

Cranford Free Public Library's 100th Birthday

This year, 2010, the Cranford Public Library celebrates 100 years of dedicated and distinguished public service to the residents of Cranford. Through good times and bad, the Library has been an indispensable asset to our community.

Although the Library sponsored several anniversary events during the year, the official “Centennial Celebration” was held last April 19th. A number of persons, led by Cranford Mayor Mark Smith and Assemblyman John Bramnick, congratulated the Library, its staff, and its Board of Trustees for their service.

Historical Society member and Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski presented Library Director John Malar with a County Resolution honoring the Library, and Trustee Robert Fridlington gave Malar a “Century Award” from the Cranford Historical Society.



Cranford Public Library, Miln Street

From its beginning in 1910 until 1962, the Library stood on Miln Street. The white columned building which looked like a southern mansion, was made possible by a \$10,000 gift from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. In 1962, the Library moved to a new building on its present site on Walnut Avenue.



Cranford Library Director John Malar

When the Walnut Avenue building opened, it had a book capacity of 75,000 volumes and a collection of only 33,933. Thirteen years later, the collection had reached 81,509 volumes.

Today, the Library possesses 140,000 items (including audiovisual materials) and offers a host of resources over the internet, from audio books to online data bases.

The Historical Society once again extends its heartiest congratulations to Director John Malar and the dedicated staff and to Board President Patricia Pavlak and the Library Board of Trustees for their tradition of service to the residents of Cranford.