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# PLAINFIELD TODAY

*The needler in the haystack.*

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

## Plainfield Library hosts Tri-County History Fair Saturday

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*A view of the Plainfield Public Library's  
Carnegie Building, ca. 1920s.*

Following up on last year's successful event, the Plainfield Public Library will once again host the Tri-County History Fair this Saturday (Sept. 30) from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the pool courtyard on the Library's ground floor.

One of the big draws last year was the workshop on African American genealogy. Those who found it useful will be pleased to learn that Eugene Armstead, NJ chapter president of the Afro-American Genealogical

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and Historical Society, will present this year on "Pushing Through: Dealing with Roadblocks and Family Lore." African American genealogical research is often made difficult because of the historical impact of slavery on destroying families and snuffing out memories of an African past. Mr. Armstead will share tips learned through his long experience.

The day opens with a workshop by Seton Hall history professor and author Maxine Lurie, who will present on "Tri-County Images from *Envisioning New Jersey: An Illustrated History of the Garden State*".

Between the two presentations, there will be an antiques appraisal by Winterhill Antiques of Scotch Plains. Registration is requested, but not required. The appraisers will take up to two items per person as long as time permits. To make a reservation contact the Library's Local History Department at (908) 757-1111 x136 before 4 PM Friday.

Raffles will be drawn throughout the day, including a grand prize of an AncestryDNA testing kit valued at \$100.

A special bonus is a photography exhibit in the Anne Louise Davis Gallery titled "Plainfield Wildlife" by local photographer Carl Monopoli. Visitors may also want to

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take a peek at the award-winning Rain Forest-themed Children's Room.

The event is free and open to the public. The Plainfield Public Library is at Park Avenue and 8th Street and is an accessible facility. Parking available in the 8th and 9th Street lots and on the street.

Confirmed exhibitors include: The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society-NJ Chapter; Elizabeth Public Library, Local History & Special Collections; Genealogical Society of New Jersey; Genealogical Society of the West Fields; Green Brook Historical Society; Historical Society of Plainfield/Drake House Museum; League of Historical Societies; Metuchen-Edison Historical Society; Miller-Cory House Museum; Morristown/Morris Township Library; New Brunswick Free Public Library; Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission; Plainfield Symphony Society; Proprietary House; Somerset County Historical Society; Somerset County Library System; South Plainfield Historical Society; The Duchess Bookstore; Van Wyck Brooks Historic District; and Union Township Historical Society/Caldwell Parsonage.

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