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UMOJA

Bringing Positive News to Your Doorstep

Celebrate Kwanzaa

December 26th - January 1st



From the Publisher

On page 21, we introduce a feature, *Focus on Neighborhood Centers*, which will become a regular column each month. Neighborhood centers, some large, some small, are the nurturing beds for our future leaders. Putting a spotlight on the centers gives UMOJA a way of recognizing the largely unsung work which they do day-in and day-out as they go about growing and protecting our young. For a moment, just think what this city would be like without neighborhood centers? We start off with Bayview, which is such a unique place. A simple phone call to me at 242-1400 will get any (or all) neighborhood center featured in the coming months.

For the fourth year, Jerry Butler has created an original painting especially for the December issue of UMOJA. Each gives a radically different artistic interpretation to the significance of Kwanzaa. If you have retained these priceless covers, you can put each year side by side and see the different stories they tell. This cover is particularly intriguing with the huge father figure rocking the smaller child while listening to the older child presumably talk about the objects on the Kwanzaa table. There must be absent children—perhaps they are working or in college— from the room because there are six ears of corn, one for each child in the family. A Kwanzaa table has seven symbols, but interestingly enough the seventh missing one is the *zawadi* (small gifts). The gift of time spent with the children speaks very loudly in Jerry's painting. The lace table covering articulates tradition. His figures are still life, yet they have movement. His faces are featureless yet the texture of hair

provides personality. The father's striped socks, pants and sweater reflect on his sturdiness, matched only by the strength of his large hands and the solid stance of his feet. Interestingly enough, there are two Kwanzaa settings. A village woman who collects art has one of Jerry's very first paintings, now valued at \$4,000. Because of the limited edition of these covers and because Jerry has created almost all of UMOJA's Kwanzaa covers, the possibility of their appreciation is real—probably not in my lifetime, but likely for the generations behind me. Anyway, we are very flattered to have a renowned artist create our Kwanzaa cover and to have him also as a villager who contributes to the life and soul of Madison in many ways.

Inside, we celebrate Kwanzaa starting on page 12 by connecting the achievements of young people with a Kwanzaa principle—children who are doing creative things in the Village. This was inspired by the Celebrating Youth Showcase which took place on November 3 at Monona Terrace and of course by Dr. Maulana Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa who will incidentally be speaking on December 7 at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Much of our folly and foolishness can be redeemed through the Kwanzaa principles and hopefully young people will put these principles to work in their lives.

Aside from good health to all my readers, I wish for peace more than anything else and am agitated because we are giving birth to another generation cursed by war. Most history books define their chapters by war. How long, oh God, how long, must men and women be cruel to one another? God bless the peacemakers, world-wide.

Milele Chikasa Anana

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EVENTS FOR CALENDAR ARE WELCOME IF RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH. CALL MILELE AT 242-1400 TO NOMINATE VILLAGERS FOR TEEN, CHILD OR VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH.

PHOTOS AND SHORT ARTICLES ARE ALSO WELCOME.

UMOJA is the original positive-news only magazine that serves as a link in the communication stream in a village known as Madison. It is to become an energizing force.

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Cover artist Jerry Butler and his daughters