



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
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Spotlight on Link M. Yvonne Williams

Who is Link Yvonne?

Link Myrna Yvonne Williams, a forty-five year member of the Portland (OR) chapter of the Links, Incorporated, was born in Tyler Texas. In 1958, a young Yvonne left Texas to move to Oregon for college and to live with her aunt, Link Lois Sayles, now deceased. Living with her aunt, was the beginning of Link Yvonne's connection with The Links, Incorporated.

It was 1973 when Yvonne became a member of the Links. She was well into a career as a reference librarian for the Portland Community College, where she worked from 1964 until she retired in 1997.



What attracted Yvonne to the Links? The community service work through the various facets, the fundraisers, scholarships and overall programs were Yvonne's reasons for saying yes when approached by the Portland Chapter. Committed to serving others through The Links, Incorporated, Link

Yvonne also gives to the community through her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, and her church. For more than fifty years, Link Yvonne has been a member of the First United Methodist Church where she has served in the Health and Human Services ministry, Staff Parish Resource Committee (SPRC), and on the Black History Month committee.

Link Yvonne has been involved in community service work through organizations, boards and committees at the state, city and county levels. The boards she has served

include The March of Dimes, Red Cross, The Multnomah County Library and Oregon State Library Board of Directors. She has also served on the Portland Community College Retiree Network and Preserve Aging & Memory. One might surmise that after such an active involvement in the community and with more than 45 years of service to the Links, Incorporated, Link Yvonne might be ready to move to Alumna status. However, she maintains her active member status in the Portland chapter where she is currently co-chair of the Health & Human Services facet and co-chair of the History and Archives Committee. As co-chair of the Archives committee, Link Yvonne is working with the committee chair and the Multnomah County Library on a project called, "Our Story", to digitize files and preserve the history of The Portland (OR) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.



Link Yvonne in 1973

Throughout her tenure as a Link, Yvonne has been actively engaged in the work of the chapter, serving her chapter as president on two occasions. She proudly states that she has served on all five facets within her chapter.

A Family Affair

As a college student, Link Yvonne lived with her aunt, a Link in the Portland (OR) Chapter. Her family affiliation with the Links does not stop there. Elder sister Link Lydia Roy, Link Yvonne and younger sister Link Linda J. Harris were all members of the Portland Chapter. Link Lydia, now deceased, gifted her sister Yvonne with a collection of Black dolls, which are among Link Yvonne's most treasured possessions. Link Linda and Link Yvonne continue to pair up to work within the Chapter and in the community. They secure donors for the White Rose Educational Fund, which they founded as a way to provide scholarships to youth and adults.



Dolls flank a picture of Link Yvonne and her sisters, Link Lydia and Link Linda

Awards and Recognition

Link Yvonne's proudest moment in Linkdom was when the Portland (OR) Chapter received their first Health & Human Services Award for the African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6), HIV/AIDS Program. And the awards don't stop at the Chapter level. Link Yvonne has received her share of awards over the years, including the Shining Star Award in appreciation for her exceptional community service. This award was given by Noble Women in government. Link Yvonne gives the

credit for the recognition to Senator Margaret Carter, one of the first Black women to serve in the Oregon Legislature.



Link Yvonne and the prestigious Shining Star Award



Link Yvonne and her sister, Link Linda Harris

Reflecting back on her years in Linkdom, Link Yvonne talked about her favorite fundraising activity, the Ebony Fashion Fair, which the Chapter sponsored for 40 years.

When asked what her Link sisters would say about her, Link Yvonne responded humbly: “They would say that I am sisterly. I’m consistent in my community service work. I’m a hard worker, dedicated and knowledgeable about the Links. I have Chapter institutional knowledge, having been in the chapter for 45 ½ years.”

Her Link sister, Stephanie Montgomery, added comments we would all like to hear our Link sisters use to describe us: “You’re kind, compassionate, welcoming and extremely supportive.”



Some of Link Yvonne’s collection of dolls

Enjoying Life

Link Yvonne enjoys reading, traveling, playing bridge, listening to music, taking tennis lessons and cooking. When asked about what menu of favorites she would serve to a special guest, she had our mouths watering. Her description of a dinner of baked salmon, a vegetable casserole made of corn, green beans, sour cream and chestnuts, a tossed salad and peach cobbler for dessert sounded like a great meal for a celebration with special friends.

Congratulations to Link Myrna Yvonne Williams for making an impact for over 45 years through living the values of friendship and service.



Link Stephanie Montgomery, Vanessa Morgan, Link Yvonne and Link Linda Harris

