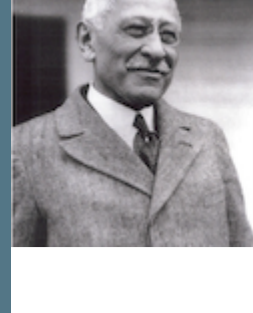


Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



"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

In this newsletter, we highlight Campaign Board member Curtis Valentine with a profile and two related articles showing the connection of the Valentine family to Julius Rosenwald through both the Rosenwald Schools building program and the Rosenwald Fund fellowship program. A video of Board member Stephanie Deutsch's interview of Curtis can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/9RbDGILov7k>.



The Campaign recently acquired a vintage stereopticon and set of 50 original slides showing fascinating images of the large Sears merchandising facility on the west side of Chicago that opened in 1906. These items and others that we hope to acquire from Transformco, the successor to Sears Holding Corporation, will be donated to the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. We are actively seeking other memorabilia related to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

The Campaign is hopeful that in 2021 legislation will be passed that will lead quickly to the creation of this important Park. All the members of Team Rosenwald wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season and all good things in 2021!

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: CURTIS VALENTINE

By Stephanie Deutsch

On a Sunday afternoon in February 2018, Curtis Valentine represented the Prince George's County Board of Education at the Black History Month program at Ridgeley Rosenwald School. The main speaker was Christopher Deutsch, a great-great-grandson of Julius Rosenwald (and son of Campaign Board member Stephanie Deutsch). At the time, Curtis had never heard of Rosenwald or the school building program that included Ridgeley. The occasion proved to be a fruitful one.

After growing up in New Jersey, Curtis chose Morehouse College in Atlanta, and there, at the alma mater of Martin Luther King Jr., he decided on a career in some ways like King's - dedicated to furthering racial equity by means of educational opportunity.

As Curtis puts it, "Education chose me!"

After graduating with a major in English literature, Curtis signed up for the US Peace Corps and spent two years in the Limpopo province of South Africa volunteering in a special program training teachers. On his return to the US, he became a middle school teacher and later returned to a career in international development with Africare. Curtis would pursue public service as a student at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He spent his spring break working for future Mayor LaToya Cantrell's Broadmoor Community Improvement organization in post-Katrina New Orleans, an activity for which he received the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence at his graduation.

Now, as deputy director of the Progressive Policy Institute's Reinventing America's Schools project and an adjunct professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland, College Park, Curtis is promoting the increase in male educators through the Real Men Teach campaign and working to support parental engagement of fathers via the #FatherhoodForum.



Wanting a photograph of an old school to put on his office wall, Curtis asked a cousin if he knew of a school near their family's property in southern Virginia. It turned out that what Curtis had thought was an old storage shed near the church his family had attended for generations was in fact a former Rosenwald school that his grandfather and other family members had attended. The story he had heard celebrated at the Ridgeley Rosenwald School months earlier had been, in fact, the story of his own family!

When invited to join the Board of the Rosenwald Park Campaign, Curtis was, of course, delighted to accept. He deeply admires what Julius Rosenwald and the Black communities in the South were able to accomplish together for parents who craved education for their children but had been denied it for so long. The ultimate Park will be a significant example of the numerous historical connections between Jewish and African Americans working for social justice.

Importantly, it will be the first National Park to tell the story of a Jewish American, a man who contributed importantly toward improving the lives of so many people.

Just as education chose Curtis, so did the Rosenwald Schools and the Campaign to establish the Park to commemorate them.

DISCOVERING THE PAST: THE CARROLL-BOYD ROSENWALD SCHOOL

The Carroll-Boyd Rosenwald School in Bracey, VA, near the border with North Carolina, was built in 1926. It was adjacent to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and had three classrooms, three coal heaters, two small cloakrooms and a kitchen - but no electricity.



Valentine, a member of the Rosenwald Park Campaign Board, only recently learned that The Carroll-Boyd School what he thought of as a storage shed on land that had been his grandfather's, was, in fact, a Rosenwald school, shuttered since the 1980s. His grandfather was among the African Americans and some Native Americans who learned to read there. Many other relatives had gotten their earliest education there. Curtis's great uncle had started a bus company to drive students to Carroll-Boyd and other nearby segregated schools.

There were 17 Rosenwald schools in Mecklenburg County where Carroll-Boyd sits. Three hundred eighty-one Rosenwald School facilities were built in Virginia; they provided education for nearly 43,000 students. Five Virginia schools were nominated by the state for consideration as possible inclusions in the ultimate Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

A historic marker commemorating Carroll-Boyd School and St. Mark's Church, which donated the land on which it stands was recently installed near the two buildings. Curtis is developing plans to restore the school.



ROSENWALD-HALEY-VALENTINE CONNECTION

In 1930, a young student from Tennessee named Simon Haley received a Rosenwald Fellowship to pursue graduate studies in agriculture at Cornell University. The son of formerly enslaved parents and a veteran of World War I, Haley went on to complete a Master's Degree and to teach at several southern universities. He had three sons. Alex was the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Roots* and of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. George was a prominent attorney, and Julius was an architect.



George Haley

George, the second son, attended Morehouse College where he was friendly with Martin Luther King Jr. With his excellent academic record, George could have attended Harvard Law School, but his father urged him to open a "beachhead" against segregation by integrating the University of Arkansas Law School, which he did. Despite hostility and constant harassment, George made Law Review and earned the respect of those who initially sought to make him fail. He went on to a distinguished career, working on the Brown v. Board of Education case before the Supreme Court as an assistant to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and serving in several administrations including as ambassador to The Gambia.

So, what is the connection of the Haley family to the Valentines? William R. Valentine, a distant relative of Curtis Valentine, served from 1915 to 1948 as the headmaster of Bordentown School in New Jersey, which George attended; many years later, after they met at a Glee Club concert sponsored by the alumni association of Morehouse College. George served as an inspiration and mentor to Curtis.

And what is the connection among the Haleys, the Valentines, and Julius Rosenwald? The Rosenwald Fund had an important impact on both families through the fellowship program, which benefited Simon Haley and the Carroll-Boyd Rosenwald School attended by members of Curtis' family. This connection was clearly important to Simon, who named his third son, born the year of his Rosenwald fellowship, Julius Cornell Embree Haley. In 1930, Edwin Embree was president of the Rosenwald Fund.

This is just another example of how Julius Rosenwald invested in people, and those investments paid, and continue to pay, extraordinary dividends.

I can testify that it is nearly always easier to make \$1,000,000 honestly than to spend it wisely.

Julius Rosenwald

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We need your support to continue.

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