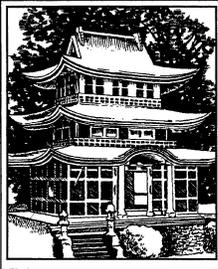


SAVE OUR  
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

# SOS NEWS

Spring 2021

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SOS News is the newsletter of Save Our Seminary, the nonprofit organization dedicated to communicating the history of National Park Seminary and promoting preservation and public enjoyment of its buildings, artifacts, and landscape since 1989.

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## The Faculty of National Park Seminary

On May 25<sup>th</sup> SOS presented an online program highlighting some of the outstanding faculty members and administrators in the early years of National Park Seminary. A couple of these faculty members or administrators loyally served the school for decades. Others were well-known at the time or went on to become famous in their field. This program is now available for viewing on our [YouTube](#) page, where you can also view our short Seminary Stories.

## Tour Season Begins

With the start of a safer environment, SOS has been busy with in-person tours of National Park Seminary after a year of no tours. Besides the monthly tours on the fourth Saturday of the month starting in March, we have also given five private group tours. One of these private tours was for the new residents of the Power Plant buildings who were excited to learn the history of their home community.

If you haven't taken a guided tour yet with SOS, or it's been a while, please consider doing so. We are following the current Montgomery County COVID-19 guidelines for indoor and outdoor public gatherings. Tour dates and details are on our [website](#).

## NPS in the News

The uniqueness and history of the National Park Seminary has brought some media coverage this spring. A Maryland-based newspaper, *The Daily Record*, annually recognizes [Maryland's Coolest Spaces](#), and SOS nominated National Park Seminary this year. Along with 19 other places around the state, NPS was selected and highlighted in the newspaper's print and online versions with a photo and text.

National Park Seminary was also featured in the recently-released book *Secret Washington, DC: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure* by JoAnn Hill. Each of the unusual places was described in a two-page spread with a photo or two.

## **Ballroom Windows in Progress**

SOS is pleased that the restoration of the Ballroom stained-glass windows is proceeding well. Of the total 78 exterior windows, 53 of the most deteriorated ones were precisely measured to create new sashes in the same profile. These 53 windows have been removed from the Ballroom clerestory and taken to the contractor's shop. The window openings were covered with plywood to fit the shape and painted. At the shop, the stained glass will be removed, cleaned, and reinstalled in the new sashes. Due to the shortage of lumber, the installation of the new windows will be delayed until the fall.



*Contractors work to remove Ballroom windows for restoration and temporarily board up the window openings.*

## **SOS Website Being Redesigned**

We are excited to announce SOS will be launching a redesigned website this summer. The new format will allow us to more easily share information with our members and the public. SOS is especially grateful to member Steve Ashman who volunteered many hours of his knowledge and skills to construct the new site. We are excited to share it, along with some additional content, with everyone soon.

## **Beltway Threat to Glen Stopped**

For now, the proposed widening of the I-495 Beltway that circles the DC area and borders the northern border of the Glen at National Park Seminary has been stopped. This proposal by the Maryland governor to alleviate traffic on the Beltway would have added two more lanes of pavement that would encroach on a portion of the entire width of the Glen and destroy several historic features.

Since the project was announced in 2019, SOS has worked steadily to communicate its concerns about the impact on the Glen, through letters to public officials, meetings and collaboration with other stakeholders, publicizing the threat to the property, and extensive study of planning documents followed by detailed commentary by SOS.

We hope that our efforts contributed to the change in plans. However, the expansion of I-495 may be reinstated in the future, if the state deems it necessary for traffic management. If that happens, we will resume our activities to save the Glen from any adverse impacts.