



SIS Connections

One Community, Many Voices

WELCOME BACK FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Celebrating a summer well spent, reconnecting in the season ahead.

We are thrilled by the enthusiasm and participation of our members! With a documentary underway, scholarships and other projects to support through our fundraising dinner and 100 Club Raffle, SIS tables at festivals and events, and an upcoming screening of *My Omaha* followed by community discussion, there is plenty of excitement and momentum.

We are making a positive difference—both in our community and in our own lives. Through partnerships with organizations like the African American Cultural Society and the meaningful relationships we are building and nurturing with one another, we are creating a stronger, more connected community together.

Dr. Barbara Holley and Trish Le Net
Co-Presidents



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SIS loves to shine a light on our incredible SISTers—celebrating our members, sharing their contributions, unique stories, and the ways they help advance our mission of racial healing and justice. This feature is a chance to get to know each other better, be inspired, and recognize the many ways our members make a difference.

“Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.”

— Shirley Chisholm

SPOTLIGHT BY THE NUMBERS

9

years Sheila has driven veterans for the DAV

60

medical trips in a single busy year

Hundreds

of appointments made possible since 2017

1

new leadership role for Carol Ann at the Halifax Historical Museum

SISTERS IN SERVICE

From driving veterans to leading museum programs, our members put the SIS mission to work every day. Sheila and Carol Ann show what “being a positive force” looks like in practice.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Sheila Platt



Sheila receives her “Volunteer of the Year” award from her local Disabled American Veterans chapter, joined by fellow members celebrating her service.

SIS proudly celebrates member Sheila Platt, who was recently honored as “Volunteer of the Year” by her local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter.

Since 2017, Sheila has been a steady hand and a kind heart behind the wheel, driving veterans to medical appointments across Florida—sometimes as many as 60 trips a year. Her dedication shows what service looks like in action: quiet, consistent, and full of compassion.

We are delighted to see Sheila recognized for the care and commitment she gives so freely. Her service lifts others up, and her example strengthens our community.

Congratulations, Sheila—your work inspires us all!

NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE: Carol Ann Moritz



Carol Ann Moritz, Programs & Operations Manager, Halifax Historical Museum

SIS is proud to spotlight Carol Ann Moritz, who is stepping into an important leadership role as Programs & Operations Manager at the Halifax Historical Museum in Daytona Beach.

Carol Ann's work reflects the SIS mission of bringing people together, building connections, and strengthening community through collaboration. Her leadership is another example of how SISTers are making a positive difference in the places where they live and serve.

Congratulations, Carol Ann! We are proud to celebrate you and the impact you continue to make.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Mark your calendars—here's what's happening in October. Have an event idea? Send it to sisforchange@gmail.com.

SIS General Meeting: SIS general meetings are held in person at the Nexus Center at noon and on Zoom. Our next meeting (the second Tuesday of each month) takes place on Tuesday, October 13. Guests are welcome by sending a note to sisforchange@gmail.com.

Halloween Bash Fundraising Dinner: Get your costume ready! Our fundraising dinner takes place on **Friday, October 30**. Proceeds support the SIS documentary, scholarships, and other projects.

100 Club Raffle: A sellout! Thank you, SISterS, for your generous support.

INSPIRATION



Different opinions? Perfect! That's how we grow.

Real talk, respect, and real change happen when we come to the table with an open mind, a good cup of something warm, and the willingness to learn, laugh, and listen.

Be kind. Be curious. Be part of the solution.

The Power of Showing Up



There's a special kind of energy when SISterS get together. You see laughter, smiling faces, and conversations happening all across the room—women leaning in, listening closely, and enjoying being in community with one another.

SIS was built on one simple belief: we're stronger when we show up for each other. Not because we agree on everything, but because we keep choosing connection—through the hard conversations, the joyful moments, and everything in between.

Every story in this issue shows what that looks like. A bridge crossed in Selma. A classroom in DeLand where students saw their own experiences in ours. A milestone birthday shared across three generations. Each moment started with someone reaching out.

So this season, let's make a point to listen to one another, reach further, and strive to build a community where every voice makes us stronger.

Stronger Together. #TheSISWay

SUMMER RECAP

Our Summer Memories: Adventures, Milestones & Sisterhood

As summer ends, our SISterS have plenty of memories to share. From meaningful journeys and history lessons to milestone celebrations, community outreach, and quiet time to relax and recharge, our summer experiences were as varied as the women who make up our SIS family.

ADVENTURES, LEARNING & EXPLORING

Holly's Journey Through Civil Rights History



Holly Flynn had a particularly memorable summer filled with learning and exploration. She finally took the Road Scholar trip, *The Civil Rights Movement: Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham*. The journey gave her a deeper understanding of the historic and continuing struggle for racial equality in the United States.

Along the way, Holly followed in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., learned about the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Rosa Parks, walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, where she learned about the victims of the 1963 bombing.

One of the highlights of her trip was visiting the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery. Holly highly recommends Montgomery to anyone interested in exploring these important chapters of American history.



Closer to home, Holly also joined a walking tour in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, exploring the life of W.E.B. Du Bois, who spent his early years there. The town is now honoring its legacy with a museum and a statue in front of the library, where Holly enjoyed a memorable photo opportunity sitting beside him!

Eve's Summer in the Great Smoky Mountains



Eve Skolnik spent part of her summer exploring the beauty of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. On August 25, she enjoyed plenty of great hiking and beautiful vistas along the way—wonderful ways to experience nature and recharge.

Lee's Journey to the Solomon Islands

This summer, Lee and Tony Ross took an unforgettable journey halfway around the world to the Solomon Islands, traveling 15 time zones to the island of Guadalcanal. From August 3–13, their trip was filled with history, meaningful connections, and a deeper understanding of a country that played an important role in World War II.



Lee and Tony at a memorial on Guadalcanal

A Journey into Family History

For Lee, this was far more than an adventure to a distant destination. Her father served as a U.S. Marine during World War II and fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Visiting the island where he served gave Lee the opportunity to walk through a part of her father's history and reflect on his service and legacy.

Getting there was an adventure in itself! Lee and Tony traveled from Orlando to Los Angeles, then on to Fiji, before finally reaching Guadalcanal. The journey took nearly two days each way. Crossing the International Date Line meant they actually lost a day on the way there—but arrived home on the same calendar day they left!

Learning From the People

During their stay, Lee and Tony were fortunate to have knowledgeable local guides who helped them explore the island and better understand its people, culture, and history. One particularly memorable experience was Lee's conversation with the woman who operates the Vilo War Museum. Meeting people who are personally committed to preserving the stories of Guadalcanal helped bring the island's history to life. Lee also learned more about the important role Solomon Islanders played during World War II. Local scouts provided invaluable assistance to Allied forces, helping them navigate the islands and gather information during the campaign.



Lee on Guadalcanal

A Rich and Complicated History

The Solomon Islands is home to many languages and dialects, along with English, reflecting the country's diverse cultural heritage and history of British influence. Over the centuries, the islands have experienced involvement from several foreign powers. But World War II brought some of the most dramatic changes, as Japanese and Allied forces fought fiercely against each other across the islands.

Today, that history remains visible in many places. Lee was struck by the amount of abandoned military equipment and other remnants of the war that remain, as well as the continuing effort to locate and properly honor the remains of soldiers who never made it home.

Seeing the Solomon Islands Today

The trip also gave Lee a glimpse into the challenges facing the Solomon Islands today. Many communities continue to face significant needs, including limited access to clean water, electricity, plumbing, and other basic infrastructure. Lee came away with a strong sense of the resilience of Solomon Islanders and a desire to see greater international support for communities still dealing with the consequences of history and ongoing economic challenges.

She also learned about more recent periods of political and social unrest, the history of the U.S. Peace Corps in the country, and the growing influence of China—all reminders that the story of the Solomon Islands continues to evolve.

A Summer to Remember

Lee's journey to Guadalcanal was a unique combination of family, history, adventure, and discovery. Standing on the same island where her father served nearly 80 years ago gave her a special connection to his story. At the same time, meeting local people and learning about their lives offered a much broader perspective on Guadalcanal—not just as a famous World War II battlefield, but as a vibrant community with its own culture, history, challenges, and hopes for the future.

Fifteen time zones. Three flights. Nearly two days of travel each way. One very meaningful journey.

Lee returned home with a deeper appreciation for her father's service, the people of the Solomon Islands, and the enduring legacy of Guadalcanal. What a summer adventure—and what a story to bring home!

CELEBRATING MILESTONES & SISTERHOOD

Ann Celebrates 90 Wonderful Years

Summer brought a very special family celebration for Ann DeLucia, who marked her **90th birthday on August 16**. The day was doubly special because her youngest granddaughter, Ariel, was born on the same date and celebrated her **12th birthday!**

Ann's family had originally planned to travel to Florida, but after considering the multiple airfares for family members coming from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, Ann suggested a better idea: **meet in New York City!**



Ann's family celebration in New York City—Ariel is the fifth adorable granddaughter from the left!

The plan turned into a wonderful, fun-filled weekend filled with laughter, family time, and memories to treasure. What a wonderful double celebration—and a beautiful example of family, love, and generations coming together!

Happy 90th, Ann—and happy 12th, Ariel! What a wonderful birthday to share!

Myra's Venetian Birthday Celebration



It is often said that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas—but Myra Middleton Valentine's 75th birthday celebration was too special not to share!

To celebrate this milestone birthday, Myra brought her dream of experiencing Venice, Italy, to life with a special celebration at **The Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada**, on July 19, 2026. Surrounded by family, friends, and sorority sisters, Myra enjoyed a memorable day filled with laughter, love, and celebration.

The festivities included a ride on the resort's indoor gondolas, followed by dinner at the Grand Lux Café, where everyone enjoyed a specially selected menu and birthday cake. It was a wonderful way to celebrate 75 years of life, friendship, family, and blessings. The celebration was made even more meaningful because Myra was also in Las Vegas that week attending the **72nd International Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center, joining more than 27,000 sorority sisters for this incredible gathering.

From celebrating a milestone birthday to connecting with sorority sisters from around the world, Myra's Las Vegas adventure was truly a summer to remember—filled with joy, gratitude, fellowship, and special blessings.



SIS IN THE COMMUNITY

June 17–18, 2026 | DeLand, Deltona & Daytona Beach

As part of our SIS field trip, two SIS members, Eve Sckolnik and Mary Jennings, had the opportunity to share their personal stories and life experiences with students at Catalyst Academy schools. On **June 17**, storytelling took place in **DeLand and Deltona**, followed by a visit to **Daytona Beach on June 18**.

The students and staff listened attentively and then opened up to share some of their own experiences, thoughts, and reflections. What began as an opportunity to share stories became a meaningful exchange filled with honesty, empathy, and connection.

It was heartwarming to hear the students make connections between their own experiences and the stories shared by our SIS members. The experience was a beautiful reminder of the power of storytelling to connect generations, inspire understanding, and build bridges between different life experiences.

We are proud of our SISisters for giving their time, sharing their voices, and making a positive impact on the next generation.

RELAXING, RECHARGING & ENJOYING SUMMER

Not every summer memory involves travel or a major event. Sometimes, summer gives us the opportunity to slow down, spend time at home, enjoy family and friends, and simply recharge. Those quiet moments are meaningful, too, reminding us that there is no one right way to enjoy the summer.

Whatever our SISTers did—or how they chose to spend their summer—we hope the season brought moments of joy, connection, discovery, and renewal.

As we begin a new season together, we look forward to hearing more stories, sharing more experiences, and continuing to celebrate the wonderful sisterhood that makes SIS so special.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to put your talents to work for SIS this season. Here are a few places to start:

JOIN A COMMITTEE	BRING A FRIEND	SUPPORT THE MISSION
Fun & Fellowship, Outreach, Communications, Membership, and Book Club are the engine of everything SIS does. Whether you love planning events, telling stories, welcoming new members, or leading a good discussion, there's a seat waiting for you.	Guests are always welcome at our general meetings and events. Invite a friend to the October 13 meeting at the Nexus Center or on Zoom.	We can't do what we do without the passion of our members and friends of SIS. Visit SeekingInsightsforSolutions.org to donate, or join us as a member and help shape what comes next.

CLOSING

Thank you for reading this issue of SIS Connections, and thank you for being part of a community that believes conversation can change hearts—and hearts can change communities. As this newsletter shows, the work of SIS happens everywhere our members go: on a bridge in Selma, in a classroom in DeLand, on an island in the Pacific, and around a family table in New York City.

We'll see you at the next general meeting. Until then—stand up, speak out, and spark change.

With gratitude, your SIS Connections team

HOW TO FIND SIS	OUR MISSION & VISION
Keep up with SIS all season long—follow us and share our posts with a friend: Facebook ♦ Instagram ♦ YouTube ♦ LinkedIn Website: SeekingInsightsforSolutions.org Email: sisforchange@gmail.com Editors: Pearl Jones & Karen Flaherty	Our Vision: A society empowered by racial equality, social justice, and mutual respect. Our Mission: To be a positive force in eliminating racial inequality and social injustice through acknowledging history, fostering interracial discussions, and promoting understanding, acceptance, and respect across races. 