

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As the vibrant colors of the fall season signal seasonal change, The Birmingham (AL) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated is reflecting on the service we have rendered so far. Our involvement in the 60th Anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church stands out as a significant achievement. By contributing to the strengthening of international relations and promoting racial tolerance, we have been able to participate in positive social change.

Additionally, we had the extraordinary opportunity to support and introduce young people from Wales to students and the executive staff at Miles College. Being a part of Welsh history by hosting the first Black Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething, was a momentous occasion. Our International Trends and Services (ITS) facet planned this activity, chaired by Martha Emmett Sims and supported by member Shia Hendricks, who serves on the Sister Cities Board. With full chapter support and available resources, success was inevitable. (Continued on Page 2)

Birmingham (AL) Chapter Commissions Song to Commemorate 60th Anniversary of Church Bombing

As part of the 60th commemoration of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, The Birmingham, Alabama Chapter of The Links, Incorporated participated in a ceremony that marked the sister-city connection between the people of Birmingham and Wales at the historic Kelly Ingram Park on September 15, 2023.

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter commissioned a song that was featured during the International Friendship Pact Signing Ceremony. The article linked below describes the event featuring leaders from Birmingham, Alabama and Wales, pictured below.

https://www.al.com/news/birmingham/2023/09/why-welsh-students-leaders-traveled-4000-miles-to-birmingham-this-week.html?fbclid=IwAR15OCkQq2H9ukKg73IKysX_GmKVHoD9MnmXjQPwnlkyKmRV33HgDPanG8E



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Now our focus is to complete the documentary capturing this great work, ensuring that it is preserved for future generations.

Our dedicated facets are currently planning various outreach programs to engage our communities. We aim to expose youth to the arts and to encourage healthy living through activities that introduce them to healthier foods, meditation, and yoga. We will engage our local students in the exploration of opera by attending a local performance and hearing their reactions to the evening's cultural experience. Further, we have plans to visit Ghana to continue our support for education in depressed areas in the town of Apaaso where we have funded library resources.

The work never stops, and we are grateful for the ongoing support we receive. Stay tuned for our annual fundraiser in April. We hope to see you there.

Cheryl Anderson Kidd, J. D., M.B.A.
President

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1970 – The Birmingham (AL) Chapter donated a Soda Absorber to Holy Family Hospital during the presidency of Link Willie Maye Jones. This device is used by an anesthesiologist to assist with the elimination of carbon dioxide from patients receiving pain relief treatment. The machine was the most modern of its kind at the time.

L-R: Virginia Elliot, anesthesiologist, Joseph Calandra, hospital administrator, Link Mary Hollins, Link Mayo Forniss, Link Theodora Shores, Link Rose T. Brown, Link Amyle Boykin, Link Willie Maye Jones and Link Edythe T. Jones





SOUTHERN AREA DIRECTOR FETED

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter was proud to support our own Vanessa Falls on Sunday, September 27 as she was celebrated by Links members, family, and friends on her election as Southern Area Director of The Links, Incorporated. The Birmingham Chapter joined with the Magic City (AL) and Tri-County (AL) chapters to organize this special event. Through her leadership, Falls will inspire the members to *Lead with Intentional Friendship and Service!*

Pictured above: Members of The Birmingham (AL) Chapter; Right photo: Alumnae of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter; Below: Members of the Southern Area Executive Committee; Far right: Falls Family.





HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HeartLinks/Walk For Healthy Living Annual Walk-A-Thon

The Birmingham (Al) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated collaborated with our local sister chapters for an impactful day of service at Legion field. The chapter partnered with Brenda Brown Bosom Buddies to raise awareness about breast cancer and to celebrate breast cancer survivors. The members walked a designated course and participated in planned activities during the morning event.

With the assistance of Services to Youth (STY) facet and representatives from Lawson State Community College and Miles College, Links members distributed information about local HBCUs. Additionally, the chapter's National Trends and Services (NTS) facet offered voter registration signup at our information table.

The day concluded with an intergenerational luncheon at a local restaurant with the members and families of the three Birmingham-area chapters.



CHAPTER MEMBERS ON THE MOVE IN LINKDOM

Birmingham (AL) Chapter Members Appointed to Southern Area Positions

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter is pleased to announce the appointment of four members to the Executive Board of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated. Area Director. Vanessa Falls recognized the unique talents of these women and asked each to serve her administration. The Birmingham (AL) Chapter applauds these appointments.



Shia Hendricks Accepted to Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute

Shia Hendricks has been selected to The Links, Incorporated Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute - Cohort XI. The Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute was created to embolden young Link leaders to respond to emerging organizational and community needs. The two-year program was envisioned by 13th National President Gladys Gary Vaughn to sustain the viability of The Links, Incorporated and to develop leaders who are committed to service within the Black community.





Birmingham (AL) Chapter Links Poised to Expand International Impact

Several members of The Birmingham (AL) Chapter recently joined over 500 Links members at the Inaugural Global Black Women's Summit in London, England. The newly chartered London Chapter hosted the event and The Links Foundation, Incorporated was the presenter.

National President Ethel Isaacs Williams presided, stating that the summit was held in October to coincide with the Black History Month observance in the United Kingdom. Eva Omaghomi, Director of Community Engagement for the King and Queen of England brought greetings on behalf of King Charles III.

Southern Area Director Vanessa Falls and other area directors provided welcome remarks at the historic event. The keynote presentation featured former US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice and AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins in a discussion about global challenges.

Other session topics included Black Women's Health; A Global Crisis Securing our Financial and Economic Visibility; A Conversation Between Global Community Leaders and How Goggle Continues to Advance Technology.

There were friendship activities that included a reception at the Dorchester Hotel, a shopping excursion at Burberry, and a high tea and protocol presentation entitled "Let's Talk Tea." Additionally, the members visited museums, restaurants and the theatre.

According to Isaacs Williams, the summit demonstrated a commitment to expand the global impact of The Links, Incorporated.

Attending the summit from the Birmingham (AL) Chapter were Southern Area Director Vanessa Falls; President Cheryl Kidd; Immediate Past President Monique Gardner-Witherspoon; members Cathy Bradford, Gaynell Hendricks, and Shia Hendricks; and alumna member Samuella Nesbitt.



Q&A WITH AMBER ANDERSON

The Birmingham Gazette regularly features articles about members of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter. The purpose is to share interesting information about the members who are fulfilling the organization's mission and commitment to friendship and service. In this issue, we are featuring Questions & Answers with Amber Anderson Grant, Chair of the Services to Youth (STY) facet.



How long have you been a member of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter?

I am celebrating two years of service in our illustrious organization.

What piqued your interest in becoming a member?

I was struck by the opportunity to form lasting friendships with like-minded women who also care to serve our community.

What is your professional position and what do you like most about it?

I am an Organizational Development Specialist with UAB Human Resources. What I like most about my job is facilitating professional workshops for leaders, supervisors, and aspiring managers. I especially enjoy using proven tools and techniques such as Gallup Strengthfinders, DISC assessments, and 360-feedback and coaching to impact organizational change through the power of human resources.

Are you involved in other service organizations besides the Links?

I am a member of the Junior League of Birmingham and I serve on the Board of the Children's Aid Society.

How do you balance your work life and volunteerism?

I intentionally choose projects that allow me to contribute my talents and skills and learn and grow without overextending myself.

What is a favorite pastime?

I enjoy reading books that expand my thinking and knowledge. I am currently reading Disruptive Thinking, a Daring Strategy to Change How We Live, Lead and Love by TD Jakes.

Do you have hobbies or expertise that people might be surprised to know?

I have depth of knowledge in the behaviors and attitudes of Gen Z. Also, I enjoy floral design.

Are you originally from Birmingham?

I was born in Birmingham and have lived here since birth.

Where did you go to high school and college, and what was your undergraduate/graduate degree?

I attended Minor High School and Alabama State University where I majored in mental health counseling.

Has there been an interesting or profound event in your life that you are willing to share?

My marriage to Cordale Grant in the summer of 2021 has been one of the most recent profound events in my life. In him I found my soul mate.

Who is your hero/heroine?

My mother is a single source of inspiration. I am so grateful for all that she has given and taught me.

<https://www.uab.edu/reporter/people/awards-honors/item/9697-she-s-one-of-the-top-40-under-40-what-s-her-secret?fbclid=IwAR1YVZD-IILAUICZ3YrI3vIW-hfE3sCllgXSY-Z3wL3p3yBSziUWEMBOj8Q>



APPLAUSE

L'Tryce Slade was recently named among the Who's Who in Building by the Birmingham Business Journal.



Links members joined United Way of Central Alabama to celebrate Birmingham (AL) Chapter alumna member **Samuella Primus Nesbitt**, Senior Vice President of Public Relations and Community Affairs, on her retirement after 25 years of outstanding service and other career accomplishments in broadcast journalism and public relations.



LeNa Powe McDonald, Southeastern Conference (SEC) Associate Commissioner for Academic Relations, was recently recognized as a University of Alabama Top Alumni Under 40, Class of 2023.



Debra Nelson, President Elevate Communications, has been selected as executive coach of the 2023 National Diversity Women's Business Conference where she will counsel women working in various corporate and business fields.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



November is the month we honor the founders of The Links, Incorporated and celebrate our friendships! Each member is encouraged to intentionally demonstrate a sisterly act of friendship.

The month also highlights National Veterans Day, Military Family Appreciation Month, and National Family Caregivers Appreciation Month. In support of these two groups designated for national appreciation in the month of November, all Links chapters and their members are asked to:

- Host an educational symposium for caregivers at a public venue such as a religious facility, nursing home or community center
- Assist those providing care to loved ones, including veterans
- Provide a small gift of appreciation to caregivers
- Feature subject matter experts and distribute resources of interest including AARP's Are You Ready? - training materials for caregivers
- Invite a spokesperson from the local Alzheimer's Association, local health office, and/or a mental health expert to present on the topic: "Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia"
- Celebrate veterans and/or caregivers in the community
- Identify an appropriate venue and/or organization to celebrate veterans such as VA hospitals or other facilities including nursing homes or places of worship
- Deliver "care packages" filled with resource information to veterans and caregivers.

Share your moments of impact on social media using the following hashtags: [#linksimpact](#) [#linksservice](#) [#linksinc](#)



We need your content!

Information to be considered for inclusion in our Chapter's newsletter include your facet activities and photos, upcoming events, and awards and recognitions of members. Please send items to Carnetta Davis at cdavis9616@gmail.com

BHAM LINKS GAZETTE

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