

The Links, Incorporated, Detroit (MI) Chapter Alumna Members

- Link Doris Anderson
- Link Inez Savage Allen
- Link Trudy DunCombe Archer
- Link C. Beth DunCombe
- Link Piper Gibson Fakir
- Link Shelia Finney
- Link Kathryn Harrison
- Link Janice Johnson
- Link Brenda Kee
- Link Janice Liddell
- Link Aretha Marshall
- Link Miriam Martin-Clark
- Link Beverly Norrell-Aitch
- Link Betty Anne Price
- Link Glenda Price
- Link Nettie Seabrooks
- Link Cynthia Tauveg
- Link Lorna Lacen Thomas
- Link Johna Treadwell



*“Love builds up the broken wall and straightens the crooked path.
Love keeps the stars in the firmament and imposes rhythm
on the ocean tides. Each of us is created of it and I suspect
each of us was created for it.”*

~ Maya Angelou



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Detroit (MI) Chapter



Alumnae and Platinum Ceremony

May 14, 2025



Our History, Our Story

On November 9, 1946, Margaret Rosell Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott, two young Philadelphia visionaries, co-founded The Links, Incorporated. They invited seven of their friends to join them in organizing a new type of inter-city club. Our beloved organization is now a premier international service organization with more than 17,000 professional women in 299 chapters, located in 41 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links, Inc. was chartered on March 10, 1951, by Mamie Alexander, and was the first of ten Links chapters in Michigan.



Founders of the Detroit (MI) Chapter

Edythe White, Berrnadine Tears, Betty Cole, Edith Bland, Mamie Alexander, Gladys Cuzzenes, Albertina Johnson, Elaine Conway, Kathryn Loomis, Alberta Raiford, Lucy Jones, Thelma Hutchins, Marie Owens, Wilhelmina Roxborough, Helen Curtis, Phyllis Colden, Thelma Houston, Lucy Bell Morris, Katie Fuller, Odalie Harmon-Dickson



Dearest Link Sisters Beverly, Brenda, Doris, Glenda, Johna, Kathy and Sheila,

Your sisters of the Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links, Inc. thank you for your dedication, commitment and enduring spirit of service. We are blessed to celebrate those of you who recently reached Alumna status and Link Johna for achieving 50 years of service and Platinum status. We pledge to continue the legacy of service and sisterhood that you have passed on to our chapter and the community.

With Love and Gratitude,

The Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated



Memories of Sisterhood and Service



New Platinum Member Link Johna Treadwell



We celebrate Link Johna, who has reached 50 years of membership and is now a Platinum member! Link Johna is a third-generation Link, as her grandmother, after whom she is named, was the first in their family to join our beloved organization. Link Johna graduated from Talladega College, an HBCU, and is a second-generation graduate. Her parents were the first in the family to graduate from Talladega and met there as students. Link Johna was fortunate to meet her husband, Garold (also known as Jerry) at Talladega, so the school was a family blessing in many ways. Link Johna was a music major with a concentration in piano and graduated in 1973. Link Johna continued her education and received a master's degree in music education from Wayne State in 1974.

The Links in Johna's family were a part of the Tampa (FL) Chapter of Links, and she joined that chapter in 1976. She transferred to the Detroit (MI) chapter, and the members were warm and welcoming. Some members were acquainted with her mother, which was extra special and made the chapter feel at home. In our chapter, Link Johna worked on various committees, including fundraising, chaired the Amenities committee for many years, taught the Link National Hymn to new Links several times, and is responsible for many Link sisters knowing how to hustle dance. During her early years with our chapter, meetings were often held in the homes of Links members (just like Tampa), which created special memories.

Link Johna and Jerry have two children. Kathryn has continued the family tradition by teaching in Detroit Public Schools, while their son, William (also known as Billy), graduated from Morehouse and earned his law degree from Howard. He currently lives in Atlanta.

After retiring from the Detroit Public School with almost 40 years of service, she was not ready to slow down. While she has achieved alumna status from Link and other organizations, she remains actively involved with her church, and hustle/line dancing keeps her moving. She feels great pride and happiness for her devoted time to Links through the Detroit chapter.

Link Johna believes her grandmother and mother would also be proud of her. She has sponsored and brought in three members, and she takes pride in being part of this group of outstanding women, intelligent and "good-looking" women.



Link Johna with her mother, grandmother, and aunt on her induction day!



Alumna Member Link Doris Gartrell Anderson



We celebrate Link Doris, originally from Georgia, who has lived in Bloomfield Hills for forty years. She graduated from Spelman College with a major in French and Education. Following family traditions, her sisters and aunts also attended Spelman, and her favorite Aunt Carrie was a sociology professor at Morehouse College. Growing up in her family, the choice was clear: either Spelman or Morehouse. She met Gil, her future husband, during her sophomore year at Spelman. They continued the Spel-house tradition and exchanged wedding vows just two days before graduation—a hectic and exciting weekend! Fast-forward to Detroit in 1978: Link Doris had earned a master's degree in Library Science, and Gil was a practicing surgeon and obstetrician/gynecologist. That same year, they were delighted to welcome their daughter, Shannon. Their son Barrett was born four years later, and they could not be prouder of him. Shannon is an educator and school counselor, while Barrett is a robotic urological surgeon at the Detroit Medical Center.

Link Doris believes motherhood has been her most rewarding and meaningful role. However, she also spent thirty-three years as an educator and media specialist for Detroit Public Schools. Her passions for books, reading, and movies seamlessly blended into her career. In addition to her professional life, she has been very active in the community through organizations like Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and our esteemed Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Inc. Over the years, these organizations have kept her engaged, inspired, and busy. Link Doris served as our corresponding secretary, chaired Amenities and Hospitality for ten years (originated sending “Happy Birthday” e-cards), co-chaired the Health and Human Services and Services to Youth facets, and received the Links Spirit Award in 2019.

Traveling has also been a significant part of her life, including trips to Japan, England, France, the Netherlands, Cuba, the Caribbean Islands, and, most recently, Iceland. She's had unforgettable experiences, such as flying in a hot-air balloon and swimming with stingrays in the Cayman Islands. With more trips planned for the future, Gil and Doris look forward to exploring together and focusing on charitable and community outreach.

*Today, Doris is bittersweet as she reflects on twenty years of friendship and sisterhood within our exceptional organization. Doris sends a very special thank you to Link Johna for being her mentor since her induction in 2004. She plans on dropping in occasionally for Links activities to see the beautiful faces of her Link sisters. And, like Dorothy in *The Wiz*, she is excited to ease on down that yellow brick road of Linkdom!*



Alumna Member Link Glenda Price



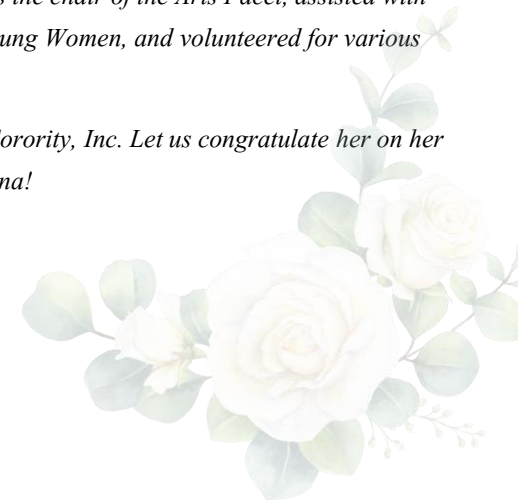
We celebrate Link Glenda, who was born in York, Pennsylvania, and moved to Harrisburg with her family at the age of three. She attended public school in Harrisburg and then attended Temple University in Philadelphia. She earned her bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, a master's degree in Educational Media, and a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology.

Link Glenda leveraged her education to build an impressive career. She began her professional journey as a Medical Technologist at Temple University Hospital. Over the years, she transitioned from the laboratory to academia, serving as an Assistant Dean in the School of Allied Health Professions at Temple University, Dean at the University of Connecticut's School of Allied Health Professions, and as Provost at Spelman College. She became the seventh President and the first African American for Marygrove College in 1998. Following Marygrove, she served as the President of the Detroit Public Schools Foundation until her retirement in 2016.

Throughout her career, Link Glenda participated in numerous task forces and advisory boards for city and state governments. She also led non-profit and for-profit boards, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Focus: HOPE, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan, Compuware, Standard Federal Bank (LaSalle Bank), United Way Community Services, and Detroit Receiving Hospital.

An avid reader and enthusiastic traveler, she has visited every continent except Antarctica. Her involvement with the Links began when she chaired the committee for the service project during the National Assembly in Detroit. Since then, she has served as the chair of the Arts Facet, assisted with Velma's Closet at the Detroit Public Schools School for Young Women, and volunteered for various community activities representing our chapter.

Link Glenda is also a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Let us congratulate her on her remarkable accomplishments and recent status as an alumna!





Alumna Member Link Beverly Norrell-Aitch



We celebrate Link Beverly, who joined The Links, Inc. in 2008. Throughout her time with the chapter, she has held several significant roles, including Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Co-Chair of the Detroit Institute of Arts Scholarship Committee. Her exemplary contributions were recognized when she received the Sisterhood Award for the program year 2010-2011. Link Beverly has participated in four central area conferences and two national conferences, serving as an alternate delegate in Oklahoma and a delegate in St. Louis. She has been honored to sponsor fellow Links Charmaine H. Johnson, Mearon T. Lewers, and DOL Kea Norrell-Aitch into the Detroit (MI) Chapter.

Link Beverly has an impressive academic background, earning a Bachelor of Science in Education from Wilberforce University, a Master's in Counseling from Kansas State University, and an Education Specialist degree from George Washington University. With over 60 years of experience in education as an English teacher, counselor, and area manager for Pearson Learning, she has made a significant impact in her field. She developed assessment programs that helped teachers achieve their permanent English Language Arts (ELA) certification and obtain National Certification in ELA. In addition to her professional achievements,

Beverly is a proud Golden Soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Family is very important to her; she has enjoyed a fulfilling marriage to Clifford Aitch for 53 years, is the proud mother of Link Kea Norrell-Aitch, and is a devoted grandmother to Joshua E. Boyd.

Let us congratulate Link Beverly Norrell-Aitch on her remarkable accomplishments and recent alumna status!



Alumna Member Link Sheila Finney



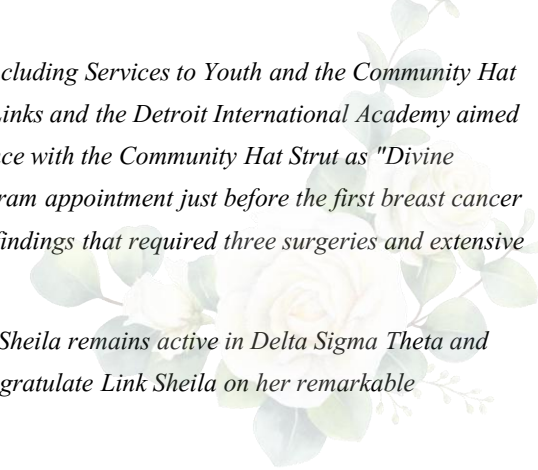
We celebrate Link Sheila, who was born on Detroit's east side in 1950. When she was three years old, her father passed away, and she moved across town to the Joseph Tireman subdivision on the city's west side. She graduated from Chadsey High School in 1968 and then attended Michigan State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations, focusing on economics, in 1973. While in college, Link Sheila pledged the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (EE chapter), where she served as Dean of Pledges and President. As a senior, she took on a challenging job at General Motors, becoming the plant's first female welder. This opportunity arose after the government filed a lawsuit against GM for not hiring women; they offered her the position as a "dare." Balancing 18 credits as a full-time student, she accepted the job because it paid well, and both she and her brother needed financial support for college. Despite facing physical challenges and harassment, this job became a foundational experience that shaped her life.

After graduating, Link Sheila joined Ford Motor Company as its first female Labor Relations Representative. She later worked at the Coca-Cola Company and Hueblein, Inc. Eventually, she ventured into independent consulting in organizational development, working with nonprofits and providing international and gaming consultancy for the Barden companies. She served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Don Bosco Home for Boys, the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), and the Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute.

At Barden Companies, Inc., Link Sheila was appointed the Director for "Project Namibia," collaborating with Link Bella Marshall Barden. Together, they established a volunteer partnership service project between Barden Company and the Detroit Chapter of Links, Inc., which created a training program in Namibia to reduce the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The success of this project led Link Bella to sponsor Link Sheila into the Detroit Chapter of Links, Inc.

Link Sheila has had the honor of chairing several initiatives, including Services to Youth and the Community Hat Strut—a ten-year partnership between the Detroit Chapter of Links and the Detroit International Academy aimed at raising breast cancer awareness. She describes her experience with the Community Hat Strut as "Divine Intervention" that saved her life; she made time for a mammogram appointment just before the first breast cancer screening session at the school, which resulted in positive test findings that required three surgeries and extensive follow-up treatment.

In addition to her community service through Links, Inc., Link Sheila remains active in Delta Sigma Theta and hosts a neighborhood children's gardening program. Let's congratulate Link Sheila on her remarkable accomplishments and recent status as an alumna!





Alumna Member Link Brenda Kee



We celebrate Link Brenda, Professor Emerita at the University of Louisville School of Music, where she served as a Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Keyboard Department. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Additionally, Link Brenda has completed further studies at Boston University, the Eastman School of Music, and the American Institute for Musical Studies in Freiburg, Germany.

Before joining the faculty at the University of Louisville in 1987, she was a faculty member at Mount Holyoke College (MA), Norfolk State University (VA), and Bennett College (NC). Link Brenda has been an active soloist and chamber musician throughout her career. She is frequently a workshop clinician and adjudicator for various competitions and festivals. Link Brenda has also served on the Kentucky Music Teachers Association board as Certification Chair, previously held the position of President of the Greater Louisville Music Teachers Association and was a member of the board of directors for the Chamber Music Society of Louisville.

Link Brenda served six years on the Alumni Board of Governors for the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Link Brenda was involved with the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League (MDML) for seven years, where she was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 2018. Her honors and awards include a John Hay Whitney Fellowship, a Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award at the University of Michigan, inclusion in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, and membership in Pi Kappa Lambda, the honorary music society.

Link Brenda is married to Wayne S. Brown, the recently retired President and CEO of the Michigan Opera Theatre. She is the mother of Alanna Kee Brown-Hayden and Colin Kee Brown, and a proud grandmother to Shae Bloemer Brown.

In 1984, Link Brenda was inducted into Links, Inc., becoming a Springfield (MA) Chapter charter member in 1986. She served in the Louisville (KY) Chapter from 1986 to 2012, in the Silver Springs (MD) Chapter from 2012 to 2014, and the Detroit (MI) Chapter from 2014 to 2021. At the chapter level, she has held various roles, including Chair and Co-Chair for the Arts Facet, and has served on the Ethics and Standards Committee and the Archives Committee. Additionally, she contributed to the national organization as a member of the National Arts Facet Committee from 2014 to 2016 and the National Arts Facet Subcommittee, Classics through the Ages, from 2015 to 2016. Let's congratulate Link Brenda on her remarkable accomplishments and recent status as an alumna!



Alumna Member Link Kathryn ("Kathy") Harrison



We celebrate Link Kathy, a lifelong Detroiter, and Cass Technical High School graduate. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts from Wayne State University. With extensive executive experience in government, telecommunications, banking, and insurance, Kathy has worked for prominent organizations, including the City of Detroit, Time-Warner, Comerica Bank, Comcast, and the Auto Club Group. After retiring, she designed and managed the Mahindra North American Technical Center's grant program, which provided \$625,000 in cash and farm equipment to local urban agriculture groups from 2015 to 2020.

In addition to her professional achievements, Link Kathy has authored two novels and plans to write more. As a ghostwriter, she assisted a pioneering physician in documenting her life story and is credited as "the writer" for Charlie Beckham's 2021 one-man show, "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time."

Link Kathy is also an amateur genealogist who traces her family roots back to the 1820s in Virginia and North Carolina. Link Kathy and her husband, Albert W. Harrison, an ordained minister and automotive engineer, reside in metro Detroit and actively participate in their church's ministries.

Link Kathy was inducted into the Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, in 2008. She served as the chapter's Vice President from 2009 to 2011, chaired the chapter's 60th anniversary gala in 2011, and held the position of Program Chair from 2014 to 2018.

In response to a call to action at the 2009 Central Area conference, Link Kathy organized a petition drive among Michigan's 10 Links chapters to raise awareness of the plight of the people in the Darfur region of Sudan. The effort resulted in over 7,000 signatures, which she and representatives from the other chapters personally presented to then-U.S. Senator Carl Levin in 2010. While serving as Program Chair, Link Kathy helped mentor students in the Class of 2018 at the Detroit International Academy for Young Women (DIA), guiding them from their freshman to senior years. Each program facet developed unique and uplifting projects to support and encourage the students in their life choices. Link Kathy was honored to deliver the commencement address at the DIA's 2018 graduation ceremony.

Let's congratulate Link Kathy on her remarkable accomplishments and recent status as an alumna!

