

Barbara Wilson Collection, 1967-1993

Barbara Wilson, 1987

Overview of the Collection

- Title:** Barbara Wilson Collection, 1967-1993
- Creator:** Barbara Wilson (1935-2022)
- Accessions:** PPL-2022-028
PPL-2023-001
- Size:** Approximately 18 linear feet of records, comprised of:
(1) document box
(1) half document box
(4) newspaper boxes
(2) map drawers
(21) shelved books
Note that the above list does not include the boxes of duplicate books and yearbooks.
- Repository:** Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Abstract:** The Barbara Wilson Collection documents her career as an educator in the Plainfield Public Schools system from the 1970s through the 1990s. The collection includes ephemera, newsletters, newspapers, yearbooks, and artifacts.
- Language:** The records are in English.

Biographical Information

Dr. Barbara Henderson Wilson was born and grew up in East Orange, New Jersey. After graduating from East Orange High School in 1953, she attended the Bellevue School of Nursing in New York. Three years later, upon graduation, Barbara began working at Newark City Hospital as a scrub nurse in the operating room. In 1963, she, her husband Charles Wilson, and their first two children moved to Plainfield. When all four of her children were in school, Barbara decided to return to work. Still maintaining her RN certification, she started out as a teacher's aide in the Plainfield Schools system. She went on to earn her Master's in Education from Rutgers University and a PhD in Education from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Barbara held various

positions throughout her career as a teacher, then assistant principal, and later principal. She taught at Plainfield High School and Hubbard Middle School, as well as schools in East Orange, New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, and Newark. In 1986, Barbara became acting vice principal of the high school and a year later was appointed principal of Plainfield's alternate school, Middle College High School, located on the campus of Union County College. Barbara and her family lived in Plainfield for 30 years. She and her husband moved to Branchburg, New Jersey in 1993, where she continued her career in education until her retirement from it in 2000. Barbara Wilson passed away on July 21, 2022.

[Source: *Barbara Lee Henderson Wilson obituary, 2022*]

Scope & Contents

The Barbara Wilson Collection includes a variety of materials dating from 1967 to 1993, with bulk dates from 1972 to 1989. The collection mainly documents her career as an educator in the Plainfield Public Schools system, starting as a teacher's aide, then becoming a teacher, assistant principal, and finally principal. The materials, which are all Plainfield-related, consist of graduation and other school programs, school and Board of Education newsletters, high school and middle school yearbooks, reference books, newspapers, maps, buttons, a school banner, and a high school varsity letter.

The yearbooks in this collection that are not duplicates have been cataloged and added to the shelves with other Plainfield school yearbooks. They include Cedarbrook Elementary School, Maxson Middle School, Hubbard Middle School, and Middle College High School.

The newspapers in this collection include *City News*, *Plainfield Today*, *Plainfield City News*, *The Plainfield Times*, *Plainfield Challenge*, and *The Voice*.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Barbara Wilson Collection is available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2022 and 2023 by Barbara Wilson's daughter, Maria Holman.

Processing Information

This collection was inventoried and processed by Sally Weiner in September 2022 and January 2023. The finding aid was written by Sally Weiner in January 2023. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Collection Inventory

| Box | Folder | Title/Description | Date(s) |
|------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Hubbard & Maxson School graduation programs | 1980, 1986, 1990 |
| | 2 | PHS commencement programs | 1978-1987 |
| | 3 | PHS commencement program & class lists | 1984 |
| | 4 | PHS souvenir football program | 1977 |
| | 5 | Newsletter, "Plainfield Title I ESEA Summer News" | 1960s-70s |
| | 6 | Calendars, Plainfield Public Schools | 1974-1989 |
| | 7 | Calendars, City of Plainfield | 1983, 1985 |
| | 8 | PHS programs | 1982, 1986, undated |
| | 9 | Plainfield Public Schools program & open letter | 1987 |
| | 10 | Plainfield Rescue Squad booklet | [1968] |
| | 11 | Annual school election sample ballot & voting districts | 1985 |
| | 12 | Plainfield summer school flyer | 1986 |
| | 13 | Education clippings | 1990-1993 |
| | 14 | Mailer, Dave Hopkins for Mayor | [1985] |
| | 15 | Administrative Rules and Regulations (Plainfield Public Schools) | 1967 |
| | 16 | BOE newsletters – "Curriculum News" | [1988] |
| | 17 | BOE newsletters – "Ethnic Heritage Studies Program" | undated |
| | 18 | BOE newsletters – "Inside Plainfield Public Schools" | 1985-1987 |
| | 19 | BOE newsletters – "Insight" | 1974 |
| | 20 | BOE newsletters – "Interchange" | 1973-1975 |
| | 21 | BOE newsletters – "The Plainfield Educator" | 1982-1983 |
| | 22 | BOE newsletters – "Plainfield Public Schools Quarterly" | 1984-1989 |
| | 23 | BOE newsletters – "Plainfield School System Quarterly" | 1989 |
| | 24 | BOE newsletters – "Plainfield Schools Budget Report" | 1988 |
| | 25 | BOE newsletters – "Report to the Community" | 1969-1970 |
| | 26 | BOE newsletters – "Schools in Session" | 1972 |
| | 27 | Educational Support Team for the Plfd Comm newsletter – "The Communicator" | 1977-1978 |
| | 28 | Hubbard Middle School newsletter – "Hubbard Hawk" | 1978, undated |
| | 29 | Maxson Middle School newsletters – "The Maxson Trumpet" | 1970-1975 |
| | 30 | Maxson Middle School newsletters – "Maxsonian" | 1975 |
| | 31 | Paul Robeson Academy (alternate school) newsletter | [1992] |
| | 32 | PHS newsletters – "Contact" | 1975 |
| | 33 | PHS newsletters – "The Entrée" & "New Entrée" | 1973-1991 |
| | 34 | PHS newsletters – "Guidance Department Newsletter" | 1988 |
| | 35 | PHS newsletters | 1981 |
| | 36 | Union County College newsletter – "The Scroll" | 1989 |
| | 37 | "City of Plainfield Newsletter" | 1975, 1977 |
| | 38 | Grant Ave. Community Center newsletter – "Grant Avenue News" | [1978] |

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| 2 | 1 | Book, <i>The Zone of Emergence</i> (Barbara H. Wilson stamp) | 1972 |
| | 2 | Book, <i>When Gloucester [MA] was Gloucester: Toward an Oral History of the City</i> | 1973 |
| | 3 | Middle College High School yearbook, with inscriptions to Barbara Wilson | 1990 |
| 3 | | Felt banner, Middle College High School | 1980s-90s |
| | | Plainfield buttons (4) | undated |
| | | Varsity letter, red & blue "P" for Plainfield High School | undated |
| 4 | | Plainfield newspapers | 1969-1971 |
| 5 | | Plainfield newspapers | 1972-1974 |
| 6 | | Plainfield newspapers | 1983-1991 |

SEE ALSO: **Map Drawer C3** for photograph (copy) of Plainfield High School, 1960s
Map Drawer D1 for Plainfield maps (3), 1930s, 1989, undated