

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release

September 8, 2008

NEWS BULLETIN!

VANDALISM STRIKES BARNES FOUNDATION NEIGHBORHOOD WITH WHOLESAL THEFT OF “JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE BARNES” SIGNS

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(MERION STATION, September 8, 2008) Residents of North Latch’s Lane in Merion awoke to find that throughout the neighborhood in the vicinity of the Barnes Foundation almost all of the “Join the Fight to Save the Barnes” signs had been vandalized. A resident who lives directly across the street from the Barnes Foundation, Nancy Herman, made the discovery early today.

When Mrs. Herman saw that her own signs were missing, she walked up and down the street to find that all but one sign had been either removed from its holder and tossed into nearby bushes, laid down on the grass, or simply stolen.

For several years, almost every home on North Latch’s Lane has had a least one sign proclaiming support for preserving the Barnes Foundation in Merion. The signs, which have been seen as far away as Chicago, Illinois, have become a ubiquitous reminder of the controversy in the region over the plan to dismantle the Barnes Foundation so that it can be used to shore up tourism in Philadelphia. The vandalized lawn signs are produced and distributed by Friends of the Barnes Foundation.

The effort to move the Barnes is being funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Lenfest and Annenberg Foundations, and others in a consortium of commercial, “philanthropic,” and political interests. In staunch opposition, the advocacy group Friends of the Barnes Foundation promotes creative solutions that embrace the Barnes Merion site as an indivisible site of national historic significance and world cultural heritage.

No clear evidence has been found to show who is responsible for the Latch’s Lane vandalism. Upon learning of the theft, a member of the Friends of the Barnes Foundation, Evelyn Yaari, expressed the hope that the timing was not in any way related to the presence in the area of a great many art world dignitaries who attended a memorial tribute to Anne d’Harnoncourt, the late Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday evening.

For further information, <http://www.barnesfriends.org>

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