

ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

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National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Johnson started the journey of collecting information about the Macedonia school by contacting alumni.

"I began to contact alumni that were still alive, all over the country," Johnson said. "I would identify one person there to be my coordinator. They were in touch with all the alumni who lived in their city."

The people who attended the Macedonia school tended to keep in touch, Johnson said.

"Even though those people left that community, they took the community with them," Johnson said. "They maintained that community in the city of Chicago."

The alumni of the Macedonia school helped provide photographs, quotes and information for the exhibit.

"From 1925 when the school first opened, I was able to find a photograph of the first teacher," Johnson said. "His family still lives in the community."

Deborah Miles, director of the center for diversity education, helped coordinate the exhibit and

talked about the greater impact of it.

"What she (Johnson) did to bring that community together, the exhibit is an example of that," Miles said. "The power of the relationships, the pride of that community, the love."

Western North Carolina also had Rosenwald schools which served the community. Oralene Simmons and Anita White attended local Rosenwald schools and discussed their experiences at the exhibit opening.

Simmons attended the Anderson Rosenwald School in Mars Hill, which opened in 1929.

"I remember I walked a long way to the bus stop to catch the bus that would take me to the Rosenwald school," Simmons said. "It was a bus that originated out of Marshall, took the students there and also picked up students from Hot Springs who had made the trip to Mars Hill by train."

Simmons also shared the conditions of the school.

"In addition to being a one-room school, it did not have electricity. It did not have indoor plumbing," Simmons said.

Miles said the location of the exhibit in Zageir seemed fitting because many of the education classes

occur there.

"We decided to ask the Department of Education if we could do it there because it's very much about the education system in the South," Miles said. "We wanted it to be available to education students."

Lisa Sarasohn, an attendee of the exhibit and friend of Johnson's, said she had an interest in the role of Julius Rosenwald helping Booker T. Washington.

"One of the things that interests me is Jewish people being allies for African-Americans," Sarasohn said. "What I'd like to learn is more about how Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington came together and hatched this idea."

The Rosenwald schools are named after Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist who gave seed money to Booker T. Washington to start the schools.

According to the exhibit, Rosenwald contributed to the schools for the 'good of mankind.' He wrote the racial prejudice black communities face resonates with Jewish people because of their past persecution.

Sarasohn said she had a question about what could come of the exhibit.

"I'm wondering what inspiration can come of the story of the Macedonia school that can be brought forth today," Sarasohn said.

Johnson said schools still remain segregated in less prominent ways by offering classes to white students that are not offered to black students.

"Even those schools that are integrated where black and white students are in the same building, under the same roof going to school, they're still segregated because they created something called Advanced Placement classes in which they track the white kids into and then they track black kids into regular classes," Johnson said.

Johnson said people should follow the advice of Nikole Hannah-Jones, an investigative *New York Times* journalist who spoke about school segregation at UNCA in February, to de-track and desegregate schools.

"There's no evidence that a white kid sitting next to a black kid learns any less because they're sitting next to them, which is what white parents seem to be concerned about," Johnson said.

POLICE CHIEF

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but doing so will empower our community to actively participate in the process of accountability that is so critical to rebuilding trust," Conant said.

For the social activist, bringing the issue of racial inequalities back to the forefront of the public's consciousness with movements like Black Lives Matter helps remind the public that social change is possible and having African-American leadership at the center of the movement is very important.

"When I was in school, the civil rights movement and issues of race were often referred to in the past tense, as a struggle that no longer

existed. We know that is not the case, but it has taken large social movements to force the issue, to restart a conversation that needs to be had if we are to ever make true progress," Conant said.

Bettie Council, a retired elementary school teacher, now works as an adjunct instructor at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and spends her free time in Asheville as an activist.

"It has been proven that the prison system is a system to financially benefit private industries. The more prisoners, the more money they make," Council said.

For Council, change begins by fundamentally addressing the core of the centuries-old criminal justice

system, a system founded when black lives held little importance.

"The country is in the state it is because white colonists set up systems that were and still are keeping white people in power. This systemic, racist system is still in existence and operating as designed today," Council said.

Council participates in the Racial Equity Institute Training in Asheville. Council said the training within the curriculum should be included in every history book because it shows how the system was designed and set up to oppress people of color.

"It is important to talk about not only in the sense of making people who are not conscious woke,

aware," Council said.

Burbank will be on campus next week attending the Social Justice Coffee Hour put together by The Key Center for Community Engaged Learning, along with giving talks in individual classrooms apart from his main talk taking place in the Sherrill Center Ingles Mountain View Room. The talk, "Mass Incarceration and Racial Inequities in Policing: Solutions from a Police Chief" will be free and open to the public on April 18 at 7 p.m.

"If you care about the idea of living in a just society, if that's something you value, do you want to participate in a society that believes in fair and equal treatment of all, then come," Cox said.