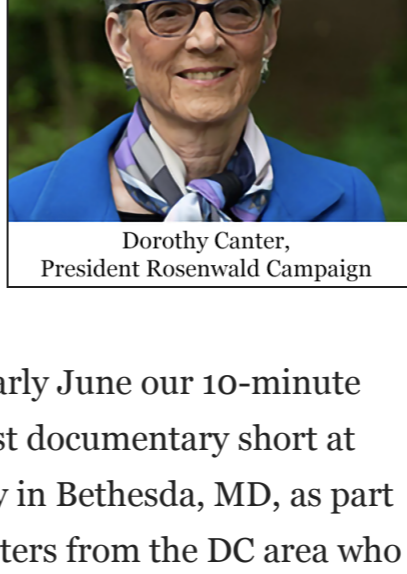


JUNETEENTH EDITION

President's Message

Today is Juneteenth, our nation's newest holiday. It commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in America finally learned that they had been freed. It is also an important day to celebrate Julius Rosenwald and the nearly 5,000 African-American communities in the segregated south with whom he partnered to build schoolhouses that provided the education that the descendants of formally enslaved people desperately wanted to achieve better lives and help change America.



Dorothy Canter
President, Rosenwald Campaign

The last few months have been an exciting time for the Campaign. In early June our 10-minute film, *Rosenwald: Toward A More Perfect Union*, won the award for best documentary short at the People's Film Festival in Harlem. The film was also shown yesterday in Bethesda, MD, as part of the FilmFest International Film Festival. We are grateful to supporters from the DC area who attended the screening. We expect it to be shown at more festivals later this year. Stay tuned!

The cover story of the Summer 2023 *National Parks* magazine is about Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools and why they mattered. The Campaign is grateful to the National Parks Conservation Association for its steadfast support over the years. This inspiring story was also featured in the recent posting on Juneteenth of the Philanthropy Roundtable, the non-profit that over fifteen years ago identified Rosenwald as "the Greatest Twentieth Century Donor You've Never Heard Of."

[Click here](#) to read the Campaign's recently completed document on notable Rosenwald Fund Fellows. It contains brief bios of 83 impressive men and women who received these coveted awards. The Fellowship Program demonstrated 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 Campaign is steadily increasing its collection of memorabilia, with emphasis on acquiring books written by Rosenwald Fellows. We also just purchased the fourth newspaper, the *Detroit News*, from January 7, 1932, on which the death of Julius Rosenwald was front page news. Board member Kate Stevenson is doing a great job spearheading this activity.

The number of nonprofit organizations that officially support creating the National Park has grown to 196. They represent a diverse range of constituencies, both national and local, from coast to coast.

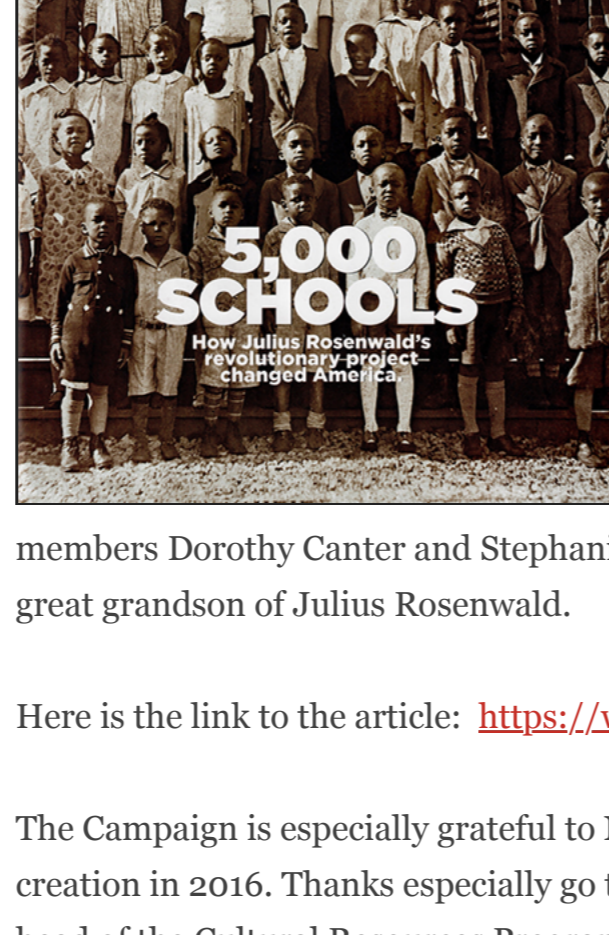
The Campaign's 2022 Annual Report is now available. [Click here](#) to read it.

We are gaining momentum! You, our supporters and donors, are making a real difference! This is a great American story -- a story about how much we can accomplish when we work together toward a more perfect union. It needs to be told in a National Park.

Dorothy Canter

Remembering Rosenwald

The Summer 2023 issue of *National Parks* magazine features an article on Julius Rosenwald and how the nearly 5,000 schools that he helped build changed America. Published by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), the magazine has over 660,000 subscribers.



The article begins with an interview with Newell Quinton, one of eight siblings who attended the San Domingo School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and went on from there to college. His parents attended the school but had to leave after the fourth grade to help support their families. They continually emphasized to their children the importance of education to obtaining a better life. Quinton is grateful to the San Domingo School and the teachers he had there for giving him that opportunity. The owner of the school, the John Quinton Foundation, would like to transfer it to the federal government to preserve its story and commemorate the contributions of Rosenwald Schools.

The article also features interviews with Campaign Board members Dorothy Canter and Stephanie Deutsch and with Stephanie's husband, David Deutsch, a great grandson of Julius Rosenwald.

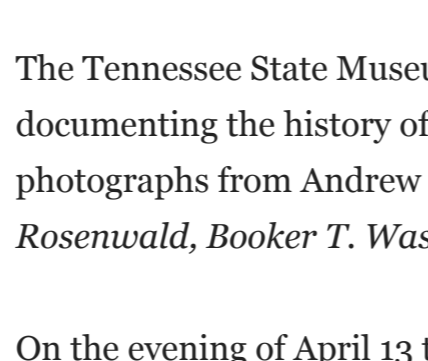
Here is the link to the article: <https://www.npsca.org/articles/3546-remembering-roswald>

The Campaign is especially grateful to NPCA for its unwavering support since the Campaign's creation in 2016. Thanks especially go to the President, Theresa Pierno, and to Alan Spears, the head of the Cultural Resources Program. Without NPCA the Campaign would never have made such great strides toward creating the National Park.

Together we WILL create a new National Park!

Tennessee Resolution Supporting Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools

In April, the Tennessee legislature passed a resolution recognizing the contributions of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald School communities in Tennessee and saluting their legacies. The resolution was introduced by State legislator Greg Vital, a committed member of the Campaign Board, and signed by Governor Bill Lee on April 13.



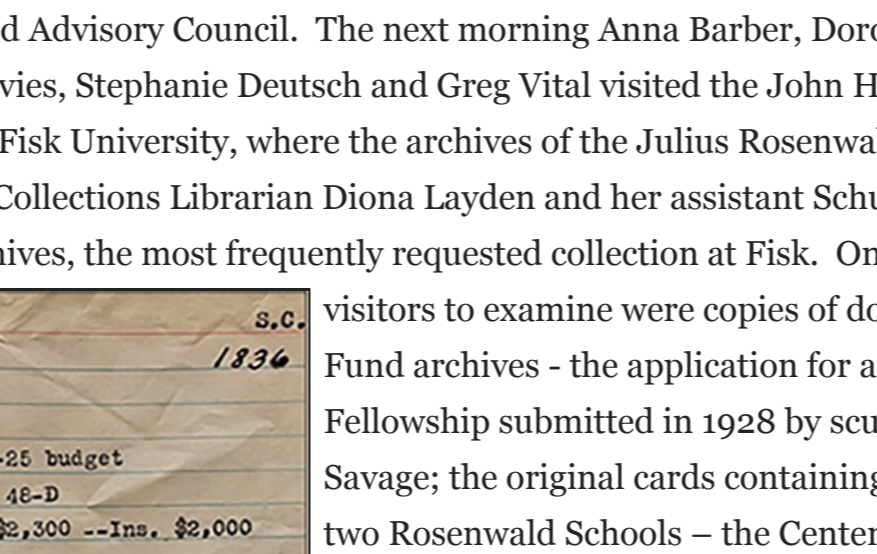
An original copy of the resolution was presented to Campaign President Dorothy Canter by Vital that night at a reception and program at the Tennessee State Museum.

A total of 373 Rosenwald School facilities were built in Tennessee that had the capacity for nearly 45,000 students. In 2017 Tennessee recommended five Rosenwald Schools to the Campaign for possible inclusion in the eventual National Historical Park.

Campaign Visit to Nashville, Tennessee

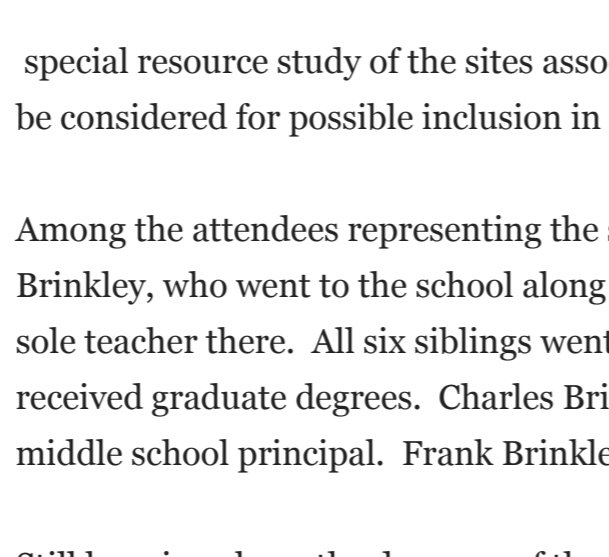
The Tennessee State Museum is a beautiful modern building in Nashville brimming with exhibits documenting the history of the state. On temporary display this spring was an exhibition of photographs from Andrew Feiler's award-winning book, *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington and the 4,978 Schools That Changed America*.

On the evening of April 13 the Museum was the setting for an elegant reception hosted by Tennessee State Representative Greg Vital that brought together State legislators, representatives of the Rosenwald Park Campaign, staff from Fisk University's library, and members of support groups of several Rosenwald Schools, including the Cairo School. An impressive photograph in the exhibition is of brothers Frank and Charles Brinkley, Sr. under the photograph of Julius Rosenwald in the Cairo School.



Frank Brinkley and Charles Brinkley, Sr. in Cairo School under photograph of Julius Rosenwald (Courtesy of Andrew Feiler)

The museum reception was the beginning of a stimulating two-day program for members of the Campaign Board and Advisory Council. The next morning Anna Barber, Dorothy Canter, Sandra Conway, Sharon Davies, Stephanie Deutsch and Greg Vital visited the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library at Fisk University, where the archives of the Julius Rosenwald Fund are preserved. Special Collections Librarian Diona Layden and her assistant Schuyler Carter talked about the Fund archives, the most frequently requested collection at Fisk. On display for the

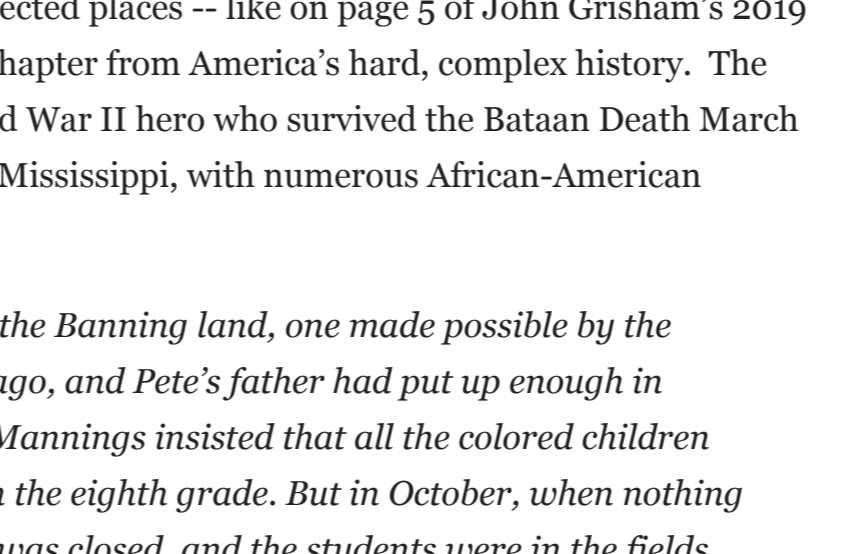


visitors to examine were copies of documents from the Fund archives - the application for a Rosenwald Fellowship submitted in 1928 by sculptor Augusta Savage; the original cards containing key information on two Rosenwald Schools - the Centenary School in Marion County, SC, attended by Sharon Davies' father, and the Cairo School in nearby Sumner County, TN. DeLisa Minor Harris, Director of Library Services at Fisk, greeted the Board members as well.

That afternoon Dorothy Canter, Sandra Conway and Greg Vital joined by Ashley Howell, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Museum, visited the Cairo School. The school is one of the ten Rosenwald Schools identified in the Julius Rosenwald And Schools Act of 2020 for evaluation by the National Park Service in its special resource study of the sites associated with Rosenwald and the Schools. These schools will be considered for possible inclusion in the Park.

Among the attendees representing the school were brothers Charles Brinkley, Sr., and Frank Brinkley, who went to the school along with their four sisters. Their father was the principal and sole teacher there. All six siblings went on to attend college, as did their children. Both brothers received graduate degrees. Charles Brinkley, Sr., taught science in a middle school and served as a middle school principal. Frank Brinkley taught high school math and science.

Still hanging above the doorway of the school, built in 1922 - 1923, is the original portrait of Julius Rosenwald. Cairo was a school for children in grades 1-8 through 1959. Subsequently, it became a community center and, later, was restored.



Participants at April 14 meeting at Cairo School

The April visit to Nashville was enlightening. Participants enjoyed being together and deepening their understanding of the meaningful work done by the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

Did You Know?

Rosenwald Schools crop up in some unexpected places -- like on page 5 of John Grisham's 2019 novel, *The Reckoning*, which addresses a chapter from America's hard, complex history. The book's protagonist is Pete Banning, a World War II hero who survived the Bataan Death March and was also a successful cotton farmer in Mississippi, with numerous African-American sharecroppers living on his land:

There was a school for Negroes on the Banning land, one made possible by the generosity of a rich Jew from Chicago, and Pete's father had put up enough in matching funds to see it built. The Mannings insisted that all the colored children on their land study at least through the eighth grade. But in October, when nothing matters but the picking, the school was closed, and the students were in the fields.

The school is mentioned briefly again when it reopens that year following the conclusion of cotton picking season.

Mississippi is one of the states with the most Rosenwald schools -- over 550 were built there between 1913 and 1932. During the years of the Great Migration of African Americans out of the South to cities in the North, some wealthy farmers helped build schools in the hope of retaining their workers. What motivated Grisham's character to contribute to the school isn't mentioned. So we don't know!

The renowned American novelist John Grisham is also a lawyer and former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. The mention of the fictional Rosenwald School in *The Reckoning* contributes in a small way to the overall story of rural life in Mississippi in the first half of the twentieth century.

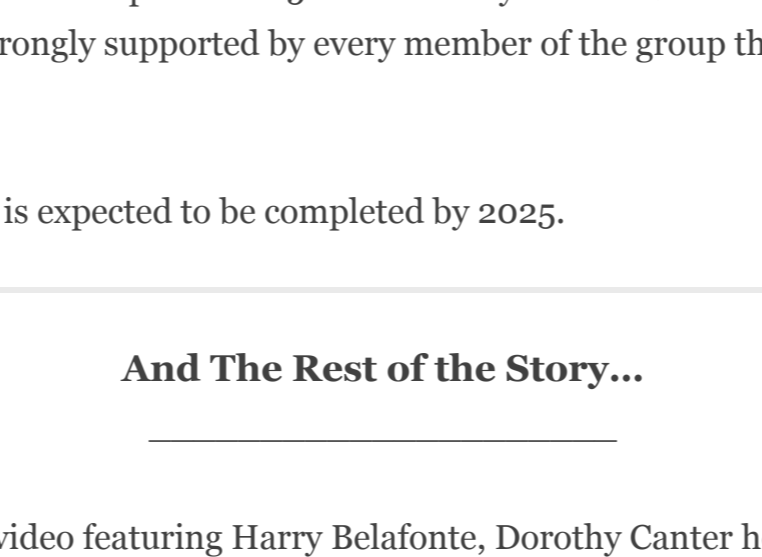
Digitizing Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection at Fisk University

Just over a year ago, Fisk University got exciting news -- the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library there received a grant of \$1.6 million from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to develop a new digital platform for the Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection. The four-year project of digitizing the over 650,000 items it contains -- records of Rosenwald School-building projects, applications for Rosenwald Fund fellowships, Fund Board meeting minutes, budgets, and thousands of photographs -- will provide unprecedented public access to a frequently consulted collection. The grant is especially important since the records of the 5,357 Rosenwald School facilities -- a resource often consulted -- have not been available online for at least a year.

In May members of the project's Advisory Board gathered in Nashville to be updated on its progress. Stephanie Deutsch, a highly committed member of the Rosenwald Park Campaign Board, was delighted to be part of the group, several of whom she knew from the research she performed for her book *You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South*. Leading the team is DeLisa Minor Harris, Director of Library Services at Fisk University. She had previously been Head of Special Collections at Fisk and had worked with Stephanie on several previous visits. Dana Chandler, the Archivist at Tuskegee University, had also helped Stephanie with research dating back to the very beginning of her book. Other members of the Board are

- Dr. Aisha Johnson of Georgia Institute of Technology, the author of a book about the many libraries funded by the Rosenwald Fund.
- Dr. Brandon Owens, Director of the J.F. Drake Memorial Resources Center and State Black Archives Research Center & Museum at Alabama A&M University.
- Dr. Lopez Matthews Jr., a public historian and director of the State Archives of Washington, DC.
- Dr. Kenvi Phillips, Brown University Library Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Dr. Crystal deGregory, Bethune Cookman University.
- Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle, author of *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South* and professor at Middle Tennessee State University, who was not able to attend the meeting.

LaTaevia Berry, lead web developer, was also present and described the digitization process. The committee members toured the space used by undergraduates hired to do the actual scanning of records.



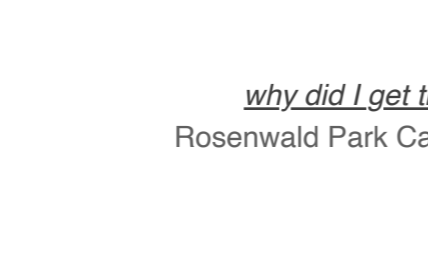
Digitization Advisory Board
Photo courtesy of Fisk University

Joining the group via video was Dr. Jessie Carney Smith, who retired in 2020 after a long and distinguished career at Fisk leading the University's library and holding the Camille Cosby Chair in the Humanities. She joined the meeting via video wearing a bright turquoise t-shirt bearing the Rosenwald logo from Aviva Kempner's 2015 documentary. On the back the shirt says "History Matters", a sentiment strongly supported by every member of the group that assembled in Nashville.

The digitization process is expected to be completed by 2025.

And The Rest of the Story...

While watching a short video featuring Harry Belafonte, Dorothy Canter heard him say that he collaborated with Bill Attaway on developing the *Banana Boat Loader's Song*, the calypso tune that made him famous.



The name Attaway sounded familiar, so familiar in fact that he checked the list of Rosenwald Fund Fellows. Sure enough, William Attaway received a fellowship in 1940 for creative writing. This fellowship helped support him while he wrote his critically acclaimed 1941 novel *Blood on the Forge*, a powerful evocation of the Great Migration.

Attaway was a novelist, short story writer, essayist, songwriter, playwright, screenwriter and civil rights activist. He wrote over 500 songs, a number of which were included in his 1957 *Calypso Song Book*. We all remember Belafonte's rendering of the work song that begins with "Day oh, day oh..."

The Campaign has now obtained a copy of the first edition of *Calypso Song Book* to add to its collection of memorabilia, items that will one day be donated to the visitor center of the National Historical Park.

The Campaign is regularly surprised and pleased to learn about additional investments that Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Fund made in so many people, and how those investments have positively contributed to our nation.

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