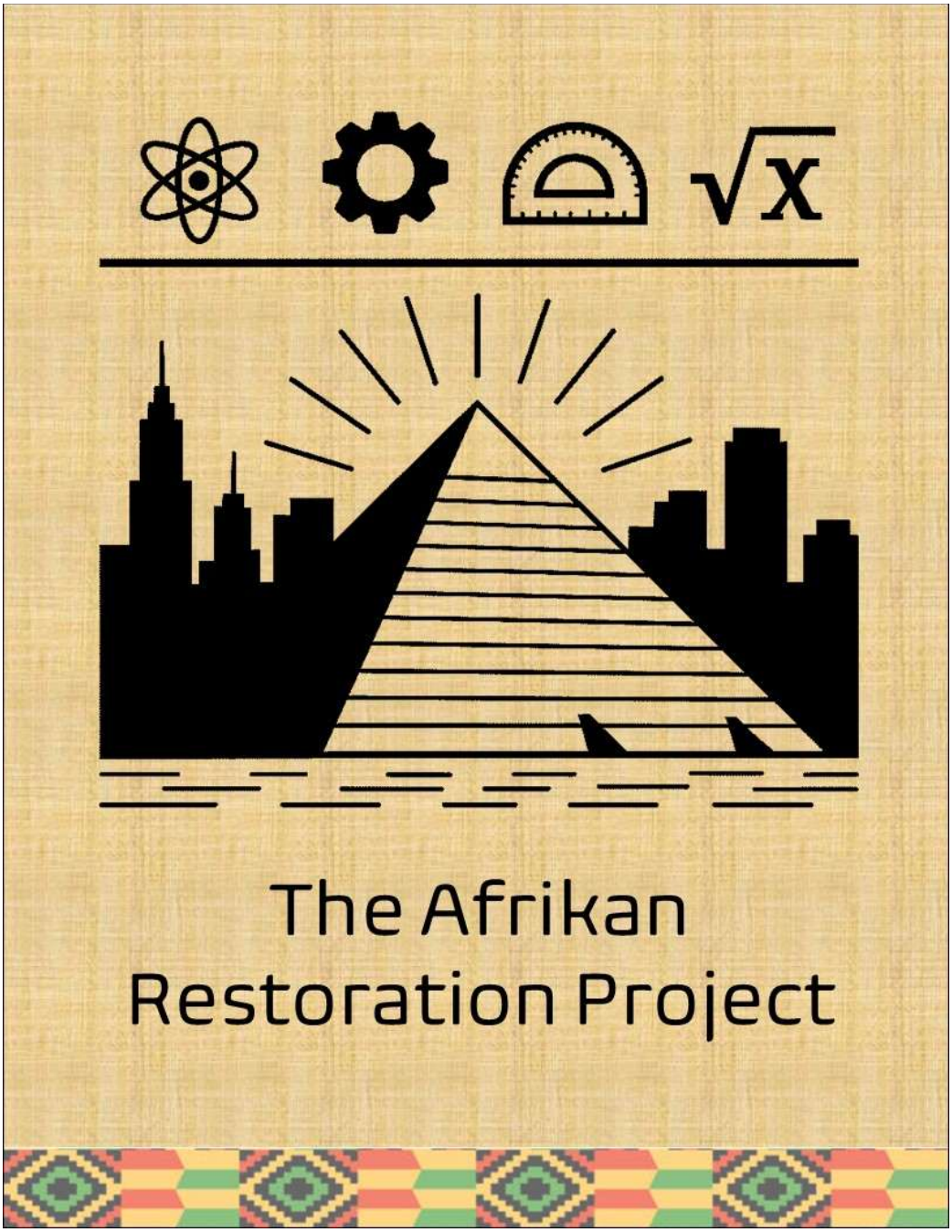
The Afrikan Restoration Project / 2026 Kwanzaa Season of Events

MEDIA KIT

"The Afrikan Restoration Project Announces 2026 Kwanzaa Season of Events - Celebrating the First Sixty Years of Kwanzaa... and the Next""




The Afrikan
Restoration Project



Shujaa Baker / Co-Director, Lead Designer

Harold Shujaa Baker is a Detroit native, a cultural historian, published author, and a design engineer with several decades experience supporting mechanical and electromechanical product and system design for many different projects.

Shujaa is co-founder and co-director of The Afrikan Restoration Project, an African history and culture-based organization with almost two decades experience hosting weekly cultural events in Long Beach and Pomona, CA – with periodic events in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire.

Shujaa is also a small business owner with a product design and prototype manufacturing company called Virtual Design and Prototyping.

His publication credits include his new book - "Building on the Work of Our Elders and Ancestors," and the children's series – "STEM 'n 'Nem and the Seven Principles" where he explains and advances his work to promote the Nguzo Saba / Seven Principles as a "Black job" or daily code of conduct in the Black community and beyond.



Akhir Rashad / Co-Director, Lead Programmer

Akhir Rashad is a self-taught software developer who specializes in creating dynamic websites and video games.

His most recent releases include “a fast-paced stuffed animal adventure” game called “Rush Plush” and an exciting, traditional and battle-format style chess game called “Ultimate Chess League.”

Akhir is driven by curiosity and a passion for building from scratch. He views every project as an opportunity to master a new skill.

Beyond the code, Akhir is a dedicated husband and father who believes in the power of lifelong education, often learning side-by-side with his daughter to foster a shared love for discovery and creativity.



Tiffany Rachann / Curriculum Developer, Children's Literacy Consultant

Tiffany Rachann is an educator, curriculum developer, and the creative force behind **Imagiread**, an educational initiative dedicated to inspiring young learners through imaginative, engaging, and culturally meaningful learning experiences. Combining creativity with educational development, she works to make complex concepts accessible, relevant, and enjoyable for children.

As a collaborative partner in **The Afrikan Restoration Project's Elevating Blackness Online Academy**, Tiffany contributes to the development of innovative curricula that integrate African culture, S.T.E.M. education, and the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa (Nguzo Saba). Her work supports the Academy's mission to empower the next generation with knowledge, critical-thinking skills, cultural awareness, and a strong sense of purpose.



K**inamo Damu / First Children's Kwanzaa Participant, Original Inspiration for Kwanzaa**

Kinamo Damu (Terri Bandele) is a retired accounting clerk and mother who was just ten years old when her persistent questions about African holidays led to a research project that soon produced Kwanzaa. As the adults discussed whether they would celebrate Christmas or not, Kinamo was determined to ensure the fun she and her siblings looked forward to every year continued.

Kinamo was eleven the next year in December 1966 when she and her two siblings participated in the very first Children's Kwanzaa Celebration. She is proud to have contributed to the creation of Kwanzaa and has continued to celebrate the holiday throughout her life, along with Christmas.

Kinamo attributes her courageous questioning as a little girl to a positive self-concept developed from being an active reader and from being raised to know and appreciate African history and culture.



Karama Damu (Sam Carr, Jr.) / First Children's Kwanzaa Participant

Karama Damu is a retired corrections officer and a married father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who thoroughly enjoys researching history.

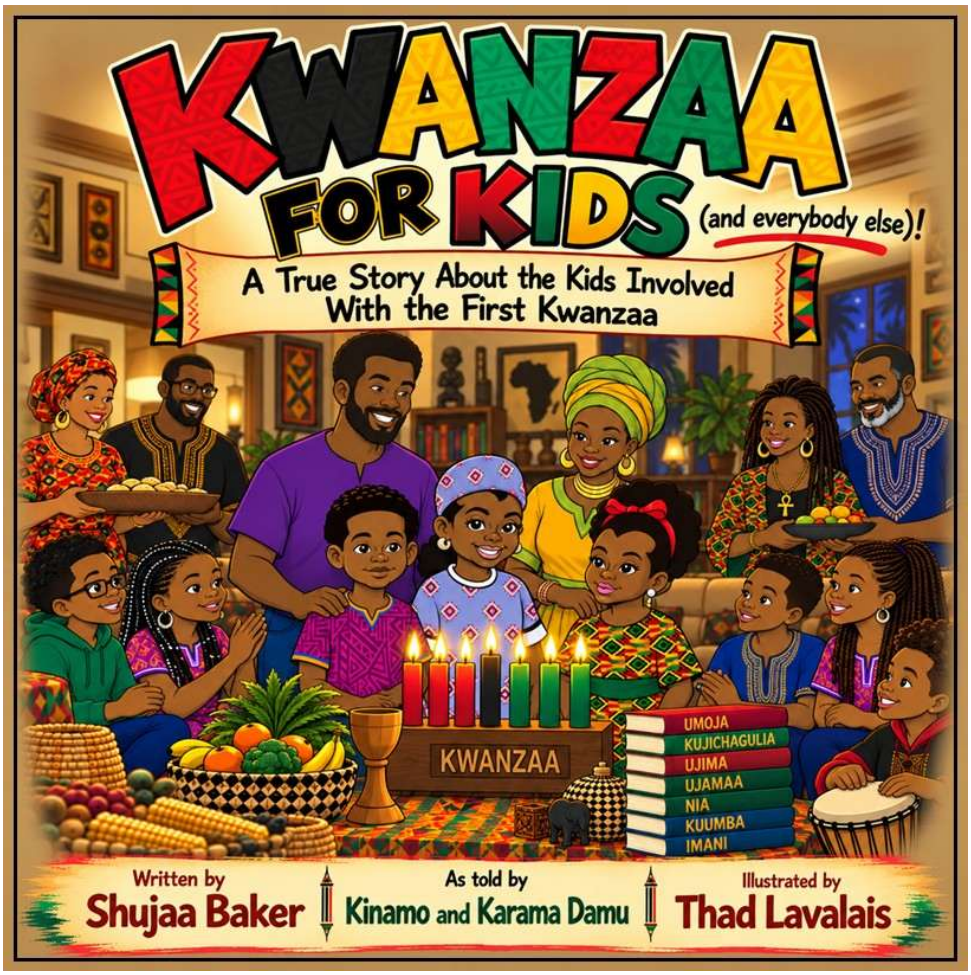
Karama has made a tremendous contribution to our work through the detailed memories he shared about what it was like to be a nine- and ten-year-old boy growing up in Los Angeles during the heart of the Black Power Movement. The people he encountered and those experiences created a deep appreciation for Black people, history, and culture that framed his life, work, and community connections to this day.

Karama's experience as a corrections officer and administrator contributes to his passion for educating our children and treating the Seven Principles like a "Black job" or code of daily conduct all of us are obligated to fulfill every day.



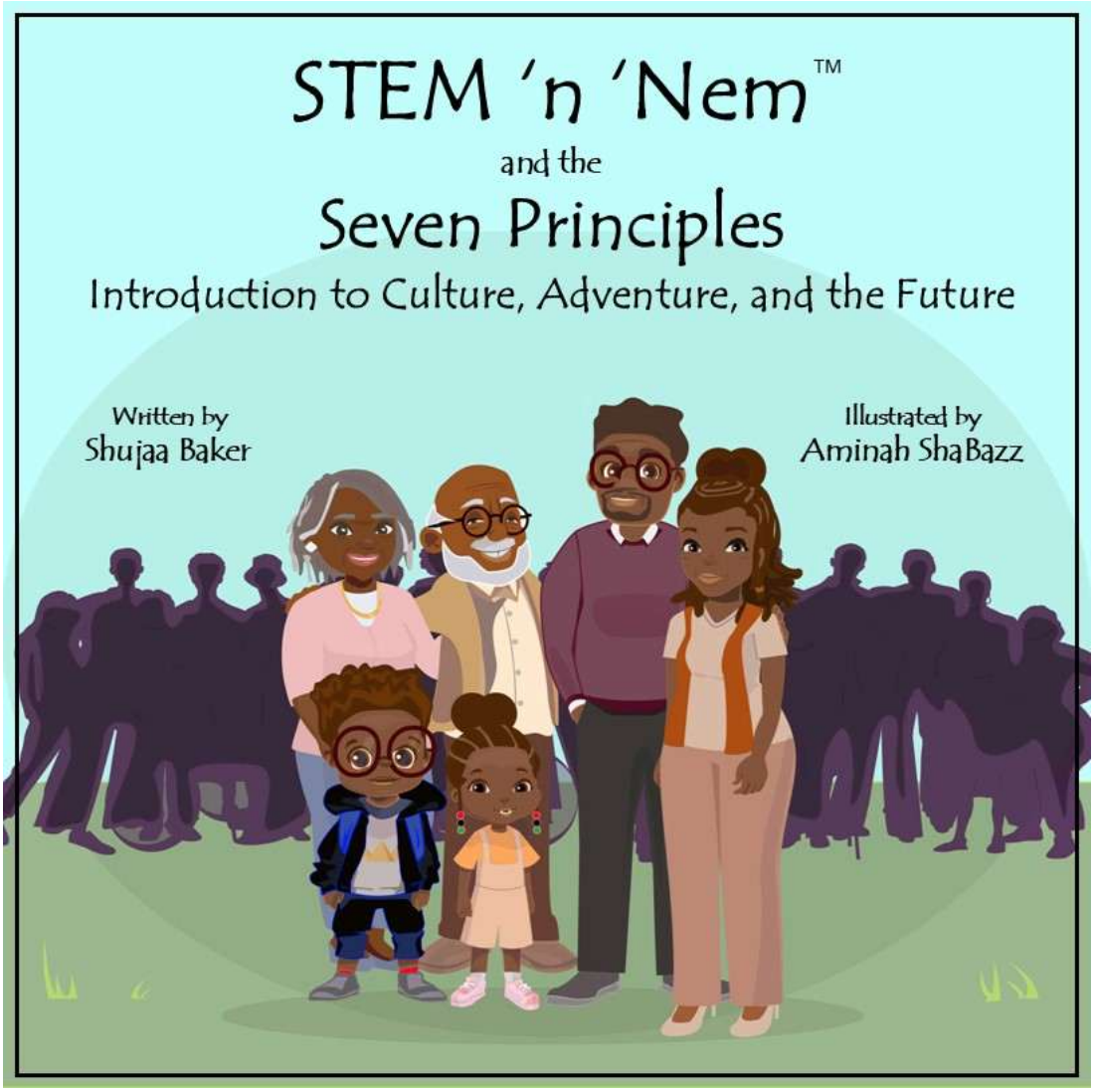
The First Children's Kwanzaa at the Aquarian Spiritual Center and Bookshop
December 26, 1966 / Los Angeles

(Circled in red from L-R: Karama Damu, Baraka Damu, Kinamo Damu)



"<u>Kwanzaa – FOR KIDS (and everybody else!)</u>
A True Story About the Kids Involved With the First Kwanzaa"

This book contains the full story about the creation of Kwanzaa from the perspective of two of the children who were involved – Kinamo Damu (who inspired the holiday's creation) and her younger brother, Karama. The story begins on December 25, 1965 when Kinamo begins asking questions about African holidays through the first Kwanzaa celebrations held the following year in December 1966. Details about Kinamo's initial interest in protecting holiday fun for herself and other kids connects with stories about the great fun they had leading up to and during every event involved with the first Kwanzaa celebrations. Readers will be reminded of the original inspiration for the first occasion of Kwanzaa and its focus on creating a fun occasion for children that reconnects Black people with African culture.



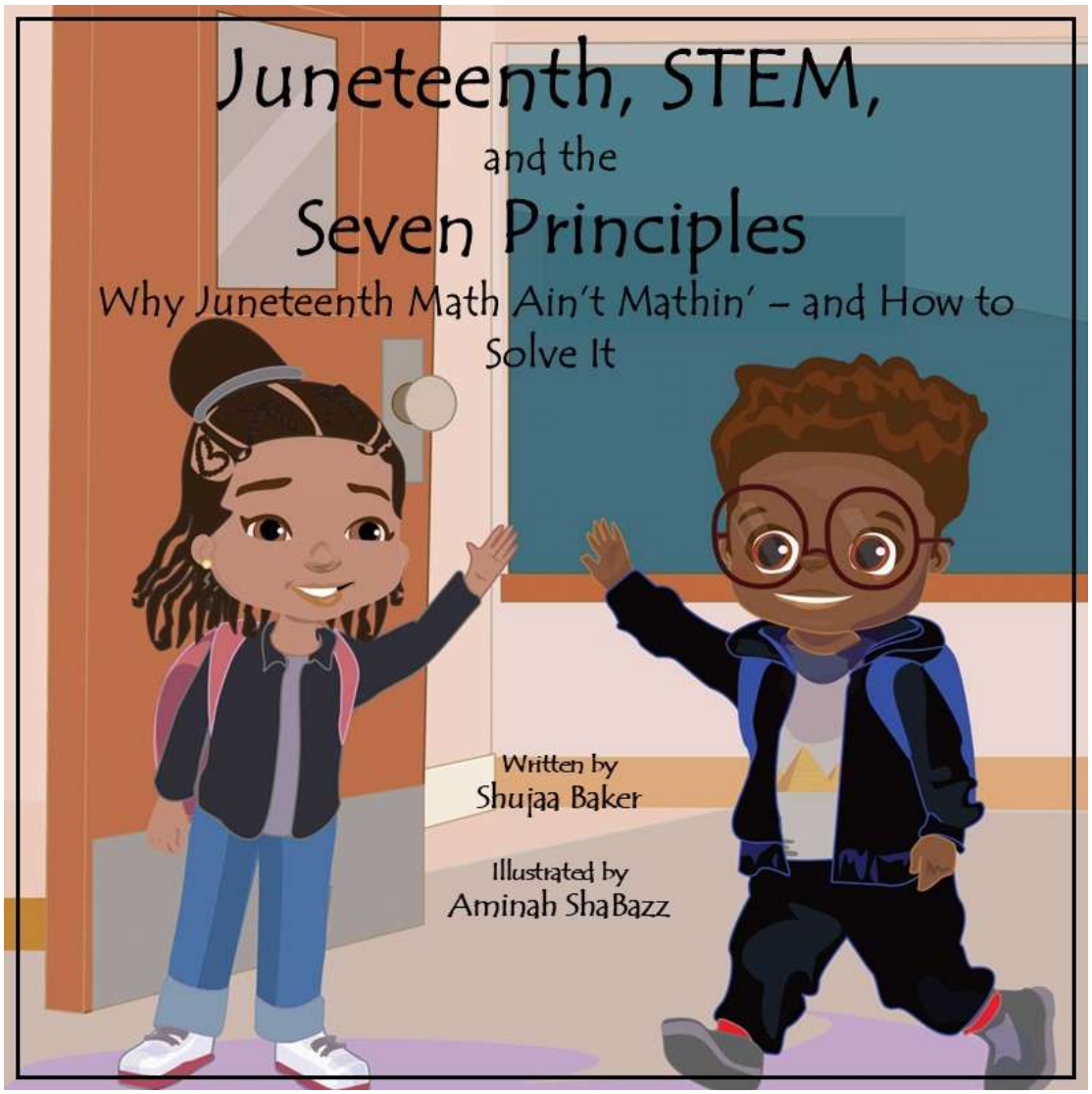
"STEM 'n 'Nem and the Seven Principles:
Introduction to Culture, Adventure, and the Future"

The STEM 'n 'Nem ™ series is designed to inspire Black children to become S.T.E.M. innovators of the present and future. It shows how a Black family's cultural awareness and commitment to learning creates Black children and adults we can be proud of.

STEM is a nine-year boy with parents who are talented S.T.E.M. professionals. They want STEM and his sister, Imani, to follow in their footsteps.

The family has special gatherings for every Black holiday going back to when STEM's grandmother and her two siblings had important roles in the first Kwanzaa celebration. They are very proud of being one of the "*First Families of Kwanzaa*."

STEM 'n 'Nem ™ adventures explore Black people's history, future, and our role as S.T.E.M. innovators. The stories promote strong bonds between us, using technology to answer questions and solve problems, and using the Seven Principles to guide our daily life.



Juneteenth, STEM, and the Seven Principles:
Why Juneteenth Math Ain't Mathin' and How to Solve It

STEM's family has a long history of celebrating Black holidays going back to his grandparent's role in the first Kwanzaa. This year, he is especially excited about the family gathering for their Juneteenth celebration – because he has a surprise for them.

Even before Juneteenth became a national holiday, STEM's parents and grandparents always taught him and his sister, Imani, that some stories about the holiday are not true.

So, when STEM's teacher taught his fourth-grade class that slavery lasted for an extra two-and -a-half years in Texas because Black people didn't know slavery had ended, STEM and a girl named, Assata, decided to prove that wasn't true.

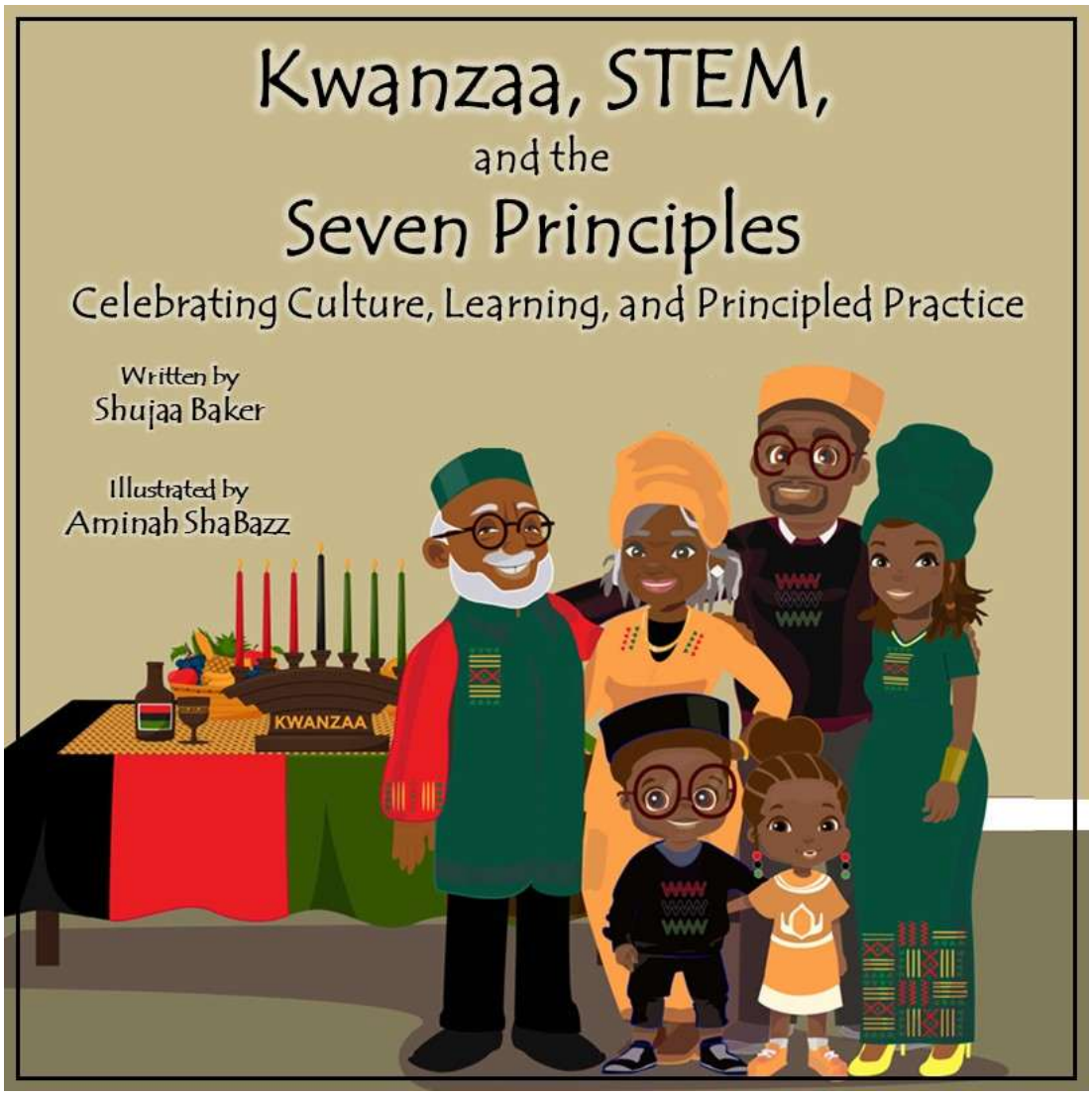


Labor Day, STEM, and the Seven Principles: Preparing for Changes in How the World Works

As the new school year begins and the Labor Day holiday approaches, STEM realizes he has no idea what that holiday is all about. He looks forward to asking about Labor Day at the dinner table when his family talks about their day. But that plan goes out the window when STEM learns that his uncle developed a brand-new video game that "*will help people do better in the game of life*."

After imagining being able to play his uncle's new game nonstop – *to do better in life* – STEM finally gets his questions answered about the history and meaning of Labor Day and its significance for Black people. This includes a lesson from his grandparents shared by his mother that explains how the Labor Movement inspired the Labor Day holiday in a way that fully aligns with the Seven Principles.

The story's message ultimately encourages us to develop STEM expertise in preparation for existing and future changes in the labor market due to advances in robotics, A.I., and digital currency. The story also introduces a very real new video game called "Ultimate Chess League."

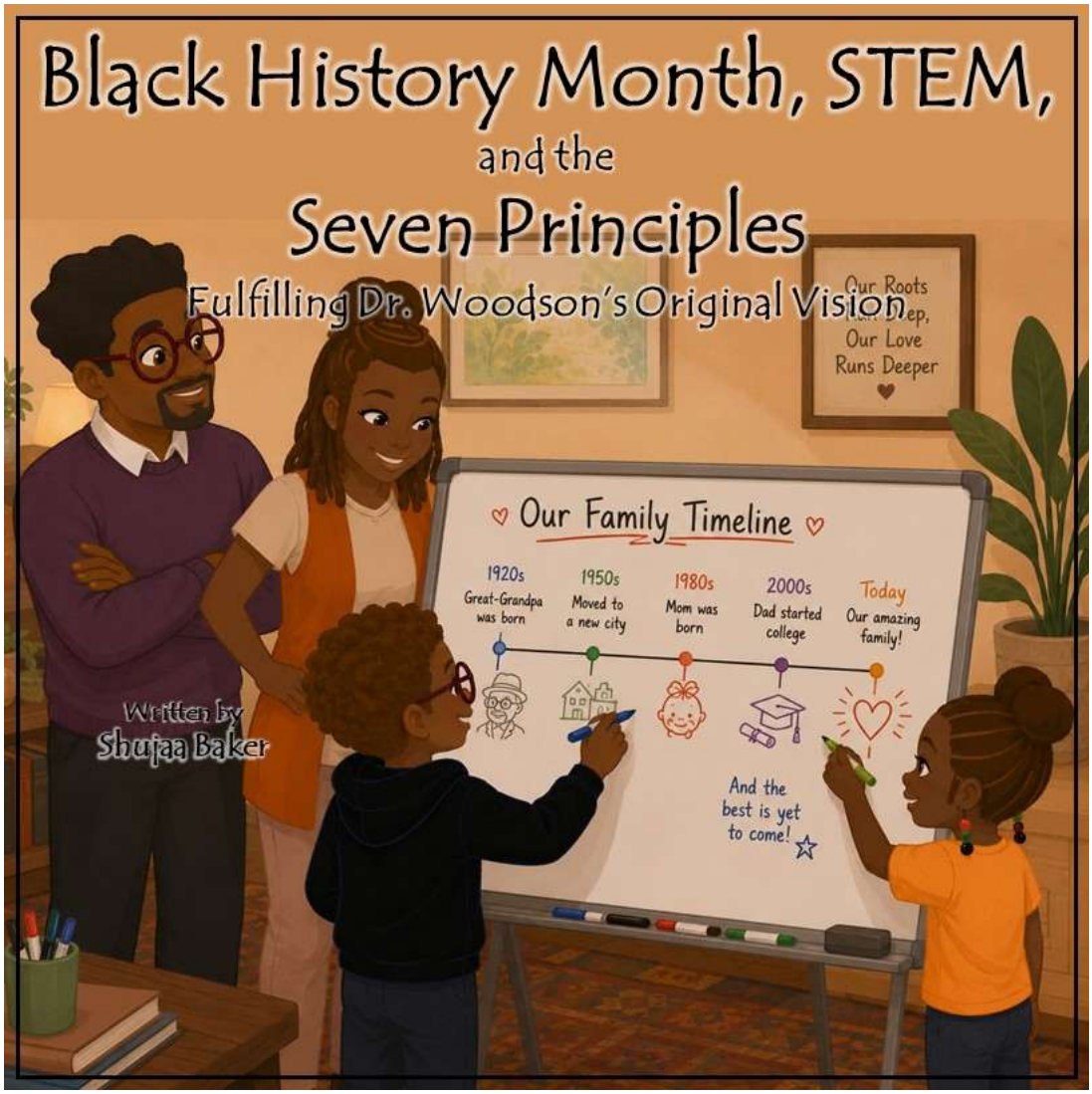


Kwanzaa, STEM, and the Seven Principles: Celebrating Culture, Learning, and Principled Practice

In this story, STEM's grandmother, Grandma K, explains the role she, her two siblings, and their father played leading up to the first Kwanzaa.

She explains how she was concerned about missing out on holiday fun when she asked a question about how Africans celebrate the holidays that led to the Kwanzaa holiday being created.

Along the way, she help's the family of one of STEM's classmates learn that some of the things they heard about Kwanzaa are not true and that Kwanzaa is all about the Seven Principles.

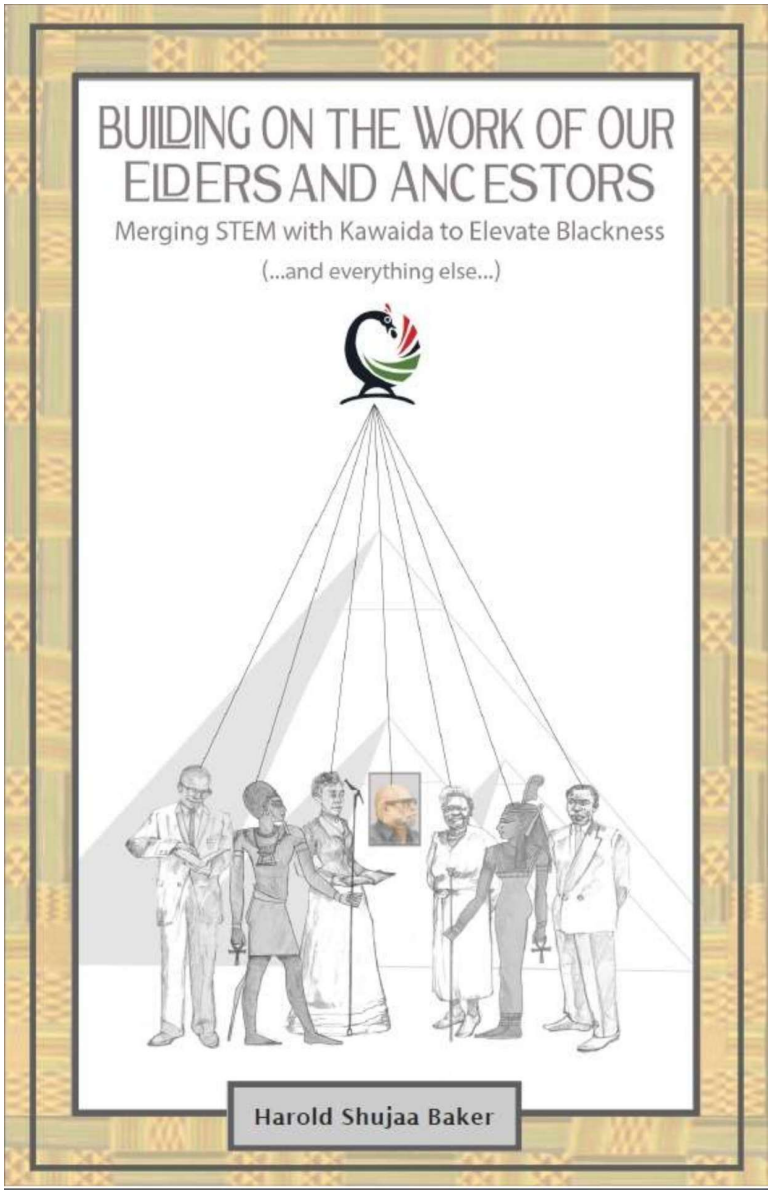


Black History Month, STEM, and the Seven Principles

STEM already knows the answers to his classroom's Black History Month quiz. But at home, his family reminds him that there is always more to learn.

To mark the 100th anniversary of Negro History Week, STEM, his sister Imani, and their parents plan eight activities—two each week. Together, they share meals, hear family stories, explore Black innovators, and serve their community.

Their celebration leads to a larger conversation about Dr. Carter G. Woodson's vision, connections with Africa, and learning Black history throughout the year.



Building on the Work of Our Elders and Ancestors:
Merging S.T.E.M. with Kawaida to Elevate Blackness (...and everything else...)

This book is a two-part ethical narrative on how STEM (science, technology, engineering, and manufacturing) should be developed and applied based on the social philosophy called Kawaida. Part one examines existing Kawaida scholarship to extract a series of principles, practices, criticisms, challenges, and goals for how S.T.E.M. should be developed and applied to create a good world and to create "sedjemic" S.T.E.M. professionals who are both "responsive and responsible" in their use of S.T.E.M. Part two discusses how TARP is applying those teachings with examples of creative production and S.T.E.M. innovation in our work to encourage Black children and adults to reconnect with our long history as S.T.E.M. innovators –and– to promote ethical practice by making the Seven Principles a daily code of conduct in our communities.

The Afrikan Restoration Project

Organization History



Bro. Abdullah, Kwesi Osafo, Dr. Earl 5X Grant, Prof. Mathu Ater, Shujaa Baker
at Shades of Afrika in Long Beach, CA (2012)

Founded in 2009, The Afrikan Restoration Project began as an extension of the Long Beach Study Group (LBSG), which was started in 1988 by Olufemi Viltz, Max Viltz, and Anjail Musadiq after they visited Kemet (Egypt) with Dr. Ben (Josef ben-Jochannan) and Ashra Kwesi. As they departed, Dr. Ben told them to "*Go home and start a study group to share what you learned…*" – and they did exactly that.

TARP cofounder, Kwesi Osafo, was a NASA engineer who joined the LBSG soon after it was organized. When TARP cofounder (and former NASA engineer), Shujaa Baker, arrived in 2006, the LBSG had been meeting every Thursday night for eighteen (18) years to discuss or study African history and culture, with few exceptions.

In 2009, LBSG cofounder, Olufemi Viltz, and co-director, James Thomas (a retired engineer), allowed Kwesi and Shujaa to lead the group. Inspired by Prof. Tony Browder's tomb excavation work in Kemet called the ASA Restoration Project, they reorganized as The African Restoration Project and coordinated study groups and cultural activities in Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Pomona, CA every week for more than a decade. Their shared experience as engineers contributed to a combined focus on African history, culture, and S.T.E.M. from the start.

The Afrikan Restoration Project

Testimonials

"Children and parents will enjoy and learn from every one of the Stem 'n' Nem and the Seven Principles stories. They are clear examples of how the Nguzo Saba 365 program from The African Restoration Project is paving the way for our children to succeed in a highly S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math) - focused economy. The book series and online content uplift everyone by grounding each story in the vital community-building strategy of the Nguzo Saba / Seven Principles, expanding their application beyond Kwanzaa. If you are not on a similar path for S.T.E.M. and cultural development, you are falling behind." – Dr. Arnett Duncan, parent / educator

"*The* [Nguzo Saba] *earrings are perfect!*" – Sylvia Ridley, parent / U.S. Army (retired)

"*The Afrikan Restoration Project uses the creativity of its online platform to teach, uplift, and inspire. This is done by making the Seven Principles (Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith) a part of everyday life along with S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math). One of the creative outputs is a book series called STEM n' Nem and the Seven Principles. The stories are presented as "cultural adventures" where STEM and his family share lessons children and adults can benefit from that present positive role models, aid critical thinking, and clear up myths about our history*." – Sarah Shabazz, parent / educator

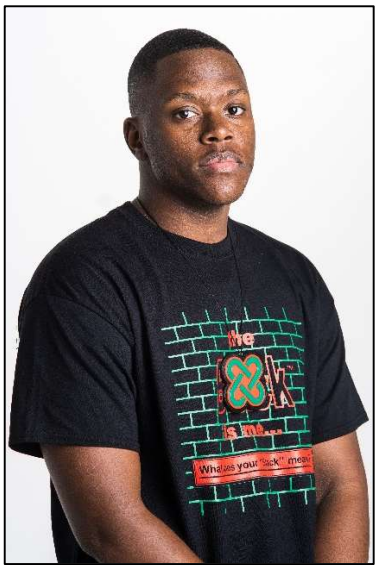
"*Until I read the STEM 'n 'Nem Juneteenth story, I accepted - without question - that Black people enslaved in Texas didn't know about emancipation until the army showed up on June 19, 1865. It was surprising to learn the real reason they were enslaved for two extra years from a children's book.*" – Sabrina Cole, parent / healthcare administrator

"Wow! Y'all got a lot going on! I like that you're pushing the Seven Principles every day for Black people, not just around Kwanzaa. I also like the focus on technology and teaching Black children, too. I will place an order to support your work. Asante sana." – James Clarke, parent / general contractor

Custom Designed Cultural Products – See https://shop.nguzosaba365.org/











1966-2026 • CULTURE, COMMUNITY & THE NEXT GENERATION

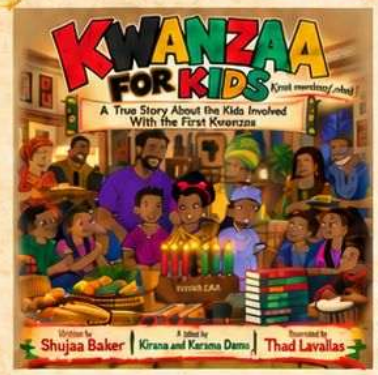
The Afrikan Restoration Project

60th Anniversary Kwanzaa Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2026

WorldBeat Cultural Center
2100 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

1-4 PM / WORLDWIDE BOOK DEBUT



Kwanzaa - FOR KIDS (and everybody else!)

Read the book together and explore lessons from its story, plus a Kwanzaa Essentials lesson, Art, Music, Drum 'n Dance.

Featuring Karama Damu, one of the children who participated in the very first Kwanzaa.

Instructional content provided by Imagiread Children's Literacy Academy.



The First 'Kwanzaa For Kids' - December 26, 1966 - at the Aquarian Spiritual Center, Los Angeles

KARAMA DAMU



Karama then

From the first celebration to a new generation.



Karama today



6–9 PM / UMOJA / UNITY NIGHT PRESENTATION

Celebrating the First Sixty Years of Kwanzaa… and the Next!

Explore the past, present, and future of Kwanzaa and the Seven Principles—including a thoughtful strategy to expand unity, understanding, and application of these teachings.

JOIN US FOR LEARNING & CELEBRATION

Scan for details • Kwanzaa.org/events.html

THE AFRIKAN RESTORATION PROJECT

KWANZAA • 60TH ANNIVERSARY • 1966–2026

KUJICHAGULIA

DAY OF SELF DETERMINATION

"Celebrating Sixty Years of Kwanzaa and the Self Determination of Elevating Blackness"



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2026

2–5 P.M.

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM

315 East Warren Avenue • Detroit, MI 48201

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Kwanzaa with the new book "Kwanzaa - FOR KIDS *(and everybody else!)*". Learn the new perspective it shares on the holiday's origin and how that fits into a broader project of self determination called

ELEVATING BLACKNESS

https://elevatingblackness.com

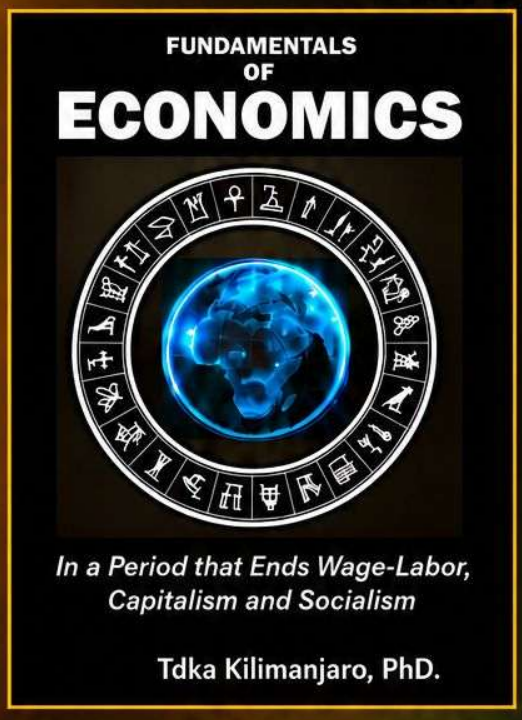
THE AFRIKAN RESTORATION PROJECT

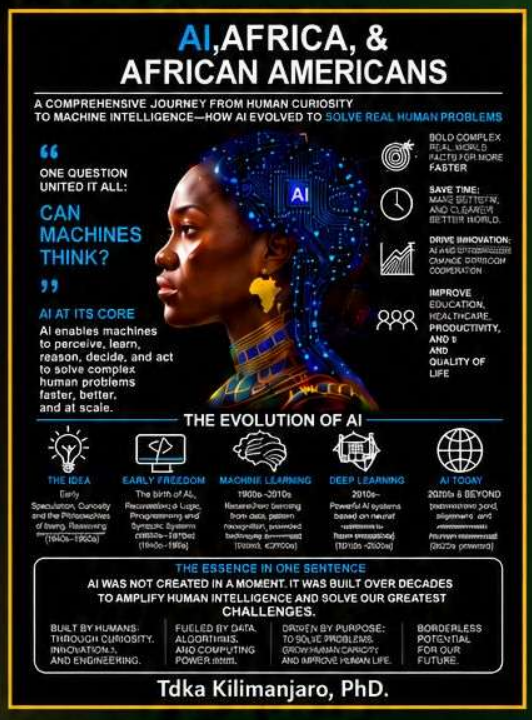
60th Anniversary Kwanzaa Program

Kwanzaa and Ujamaa / Cooperative Economics: Preparing For the Next Sixty Years

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2026
5–7 PM

Join us for a presentation on the return of TARP's study group and how we can prepare for the economic changes coming with A.I. and robotics.





We will study *Fundamentals of Economics* by Dr. Tdka Maat Kilimanjaro, with additional insights from his book *A.I., Africa & African Americans.*

TARP, STUDY GROUP RETURNS
Beginning January 14, 2027
Second and fourth Thursday of each month

REGISTER & ACCESS THE PROGRAM
https://tarpie.org/events