

# The Campaign to Create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



## Notable Rosenwald Fund Fellows

In 1917, Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck & Company, a noted philanthropist, created the Julius Rosenwald Fund “for the well-being of mankind.” Between then and 1948, when the Fund closed its doors in accordance with Rosenwald’s directions, it was a powerful force for expanding opportunities for African Americans. Prior to 1928, the main emphasis of the Fund was the Rosenwald School Building Program which had been created in partnership with renowned educator Booker T. Washington. Between 1912 and 1932, first Rosenwald

individually and then the Fund assisted nearly 5,000 African American communities in 15 southern states in building schools that provided the education for their children that had been either non-existent or greatly lacking.

In 1928, seeking professional management, Rosenwald hired Edwin Embree, who had been a Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, to lead the Rosenwald Fund. With Rosenwald’s approval, Embree added two new programs to the ongoing school building program—health and medical services, and a program of fellowships.

*Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund* by Edwin R. Embree and Julia Waxman chronicles the history of the Fund from 1928 until 1948. The title was an apt description of the major goal of the Fund—opening the doors of opportunity to African Americans. Just as Rosenwald had invested in hundreds of thousands of African American children by partnering with their communities to provide them with well-equipped schoolhouses, the Fund invested in hundreds of men and women of talent and merit, often in the early stages of their careers, as they pursued excellence in a wide range of fields. Their successes gave abundant proof of the talent, drive, and commitment of African Americans.

This document presents the widely diverse accomplishments of almost one hundred notable Rosenwald Fellows.

Generally providing awards for one, two, or sometimes three years, the fellowships enabled recipients to pursue higher education, devote themselves to artistic work, travel, and undertake valuable projects with uncertain outcomes. Of the nearly 900 Rosenwald fellows, two-thirds were African American. A high percentage of Fellows dedicated their work to America’s ongoing quest for racial equality. The excellence of their achievements was in itself a refutation of the prevalent belief of African American inferiority.

Luminaries who received Rosenwald fellowships included Ralph Bunche, Dr. Charles Drew, Marian Anderson, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, John Hope Franklin, Kenneth and Mamie Phipps Clark, James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston and Ralph Ellison—to name but a few.

Rosenwald fellowships helped 133 men and women, 98 of whom were African American, pursue studies at the University of Chicago; sent 80 to Columbia University, 63 of whom were African American; and enabled 44 individuals, 33 of whom were African American, to attend Harvard. Rosenwald fellows pursued their studies at more than 100 institutions in the US. The fellowship program also helped 77 individuals, 43 of whom were African American, travel to foreign countries to study, such as Marian Anderson, who studied voice in Germany.

Fellowships were awarded for study in 44 disciplines from dance and painting to economics, anthropology, hospital administration, medicine, mathematics, physics, religion, social work and library science. The highest number of fellowships awarded were in sociology (86), followed by language and literature (57), and then medicine (52).

Rosenwald Fellows were proof that, given opportunity and support, African Americans could and did achieve at high levels and made significant and lasting contributions to this nation in practically every field of endeavor. Their

achievements made it possible for African Americans to enter and excel in professions from which they had been previously excluded, thereby enhancing the nation and its democratic values.

The record of accomplishment by men and women who were Rosenwald Fellows is an exceptional one. This investment in people paid—and indeed is still paying—enormous dividends.



**Franz Alexander**

(1891-1964)

**Fellowships:** Psychiatry • 1930, 1931, 1932

Franz Alexander was a psychoanalyst and physician, and is considered one of the founders of psychosomatic medicine and psychoanalytic criminology. In 1930, he was invited to be the Visiting Professor of

Psychoanalysis at the University of Chicago, and worked there at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. He was among the first members of the Society for General Systems Research.



**Charles Henry Alston**

(1907-1977)

**Fellowships:** Art - Painting • 1940, 1941

Charles Alston was a painter, sculptor, illustrator, muralist, teacher, and active member of the Harlem Renaissance. He was the first African-American supervisor for the Works Progress Administration's Federal

Art Project. In 1990, Alston's bust of Martin Luther King Jr. became the first artwork featuring an African American displayed at the White House.



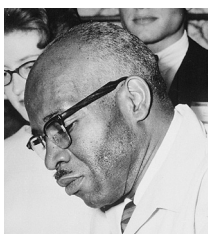
**Marian Anderson**

(1897-1993)

**Fellowship:** Music - Voice • 1930

Marian Anderson was an acclaimed singer who used her Rosenwald Fund Fellowship to study voice in Europe. She is best known for her inspirational performance to an integrated audience at the Lincoln

Memorial in DC on Easter Sunday, 1939, after having been turned away from other venues. Later in 1939, she received the NAACP Spingarn Medal and in 1963, she was awarded the first Presidential Medal of Freedom.



**William Ellsworth Artis**

(1914-1977)

**Fellowship:** Art - Ceramics • 1948

William Artis was a sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. He was involved with Works Progress Administration's artists project and studied at the Art Students League of New York and Syracuse

University. He served on the faculties of Nebraska State Teachers College, Chadron State College, and Mankato State College.



**William Alexander Attaway**

(1911-1986)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1940

William Attaway was a novelist, short story writer, essayist, songwriter, playwright, and screenwriter. His Rosenwald fellowship helped support him while he wrote his 1941 novel, *Blood on the Forge*, which has been

called the finest depiction of the Great Migration era in American literature. The novel was reprinted in 1993 and brought renewed critical and popular attention to his writing. He also wrote over 500 songs, including songs for Harry Belafonte. His *Calyпсо Song Book* was published in 1957.



**James Arthur Baldwin**

(1924-1987)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1948

James Baldwin was an acclaimed writer known for his essays, novels, plays, and poems. His first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, was published in 1953, and his first collection of essays, *Notes of a Native*

*Son*, was published in 1955. He was a gifted orator who played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement.



**Lowell Howard Bennett**

(1913-1993)

**Fellowships:** Political Science • 1939, 1940, 1946  
Law • 1947

Lowell Howard Bennett was an attorney, judge, and civil rights advocate. After graduating from the University of Chicago, he moved to Minneapolis in 1950, where

he began practicing law. In 1957, he became the first African American to be appointed judge in Minnesota. In 1963, he joined the Department of Defense, where he became its civil rights director in 1965 and then acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for civil rights from 1968-1970.



**Mildred E. Blount**

(1907-1974)

**Fellowship:** Art - Fashion Design • 1943

Mildred Blount was a noted milliner (hat maker) whose creations were sought after by celebrities and people in high society. Blount's career took off after her designs were shown at the 1939 New York World's

Fair. She was asked to design hats for the films *Gone with the Wind* and *Easter Parade*, and became the first African American member of the Motion Pictures Costumers Union.



**Horace Mann Bond**

(1904-1972)

**Fellowships:** Education • 1931, 1932

Horace Mann Bond was a US historian, college administrator, social science researcher, and father of Civil Rights leader Julian Bond. He used his Rosenwald Fellowships to obtain his doctorate.

In 1945, he became the first African American president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and in 1953, he served under Thurgood Marshall in preparing the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.



**Margaret Bonds**

(1913-1972)

**Fellowship:** Music - Piano • 1933

Margaret Bonds was a composer, pianist, musical arranger, and teacher. She was one of first Black composers to gain recognition in the US, and is best remembered for her arrangements of African American spirituals,

and her frequent collaborations with author Langston Hughes.



**Arna Bontemps**

(1902-1973)

**Fellowships:** Creative Writing • 1938  
Library Science • 1942

Arna Bontemps was a poet, novelist, librarian, and member of the Harlem Renaissance. He used his first Rosenwald Fellowship to write his 1939 novel, *Drums*

*at Dusk*. In 1943, he became the head librarian at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he developed key collections and archives of African American literature and culture, such as the *Langston Hughes Renaissance Collection*.



**M.O. Bousfield**

(1885-1948)

**Fellowship:** Medicine • 1931

M.O. Bousfield was a nationally recognized leader in the African American medical community. During his career, he worked to improve the health care and medical training opportunities for African

Americans. From 1933-1934, he served as President of the National Medical Association, and from 1934-1942, he served as the Director of the Negro Health Division of the Rosenwald Fund. In 1939, he became the first African American member of the Chicago Board of Education.



**Roscoe Conklin Brown, Jr.**

(1922-2016)

**Fellowship:** Physical Education • 1948

Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., was one of the Tuskegee Airmen and received the Distinguished Flying Cross as a result of his service during World War II. After the war, he obtained his PhD from New York

University in exercise physiology. Brown served as the President of Bronx Community College and director for the Center for Education Policy at the City University of New York. In 2007, he and the other Tuskegee Airmen were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.



**Ralph J. Bunche**

(1904-1971)

**Fellowship:** Political Science • 1931

Ralph Bunche was a US prominent diplomat, who played a leading role in the mid-20th-century process of decolonizing Africa. He was also a key player in the US Civil Rights Movement. He used his

Rosenwald Fellowship to obtain a doctorate in political science at Harvard, the first African American to do so, where his studies centered on the French colonization of Africa. His career at the UN spanned 25 years, and in 1957, he became its Under Secretary General for Political Affairs. In 1949, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal, and in 1950, he was the first African American to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for his work to negotiate a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians following the establishment of Israel.



**Robert Lee Carter**

(1917-2012)

**Fellowship:** Law • 1940

Robert Lee Carter was a lawyer, civil rights activist, and US District Judge. He used his Rosenwald Fellowship to obtain a Master of Laws at Columbia University. In 1953, he served under Thurgood Marshall in

preparing the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 2004, he received the NAACP Spingarn Medal.



**Elizabeth Catlett**

(1915-2012)

**Fellowships:** Art - Painting & Sculpture • 1946, 1947

Elizabeth Catlett was a sculptor and graphic artist best known for her depictions of the African American experience in the 20th century. She used her Rosenwald Fellowships to study art in Mexico. As a

result of her fellowships, she created a series of linoleum-block prints entitled *The Negro Woman*.



**Kenneth Bancroft Clark**

(1914-2005)

**Fellowship:** Psychology • 1940

Kenneth Clark was a prominent social psychologist, educator, and human rights activist. In 1954, he gave expert testimony in the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which drew from the

pioneering research conducted by him and his wife Mamie. They were widely credited with influencing the Court's decision to overturn the segregation of public schools. In 1961, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.



**Mamie Phipps Clark**

(1917-1983)

**Fellowships:** Psychology • 1940, 1941, 1942

Mamie Phipps Clark and her husband Kenneth were the first African American recipients of doctorates in psychology at Columbia University. They developed the groundbreaking "Dolls Test" study in which

young children were presented with dolls and assessed for their attitudes about race. Their Rosenwald Fellowships enabled them to publish three articles on the subject and provided support for Mamie to pursue her doctorate degree. In 1953, she served under Thurgood Marshall in preparing the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.



**William W. Schieffelin Claytor**

(1908-1967)

**Fellowships:** Mathematics • 1937, 1938

William Schieffelin Claytor was the third African American to obtain a PhD in mathematics, and in 1934, was the first to have his research published in a scholarly journal. After receiving his PhD, he taught

at West Virginia State University, where he mentored Katherine Johnson, who would go on to work at NASA, designing a math curriculum especially for her. In 1937, Claytor received a Rosenwald Fellowship to attend the University of Michigan for further postgraduate study. Despite his many accomplishments, he was not allowed to attend research seminars due to prevalent racism. In 1946, he joined the faculty of Howard University.



**William Montague Cobb**

(1904-1990)

**Fellowships:** Biology • 1941

William Cobb was a board-certified physician and physical anthropologist. He was the first African-American to obtain a PhD in anthropology. He was also the first African-American President of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Cobb's work has been recognized for its significant contribution to the sub-discipline of biocultural anthropology.



**Anne Margaret Cooke**

(1907-1997)

**Fellowships:** Drama • 1930, 1938, 1939

Anne Cooke was an influential figure in promoting African American theater. She used her first Rosenwald Fellowship to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Her subsequent

Fellowships enabled her to establish Atlanta University's first Summer Theater program. In 1947, she was appointed the head of Howard University's newly-formed drama department.



**Adelaide M. Cromwell**

(1919-2019)

**Fellowships:** Sociology • 1941, 1944

Adelaide Cromwell was a sociologist and professor emerita at Boston University, where she co-founded the African Studies Center in 1959, and directed the graduate program in African American studies from

1969 to 1985. She was the first African American instructor at Hunter College and at Smith College. In 1974, she was appointed the first African American Library Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



**Woodrow Wilson Crumbo**

(1912-1989)

**Fellowship:** Art - Painting • 1945

Woody Crumbo was a Native American artist, flute player, and dancer. While studying art in the 1930s, he supported himself as a traditional dancer, touring reservations across the US and collecting

Native American dances. In 1939, he was commissioned to paint murals on the walls of the Department of the Interior headquarters in Washington DC. His paintings are held by several major museums, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Thomas Gilcrease Institute in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



**John Aubrey Davis**

(1912-2002)

**Fellowships:** Political Science • 1938, 1939, 1940

John Aubrey Davis used his Rosenwald Fellowships to complete his doctorate at Columbia University. He was an educator, a civil rights advocate, and best known for serving as the principal researcher for the

landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. He worked with Thurgood Marshall and over 200 academics to gather legal and historical facts for NAACP’s team of attorneys.



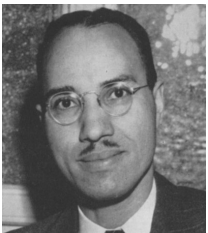
**W. Allison Davis**

(1902-1983)

**Fellowships:** Anthropology • 1932, 1939, 1940

W. Allison Davis used his first Rosenwald Fellowship to study anthropology at the London School of Economics. In 1942, he was appointed to the mostly-white faculty of the University of Chicago with the proviso

that his Rosenwald Fellowships subsidized most of his three-year contract. In September 1953, he participated in a conference to critique the draft of the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1994, the US Postal Service honored him with a postage stamp.



**William Henry Dean, Jr.**

(1910-1952)

**Fellowships:** Economics • 1937, 1938, 1939

William Henry Dean, Jr., was a noted economist. His Rosenwald Fellowships enabled him to study at Harvard University where he became the second African American to obtain a PhD in economics.

From 1942 to 1944, Dean served as chief economist at the Office of Price Administration, which was established to prevent war time inflation in the Virgin Islands and Haiti. After World War II, he joined the United Nations Africa Unit Division of Economic Stability and Development, and became chief of the unit in 1949. In 1949 and 1950, he took part in UN mission trips to Haiti and Somalia to assess their economic situations.



**Aaron Douglas**

(1899-1979)

**Fellowship:** Art - Painting • 1937

Aaron Douglas was a painter, illustrator and visual arts educator, who played a leading role in the Harlem Renaissance. He is famous for painting murals and creating illustrations that addressed social issues

around race and segregation. In 1937 and 1938, he used his Rosenwald Fellowship to travel to universities in the American South and the Caribbean to advance his art career.



**Charles R. Drew**

(1904-1950)

**Fellowship:** Medicine • 1931

Charles Drew was a physician, surgeon, and medical researcher. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to finish medical school at McGill University. He developed improved techniques for storing blood

enabling medics to save thousands of lives during World War II. In 1941, he was appointed the first director of the Red Cross Blood Bank, although he resigned a year later in protest to their policy of segregating blood based on the race of the donor. In 1944, he was a recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.



**W.E.B. DuBois**

(1868-1963)

**Fellowships:** Creative Writing • 1931, 1933, 1934

W.E.B. DuBois was a historian, author, socialist, and civil rights activist. He has been recognized as one of the most important black protest leaders in the early 20th century. DuBois was the first African

American to earn a doctorate, and became a professor of history, sociology, and economics at Atlanta University. A collection of his essays, *The Souls of Black Folk*, is considered a seminal work in African American literature. He was the one of the founders of the NAACP and served as editor of its journal, *The Crisis*. In 1920, he was a recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.



**Katherine Dunham**

(1909-2006)

**Fellowships:** Anthropology • 1935, 1936

Katherine Dunham was a modern dancer and anthropologist. Her Rosenwald Fellowships helped launch her career by supporting her field research on dance traditions in the Caribbean. She was a

pioneer in the field of dance anthropology and founded a school embodying multi-cultural principles decades before the term was used in field of education.



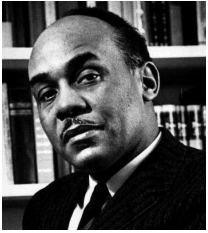
**Sheppard Randolph Edmonds**

(1900-1983)

**Fellowship:** Drama • 1937

Sheppard Randolph Edmonds was a nationally recognized playwright and director, considered by many to be the “Dean of Black American Theatre.” He founded the two most important

theatre organizations among black institutions: The Negro Intercollegiate Drama Association and the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts.



**Ralph Waldo Ellison**

(1914-1994)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1945

Ralph Waldo Ellison was a noted writer, literary critic, and scholar best known for his novel, *Invisible Man*, which won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1953. Throughout his career, he wrote collections

of essays on the black experience in America. He was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1969.



**John Hope Franklin**

(1915-2009)

**Fellowships:** History • 1937, 1938

John Hope Franklin was an acclaimed US historian, educator, and scholar. He used his Rosenwald Fellowships to obtain his doctorate at Harvard. He was best known for his groundbreaking anthology,

*From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, first published in 1947. In 1953, he served under Thurgood Marshall in preparing the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the NAACP Spingarn Medal, both in 1995.



**E. Franklin Frazier**

(1894-1962)

**Fellowship:** Sociology • 1944

E. Franklin Frazier was a sociologist and author. His research focused on African-American culture and race relations with a special focus on the factors affecting African American family dynamics. In 1948, he was

elected the first black president of the American Sociological Association. Frazier taught at Howard University from 1934 until his death in 1962. The university later named its E. Franklin Frazier Center for Social Work Research in his honor.



**Roscoe C. Giles**

(1890-1970)

**Fellowship:** Medicine • 1931

Roscoe Giles was a prominent doctor and surgeon. He was the first African American to earn a degree from Cornell University Medical College, and went on to work as a surgeon at Provident Hospital in

Chicago, later serving as the Chairman of the hospital's Division of General Surgery. In 1935, he was elected President of the National Medical Association.



**Shirley Graham**

(1896-1977)

**Fellowships:** Drama • 1938, 1939

Shirley Graham was a writer, playwright, composer, and activist for African American causes. From 1936-1938, she served as director of the Chicago Negro Unit of the Works Progress Administration's Federal

Theater Project writing musical scores and directing productions. In the 1950s, she became an activist for a variety of causes with focuses on African Americans, African peoples, women, and people of color worldwide.



**Evelyn Boyd Granville**

(1924-)

**Fellowships:** Mathematics • 1946, 1947

Evelyn Boyd Granville was a mathematician and pioneer in the field of computing. In 1949, she became the second African-American woman to obtain a PhD in mathematics, which she received from Yale

University. In 1956, she joined IBM as a computer programmer, and when IBM received a NASA contract, she worked on the Vanguard and Mercury space programs developing computer procedures to calculate orbits and launch trajectories. In 1960, she joined US Space Technology Laboratories, where she worked on various projects for the Apollo space program.



**L'Tanya Bernice Griffin**

(1919-1996)

**Fellowship:** Art - Fashion Design • 1948

L'Tanya Bernice Griffin was a model and fashion designer. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to study fashion in Paris. In 1954, she became the first African American to be awarded a contract with a Hollywood

film studio. Her designs were worn by Hollywood elite including including Joan Crawford and Dorothy Dandridge.



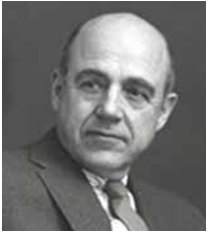
**Woody Guthrie**

(1912-1967)

**Fellowship:** Language and Literature • 1943

Woody Guthrie was a famous folk singer whose songs focused on US socialism and anti-fascism. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to travel through the South for inspiration to "...write books, ballads,

songs, and novels that will help people to know each other's work better." With songs like *This Land Is Your Land*, his music influenced generations both politically and musically. In 1988, he was inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

**Robert Gwathmey**

(1903-1988)

**Fellowship:** Art - Painting • 1944

Robert Gwathmey was a prominent social realist painter. In 1942, he accepted a teaching position at Cooper Union School of Art in Manhattan where he taught for 26 years. He used his Rosenwald Fellowship to live and work with African American tobacco farmers in North Carolina for two summers. He chose rural Southern life, especially the plight of African Americans, as the subject matter of his paintings and social commentary.

**Simon Alexander Haley**

(1892-1973)

**Fellowship:** Agriculture • 1930

Simon Alexander Haley used his Rosenwald Fund Fellowship to study agriculture at Cornell University where he received his Master's degree. He became a professor of agriculture at a number of institutions including Alabama A&M University. He was the father of acclaimed writer Alex Haley, author of *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*.

**Abram L. Harris**

(1899-1963)

**Fellowships:** Economics • 1929, 1939, 1945

Abram Harris was an economist and social critic on the economic conditions of African American individuals and businesses. His groundbreaking publications included *The Black Worker* (1931) about African-American labor history and *The Negro as Capitalist* (1936), which set the precedent for contemporary African American radical thought.

**Robert E. Hayden**

(1913-1980)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1947

Robert Hayden was a noted poet, essayist, and educator. He taught at several universities, and from 1976-1978, he was the first African American to serve as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, a role today known as US Poet Laureate. His most famous poem, *Those Winter Sundays*, ranks among the most anthologized American poems of the 20th century.

**Moses Carl Holman**

(1919-1988)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1945

Moses Carl Holman was an author, poet, playwright, and civil rights advocate. In 1960, while a member of the faculty at Clark College in Atlanta, he helped found the black journal *The Atlanta Inquirer*. In 1962, he joined the staff of the US Commission on Civil Rights, and from 1971-1988, he served as president of the National Urban Coalition, where he promoted the need for a mutual partnership between industry and government to foster inner-city development.

**Langston Hughes**

(1901-1967)

**Fellowships:** Creative Writing • 1931, 1941

Langston Hughes is best known as a literary leader of the Harlem Renaissance. He was an acclaimed poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist, and one of the earliest innovators of "jazz poetry." His work was recognized for its insightful portrayals of the joys and hardships of working-class African Americans. In 1960, he was a recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**Henry A. Hunt**

(1866-1938)

**Fellowship:** Agriculture • 1931

Henry Hunt was an educator who worked to reach and educate African Americans in rural Georgia. In 1934, he was recruited by President Roosevelt to join his Black Cabinet, an informal group of 45 prominent African Americans who created federal policy on education, jobs, and housing at major cabinet-level agencies in the executive branch. In 1930, he received the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**Zora Neale Hurston**

(1891-1960)

**Fellowship:** Anthropology • 1935

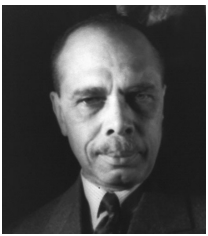
Zora Neale Hurston was an author, anthropologist, and filmmaker, whose work portrayed racial struggles in the American South in the early-1900s. Her most popular novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, was published in 1937, and she was recognized for breaking literary norms by focusing her work on the experience of a black woman.

**Charles S. Johnson**

(1893-1956)

**Fellowship:** Sociology • 1930

Charles S. Johnson was a sociologist and the first black president of Fisk University. He directed research and publications in the early 1920s for the National Urban League, and was instrumental in advancing the careers of numerous figures of the Harlem Renaissance. He utilized his Rosenwald Fellowship to make Fisk University a significant research center in race relations. Two of his works have become classics: *Shadow of the Plantation* (1939) and *Growing Up in the Black Belt* (1940). In 1953, he advised Thurgood Marshall in preparing the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**James Weldon Johnson**

(1871-1938)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1928, 1930, 1931

James Weldon Johnson was a writer and civil rights activist. He began working at the NAACP in 1917 and became one of its leaders. Along with his brother, he co-wrote the song, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, which later became known as the Negro National Hymn. In 1925, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**Percy L. Julian**

(1889-1975)

**Fellowship:** Chemistry • 1934, 1935

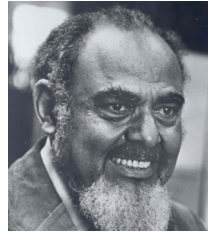
Percy L. Julian was a research chemist who pioneered the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants. His work laid the foundation for the production of cortisone and birth control pills. His Rosenwald Fellowships helped support his research and the publication of his findings. During his career, he was granted over 130 patents and was the first African American inducted into National Academy of Sciences. In 1947, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**May Justus**

(1898-1989)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1939

May Justus was the author of numerous children's books, most of which were set in Appalachia and reflected its traditional culture. She was interested in rural education and worked at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. Although initially founded to provide labor education, the school's focus shifted in the 1950s to issues of civil rights and desegregation.

**Charles Radford Lawrence, Jr.**

(1915-1986)

**Fellowships:** Sociology • 1939, 1942

Charles R. Lawrence was an educator, social activist, and leader in the Episcopal Church, where he was elected its first African American President of the House of Deputies. In addition to his work with the church, he served as a professor of sociology at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York becoming the chairman of its Department of Sociology. Both in the church and academia, he was an activist for social justice and racial equality.

**Jacob Armstead Lawrence**

(1917-2000)

**Fellowships:** Art - Painting • 1940, 1941, 1942

Jacob Lawrence was a famous artist whose work explored the history and struggles of African Americans. His Rosenwald Fellowships helped fund the creation of his *The Great Migration* series of paintings, which are jointly owned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC. He was the recipient of a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1970, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**Margaret Morgan Lawrence**

(1914-2019)

**Fellowship:** Medicine • 1942

Margaret Morgan Lawrence was a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, whose work centered on the mental health of children and inner-city families. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to study at Columbia University where she obtained her Masters in Science. She went on to serve as Harlem Hospital's chief of the Developmental Psychiatry Service for Infants and Children, and as an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**James Raymond Lawson**

(1915-1996)

**Fellowships:** Physics • 1937, 1938

James Raymond Lawson was a physicist and university administrator, who served as the president of Fisk University from 1967-1975. He used his Rosenwald Fellowships to attend the University of Michigan, earning his PhD in physics in 1939. After his time at Fisk University, he worked for the Energy Research and Development Administration and NASA.



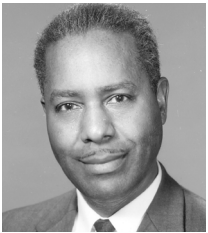
**Rayford W. Logan**

(1897-1982)

**Fellowship:** History • 1944

Rayford W. Logan was a historian who was best known for his study of post-Reconstruction America. In the late 1940s, he served as a chief advisor to the NAACP on international affairs. In 1953,

he participated in a conference critiquing the draft of the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. He was a professor of history at Howard University from 1938 to 1965. In 1980, he was awarded the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

**Walter Samuel McAfee**

(1914-1985)

**Fellowship:** Physics • 1946

Walter McAfee was a scientist and astronomer who participated in Project Diana, the world's first lunar radar echo experiment, while working for the Electronics Research Command at Fort

Monmouth. In 1946, he received a Rosenwald Fund Fellowship which enabled him to study at Cornell University under Nobel prize winner Hans Bethe, receiving a PhD for his work on nuclear collisions. In 1961, McAfee received the first U.S. Army Research and Development Achievement Award.

**Ralph E. McGill**

(1898-1969)

**Fellowship:** Journalism • 1937

Ralph McGill was a journalist, editor, and publisher of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to travel to Europe in 1938 to cover the Nazi takeover of Austria. In 1960,

he became the only editor of a major white southern paper to cover the Greensboro sit-ins. He served as a civil rights advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, as well as a behind-the-scenes envoy to several African nations. In 1959, he received the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing.

**Claude McKay**

(1890-1948)

**Fellowships:** Creative Writing • 1935, 1943

Claude McKay was a writer, poet, and a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance. His 1922 poetry collection, *Harlem Shadows*, was among the first books published during the Harlem Renaissance and his novel *Home*

*To Harlem* was a watershed contribution to its fiction. He was regarded as the "foremost left-wing black intellectual of his age," and his work heavily influenced a generation of black authors.

**Winifred Mason**

(1912-1993)

**Fellowship:** Art - Silversmithing • 1945

Winifred Mason was a jeweler whose work was inspired by West Indian cultural traditions. She is believed to be the first commercial African American jeweler in the US. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her

to travel to Haiti and gather folk materials and art patterns used by West Indians which she incorporated into her jewelry.

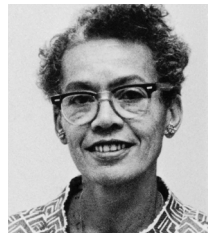
**Willard Francis Motley**

(1909-1965)

**Fellowship:** Creative Writing • 1946

William Motley was a self-educated author whose novel *Knock on Any Door* was made into movie starring Humphrey Bogart. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to complete his second novel and work on his

third. He helped found and publish the *Hull House Magazine*, and also worked for the Works Progress Administration Federal Writers Project. In 1964, he was inducted into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame.

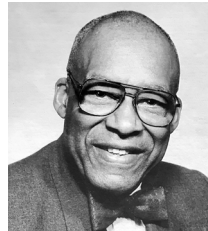
**Pauli Murray**

(1910-1985)

**Fellowship:** Law • 1944

Pauli Murray was a human rights activist, feminist, attorney, and Episcopal priest. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to study for her Master of Law at the University of California Berkley. She researched each

state's varying segregation laws and wrote the book *States' Laws on Race and Color*, which Thurgood Marshall later called the "Bible of *Brown v. Board*." She was appointed by President Kennedy to serve on the 1961-1963 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, and in 1966, she co-founded the National Organization for Women. Recognizing her pioneering work on gender discrimination, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg named her as a co-author of the ACLU's brief in the landmark 1971 Supreme Court case *Reed v. Reed*.

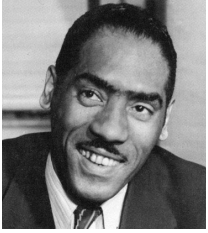
**Samuel Lloyd Myers**

(1919-2021)

**Fellowship:** Economics • 1948

Samuel Lloyd Myers was an economist, university president, education adviser and civil rights advocate. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to attend Harvard where he obtained his PhD in

economics. During his 18-year tenure as the president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity, he helped sustain historically black colleges by providing them access to a billion dollars of federal aid.

**Roi Ottley**

(1906-1960)

**Fellowship:** Journalism • 1943

Roi Ottley was a journalist and writer, and among the most famous African American correspondents in the US during the mid-20th century. His Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to work on his award-winning

book *New World A-Coming: Inside Black America* (1943), which described life for African Americans in Harlem during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1944, Ottley became the first African American war correspondent to cover World War II for major newspapers.

**Marion Palfi**

(1907-1978)

**Fellowship:** Race Relations • 1946

Marion Palfi was a social documentary photographer who believed that art could and should effect social change. She was born in Germany, but moved to New York in 1940 to escape Nazism. Her

Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to travel and photograph racial discrimination in the US. She photographed several events during the Civil Rights Movement including protests in Greenwood, Mississippi, the March on Washington, and the march in Selma. Her photographs were often used as evidence to support legislative change.

**Gordon Alexander Parks**

(1912-2006)

**Fellowship:** Photography • 1942

Gordon Parks was a photographer, musician, writer, and film director. He was a prominent figure in American documentary photojournalism during the 1940s-70s. His work centered on issues of civil rights,

poverty, and African American photography. He was also a noted fashion photographer. In 1972, he was the recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal, and in 1988, he received the National Medal of Arts.

**Rose Theodora Piper**

(1917-2005)

**Fellowship:** Art - Painting • 1946

Rose Piper was an artist and painter best known for her semi-abstract, blues-inspired paintings of the 1940s. In 1947, she gave her first solo exhibition at the Roko Gallery in New York, one of a handful of African

American women to do so at the time. In the 1950s, she became a textile designer, designing knit fabrics. In the 1980s, she returned to painting and exhibiting her work.

**Dorothy Burnett Porter**

(1905-1995)

**Fellowships:** Library Science • 1930, 1931, 1944

Dorothy Porter was a librarian, distinguished bibliographer, and curator. She was the first African American to receive a library science degree from Columbia University. She used her

Rosenwald Fellowship to study Latin American literature. During her career at Howard University, she built the university's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center into one of the world's best library collections of Black history and culture.

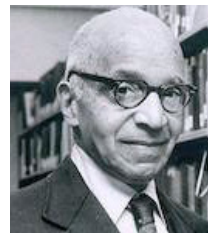
**Pearl Eileene Primus**

(1919-1994)

**Fellowship:** Dance • 1948

Pearl Primus was a dancer, choreographer, and anthropologist. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to study dancing, masks, rhythms, and the life of people across Africa. Her work promoted African

dance as an art form worthy of study and performance for American audiences. In 1991, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts.

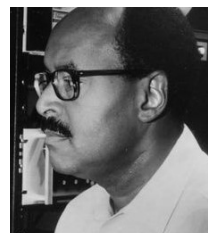
**Benjamin Arthur Quarles**

(1904-1996)

**Fellowships:** History • 1937, 1945

Benjamin Quarles was a historian, administrator, educator, and writer, whose scholarship centered on African American social and political history. His major books include *The Negro in the Civil War*, *The*

*Negro in the American Revolution*, *Lincoln and the Negro*, and *Black Abolitionists*. He was the first Black historian to have his essays published in a major scholarly historical journal.

**George Warren Reed, Jr.**

(1920-2015)

**Fellowship:** Chemistry • 1946

George Warren Reed, Jr., was a scientist and one of the few African Americans recruited to work on the Manhattan Project. In the 1970s, he was on the team of scientists that analyzed lunar rock from the NASA Apollo

missions. In recognition of his work, he was awarded NASA's *Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal* in 1977.

**Ira De Augustine Reid**

(1901-1968)

**Fellowship:** Sociology • 1938

Ira De Augustine Reid was a prominent sociologist who wrote extensively on the lives of black immigrants and communities in the US. He was also influential in the field of educational sociology. His

Rosenwald Fellowship enabled him to study at Columbia University where he obtained his PhD in Sociology. He served on the faculty of several institutions including Atlanta University, New York University, and Haverford College, where he was the college's first black professor and became the chair of its Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

**Augusta Savage**

(1892-1962)

**Fellowships:** Art - Sculpture • 1929, 1930, 1931

Augusta Savage was a sculptor associated with the Harlem Renaissance. In the 1920s, she produced one of her most famous pieces, *Gamin*, a plaster bust now displayed at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Her Rosenwald Fellowships enabled her to study art in Paris, where her art was displayed at the Grand Palais.

**Lillian Eugenia Smith**

(1897-1966)

**Fellowships:** Creative Writing • 1939, 1940

Lillian Smith was a writer and social critic of the Southern United States. She was known for her non-fiction and fictional works, including her best-selling novel, *Strange Fruit* (1944). She openly embraced

controversial positions on race and gender equality, and worked towards dismantling the South's Jim Crow laws.

**Mabel Murphy Smythe-Haith**

(1918-2006)

**Fellowship:** Economics • 1941

Mabel Murphy Smythe-Haith was a diplomat who served as the US Ambassador to Cameroon and later Equatorial Guinea. In 1980, she was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African

Affairs. Her Rosenwald Fellowship enabled her to attend the University of Wisconsin where, in 1942, she received her doctorate in labor economics and law. In 1953, she worked as Thurgood Marshall's Deputy Director for Non-Legal Research on the 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**William Grant Still**

(1895-1978)

**Fellowships:** Music - Composition • 1939, 1940

William Grant Still was a composer of nearly 200 works, including five symphonies, four ballets, nine operas, over 30 choral works, plus art songs, chamber music, and works for solo instruments. Still was the

first African American composer to have an opera produced by the New York City Opera, the first to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, the first to have a symphony performed by a leading orchestra, the first to have an opera performed by a major opera company, and the first to have an opera performed on national television.

**Charles Henry Thompson**

(1895-1980)

**Fellowship:** Education • 1942

Charles Henry Thompson was an educational psychologist and the first African-American to earn a doctorate in educational psychology. He became the Dean of Howard University's graduate

school and was the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Negro Education*. He was part of the team of researchers who helped prepare the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**William Johnson Trent, Jr.**

(1910-1993)

**Fellowship:** Economics • 1940

William J. Trent, Jr. was an economist and civil rights activist. He was part of President Roosevelt's Black Cabinet as Adviser on Negro Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior and later as race relations

officer in the Federal Works Agency. From 1944 to 1964, he served as the executive director of the United Negro College Fund, where he helped raise \$78 million for private historically black colleges and universities.

**Samuel Z. Westerfield, Jr.**

(1919-1972)

**Fellowship:** Economics • 1941

Samuel Z. Westerfield, Jr. was an economist and foreign services officer. After obtaining his PhD in economics from Harvard University in 1950, he served as dean of the school of business administration

at Clark Atlanta University and a visiting professor at the Harvard Business School. He later transitioned to government service rising to the role of deputy director of the US Treasury Department. He was considered an authority on the economic plight of Africa, and in 1969, was appointed to serve as the American ambassador to Liberia.



**Charles Wilbert White**

(1918-1979)

**Fellowships:** Art - Painting • 1942, 1943

Charles White was a painter, printmaker, and teacher known for chronicling African American related subjects in paintings, drawings, lithographs, and murals. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.



**J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.**

(1923-2011)

**Fellowship:** Mathematics • 1942

J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., was a nuclear scientist, mechanical engineer, and mathematician. He was a child prodigy, entering the University of Chicago at age 13 and receiving his PhD at age 19. He contributed to research on atomic bomb at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratories, and helped design and develop nuclear reactors for electrical power. He wrote numerous scientific papers, served in several key posts, earned significant awards, and helped recruit minority students into the sciences.



**Hale Woodruff**

(1900-1980)

**Fellowships:** Art - Painting • 1943, 1944

Hale Woodruff was an artist known for his murals, paintings, and prints. His most acclaimed murals were commissioned by Talladega College in Alabama for the lobby of its Savery Library. The murals consisted of three panels commemorating a revolt by Mende slaves aboard the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad*. In 1942, Woodruff initiated the Atlanta University Art Annuals, providing a key venue for black artists to exhibit their works.



**C. Vann Woodward**

(1908-1999)

**Year Fellowship Awarded:** 1940

C. Vann Woodward was a historian whose work focused primarily on the American South and race relations. He was part of the team of researchers who helped prepare the second brief for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. He was the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Pulitzer Prize for History.