

SAVE OUR  
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

# SOS NEWS

Summer-Fall 2018  
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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.

## Veteran's Day Program

Our last program for this year will be on Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 pm in recognition of Veteran's Day. In our continuing series on Army health care at the Forest Glen Annex of Walter Reed, the program focus will be on 1965 to 1977, especially the U.S. years of involvement in the Vietnam War.

This era also includes the reorganization of health care services at Forest Glen with the opening of the new hospital on the main campus of Walter Reed in DC. The program is free for SOS members and veterans and \$5 for non-members. RSVP to 301-589-1715 or [info@saveourseminary.org](mailto:info@saveourseminary.org).

## Successful Historic House Tour

As SOS's premier fundraising and educational event of the year, the House Tour on Sunday, September 30 was a success, with interesting historic residences and perfect weather. A very generous donation from a SOS member also added to our success.

More than 150 people toured the eight condo and single-family houses and also viewed the Ballroom where refreshments were available along with sculpture information displays and special sales items. Everyone enjoyed seeing how the variety of historic structures have been

adapted and decorated for modern living, each one of them uniquely.

We are especially grateful for the owners who opened their homes for public viewing and to the many volunteers who made the tour function smoothly.

## Final Push for Hiawatha Fundraising

We have recently initiated a directed campaign to raise the remaining \$7,000 needed to restore the derelict statue of Hiawatha, who stands next to the Spanish Mission sorority house.



With \$19,000 already in hand, we are so close to the \$26,000 needed to initiate a contract with a professional sculpture conservation team. Conservators will be ready to strip off Hiawatha's old bright yellow primer paint, fill in the cracks and holes in his zinc figure, fabricate a new bow and arrow, and apply a finish as he was intended to be displayed originally.

You should have received a special appeal letter from SOS to contribute toward Hiawatha's restoration. You can also make your tax-deductible donation on our website at <http://www.saveourseminary.org/support-sos/join-renew>. Please help us in this final fundraising push to restore one of the most visible -- and visibly neglected -- statues on campus!

## Cleaning Up the Glen

It is not only the buildings and sculpture that need to be restored at National Park Seminary, but the historic wooded glen is also in dire need. The unusually wet weather this summer caused more overgrowth and invasive vines than ever. The NPS Land Use Committee of residents is leading the battle to uncover the original green space of the glen with its stone walkways and bridges and natural spring so that everyone can enjoy walking through this enchanting area.



Volunteers trying to find the stone path in glen.

SOS members are also helping with this effort, but many more hands are needed. The committee schedules regular monthly cleanups on the third Saturday of the fall and spring months. If you'd like to get some fresh air and exercise and help make an immediate and visible difference, check our website at <http://www.saveourseminary.org/news/news/> for details.

## Strategic Planning Effort

Over the past few months, SOS has been evaluating our organization as part of an overall strategic planning process. We want to incorporate opinions and ideas collected from the Board, members, former members, NPS residents, and others into our long-term plan. The culmination of this effort will coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOS in 2019, and we can't wait to share the results with you at our annual meeting next year!

## Second Notice

Have you renewed your membership in SOS for the period July 2018 through June 2019 yet? Membership dues are the financial core of our ability to preserve and communicate the history of National Park Seminary. You can renew by sending SOS a check or paying online at <http://www.saveourseminary.org/support-sos/join-renew>. Thanks for your continued support!