

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.

Members-Only Tour of Gym

The developer of the gymnasium is graciously allowing SOS members to privately tour the completed gymnasium condo units on Sunday, November 8, between 11 am and 1 pm.

Veteran's Day Program in the Ballroom

To recognize the military history of the National Park Seminary site, SOS will present a program on Wednesday, November 11, at 7:30 pm about the early years of medical services provided at the Forest Glen Annex of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. You'll hear about how technologies and treatments evolved during the mid-20th century at this rehabilitation facility.

RSVP for the gym tour and/or the Veteran's Day program at info@saveourseminary.org or call 301-589-1715.

Treasure in the Archives

SOS was excited to see a National Park Seminary uniform from the early 1920's or before listed on eBay recently. Jumping at the chance to "buy it now," we acquired this lovely, well-preserved midday uniform from a collector. It is light mint green with a pleated skirt and sailor collar, and the NPS logo is in

white on the right sleeve. The student's name is handwritten beneath the label, although it is difficult to decipher in order for us to accurately date the uniform, but we'll try! This is the only complete uniform we have, so it is a very special addition to the NPS archives.



NPS
midday
uniform

Aloha Maidens Restoration Project

The restoration of the ten maiden statues that support the front porch of Aloha House is progressing slowly. After soliciting and reviewing three proposals from restoration contractors, SOS selected Conservation Solutions, Inc. to remove all the current paint, repair damage, and repaint the maidens.

Because the maidens are historic and structurally integral to the Aloha building, the Maryland Historical Trust, the state preservation office, must review and approve all the work that is done on them. MHT first wants to approve the paint removal process from a test patch and then, after all the paint is removed, assess the condition of the maidens before repair work starts. The contractor has just completed the paint removal test patch, and we are awaiting MHT's approval to proceed.

The issue now is whether the weather will cooperate so that the paint can be removed and repairs made before it gets too cold for the repairs to cure. Although SOS and others are anxious to see the maidens restored, we appreciate MHT's concern that the process is appropriate and not harmful to the statues.

Restoring the Glen

Another restoration project is underway—this one of the forested glen on the Seminary property. One of the townhome owners at NPS is taking the lead to restore the glen to its original condition with the help of fellow residents and neighbors.

Once-a-month cleanups have been conducted since August. What a difference they have made! This past summer was an especially good growing season, and clearing away the invasive vines and overgrowth has revealed walkways, steps, and small bridges that had been visible and clear only a few years ago.

If you would like to help with this restoration effort, please contact SOS about the next cleanup date.

NPS Historic District Plaque Installed

At the celebration of SOS's 25th anniversary in the fall of 2014, we unveiled a bronze plaque identifying the National Park Seminary as a National Register Historic District. That plaque was installed early this summer on the front porch of the oldest building, the Forest Inn, which is now the NPS apartment building.



It is an important marker of the significance of this unique place in history.

Passing of History

SOS is sad to report that Helen Froelich Holt, the only living faculty member from National Park and a generous SOS supporter, passed in July, one month before her 102nd birthday. Helen taught science

and health classes at National Park College from 1938 to 1941.

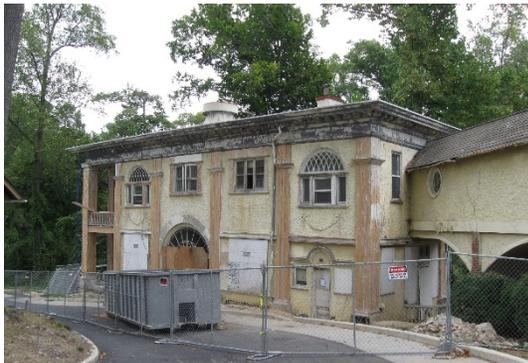
SOS was pleased to help her celebrate her 100th birthday in the ballroom in 2013, because the school was a special time in her life and she especially enjoyed dancing there along with the students. We also videotaped an oral history with her which we will be posting on our website soon.

One of the assignments she gave to her botany students was to identify all the trees on the National Park campus. Therefore, SOS had a small Japanese maple tree planted near Aloha House and will add a plaque in her memory.

Colonial House in Progress

After some foundation-level work was completed this summer to bring in utilities, there are now visible signs of the former Colonial sorority being renovated into a single-family house.

A new roof was installed, and in this photo



you can see the old paint has been removed from the wood pillars and metal trim below the roofline. The elevated walkway to the right will be incorporated into the living space. The contractor hopes to be finished by late winter or early spring.

AmazonSmile Donates to SOS Through You

With the holidays coming up, you may be

shopping more on Amazon. If so, you can designate Save Our Seminary as the charitable recipient of 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases made through AmazonSmile. Amazon, not you, makes the full 0.5% donation to the organization of your choice. Here is the link with more details on this donation program and to support SOS when shopping at AmazonSmile:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1643912>.

Thank you for considering this easy, no-cost way to provide a little extra support for SOS!