



Date: November 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

CELEBRATE KWANZAA AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

WHAT: “Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits”
WHEN: Wednesday, Dec. 30 from noon to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis
COST: Included with Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents) or membership. Free children ages 12 and under.
INFO: www.mobot.org; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Celebrate the contemporary African-American holiday of **“Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits”** at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Tuesday, Dec. 30 from noon to 4 p.m.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday that derives its name from the Swahili term *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning “fruits of the harvest.” The annual event honors African traditions and history, with storytelling and music to celebrate the harvest feast before the dry season. A table of fruits, vegetables and grains will be displayed.

Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated for seven days, each dedicated to a guiding principle: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. A ceremony at noon and 3 p.m. will explain the holiday’s origins as one symbolic candle on the *kinara* is lit for each principle. Following each ceremony, Janice “Mama” Katambwa will tell stories of Africa using costumes and percussion.

Renata’s African Influences, Ajanaku Jewelry and Mama Katambwa’s Boutique will offer Kwanzaa crafts and jewelry for purchase. The Garden Gate Shop also offers an assortment of

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ADD ONE: Kwanzaa

African-made crafts and music CDs.

“Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits,” is included with Garden admission \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, easily accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit. Free parking is available on-site at the west lot and at two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit www.mobot.org or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years.*

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NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years.*

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Dec. 25. Grounds open at 7 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon (exception: special admission rate events). Park for free on site and two blocks west at the Shaw-Vandeventer intersection. The Garden is easily accessible by taking the MetroLink commuter rail line to the Central West End station and picking up a Metro bus (www.metrostlouis.org). For general information, log on to www.mobot.org or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-9400 or 1 (800) 642-8842. For membership information, call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, call (314)-577-5187 or visit www.mobot.org/volunteer. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.

(Note: A section of the I-64/U.S. 40 highway is under construction through 2009. Before traveling, check www.thenewi64.org for updates or visit www.GetAroundStL.com for other helpful information.)