



*The Metropolitan Chapter
of the
Victorian Society in America*

*A Centennial Celebration:
Honoring Margot Gayle*

*on the occasion of her 100th birthday
held in conjunction with the*

2008 Annual Awards

*six o'clock in the evening
Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

*The Century Association
7 West Forty-Third Street
New York, New York*

2008 Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement

Mr. Robert C. Kaufmann

Exhibition and Catalogue

Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall: An Artist's Country Estate

Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, curator and principal author

Phillipe de Montebello, director

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Restoration

Bethesda Terrace Arcade, Central Park

Chris Nolan, vice-president for capital projects

Matthew Reiley, conservation supervisor

Central Park Conservancy

Restoration

Eldridge Street Synagogue

Bonnie Dimun, executive director

Roberta Brandes Gratz, founder

Jill Gotthelf & Walter Sedovic, Walter Sedovic Architects

Publication: Biography

Edith Wharton

Hermione Lee, author

Publication: Infrastructure

Conquering Gotham - A Gilded Age Epic:

The Construction of Penn Station and its Tunnels

Jill Jonnes, author

Publication: Cultural History

The Shakespeare Riots: Revenge, Drama and Death

in Nineteenth-Century America

Nigel Cliff, author

Honoring Margot Gayle

This year, Margot Gayle turns 100 and the Trustees of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America invite you to join us as we honor not only one of the founders of our national organization but one of New York's eminent preservationists. Margot's accomplishments are well known in the preservation community but her spirit, dedication and influence are perhaps best summed up by the following personal reminiscence.

In the 1980s, when Margot found out our architectural firm was restoring the Manhattan Municipal Building, she inquired as to what was to be done about the statue on top. We said it was not in the \$65 million project. She promptly wrote Ed Koch [NYC mayor 1978 - 1989] to ask that it be included. Margot has a special fondness for the statue because it is by Adolph Weinman - McKim, Mead and White's favorite sculptor. Weinman had studied with Augustus St. Gaudens. He was the sculptor of the Lincoln penny and the medal of the Fine Arts Federation of New York. Margot has been on the Federation's Board for many years. At Margot's prodding, Mayor Koch wrote a one sentence letter to Hadley Gold, commissioner of the Department of General Services: "Add the statue to the Municipal Building project". "So let it be written, so let it be done." as Yul Brynner said as Pharaoh in the Ten Commandments. And so it was added. Several years later, at dawn on a Summer morning, a Vietnam veteran brought his helicopter to a hover at the south end of City Hall Park. He lowered a cable and lifted the golden statue above our heads. As Margot and I watched, the statue left the dark world below and flashed in the sun. The pilot perched the restored statue [refurbished by the makers of the new torch for the Statue of Liberty - Les Metalliers Champenois] on top of the Municipal Building

Such is the influence of Margot Gayle, preservationist.

Stephen Gottlieb, AIA

Please join us on May 14 for this special, once-in-a-lifetime event as we honor a woman who has devoted her life to and worked tirelessly for the preservation of New York's historic resources.

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