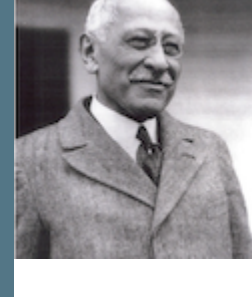


Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



"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 Rosenwald Park Campaign hopes that you and your loved ones have stayed safe and been well during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We continue to make progress. The Campaign and its partners are working to obtain passage of [The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019](#) this year (see legislative update below). The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) sponsored a well-attended June 30 Zoom presentation on Julius Rosenwald and the Campaign featuring three Board members, and other organizations are championing our mission. The Campaign will complete this month a report on five sites in Chicago that are potential candidates for the visitor center for the National Historical Park to be submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) following passage of the legislation. Please write to info@rosenwaldpark.org if you would like a copy. The *Did You Know?* column below will be a feature of future issues and convey brief vignettes on the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald.



Dorothy Canter, President, Rosenwald Park Campaign

We thank our subscribers and donors for their ongoing support for the National Historical Park. Julius Rosenwald's investment in people is still paying dividends.

DID YOU KNOW?

Julius Rosenwald strongly opposed the showing of the 1915 silent film [The Birth of a Nation](#) because of its racist depiction of African Americans and its portrayal of the Ku Klux Klan as a force needed to preserve white supremacist social order. When "Big Bill" Thompson, the new Mayor of Chicago, came out in opposition to its viewing in that city, Rosenwald wrote him a congratulatory letter. Unfortunately, Thompson soon changed his mind and allowed the movie to be shown. Rosenwald's actions were very different from those of President Woodrow Wilson, who had the movie screened in the White House.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Stephanie Deutsch

Lunch with a friend in fall 2016 yielded an unexpected connection to the Rosenwald family. When Dorothy Canter mentioned the Campaign to create the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, he immediately told her that she had to meet Stephanie Deutsch, whom he knew because their sons had gone to school together. Importantly, she was married to a great-grandson of Rosenwald and had written a book about him. So began a highly productive collaboration that has grown into a strong friendship.

When Stephanie married her husband, David, all she knew about Julius Rosenwald (JR as he liked to be called) was that he had held a high position at Sears, Roebuck and Co. When her husband's cousin suggested that she write a biography of JR, she began to learn more about him and found that what really piqued her interest was his relationship with Booker T. Washington and the establishment of Rosenwald Schools. The result of her interest was years of research and travel that produced *You Need A Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South*, published by Northwestern University Press in 2011.

For Stephanie, one of the most rewarding outcomes from the book has been visiting many Rosenwald schools and meeting alumni, often men and women whose parents and grandparents had given land or invested in the schools in other ways. One memorable visit was to the Pleasant Hill Rosenwald School in Linden, TX, where she was given a luncheon tray used for years by students. It is currently on loan to the Smithsonian Museum of American History where it is part of a display about philanthropy. It is her hope to someday see it as part of the Rosenwald schools display at the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.

Asked what impressed her most about JR, Stephanie said, "He was a modest man who accomplished great things by being open to the insights, experiences and needs of other people. The opposite of selfish and egotistical, he used not just his money, but himself, his personal presence in places far removed from his home in Chicago, to promote the fairness and equal opportunity that he believed in."

And she added, "When Edwin Embree, the president of the Rosenwald Fund, wrote about its history, he called it "Investment in People". That title is so powerful. Rosenwald did not think that he had all the answers or that he knew how to solve society's problems. But he believed in investing in educating children in elementary schools and investing in individuals of promise via fellowships. Thus strengthened, these people would then go on to address the problems of their generation."

Stephanie was delighted to join the Rosenwald Park Campaign. She felt it was so obviously important to celebrate not just Julius Rosenwald but to share the story of the energy, resilience and creativity of the African Americans who partnered with him to build schoolhouses and thus fight a long history of exclusion and deprivation.

Stephanie is a key member of Team Rosenwald!



Ether Blaylock presenting Stephanie with luncheon tray at Pleasant Hill Rosenwald School
Photo courtesy of Larkin Crutcher

LEGISLATION UPDATE

On March 11, 2020, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed by unanimous consent the mark-up of the House version (H.R. 3250) of [The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act of 2019](#). The bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on June 11. The Senate bill (S. 1863) gained two cosponsors in the Senate – Senators Udall of NM and Warner of VA – bringing the total to nine. The Campaign is working with NPCA and other partners toward scheduling a hearing on the bill in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee sometime in September or October. Twenty-nine organizations representing a broad cross-section of interests have publicly expressed their support for the legislation. In May NPCA included it as one of the four National Park-related bills it supports for passage this year. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recommended that its supporters write to their members of Congress on behalf of the legislation, as has the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, the non-profit representing National Park Service (NPS) retirees, employees and volunteers. It is hoped that the legislation will be added to an omnibus public lands bill later this year and be enacted into law.

The Campaign would appreciate your writing to your members of Congress asking them to support passage of the legislation this year. For assistance, write to info@rosenwaldpark.org.

IN THE NEWS

A 26-minute video on Julius Rosenwald that is well worth watching aired on June 18 on the Springfield, IL, PBS station: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XknsrDd6urE>

Bob Stanton, Vice President of the Campaign and former Director, NPS, received the Murie Spirit of Conservation Award from the Teton Science Schools on August 11, 2020. To read about his speech, click on <https://www.wyofile.com/stanton-heralds-park-service-preservation-of-civil-rights-sites/>

The National Trust for Historic Preservation posted a blog by Stephanie Deutsch on the Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellows who contributed to the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision (<https://savingplaces.org/stories/rosenwald-fellows-and-the-journey-to-brown-v-board-of-education#.XoAoDyRqoIT>).

DONATE

We need your support to continue.

Donate to the Campaign by mailing a tax-deductible check to :

Rosenwald Park Campaign
19 Maplewood Park Court
Bethesda, MD 20814

Or make an online contribution on the Campaign's

website <https://www.rosenwaldpark.org>.