



## SIS Connections

### One Community, Many Voices

Celebrating progress, strengthening connections, building the future.

#### WELCOME! PRESIDENTS' CORNER

What a year of transitions this has been! In September, SIS became a true nonprofit with our tax exempt 501.c.3 status. This means that all of us as members have a voice in our operations and functions. At our Planning Meeting in October, we added new committees including Scholarship and Fundraising. With the other standing committees, there are plenty of opportunities for all members to take part. We encourage everyone to get involved as we continue to strive toward our vision of a society empowered by racial equality, social justice and mutual respect.

We send our best wishes to all our SIS members and friends of SIS for a joyous and peace-filled holiday season!

Barbara Holley and Trish Le Net

SIS Co-Presidents



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents' Corner.....	1
Both Sides of the Bridge....	2
Upcoming Events .....	3
"An Aged World" .....	4
Shirley Chisholm.....	5
SIS Book Club .....	5
Event Flyers.....	8-12
About SIS .....	13



## X Flagler County Historical Soci...

FLAGLER BEACH BRIDGE UNDERGOES  
SEVERAL REVISIONS

In 1915, George Moody started a two-car ferry as the first passage over the Intracoastal Waterway into Flagler Beach. A turnstile bridge replaced the ferry in 1920, and was itself replaced in the 1950's by the drawbridge pictured here. The drawbridge was replaced in 1997 by the high-rise bridge that remains today.  
- compiled by Laurie Hahn  
FLAGLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#VirtualRoadTrip #visitflagler #loveflorida  
#supportflagler #TourismCares  
#SpiritofTravel #visitflorida

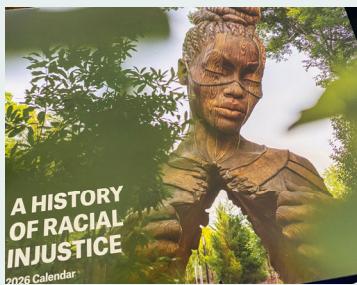


Write a comment...

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### EJI CALENDAR AVAILABLE

From the Equal Justice Initiative, EJI's 2026 calendar is a full-color wall calendar that includes hundreds of historical entries and 12 short essays highlighting historical events and issues in our nation's racial history. \$6 each or 5 for \$25. [Shop.eji.org](http://Shop.eji.org)



2

## BOTH SIDES OF THE BRIDGE

### A Community Project Built on Storytelling, Connection, and You

Every community has a landmark that means more than brick, steel, or concrete. For Flagler County, the Moody Bridge is one of those places—a structure that has carried a century of memories, challenges, and change. Initially built as a turnstile in 1920, the bridge opened the way to the beaches of Flagler County, offering access to homes, jobs, and leisure. But for many of our Black residents, it also symbolized a barrier. For decades, people of color were excluded from life on the Flagler Beach side. What served as a gateway for some was a closed door for others.

SIS believes that understanding our history is essential to shaping a healthier, more connected future. That's why we've launched "Both Sides of the Bridge", an initiative designed to preserve and honor the lived experiences of Flagler County's diverse long-term residents. For readers who are new to SIS or this project—welcome! You're about to discover why this work matters so deeply.

In collaboration with the Flagler County Historical Society, the Flagler Beach Historical Society, and the African American Cultural Society, the project is gathering stories that reflect the fullness of our community. Our dedicated SIS team—**Jackie Rector, Cynthia Dodzik, Phyllis Pearson, Myra Valentine, Deb Giordano, Diane Cline, Pearl Jones, and Bettie Eubanks**—together with many community members, has worked tirelessly to get this project off the ground. We also want to recognize **Mary Kiernan-Tighe and Marva Jones**, whose early contributions were essential to our launch.

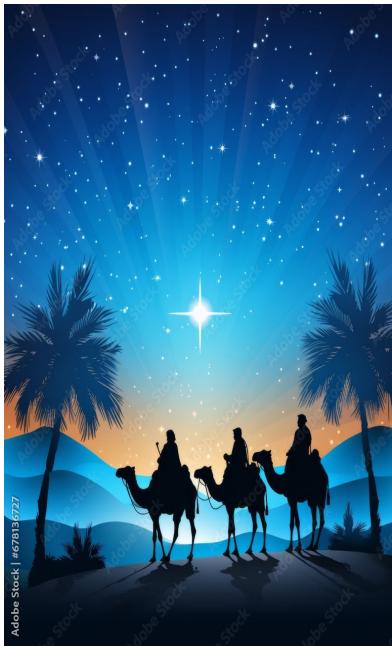
In teams of two — partnered across racial lines — our volunteers interview long-time residents about their experiences throughout the 20th century. Their personal narratives are being preserved digitally for researchers, students, and future generations.

We aren't stopping with preservation. Our vision is to bring these stories into the light, possibly through museum exhibits, documentaries, podcasts, and public presentations. The project's goals are clear:

- Collect & preserve stories from at least 20 diverse residents by the end of 2025.
- Build access through a public repository of oral histories.
- Engage the community through programs and presentations.
- Foster healing by using these narratives to spark understanding and connection.



(continued on next page)



#### DID YOU KNOW??

##### THREE KINGS

Did you know that many Latino, African American, and Caribbean communities celebrate Three Kings Day, a reminder that the Christmas story has always been multiracial and multicultural.

##### AND DID YOU KNOW...

That the song “Go Tell It on the Mountain” was preserved and popularized by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, who used the music to raise funds for educating formerly enslaved people. It’s now a Christmas classic rooted in justice and hope.

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

**SIS General Meeting:** Our meeting (the second Tuesday of each month) will take place on Tuesday, January 13th at 12 noon on Zoom. Guests are welcome by sending a note to [sisforchange@gmail.com](mailto:sisforchange@gmail.com).

**Kwanzaa Celebration:** Saturday, December 27th at the AACS in Palm Coast from 12 noon-5pm. See page 8 flyer.

**Rosewood Park Launch and Dedication:** Sunday, January 11th, ceremony at noon hosted by historian Marvin Dunn. For more info, visit their [webpage](#).

**MLK Day Parade:** See Flyer on page 10. The Parade will be in Bunnell on Saturday, Jan. 17th. SIS will have a vehicle in the parade; please contact [Trish](#) to participate.

**AKA Founder’s Day 2026:** On Sunday, January 18th, the AKA Sorority will have a Worship Service at 9am and Celebration at 2pm at PCUMC. See Page 11 flyer.

**SIS Fun & Fellowship: Friday, January 23rd at 5:30pm** Sock Hop at the VFW Hall—see flyer on page 9.

**SIS Q&A Workshop:** Friday, February 6th from 2-4pm; location in Palm Coast TBD. Discussion and reactions to “A Binding Truth” and “The Long Shadow”, two movies SIS screened in 2025. Bring your questions/comments.

**Save the Date: Friday, February 27th breakfast honoring SIS** and the Florida Museum of Black History. See flyer on page 12.

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## Both Sides of the Bridge *(continued)*

And here’s where you come in: We need SIS members of all talents and interests. Our transcription team — **Lonnie Mathis, Patricia Malak, Debbie Parker, and Deb Giordano**—would welcome your help. If you’re a fan of “treasure hunting,” our research crew—**Lee Ross, Eve Sckolnik, Dale Curran, Ann Delucia, Susie Moya, Trish Le Net, and Barbara Holley**—is digging through photo archives and the Theo Hein collection, searching for images that bring these stories to life. We’re also seeking volunteers to explore how other national oral history projects share their work, and individuals willing to help gather materials for a short video we’re producing.

Both Sides of the Bridge is more than a project. And there’s a place in it for you. Join us — as we gain a richer understanding of both our differences and our shared humanity.



## “AN AGED WORLD”

“**An Aged World**” evolved during weeks of brainstorming ways to interview the world as an elder. My goal was to write a narrative using all five senses in an alarming, but calming voice, an oxymoron effect.

The Florida State Poets Association (FSPA) held its annual fall convention 2025 October 25-27 at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, FL. The poem was announced as a winner in the FSPA 2025 Contests. In Category #1 : Free Verse, it earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award, \$100.00 and publication in *Cadence* anthology.

### **An Aged World Speaks**

*-Mary Rogers-Grantham, Poet and Professor*

I have been old for a very long time.

I see tears that are tired, tears that are angry,  
and tears that just don't know what to do.  
And so, I cry too. I take nothing for granted  
even when wisdom seems as scattered as dust  
particles I cannot see. I am torn and the separation  
of my fabric has jagged wounds of global infections.  
I bury my face in my hands.

I feel effects of raw fear and blatant worry,  
the addictive robbers of abundant living  
tracking centuries from ago. I still ask what,  
but only hear the sounds of loud and  
the silence of secrets chasing each other.  
I am reminded that aging pauses to die  
and grief sounds like was.

I hear translation in the metamorphosis of violence  
as it takes shape in the context of the next thing.  
I engage my memory and it forgets its original form.  
Hunger growls on earth and roams continents  
scavenging hope and dreaming answers.  
I reject the power dynamic while quietly digesting  
literal ways and figurative ways to lace survival.

*(continued on next page)*

### **SIS MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

*What does being part of a diverse sisterhood mean to you, and how has SIS shaped that meaning?*

This question is at the heart of our new quarterly feature: *The SIS Membership Spotlight*.

Created to highlight and celebrate the SISters who make our community vibrant, impactful, and beautifully diverse, each spotlight offers a member the chance to share what SIS means to her and why she chose to join us. It's more than a moment of recognition. It's a space to uplift voices, foster mutual understanding, and deepen the bonds of sisterhood that hold us together.



## “AN AGED WORLD” (CONTINUED)

I taste the crumbs of blues as they grunt  
and grumble in profiles of consciousness,  
sweaty voices painting tired into lyrical  
language in shattered pieces and shadowed  
phrases about the haunted house where  
happy once lived, now then, erasure is  
the occupant squatter bucking trend of was.

I smell daily leftovers with my hungry spirit,  
inhale every gaze that never changes, only  
fade into voices on hold like a choir enduring  
the wait time for its first-time ever singing.  
I reprimand judgment and abbreviate anxiety.  
I am torn and the separation of my fabric  
has jagged wounds of global infections.

I have been old for a very long time.

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## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM PROCLAMATION

On November 18, 2025, the City of Palm Coast presented the Democratic Women’s Club of Flagler County (DWCF) with an official Proclamation designating November as **Shirley Chisholm Month**. This was not the first time the City honored the legacy of Rep. Shirley Chisholm—over the past three years, Palm Coast has recognized her contributions with a plaque and walking trail. Shirley Chisholm chose Palm Coast as her retirement home, and she spent her final years here, making this recognition especially meaningful to the community.

DWCF President **Agnes Lightfoot** and SIS member expressed her excitement and gratitude at the strong turnout of women and men from across the community. The audience included members of SIS, the Palm Coast Democratic Club, the Palm Coast Historical Society, the Democratic Women’s Club of Flagler County, African American Society (AAC) and the Democratic Black Caucus. **Marie Bosely-Ford**, the goddaughter of Shirley Chisholm, was also present. Agnes noted how striking it was to see everyone proudly standing in their purple Shirley Chisholm T-shirts from the Shirley Chisholm Walk, creating a powerful visual as the proclamation was read aloud. At the conclusion, Agnes stepped to the microphone and delivered a heartfelt thank-you message to the City of Palm Coast and to **James Hirst**, Director of Palm Coast Parks & Recreation, for their continued recognition of Rep. Chisholm’s impact. (see photo above left)

Members of SIS shared their pride in participating in this momentous occasion, knowing that—like the other organizations present—their involvement will be recorded in the historical record for future generations.

### SIS BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to participate in the quarterly SIS Book Club discussion. Our next selection is *Anybody’s Daughter* by Pamela Samuels Young. We are hopeful that the author can join us for a March discussion via Zoom. Once the date is confirmed, we will share additional details.

We extend our sincere thanks to all SISters who participated in our recent discussion of *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. It was a thoughtful and engaging conversation around a book that offers important insights and should be widely read.

**Congratulations** to Eve Sckolnik, who was our lucky spinning wheel winner of a \$25 Amazon gift certificate, which can be used to purchase the next book or the prize of her choice.

## Can You Imagine?

“

From walking barefoot to school in Kibunzi to finding my voice in America, I've learned that every step of the journey matters.



**Luzibu Nsakala**

**“LET US COME  
TOGETHER AND  
UPLIFT ONE  
ANOTHER IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES BY  
CREATING  
CIRCLES OF LOVE,  
WHERE EVERY  
VOICE IS VALUED.”**



## END OF THE YEAR MEMBERSHIP WRAP-UP

### Happy Holidays to all our SISters and loved ones!

In 2025, Seeking Insights for Solutions (SIS) expanded its reach, strengthened its programs, and deepened its commitment to fostering understanding across racial and cultural differences. Through storytelling, education, and community engagement, SIS continues to create spaces where learning leads to connection and connection inspires change.

A cornerstone of SIS's work is the anthology *Where Colors Meet: A Tapestry of Black and White*. In 2025, the book continued to reach new audiences, and SIS broadened access by producing an audiobook edition, now available on Amazon. The anthology was featured at regional and national events, including the F.R.E.S.H. Book Festival; the Association of Black Psychologists Conference in Daytona Beach; the Flagler County Library Book Fair, the ASALH 110th Annual Conference in Atlanta; and the Lincolnville Festival in St. Augustine.

Community education remained central to SIS's mission. In partnership with organizations that share our values, such as the Together Is Better Alliance (TiBA) in Chicago and the African American Cultural Center in Palm Coast, SIS sponsored public screenings of the documentaries *The Long Shadow* and *A Binding Truth*. These events encouraged thoughtful dialogue and helped participants better understand the historical and present-day realities that shape racial experiences in America.

SIS also invested in youth engagement by participating in conversations with students ages 10 to 14 at CATALYST Academy, a summer program in Daytona Beach. Through guided, age-appropriate dialogue, SIS members supported the development of empathy, critical thinking, and healthy communication skills in young people.

In 2025, SIS reached a major milestone by becoming a 501.c.3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization, positioning the organization for sustained growth and broader community impact. While continuing initiatives launched this year, SIS is preparing to expand its programs and partnerships in 2026.

One of SIS's most meaningful initiatives, *Both Sides of the Bridge*, continued its progress this year. Working in collaboration with the Flagler County Historical Society, the SIS team is helping residents understand how Black and White individuals in the community have experienced life differently based on race. This work preserves local history while fostering awareness, dialogue, and understanding and it is only the beginning.

SIS's reach continues to grow through its *SIS Connections* newsletter, which now connects more than 200 subscribers across the country to the organization's mission, stories, and opportunities for engagement. Looking ahead, SIS is gaining interest beyond its local community. Groups in The Villages, Florida, and Annapolis, Maryland, have expressed interest in bringing the SIS model to their own neighborhoods, extending the organization's influence nationally.

At the heart of SIS's impact are its members. Each SISter plays a vital role in advancing dialogue, strengthening community, and helping create a more informed, compassionate, and connected society.



"We need to prioritize investments in programs that will create opportunities and then cultivate an environment where individuals can seize them."

Holly Flynn

My Next Chapter:  
Understanding Racism

Story from *Where Colors Meet*  
a Tapestry of Black and White

### DID YOU KNOW?

During Christmas 1963, civil rights leaders organized peaceful holiday boycotts in cities like Birmingham and Atlanta to protest segregation, showing that the season has long carried a message of justice.

Interracial women's groups in the early 1900's, especially in the South, sometimes held joint Christmas services to promote racial understanding, despite significant social resistance.

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

# REFLECTION

## WHY WE KEEP TELLING THE STORIES THAT MATTER



Even in a season filled with lights, traditions, and celebrations, we know that some stories still struggle to be heard.

And as certain books disappear from classrooms and difficult lessons are softened or erased, our commitment grows stronger.

Sharing history honestly invites learning, compassion, and connection. When we tell the truth, healing becomes possible.

SIS CONNECTIONS EDITORIAL TEAM

### ELDER HOSTEL CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP

Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) is a nonprofit that provides educational travel programs primarily geared towards older adults. The organization is headquartered in Boston and is celebrating 50 successful years. I am planning my 12th program with Road Scholar and I am inviting you to join me, April 19th through April 26th, 2026, to experience the Civil Rights Movement: Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham with expert guides. We will then return to Atlanta. If you log onto [www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org), there will be complete information and a short video to explain this highly regarded program. Other dates are available, but this is a special tour organized by OLLI, a Life Long Learning group that I belong to in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. Please consider joining me. If you have any questions, please contact me at 518-269-5988. You will need a special code to join this private group. Your SISter, Holly Flynn

# Come Celebrate Kwanzaa at the African American Cultural Society— (SIS will have a table there)



THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE  
of the  
African American Cultural Society, Inc.  
invites you to join us for a



## KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Theme: *Forward Ever ~ Backward Never*



**December 27, 2025, ~ 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.**  
at the

African American Cultural Society, Inc  
4422 US HWY 1 North  
Palm Coast, Florida 32164

Come and celebrate with us.

*There will be vendors, lots of good food, African Fashion Show,  
50/50 drawing, a souvenir journal and an exciting program  
beginning at 2:00 p.m.*

For more information, contact the office Monday – Friday  
Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 386-447-7030      Fax: 386-447-2059



We'll be rocking and rolling on Friday,  
January 23rd! Join us!

Square link w/ all options



SIS Members & up to 5 Guests

January 23, 2026

5:30 P.M.-8:30 PM.

Palm Coast VFW

Mail to:

Pat Smith

50 Winthrop Lane

Flagler Beach, FL 32136

**\$35**

Zelle:

sisforchange@gmail.com

add \$2  
using Square



# MLK DAY PARADE

On Saturday, January 17th in Bunnell

Please contact Trish LeNet to help



SATURDAY  
JANUARY 17, 2026



-G.W Carver Center-  
201 E. Drain Street  
Bunnell, FL 32110

# 2026

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE MENTORING THE DREAM

10A- Prayer Breakfast 11A-Acknowledgements

12P- Parade Begins

PARADE PARTICIPANTS MUST USE THE QR  
CODE TO REGISTER!



For More Information Contact  
Chairman, Dr. Mark Anderson 386-880-6969  
mlkdreamkeepersflagler@gmail.com

# 2026 Founders' Day

## On Sunday, January 18th at PCUMC

### Honoring our SISter Dr. Phyllis Pearson



*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®  
Chi Delta Omega Chapter*

*2026 Founders' Day*



LaShakia Moore



Dr. Robbie Johnson



Dr. Phyllis Pearson



Sandra Booker

*WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE*  
*Soaring to Greater Heights*

Celebrating **118** years of sisterhood and service.

Join us for a day filled with **inspiration** and **celebration** as we honor **four** exceptional leaders within our sisterhood and our community.

**JANUARY 18, 2026**

<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b> <b>Founders' Day Celebration</b>
Mount Tabor First Baptist Church 4909 St. Johns Avenue Palatka, FL 32177	Palm Coast United Methodist Church 6500 Belle Terre Parkway Palm Coast, FL 32137

Save the Date: SIS is grateful that we'll be celebrated at a fundraiser for the new Florida Museum of Black History

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)



*present*  
***A Day  
of  
Celebration***

Honoring  
**SEEKING INSIGHTS FOR SOLUTIONS(SIS) Inc.**  
&  
**FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY**

FEB 27, 2026 • 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

NET PROCEEDS AND DIRECT  
DONATIONS GO TO:



LOCATION: Palm Coast United Methodist Church

PRICE: \$50 per ticket

SPECIAL OFFER: Early access to buy tickets. Seated together.

OFFER ENDS: Nov 30, 2025

Individual tickets still available after this date

**GET TICKETS AND/OR MAKE A DONATION**

[www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/day-of-celebration-breakfast](http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/day-of-celebration-breakfast)



## HOW TO FIND SIS

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

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

## ABOUT SIS: FOUNDERS' STORY

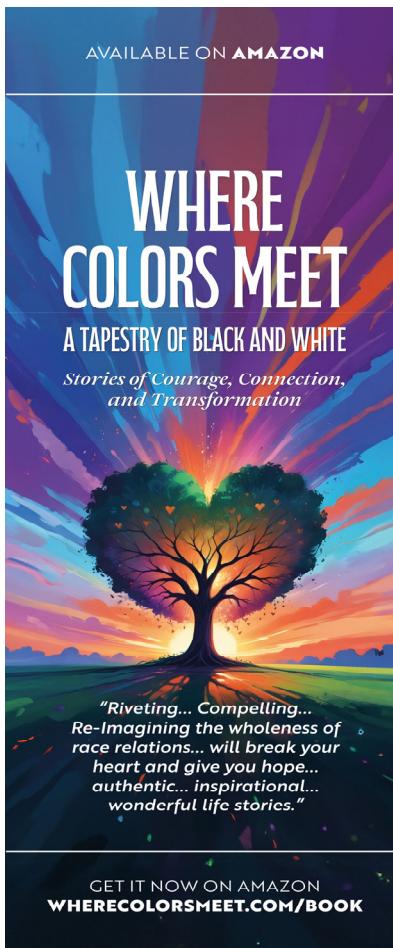
Seeing a need for energetic, nonprofit work toward social justice, we formed our organization in the summer of 2020 following George Floyd's death to provide sensible solutions. We've consistently grown since then, all thanks to the helping hands of our amazing community of women!

We are 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 or 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](http://SeekingInsightsforSolutions.org)

**Email:** [info@seekinginsightsforsolutions.org](mailto:info@seekinginsightsforsolutions.org)

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