

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release

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FRIENDS OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION DECLARES JANUARY 2, 2011 “BARNES DAY” TO HONOR ALBERT C. BARNES AND PROTEST DESTRUCTION OF HIS LEGACY

(MERION STATION, PA, USA – Dec. 21, 2010) Friends of the Barnes Foundation members will honor Albert C. Barnes on **January 2, 2011**, the 139th anniversary of his birth with a “Barnes Day” event. The organization of citizen advocates seeks permanent preservation of the Barnes Merion complex as a National Historic Landmark and an end to the plans of the Barnes Board of Trustees to dismantle it.

Barnes Day activities will begin at **noon at 301 North Latch’s Lane**, directly across the street from the gates of the Barnes Foundation. In recognition of Barnes’ birthday, there will be a protest against the plans to remove the art collection from the historic, stable, and sustainable Merion setting where Barnes intended it to remain in perpetuity to a site in Philadelphia where it faces enormous financial uncertainty. The outdoor event will include speakers and will be followed by an indoor reception.

The well-known intentions of the Barnes Foundation Indenture of Trust have been altered through legal maneuvers to permit removal of the art collection and expansion of the Board of Trustees. The current Board of Trustees was formed to install the Barnes art collection in a tourism venue in Philadelphia at the urging of Pew Charitable Trusts head Rebecca Rimel in concert with a few Philadelphia-based philanthropists, Governor Ed Rendell, and the Pennsylvania Attorney General. Unbeknownst to most people, the move is being undertaken

with a massive infusion of Pennsylvania state taxpayer money, including \$34 million from a 2010 state bond to be borrowed for construction.

The Barnes saga remains a leading controversy in the international art and historic preservation communities, with opposition to it growing as awareness of the situation rises with distribution of an independent film, “The Art of the Steal.”

Sandy Bressler is a member of the Friends of the Barnes Foundation Steering Committee who remarked, “Acknowledging Dr. Barnes’ birthday is a poignant reminder of what is at stake here. Truth be told, Dr. Barnes must be spinning in his grave, given what is going on with the planned move, which violates everything he worked for over his entire adult life to create and sustain in Merion.”

Friends of the Barnes Foundation advocates permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation in Merion which includes its site-specific art collection, purpose-built gallery building, historic arboretum and its integrated schools of art appreciation and horticulture established by Dr. Albert C. Barnes. To learn more, go to www.stophemove.org; and www.barnesfriends.org.

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