

DR. DEBORAH CANNON
PARTRIDGE WOLFE LIBRARY
& LEARNING COMMONS

The Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe Library and Learning Commons mission is to ensure that students are effective users of ideas and information and to provide up-to-date, high quality, continuously accessible resources in a variety of formats. The Library and Learning Commons will offer a collaborative atmosphere that will empower students to be lifelong critical thinkers, independent readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.



This project could not have been made possible without the support and contributions of the members of the Cranford Historical Society and the friends and family of Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe.



201 West End Place
Cranford, New Jersey
07016

Phone:
Website:

Cranford High School

DR. DEBORAH
CANNON PARTRIDGE
WOLFE LIBRARY &
LEARNING COMMONS



**Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe,
1916-2004**

WWW.CRANFORDSCHOOLS.ORG/CHS

DR. DEBORAH CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE



DEBORAH JUNIATA CANNON

Born December 22, 1916, Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe (born Olive Deborah Juniata Cannon), grew up in Cranford, New Jersey. She attended Cranford schools

and graduated from Cranford High School in 1933. Wolfe graduated from Jersey State College (BS 1937) and Columbia University (MA 1938, EdD 1945). She also studied at Vassar College and completed postdoctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Union Theological Seminary, and Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Her career began with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) teaching adult education classes at Cranford's Lincoln School where she quickly became headteacher and later, principal. After graduate school, Wolfe joined the faculty of Tuskegee Institute to create educational programs and increase teacher competence in rural areas of Alabama.

In 1951, Wolfe became the first African American member of The City University of New York Queens College as Assistant Professor of Education. She also taught at Princeton University, New York University, Columbia University, Fordham University and the University of Michigan.

From 1962 to 1965, Wolfe served as Education Chief for the United States House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor. Dr. Wolfe served under the terms of four US Presidents, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. During her tenure on the committee, some of the most innovative education legislation ever written was passed through Congress.

In 1970, she was among the first African American woman to be ordained as a Baptist Minister and in 1975 she became the associate pastor of Cranford's



DR. CANNON PARTRIDGE WOLFE STANDING BESIDES DR. KING WHILE DELIVERING HIS "I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH" IN 1963

First Baptist Church, the same church where her father had been the minister years before.

In addition to her many roles and accomplishments, she was also active in the Civil Rights Movement; she marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was on the stage when he gave

his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

She served on the National Alliance of Black School Educators, New Jersey Board of Higher Education and was the first woman to be named president of the New Jersey Convention of Progressive Baptists. She held 26 honorary doctorate degrees and several educational institutions hold her name.

Dr. Wolfe passed away on September 3, 2004 at the age of 87.

Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe was a woman with great vision and determination. She faced many obstacles throughout her life but made those deterrents motivators for future successes. She exemplifies the spirit of Cranford and is a model for future student leaders here at Cranford High School

Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe
1916-2004



Union County Across the Centuries