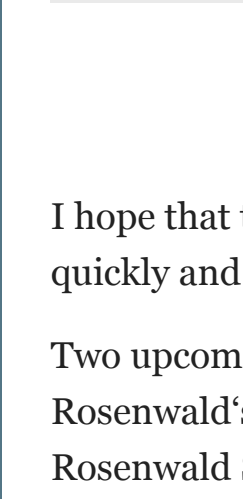
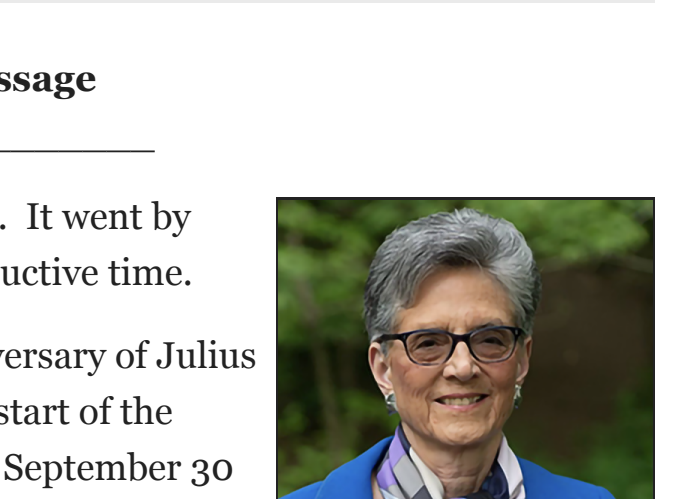


Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park

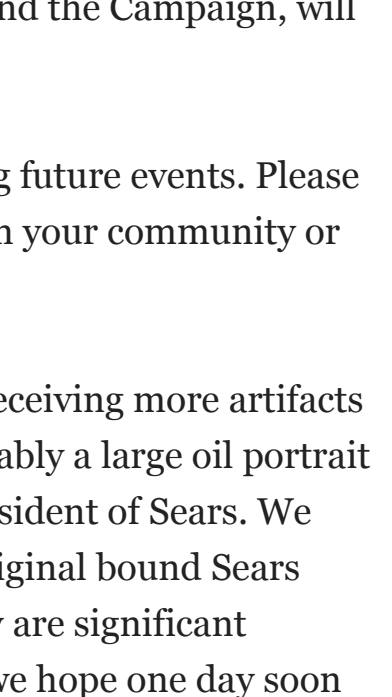


"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."
JULIUS ROSENWALD



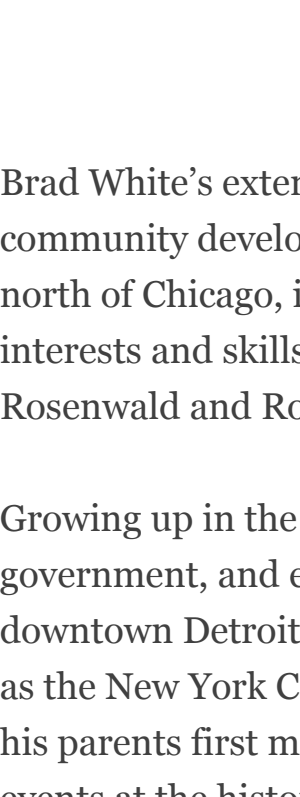
President's Message

I hope that the summer was enjoyable and fulfilling. It went by quickly and was, for the Campaign, a busy and productive time.



Two upcoming events will celebrate the 160th anniversary of Julius Rosenwald's birth and the 110th anniversary of the start of the Rosenwald Schools building program. The first, on September 30 at the San Domingo School on the Eastern shore of Maryland, will feature a panel of speakers and a tour of the school, which dates from the Tuskegee phase of the building program. It will be sponsored jointly by the John Quinton Foundation, Inc., the National Parks Conservation Association and the Campaign. The second, a one-day conference on October 19 on the Rosenwald Schools of South Carolina, sponsored by the Conservation Voters of South Carolina and the Campaign, will take place at the Pine Grove Rosenwald School in Columbia, SC.

We welcome other organizations to join the Campaign in sponsoring future events. Please let us know if you would like our assistance in planning a program in your community or celebrating your school.



We recently learned that the Campaign will be receiving more artifacts from the former Sears, Roebuck & Co., most notably a large oil portrait of Julius Rosenwald and the desk he used as president of Sears. We have already received his strong box and four original bound Sears catalogs for the years 1911 and 1920 - 1922. They are significant additions to our collection of memorabilia that we hope one day soon will be donated to the planned National Park. Our next newsletter will contain an article on this growing collection.

The Campaign recently issued its **2021 Annual Report**, which can be viewed [here](#). It was a year of significant progress and increasing momentum.

The number of organizations that have submitted letters of support for creating the National Park is 163, up from 109 at the end of 2021. We are well on the way to achieving our goal of 175 organizations by the end of 2022. Please send recommendations of additional organizations to me at dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org.

The Campaign is grateful to all the volunteers, donors and supporters across the nation who are a part of Team Rosenwald! Together we will create a new National Park to honor Julius Rosenwald and the many communities where his challenge grants were met by enthusiasm and generosity. This is a story worth telling!

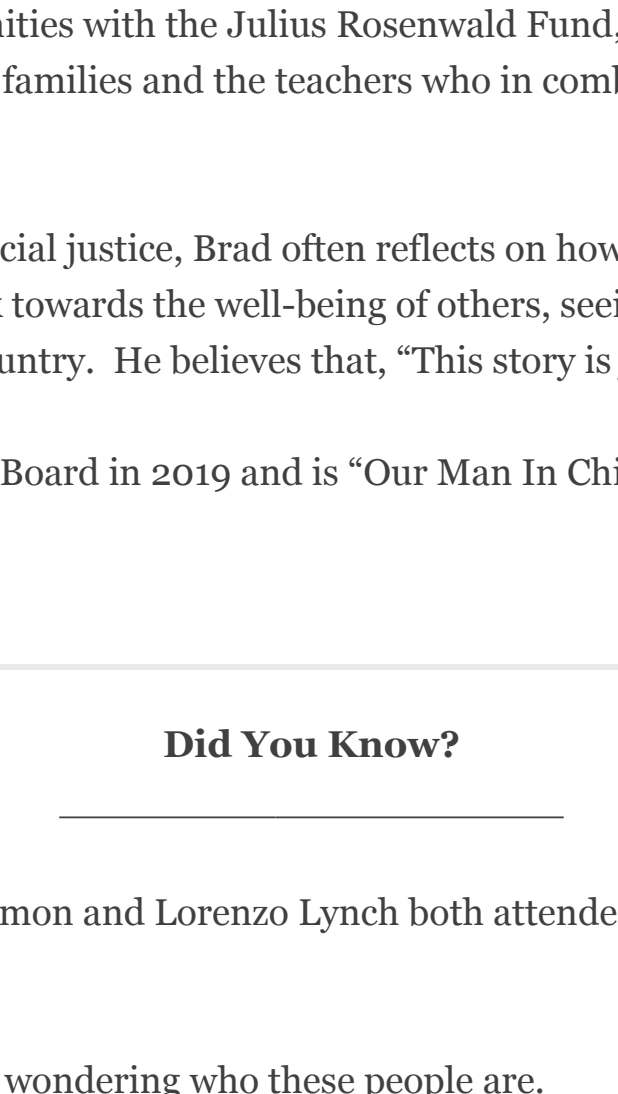
Profile of Board Member Brad White

Brad White's extensive resume makes clear his commitment to historic preservation, to community development, to affordable housing and to philanthropy. And he lives just north of Chicago, in Evanston. In other words, he has exactly the right combination of interests and skills to be an effective board member of the Campaign to Create the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. He's a natural!

Growing up in the suburbs of Detroit, Brad was always interested in history and in government, and early on he also discovered a love of cities. He enjoyed venturing into downtown Detroit with his family and seeing the old Michigan Central Depot (then known as the New York Central Depot), where his father and grandfather had worked and where his parents first met. On Memorial Days his family would accompany his grandfather to events at the historic VFW Hall on the city's east side; he fondly remembers the big fountain at Belle Isle, the country's largest urban park.

Brad attended the University of Michigan and appreciated the historic feel of Ann Arbor. He was on campus as an economics major when a fire destroyed the university's oldest building, which housed the economics department. Law school took him to DePaul University in Chicago, and he became totally hooked on the city. He remembers the historic Rookery building on LaSalle Street turning from soot-covered black to deep reddish as it underwent restoration. He felt that every block had an architectural or historic site of interest to him.

Real estate consulting focusing on affordable housing and in historic preservation became his specialty. As Associate Director of the Alphawood Foundation, a Chicago-based foundation working for "an equitable, just and humane society," Brad played a key role in its grantmaking activities from 2012 to 2021. Among his projects were the restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple in suburban Oak Park and working to provide capacity and support to the South Side Community Art Center, where Rosenwald Fund Fellows such as Gordon Parks and Charles White worked early in their careers. His current position is as Senior Program Director specializing in the Built Environment for the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.



President Barack Obama named Brad to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 2011. He served until 2020, leading the task force on Historic Preservation and Rightsizing and contributing significantly to the Council's policy statement on community revitalization.

Given these interests, living in Chicago and being Jewish, Brad inevitably became an admirer of Julius Rosenwald. The Michigan Boulevard Garden apartments, Rosenwald's bold experiment in providing desirable affordable housing for middle class African Americans during segregation, was a project of particular interest. Saved from planned demolition, the building was recently rehabilitated and reopened as Rosenwald Courts Apartments in 2017. The rehabilitation has won numerous awards, including an award from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Thinking about the way architecture and philanthropy have intersected in his work, Brad reflects that "buildings are people." They have stories to tell and wisdom to share. This is true of the Rosenwald Schools, all resulting from the partnerships of the nearly 5,000 African American communities with the Julius Rosenwald Fund, but each having its own story of the students, their families and the teachers who in combination helped change this nation.

As a strong advocate for social justice, Brad often reflects on how Julius Rosenwald put his impressive fortune to work towards the well-being of others, seeing that as a way to contribute to a stronger country. He believes that, "This story is just remarkable,"

Brad joined the Campaign Board in 2019 and is "Our Man In Chicago!"

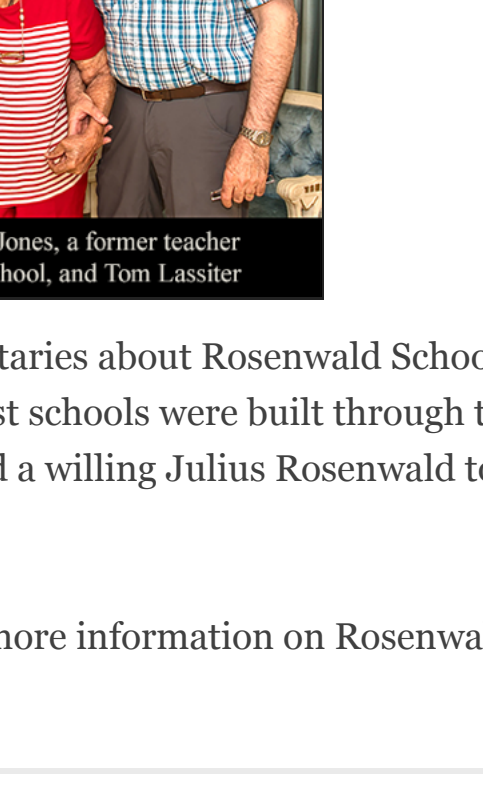
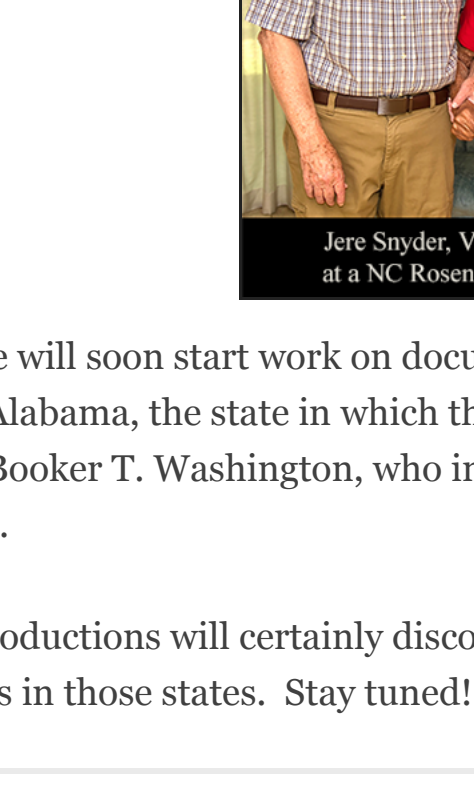
By Stephanie Deutsch

Did You Know?

That Eunice Kathleen Waymon and Lorenzo Lynch both attended Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina?

Right now you're probably wondering who these people are.

Eunice, who was the valedictorian of her class, was much better known as Nina Simone, the American songwriter, singer, pianist and civil rights activist. She originally aspired to be a concert pianist.



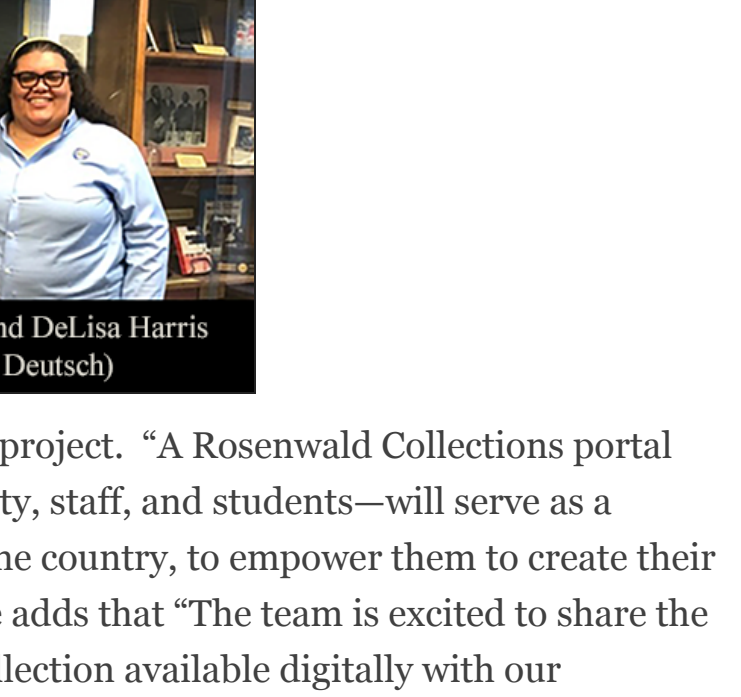
Reverend Lorenzo Lynch is a Baptist minister in North Carolina and the father of Loretta Lynch, a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School and the second Attorney General appointed under President Barack Obama. Reverend Lynch attended the swearing in ceremony.



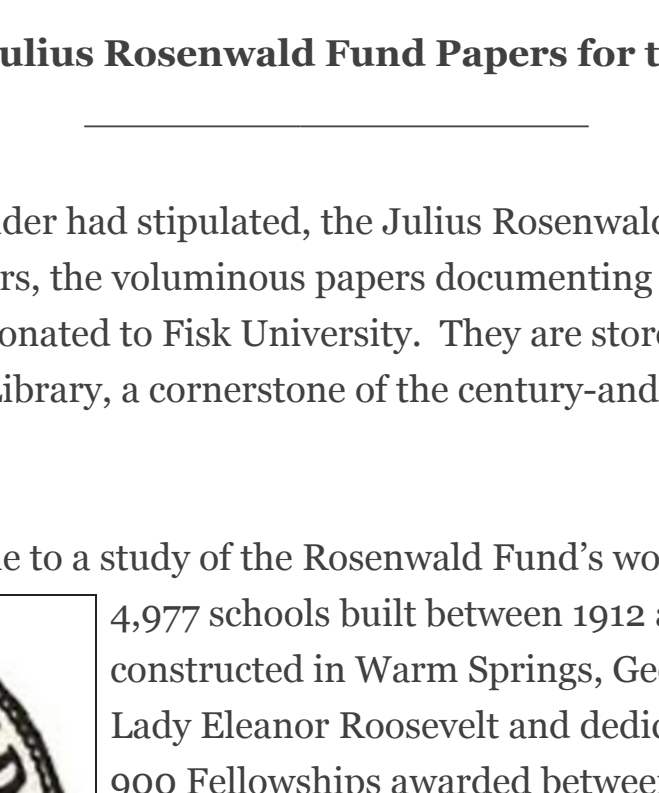
So how did the Campaign find out about these two Rosenwald School graduates? By watching the excellent 30-minute documentary titled "The Rosenwald Schools of North Carolina" by filmmakers Tom Lassiter and Jere Snyder and their nonprofit Longleaf Productions. You can see this recently completed documentary [here](#). The film has been accepted for this year's Tryon International Film Festival. Snyder stated that Longleaf plans to organize local events using the film "to start a dialogue with communities on the partnerships that enabled the schools to be built, their historical impact and the critical importance of education then and now."

Tom and Jere first learned about the Rosenwald Schools in 2012 when making a film about an economic development project in rural North Carolina. The project involved rehabilitating an old schoolhouse for use as a "river center" near the Roanoke River. They learned that it had once been the Hamilton Colored School, a two-teacher Rosenwald School. It was their first encounter with a Rosenwald School and the term itself. As the project director explained that thousands of Rosenwald Schools had been built across the South, they quickly grasped that this amazing story was largely unknown to the general public. Internet research confirmed that while there were many citations about individual schools, as well as some scholarly books, no documentary at that time told the story for a general audience.

Nearly 5,000 African American communities across the South helped build the schools in partnership with the Julius Rosenwald Fund and local governments. North Carolina, they learned, was the state where the program had the largest footprint -- 787 Schools plus 26 related facilities.



They soon realized that they had a calling to tell this story for the public television audience. The pair formed non-profit Longleaf Productions specifically to pursue this documentary project, which so far has led to two films. A documentary about South Carolina's Rosenwald School experience is expected to be released before year's end. "This story has legs," says Tom Lassiter. "It continues to be revealed even in distant corners of the nation, where descendants have gone and achieved significant success."



He and Jere will soon start work on documentaries about Rosenwald Schools in Virginia, Texas and Alabama, the state in which the first schools were built through the vision and passion of Booker T. Washington, who invited a willing Julius Rosenwald to partner with him in 1912.

Longleaf Productions will certainly discover more information on Rosenwald alumni and descendants in those states. Stay tuned!

Digitizing the Julius Rosenwald Fund Papers for the 21st Century

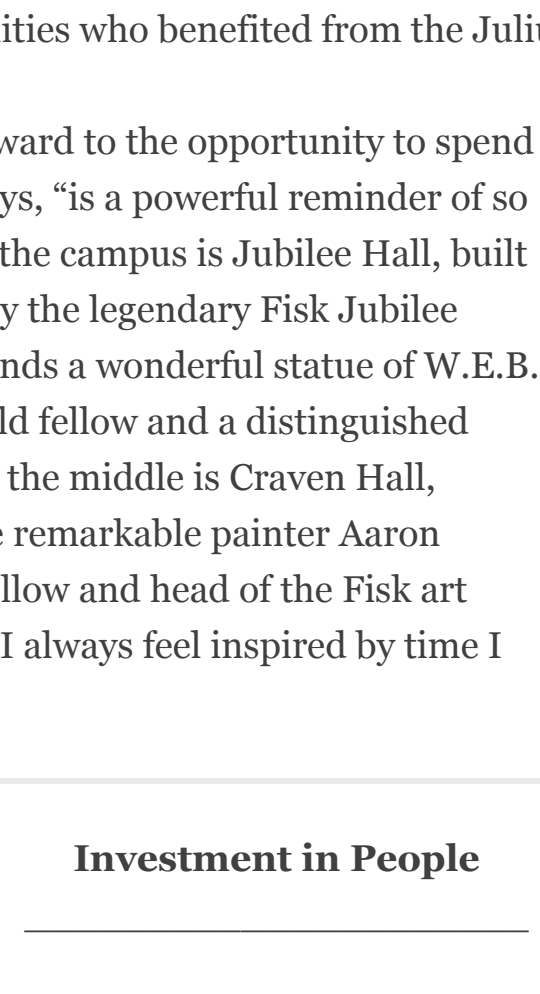
When in 1948, as its founder had stipulated, the Julius Rosenwald Fund spent its last money and closed its doors, the voluminous papers documenting its more than 30 years of charitable activity were donated to Fisk University. They are stored there in the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, a cornerstone of the century-and-a-half old campus in Nashville, Tennessee.

The records are invaluable to a study of the Rosenwald Fund's work. They document the 4,977 schools built between 1912 and 1932 (plus a last one constructed in Warm Springs, Georgia, and dedicated in 1937), the over 900 Fellowships awarded between 1928 and 1948, the library program and bus services to help African American children to and from school, the health and medical service program and the workings of the Board of Trustees that managed all this. There are photographs, financial records, and a fragile file of the index cards used to keep track of the Rosenwald Schools as they were being built.

This summer the Mellon Foundation made an award of \$1.6 million to the Library at Fisk for the creation of a new digital platform for this large and important collection. Upon its completion this four-year project will provide unprecedented public access to these materials at a time when interest in Rosenwald and his philanthropy is rapidly increasing. The school files especially are useful as individuals and groups look into the history of schools that have been shuttered and, in many cases, neglected and ignored for years.

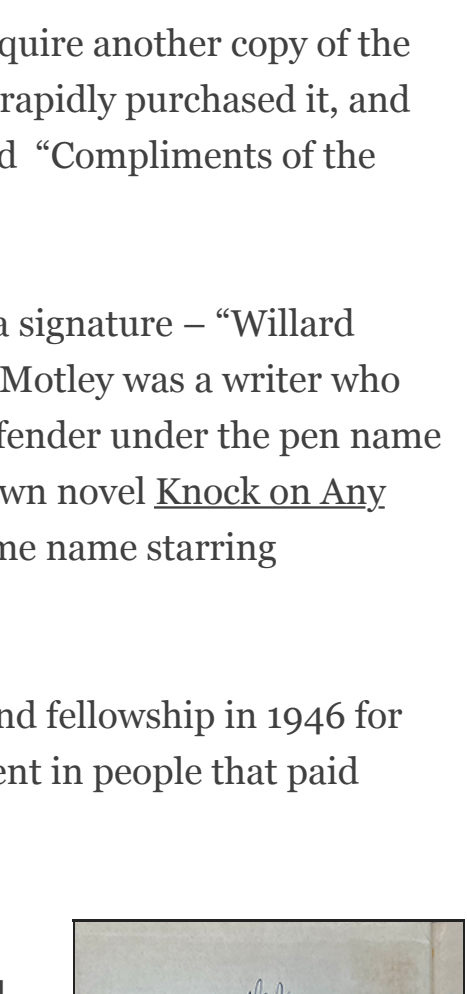
DeLisa Minor Harris, Assistant Director of Library Services at Fisk, is Principal Investigator for the grant. Assisting her as Project Manager will be Dannie Wynans. An eight member Advisory Committee of distinguished scholars will provide their insights and guidance. The Campaign is proud that Board member and editor of the Campaign newsletter, Stephanie Deutsch, has been invited to become a member of the Advisory Committee, an honor she is happy to accept. Stephanie is the author of [You Need a Schoolhouse](#), [Booker T. Washington](#), [Julius Rosenwald](#) and [The Building of Schools for the Segregated South](#). She has visited Fisk often to do research there.

Ms. Harris is particularly pleased to be leading this important project. She grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, but traveled every summer "back Home" to Alabama where her grandparents and other family lived. Passing through Nashville she became aware of Fisk and when the time came to think about college, Fisk is the one she chose. It was only later that she learned that there was a Rosenwald School near her family home in Alabama and that an aunt remembers attending first grade there.



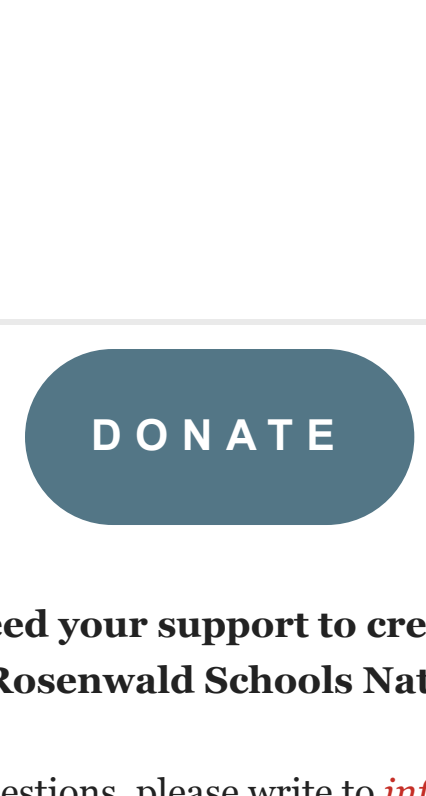
Both DeLisa and Dannie are excited about the project. "A Rosenwald Collections portal site—built and created by Fisk University faculty, staff, and students—will serve as a powerful roadmap for HBCU libraries across the country, to empower them to create their own digital collections sites," she says. Dannie adds that "The team is excited to share the hard work we have been doing to make this collection available digitally with our community and the communities who benefited from the Julius Rosenwald Fund."

And Stephanie is looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time at Fisk. "Just being on the campus," she says, "is a powerful reminder of so much history. At one end of the campus is Jubilee Hall, built in 1876 with money earned by the legendary Fisk Jubilee Singers. At the other end stands a wonderful statue of W.E.B. DuBois, three-time Rosenwald fellow and a distinguished writer and professor. And in the middle is Craven Hall, decorated with murals by the remarkable painter Aaron Douglas, also a Rosenwald fellow and head of the Fisk art department for many years. I always feel inspired by time I spend at Fisk."

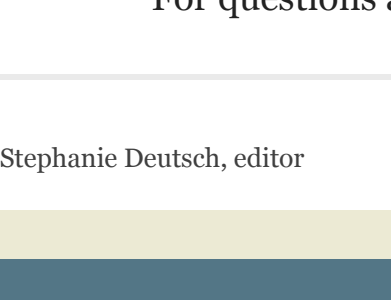


Investment in People

The book "Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund," is an account of the work of the Fund by its president Edwin Embree and his research assistant Julia Waxman. The Campaign acquired a used copy of the book from Amazon several years ago that, interestingly, had been deaccessioned from the Georgetown College Library.



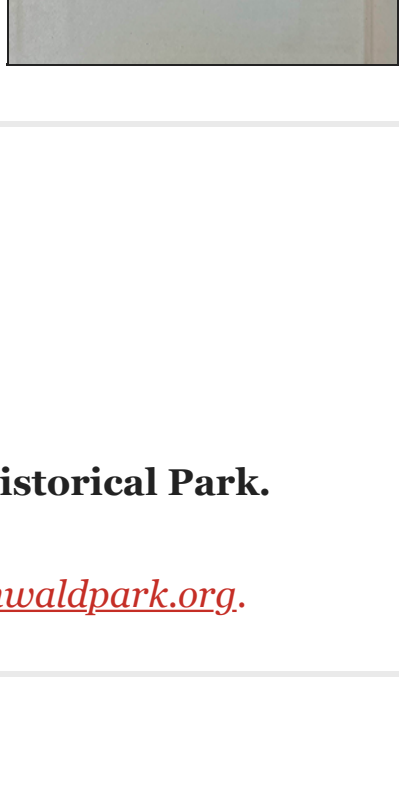
Because of its importance, the Campaign recently decided to acquire another copy of the book. A copy with the original cover was available on eBay. We rapidly purchased it, and when it arrived, discovered that there was a card inside that said "Compliments of the Julius Rosenwald Fund."



And on the inside front cover there is a signature -- "Willard Motley." Quick research revealed that Motley was a writer who published a column in the Chicago Defender under the pen name of Bud Billiken. His first and best known novel [Knock on Any Door](#) was made into a movie of the same name starring Humphrey Bogart.

AND Motley received a Rosenwald Fund fellowship in 1946 for creative writing. Yet another investment in people that paid dividends!

The book is an example of how routine activities can lead to unexpected but positive outcomes -- serendipity at work! It will **not** be used for reference source; we have added it to the Campaign's collection of archival items to be donated to the visitor center of the eventual Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools 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.

Stephanie Deutsch, editor