

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Joseph Hugh Da Rold, Executive Director
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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Plainfield's Local Clubs & Organizations Collection, 1884 to 2015

The Plainfield Public Library announces our new spring-summer exhibition. The library is displaying a variety of materials from our collection of records of significance from local clubs and organizations that date back to 1884. The 120-piece exhibit consists of wall exhibits and display cases on both levels of the library. The oldest items on exhibit are the 1884 board meeting minutes from the Plainfield Reform Club, a temperance organization, and an 1884 letter from Craig Marsh announcing the first meeting of the Union Club, a conservative men's social club.

The entire Local Clubs & Organizations Collection contains records from over 100 clubs and documents over a century of community activities in the City of Plainfield. Twenty-two clubs are represented in the displays, which feature the Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield Garden Club, and Freemasons – including a rare panoramic photograph of African-American Masonic Lodge members from New Jersey attending the 1937 annual convention held in Plainfield. Other organizations in the exhibit are the Plainfield B.P.O. Elks, Boy & Girl Scouts, Camera Club, Laurel League, Ric-Charles Choral Ensemble, Shakespeare Club, and twelve others. The exhibit presents 39 photographs and postcards, 45 pieces of paper ephemera and documents, 15 newspaper articles, twelve artifacts, five examples of ledgers and manuscripts, as well as several loaned items.

The archival preservation of portions of this collection was made assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State; and the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

The exhibition opens May 18, 2015, and will run through July. It is free to the public. The Plainfield Public Library is located at 800 Park Avenue. For hours of operation, call 908-757-1111 or check the website at *plainfieldlibrary.info*. To arrange for group visits, call 908-757-1111 ext. 129.

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PHOTO: *Shakespeare Club Annual Picnic at Washington's Rock, June 1917.*



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