



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Public Relations
Preservation League of New York State
518-462-5658, ext. 17; cryan@preservenys.org

Arlene Puentes, President
Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors
845-339-7984; ap@octoberhome.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Hudson Valley Chapter of American Society of Home Inspectors to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 1, 2008 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors (HVASHI)** to receive its prestigious Excellence in Historic Preservation Award. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“This organization is to be commended for providing vital training to those professionals who are in the best position to advise, counsel and educate homeowners on the merits of historic preservation,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “The impressive list of preservation professionals they have engaged to provide training in their annual Historic Homes Seminar illustrates a strategic commitment to protecting New York’s historic structures.”

Contributing to the success of this program are chapter president Arlene Puentes, October Home Inspections, Kingston; Historic Home Seminar chairperson Erik Vandenberg, A thru Z Home Inspection, Mahopac; chapter vice president Jim Obrotka, HIA Home Inspections, Warwick; chapter treasurer Donald Cocker, National Property Inspections, Wappingers Falls; chapter secretary Nicholas Kuvach, Reveal Home Inspections, Shrub Oak; and numerous industry experts, authors, consultants, architects and contractors who present at the annual Historic Homes Seminar.

“A number of home inspectors with a penchant for preservation realized that many of their well-meaning but uninformed colleagues would recommend insensitive remodeling rather than thoughtful, historically accurate repairs,” said Arlene Puentes, HVASHI Chapter President. “HVASHI volunteer program organizers put together the Historic Home Seminar to bridge a critical knowledge gap, and in so doing, protect and conserve historic properties throughout the Hudson Valley, New York State and beyond.”

The 6th Annual Historic Homes Seminar for the home inspector and other real estate professionals will be presented by HVASHI on September 16-18, 2008 in Newburgh, and will

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feature a behind-the-scenes inspection tour of homes on historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz. Workshops topics include: Inspecting Old Houses From the Ground Up; Plastering in the 21st Century; Historic American Architectural Styles and Types; Inspecting Historical Properties to Code; and Home Energy Audits and Effective Corrections Costs.

“With so many antique buildings in this region, home inspectors have a significant role to play in historic preservation,” said Neil Larson of Larson Fisher Associates, who participated in the 2007 seminar. “But this large profession needs training. HVASHI makes the effort to introduce its members to the value and methods of historic preservation, and keeps the issue in front of them with annual training seminars. They have done a terrific service for historic preservation, and provide a model for other ASHI chapters across the state.”

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 **Thursday, May 15th** at the historic **Park Avenue Armory**, 643 Park Avenue.

The complete list of award winners is: Webb Lofts in Buffalo, Erie County; MacNaughton House Stabilization in Newcomb, Essex County; U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, Kings County; Downtown Revitalization Program, Canajoharie, Montgomery County; Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York County; Proctors, Schenectady, Schenectady County; Hotel Kirkland, Kingston, Ulster County; Model Development Block, New Rochelle, Westchester County. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors will be honored for organizational excellence, and Trude Brown Fitelson of Rochester will be honored for individual excellence. *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City’s Landmarks* by Anthony C. Wood (Routledge, 2007) will also receive a special citation.

“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 efforts, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors 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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