

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HAWTHORNE HOTEL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD
TO BE PRESENTED**

Award to be given to Christopher Burke with recognition to Salem State College

Salem, MA, May 1, 2009 – The historic Hawthorne Hotel, a member of Historic Hotels of America, is pleased to honor Christopher Burke with the Hawthorne Hotel Historic Preservation Award during a reception to be held at the hotel on May 19, 2009 at 5:30pm. Mr. Burke has worked tirelessly to help preserve Salem Woods, a 160-acre tract of land in Highland Park.

The award has been given in years past to many deserving individuals including William Tinti, Joan Boudreau, John Goff, Richard Rennard, Edward Carberg, Staley McDermott, Tom Leonard, Dolores and Alice Jordan, Jim McAllister, Judge Samuel Zoll, Peter LaChappelle, Dean Lahikainen, and most recently to Ada Louise Huxtable and Timothy Noonan, Sr. for contributions they have made in preserving, protecting, and promoting Salem's historic treasures.

Born and raised in Lynn, Christopher graduated from Saint Mary's High School and Boston College. He worked for the Public Defender's Office in Kentucky and is now practicing law with his brother, Attorney J. Patrick Burke on Franklin Street in Lynn.

In 1992, Mr. Burke moved to Salem. He attended a meeting for the Friends of Salem Woods and learned about the impending expansion of a nine-hole golf course into the woods. He became president of the organization and by 2003, began adding trails, maps, hiking guides and educational programming.

Janey Winchell, The Sarah Fraser Robbins director, Art & Nature Center, Peabody Essex Museum says of Christopher, "Chris has been pivotal to the protection and preservation of Salem Woods for nearly two decades, both through his individual actions and as a leader in the Friends of Salem Woods organization—offering regularly scheduled walks for the public, participating in trail maintenance, sleuthing out suspected legal threats to the Woods, and serving as the Friends of Salem Woods president since 1992. It has been through the longstanding, dedicated efforts of Chris Burke in partnership with other key advocates for Salem Woods that the Salem community has come to appreciate the true value of this irreplaceable natural resource."

Salem State College's efforts to preserve Salem Woods will also be recognized at the event. The Geography Department of the college has prepared maps of various trails as well as put together information on the various plant species found in the woods. These resources have raised the public's awareness of the importance of the site and also have given the Friends of Salem Woods valuable assistance in moving the project forward.

For more information on the Friends of Salem Woods and their preservation efforts, please visit their website: www.salemwoods.org. The Historic Hawthorne Preservation Award will be held at the Hawthorne Hotel on May 19, 2009 at 5:30pm.

The Hawthorne Hotel was built by the residents of Salem in 1925. Over one thousand people in the area purchased stock in order to create a "modern" hotel. Now, designated an "Historic Hotel of America," the Hawthorne provides every amenity a "modern" traveler could desire and continues to welcome thousands of visitors every year. The hotel is 15 miles north of Boston and easily accessible from many major routes.

Historic Hotels of America is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Historic Hotels has identified 191 hotels that have faithfully maintained their historic integrity, architecture and ambiance. To be selected for this prestigious program, a hotel must be at least 50 years old, listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or recognized as having historic significance.

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