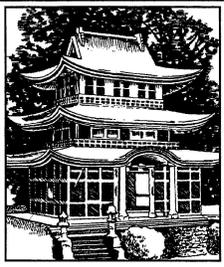


SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS News

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Spring 2006

This is a very exciting time for Save Our Seminary and our members. The restoration of the historic buildings is changing the National Park Seminary Historic District before our eyes. To keep all of our members fully informed of these changes as they happen, we introduced *SOS Online*, a monthly e-mail newsletter for members, supporters, and friends. If you have an e-mail address but have not received *SOS Online*, please let us know at info@saveourseminary.org and we will add you to the mailing list. Periodically we also will mail *SOS News*, a summary of recent issues of *SOS Online* to ensure that all of our members, whether they use e-mail or not, receive the same information.

Ground Breaking



The big news is, of course, the long-awaited beginning of the redevelopment project that will save all the Seminary buildings in the Historic District. On November 17, 2005, a ground breaking ceremony billed as the “Renaissance of a National Treasure” kicked off the rehabilitation of the Seminary before an enthusiastic audience. The Governor of Maryland, representatives of our two U.S. Senators and local Congressman, county officials, neighbors, the development team, SOS board members, and Seminary alumnae were on hand to celebrate. The redevelopment team consists of two corporate partners, the Alexander Company of Madison,

Wisconsin (www.alexandercompany.com) and EYA of Bethesda, Maryland, formerly Eakin-Youngentob Associates of Arlington, Virginia (www.eya.com). Working under strict preservation guidelines overseen by county, state, and federal agencies, Alexander will renovate and adapt the historic buildings to residential use. When they are finished, there will be 100 condominiums, 66 rental apartments, and 13 single-family houses. Alexander also will restore the ballroom for community activities and clear the Glen of dead trees and invasive plants. EYA will construct 98 new townhouses, half of them in the historic district, along Linden Lane between the Gymnasium and the Stables/Carroll House and back to the Power Plant. The rest will be across Linden Lane in the area once occupied by Recitation House and the Seminary athletic fields.

Construction Watch

Alexander went to work first, securing the historic buildings and preventing further deterioration. Senior House was in the worst condition with buckling walls and collapsed floors. By early 2005, it was so damaged that its structural integrity was in jeopardy. Its collapse would have been a tragic loss that would have damaged the adjoining President's House and Senior Annex. Alexander stabilized Senior House with a huge wooden buttress, took off a section of its roof, and removed debris from the collapsed floors. Fortunately no other building at the Seminary appears to need such an extensive intervention. Information about condominiums in the historic buildings is available by calling (301) 495-7707 and will be available soon at www.nationalparkseminary.com.

Since January, EYA's efforts have been more visible on the site. They removed and stored historic statues and stone walls for later reuse. The Engineer's House at the park entrance was severely damaged and, regrettably, had to be razed. This was the only historic structure in the project area that cannot be saved. The most exciting effort was moving the Chauffeur's House one block to Woodstock Court behind the Spanish Mission sorority house. Demolition of the four white cinderblock buildings erected by the Army on the north side of Linden Lane, between the Gymnasium and the Stable/Carroll House, was completed in early March. Information about the new townhouses is available at www.EYAatNPS.com.

We expect the construction timetable, though subject to change, to be as follows:

- May – October 2006 – Closing and reconstruction of Linden Lane
- August 2006 – Finish earth work at the townhouse construction site
- December 2006 – Finish laying underground utilities and storm water management
- June 2006 – late 2007 – Renovation of the historic buildings, starting with Main

EYA commissioned an architectural model of their townhouses along both sides of Linden Lane. The model is a work of fine craftsmanship, but its greater value is that it shows the new buildings within the context of historic structures, woods, and local streets. In the photograph of the model, the columned Gymnasium is at the center, with Aloha House and the Chapel below it and Linden Lane on its right.



Revising the SOS Bylaws

Having reached an important milestone in our efforts to save the National Park Seminary, the Board of Directors of Save Our Seminary has reviewed the current Bylaws of the Corporation and is proposing a number of amendments to them that will increase the organization's future effectiveness. SOS members will vote on the proposed changes at the Annual Meeting in the fall of 2006. A copy of the Bylaws, with the proposed line-by-line changes, is available for inspection by any member of SOS. Requests for a copy should be mailed to the Secretary of the Corporation at Save Our Seminary, P.O. Box 8274, Silver Spring, MD 20907 or e-mailed to info@saveourseminary.org. The changes proposed are in three categories:

- Stylistic: Outmoded language and unnecessary and duplicative phrasing were removed. None of these changes are substantive.
- Process:
 - Proposed changes that will bring the Bylaws into conformity with the current practices of the Board, and will enable the Board to function more efficiently are:
 - The size of the Board is expanded to have up to twelve members.
 - Three-year terms are established for membership on the Board.
 - The role of the general membership in electing members of the Board at the annual meeting is clarified.

- Officers, who serve two-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms, will be selected from among Board members, not elected at the annual meeting.
- The Board may waive the two-term limit for an officer for good cause.
- The Board has the authority to establish standing committees.
- Other changes include:
 - Clarifying the rules for voting by mailed ballot and by proxy
 - Extending the notice requirements for Special Meetings of the membership
- Purpose:
 - Several changes expand the SOS purpose to reflect current circumstances:
 - In addition benefiting the surrounding community, the purpose of SOS will include benefiting the new residents within the Historic District.
 - Making specific the ability of SOS to receive and disburse grant funds for the benefit of the historic site.

How Can I Help SOS?

Like many people at this time of year, you may be thinking about spring cleaning. Many SOS members have mementos of the National Park Seminary – a yearbook from your college years, items you bought on eBay, even old photos. SOS would be very grateful to receive such items as a donation or a long-term loan to our archives. Please contact us at (301) 589-1715 or info@saveourseminary.org and let us know what you have.

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