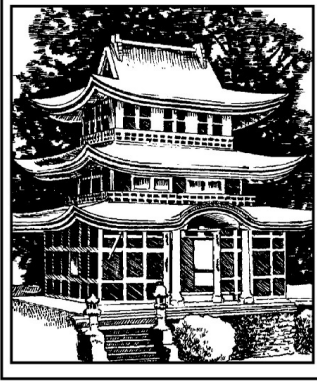


SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS News

Fall 2023

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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.

Hiawatha Restored

After several years of fundraising, obtaining contractor proposals, and gaining necessary approvals, this past August SOS was pleased to celebrate the restoration of the Native American statue known as Hiawatha.



SOS Sculpture Committee at celebration of Hiawatha restoration

We began our dedicated fundraising efforts in 2018 to come up with the estimated \$26,000 in costs to transform Hiawatha from primer yellow back to the original bronze paint finish and to reconstruct his damaged bow and missing arrow. The work also included raising and repointing the stone base, which had sunk substantially into the ground, and installing a new concrete plinth for him to stand on.

On August 2, 2023, Hiawatha was returned to his original location outside the former Theta Sigma Rho sorority house (the Spanish Mission) after spending several months at Awesome Metals, Inc. in neighboring Kensington, Maryland. There, Josh Bretell and crew meticulously removed layers of old paint and primer from the zinc statue, repaired small holes, fabricated missing and damaged pieces, and finished him with coats of primer, bronze paint, a clear top coat, and a protective wax rub.



Hiawatha being
removed from
pedestal



Hiawatha stripped of old primer

Our beloved statue is now back home and ready to weather the next 100 years thanks to the generous support of SOS members and donors!

Other statues still in need of restoration include a pair of concrete lions, 2 zinc griffins, a zinc eagle, and an ornate iron lamp post. We hope everyone will continue to support SOS to restore these remaining pieces of sculptural history at National Park Seminary.

Successful Special Fall Events

On Sunday, November 12, SOS presented a tour dedicated to exploring the history and features of the wooded Glen at National Park Seminary. Although the Glen makes up almost one-fourth of the property, many people don't realize the treasures it holds. This tour was a chance for 2 dozen more people to see and learn about its importance, now and in the past. The funds raised from the Glen tours directly support the restoration of the historic elements in the Glen. We hope our members and friends will help with this major preservation effort of SOS.

On Saturday evening, December 2, the enormous renovated Victrola Auditorium Orthophonic horn (speaker) in the Ballroom once again provided fabulous amplified music for nearly 150 people. Mark Lynch, a well-known historian of recorded sound, presented the history of this unique Victrola as well as earlier sound machines. The process to revive this very rare horn was described by award-winning sound technician Dave Zeller. SOS then played a selection of period music to dance to or just listen to from this amazing horn after almost 100 years!

Heritage Trail Signage Replaced

After prompting by SOS, in October the National Park Seminary homeowners' association replaced the 9 worn out trail signs that make a circle through the Seminary property. These large signs, with historic photos and text provided by SOS, are an easy way to take a self-guided tour and get a short overview of the history of the site and view the buildings.



SOS Monthly Tours

Although the trail signs are a self-guided way to see the historic NPS site, the guided monthly public tours that SOS presents from March through November are much more informative and thorough. In the 2023 tour season, in addition to the monthly tours, we also provided 6 private tours, and shared the history with a combined total of nearly 200 people. Our website will soon list our tour schedule for 2024.

Happy holidays to all and best wishes for the New Year!
