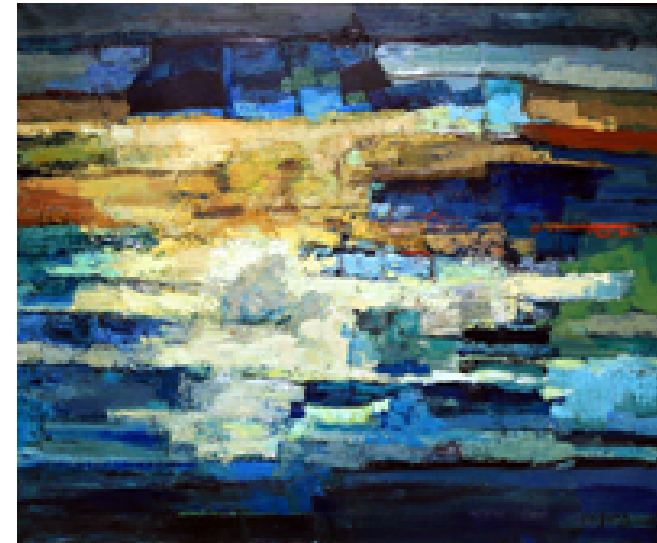


NOTABLE WOMEN OF PLAINFIELD



Aegean
by Riva Helfond
Oil on canvas, ca. 1940s



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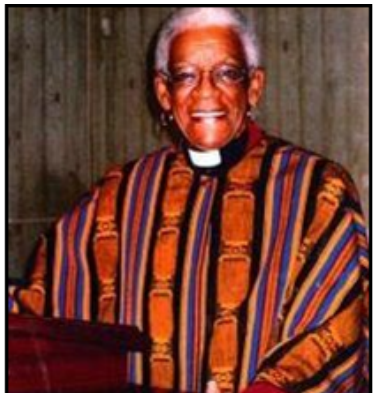
Address
800 Park Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Gloria E. Carpenter (c. 1924-2008)



Gloria Elaine Carpenter (P.H.S. 1941) was the first Black teacher in a Plainfield public school in 1944. She taught at the Washington School, which is now known as the Washington Community School.

Rev. Dr. Shirley B. Seabrook Cathie (1926-2018)



In the 1960s, Shirley Cathie and her two daughters, Carolyn and Shirley, formed the Cathie Trio to provide music for the Community Church of God congregation

in Plainfield., where her husband was minister and founder. They recorded albums and performed, all while helping to build up the Church. When she became ordained in 1994, Shirley took over as Pastor of the Community Church of God. In 2017, Mayor Mapp and the Plainfield City Council dedicated and re-named Church Street in her honor.

Anna F. Brodnax (1887-1958)



Born in Plainfield, Anna Brodnax (Broadnax), dedicated her life to academic pursuits. Anna was named valedictorian of the 1904 PHS class, and was Plainfield’s first

Black valedictorian. Miss Brodnax’s career was spent as a Latin teacher at Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, where she was Chair of the Language Department. She made many visits to Plainfield to visit friends and to speak on topics “of racial interest and importance” to local organizations. Additionally, Anna was the national president of the Business and Professional Women's Club in 1941-1942.

Adele M. Brown (1893-1974)



Born in Hampden Sydney, VA, in 1893, Adele Brown was the owner and operator of Brown’s Funeral Home for 42 years. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Mohawk Temple 191 IBPOE of

the World, Terrell Tent No. 34, and Rebecca Chapter No. 1 Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliate. She was Advisor of the Young Women's Civic Organization of Plainfield, and a member of the executive board of the National North Jersey Unit of the Negro Business and

(Adele Brown continued)

Professional Women's Club. In addition, she was a a life member of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, an organizer of the Garden State Funeral Directors Association, as well as the East Fifth Street YWCA of Plainfield, where she was also chairman of the board of governors.

Hazel Fields (1898-1986)



Hazel Fields was born in New York City in 1898 and died in Plainfield in 1986. One of her greatest contributions to Plainfield was her participation in the New

Jersey Historical Commission’s Multi-Ethnic Oral History Project. It presents an invaluable window into the Plainfield that she knew, from her years in the PHS class of 1919 to the time she met Matthew Henson, explorer of the North Pole.

(cover Image) Riva Helfond (1910-2002)

Riva Helfond was a Jewish-American artist and printmaker best known for her social realist studies of working people's lives. She lived in Plainfield, where she owned and managed the Barrett Art Gallery on East Front Street (ca. 1960s). In the early 1950s, she designed a rose window for the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield's All Souls Church.

Dr. Mary E. Norment (1919-1974)



Mary E. Norment was born in Plainfield in 1919 and graduate from PHS in 1935. In 1943, she received her medical degree from Howard

University Medical College, where she was a scholarship student. She went on to work at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital in Missouri, the largest African-American hospital at that time.

Marjorie Patterson (1923-2016)



Marjorie Patterson worked at the Plainfield Area YMCA from 1947 until her retirement in 1987. She dedicated her life to helping the youth and underprivileged

community of Plainfield. Her first years with the YMCA were spent as a program aide at the Moorland Branch - known as the “Black Y”. She spent many lunch hours “sitting in” at restaurants where Blacks were refused service. She was called the “Pied Piper of Teenagers” when she led forums and training for young people.