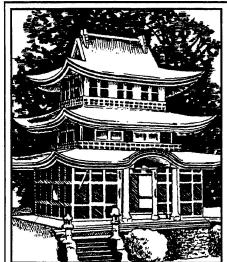


SAVE OUR  
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

# SOS NEWS

Fall 2022

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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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## **Letter from Santa**

To all SOS friends,

*At this time of year especially, it is always helpful for SOS to receive an extra boost of support to accomplish even more in the coming year. The SOS elves work throughout the year to preserve and communicate the history of the Seminary. Here are the highlights of what the SOS elves—with your support—have done this past year:*

### **Hiawatha Statue Restoration**



After more than two years of raising funds, researching restoration materials, finding qualified contractors, and acquiring preservation approval, in late October SOS moved the Hiawatha statue from next to the Spanish Mission house to the workshop of the metalwork contractor. Removing the statue from its stone pedestal was a major effort itself but was successful. The statue is now stripped of its old yellow primer and is in the process of being repaired before a new coat of bronze paint will be applied.

### **Glen Tours**

On a Sunday in April and November, SOS guided a total of 46 people on special tours of the enchanting wooded Glen. Through historic photos, the paths and the stone structures, some existing and some long gone, were explained in their current context. A major goal of SOS is to raise funds to restore this unique green space at National Park Seminary to access and enjoy it as the students once did.

The SOS Glen Restoration Committee is seeking additional members to help increase awareness of the Glen in order to gain support and funding to restore the structures and discover and uncover all the old paths. Contact SOS if you are interested!

## **Archival Letters from Students**

In late November SOS presented an online program of live reading of several students' letters and a diary. Hearing their own words gave a glimpse into the lives of these students and what was important to them to communicate—missing their boyfriend, asking parents for money, or recording what they ate!

## **Public and Private Group Tours**

As SOS has done for many years, nine monthly guided tours for the public were conducted for a total of 154 people this year. Six private groups with a total of 69 people enjoyed either a tour of the property or a virtual tour through a slide show.

## **Partnering with NPS**

SOS was asked or offered to assist with a few of the common area historic elements at National Park Seminary that were in need of stabilization or restoration. They included

- the **historic stone wall** that had partially collapsed and sunken along the hillside next to the Dog Bridge and below the Music Hall. This stone wall was rebuilt as part of the creation of a rain garden in the Dog Bridge ravine to control the water erosion in that area. SOS also assisted with signage to explain the historic area.
- the small, charming **quartz bridge** that spans a ravine at a top edge of the Glen is collapsing and needed to be appropriately blocked off for safety reasons.
- the centerpiece **fountain** has not functioned for some time and SOS is assisting with an alternative piping design to make it functional once again.

*The SOS elves have already started planning their work for 2023. Peeking into their workshop, I see a celebration of Hiawatha's restoration, the history of the Forest Glen train station at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the B&O railroad, and hearing about the restored Victrola speaker in the Ballroom, as well as continuing monthly tours and Glen tours. The SOS website is also being updated with the latest news and programs.*

*To provide these educational activities to share with you, the SOS elves need your extra support if you can. Please send a check or make an e-donation at <https://saveourseminary.org/join-renew/>. All the SOS elves and I greatly appreciate your helping SOS continue its important preservation and communication work to save the Seminary!*

*With cheer and best wishes for the new year,*

*Santa*