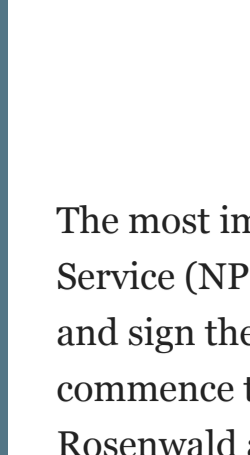
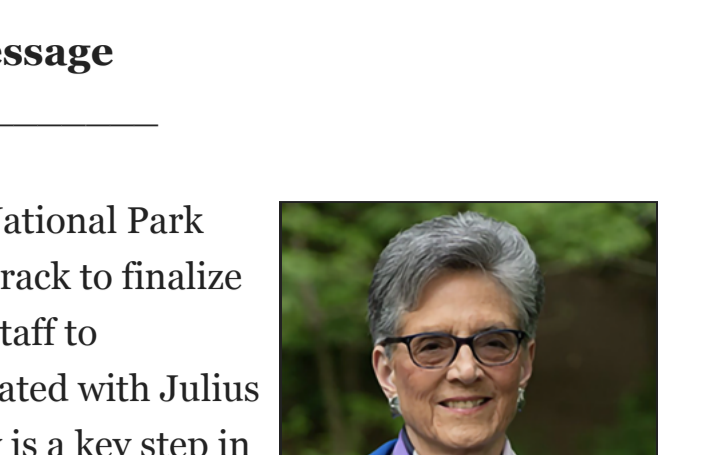


Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park

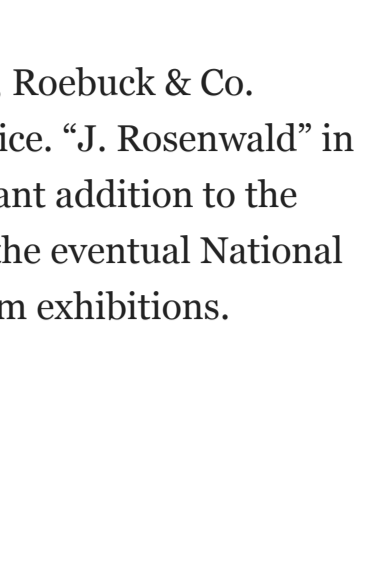


"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."
JULIUS ROSENWALD



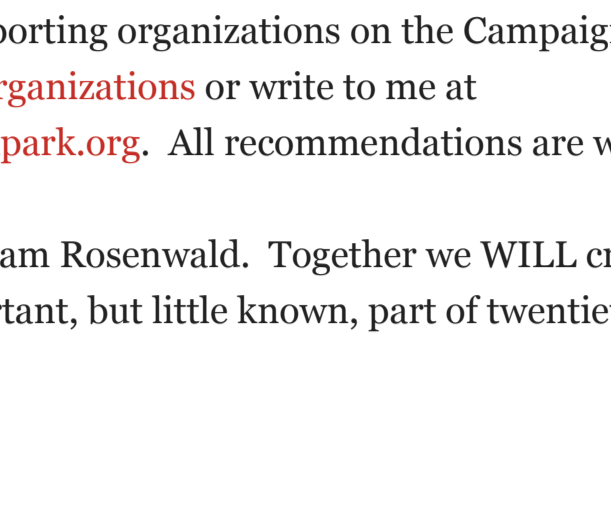
President's Message

The most important news is that on March 10 the National Park Service (NPS) informed the Campaign that it is on track to finalize and sign the project agreement that will enable its staff to commence the special resource study of sites associated with Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools. This study is a key step in the process of creating a National Historical Park and needs to be completed before legislation is introduced to create the Park. The Campaign has provided the three reports it has prepared to NPS staff, as well as all references and background material. We stand ready to assist the NPS in all ways that are appropriate.



Dorothy Canter, President Rosenwald Campaign

In early March the Campaign received as a donation from the Sears, Roebuck & Co. archival collection a strongbox that Julius Rosenwald kept in his office. "J. Rosenwald" in capital letters is painted on its exterior. The strongbox is an important addition to the Campaign's collection of Sears memorabilia and will be donated to the eventual National Historical Park. We also plan to include it in planned future museum exhibitions.



Since the beginning of this year 16 more organizations have expressed support for creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, bringing the total to 125. At this pace the Campaign is well on its way to reaching the goal of 160 by year's end. Most of the additional organizations signed on because of the efforts of a number of volunteers who either solicited the organizations directly or introduced me to the appropriate contacts. We are very indebted to these volunteers who are making a significant difference in the progress of the Campaign and hope that more volunteers will join in identifying organizations. The Campaign hopes that by December 31, 2022, at least one nonprofit organization will have signed on in all 15 states in which Rosenwald Schools were built; to date organizations in ten of the states have expressed support. You may view the most recent list of supporting organizations on the Campaign website by clicking this link - [List of Supporting Organizations](#) or write to me at dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org. All recommendations are welcome.

Please become a part of Team Rosenwald. Together we WILL create a new National Park to commemorate an important, but little known, part of twentieth century American history!

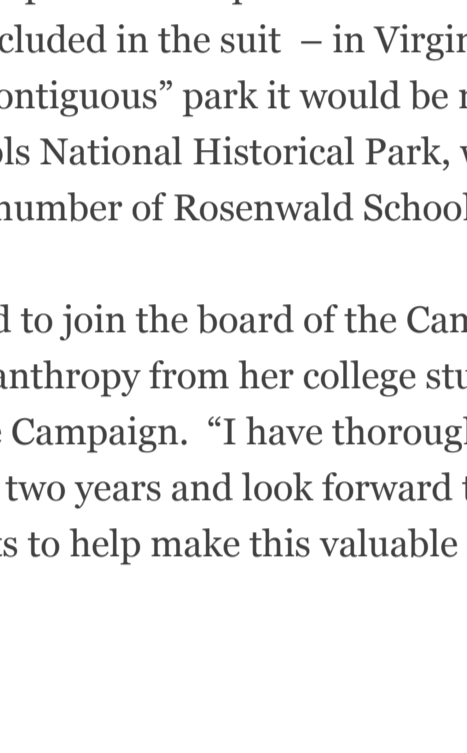
Dorothy Canter

Profile of Board Member Pam Bowman

Pam Bowman has worked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation for six years, managing the interface between the Trust's goals for preservation and interpretation of a wide variety of sites and spaces with the complex rules and regulations that determine Congressional support and funding. Her professional expertise is extensive, but she brings to the board of the Campaign much more than that. She is passionate about history and the many and varied ways it is communicated and understood.

Born in London to an American father and a Scottish mother, Pam had lived on three continents by the time she was five years old. And everywhere she lived – London, Southern California, a small town near Melbourne, Australia, and then Houston, Texas, where they settled - her family explored. The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, kangaroos on the loose, the Liberty Bell and the Alamo, the intermingling of history, culture and natural beauty of Mesa Verde and other US National Parks – it all fed her awakening sense of the variety of ways history unfolds in different places.

Pam further nurtured her love of travel and of history at the University of Texas in Austin where she received a Bachelor's degree focused on urban planning, geography and the environment with a minor in history. She also joined her high school and college's debate teams and became a nationally recognized public speaker. Not only does debate help one overcome shyness, she says now, but it teaches the logic and organization that go into advocacy, persuasive writing and public policy development, skills she has found essential in her career.



Pam Bowman (Courtesy of Dorothy Canter)

Her work has taken her from the legislative staff of two Members of Congress to advocacy campaigns for non-profits to her current position with the National Trust. As Senior Director of Public Lands Policy she leads efforts to protect historic buildings and cultural resources on public lands, including drafting legislation, appropriations work, and other advocacy projects. She worked on the national effort to enact the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020 that helped secure \$9.5 billion for the National Park Service and related federal agencies.

She is currently working on an expansion of the National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas, a formerly segregated high school, that represents one of the five cases consolidated into the landmark *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* case before the Supreme Court. The court's 1954 decision overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine. The park would be expanded to encompass the other sites included in the suit – in Virginia, Washington, DC, Delaware, and South Carolina. As a "discontiguous" park it would be much like the planned Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, which would combine a visitors' center in Chicago with a small number of Rosenwald Schools in several southern states.

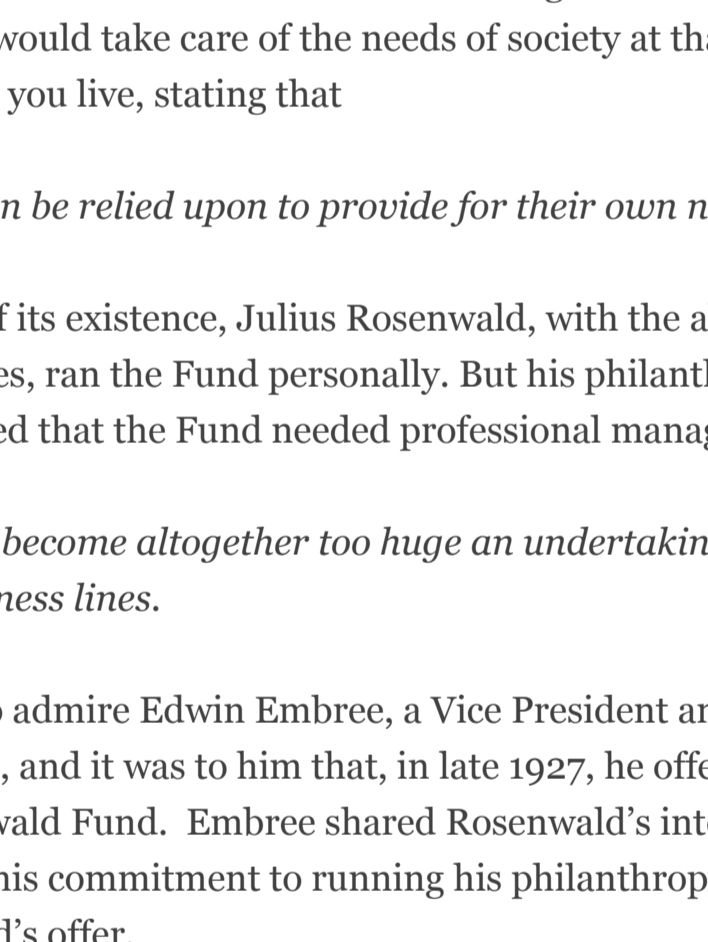
Pam was delighted to be invited to join the board of the Campaign. Although she was familiar with Rosenwald's philanthropy from her college studies, she says she has learned so much more since joining the Campaign. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the Campaign for the past two years and look forward to being part of the legislative and other advocacy components to help make this valuable and inspiring story more accessible to the public."

By Stephanie Deutsch

Robert Stanton Meets Charles Sams

On January 27, 2022, Robert G. Stanton, Vice President of the Rosenwald Park Campaign and a former Director of the National Park Service (NPS), had a productive introductory meeting with the new NPS Director Charles F. Sams III. The first African American NPS Director, Stanton was appointed in 1997 following a long and distinguished NPS career and served until 2001.

A native of Oregon and member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes, Director Sams served in the US Navy and held a number of leadership positions both in tribal government and conservation organizations prior to his confirmation in December 2021. He is the first Native American to lead the National Park Service.



Director Sams and former Director Stanton (Photo Courtesy of NPS)

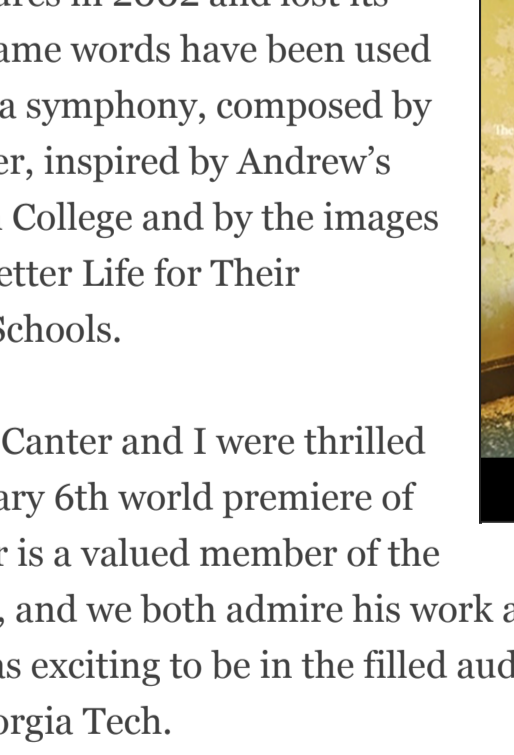
Scheduled to last an hour, the meeting went beyond that with the two men finding that they have much in common and agreeing to confer with each other on issues of mutual concern. Stanton informed Director that he continues his involvement in natural and cultural resource preservation programs through service on a number of boards and advisory councils. In these capacities he is in regular contact with NPS staff, including through invitational speaking opportunities.

In an exchange of emails following the meeting, Mr. Stanton gave assurances that he and the organizations he represents stand ready to assist the National Park Service in any areas that may be helpful. He also mentioned that he will seek opportunities for further meetings to brief Director Sams on activities of a select number of those organizations as they specifically relate to the National Parks and programs of the NPS. In his reply Director Sams expressed his commitment to collaboration and cooperation at all levels of government and civic engagement.

At a recent meeting of the Rosenwald Park Campaign Board, Stanton stated "I congratulate Charles Sams on his appointment as the 19th Director of the National Park Service. I look forward to working with him in supporting existing and future National Parks in the preservation and commemoration of our rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage as well as assuring these resources are accessible to all."

Did You Know?

Early in 1917 Julius Rosenwald was invited to become a member of the board of trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, one of the very few charitable foundations in existence at that time. It was likely this service that caused him, later that year, to create his own foundation, the Julius Rosenwald Fund with the broad chartered purpose of ensuring "the well-being of mankind." For the next ten years the Rosenwald Fund focused mainly on providing challenge grants to Black communities in the South, partnering with them to build the sorely needed elementary schools for which those communities hungered.



Unlike the Rockefeller Foundation, the Rosenwald Fund was created with a specific term limit. It was to "sunset" itself within twenty-five years of the founder's death. Rosenwald did not believe in perpetual endowments to charitable organizations; he felt that each generation should and would take care of the needs of society at that time. He also strongly believed in giving while you live, stating that

Coming generations can be relied upon to provide for their own needs as they arise.

For the first ten years of its existence, Julius Rosenwald, with the able assistance of his secretary William Graves, ran the Fund personally. But his philanthropy became so extensive that he realized that the Fund needed professional management. As he said,

Benevolence today has become altogether too huge an undertaking to be conducted otherwise than on business lines.

Rosenwald had come to admire Edwin Embree, a Vice President and Director at the Rockefeller Foundation, and it was to him that, in late 1927, he offered the position as president of the Rosenwald Fund. Embree shared Rosenwald's interest in advancing racial harmony and admired his commitment to running his philanthropy in a businesslike way. He accepted Rosenwald's offer.

When Embree came on board in early 1928 the main focus of the Fund was in building rural schoolhouses in southern states. Soon thereafter though, the Fund shifted the focus of the school building program to supporting high schools, normal schools and colleges to provide better overall education of African Americans.

The Fund also helped support the purchase of school busses to transport students to larger facilities, started a library service program that assembled and distributed small sets of books to rural schools, improved the library facilities of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and assisted in the creation of public county library systems in the South.

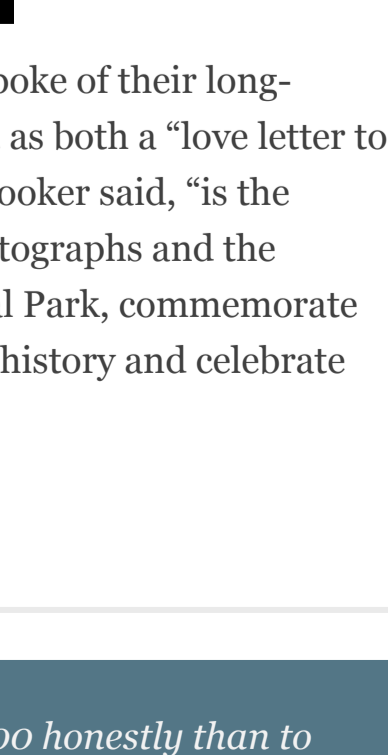


Photo of Embree December 1927 Devereux Embree Family Papers

In 1932, after the completion of 4,977 schools, 217 teachers' homes and 163 shops, the school building program was terminated, and the focus of the Fund shifted to, among other things, programs enhancing the education inside the schools.

The Fund also initiated a fellowship program for people of exceptional promise in a number of professional fields to foster creative and intellectual leadership among both African Americans and white Southerners. Two-thirds of the nearly 900 fellows were African Americans, many of whom went on to have exceptional careers. Their achievements were crucial in helping to overcome the widespread belief in racial inferiority and in changing the attitudes of graduate and professional institutions toward the admission of African American applicants.

Work was also initiated to improve facilities and personnel in the field of African American health and to effect better distribution of medical services to persons of moderate means at costs that they could afford to pay. Finally, the Fund instituted an active program of studies and conferences on race relations, effectively pushing the Franklin Roosevelt administration to hire more advisors who were African American.

Since Julius Rosenwald and Edwin Embree did NOT believe in perpetual endowments, they are less well remembered today than John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, whose foundations were designed to last forever. But the reach of the efficient, results-driven philanthropy in which they engaged is only now being thoroughly understood and appreciated.

Doug Hooker and Andrew Feiler (Photo by D. Canter)

In the Q&A session following the performance Feiler and Hooker spoke of their long-standing friendship and described the symphony that grew out of it as both a "love letter to education" and a "call to action" for the future. "Education," Mr. Hooker said, "is the compass that guides my way." His powerful music, like Feiler's photographs and the planned Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, commemorate this important but little known part of twentieth century American history and celebrate the power of education to effect lasting change.

By Stephanie Deutsch

Cover of Andrew Feiler's book

"Dedicated to the education of youth without regard to sex, race or color" reads the inscription on the heavy bell made by the McShane Foundry in Baltimore in 1888 for the campus of newly opened Morris Brown, a Historically Black College in Atlanta. A hundred and twenty-seven years later, photographer Andrew Feiler used part of that quote as the title of his book of photographs subtitled "The Past, Present and Future of One Historically Black College," documenting the school after it succumbed to financial pressures in 2002 and lost its accreditation. And now the same words have been used again, this time as the title of a symphony, composed by Atlanta musician Doug Hooker, inspired by Andrew's photographs of Morris Brown College and by the images in his more recent book, "A Better Life for Their Children," about Rosenwald Schools.

Campaign president Dorothy Canter and I were thrilled to be in Atlanta for the February 6th world premiere of the symphony. Andrew Feiler is a valued member of the Campaign's Advisory Council, and we both admire his work and consider him a friend. After two years of Covid, it was exciting to be in the filled auditorium of the Ferst Center for the Arts on the campus of Georgia Tech.

And the music rewarded our sense of anticipation. The concert, which honored Black History Month, began with a performance by the Trey Clegg Singers, an auditioned multi-cultural chorus, led by Mr. Clegg, an Atlanta organist and conductor, who is also recital coach for music majors at Spelman College. Their songs included "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a musical setting of the 23rd Psalm and several spirituals as well as "Stand Up" (from the movie "Harriet.")

After an intermission came the symphony, conducted by Mr. Clegg. The first movement, "A Heavy Lift," featured the orchestra, narrators and soloists with a musical evocation of the late 1800s, a time of optimism when many Historically Black Colleges and Universities were created with the goal of lifting the formerly enslaved out of ignorance. The narrators recited, among other quotes, passages from commencement speeches at Historically Black Colleges. The strains of the Battle Hymn of the Republic could be discerned, and the mood of the piece was both somber and hopeful. The second movement, called "J.R. and Booker T.," featured melodies from My Lord, What a Morning and other spirituals that so moved Julius Rosenwald when he was introduced to them during his first visit to Tuskegee in 1911, as well as the patriotic strains of "My County 'Tis of Thee." And the third movement, "A Place Where I Can Be," again featuring soloists and narration, expressed hope for a future liberated from the "straightjacket of race," and ended with the moving strains of We Shall Overcome.

In the Q&A session following the performance Feiler and Hooker spoke of their long-standing friendship and described the symphony that grew out of it as both a "love letter to education" and a "call to action" for the future. "Education," Mr. Hooker said, "is the compass that guides my way." His powerful music, like Feiler's photographs and the planned Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, commemorate this important but little known part of twentieth century American history and celebrate the power of education to effect lasting change.

By Stephanie Deutsch

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

Stephanie Deutsch, editor

DONATE

We need your support to continue.

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