

SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS NEWS

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SOS News is the newsletter of Save Our Seminary, the nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the historic National Park Seminary and engaging the public through education and advocacy since 1989.

Special Sculpture Tour

On Sunday, May 6, SOS presented a special tour of the NPS grounds focusing entirely on sculpture. Led by SOS tour guide and sculpture historian, Frank Riley, attendees learned the history and symbolism of the many works of art on campus, along with stories of how they came to be at National Park Seminary.

The tour started with a visit to Hope, carved in marble and representative of one of the seven Christian virtues such as faith and charity. The personification of Hope as a young woman was popular in the 18th and 19th centuries and is often seen in cemeteries. She looks and points heavenward with her other arm resting on an anchor, a biblical reference to hope as an anchor for the soul.

Passing by the three-tiered masonry fountain and the pair of cast zinc reclining lions known as Leo and Theo, the tour group walked along the edge of the glen to reach Cyparissus, the marble carving of a man mourning his deer. There they heard the reason for the NPS students' name for the statue as "My God, I missed the train!" The history of the bronze Joan of Arc statue

in front of Senior House was also enlightening to the interested group.

After learning about the marble Nymph and Faun near the Swiss chalet and the zinc Hiawatha next to the mission house, the tour ended with refreshments at the recently restored Porch of the Maidens. These ten beauties, who support the porch of Aloha House, were stripped of their paint, treated for exposed metal, and repainted in 2016, all with individual contributions to the SOS Adopt-a-Maiden Campaign.

Throughout the tour around the grounds, Frank showed photos and explained about the many statues that have been lost over the decades. They ranged from female figures representing the four seasons on the roofline of the Odeon to lions on the walk bridge that connected to the train station.

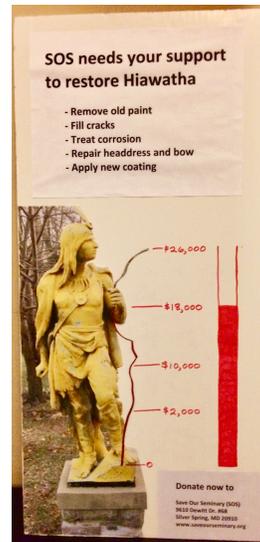
All in all, the tour was a great learning event, treating guests to a wealth of information about one of the many facets of the National Park Seminary's philosophy of creating an enriching environment in which to educate young ladies.

Hiawatha Kickoff Campaign

The SOS Sculpture Committee took advantage of the special sculpture tour to kick off its current fundraising campaign. As the tour ended at the Porch of the Maidens, SOS President Anne Brockett welcomed the crowd and highlighted the successful restoration work on Joan of Arc, Leo and Theo, and the Porch of the Maidens, all of which depended on generous support from SOS members and friends. She then turned to the next preservation priority – restoring the statue of a Native American, called Hiawatha by the school, located next to the Spanish Mission sorority house on Linden Lane.

Hiawatha is a near life-size cast zinc piece, mounted on a stone base. With peeling layers of bright yellow primer, he has long been an eyesore in one of the most visible locations on the NPS property. Necessary restorative work includes removing the layers of paint and primer, reattaching loose pieces and fabricating missing ones, repairing cracks, and coating the sculpture with an appropriate finish.

Estimates for conservation are expected to reach \$26,000, which includes removing and reinstalling the statue on its pedestal. While generous donations already in the SOS Sculpture Fund will cover \$18,000 of these costs, a gap of \$8,000 in funding remains. We hope members and friends will help SOS in its mission to preserve the statuary of the National Park Seminary, which has a vital role in portraying the aesthetic history of the site. To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.saveourseminary.org and click on the Support SOS tab or send SOS a check designated for sculpture.



Help SOS reach the goal to restore Hiawatha!

Sculpture on Display

In concert with the special sculpture tour on May 6, the SOS Collections Committee filled the two Helen Holt memorial vitrines outside the Ballroom with items pertaining to the sculptural works on the NPS campus. Helen Froelich Holt was a National Park science and health teacher from 1938 to 1941 who loved to dance in the Ballroom.

The display, which will remain in place through the summer, features historic photos of some of the many original statues now missing. A pair of regal sphinxes were on a bridge near the Odeon that crossed over to the train station, and a pair of large dogs sat on the pedestals that now stand empty at the bridge to the new parking garage next to the Music Hall. Hebe, who personified youth and graced Fountain Circle before being relocated to the front corner of the Odeon, was the first statue placed on the campus. The Greek Water Carrier, once positioned on the stone pedestal next to the Japanese Bungalow sorority house, was another of NPS' cast

zinc pieces from the J.L. Mott Iron Works, along with Hiawatha and the lions on the circle.

Student on lost dog statue at bridge to current parking garage, circa 1940



Also included in the display are actual pieces of sculpture, such as the hand of Hope, holding on to the top of her anchor, and a wing from one of the fierce griffins that sat on the stair pedestals at the main porch of what is now the apartment building. The pair of griffins are currently in storage awaiting possible restoration, along with two standing stone lions and an eagle in many pieces.

Hiawatha, the focus of SOS's current sculpture fundraising campaign, is also featured in the display. For comparison, there are before and after photos of the restored Joan of Arc at the Senior House steps. They show her painted the same unseemly shade of primer yellow before being returned to her beautiful original bronze luster. With your help, we can restore Hiawatha to his appropriate appearance as well.

Sculpture Cleaning

On Saturday, June 9, members of the SOS Sculpture Committee worked on a couple of

stone statues that were in need of periodic cleaning. Both Hope and the nymph of the Nymph and Faun statue had patches of green growth on them. After being scrubbed with a special biologic cleaner and then rinsed, both ladies were once again more presentable.

The cleaning team also cleaned the nine heritage trail markers that circle the campus. On another day, the bronze Joan of Arc will get a gentle cleaning also.

Save the Date for SOS House Tour

Mark your calendars now for the biannual SOS house tour to be held on **Sunday, September 30** in the afternoon. We're arranging for some interesting historic homes that have not been viewed before, including part of the home of the founders of National Park Seminary and a two-level condo that once was dormitory space. More details and how to purchase tickets will come before Labor Day.

Houses for Sale and Men at Work

There are currently two unique historic single-family homes for sale at the Seminary, the recently renovated Colonial sorority house that overlooks the glen and the stunning Chapel. Depending on their status at the time, they may be included in our house tour.

The developer of the Gymnasium building is now actively renovating the Power Plant, Practice House, and former Army firehouse that sit in a row adjacent to the Colonial house. These three buildings will have 14 living units as a mix of for sale or long-term rental.

In Memoriam

SOS sadly lost one of its former board members recently, Sue Fedor, who retired from the board in 2010 after many active years. Sue and her husband Steve Devoney, both avid swing dancers, organized SOS's first fundraising dances in the ballroom in the early 1990s.

Sue also stripped paint during the SOS exterior restoration of the pagoda (see photo in our book *Enchanted Forest Glen*) and helped organize our fashion show program. Despite her cancer, Sue was still able to swing dance at our speakeasy event last September. Her energy, enthusiasm, and creativity for SOS and for life in general will be missed by many.



Sue and Steve
swing dancing
in the
ballroom,
2015