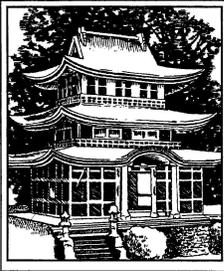


SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

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August – September – October 2008

The fall season is a busy time for Save Our Seminary as we prepare for the new fiscal year. In October, the Board of Directors drafted a work plan and budget for FY 2008–9. A Nominating Committee developed a slate of board members (each year, one-third of the SOS Board is elected or re-elected for a three year term) and a slate of corporate officers– President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The workplan and budget will be presented to SOS members at the Annual Meeting in November for their approval. Members will also vote to elect Board members and the Board members will vote for the corporate officers.

National Park College Alumnae Visit

After much planning and organizing, on Saturday, October 4, SOS hosted a return visit of National Park College alumnae to their beloved campus. Four alums, members of their families, and the children and grandchildren of a 1912 graduate came for a tour and update on progress in the redevelopment of the National Park Seminary Historic District. They had a rare opportunity to explore many of the historic buildings and see for themselves how much of the fabric and spirit of their school is being restored. They also visited finished condominium units and the magnificent but far from finished Ballroom.

Throughout the day, there was lively conversation about student life, including the dime dances, the boys from Annapolis and Georgetown, sneaking off to Silver Spring for ice cream, and the consequences of getting caught. Ric Nelson, a local historian and authority on the Seminary, joined the group, and the alums enjoyed hearing his stories of student antics. The visit and the reminiscences were captured for posterity through photographs and videotaped oral history interviews.

Most important was the pleasure our visitors took in seeing the tangible proof that their campus had indeed been saved, even as it is being adapted to a new use as a unique residential community. It was, they said, “a miracle” which most had not expected to see. SOS hopes to continue to host alumnae visits to the Seminary in the future.

In summarizing the visit, Nan Lowe, SOS Board member and the daughter of the last President of the National Park Seminary/College, wrote, “On a personal note, most of these ladies are like family to me; I either grew up knowing them or have gotten to know

them over the last 15 years or so. Many had some wonderful stories about my grandparents that they shared. What they took away from National Park has significantly shaped their lives for over 60 years, and they have passed the values from those two years to their daughters, and to their granddaughters. If we could bottle that and share it widely it would be a wonderful thing. Instead, we share it through what we are helping preserve of the physical campus, and of the information on the lives they lived here in our oral histories and archives.”



Alums Bobbie Smith, Lois McFadden, Elaine Brennan Lang, and Timmie Fachs in the Ballroom

Construction Watch: What's New?

The restoration of the Spanish Mission sorority house at the corner of Linden Lane and Woodstock Court is proceeding very quickly and its transformation is dramatic. The Army modified the sorority houses to house officers and their families, but none was changed as much as the Spanish Mission. The distinctive curved Spanish style parapet on the Mission's façade has been restored, the front porch with its three arches has been rebuilt, a flat roof has replaced the Army's pitched roof, and the stucco walls are being repaired or recreated. The small window on the first floor of the tower will soon be replaced with a bank of three larger windows (you can see the "shadow" of the original in the "Before" picture below).

The Spanish Mission – Before and During Restoration



In the last issue, we reported that the deteriorated cedar shingles on Senior House were being replaced. That work is finished and the shingles have been painted a rich burgundy color to match all the window trim.

The stained glass windows in the Chapel were removed for repair and are now gradually being returned. The much larger stained glass windows in the Ballroom are being repaired in place. Except for a few windows for the Music Hall, all the new or restored windows are installed.

The area on the Chapel side and the Aloha side of the west wing of Main has been nicely landscaped with a mix of trees, shrubs and small plants that complements the buildings and new walkways.

Curbs and parking spaces have been created on Dewitt Drive near the front of the Chapel and on Sacks Drive in front of the Pagoda, and road surface preparation continues. Grading for the two-level parking structure next to Music Hall is in process.

An occupancy permit was received for half of the 66 rental apartments at the end of September, and residents moved in starting October 6. An occupancy permit is expected very soon for the remainder of the apartments. Occupancy of the condominiums in the Ballroom building, President's House, Senior House and Annex, and Music Hall is expected by the end of the year.

The last block of townhouses along Linden Lane (across from the gymnasium) will soon be finished, completing the new construction on Linden Lane.

National Park Seminary Redevelopment Honored

As you know, the huge task of redeveloping the entire National Park Seminary Historic District and several acres of adjacent land involves the efforts of two major developers as well as four smaller companies. One of the developers, EYA of Bethesda, Maryland is responsible for the construction of ninety new townhouses, many of which are now completed and occupied. This year, the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association and the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association honored EYA with several awards for their work at the seminary. EYA received "Major Achievements in Marketing Excellence" awards for two of their decorated model homes at the Seminary, based on such criteria as innovative use of space and outstanding interior design. EYA also received five Monument Awards for superior home design and community site planning:

- Winner for Innovative Infill Land Planning, National Park Seminary
- Winner for Best Attached Home from \$800,000-\$900,000, The Forsythe model,
- Award of Merit for Best Attached Home from \$700,000-\$800,000, The Newcastle model,
- Award of Merit for Best Attached Home over \$900,000, The Forsythe model, and
- Award of Merit for Implementation of an Innovative Product Line, English Tudor Architecture.