

SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS NEWS

Summer/Fall 2017
Vol. 26 No. 3

9615 Dewitt Drive #68
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-1715
info@saveourseminary.org
www.saveourseminary.org
www.facebook.com/saveourseminary

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.

The Seminary Speakeasy

Entering with the secret password “dollface,” cats and dames shimmied down the hall to the Ballroom-turned-speakeasy for SOS’s annual fundraiser event on the evening of Saturday, September 9. They were met with all the anticipated illicit activities – gambling, dancing, and booze – not to mention delicious food, and fantastic music provided by the cool Capital Focus Jazz Band.

The guests were dressed in their finest flapper dresses and zoot suits and were treated to beer from Silver Spring’s Denizens Brewing Co. and liquor from Twin Valley Distillers and The Urban Winery. Food was provided by local restaurants and food purveyors All Set Restaurant, Baklava Couture, The Inn at Brookeville Farms, Cava, The Dish and Dram, Moorenko’s Ice Cream, and Not Your Average Joe’s. SOS is grateful for all of these generous donors.

Besides dancing, using “funny money” at the craps and roulette tables proved to be highly entertaining, with instruction provided for all who needed it. The winnings were awarded in the form of raffle tickets for the evening’s array of prizes, including food certificates and a copy of the SOS book on the history of National Park Seminary.

At the end of the evening, the true identity of a man with a violin case asking for contributions to the “hospital fund” was discovered. It was none other than an SOS Board member dressed as an undercover cop, who may or may not have been soliciting bribes. He and his uniformed colleague (another board member) unfortunately “raided” the joint promptly at 10:00 to put an end to a delightful evening of entertainment arranged by the SOS Development and Membership Committee. Our biggest thanks go to the attendees who made this a successful fundraiser.



Holidays at NPS

On October 5, SOS members and guests gathered in the Ballroom for a presentation on how the students of National Park Seminary/College celebrated various holidays. Typical of the school, any excuse was a good one to throw a party, and the holidays were certainly among the most festive.

With pictures culled from student scrapbooks, yearbooks, and school catalogs, SOS President Anne Brockett described the elaborate celebrations for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Twelfth Night, Mardi Gras, Washington's Birthday, and May Day.

The ghoulish Halloween walk through the glen, followed by a costumed dance in the Gym, was a fun event for both students and staff. Thanksgiving was such a social event, it was covered by the features writer for the *Washington Herald* in 1933. Before the Christmas break, the school hosted the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church choir in the seasonally-decorated Ballroom for a performance of Handel's Messiah featuring NPC students as soloists. Mardi Gras was a 3-day whirlwind event with multiple dances, formal dinners, and, most importantly for the students – escorts!

You can enjoy this entertaining program, along with our other programs, by visiting our website at www.saveourseminary.org/events.

History of Medical Services at Walter Reed – Forest Glen

This informative program was presented on November 8 by the team of board members Gene Rich, MD, and Don Hall, PhD. In their continuing research on the services provided to wounded soldiers at Forest Glen, they focused on the period from the end of the Korean War

to the beginning of the Vietnam conflict. A number of innovative treatments for the time were used at the facility. Not surprisingly, many soldiers suffered from psychological trauma as a result of war experiences, and Forest Glen was the center for their treatment. This entire presentation will be posted to our website soon under Past Events.

Watch for our Winter issue of SOS News for the 2018 calendar of more interesting programs to come!

Donor Plaque Installed for Aloha House Maidens

The large bronze plaque honoring the generous donors who contributed to the restoration of the 10 maiden statues was installed in late August on a pillar at the Aloha House porch.



SOS is very grateful to all these donors for their essential part in preserving the beautiful maidens for years to come.

Save the Glen

Like to work outside in the cooler weather and get close to nature? Bring your work gloves and hand tools to help

the residents of National Park Seminary save the natural Forest Glen from being taken over by invasive plant species. Check our website Latest News page for the specific cleanup dates each month during spring and fall. The Land Use Committee of NPS will lead this effort at specific places in the glen so that people are able to enjoy walking in the historic enchanted forest once again. Training about invasives and snacks are provided.

Development Update

The old Stable building now has all new windows, and a replacement roof is the next big project there. Stucco work continues on the Servants' Quarters building, and rebuilding the collapsed walls and roof of the Carpentry Shop should start soon.

Along with exterior metal supports, interior wood framing was added in Practice House to stabilize it and prevent further sagging and cracking. The massive columns at the mezzanine end of the building are in the process of being restored, and the sagging ceiling boards have been replaced.



The glen side of the Power Plant has been graded, seeded, and planted with several bushes as well as enclosed with a substantial wood fence. The seriously collapsing concrete terrace between the Power Plant and the Firehouse was demolished and eventually will be reconstructed.

Colonial house is finally finished and ready to be sold. It's a beautiful house in a lovely setting at the center edge of the glen. Truly a unique property, we hope it will soon be occupied by a family who appreciates its place in the history of National Park Seminary.

Holiday Shopping?

'Tis the season that you might want a special gift for someone who loves history and architecture. Consider buying the latest edition of the SOS book *National Park Seminary at Forest Glen, An Enduring Legacy*. It's available through our website at saveourseminary.org/store by paying online or by sending a check.

If you are shopping for anything else now or anytime of the year through Amazon, you can easily support SOS at the same time by clicking smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1643912 and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to SOS. Thanks!