

KINARA (KWANZAA CANDLE HOLDER)

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECT

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Unknown
Title:	Kinara (Kwanza Candle Holder)
Dates:	Unknown
Quantity:	1 object
Identification:	Objects

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the West African diaspora in the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles. It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–67.

The **kinara** is the candle holder used in Kwanzaa celebrations in the United States. During the week-long celebration of Kwanzaa, seven candles are placed in the kinara - three red on the left, three green on the right, and a single black candle in the center. The word *kinara* is a Swahili word that means *candle holder*. [Adapted from Wikipedia].

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Kwanza Holidays Candle holders
Places:	Congregation Shaaray Tefila, Glens Falls, NY
Form/Genre:	Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Kinara (Kwanza Candle Holder)
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Donated to the Folklife Center by Bonnie Yanklowitz on behalf of Congregation Shaaray Tefila, December 15, 2004

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Wolfe Burke Nov. 2017

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT

The carved wooden candle holder is 12 inches wide at the top, 5 inches high, and 2 inches back-to-front. There are seven metal-lined holders for candles in the top. Below them, the base curves in to make a bowl shape, set on two wide feet. The feet are just over 10 inches wide. The candle holder appears to have been carved from a single piece of wood. The grain of the wood runs the width of the piece.