

**SEE HISTORY MUSEUM AT NIGHT AND MEET THE CURATOR
OF A NEW EXHIBIT ABOUT THE LEGACY OF
4,978 JIM CROW-ERA SCHOOLS FOR BLACK CHILDREN**

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Apr. 5, 2022 – Meet Georgia-based photographer and author Andrew Feiler on Thursday, Apr. 21, during an evening event and book talk at The Charlotte Museum of History. Attendees can explore Feiler’s exhibit and get a signed copy of his book.

Feiler will talk about his exhibit and book of the same name—“A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America” and share how his background growing up Jewish in the South and being involved in civic initiatives drove him to create this work. He has been featured in the “Wall Street Journal,” “Smithsonian” magazine and “CBS This Morning.”

The exhibit tells the story of a Jim Crow-era partnership between a Black educator and a Jewish businessman that changed the lives of Black children and families in the American South for generations. Feiler drove more than 25,000 miles across the South to document this important history. Along the way, he interviewed former Rosenwald School students and teachers, as well as preservationists and community leaders.

Of the original 4,978 schools that communities built for Black children with the support of the Rosenwald Fund, only about 500 survive today, many of them threatened by decay and neglect. Six of these schools are in Mecklenburg County. A seventh—the Siloam School—was designed using a Rosenwald plan, but there are no records indicating that it received Rosenwald funding. The local Black farming community likely raised money for the school and donated time and labor to build it.

The history museum is displaying the exhibit and hosting Feiler’s book talk as part of a community effort to [save the Siloam School](#). The project will restore the historic school, and the building will become an important history resource for Charlotte, shining light on



current issues around equity, education and opportunity. So far, the Save Siloam School Project has raised \$660,000 toward a \$1 million goal to complete the school's restoration.

[High resolution photographs from the exhibit and accompanying book are available for media use](#), with proper credit. See more of Feiler's work at andrewfeiler.com.

The exhibit's run at the history museum is supported by grants from AT&T Foundation, PRIDE Magazine and North Carolina Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

How to Go

An evening with Andrew Feiler is Thursday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. Ticket include light refreshments and a cash bar. Feiler will sign copies of his book at the event.

Feiler's exhibit— "A Better Life for Their Children"—will be on display at The Charlotte Museum of History through June 18, 2022.

Tickets are \$25 at charlottemuseum.org/visit.

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region's history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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