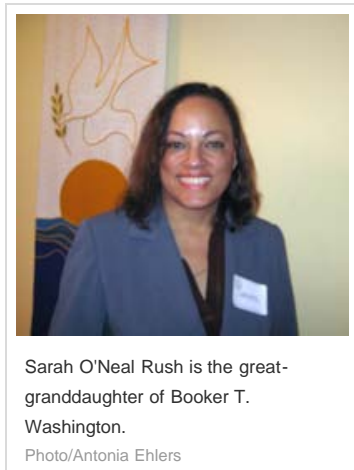




Great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington visits Serra

February 18, 1:30 PM Serra High School, San Mateo Examiner Antonia Ehlers

Comment Print Email RSS Subscribe Previous Next



Sarah O'Neal Rush is the great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington.
Photo/Antonia Ehlers

The Serra school community recently hosted guest speaker Sarah O'Neal Rush, the great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington. Rush captivated the audience as she shared compelling personal stories of her grandfather's rise above slavery. Booker T. Washington was a former slave, the author of "Up from Slavery" and the founder of Tuskegee University.

"We were honored to share an afternoon with Sarah O'Neal Rush," said Principal Barry Thornton. "She stressed the importance of education, family and community. Our students, faculty and staff were so inspired by her personal experience and wisdom."

Rush's highly motivational talk illustrated how ordinary people can achieve extraordinary feats. Her great-grandfather used to carry the books of his master's children. He spied on their

classes, vowing to read and write one day. During those times, reading and writing was considered a crime for slaves and was punishable by death. Booker T. Washington not only learned to read and write, he established a flourishing university and built it brick by brick.

"At birth, Booker T. Washington was considered to be worth less than \$400," Rush noted. "However, he went on to become the most influential black educator of his time. He knew what it was like to be a slave and he knew what it was like to be free. He had thousands of followers. He was the first African American on a postage stamp and the first African American invited to dine at the White House. My great-grandfather had a plan and a dream and a remarkable commitment to make them come true. No matter how dim the clouds, he was determined to find the silver lining."

Booker T. Washington experienced extreme poverty in rural Alabama. A family he visited shared one fork for all food. Many of his friends didn't know how to use a toothbrush. A couple he knew lived in a shack but had an expensive clock on their mantel – a symbol of hope and the desire to change.

According to Rush, "My great-grandfather was inspired by these people because they had recognized their weaknesses and had a true desire to improve their circumstances."

Advertisement



Free Workshop - San Francisco

Dean Graziosi's team will show you how to make money in real estate with no money down.

March 1-4 [Learn more](#)



Eat For Less In San Francisco

Just enter your email address and get access to the best deals in San Francisco...

[Learn more](#)



'My Wrinkles Melted Away'

See how a Mom combined 2 products & made her wrinkles vanish instantly... [Learn more](#)



How to Stop Joint Pain!

Suffering with joint pain? Click here. Shocking joint relief discovery by Cambridge, MA researchers... [Learn more](#)



How to Stop Joint Pain!

Shocking discovery by Cambridge Researcher's for amazing joint relief... [Learn more](#)

Add Your Link Here!



Vancouver 2010

Get exclusive coverage from Examiners on the [Winter Games in Vancouver](#).

Popular Articles

[How To Pick A Tour In Disney World](#)

[American University wins eduStyle award](#)

Rush shared Booker T. Washington's secrets for success: Never get so far ahead that you forget to look back. Take responsibility for where you are now compared to where you want to be. Discover your own extraordinary legacy. At the young age of 25, Booker T. Washington opened Tuskegee University on July 4, 1881. The university continues to educate thousands of great minds today, including Rush's daughter, Iesha, who is a freshman.

Raised by a struggling single mother, Rush pulled herself up by her own bootstraps. She did not personally flourish until she discovered her family roots and rich history.

"It is so important to connect with your family history," she said. "I thought my life was simple and ordinary until I discovered my history at a Booker T. Washington family reunion. I realized I was not an accident of birth because God does not make mistakes. My great-grandfather continues to inspire me today."

Rush lectures all over the country and works with high-risk youth. She has a Master's Degree in professional psychology. Rush also is the founder of Extraordinary Legacy and the Booker T. Washington Empowerment Network.

Serra sophomores Erich Wilson and Larry Moore enjoyed the talk and said it gave them a fresh perspective on their own lives.

"It was amazing to hear how Booker T. Washington achieved so much and it made us realize that the problems we have as teenagers are nothing compared to what he went through," Moore explained. "We learned to be persistent in whatever we do and above all, do our best."

More About: [history](#)

[Share This](#)

[Report This](#)



[Free History Channel](#)
Your guide to the past with rich articles & photos. Get a Free www.thehistorychannelclub.com

Chitika | Premium Sponsored Results

Related Articles:

[Affordable financial workshop for families in Santa Rosa](#)

[Oakland Parking enforcement](#)

[Women's colleges still vibrant in 21st century](#)

[The cat who went to heaven](#)

[Obama says raise academic standards... Schools make graduation harder to achieve](#)

Stanford Continuing Studies
liberal arts & sciences, creative writing
professional & personal development

Spring Registration Now Open
Classes Begin March 29

STANFORD
CONTINUING STUDIES

Add a Comment

Name:

Comments:



Become an Examiner
and write what you live.

[Apply now](#)

A rare experience

[Free event: Science Sights and Sounds presents Song of the Earth Broomfield Colorado](#)

[Hot topics for residents, medical students, premedical students, highschool students Part 2](#)

Recent Articles

[Tri-School Productions students to present The Who's Tommy](#)



Friday, February 26, 2010

Tri-School Productions students from Serra, Notre Dame and Mercy high schools are preparing to electrify the stage while performing in The Who's ...

[Serra coach hired by Denver Broncos](#)



Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Serra High School Assistant Football Coach Brian Callahan has signed a two-year contract with the Denver Broncos as the Offensive Staff Assistant

[All Articles »](#)

Things to see and do

Today	SAT 27	SUN 28	MON 01	▶
-------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---

[David Sanborn](#)



Feb 26 2010

8:00 pm

[Music »](#)



[Star Trek: The Exhibition](#)



[David Benoit](#)

[See all Events »](#)

characters left

SEND



www.asianart.org/shanghai.htm

Ads by Google

Examiner Articles by Category

Arts & Entertainment
 Bars & Clubs
 Business & Finance
 Careers & Workplace
 Education & Schools
 Family & Parenting
 Fitness & Weight Loss
 Food & Drink
 Gadgets & Tech
 Games & Hobbies
 Health
 Home & Living
 Neighborhoods

News
 Pets
 Politics
 Recreation
 Relationships
 Religion & Spirituality
 Restaurants
 Society & Culture
 Sports
 Style & Fashion
 Transportation
 Travel
[View the latest »](#)

More from Examiner.com

Associated Press
 Classifieds
 Events
 Examiners
 News By Location
 News By Topic
 Press Releases
 Slideshows
 Stock Quotes
 Today In Photos
 Vancouver 2010

[Sitemap](#)

Examiner.com Links

Advertise with us

Join our Affiliate Program
 Blog
 Examiner in the Press
 Careers
 RSS Feeds
 Terms of Use | Privacy
 Policy
 Contact Us
 Walden Media
 AEG Worldwide | AEG Live
 Foundation for a Better Life

Breaking News from NowPublic.com

World News
 Technology
 Business
 Entertainment & Culture
 Environment
 Health
 Sports
 Style
 Strange

Copyright © 2009 Clarity Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com. All Rights reserved.