



Birmingham Chapter

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National Trends and Services

Link Carol Kirby McElderry

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Health and Human Services

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MEMBERS

Link Ronda K. Bell

Link Rhonda Cantelow

Link Mia Cowan

Link Malena Cunningham

Link Marquita Furness Davis

Link Martha Emmett

Link Karla Fields

Link Monique Gardner-Witherspoon

Link Daagye Hendricks

Link Kim Hitchens

Link Anne Hooks

Link Marva Owens James

Link Jewrette Yovonne Johnson

Link Gloria Kennon

Link Cheryl Anderson Kidd

Link Bobbie Knight

Link Nyya Parson-Hudson

Link Rica Lewis-Payton

Link Deveta Peoples

Link Erica Prewett

Link Stephanie Rayborn

Link Anabela Simon-Lee

Link Shandra Jackson Smith

Link Tamara Jones Travis

Link Gretel Webster

Link Debra Weston-Pickens

Link Bonika Wilson

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Link Richardene B. Chadwell

Link Merlyn White Evans

Link Dixie Gardner Harris

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Link Lydia Lewis Alexander

Link Maxine Anderson

Link Margaret Gore Cason

Link Minnie W. Finley

Link Mamie Helen Hymes

Link Tamara Harris Johnson

Link Constance Gardner Jones

Link Josie Gardner Kirby

Link Juanita O. Hixon

Link Helen Shores Lee

Link Helen M. Lewis

Link Ceola H. Montgomery

Link Danna K. Thornton Owens

Link Dorothy Rogers Porter

Link Barbara S. Shores



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sister Links,

While growing up, my parents instilled in me the value of hard work, service to my community, and friendship; therefore, it is only fitting that as an adult I would join an organization that has those same values as the core of its existence. Because of the dedication to, and the love for the organization shown by each member of the Birmingham Chapter, I am proud to serve as your president. The members of the

Birmingham Chapter are a stellar group of Links Sisters who Lead with Excellence ~ Serve with Grace. You inspire me to be an even better leader.

I know that our accomplishments over the past year will only be increased with our induction on June 2, 2012 of twelve (12) phenomenal women that I am proud to call my newest Links Sisters. I am extremely happy to welcome them into our chain of friendship. As we move forward in blending our talents together, I ask that we challenge ourselves to live up to what we say "binds us close, and brings us joy." Let us look to our history of friendship and service as a model to continue to grow as a chapter.

I hope all will have a safe and relaxing summer break so that we may each return with a renewed and refreshed spirit that will allow us to continue to Lead with Excellence~ Serve with Grace.

In friendship and in Service,

Link Vanessa

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED INDUCTS TWELVE NEW MEMBERS



L-R: Mia Cowan, Monique Gardner-Witherspoon, Deveta Peoples, Nyya Parson-Hudson, Malena Cunningham, Debra Weston-Pickens, Erica Prewitt, Anne Hooks, Martha Emmett, Bonika Wilson, Anabela Simon-Lee, Bobbie Knight

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated inducted twelve (12) new members. **Dr. Mia Cowan, Malena Cunningham, Martha Emmett, Dr. Monique Gardner-Witherspoon, Anne Hooks, Bobbie Knight, Judge Nyya Parson-Hudson, Dr. Deveta Peoples, Erica Prewitt, Dr. Anabela Simon-Lee, Debra Weston-Pickens, Esq., and Bonika Wilson** were inducted into the chapter on Saturday, June 2, 2012. Founded in 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, The Links, Incorporated is an organization of over 12,000 women of African descent in Chapters in the United States and The Bahamas. From its inception, the organization has gathered momentum, continuously redefined its purposes, sharpened its focus and expanded its program dimensions in order to make the name "Links" not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service. The Birmingham Chapter, Alabama's first Links Chapter, began with a core group called "Pacesetters", consisting of eight women: Hattie Calloway, Columbia Clayborne, Madeline Davis, Mayo Forniss, Minnie Gardner Gaston, Theodora Shores, Bernice Sterling and Essie Taggart. Area Director Georgia Schank installed the charter members on February 4, 1956.



New Connecting Links- Front row, L-R: Curtis Pickens, James McCain, Craig Witherspoon, Joseph Brown, Timothy Lee; Back row, L-R: John Hudson, Donta Wilson and Gary Burley

As part of the new members' orientation modular the candidates created a project that targeted one of the five national programming facets, The Arts. The project, entitled, *The Friends of the Arts*, focused on enriching music education in the Birmingham City Schools. The group presented a video that outlined the importance of music education in the schools. They also invited community leaders for an exchange of ideas on enriching music education and performance in Birmingham City Schools. The event was held on May 15th at the historic Virginia Samford Theatre.

After the induction ceremony, the members of the Birmingham Chapter and guests participated in a celebration reception at

ArtPlay, a beautiful Victorian house, located in the heart of Southside. Members and guests feasted on delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Michael Glenn of Creative Catering by Ambrosia. Live music was provided by guitarist Keith Williams.



Members of the Membership, Ritual and Decorating Committee assisting with the ceremony were: **Links Vanessa Falls- President, Jeanne Pearson Johnson-Membership Chair, Cathy Bradford - Membership Co-Chair, Angelene Whatley, Marquita Davis, Rica Lewis Payton, Camelia Holmes, - Rituals Chair, Gaynell Hendricks, Tamara Travis, Kim Hitchens- Decorating Chair, Diann Jackson and Stephanie Rayborn.**

Birmingham Chapter Members



BIRMINGHAM LINKS FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

The Birmingham Chapter recently (April 21) hosted a fundraising event. Old Car Heaven in Birmingham, Alabama was the setting for a spotlight on the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural movement that began during the 1920s and thrived through the 1930s.

Old Car Heaven was transformed into a 1920s era night club. Guests arrived and were entertained by the sounds of live music provided by Ken Talley and Jeff Lopez of Goodfellas Jazz and were warmly greeted by servers offering delectable appetizers. Guests got into the spirit of the evening by wearing flamboyant vintage fashions that

included fur stoles, feather boas and beautiful shawls, flapper dresses and brilliant cocktail dresses, dramatic headdresses and hats, satin gloves, flashy jewelry and pearls galore. The men's attire ranged from dinner jackets, various styles of suits including zoot suits, tuxedos, fedora hats, and spats. **Connecting Link Robert Holmes, Jr.**, attired in a sophisticated tuxedo with tails, served as the host emcee.



Excitement was in the air and the joint was jumping all night! Guests played Vegas-style casino games, danced to lively music and happily mingled with other guests. Several buffet stations featured beef short ribs with buttermilk mashed potatoes, collard greens with Mexican corn muffins, carved honey glazed ham and fresh roast turkey, assorted vegetables, fruits and cheeses and assorted, mouthwatering deserts, all prepared by Creative Catering by Ambrosia.

To incorporate the casino theme, tables were decorated with silver vintage goblets containing purple hydrangeas interspersed with green and white dice and poker chips highlighting the Links' colors. Elegant couples in black and white formal attire were displayed on banners suspended from the ceiling. A New York skyline backdrop was center stage with

adjacent screens featuring a video presentation highlighting literary figures, entertainers, intellectuals and other images from the Harlem Renaissance period. The splendid selection of rare antique automobiles on display at Old Car Heaven also further helped to carry out the theme. The evening ended with an exciting drawing for prizes.

Images from recent Birmingham Chapter projects promoting childhood obesity prevention, health awareness, Services to Youth, the Arts and other community activities were projected on several screens throughout the venue. The fundraising goal set for this event was exceeded. Proceeds will help fund the many community service projects carried out by the Birmingham Chapter and contributions made to organizations including the UNCF and Sickle Cell Foundation.

Links members on the Planning Committee were: **Co-Chairman, Carnetta Davis, Co-Chairman Cheryl Kidd, President, Vanessa Falls, Camelia Holmes, Gaynell Hendricks, Brenda Adams, Demetrui Taylor, Angelene Whatley, Kim Hitchens, Cathy Bradford and Samuetta Nesbitt.**



Thanks for your support of **A Harlem Renaissance Evening!**



THE BIRMINGHAM (AL) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED AWARDS PRIZES TO POSTER ART CONTEST WINNERS

Norwood School Principal Errol Watts, Jeremy Duke, Arts Facet Chair, Gaynell Hendricks

The Arts Facet has been extremely busy the last two months with their projects in collaboration with the Alys Stephens Center as well as sponsoring the Art Poster Contest which is part of the Links, Incorporated's National Poster Art Competition. The Arts Facet's goal is to increase and expand art activity, and elevate our programs through arts integration and effectively create an Arts renaissance within our organization and programmatic efforts.

The theme for the 2011 - 2012 National Poster Art Contest, **Healthy, Active and Wise**, serves to and expand our health message to include a wider spectrum of healthy lifestyle choices. This will allow for a more meaningful educational

experience for the participants and a wider array of ideas to inspire their poster designs. During the National Assembly year (even years) a chapter may choose to host a national poster art competition for youths, grades 1 – 12. Chapters conduct their local competition and award first, second and third place prizes. The winner in each category enters the Area judged competition.



Link Tamara Travis with Norwood Elementary and Lewis Elementary School students

This year the Birmingham Chapter is proud to announce the following 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners from Norwood Elementary and Lewis Elementary respectively. Jeremy Duke won first place, Savannah Dorsey won second place and Trinity Lyons won third place. Arts Committee Chairman, **Link Gaynell Hendricks**, presented the prize during the award ceremony at Norwood and **Link Angelene Whatley** presented the second and third place prizes at Lewis Elementary. **Link Karla Fields** coordinated the contest for the schools.



Link Angelene Whatley with 2nd and 3rd place winners from Lewis Elementary School

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 25, 2012- **Birmingham (AL) Chapter Links Forum/Retreat**

Thursday, Oct 4, 2012 through Saturday October 6, 2012 - **Southern Area Leadership Summit**- Riverfront Marriott, Savannah, GA (The summit ends on a Saturday evening, but most members will probably check out of the hotel that Sunday morning).



An 1884 painting by master African American Artist Charles Ethan Porter from the Art Collection of **Link Carnetta Davis** and **Connecting Link Norm Davis** is included in *Future Perfect: The Birmingham Museum of Art at 60*, an exhibition of more than 150 works that have been purchased or gifted in honor of the museum's diamond anniversary. The Davises also hosted 14 members of the Friends of African American Art from the Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, TN in their home for a tour of their art collection on May 19th.

Congratulations to **Heir-O-Link Ashley Noelle Johnson, J.D.**, daughter of **Link Tamara Harris Johnson, Esquire** and granddaughter of **Link Dixie Gardner Harris**, on graduating from The University of Maryland Law School, Baltimore, MD, on May 18, 2012. Ashley's interests are in Entertainment Law. Joining in her celebrations were her father, Raymond L. Johnson, Jr., Esquire; her sister, Dr. Erica Nicole Johnson, from Louisville, KY and Erica's fiancé, Dr. Joel L. Parker, from Indianapolis, IN.

Meet the Candidates for National Office

Log on to www.linksinc.org and click on the Members Only Section
Voting will take place in Orlando, FL during the 38th National Assembly



[Margot James Copeland](#)

Candidate For Office of: National President



[Glenda Newell-Harris](#)

Candidate For Office of: National Vice President



[Kimberly Jeffries Leonard](#)

Candidate For Office of: National Recording Secretary



[Katherine Wilson](#)

Candidate For Office of: National Treasurer



[Pamela Gentry](#)

Candidate For Office of: National Nominating Chair

Birmingham Chapter - The Links, Inc.

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