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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE AWARDS PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT **Oakwood Cemetery Association Secures \$5,000**

ALBANY, NY – 01/04/11 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$5,000 grant** to the **Oakwood Cemetery Association** on **Wednesday, January 5 at 3:30 p.m.** at the **HSBC Meeting Room at the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, 10th and Ferry Streets, Niagara Falls.**

The grant will support the cost of completing a historic landscape report for the Oakwood Cemetery located north of the city center. The 18.3 acre cemetery is the work of local civil engineer T. D. Judah and reflects 19th century romantic landscape design principles with its curvilinear paths and drives. A special feature of Oakwood is the 1913 stone mausoleum designed by the noted architectural firm Green and Wicks, embellished by a Tiffany Studios stained glass window. The report will be prepared by Dean Gowen, Landscape Architect, of Amherst and will guide stewardship of the historic cemetery grounds.

The Preserve New York Grant Program is a partnership program of the Preservation League and the New York State Council on the Arts. “Preserve New York has a strong track record of bolstering local preservation efforts and delivering a strong return on investment,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Since 1993, Preserve New York has provided over \$1.5 million in direct support to 250 projects across the state, leveraging over \$20 million in additional project support and over \$500,000 in donated labor, services and materials.”

“The awarding of this grant is a very important step in the Historic Oakwood Restoration Project,” said Tom Yots, chair of the Oakwood Historic Preservation Committee and member of the cemetery’s board. “From its beginning in 1852, when the land was donated by Lavinia Porter, Oakwood has been closely associated with the prominent members of the community:

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civic, commercial and industrial leaders, war heroes and even daredevils found their way to Oakwood in the past 160 years. The importance of preserving this significant historic treasure cannot be overstated and the community should join the Oakwood Board in thanking the Preservation League for its commitment to our restoration project.”

“At its August, 2010 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 17 projects in 14 counties around the state to share \$109,149 in funding,” said Tania Werbizky, the League’s Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in western New York. “As always, the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the preservation efforts of the Oakwood Cemetery Association with this grant.”

According to Heather A. Hitchens, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts, “Preserve New York grants have proven to be an effective catalyst for realizing community preservation goals and saving some of the Empire State’s most significant places. We are gratified that state funds made available for strategic grants through Preserve New York continue to leverage private investment, revitalize our historic neighborhoods and downtowns, and celebrate New York’s incomparable architectural legacy.”

Organizations and municipalities receiving grant awards in 2010 are: **Broome County (2)**: First Ward Action Council; Town of Vestal; **Chemung County**: City of Elmira; **Cortland County**: Cortland Downtown Partnership; **Erie County (2)**: Allentown Association; Nash House Museum; **Livingston County**: Livingston County Historical Society; Montgomery County: Montgomery County Department of History and Archives; **New York County**: Two Bridges Neighborhood Council; **Niagara County**: Oakwood Cemetery Association; **Onondaga County**: Preservation Association of Central New York; **Putnam County**: Manitoga; **Rensselaer County**: Pittstown Historical Society; **Schuyler County**: Village of Watkins Glen; **Ulster County**: Jewish Federation of Ulster County; **Westchester (2)**: Friends of Mozartina Musical Arts Conservatory, Inc.; City of Yonkers Department of Planning and Development.

For more information on the Preserve New York Grant Program, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League’s website at www.preservenys.org.