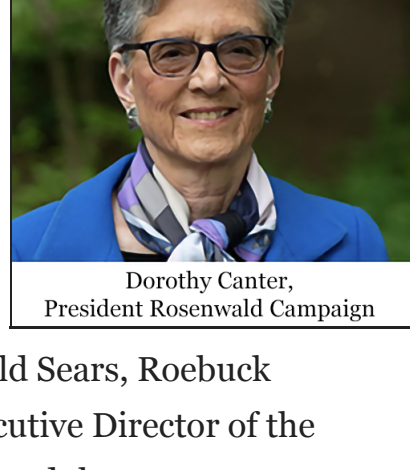


President's Message

The first three months of 2024 have been a busy and exciting time. In March Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois wrote a letter to the President asking him to designate the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Monument. In the very near future, we will initiate a letter writing campaign to the President from individuals and nonprofit organizations. Stay tuned! We will appreciate your writing a letter to the President.



On March 26 I visited our new office in the Nichols Tower, part of the old Sears, Roebuck merchandising campus on Chicago's west side, with Kevin Sutton, Executive Director of the Foundation for Homan Square, the Tower's owner. We have commissioned three art posters to hang in the office, and the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry has offered to donate several framed photos of correspondence between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington in its collection for display in the office. We expect to hold meetings in the office with community representatives and other interested parties.

The Campaign is grateful to Michael Shulman for his article on Marian Anderson for this newsletter. April 9 is the 85th anniversary of her memorable performance at the Lincoln Memorial after the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to allow her to sing in Constitution Hall because of her race. Michael has offered to write more articles for the Campaign and is exploring a possible book on notable Rosenwald Fund fellows. Michael's article was the stimulus for the Campaign to acquire a first edition of Anderson's autobiography *My Lord, What A Morning* for its memorabilia collection. Thank you, Michael!

On March 6, the *Washington Post* published a letter to the editor by Stephanie Deutsch occasioned by an Op-Ed by columnist Theodore R. Johnson on how the differing approaches to education of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois a century ago were both necessary. The timing of the Op-Ed was fortuitous as we were planning to include an article on the two men in this newsletter. Many thanks to Stephanie for her considerable contributions to the Campaign as editor of the newsletter and in other significant capacities.

And many thanks to you, our subscribers and supporters, for what you are doing to help create a new National Park unit to commemorate the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the enormous impact of the Rosenwald Schools.

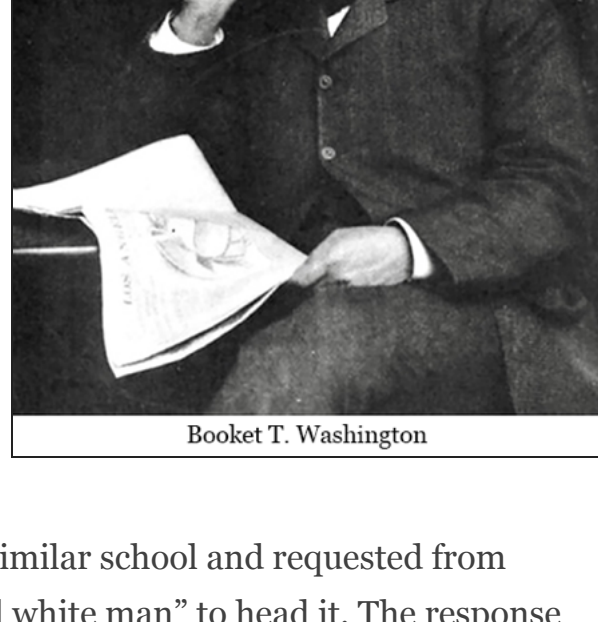
And finally – enjoy the springtime!

Dorothy Canter

Happy 168th Birthday, Booker T. Washington

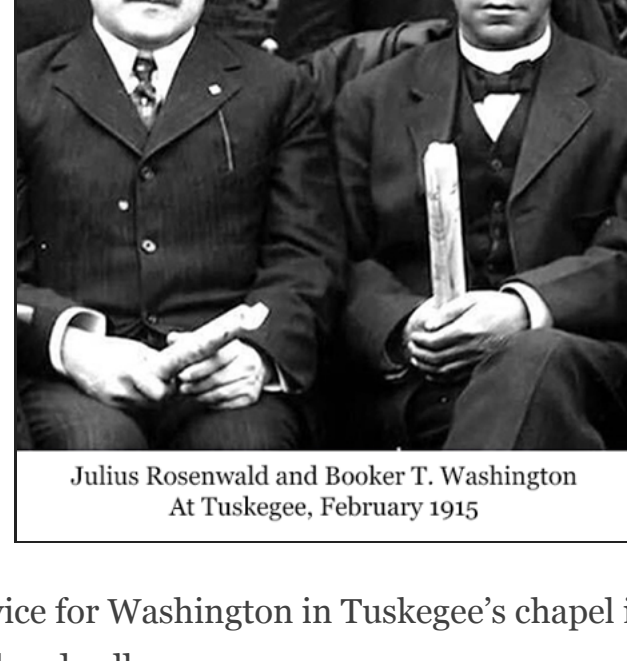
If you look up Booker T. Washington you will see his birthdate listed as April 5, 1856. In fact, though, like many of the enslaved, he did not know the actual date on which he had come into the world. "I was born a slave on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia," he wrote in the opening lines of his autobiography *Up From Slavery*. "I am not quite sure of the exact place or exact date of my birth, but at any rate, I suspect I must have been born somewhere and at some time." His mother remembered that it was in the spring when forsythia was in bloom and Easter was near. He often celebrated his birthday on Palm Sunday.

From those humble beginnings Booker T. Washington grew up to become the most well-known and widely admired Black man of his time. Barely literate when he was emancipated at the age of nine, he longed to become an educated person. By dint of hard work and determination he achieved that goal. In the dark of the West Virginia coal mine where he worked to help his family, he heard two men talking about a school in Virginia that was especially for newly freed people. Washington wrote in *Up From Slavery* that he crept closer to them hoping to hear the name of the school. He did. It was Hampton Institute (now University) in Tidewater Virginia and had been created by the Freedmen's Bureau. Booker managed to get himself there, walking at least part of the way, and in 1875 graduated first in his class.



A few years later, the state of Alabama decided to create a similar school and requested from Hampton's principal a recommendation of a "well qualified white man" to head it. The response was, "I am sending you Booker T. Washington... I know of no white man who could do better." So, in 1881 Washington became the founding principal of Tuskegee Institute in rural Alabama, a school like Hampton created to offer education at all levels to young African American men and women, teaching both the traditional academic subjects and the trades. Due to Washington's skills both as an administrator and as a fundraiser, the school grew rapidly and thrived. The elegant red-brick buildings on its 2,300-acre campus were built by the students.

Washington never wavered from his belief that education was the essential first step for African Americans as they worked towards full citizenship. In 1911 he met Julius Rosenwald, the wealthy president of Sears, Roebuck who had recently come to his attention for his remarkable offer of \$25,000 to any city in America that could raise \$75,000 independently to build a YMCA for African Americans (an offer ultimately taken up by 27 cities). Washington was always looking for wealthy individuals who might contribute to Tuskegee; Rosenwald was eager to learn more about the needs in the African American communities he sought to assist. The two men – both successful pragmatists running enormous organizations – hit it off. The liked and respected each other and, more importantly, they worked successfully together. The program that grew out of their collaboration survived Washington's untimely death in November 1915 and went on to assist some 5,000 southern communities in achieving their goal of building modern, inviting schoolhouses.



Speaking at a memorial service for Washington in Tuskegee's chapel in December 1915, Rosenwald said of his friend and colleague,

"I have tried to think of someone whose life means more to the welfare of this country than his life. I am unable to think of one."

Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington were colleagues in the truest sense – eager to learn from each other, open to the suggestions, insights and goals of the other.

On April 5, 1956, on the centennial of his birth, Booker T. Washington's birthplace in Hale's Ford, Virginia, was designated a National Monument. A silver half dollar was issued in his memory. I have two of them.

Booker T. Washington and I share spring birthdays, and I always think of him with especial admiration and respect this time of year.

By Stephanie Deutsch

Funding Freedom's Voice

On Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, denied an appearance at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitution Hall because of her race, and with the help of then first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, she sang to 75,000 people from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The opening song? "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." On August 28, 1963, on those same steps, she stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and sang to hundreds of thousands "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."



Her name is Marian Anderson, the greatest American contralto of the twentieth century.

Anderson had enjoyed some success in the US, performing mainly in venues allowing a "Negress" to sing when in 1930 two representatives of the Rosenwald Fund, Ray Field and George Arthur, the latter the Associate for Negro Welfare, attended a performance in Chicago. "They wanted to know what plans I had for the future, and I told them I wanted and needed to go to Germany." They urged her to apply for a Rosenwald Fund fellowship. She did, requesting not the typical grant of \$1,500 for one year, but \$750 for two six-month periods to fund study in Germany as she could not be away from income-producing performances in the US for an entire year. The Fund insisted on a grant of \$1,500 for one year. "My trunk was packed...and my ship was to sail in forty-eight hours. I wired to Chicago...and (said) unless I could go for only six months I would be obliged to cancel the trip. "...Within a few hours the Fund would make an exception to its rule..."

The retelling of this story in her autobiography *My Lord, What a Morning* is presented with wonder, not rancor. "As Mother would say, a way had been found, and I made up my mind to go."

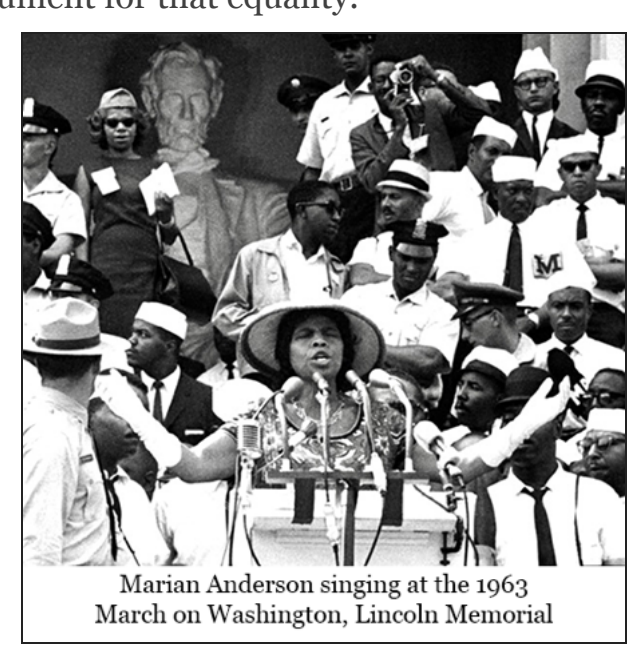
The Rosenwald Fund grant supported study and performances in Germany and Scandinavia that proved pivotal to her career. The American Marian Anderson became a contralto for the entire world. The timing of the Rosenwald grant was serendipitous for less than two years later Hitler took power, shutting off the possibility of future studies in Germany.

The eight years between her receiving the grant and that day at the Lincoln Memorial saw Anderson enjoy tremendous professional success despite the Great Depression and continued racism, Jim Crow limiting her ability to perform in large parts of the country. An exception proved to be the White House, performing there in 1935 and launching a lifelong friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt. The First Lady's acceptance was not universal for two years later, after performing in Princeton, New Jersey, she was refused a hotel room because she was "colored." A fan came to her rescue, invited Anderson to stay at his home. His name? Albert Einstein.



Her appearance at the Lincoln Memorial was a turning point in public acceptance. Anderson sang for the troops during World War Two – prompting the DAR to relent and host a performance at Constitution Hall in 1943. Over the next two decades Anderson was made a delegate to the United Nations and appointed as a good will Ambassador for the State Department. She sang at Eisenhower's inauguration; she sang at Kennedy's inauguration; she was the first ever recipient of the Medal of Freedom – the second recipient being Ralph Bunche, also a beneficiary of a Rosenwald Fund fellowship.

Anderson's two appearances at the Lincoln Memorial, a generation apart, bookend her evolving, powerful impact on the Civil Rights Movement. In 1939, she was living proof that with equal access to resources African Americans could achieve greatness. In 1963, as the nation debated granting full legal equality to African Americans, she stood with the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, her voice an argument for that equality.

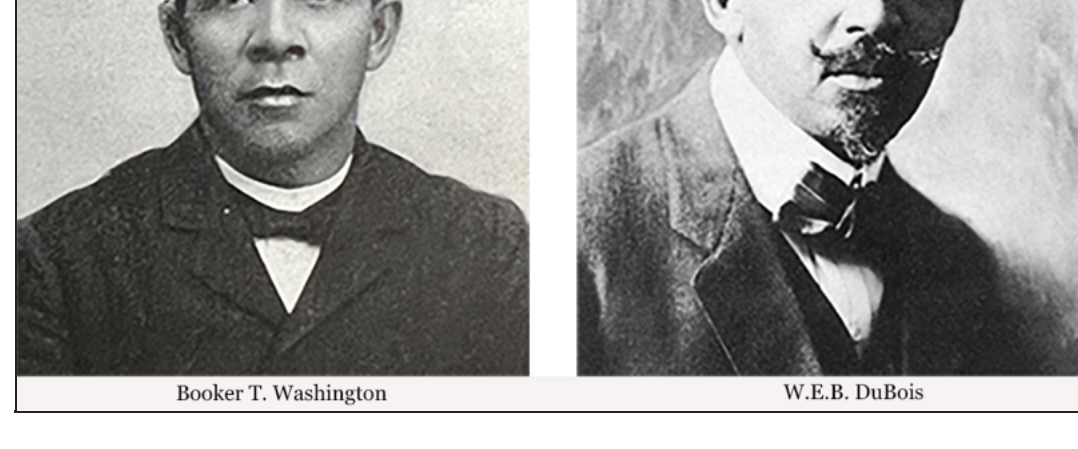


It is impossible to say whether Anderson's success would have been markedly different without Rosenwald Fund support. It is certain without the fellowship, there is no trip to Germany, no polishing of skills or international fame; without this fame, perhaps there is no invitation from the White House or a relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt; and, without the first lady, no performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, no singing for Dr. King, and for the entire world, in 1963.

By Michael Shulman

Did You Know? Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois

Although Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois differed on the type of education needed for African American students at the turn of the twentieth century, on one issue they were very much in agreement. Both enthusiastically supported the Rosenwald School Building Program.



That program began in 1912 after Julius Rosenwald, a new member of the Tuskegee Institute board, donated \$25,000 to the school in honor of his 50th birthday. Shortly thereafter Washington asked him if \$2,800 of the donation could be used to assist six rural communities in Alabama to build schools for the Black children there who had little to no access to education. Rosenwald quickly acquiesced. This donation led to a program which, between 1912 and 1932, assisted communities in 15 southern states to build 5,357 schools, teachers' homes and shop buildings.



DuBois wrote often in the NAACP publication *Crisis* in his support for the School Building Program, which in the 1920s, 30s and 40s educated 1/3 of Black students in the South. Also, Washington, who served as a mentor to Rosenwald on African American issues, recommended that he read DuBois's *Souls of Black Folks*.

When Julius Rosenwald died in January 1932, DuBois wrote the following about him,

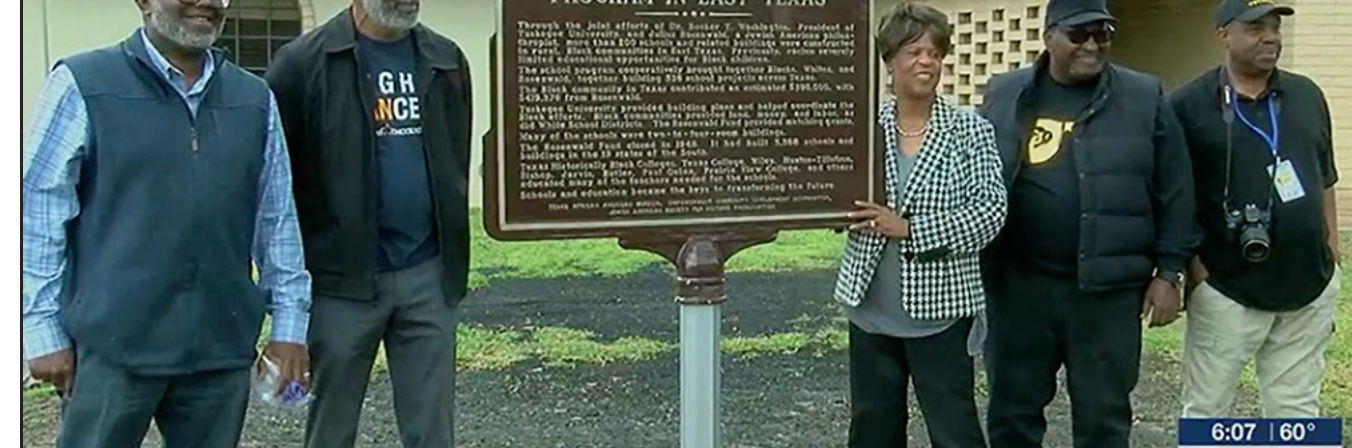
He was a great man. But he was no mere philanthropist. He was, rather, the subtle stingy critic of our racial democracy.

By Stephanie Deutsch

SNAPSHOTS

Another Rosenwald Marker Donated By JASHP

The Texas African American Museum and the Empowerment Community Development Corporation unveiled The East Texas Rosenwald School Project Historical Marker on Saturday February 3, 2024, within the North Tyler Historical Cultural Arts District.



The historical marker interprets a large area of East Texas referencing over 200 schools. According to the Texas Historical Commission there were 464 Rosenwald school buildings in Texas.

Gloria Washington, Executive Director at the Texas African American Museum, said how important the unveiling of the historical marker is to help educate children.

The marker was donated by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation (JASHP). The society locates sites of American and Jewish historical interest and importance and works with local community organizations, synagogues, churches, historical societies, governments, and individuals, to erect interpretive historical markers that help illuminate the American-Jewish experience and reflect on the commonality of being American.

Many thanks to Jerry Klinger and JASHP for all the good work they are doing to help preserve the history of the Rosenwald Schools and the partnerships of Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington and the nearly 5,000 African American communities that enabled the schools to be built.

Lift Every Voice

After reading the article on James Weldon Johnson in the Campaign's Black History Month newsletter, Jack Efferman of Brookline, MA, wrote

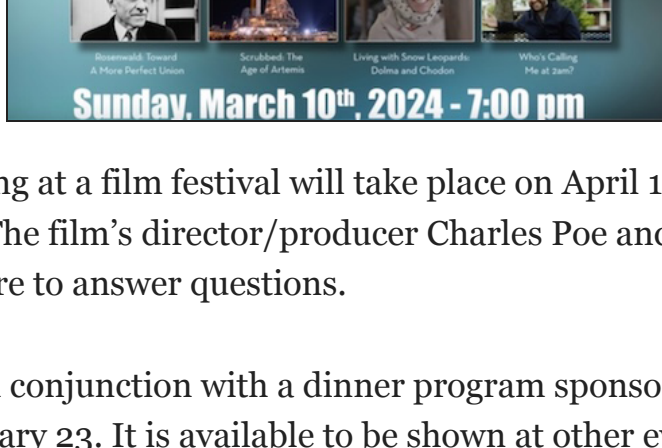
Lift Every Voice was performed at the beginning of the Super Bowl this year! It was just before *America the Beautiful*.

Many thanks to Jack for letting us know!

If you want to share information regarding the Campaign newsletters, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.

The End of the Run

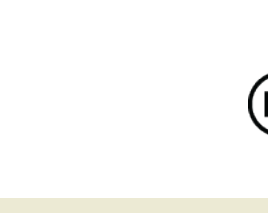
The Campaign's award-winning 10-minute film *Rosenwald: Toward A More Perfect Union* has had two screenings at film festivals this year - the first at the Beaufort International Film Festival on February 3, 2024 and the second at the Miami Short Film Festival on March 10, where it was shown with six other films.



The last scheduled screening at a film festival will take place on April 14 at the Georgia Shorts Films Festival in Atlanta. The film's director/producer Charles Poe and Campaign President Dorothy Canter will be there to answer questions.

The film was also shown in conjunction with a dinner program sponsored by the Cosmos Club of Washington, DC, on February 23. It is available to be shown at other events. Anyone who is interested in screening the film is welcome to contact the Campaign at info@rosenwaldpark.org.

"I do not see how America can go ahead if part of its people are left behind." - Julius Rosenwald



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

For questions and suggestions, please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.