

Collection #  
M 1073  
BV 4918-4926

**INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.  
COLLECTION, 1950–2013**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Wilma L. Moore  
November 2013

Updated March 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** One manuscript box, 9 bound volumes, one folder b&w photographs, and half size color photograph box

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1950–2013

**PROVENANCE:** Judy Waugh, Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc.

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**COPYRIGHT:**

**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2013.0357; 2015.0062

**NOTES:**

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Bessie Simpson, an Indianapolis resident called together a group of women to meet in her home on November 26, 1950 to explore the idea of becoming a part of The Links, Incorporated. The Links formed as a volunteer service organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1946. By their first national meeting held in June 1949, there were 14 clubs. They now have 12,000 women of color distributed among nearly 300 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the Bahamas.

Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. was formally inducted as a local chapter of the national organization on March 17, 1951. The charter members of the organization were: Olivia Anderson, Eugenia Asbury, Madeline Allen, Gladys Doyle, Shirley Evans, Jacqueline Hanley, Evelyn Hawkins, Helen Maxey, Vivian Moore, Annetta Lawson, Dora Powell Blackburn, Bessie Simpson, Edythe Walker, and Henrine Banks. They were installed by members of the Dayton and Cincinnati Links chapters.

From their early years, the Indianapolis Chapter of the Links has carried out the mission of the national organization, and has worked to contribute to the cultural, civic, and social well being of the community. It has collaborated with numerous organizations, in support of their programs. It has worked with the various settlement houses in Indianapolis, demonstrated political advocacy for purpose of improving quality of life, and supported the arts. It has directly contributed to many charity and arts institutions. Its membership includes a cross-section of professional women who are leaders in their various fields.

Since 1983, the signature fundraising event of the Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. has been its annual Barbeque and Grille where prominent people have been placed on the hot seat. Those roasted by Amos Brown, a seasoned pit master, have included entrepreneurs, architects, civic and religious leaders, politicians, athletes, journalists, physicians, attorneys, and artists. Social service agencies, youth programs, and educational endeavors have been recipients of the money raised from the roast. The charity event has supported several organizations and programs including the Alpha Home for the Aged, Big Sisters, Big Brothers, Center for Leadership Development, Flanner House, and Martin University.

A second chapter of the Links began in Indianapolis in 1994. At the invitation of the Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc., a group of women came together to form a Links interest group. Known previously as the Hoosier Capital League, the group became the Circle City Chapter of the Links, Inc. It is the 263<sup>rd</sup> Links chapter of the national organization.

The Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. strives to follow the five-facet model stated by the national organization: “National Trends and Services, The Arts, Services to Youth, International Trends and Services and Health and Human Services. The programs are implemented through strategies such as public information and education, economic development, and public policy campaigns.” Many links and connecting links are vital

organs within the community making connections throughout the social, economic and political fabric throughout the state and country. The Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc. spotlights many of those individuals and the group's achievement in the two booklets recounting the history and highlights of their organization.

Sources:

Materials in the collection including booklets, "History & Highlights of the Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc., March 1951–June, 2003" and "History & Highlights of the Indianapolis Chapter The Links, Inc., March 1951–2013."

The Links, Incorporated, <http://www.linksinc.org/>, accessed November 2013

Circle City Chapter of The Links, <http://www.circlecitylinks.org/index2.php>, accessed November 2013

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Series I Minute Book (1950–1957)** This is a record of the meetings of the Indianapolis Chapter of the Links, Inc. from their first organizational meeting, November 26, 1950 through June 16, 1957.

**Series II Scrapbooks and a Notebook** The Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. has documented its involvement in community activities and initiatives from 1951 through 2009 using scrapbooks. Arranged in rough chronological order, the books contain a variety of materials including photographs, news clippings, correspondence, memorabilia and artwork. In addition to providing evidence of the organization's philanthropic support of various organizations and causes, the content of the scrapbooks highlight the many activities of the Links' members and their families and friends, as well as prominent people, mostly African American, within the community. The organization has been a great supporter of the arts and much of the content of their collection bears witness to this fact. They sponsor or provide support for many programs and organizations.

Each scrapbook includes information about the Celebrity Barbeque and Grille roasts, the main yearly fundraising event held by the Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. that were held during the respective years of coverage. There are newspaper reporting, invitations, photographs, and program memorabilia related to the roasts. Scrapbook 7 (2001–2004) contains a Celebrity Barbeque and Grille Honor Roll. It is a compiled list of honorees from 1983 through 2002. A photo album in Series III includes pictures of many of the honorees and attendees from several of the Celebrity Barbeque and Grille events held from 1983 through 1987.

A *sampling* of subject matter addressed in each scrapbook and the notebook follows. Unless otherwise noted all references are to the Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. and are within the date range of the respective scrapbooks.

**Scrapbook 1 (1951–1983)** “The Links Go Caribbean,” a formal dance at the Walker Casino; photo of Indianapolis Chapter of Links at National Assembly of Links in Los Angeles, 1960; “Let’s Sing Links” (words by Wilberforce Links), 1951; Indianapolis Links launch drive to secure NAACP memberships; Central Area Meeting of The Links, Inc. at Indianapolis, 1969; photographs of Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. showing old and new members of the organization, 1973; Links contribute dental kits to the Christamore Dental Clinic; Champagne Sip at the IMA; Silver Anniversary Celebration; “Woodruff, Hardrick and Scott,” IMA exhibit; “African Furniture and Art” exhibit at the IMA; UNCF Telethon gets over \$100,000 in pledges; 1981 photograph of members; “Forever Free: Art by African-American Women, 1862–1980” at the IMA. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Maya Angelou, Henrine Banks, Alpha Blackburn, Dora Oma Blackburn, Carol Ann Carter, Bing Davis, Gladys Doyle, Jessie Jacobs, Winifred Owens, Geri Pierce, Bessie Chenault Simpson, Edythe Belle Walker, Yvonne Washington, Wilbert Washington, and Judy Waugh.

**Scrapbook 2 (1983–1989)** Includes following subjects: Lena Horne tours remodeling of Madame Walker Urban Life Center; United Negro College Fund monies raised by local charities matched by Eli Lilly Foundation; “Beyond Rainbow,” exhibit reception at The Children’s Museum; Indianapolis Museum of Art honors Links for their donation of John Wesley Hardrick painting; “Raisin” reception at Indianapolis Civic Theatre sponsored by Indianapolis Jack & Jill of America, Inc. and the Links (1982); “Bury Me in a Free Land” exhibit reception at Indiana State Library; new members added to Indianapolis chapter of Links, Inc.; Ben Vereen’s appearance at Indianapolis Ballet Theatre (Judy Waugh co-ordinated attendance of the Links and students); “A Celebration of Black Women in Unity,” Indiana Black Expo Women’s Round Table; Kevin Clark piano recital; and reopening of restored Walker Theatre. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Alpha Blackburn, Walter Blackburn, Jacqui Burton-McCullough, Cecilia Grace Hawkins, Evelyn Webb Hawkins, Stewart C. Hawkins, Mary Elizabeth Black Hummons, John Joyner, Annetta Lawson, Freeman Martin, Patricia Russell-McCloud, Leontyne Price, Kevin Pugh, Francine Smith (Kelly), Jean M. Smith, Ben Vereen, and Judy Waugh.

**Scrapbook 3 (1989–1993)** Photo of Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc., 1989; Boys Choir of Harlem; Lou Rawls Parade of Stars; 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Center Indianapolis Sickle Cell Center, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Evening with Harry Belafonte; Salute to South African Women; Children Museum’s “Field to Factory” exhibit; Circle City Classic Gala; Kirov Ballet; Freedom Fund Dinner; Prelude Awards Banquet; Dionne Warwick Concert at Walker; Indianapolis Urban League Annual Meeting; ISO hostesses to wear gowns designed by Alpha Blackburn; YWCA Salute to Women of Achievement Award; IMA “Gold of Africa” exhibit; Sweet Honey in the Rock performing in Indianapolis; Flanner House Guild Membership Luncheon; and Young Artists in Concert. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Madeline Allen, Dora Powell Blackburn, Theodore Hawes, Zenobya Hawes, Cecilia Hawkins, Francine Kelly, Sandra Leek, William G. Mays, Donna Mullinix, Darryl Pinckney, Patricia Russell-McCloud, Myra C. Selby, Judy Waugh, and Robert L. Wood.

**Francine (Smith) Kelly Notebook (1991–1992)** Contains correspondence, agendas, minutes, and newsletters, etc. that were collected from 1991 through 1992 during Francine E. Kelly’s tenure as president of the Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc. Also includes historical highlights of the chapter from 1951 to 1991. (For preservation purposes, the notebook was dismantled, but the order of its contents has been retained.)

**Scrapbook 4 (1993–1995)** Links come to Indianapolis in 1993 (34<sup>th</sup> Central Area Conference met at Westin Hotel from June 10–12); IRT presents James Earl Jones; “Sam Jones: This is Your Life” at the Walker Theatre; Lou Rawls Parade of Stars to benefit United Negro College Fund; National Urban League Conference, July 24–27, 1994; Young Artists in Concert Contest, March 19, 1995; Indianapolis Urban League turns 30; and Champagne Holiday Brunch at Broadmoor Country Club. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Alpha Blackburn, Walter Blackburn, Sam Jones, Francine E. Kelly, William G. Mays, Patricia Russell-McCloud, James T. Morris, Derek

Reeves, Myra C. Selby, Jean M. Smith, Pat Turner-Smith, Judy Waugh, Robert Wood, and Mignon Wright.

**Scrapbook 5 (1995–1998)** Indianapolis Chapter of Links, Inc., along with Coalition of 100 Black Women, Indianapolis Chapter, and the Indianapolis Junior League work together to co-ordinate “An Elegant Evening,” the opening gala for Nordstrom at the Circle Center Mall in downtown Indianapolis; “Eyes,” a new musical and Mari Evans’s adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes were watching God*; incorporation of the Circle City Chapter of The Links, Inc.; 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Links (national organization)—includes article in *Ebony*; “Harlem in Indiana” at the Civic Theatre; Indianapolis Museum of Art exhibit, “A Shared Heritage: Art by Four African-American Artists;” Youth Arts and Youth Mentoring programs; United Negro College Fund Telethon Reception; Delaney Sisters at Clowes Hall; and Linkages: “Strength in Numbers” Summit at IUPUI; Indianapolis Link members who had been or were also members of the Fortnightly Literary Club; *Ebony* and Ivory Dinner Celebration and Gala. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Mildred Morgan Ball, Susan Bayh, Alpha Blackburn, Walter Blackburn, Jo Ahn Brown-Nash, Reginald A. DuValle, Frankie Sims Ervin, Mari Evans, Anita Galliard, Jessie Jacobs, Sam Jones, Inez Kitchen, Robert L. LaRue, Daisy Riley Lloyd, Rose Mays, William Mays, Martha Mitchell, Frank O’Bannon, Tanya Stuart Overdorf, Paula Parker-Sawyers, Patricia Russell-McCloud, Gloria Scott, Julie Scott, Myra C. Selby, Ann Smith, Dobbie Smith, Jean M. Smith, Barbara A. Smith-Williams, Lillian Stokes, and Judy Waugh.

**Scrapbook 6 (1998–2001)** Jean McAnulty Smith ordination as a priest, held at Trinity Episcopal Church on July 5, 1998; thank you letter to President William Clinton from the Indianapolis Chapter of Links for his support of the petition to commute Kemba Smith’s sentence; Holiday Open House at the home of the Alan Hendersons’; local Links honored Patricia Russell-McCloud; 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Indianapolis Chapter of the Links; Abe Aamidor, *Indianapolis Star*, article on Indianapolis black medical history; donation of Reading Room in memory of Link Jo Ahn Nash-Brown at the Building Blocks Academy in Indianapolis; Indianapolis Urban League move into new space; 38<sup>th</sup> Central Area Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, June 18–24, 2001. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals including Alpha Blackburn, Dora Oma Blackburn, Walter Scott Blackburn, A’Lelia Bundles, Daniel Boggan, Jr., Jarnell Burks Craig, Mary Elizabeth Powell Gibson, Wilma Jackson, Sam Jones, and John E. Joyner, Daisy Lloyd, Rose Mays, William G. Mays, Patricia Russell McCloud, Philip Prime, Kevin Pugh, Myra C. Selby, Lillian Stokes, Lyvonne Washington, Wilbert Washington, and Judy Waugh.

**Scrapbook 7 (2001–2004)** Links’s Holiday House at Oakland Hills at Geist presented by the Circle City Chapter and the Indianapolis Chapter of the Links; NAACP honors nine Civil Rights leaders including Cordelia Lewis Burks, Daisy Lloyd, Eloise Solomon, and Sam H. Jones; 33<sup>rd</sup> National Assembly of the Links at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, July 2–7, 2002; Link Celebrity Honor Roll, 1983–2002; Holiday House Tour (at home of Alpha Blackburn in 2002); Madam Walker Spirit Award presented Links (2002); Center for Leadership Development annual dinner (2003); Central Area Pictorial, Roster of Central Area Directors from 1952–2003; Opening of Saks Fifth Avenue at Fashion Mall

(Keystone at the Crossing) in Indianapolis, 2003; Holiday House (2003) at home of James and Myrna Williams to benefit Martin Center for sickle cell; Mayor's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Celebration of Diversity (2004); Links Distinguished Artist Reception; Links' Holiday House (Murvin and Linda Enders); Local teens (Evan Campbell and Victoria Overdorf) win national investment competition for 100 Black Men of America. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals and organizations including Alpha Blackburn, Walter Blackburn, Jacqueline Boggan, Sam Jones, Wendy G. Mayes, Carolene Mays, Rose Mays, Vop Osili, Tanya Overdorf, Gladys Gary Vaughn, and the Center for Leadership Development.

**Scrapbook 8 (2005–2009)** 38<sup>th</sup> Central Area, June 12–19, 2005, Columbus, Ohio; “The Moving toward Heaven” art exhibit at the Madame Walker Theatre Center, 2005; release of Child Health Awareness postage stamp; unveiling of a portrait of Sam Jones, 2005; 5<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Diversity Awards; Links presents Metropolitan Youth Orchestra in Concert at the Madame Walker Theatre Center; 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Madame Walker Theatre Center; “Christmas in the City;” Indy Iditarod Girls (includes Link Tanya Stuart Overdorf); Nordstrom Fashion Mall grand opening; Madam Walker Hall of Fame Inductees; 24<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the Black History Concert and VIP Reception at Hilbert Circle Theatre. Also references to or news coverage of several individuals and organizations including Alpha Blackburn, Jarnell Burks-Craig, Virginia A. Caine, Lauren Dungy-Poythress, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Carolene Mays, Rose Mays, William G. Mays, Gregory K. Scott, Myra C. Selby, Jean McAnulty Smith, Lillian Stokes, and the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

**Series III** Celebrity Barbeque and Grille Photographs, 1983-1987. These folders contain images from several of the Barbeque and Grille events.



## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Minutes**

#### CONTENTS

Minute Book, 1950–1957

#### CONTAINER

BV 4918

### **Series 2: Scrapbooks and a Notebook**

#### CONTENTS

Scrapbook 1, 1951–1983

#### CONTAINER

BV 4919

Scrapbook 2, 1983–1989

BV 4920

Scrapbook 3, 1989–1993

BV 4921

Francine Kelly Notebook, September 1991

Box 1, Folder 1

Francine Kelly Notebook, October 1991

Box 1, Folder 2

Francine Kelly Notebook, November 1991

Box 1, Folder 3

Francine Kelly Notebook, December 1991

Box 1, Folder 4

Francine Kelly Notebook, January 1992

Box 1, Folder 5

Francine Kelly Notebook, February 1992

Box 1, Folder 6

Francine Kelly Notebook, March 1992

Box 1, Folder 7

Francine Kelly Notebook, April 1992

Box 1, Folder 8

Francine Kelly Notebook, May 1992

Box 1, Folder 9

Francine Kelly Notebook, June 1992

Box 1, Folder 10

Francine Kelly Notebook, July 1992

Box 1, Folder 11

Francine Kelly Notebook, Tax Information

Box 1, Folder 12

Francine Kelly Notebook, Indianapolis Chapter of  
Links History

Box 1, Folder 13

Francine Kelly Notebook, Data Roster

Box 1, Folder 14

Francine Kelly Notebook, Sample Forms	Box 1, Folder 15
Francine Kelly Notebook, Information about By-Laws and Charitable Contributions	Box 1, Folder 16
History & Highlights of the Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc., March 1951–June 2003 (by year)	Box 1, Folder 17
History & Highlights of the Indianapolis Chapter of The Links, Inc., March 1951–June 2013 (by decade)	Box 1, Folder 18
Scrapbook 4, 1993–1995	BV 4922
Scrapbook 5, 1995–1998	BV 4923
Scrapbook 6, 1998–2001	BV 4924
Scrapbook 7, 2001–2004	BV 4925
Scrapbook 8, 2005–2009	BV 4926

**Series 3: Celebrity Barbeque and Grille Photographs, 1983–1987**

CONTENTS (Also more photographs and programs, news clippings, invitations, and memorabilia related to the event, 1983 – 2009, are contained within the scrapbooks in Series 2.)	CONTAINER
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1983	Photographs Folder 1
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1984	Color Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1984	Color Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1985	Color Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1986	Color Photographs Box 1, Folder 4
Celebrity Barbeque and Grill Annual Event photographs, 1987	Color Photographs Box 1, Folder 5

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1073).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.