

Rosenwald Park Campaign

September 2019

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." ~ Harriet Tubman

The campaign to create a National Historical Park honoring Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald schools pays tribute to a remarkable philanthropist but it also celebrates the contributions of legions of African American men and women who gave money, land and their own labor to ensure that their children had comfortable, modern schoolhouses in which to receive the education that they themselves had been denied. This is a story of vision, generosity, determination, perseverance, and pride - one well worth preserving.

Legislation Update

The Campaign took an important step when the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Study Act was introduced jointly by Congressman Danny Davis (HR 3250) and Senator Richard Durbin (S 1863), both of Illinois, on June 13, 2019. These bills direct the National Park Service to commission a special resources study of the sites associated with Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools to assess their significance and suitability to be included in a National Park. It does not establish a National Historical Park, but it is the key first step towards that goal. We expect more co-sponsors after the Congressional August recess. Thanks to all those volunteers who contacted their Member of Congress.

The co-sponsors of the bill in the House of Representatives are:

- Rep. John Lewis (GA)
- Rep. Steve Cohen (TN)
- Rep. Andre Carson (IN)
- Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-At Large)
- Rep. Henry C. Johnson (GA)
- Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY)
- Rep. Karen Bass (CA)
- Rep. Haley Stevens (MI)
- Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)
- Rep. Lee Zeldin (NY)
- Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD)
- Rep. Brad Schneider (IL)
- Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL)
- Rep. Anthony Brown (MD)
- Rep. Charles Fleischmann (TN)
- Rep. Robin Kelly (IL)
- Rep. David Trone (MD)

In the Senate the co-sponsors are Senators Chris Van Hollen (MD) and Ben Cardin (MD), Lamar Alexander (TN), Cory Booker (NJ), and Tammy Duckworth (IL).

Both bills have bipartisan support.

If you would like to help in this effort, please consider contacting your Member of Congress to ask him/her to become a co-sponsor!

Click [here](#) to use one of our model letters.

Click [here](#) to find contact information for your Member of Congress.

Non-Profit Status

We are now a registered non-profit organization. The Internal Revenue Service has approved our application so we can now receive donations directly and will report to the IRS annually. The Campaign is grateful to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) for its steadfast support and assistance that helped get us to this milestone.

President's Message



Three years ago, four people with the same idea met to plot a path forward to establish a National Park that would celebrate the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools that he was so instrumental in creating. From that meeting evolved the Rosenwald Park Campaign, which has accomplished so much since 2016. You have read in this newsletter about a number of key Campaign accomplishments in the last few months. The Campaign Board and Advisory Council are grateful for all the support and contributions of so many people working to create the National Historical Park. Team Rosenwald is gaining momentum! With your continued support, the dream of 2016 will soon become a reality.

-- Dorothy Canter

Julius Rosenwald Boyhood Home



The Springfield, Illinois, house where Julius Rosenwald spent his childhood is located diagonally across the street from Abraham Lincoln's home and is a part of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). Thanks to the leadership of LIHO Superintendent Timothy Good and funding from the Campaign, the NPS and the Jewish Federation of Springfield, an interpretive marker will be created and installed in front of the building with a dedication ceremony currently scheduled for February 12, 2020. Several Campaign Board members will attend.

Click [here](#) to see the Julius Rosenwald Boyhood Home interpretive marker design.

Upcoming Events

Two programs on Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools are scheduled for September 24 and 25, 2019, in New Orleans, LA. We hope to have a friend raising program in Chicago next spring. Additional events in Illinois are also under consideration. Ideas, sponsorships, and suggestions are welcome.

Visits to Schools and Chicago Sites

By the end of the year the Campaign expects to complete its visits to 36 of the 56 Rosenwald School facilities nominated by state historic preservation offices in 14 states for possible inclusion in the proposed park. We will provide the National Park Service with the inventory forms we created that include photographs and observations and a summary report on the visits.

We are also touring several sites in Chicago relevant to Rosenwald's legacy for consideration as possible candidates for a visitor center. Here are a few photos from the schools we visited.



Clockwise from left: Cairo Rosenwald School, Sumner County, Tennessee; Shady Grove School, Virginia; Cusseta Industrial High School, Georgia



'All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does.'
~ Julius Rosenwald

For more information on the Rosenwald Park Campaign, visit www.rosenwaldpark.org

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