



Queen Ann Nzinga Center, Inc.
Empowering Through the Arts

Sunday
December 17, 2023



KWANZAA

Performances, vendors, interactive crafts & more!

Trinity-on-Main | 69 Main St, New Britain, CT



Elizabeth H. Norton Trust



J. Walton Bissell Foundation



qanc.org

PROGRAM

African Dance OpeningTrish Grant
Processional, Abaye Misa Banuma

(Can we proceed our ceremony with your blessing)

Invocation ...Rev. Elvin Clayton, Sr. Water's Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church

Pouring of Libations, Tamshi La TambikoJean Davis Smith

Call to our AncestorsAudience Participation

Seven HarambeeJean Davis Smith

Lift Every Voice and Sing *(all stand who are able)*

Musical Selection, Three Little BirdsNzinga's Daughters

(Dedicated to Henry (Hank) Bentley and Gary Robinson)

Permission from EldersJean Davis Smith

Act 1, Scene 1 Principle Speaking

Scene 2, Symbol Speaking

Scene 3, The Park

Scene 4, The Project

Musical Selection, Skip to My LouJalen Oates

INTERMISSION

Musical Selection, In the StoneOnyae Hill

Act 2, Scene 1, Learning the Dance

Musical Selection, Afroland.....Randy Womack

Act 2, Scene 2, Talent Show

Can You Feel It Full Cast

Lose My Breath by Destiny's Child

Dancers: Destiny, Naylani, Kyra, Geleah, Taylor,

Autumn

Black Lives Matters - Our Father Ricky Dillard

Jalen Oates, Onyae Hill

Wonderful Life - Noe Gomez Joshua Albino

Scene 3 Transition Karamu Graduation

Scene 4 Seven Principles & Seven Symbols

Finale, Love Train.....Full Cast

WATOTO CAST

Destiny Baldwin	Onyae Hill	Wynter Pilgrim
Taire Berry	Aiden Jimenez	Jennifer Rispers
Sameen Bradley	Delilah Jimenez	Jayanna Roberts
Savanah Bradley	Kyra Jones	Jaylee Rodriguez
Zyhir Brown	Jayden Mack	Messiah Sprolling
Zoe Corbin	Taylor Mills	Aurora Villard
Kayden Gamble	Jamyll Martinez	Shukran Winfrey
Isaac Gonzalez	Geleah McCoy	Anthony Zepa Hua
Malachi Hemingway	Jalen Oates	Alexis Zepa Hua
Micah Hemingway	Autumn Pilgrim	Dana Zepa Hua
Naylani Hemingway		

INTERNS

Nathaniel Aroian, Uconn
Jakara Fargas, University of Saint Joseph
Dazira Fulton, Sacred Heart
Sandra Johnson, CCSU
Fernanda Rodriguez, Sacred Heart
Tresor Stephenson, CCSU
Theo Tomasitis, Sacred Heart

STAFF

Julie Aroian, Operations Manager
Jinelle Hooker, Assistant Executive Director
Chanel Wright, Program Facilitator

NZINGA'S DAUGHTERS R&B BAND

Joshua Albino - Guitar
Donna M Crockett - Vocals
Taffie Ann Bentley - Vocals
Onyae Hill - Vocals
Joanne James - African Percussion, Vocals
Alison Johnson Keyboard, Vocals
Kerry Ludger - Organ
Willis Moore - Drums
Dayna R. Snell - Musical Director
Theo Tomastis - Drums
Gail Williams - Band Leader, Bass Guitar, Vocals

A Note From the Executive Director



Habari Gani (What's the New?)

It's Kwanzaa Celebration time.

Welcome to the Queen Ann Nzinga Center's Annual Kwanzaa Celebration. It has been a wonderful season of growth and transformation. We have two young people graduating from high school in our program this year who have literally been in members since elementary school. We also have two Interns who graduated yesterday from CCSU with a degree in social work. It is amazing the work we do here.

Tonight, you are going to experience the original work of the participants. Over the summer, some of our seasoned participants created skits, choreographed dance moves, and truly implemented their understanding of our program, Kwanzaa principles and the importance of community. Truly Empowered through the Arts. Special thanks to Destiny Baldwin who took the lead to put the pieces of the night's program together. This happened with the support of Jayden Mack, Naylani Hemmingway, Zyhir Brown, and Taylar Mills.

I want to thank my Staff, Jinelle Hooker, Assistant Executive Director, Chanel Wright, Program Facilitator and Julie Aroian, Operations Manager who give 250% to make things happen. QANC is surrounded by our incredible board members, unwavering volunteers and a host of grantors and sponsors. Most importantly you, the parents, participants, the public and the community.

There are many ways that you can support our work. Make a donation tonight and a commitment to a monthly, quarterly or annual gift. Your support makes things happen in the lives of young people. Investing in our community takes all of us. You can check out our website QANC.org to learn more about who we are and how you can get involved. Check our vendors, stop by our QANC booth and enjoy the show this evening. Harambee



Credit Card



Venmo



Cash App