

SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS News

Winter 2017

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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.

2017 Programs in the Ballroom

For the past six years, SOS has hosted quarterly presentations in the Ballroom on a variety of topics related to the historic NPS campus. This year's slate of topics again promises to be of interest to members, residents, and the public. All presentations start at 7:30 pm, and we'll send out reminders in advance. Please RSVP to info@saveourseminary.org or by phone to 301-589-1715 if you can attend.

March 20 - National Park Seminary on Film

We'll break out the popcorn as we show rare historic footage of National Park Seminary from its years as a private girls' school through the Army era, when recuperating soldiers occupied the unique campus. Video filmed before construction began on the current residential community will highlight the decades of deterioration of the buildings and grounds.

May 10 - The Performing Arts at National Park Seminary

Music, dance, and theater were an integral part of the students' lives at NPS, where they actively participated at every level—from piano, violin, and voice recitals to elaborately costumed productions of Shakespeare plays and Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Famous performers of the day also visited the campus.

October 5 - Holiday Celebrations at National Park Seminary

Come and see how the students and faculty celebrated holidays throughout the school year. Big events included Halloween with a ghost walk through the glen; a Thanksgiving field day and feast; dress balls for Washington's birthday and Mardi Gras; and many more. Any excuse to celebrate was taken advantage of at NPS!

November 8 - History of Medical Services at Walter Reed Forest Glen

In this continuing series on Army health care, we'll focus on a time of great changes for the military—from the end of the Korean War until just before the buildup for Vietnam. We'll look at the sophisticated medical services, technologies, and treatments used at this historic hospital facility.

SOS Annual Meeting

On Monday, March 20, at 7:30 pm SOS will hold its annual meeting to review the past year, present the current year's activities, and vote for candidates for the SOS board. The ballot is included with this e-newsletter. This short meeting will precede the program on the history of National Park Seminary on film. We hope to see many SOS members and friends!

Special Event in 2017

Besides the educational programs to be held this year, SOS is planning for a special entertainment event in the ballroom in September. More information will come as we get closer to the date.



The restored maidens of Aloha House in their celebratory leis.

Welcome Back Maidens!

On a lovely fall afternoon last October, SOS hosted a celebration to thank donors to our Adopt-a-Maiden campaign. Each of the eleven contributors gave \$1,000 to restore the sculptures of the Porch of the Maidens. SOS members and guests were invited to admire the restoration work and view a mockup of the dedication plaque with individual commemorations from each donor.

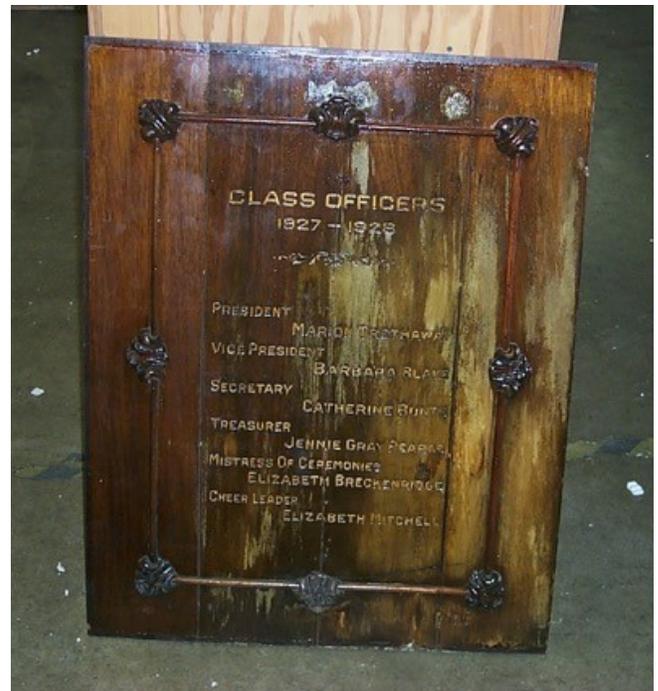
Years of exposure to the elements without maintenance had led to peeling paint, deterioration, and portions of exposed metal on the ten cast stone maidens. SOS worked with professional conservators from Conservation Solutions, Inc. (CSI) and with the Maryland Historical Trust to formulate a plan to sensitively restore these circa 1923 statues, which grace the porch of Aloha House and frame a walkway to the Chapel.

After starting the project in fall of 2015, weather delays forced CSI to cease work until warmer-- and drier--

weather arrived. Conservators carefully stripped layers of paint, treated hairline cracks, coated exposed metal with non-reactive epoxy, filled holes with matching materials, and repainted each maiden. The bronze plaque listing all contributors to the restoration will be installed on a brick column at the end of the Porch of the Maidens in the spring.

Artifact Restoration

One of SOS's priority activities for this year is to conserve and display some of the artifacts from our collection. Through the generosity of three SOS members, we are in the process of having several historic items from the school era restored. The wood stand for a very large world globe is being repaired and reassembled so that it can once again hold the globe for display.



A damaged plaque awaits restoration.

A series of nine large wood plaques are also being conserved. These plaques list the class officers, including cheerleader, for the school years 1924-25 through 1932-33. They have warped over the years and one is particularly water-damaged, so they must be carefully flattened and refinished in order to once again be hung in the central corridor of the main building on campus.

In addition to these objects, we have received donations of a couple of outstanding panoramic photographs of the seminary campus dating from the 1920s. They both have tears that need to be repaired and one needs to be flattened after being rolled for many years. Such restoration work is expensive as it is time-consuming and must be done by professional conservators, but we hope to have the work done this year. If you are interested in sponsoring the restoration of one of our archival items, please contact us.

Treasure in the Archives

Speaking of photographs, SOS recently received a donation of a framed panoramic photo of the class of 1922 in their school uniforms at the front of the main building. In the center of the photo is Dr. James Ament, the president of the school, and a number of faculty members. This is the only photo we have ever seen of an entire class in their uniforms. It is a real treasure of history!



The NPS class of 1922 and faculty at the front of the main building.