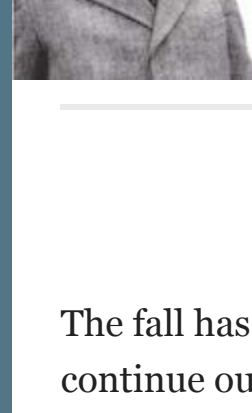


# Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



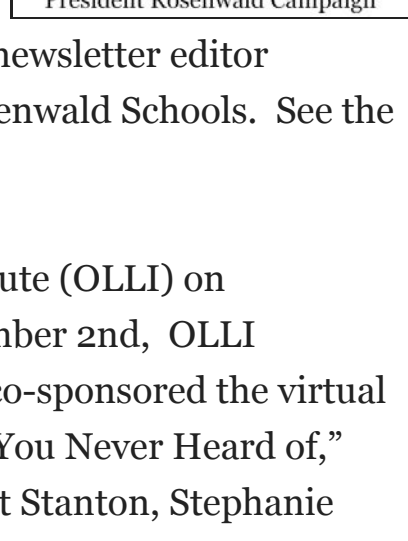
"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."  
JULIUS ROSENWALD



## President's Message

The fall has been busier than ever for Team Rosenwald as we continue our ever increasing activities to create a National Park honoring the legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

Two recent programs that the we co-sponsored at Rosenwald Schools – one in Maryland, the other in South Carolina -- were very successful, generating more support for the schools and activities to increase their impact. Campaign Board member and newsletter editor Stephanie Deutsch participated in two other events honoring Rosenwald Schools. See the articles below for more details.



Dorothy Canter, President Rosenwald Campaign

We continue coordinate with the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on programming highlighting Rosenwald and the Schools. On November 2nd, OLLI Berkshire Community College and OLLI University of Richmond co-sponsored the virtual webinar, "Julius Rosenwald: The Most Important Philanthropist You Never Heard of," which featured presentations by Campaign Board members Robert Stanton, Stephanie Deutsch and myself followed by a lively conversation moderated by Alan Spears, Director of Cultural Resources for the National Parks Conservation Association. Over 360 persons attended, a new record, and we received meaningful feedback. If you would like to watch this webinar, click [here](#).

More virtual and in-person programs are scheduled for 2023. Stay tuned for viewing information.

The Campaign is heartened by the increasing number of Rosenwald Schools undergoing restoration or working toward that endpoint. We are in contact with support groups for a number of the schools working to preserve their legacy.

We will soon be creating our first-ever video on the Campaign featuring interviews with graduates of Rosenwald Schools and Campaign Board members. When completed, it will be posted on our website, shared with multiple organizations, and used at future events.

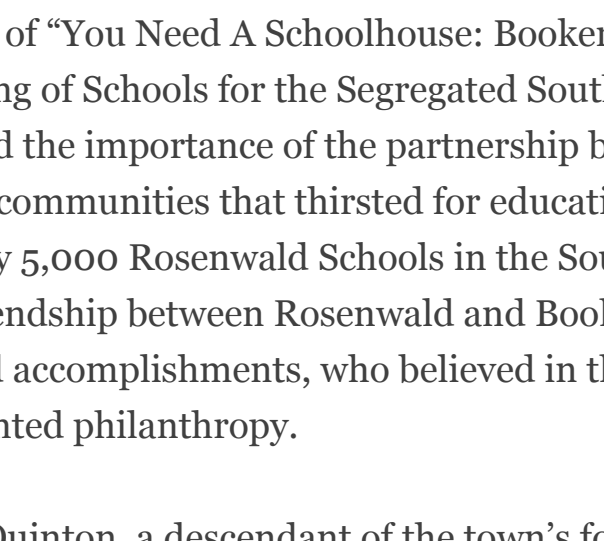
The Campaign is closing in on its 2022 goal of 175 nonprofit supporters of our mission. Currently, 173 organizations across the nation have officially endorsed creating the National Park. Click [here](#) to view them. If you know additional organizations that could be supportive, please write to me at [dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org](mailto:dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org).

We have surpassed our 2022 goal of having 1,000 subscribers to our newsletter. Many thanks to all our new and continuing subscribers. We will work to increase that number significantly in 2023 to continue to expand support for the Park.

The momentum of the Campaign continues to build. We are grateful for your commitment to our mission and hope on #Giving Tuesday on November 29th you will consider making a gift to help advance the impact of our work. The Campaign is working toward a **\$10,000 challenge match. With your help we know that we will create a National Historical Park that will inform and inspire generations to come about the game changing partnerships of Julius Rosenwald with both Booker T. Washington and the nearly 5,000 African American communities in the South that thirsted for education for the children and were able to achieve it.**

## San Domingo School: Preserving an Important Heritage

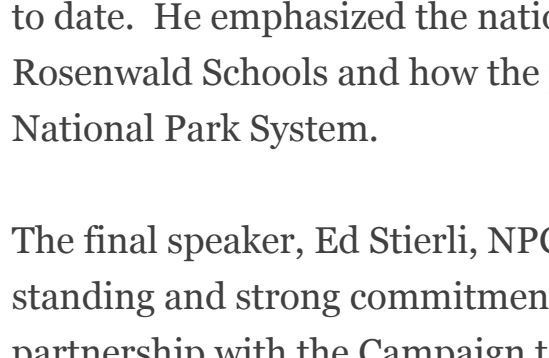
On September 30, 2022, the John Quinton Foundation, Inc., National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and Rosenwald Park Campaign jointly sponsored a half-day program at the San Domingo School to commemorate the 160th anniversary of Julius Rosenwald's birth and the 110th anniversary of the start of the Rosenwald Schools Building Program. Built in 1919 on land donated by John Quinton, the three-teacher Rosenwald School is in the historically free African-American town of San Domingo on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.



San Domingo School, Courtesy Don Stevenson

Thirty people representing a number of organizations and the Quinton family attended the event which included lunch, presentations and a tour of the school led by Newell Quinton. Stephanie Deutsch, author of "You Need A Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and The Building of Schools for the Segregated South" and key board member of the Campaign, recounted the importance of the partnership between Julius Rosenwald and the African-American communities that thirsted for education for their children that led to the building of nearly 5,000 Rosenwald Schools in the South. She also emphasized the very strong bond of friendship between Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, men of disparate backgrounds and accomplishments, who believed in the vital importance of education and results-oriented philanthropy.

The next speaker, Newell Quinton, a descendant of the town's founder James Brown, summarized the history of the San Domingo School from its earliest days, when it was called the Sharpton Colored School, to the present as a museum and community center. He



Unrestored San Domingo School, Courtesy Tom Horton

spoke of the importance that his parents placed on education and their insistence that he and his seven siblings get the education that had not been available to them. All eight children went on to higher education and had distinguished careers. Following his retirement from the federal government in 2002, Quinton moved back to San Domingo and undertook the restoration of the school. It was only then that he learned that it was a

Rosenwald School. The restored school was dedicated in 2014 at an event attended by Stephanie Deutsch. Quinton concluded by emphasizing the need to pass on the heritage of the 200-year-old community and the role of the San Domingo School.

Howard Morse, treasurer of the Campaign, next spoke about its mission to create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park and its accomplishments to date. He emphasized the national historic significance of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools and how the planned Park will fill a number of important gaps in the National Park System.

The final speaker, Ed Stierli, NPCA mid-Atlantic Region Director, recounted the long-standing and strong commitment of NPCA to establishing the Park and its ongoing partnership with the Campaign to commemorate and preserve this important part of twentieth century American history.

David Deutsch, a great grandson of Julius Rosenwald and Stephanie's husband, joined Newell Quinton, great grandson of John Quinton, and Dorothy Canter, who gave Quinton a copy of Andrew Feiler's photography book on Rosenwald Schools. It was a fitting end to an inspiring program.



Dorothy Canter, David Deutsch, and Newell Quinton, Courtesy Lynne Richmond

If you are interested in learning more about the town of San Domingo, the Quinton family and the school click on this [link](#) to the documentary *Saving San Domingo*.

## Did You Know?

### That 14 Rosenwald Fellows have received the NAACP Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American?

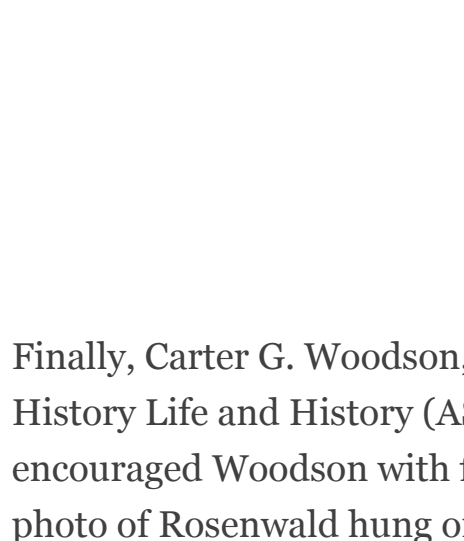
This award was established in 1914 and named for its donor, Joel Elias Spingarn. A Jewish American scholar, author, publisher and activist committed to racial justice, Spingarn joined the NAACP shortly after its founding in 1908, serving as Board Chair, then treasurer and finally as president from 1930 until his death in 1939. His was a widely respected voice for racial fairness.



Joel Spingarn, Wikipedia

The 2022 recipient of the Spingarn Medal was Congressman James Clyburn of South Carolina, the House Majority Whip. The first recipient, in 1915, was Ernest Just, Ph.D., head of the department of zoology at Howard University Medical School in Washington, DC, who received the award for research in biology. Twelve years later, in 1927, Julius Rosenwald gave Just a grant of \$25,000 to support his research in marine biology. The following year the Rosenwald Fund launched its program of fellowships to promising individuals, often at the start of their careers, to enable them to pursue further education or to support their ongoing work. Between 1928 and 1948 some 900 individuals benefited from these fellowships, two thirds of them African American.

The first Rosenwald Fellow to receive the Spingarn Medal, in 1920, was W. E. B. DuBois, one of the founders of the NAACP. DuBois went on to receive three Rosenwald fellowships



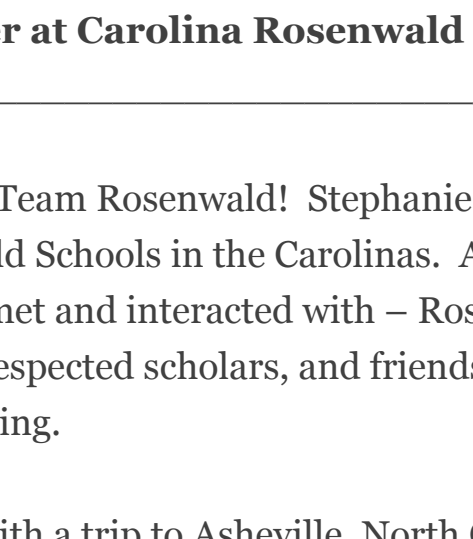
W. E. B. DuBois, Britannica

for creative writing in the late 1920s, one of which he used to write the classic study, *Black Reconstruction in America*, in which he thanked the Trustees of the Rosenwald Fund. DuBois dedicated his 1940 autobiography, *Dusk of Dawn*, to Spingarn's memory, calling him "scholar and knight."

James Weldon Johnson, who as a young man had written the words that became known as the African American national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," received three fund fellowships for creative writing and was a writer and prominent civil rights activist. He received the Spingarn Medal in 1925.

Other renowned Fellows who received the award were singer Marian Anderson, medical doctor and blood researcher Charles Drew, artist Jacob Lawrence, diplomat Ralph Bunche and photographer Gordon Parks. Four recipients of the Spingarn Medal worked under the direction of Thurgood Marshall on the second brief of the *Brown v. Board of Education* case in which the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 1954 that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. They were lawyer Robert L. Carter, sociologist Kenneth Clark, and historians John Hope Franklin and Rayford Logan.

Two people who attended Rosenwald Schools also received the Spingarn Medal. They were poet Maya Angelou in 1994, and Congressman John Lewis in 2002.



Spingarn Medal

Finally, Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American History Life and History (ASALH), received the medal in 1926. Julius Rosenwald encouraged Woodson with financial donations to ASALH for a number of years. A framed photo of Woodson hung on the wall of Woodson's office. As the creator of Negro History Week -- which we now observe as Black History Month -- Woodson made a contribution to our country from which we are still benefiting.

### Both Spingarn and Rosenwald used their wealth to encourage and highlight the achievements of African Americans individuals, helping to ensure that their important work for our country would get the recognition that it deserved.

## October at Carolina Rosenwald Schools

October was a busy month for Team Rosenwald! Stephanie Deutsch and Dorothy Canter made several trips to Rosenwald Schools in the Carolinas. As always, for each of them, the highlight was the people they met and interacted with -- Rosenwald alumni, conservation activists, small town mayors, respected scholars, and friends both old and new. It was all deeply satisfying and encouraging.

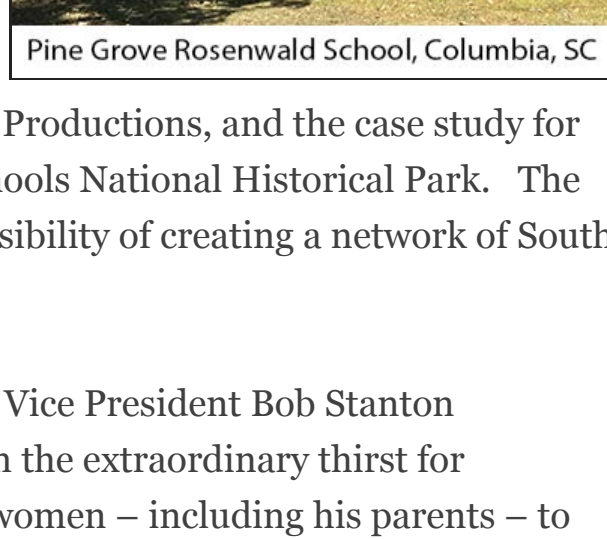
Stephanie started the month with a trip to Asheville, North Carolina, where she had been invited by the Rosenwald Collaborative, for events celebrating the legacies of both Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, each of whom were represented by family - Stephanie, as the wife of a Rosenwald great-grandson, and Kenneth Morris, a great-grandson of Booker T. Washington (and, remarkably, also a direct descendant of Frederick Douglass). In a panel session at Mars Hill University moderated by professor Jonathan McCoy, Stephanie and Ken discussed the sense of mission felt by both Rosenwald and Washington, their exceptional partnership and how their accomplishments impacted the country and continued to reverberate in their own lives.

Earlier Stephanie and Ken had toured the beautifully restored Mars Hill Anderson School and were each given a small piece of the school's original beadboard paneling. Stephanie was particularly pleased to get this (and she has added it to the "Rosenwald corner" in her kitchen). The school, which served students in the community between 1928 and 1965, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a small museum and community center used for educational programs.

The following weekend found Stephanie in the town of Fort Mill, South Carolina, for events sponsored jointly by Fort Mill's school system and History Museum celebrating the dedication of a highway marker at the site of the former George Fish School, a Rosenwald school named for a local white mill manager who had supported its construction in 1925 and 26. In 1968 the school was integrated, and its name changed to Fort Mill Jr. High. In 1986 the building was demolished and its records discarded without consulting the local African American population. The school is remembered with great fondness by alumni many of whom attended the celebration wearing the school's colors -- blue and gold.

Speaking at the dedication, Constance Dunlap, who attended the school through 3rd grade, and was a member of the event's planning committee, said the story of the George Fish school is layered. "Like all US history," she said, "it's complex. It has pain, disparity, erasure and tragedy. It has pleasure in learning, resilience and unity of purpose, collaboration and triumph."

Mid-October found Stephanie and Dorothy in South Carolina. In Columbia they attended a one-day workshop on the South Carolina Rosenwald Schools sponsored by the Conservation Voters of the South Carolina, the Rosenwald Park Campaign, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, the WeGOJA Foundation, and the Richland County Recreation Commission. About 60 people attended the event held at a community center next door to the beautifully restored Pine Grove Rosenwald School. It featured stimulating presentations by scholars Dr. Val Littlefield of the University of South Carolina and Dr. Larry Watson of South Carolina State, a report on the restoration of the six-teacher St. George Rosenwald School near Charleston, the rough cut of a film on South Carolina Rosenwald Schools by filmmakers Tom Lassiter and Jere Snyder of Longleaf Productions, and the case study for the creation of the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. The workshop concluded with a brief discussion of the possibility of creating a network of South Carolina Rosenwald Schools.



Pine Grove Rosenwald School, Columbia, SC

Former National Park Service Director and Campaign Vice President Bob Stanton presented via Zoom and was -- as always -- eloquent on the extraordinary thirst for education that motivated African American men and women -- including his parents -- to advocate for better schools for their children in the years that led up to the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

The next day Dorothy and Stephanie toured the St. George School near Charleston with, among others, St. George mayor Kevin Hart, former mayor Anne Johnston, restoration committee chairman Ralph James, and State Senator Vernon Stephens who attended the school. Retired State Senator John Matthews, who identified much of the funding for restoring the school, also participated.



St. George Rosenwald School, St. George, SC

Plans for the restored building include after-school and cultural programs, all with the goal of, as former mayor Johnston emphasized, "doing away with any sense of hopelessness." The restored school will, she said, be "a bridge to the future," offering students and neighbors the same sense of welcome and possibility, the same opportunity for learning provided by so many Rosenwald schools to so many families and children in so many places across the South.

### The powerful legacy of the Rosenwald Schools is well worth preserving in a National Historical Park!

DONATE

We need your support to create the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

For questions and suggestions, please write to [info@rosenwaldpark.org](mailto:info@rosenwaldpark.org).