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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Restoration of Chapel of the Sisters in Prospect Cemetery to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 4, 2009 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the restoration of the **Chapel of the Sisters** in Prospect Cemetery, Jamaica, Queens, to receive a Preservation League award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"This handsome Romanesque Revival chapel, dating to 1857, had fallen into disrepair after years of neglect," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Now, through the collaboration of many different funding entities, the vacant chapel is filled with music as a performance space for York College. In addition, what was once a foreboding landscape has been transformed to provide much-needed publicly accessible green space in this section of Jamaica."

Contributing to the success of this project were Cutsogeorge Tooman & Allen Architects, P.C.; Hage Engineering; Gabor M. Szakal Consulting Engineers; Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc.; Fame Construction; The Gil Studios; Greater Jamaica Development Corp.; New York Landmarks Conservancy; Prospect Cemetery of Jamaica Village; and the New York City Parks Department. Major funding was provided by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Office of the Queens Borough President; New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Historic Preservation Grants Program; and New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Before the restoration, the interior space had never been heated, and had been unused and in poor condition for many years. "We were so pleased to be involved in this project," said Daniel Allen, AIA, Principal, Cutsogeorge, Tooman & Allen Architects, PC. "The restoration of

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the largely intact nineteenth century interior replete with generations of gilded scriptural writings, stained glass, and other decorative elements make this remarkable little building shine once again as a rare jewel.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 13th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: Astor Courts in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County; Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; Asbury Delaware Church – “Babeville,” in Buffalo, Erie County; The Emerson in Manhattan, New York County; The Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan, New York County; the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola, Nassau County; and The Chapel of the Sisters in Prospect Cemetery, Jamaica, Queens County. The Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Foundation Historical Society in Cayuga County will be honored for organizational excellence, and Dr. Robert B. MacKay of Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County, will be honored for individual excellence. ***The Olmsted City – The Buffalo Olmsted Park System: Plan for the 21st Century*** (University at Buffalo, 2008) will be honored as an outstanding publication.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the restoration of the Chapel of the Sisters in Prospect Cemetery the statewide recognition it deserves.”

The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.

By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.

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