

# Many Faiths, Communities Celebrate

## HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration that begins on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev, which usually falls during the month of December, but occasion-

ally begins during November. This year, Hanukkah started at sundown on Friday, Dec. 15 and continues through sundown on Saturday, Dec. 23.

The year 2006 translates to the year 5767 on the Jewish

calendar.

Hanukkah (also commonly spelled "Chanukah") means "rededication" in Hebrew. The holiday commemorates an event that occurred 23 centuries ago, marking the survival of Judaism.

Often called the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is one of the best known and most joyous holidays for the Jewish community. While not a particularly important religious occasion, Hanukkah is a special time for gathering and celebrating with family and friends.

## CHRISTMAS

Christmas or Christmas Day is an annual holiday that marks the traditional birthdate of Jesus of Nazareth. Christmas combines the celebration

of Jesus' birth with various secular traditions and customs, many of which were influenced by ancient winter festivals. Christmas traditions include the display of Nativity scenes and Christmas trees, the exchange of gifts and cards, and the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. Popular Christmas themes include the promotion of goodwill, giving, compassion and quality family time.

Christmas Day falls on Monday, Dec. 25. It is preceded by Christmas Eve on Dec. 24. Some Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7.

Christmas is celebrated in most countries around the world, owing to the spread of Christianity and Western culture, along with the enduring popularity of wintertime celebrations.

## KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African American holiday, which celebrates family, community and culture. It is celebrated for seven days: Dec. 26 through Jan 1.

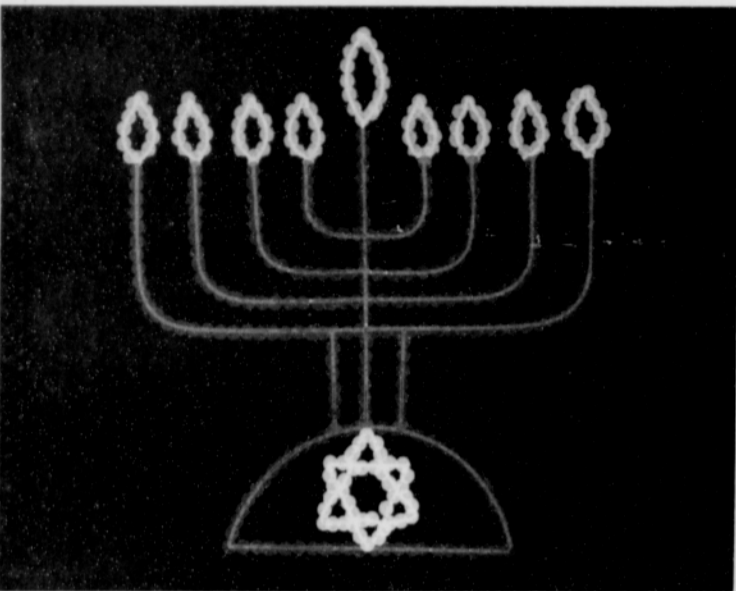
Dr. Maulana Karenga, pro-

fessor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first

lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture, which

contribute to building and reinforcing community among African Americans. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols, which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on Dec. 31.



## ODOT IS KEEPING OREGON ON THE MOVE

### Interstate 5 is under construction!

Be safe, be prepared and be patient as the Oregon Department of Transportation repairs and modernizes our highways and bridges.

Drivers will pass through more than 20 active construction zones on I-5 between Portland and Medford in 2007. In the

Portland metro area, crews are currently replacing two highway bridges outside Wilsonville and will begin a project between Capital Highway and the Tualatin River this spring.

How can you prepare? Stay informed with up-to-the-minute information about traffic and construction by visiting TripCheck.com or calling 5-1-1.

**SLOW DOWN!  
BETTER ROADS AHEAD**



## 22nd Annual "Keep Alive The Dream"

Tribute to: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### When?

Monday January 15th, 2007 11:00 A.M. - 6:00P.M.

### Where? NEW LOCATION!

Highland Christian Center 7600 N.E. Glisan, Portland, Oregon

### Who?

**Invited Speakers:** Governor Ted Kulongowski, State Senators, Mayor Tom Potter, Superintendent Dr. Vicki Phillips, Dr. G.W. Hardy  
**Featured artists:** Jefferson Dancers, Congregation, GNC Linda Hornbuckle with Janice Scroggins & Friends, Aurora Chorus, DaNell Dayman & Royalty - Seattle, WA, Aaron Meyer, Bill Lamb Portland Symphonic Choir, African Gospel Acapella Inspirational Sounds, University of Oregon - Eugene, OR

**Special Feature:** Agrippa Williams - Dramatic Portrayal Art Displays, Vendor Bazaar, and Special Food Court

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