

Members of the African American Community are invited to tell their stories.

Americans All is a nonprofit organization which, in addition to providing support for schools ([fundraising](#)), students ([resources](#)) and local businesses ([marketing](#)), helps to honor the contributions to American society by **all people**, especially immigrants (forced and voluntary) and minority groups. Its goal is to reinforce our nation's values of diversity, tolerance and acceptance.

Do you have a story to tell? Americans All provides a website home for African American stories, for free, so community members and their organizations can create and share their stories, preserve their legacies and add them to the increasingly visible list of major accomplishments made by African American citizens.

Like individuals, nonprofits participate in Americans All for free. These are some of the advantages for both demographics.

- People can create, publish and continually update an individual or a group legacy story on its [Heritage Honor Roll](#). These stories will reveal that heritage and culture are rich aspects of personal and group identity and will help dispel harmful stereotypical and prejudicial attitudes (some of which are unconscious biases).
- Like people, [nonprofit organizations](#) can use a story to better describe themselves, increase community visibility and attract new members. They can also create as many summary-pages (called [Legacy Partner](#) pages on their website) as desired to host member stories from its Heritage Honor Roll, thus providing stories with more exposure and recognition.
- Legacy stories can be created to honor individuals who have passed away, especially those that were caused by Covid-19.
- To get started, its storytelling templates only require members to fill in their name, date of birth and a summary not to exceed 60 words. The story can be completed over time.
- Stories can contain up to 2,000 words, of which 1,000 can be password protected for privacy. Easy-to-use [templates](#) and [tutorials](#) simplify creating a story. Stories can contain images, hyperlinks and links to music and audio-visual materials, and can also be created and published in [multiple languages](#).
- As a bonus, individuals gain free access to their diversity-based, supplemental educational resources currently used in more than [2,000 schools](#) and libraries nationwide.
- After a free 3-month trial, members can continue to receive discounts from program partners and other benefits by subscribing to its [Social Legacy Network](#) for only \$4/month. Importantly, Americans All invests 80 percent of the revenue from Social Legacy Network subscribers and Business Legacy Partner members (who can also post stories) in communities that support Americans All.

[Click Here](#) to register for Americans All, for free.

[Click Here](#) for a step-by-step tutorial on how to create and publish your story.

[Click here](#) to see stories about African Americans on our website.

[Click here](#) to learn how to become a nonprofit Legacy Partner, for free, to host legacy stories.

For additional information, contact program director Allan Kullen, (301) 520-8242 or akullen@americansall.org

Bayard Rustin Activist, African American, Athlete, Black, Civil Rights, Desegregation, Economic Justice, Freedom Ride, Gay



Note: This legacy story contains four portrait photographs that reproduce images of individuals and events important to the life of Bayard Rustin. The photographs are summarized below, and each can be viewed and/or downloaded in 8.5" x 11" format by clicking on this link. Each image in the photograph collection is linked to the text by a [number in bold brackets](#). Photograph credits are listed with the full name of the photographer.

For more than 60 years, Bayard Rustin was a nonviolent activist and leading strategist in the struggle for human rights and economic justice. As a gay man with radical politics, he was often marginalized despite his major contributions to the struggle for African American civil rights and his work for peace and disarmament. Since his death in 1987 numerous biographies and a feature length documentary "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" (2018) have recognized the importance of his work in building a more democratic and egalitarian society. In 2013 he was awarded a posthumous President Medal of Freedom (PMF) by President Barack Obama.

Bayard Rustin (March 17, 1912 - August 24, 1987) **Activist, African American, Athlete, Black, Civil Rights, Desegregation, Economic Justice, Freedom Ride, Gay, G.I. Bill, Jim Crow, March on Washington, Muslim Nonviolence, Pacific, Quaker, Socialist, Socialist, Strategic, Young Rights.** Bayard Rustin was born in 1912 in West Chester, PA, an armed camp. Florence Rustin and her sister, Huggins. His maternal grandparents, Julia (Davis) [2] and Jettie Rustin, raised him as their own. As a child, Julia had lived in a Quaker household where her mother was a domestic servant. She attended Three Chosen Friends School and was taught the values of equality, struggle, the oneness of the human family, and a belief in the nonviolent resolution of conflict. Motivated by these beliefs she became an activist and leader in the community (joining the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) while also working as a nurse). Jettie Rustin was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, and while Julia attended AME services after her marriage, it was her Quaker upbringing that informed her activism. The Rustin home was a way station for traveling African American leaders such as WEB Du Bois [2] and James Weldon Johnson [3] who were not welcome at local hotels. Such distinguished visitors and the values instilled in Bayard by his grandparents set him on a course to challenge racism, discriminatory "Jim Crow" laws, beginning as a high school student.

Despite being an outstanding student [2], athlete [2], and musician, Bayard was denied the scholarship help that would enable many white students to further their education. Julia's determination to challenge this injustice resulted in her raising funds for Bayard to matriculate at the first historically Black college, Wilberforce [2], in Ohio. He was active in several campus organizations including the famed Wilberforce Quartet [11], but was expelled in 1933 for organizing a student strike. He went on to attend Cheyney State College, and while not completing a degree program, he was honored with a posthumous "Doctor of Honor" degree in 2013.

After completing a workshop in activist training with the Quaker sponsored American Friends Service Committee, Rustin moved to New York City in 1937. Working with his aunt and uncle in Harlem, he enrolled at City College [2]. Here after called "the poor man's Harvard," the Harlem Renaissance was swirling, but the area was still a community of elites, artists, composers, performers, and intellectuals. Bayard earned his living singing with Joe White's Cantorians [2], briefly working as a teacher for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and doing odd jobs. City College was a breeding ground for political activism against racism, sexism, and classism. Rustin was active in several campus organizations including the famed Wilberforce Quartet [11], but was expelled in 1933 for organizing a student strike. He went on to attend Cheyney State College, and while not completing a degree program, he was honored with a posthumous "Doctor of Honor" degree in 2013.

To view this complete story, visit www.americansall.org/node/566378



Portrait image, Bayard Rustin, 1963. 1. Julia Davis Rustin, c. 1940. 2. WEB Du Bois, c. 1910. 3. James Weldon Johnson, 1932. 4. A. J. Muste, 1931. 5. Rustin as a young man, c. 1940. 6. Rustin's page in his high school yearbook, 1932. 7. Rustin (in red circle) on his championship high school football team, 1931. 8. Josh White, Café Society, NYC, c. 1940. 9. Sheppard Hall at City College of New York, early 1900's. 10. Cover for the DVD of Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin, 2003. 11. The Wilberforce Quartet. Rustin is far right, 1933. 12. Postcard of historic Wilberforce University, in Xenia, Ohio, c. 1850-1860.