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# THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE

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**Greetings!**

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.  
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass  
movement.

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## Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
- **Announcements**
- **Happenings Gallery!**

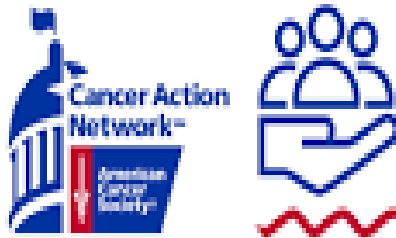
## Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

# Spotlight

## ADVOCACY AND POLICY

## BLACK VOLUNTEER



## CAUCUS

Ensuring Inclusion and  
Involvement in the  
Black Community

By  
DonnaMarie Woodson

**I'm in a privileged position as both an Democratic Activist and Advocate for Healthcare Equity. I wear two hats. Working for healthcare justice on both sides!**

**I'm bi-partisan as District 12 Lead Advocate with Congresswoman Alma Adams with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN). Also a member of the (ACSCAN) Black Volunteer Caucus. (BVC)**



**North Carolina BVC Team**

**ACSCAN is a bi-partisan organization because it's a fact that in Congress without both sides of the aisle supporting our indicatives, nothing will be accomplished. Also, we don't give up. It took 10 years to finally achieve Medicaid Expansion in NC. So, today, as a result of hard**

**work, one on one conversations with our Legislators, and postcard writing and calls from folks like you, we've achieved our goal!**

**On Dec 1, 2023, Medicaid Expansion goes Live! 🎉**

***Please, spread the word to your Networks to apply even if they have previously been rejected, the qualifications have been expanded.***



**Here's the link to sign-up. <https://ncmedicaidplans.gov/en/enroll>**

## **NEW POLICY INITIATIVE!**

Currently, the ACS CAN and the BVC have a new policy initiative that I hope you'll join with us in helping make policy.

### **The PSA for HIM ACT – HR 1826**



**Racial disparities in prostate cancer could be addressed with newly introduced legislation**

On September 14, 2023 – Bipartisan legislation that would eliminate financial barriers to prostate cancer screening was introduced in the U.S. Senate. **Sponsored by Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and John Boozman (R-AR), the Prostate-Specific Antigen Screening for High-risk Insured Men (PSA Screening for HIM) Act** would waive cost-sharing requirements for men with the highest risk of prostate cancer, focusing on Black men and those with a family history of the disease.

**Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer in American men.** However, while cancer affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. Black men have a much higher incidence of prostate cancer compared to other men. **In fact, one in six Black men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, which is a 70% higher incidence rate than in White men.**

We're advocating for the **Prostate-Specific Antigen Screening for High-risk Insured Men Act or the PSA Screening for HIM Act**, legislation that would require private health insurance plans to cover prostate cancer screenings for those at high risk of the disease, with no out-of-pocket costs for patients. PSA screenings can often detect prostate cancer before signs and symptoms are present, at earlier stages when the disease is easier to treat. [Early detection saves lives](#), and can help decrease death rates for everyone.

## **HOW TO HELP US PASS THIS LEGISLATION!**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Virtual Postcard Party: Help Save Lives From  
Prostate Cancer**

**Wednesday, December 6th at, 7:30pm EST  
4:30pm PST**

**At the event participants will learn about the PSA Screening for HIM Act, hear from members of the Black Volunteer Caucus and from prostate cancer survivors. Together we will write postcards to our US Senators asking them to cosponsor the bill.**

**Please register today**

**Can't attend live? Register anyways for instructions on how to participate on your own.**

**I've attached a flyer to the email for the Event for you to share. Also, a sample Postcard with the address to mail your postcards.**

**Thank you in advance and please let me know if you register or have any questions.**

**See you December 6<sup>th</sup>!**

## Works Cited

<https://www.fightcancer.org/what-we-do/early-detection-prostate-cancer>

<https://www.fightcancer.org/news/congress-introduces-psa-screening-him-act>

<https://www.fightcancer.org/black-volunteer-caucus-bvc>

## **BLACK VOLUNTEER**



## **CAUCUS**

**Ensuring Inclusion and  
Involvement in the  
Black Community**

## **To Learn More About ACS CAN**

<https://www.fightcancer.org/>

## **To Learn More About the BVC**

<https://www.fightcancer.org/black-volunteer-caucus-bvc>

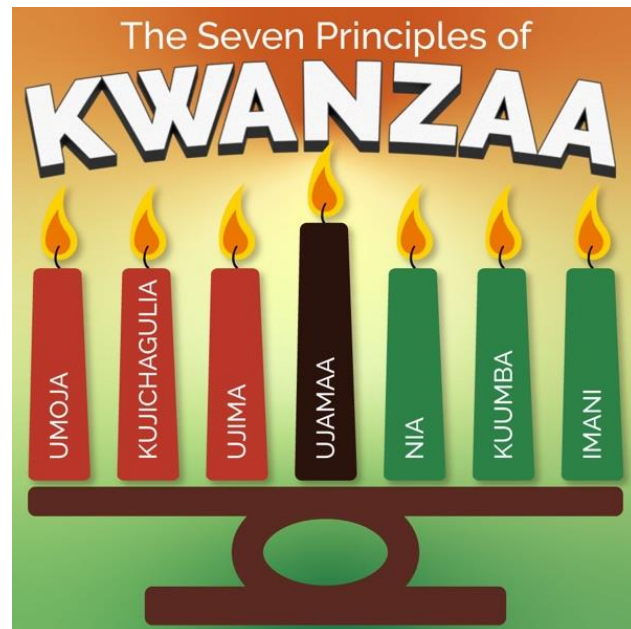
## Editorial

# Fostering the Principles of Kwanzaa: Focusing on Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

By  
Tarik Kiley  
11/26/2023

As we enter the holiday season, let's revisit a popular African American tradition called **Kwanzaa**. There are seven principles of **Kwanzaa**. They are:

1. **Umoja (Unity)**
2. **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)**
3. **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)**
4. **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)**
5. **Nia (Purpose)**
6. **Kuumba (Creativity)**
7. **Imani (Faith)**



While each principle has its own significance, we will focus on a discussion of **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)**. For sake of simplicity, this will be a discussion about capitalism as utilized as an economic tool for the prosperity of African Americans and others of African descent.



Economic prosperity for African Americans or the tendency for lower socioeconomic status for African Americans must be understood against the backdrop of history. While not all African Americans are poor, we are disproportionately so. In fact, we don't have the cooperation across the **Diaspora** that is necessary to improve our socioeconomic status.

Additionally, much of the economic benefits of global trade have historically gone to European nations throughout the past eras of imperialism and colonialism. And much of the scholarly discussion on trade focuses on Europe as the center of that trade. Since the thought behind global trade centers on Europe, Africa and its **Diaspora** fails to place itself at the center of thought in terms of having its people benefit from said trade. It is notable that Africa is resource rich,



Before 1921 Riot

The impact of racism has also worked to keep African Americans and others of African descent from cooperating on the scale necessary to bring about globally comparable wealth to Europeans. According to [nonprofitquarterly.org](http://nonprofitquarterly.org), “The US has a long and bloody history of racial terrorism targeting Black-owned businesses. This history includes the racist **pogrom** that destroyed Tulsa’s ‘Black Wall Street’ in 1921.”



Riot's Devastation



**African American people don't lack economic thought. Since the end of slavery, there have been attempts at economic advancement for African Americans. For example, Booker T. Washington's book "Up from Slavery" emphasized the need for industrial training to take advantage of the then new employment opportunities that would be brought about by the developments of the Industrial Revolution.**

**Still, socioeconomic progress for African Americans has been impeded, historically by racism.**

**In addition to acts such as racist pogroms, economically successful African Americans could face lynching and other forms of racial violence for being successful.**



**Still, there have been some very successful efforts by African Americans to advance our socioeconomic status. For example, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) have been instrumental in improving the socioeconomic conditions of many African Americans despite racism.**

**Unfortunately, still, today, too many times African Americans are consumers, but not creditors. There still must be a serious effort**



**towards financing our own entrepreneurs. More essentially, we need to have faith in our entrepreneurs. Many ideas have died, in the post-Civil Rights era, because we haven't worked to help our**

**entrepreneurs to raise the capital needed for their startups. Again, this is a failure to think in terms of scale. More specifically, we need to have the attitude that we will rebuild when faced with any setbacks.**

**In addition to this, it must be understood that not all government assistance is “welfare.” In fact, the existence of White suburban communities post-WWII, and throughout the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, were financed through government assistance. Also, land grant colleges that educated many Americans were provided through government assistance.**

**In the same way, the government enforced African American poverty through redlining and other such acts, that concentrated African Americans residentially in poor, urban communities, also known as ghettos. The “ghettoization” of African Americans continued throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s, and its effect can still be felt today.**

**The solution here is for us as people of African descent to think on a larger, global scale when it comes to business and economics. It is not enough to have political power. The point here is that one's socioeconomic decline begins once you are placed in a ghetto. The ghetto stops you from gaining access to the resources that would be available if given access to a larger market.**



**This is why people should travel. Being able to see the world and experience its various, rich cultures can serve as an antidote to ignorance and prejudice.**

**Admittedly, ignorance knows no color, and experience can be a powerful teacher. For example, Malcolm X was a staunch Black nationalist until he made his trip to Mecca and Africa. I'm convinced that if African Americans knew more Haitians, and more continental Africans, and more about those cultures, then we would all see our common plight and hence, cooperate.**

### **Works Cited**

**<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/seven-principles-kwanzaa>**

**<https://au.int/en/auc/priorities/economic-integration>**

**<https://au.int/en/auc/priorities/economic-integration>**

**<https://au.int/en/economic-integration-private-sector-development>**

**<https://www.civilrightsteaching.org/resource/brief-history-of-black-cooperatives>**

**<https://nonprofitquarterly.org/how-do-we-build-black-wealth-understanding-the-limits-of-black-capitalism/>**

# Announcements



## LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg County



JOIN THE LGBTQ+ DEMOCRATS  
OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
FOR OUR

Annual  
Holiday  
Awards Party

WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 6TH  
6:30PM

VAPA CENTER  
700 N TRYON ST  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202



RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/fZki9UPtw9SyyJPq7>

# Announcements



## Democrats of North Mecklenburg



**!HOLIDAY PARTY!**

**DECEMBER 16TH, 2023**

**3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.**



**Join us for a complimentary round of mini golf and some pizza on us! Wine and beer available for purchase!**

**Bring a sweet treat and a lawn chair if you like!**

LKN Minigolf is located at:  
18639 Statesville Rd  
Cornelius, NC 28031

**PLEASE RSVP TO: [DEMOCRATS@DEMOCRATSOFNORTHMECK.ORG](mailto:DEMOCRATS@DEMOCRATSOFNORTHMECK.ORG)**

**Dress warm in layers and be prepared for fun!**

**BRING THE FAMILY! DONATIONS TO DNM ARE APPRECIATED!**

# Announcements



## Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

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*Holiday  
Party*

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

DECEMBER

Wednesday | **13** | 6:00 to  
8:00 pm

THE PALMER BUILDING  
2601 E 7TH ST, CHARLOTTE, NC 28204

LIGHT APPETIZERS - CASH BAR

MECKDEMWOMEN.ORG



Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

# Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!



**The Executive Corner:**

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson  
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

**Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Contributor: Tarik Kiley**