



SIS Connections

One Community, Many Voices

Celebrating progress, strengthening connections, building the future.

WELCOME! Presidents' Corner

Happy Spring! We welcome our new SIS members and thank all members for your continuous participation in all our projects!

We had a wonderful SIS Circle Gathering last Thursday, where we had a chance to simply sit together in each other's company. In fact, "Deepening Connections and Having Honest Conversations" was the theme! This is what SIS is all about: talking together cross-racially and learning from each other in a safe space.

We are also excited about working once again this June and July with Catalyst Academies in Volusia County. Catalyst was founded by Dr. Felicia Benzo to create "programs and initiatives that mobilize adults to inspire children and youth to greatness." We will bring some of the stories from our anthology, *Where Colors Meet*, to share with the students and to spark conversation with them about their own experiences.

Please consider joining SIS. It is a wonderful group of women!

Barbara Holley and Trish Le Net
SIS Co-Presidents



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TEACH THE TRUTH TOUR WITH DR. MARVIN DUNN



On March 29-30, 2026 fellow SIS member, Debbie Parker and I were thrilled to go on a two-day *Teach the Truth Tour* with Dr. Marvin Dunn, Professor Emeritus and renowned historian from Florida International University. Dr. Dunn wrote the book *A History of Florida Through Black Eyes*, which we read and discussed last year in our SIS Book Club.

In 2023, Dr. Dunn created these tours especially for students in high school and college to various historic sites in Florida where racial violence against Blacks had taken place. The tours are “a direct response to the way Florida lawmakers were banning the teaching of Black History to public school students throughout the state.”

We boarded a bus filled with students from Bethune-Cookman University (BCU) and Stetson University with advisors and professors. We stopped at several lynching sites and graves to honor the victims and learn their story. Dr. Dunn showed the commemorative, yet whitewashed plaque of the Ocoee Massacre put up by the Florida Division of Historical Resources. The plaque deceptively ignores the underlying truth that 300 Black people were killed because Whites did not want Blacks to vote. Those bodies are buried in a vacant lot surrounded by a fence in a neighborhood with a marker that blandly states: “In honor and memory of African Americans who called Ocoee their home.”

One of the highlights of the trip and a delightful surprise to Dr. Dunn occurred in Stuckey (a small town near Groveland). A woman spontaneously invited the whole busload of us to her home where her grandmother still lives. As we crowded around the living room, Dr. Dunn was able to briefly interview the 93-year-old woman about her experience of living through the 1949 shootings in her town by an angry White mob. He also interviewed her brother from his front porch, two doors down the road. Dr. Dunn just beamed and said how important it is to get firsthand testimony.

The second day, we traveled to Rosewood to learn about the 1923 massacre there which destroyed the Black community. We had lunch under the canopy on Dr. Dunn’s beautiful tree-filled five-acre property which he, with the help of students, family and friends, has turned into a peaceful park-like setting with flowering bushes, paths and benches. He called it a hallowed ground ...

(continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



"I will not allow my life's light
to be determined
by the darkness
around me."

Sojourner Truth

American abolitionist and activist
for African-American civil rights
and women's rights
(1797 — 1883)



HUMAN REFORM POLITICS: *a force for positive change*

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that an entire **Manhattan**
village owned by Black Americans was
destroyed to build Central Park. The
community was called **Seneca Village**. It
spanned from 82nd Street to 89th Street.

SIS General Meeting: Our monthly meeting (the second Tuesday of each month) will take place on **Tuesday, May 12th** at 12 noon at the Bunnell Nexus Center (in-person and on Zoom). Guests are welcome by sending a note to sisforchange@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 23 at 10am: SIS Fun & Fellowship Field Trip to Saint Augustine for a visit and tour of the Best Richardson African Diaspora Bookstore and Museum. [Email Marva Jones](mailto:MarvaJones@sisforchange.com) to RSVP.

Saturday, May 2 Arbor Day: Central Park in Town Center, Palm Coast, 9am -1pm. SIS will have a table.

Saturday, May 30th—4th Annual Hispanic Food & Arts Fest of Palm Coast: from 12noon to 7pm at Central Park in Town Center. Volunteers needed.

Saturday, June 13th: Juneteenth Celebration 12-6pm at the African-American Cultural Society. Volunteers needed.

Friday, October 30, 2026: SAVE THE DATE! SIS is planning a Halloween-themed Fundraiser (6:30-9pm) at the Palm Coast Community Center with dinner and dancing. Mark your calendars for a Fun event! Details to follow soon.

Teach the Truth Tour (continued from previous page)

because it was the site where many Rosewood homes were burned and people perished or fled. He told us that he hopes to build a center there. He pointed out a home on an adjacent property where a White family helped those fleeing the violence by hiding them during the day. To this day, Dr. Dunn is the only Black person to own property in Rosewood.

For the final activity on the property before getting back on the bus to return home, Dr. Dunn had us sit in a circle so that we could give our feedback about the tour. The students were just amazing and showed such poise and grace throughout the tour. One young woman said that she was proud of her ancestors and their ability to survive despite great odds. Everyone's voice was filled with a combination of emotion and resolve to make this a better world. I still feel the effects of this powerful and emotional tour, and I think I always will.

- Trish Le Net



THE PJI CONFERENCE

It's really not possible for me to describe **The Peace and Justice Institute** (<https://www.peacejusticeinstitute.org>) and their 8th Annual Resilience Conference, held this year in Winter Park, FL on April 9-10th. But I was bubbling over with excitement while I was sharing a bit about the upcoming PJI, because there was a possibility that *one* of my SISTers might be attending with me. Instead, Trish LeNet, Mary Kiernan-Tighe and Karen Flaherty joined me on the first day of the conference. With SIS members there with me, it was so much more special. And by chance, we were seated with the perfect group of four ladies, whom we'll be meeting again.

The theme of this year's conference was "Creating a Resilient Community: Arts for Thriving – Where Science and the Arts Intersect to unlock Creativity, Healing and Resilience." Both days of the conference were incredible, filled with creative arts, reflection, and connection. And key to all that PJI does are the 13 "Principles for How We Treat Each Other". Day Two included our choice of several workshops, and I attended three that were fabulous. I especially enjoyed the "Public Art and the Power of Place" workshop. One of the two speakers highlighted Winter Park's Historic African American West Side, Hannibal Square, which is right next to the community center. In the afternoon, I spent my time in "Integrating the Arts to Address Trauma and PTSD". There is so much to understand and learn about trauma and also about how art can help.

BOTH SIDES OF THE BRIDGE

We are so happy to announce that the 3-minute trailer for our Both Sides of the Bridge project is finally available publicly—both on our [SIS website](#) and on our [YouTube Channel](#). We hope you'll take a look and let us know what you think! The project of interviewing folks in Bunnell and Flagler Beach continues.



My favorite part of the conference was the "Singing as a Healing Power and Nonviolent Practice" workshop. During one of Day One's closing activities, everyone formed a rectangular oval at the perimeter of the room, and we were all led in song. Like then, our workshop group learned and sang the choruses of a few songs of resistance. That structured little lesson must have been the trick for others too, since it led to a collection of mostly virtual strangers spontaneously singing, outdoors in the covered pavilion, at lunchtime. Most of the conference participants were late for the afternoon sessions, since everyone kept following two leaders singing more and more melodies of joy, inspiration, and solidarity. One of the songs poignantly repeated: "We get there together or never get there at all".

This was the 8th PJI conference and each year the theme is different, but all are meant to guide us toward healing. I hope more SIS members will be able to join in next year.

If you'd like to find out more about the conference:

<https://www.peacejusticeinstitute.org/resilience-network/annual-resilience-conference/>

- Debbie Parker



SIS Members as Women's History Month Speakers

In recognition of International Women's Month, two remarkable SIS Members were asked to speak at the Democratic Women's Club on March 21st. We were truly inspired by both speakers: Marva Jones and Mary Lou Keener.

Marva Jones delivered a heartfelt tribute to her grandmother and mother, honoring the women who instilled in her a deep commitment to service. She reflected on her mother's long and distinguished career in music. She showed us her own talent when she beautifully sang a few lines from Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite anthem, adding a moving and personal touch to her remarks. Marva shared many of her own accomplishments in serving others as an award-winning educator and as a member of organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Seeking Insights for Solutions (SIS), Inc.

Mary Lou Keener also showed us what a life of service means. As a nurse, she joined the navy, opted to go to Vietnam serving on a hospital ship there during the war caring for severely injured soldiers and seeing Vietnamese families stripped of everything begging for help. Later she joined the Veterans Against the War, continued her service in the US Air Force as a flight nurse and served in the Clinton Administration as General Counsel with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She became chair of the Purple Heart Foundation. She earned her Juris Doctorate and practiced law in Atlanta before moving to Palm Coast.

Both of these amazing women remind us all of the power of legacy, the importance of lifting others and the role each of us can play in strengthening our communities.

Bunnell History Day and Flagler Beach Dems

On April 8th, SIS was invited to speak at the Flagler Beach Democratic Club. Trish Le Net provided a concise overview of SIS. Jackie Rector and Lindsay Elliot shared parts of their story from our anthology, *Where Colors Meet*, and had the audience in rapt attention. They also did a question and answer with the audience. The club was very enthusiastic about SIS, and very impressed with the trailer for *Both Sides of the Bridge*. Thank you Trish, Jackie and Lindsay! (picture at left)

On Saturday, April 11th, SIS had a table for outreach at the 2nd annual Bunnell History Day. We had some meaningful conversations with people and nine people signed up for our newsletter. Also, an outdoor mural was just completed caddy corner to Holden House Museum on Route 100. It is worth a look as it is a wonderful mural. While you are there to see the museum, stop into the former courthouse and see our SIS exhibit in the Vault Room. (Mural at top left; Mary Kiernan-Tighe and Peggy Turner at left.)

Obama Presidential Center & Chicago Heritage Tour: September 23-26, 2026

More Info: [All in One Tours](#)



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**Obama Presidential Center
& Chicago Heritage Tour
September 23 - 26, 2026**

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Obama Presidential Center



All In One Tour Services

Presents

"Obama Presidential Center & Chicago Heritage Tour"

Travel Dates → September 23 - 26, 2026

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Roundtrip airfare from Dallas to Chicago
- ▶ Deluxe motorcoach transportation in Chicago throughout tour
- ▶ 3 Nights accommodation at 3.5 – 4 star hotel
- ▶ 6 MEALS: 3 Breakfasts; 2 lunches; 1 Dinner
- ▶ Admissions to attractions listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Guided motorcoach tours featuring historical heritage sites in Chicago
- ▶ Taxes and gratuity for driver, guides, hotel and meals
- ▶ Chilled bottled water

GROUP LEADER: *Alice Riggins Stevenson*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The **OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER** is a cultural space designed to inspire people and bring communities together to create positive change. Located on Chicago's South Side, where President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama began their public service careers, the 19.3-acre campus offers many activities. Visitors can explore the museum, visit the public library branch, relax on the Great Lawn, or play basketball at Home Court.

Included in the tour is a visit to the oldest independent museum in the US dedicated to the study and conservation of African-American history, culture, and art.

The group will also visit the national headquarters of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international membership organization fighting for social change.



PRICE PER PERSON <i>(Price Based on 45 – 50 Paid Passengers)</i>	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
	\$ 1,898.00	\$ 1,467.00	\$ 1,322.00	\$ 1,250.00

PAYMENT SCHEDULE & DUE DATES:

PAYMENTS: DEPOSIT BY:	April 23, 2026	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$360.00	\$350.00
1 ST Payment	June 23, 2026	\$ 530.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 530.00
Final Balance Due	Aug 10, 2026	\$ Balance	\$ Balance	\$ Balance	\$ Balance

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit and payment schedule is listed above. A deposit is due upon making your reservation and no later than April 23, 2026. Complete payment must be received 6 weeks (August 10, 2026) prior to departure. Motorcoach seat assignments will be given when a deposit is received. Acceptable forms of payment include check, cashier's check or cash. **Credit cards are accepted with an additional 4.0% fee added to the total that is being charged.**

Name(s) _____ Phone (____) _____
 Address _____ Email: _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Deposit /In Full _____ TOTAL: _____
 Yes, Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance No, *Please Read and Sign Release on Back

Email: info@allinonetourservices.com

(214) 939-0333

Website: www.allinonetourservices.com

ALL IN ONE TOUR SERVICES

REMIT TO: Attn: Alice R. Stevenson ★ P.O. Box 421461 ★ Dallas, TX 75342

HOW TO FIND SIS

We're excited that SIS has become a 501.c.3 and we're ramping up our social media presence. Please find SIS on :

- ◆ [Facebook](#)
- ◆ [Instagram](#)
- ◆ [YouTube](#)
- ◆ [LinkedIn](#)
- ◆ [Threads](#)
- ◆ [Blue Sky](#)

ABOUT SIS: FOUNDERS' STORY

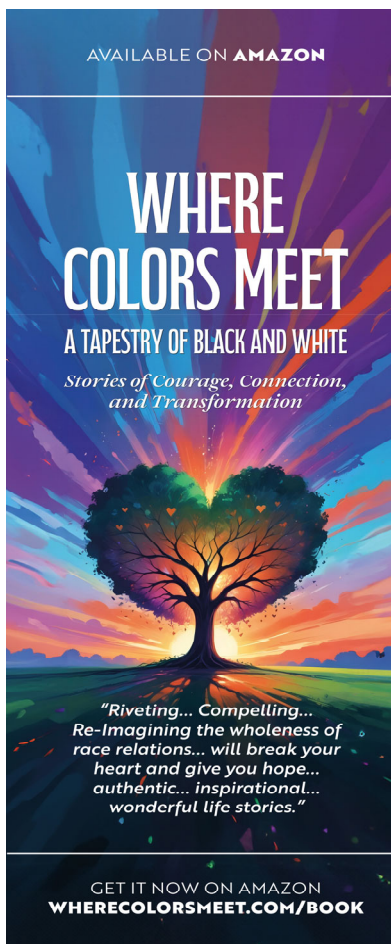
Seeing a need for energetic, nonprofit work toward social justice, SIS formed its organization in the summer of 2020 following George Floyd's death to provide sensible solutions. We've consistently grown since then, all thanks to the helping hands of our amazing community of women!

SIS is now an independent

501.c.3 with over 60 members—just about half Black and half White. Our standing Committees include: Fun & Fellowship, Outreach, Fundraising, Scholarship, Both Sides of the Bridge, Communications, Membership and Book Club.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information and to become a member.

We're so grateful for all the contributions we've received over the past five years to get us to this point! We can't do what we do without the passion of our members and friends of SIS! Please visit [our website](#) to donate.



OUR MISSION & VISION:

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.



Website: [SeekingInsightsforSolutions.org](https://seekinginsightsforsolutions.org)

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