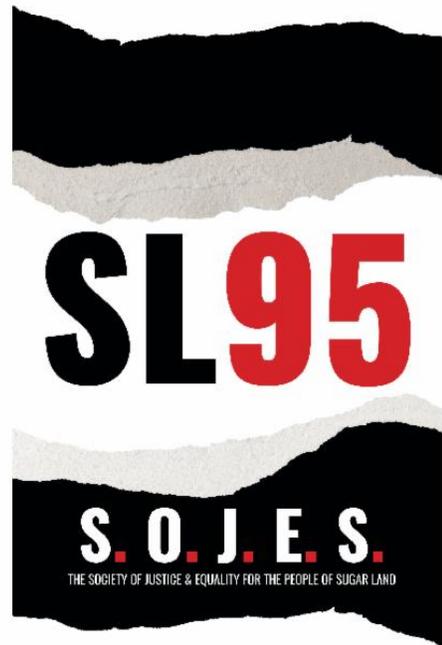


# Journey for Justice



The newsletter of The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land, a 501(c)(3) organization

AUGUST 2022 | Vol. 2 No. 5

**S.O.J.E.S.'s excursion to civil rights locations in the south is almost here!**

Attend a pre-trip briefing  
on the *Journey to Justice*  
*Excursion*  
online 7 p.m. August 18



Hello S.O.J.E.S. Journey to



## **Justice Excursion Travelers!**

Please plan to attend the online Journey to Justice Excursion briefing, **7 to 8 p.m., Thursday, August 18, via Zoom.**

Robin Cole, S.O.J.E.S. president, will cover the itinerary as well as answer any questions you may have before we leave on our great civil rights trip **September 2 through September 5!**

**CLICK ON THE LINKS  
BELOW for Zoom  
information and the  
updated excursion  
itinerary.**

**AUG. 18 ZOOM LINK:  
JOURNEY TO JUSTICE  
EXCURSION BRIEFING**

**ITINERARY FOR JOURNEY TO  
JUSTICE EXCURSION HERE**

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**S.O.J.E.S. hosts UK university  
professors researching  
the Sugar Land 95 and S.O.J.E.S.**

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***TOUR PHOTOS -- United Kingdom history professors Dr. Jessica Rapson (left), Dr. Lucy Bond (center) and S.O.J.E.S. president Robin Cole at the cemetery of the Sugar Land 95.***

***Bottom left: S.O.J.E.S. Board Member Serena Barbieri Willhite takes a picture of the professors at the Old Imperial Farm Cemetery. Bottom right: The tour included a stop at the Fort Bend County Courthouse and a visit to the home of Robin Cole.***





On a hot and humid July 26, the Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land's (S.O.J.E.S.) president **Robin Cole** and S.O.J.E.S board member **Serena Barbieri Willhite** welcomed to Sugar Land **Dr. Lucy Bond**, Professor of English at the University of Westminster in London, and **Dr. Jessica Rapson**, Professor of Culture and History at King's College in London, for a day-long historical tour.

The two British history professors reached out to S.O.J.E.S. to request a meeting to learn about the important work of S.O.J.E.S. to raise the narrative on convict leasing and to educate the community about the contributions of African Americans in the creation and progression of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County, Texas. This work includes commemorating and memorializing the Sugar Land 95.

Prior to their in-person visit, the professors explained their research project: To better understand the effects of environmental racism in the United States and Gulf Coast area.

Their project, which is co-funded by the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust, also focuses on how the influence of big industry - sugar, iron, steel, petrochemicals, waste disposal, and cotton - exacerbated the whitewashing and greenwashing of state heritage narratives at sites of historic and contemporary injustice.

Over the past four years, the professors conducted extensive interviews and tours with environmental and heritage activists in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, including LEAN, Wilma Subra, the NAACP, t.e.j.a.s., and the Miss Lou Heritage Group.

"We have been humbled by their work and hope that our research will enable us to bring further attention to their causes and to contribute lasting networks between individuals and groups with a shared investment in social and environmental justice" said Bond.

"This summer, we will be continuing our research in Texas, focusing on how contemporary social and environmental injustice is shaped by the histories of enslavement, convict leasing and racialized zoning."

Bond added that "Sugar Land is, of course, a prime example of how ongoing processes of denial can lead to the forgetting of past suffering as well as a lack of attention to its legacies in the present."

The professors requested to interview S.O.J.E.S. because of "the important work S.O.J.E.S. is doing in commemorating and memorializing the Sugar Land 95 and highlighting the contributions of African Americans" in the building of Sugar Land.

Both stated how important it is to their research to embed communities and provide space for “the voices and experiences of people for whom social and environmental justice is a lived reality.”

Cole shared with the professors a quote from the book titled “Sugar Land, Texas and The Imperial Sugar Company,” in which the author R.M. Armstrong stated:

*“It is difficult to accept the fact that the peaceful town of Sugar Land had been the host of such an unfortunate practice, no more acceptable than the use of slave labor that had proceeded it.” - R.M. Armstrong*

As part of their visit, Cole and Barbieri took the professors on a tour of Sugar Land.

**Where did they go and what did they learn?**

**CLICK HERE FOR S.O.J.E.S. TOUR STOPS AND HISTORY**

## S.O.J.E.S. earns Ally Award from the Center for the Healing of Racism



S.O.J.E.S. earned an **Ally Award** from the **Center for the Healing of Racism** for

its ongoing work to raise the narrative on the Sugar Land 95 and for highlighting the contributions of African Americans to the history and progression of Sugar Land, Texas.

**Debra McGaughey, S.O.J.E.S. vice president**, accepted the award on behalf of the organization at the CFHR Ally Award luncheon in June.

S.O.J.E.S. sincerely thanks **Cherry Steinwender**, CFHR Executive Director, and the CFHR board, for this terrific honor.

**LAST CALL: Click here to get your tickets for the Journey to Justice Excursion.**



**Can't make the trip? Show your support through a tax-deductible contribution to S.O.J.E.S. now**

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**Journey for Justice newsletter. Forward it to your friends!**

Editor: Debra McGaughey, S.O.J.E.S. Vice President

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