

The Links Connector

Featuring Our Charter Members...

Link Joyce Stith was born December 1926, in Frankfort, Kentucky to Elwood and Ida Brown. She was the 4th of 8 children - having 3 brothers and 4 sisters. All of her brothers, along with her parents are deceased. She graduated from Mayo-Underwood High School and Kentucky State College. She later earned a Masters Degree in Education and School Counseling from Indiana University.



Joyce and John Stith were married in Louisville, Kentucky in 1947 and settled in South Bend, Indiana, in 1948. They were blessed with 2 daughters, Jacqueline (Jackie) and LeJuna (Juna), who between them added 5 grandchildren - David, Kimberly, Phillip, Quincy and Quinton to the family. The grandchildren added 9 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

Link Stith was employed as a caseworker for the St. Joseph County Welfare Department and the South Bend Community School as a teacher-counselor until retirement in 1988. Upon retirement, she became a career volunteer. Volunteering involved: Goshen & Elkhart Schools in tutoring and subbing; Goshen College with the Black Student Union and foreign exchange students; Elkhart County Red Cross blood drives; Goshen Hospital patient services. In South Bend as a member of Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church work with Vacation Bible School, Bible Study, Missionary Circle #2 and the "Feed the Needy" food program.

At Washington High School worked with the "Girl Friends" program and the after school program for freshman girls. She's also a member of Robinson Center's Book and Computer Clubs; a member of Delta Sigma theta Sorority, a charter member of the South Bend Chapter of Links, Inc., and on the Board of the Hermitage South Condo Association.

She enjoys volunteering and spending time with her family and friends, reading and embroidering.

News Concerning Our South Bend Linkdom Family

Link Willie Mae Butts is still home recuperating from her illness.

Sympathy went to Link Virginia Chism on the death of her sister, Rosie McKnight, who passed away Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Link Virginia Calvin attended the funeral of her aunt in St. Louis, Missouri the first of April.

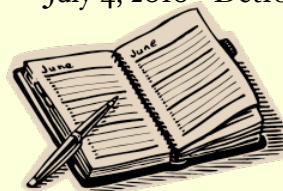
Link Dee Kabiswa's grandfather passed away on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

Connecting Link Richmond Calvin lost his brother on April 19, 2010 in Los Angeles, California.

Link Teresa Phillips husband's brother passed away on April 13th.

Calendar of Events

- Executive Board Meeting-Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 5:00 p.m., Indiana Trust
- YWCA Tribute to Women-May 5, 2010, 11:30 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn
- Link Retreat - Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15, 2010, New Buffalo, MI
- Regular Meeting at the Retreat, Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.
- National Assembly, June 30, 2010 - July 4, 2010 - Detroit, Michigan



-Leslie Wesley, Secretary

National Trends and Services

South Bend Area Links And YWCA--Healthy Living Programs

- Goal:** Support Healthy Communities Initiative
- Objective:** Organize And Offer Programs That Support Healthy Communities Initiative
- Programs:**
1. A Date With The Dentist On Site For The Families Mid to Late April
 2. Healthy Living Easter Baskets- April 3, 2010

Action Required: South Bend Area Links to help create "Easter Baskets" by bringing items to include in baskets at the February and March meetings. Items to include: toiletries-toothpaste/brushes, lotions, shampoos, bath gels, etc.; information on why eating healthy is so important--create small booklet.



Action Taken: On April 1, 2010, at 1:25 p.m., the National Trends Committee presented to Amanda Hart at the YWCA their Easter basket project. Thanks to all members who contributed lots of toiletries and the like. Seven large baskets put together for the seventy women and children to appreciate. Seventy small baskets were also provided for each guest to receive. They in turn can pick out items from the big baskets that suits their need and place those items in the smaller basket. The smaller basket is versatile enough that it can also be used as a small caboodle for the their bathroom experience or to just use around their apartment.



The Linkdom Family

Happy Birthday May 2010

May 8, 2010

Link Vernease Pyles

May 18, 2010

Link Ida Reynolds Watson

May 22, 2010

Link Teresa Phillips



Hier-O-Link Anyah Denise Williams

...by Celebrations, South Bend Tribune

On February 23, 2010, Anthony and [Link Kathy Byrd](#) of South Bend proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Anyah Denise Williams, to Adrian DeShaun Land. Adrian is the son of Janet Land of Mississippi. Anyah is a graduate of Purdue University and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health at Indiana University Bloomington and works full-time at Stepping Stones, a program for homeless teens. Adrian is a graduate of Alcorn State University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy Degree in Microbiology at Indiana University Bloomington. A May 15, 2010, wedding is planned at The Mansion at Oak Hill in Carmel, Indiana.



2009 -2010 OFFICERS



Link Patton
President



Link Syers
Vice President



Link Wesley
Recording Secretary



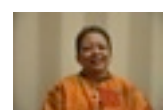
Link Lewis
Corresponding Secretary



Link Stith
Financial Secretary



Link Harris
Treasurer



Link Wilson
Program Director

South Bend Area Chapter, The Links, Inc. Retreat

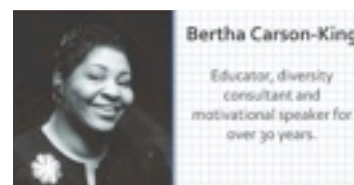
When: Friday and Saturday, May 14th and 15th

Where: [Harbor Grand Hotel](http://www.harborgrand.com)
www.harborgrand.com
111 W Water St
New Buffalo, MI 49117-1907
(269) 469-7700



Overnight Cost: \$85.00 per person - double occupancy and includes snacks Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Single Occupancy \$135.00

Facilitator: Bertha Carson-King, Christian Educator/Author and Director of Strong Women of Faith, a Breast Cancer Support Group founded in October 2001, in the city of Benton Harbor, Michigan.



Layout of Program Agenda: Discussion topics to include: Umbrella Program, Events/Fundraisers 2011, Budget: Report, Bylaws, Scholarship and Membership.

Other exercises will be done to help us get to know one another and to become more knowledgeable about the organization.

Regular Links Meeting: Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the retreat in New Buffalo, Michigan

To Make Reservations: Please contact Link Wesley at 574/532-0563 or email leswesley@aol.com

Start and End Times: Friday, May 14th from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Directions to the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo, Michigan

From US 31 North To MI 60: Turn LEFT onto M 12 heading west. Continue driving on M-12 to New Buffalo, Michigan. Turn LEFT on to E. Buffalo Street. Turn RIGHT onto MI 239 which becomes N Whittaker St. Turn LEFT onto W Water St. 111 W Water Street is on the LEFT.

From Western Avenue which is IN-2 W: IN-2 W becomes US 20 W. Continue on US-20 W and turn RIGHT onto IN-39 (crossing into Michigan). IN-39 becomes MI-239. MI-239 becomes N Whittaker St. Turn LEFT on to W Water St. 111 W Water St is on the LEFT.

Check: Rand McNally (www.randmcnally.com) or Map Quest (www.mapquest.com)

Tina M. Patton - A Perspective on Links

A Note of Thanks



Now that this fiscal year is drawing to a close, I'd like to thank all of my sister Links for their support of Linkdom during the 2009/2010 season. We've done a lot this year and although we may have had some bumps along the way, I must say that we have had an incredibly strong finish. I am particularly pleased to note again that we will be receiving the "Volunteer of the

Year" award from the YWCA this year. Thank you, sister Links, for the impact that you have made in this community. Although we don't do what we do for recognition, this is quite an achievement that we really shouldn't take lightly. You have all worked very hard and have earned this honor. Thanks to all of you for the confidence you've had in this executive team to allow us the opportunity to continue to lead the chapter into its next two years of existence. Twenty years is quite a milestone, but is only the beginning of many more great things to come. We may not get any larger in size, but we will get stronger and larger in heart as we continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship within the chapter. I want to personally thank the entire executive

committee for their hard work, and diligence over the past two years. Thank you to the more seasoned Links for helping me to find my way as the President of this great organization. I needed your help then, and I will continue to need your help as we continue to forge forward through these next two years. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the retreat on the 14th and 15th. It is there that we will start the next phase of our journey and set the basic groundwork for how we function going forward; staying true to the mission of friendship and service.

In sisterhood

Link Tina Patton

LINKS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

- [Link Ida Reynolds Watson](#) presented *Back to Basics: Tools for Weight Loss & Fighting off Disease* on Saturday, April 17, 2010, at the St. Joseph County Public Library, 304 S. Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601. The program was sponsored by the Women in Touch of Memorial Hospital.

Hosted By: Center for the Homeless

[Link Ida Watson was a Star Dancer](#)

[The 2010 Dancing With Our Stars](#)

[Miracle Auction !](#)



Link Watson was a star dancer at the 3rd Annual Dancing With Our Stars Miracle Auction

Friday, April 23
Hilton Garden Inn
South Bend
6:30 p.m.

-- Article of Interest Taken From the South Bend Tribune by Staff Writer, Joseph Dits, Wednesday, March 24, 2010

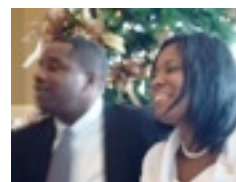
[Link Leslie Wesley](#) pulled together a small group of parents and community leaders, who drove to Indianapolis March 24th to meet with state schools Superintendent Tony Bennett to make sense of the dilemma at Bendix, Riley and Washington high schools. Link Wesley said she wanted to learn "what, as parents, we could do to make South Bend schools successful."

Link Wesley counts herself among those who were confused by "mixed message" they were hearing locally about the state's action. At the same time, she noted all of the buzz about the \$8.2 million in budget cuts that the South Bend Community School Corp. is trying to make. School closures and layoffs are possible.

"You can imagine how everyone is feeling," said Link Wesley, who teaches five sessions of a financial literacy class on Tuesdays at Washington. "Too much is going on," she said. "I'm concerned that nothing is going to be taken care of properly."

So, she called Bennett's office. He agreed to meet with the group for an hour. Up to 10 people met with Bennett.

Link Wesley and her husband, Derrick, graduated from South Bend schools. This past year, they moved from a charter school to schools--Kennedy, LaSalle -- which they daughter wants to enroll 2011.



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CHARITABLE CHEF A BIG SUCCESS

Link Jeanette McCullough, Chair of the Charitable Chef Committee; along with members: Link Kathy Byrd, Link Christal Atkins, Link Rosamond Byrd, and Link Stephanie Spivey did an outstanding job for this function. Link McCullough states: "I believe the charitable chef's function was a big success, well organized. The food was great was what the people were saying, and everyone enjoyed themselves. I had

a wonderful committee, we work very well together, again thank you committee members, and Links for your support. The Links have provided another successful function for the community to raise money for scholarships."



ACTIVITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2009 - APRIL 30, 2010

CHARITABLE CHEF
APRIL 17, 2010

HOLIDAY BRUNCH
DECEMBER 5, 2009

GOSPELFEST 2009
AUGUST 22, 2009

SOUTH BEND CHAPTER RETREAT
MAY 14 & 15, 2010

FACET PROGRAMS
2009 - 2010

FRIENDSHIP MONTH
NOVEMBER 2009



LINKS MEMBERS AT CHARITABLE CHEF 2010



Links Dee Kabiswa & Christal Atkins



Link Kathy Byrd



Link Myrtle Wilson



Links Imogene Harris, Ida Watson, & Jeanette McCullough



Alumna Ida Knight



Link Tina Patton



Links Roz Byrd & Virginia Calvin



Link Virginia Chism



Link Margaret Lewis



Link Vivian Sallie



Charitable Chefs Waiting to Serve the Food



Links Tina Patton, Roz Byrd & Christal Atkins



ENJOYING THE GOOD FOOD AT THE CHARITABLE CHEF

Positive comments were echoed through the room on how good the food was and how beautiful the room was decorated. Congratulations to the Link Jeanette McCullough and her Charitable Chef committee.