

Committee

Executive

Co-Chairman *The Lord Wedgwood* Wedgwood, WWRD

Co-Chairman *Adele Ierubino Barnett* President, Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C.

Vice-Chairman Diane Dunkley Director, Daughters of the American Revolution Museum

Vice-Chairman Alan Barnett 1st Vice President, Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C.

Treasurer Nancy Blaney Treasurer, Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C.

Advisors

Stephen Nordholt Administrator, National Society Daughters of American Revolution

Michelle Richards Director of Public Relations and Special Events, Wedgwood, WWRD

Jethro Hooper Recording Secretary, Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C.

Michelle Juehring Curator General, National Society Daughters of American Revolution

Robert Wedgwood President, Wedgwood Society of Southern California

John Mohin Wedgwood Museum Trustee



Wedgwood-250 Exhibition^{IM} USA 2009

3505 Stringfellow Court, Fairfax, VA 22033-1502 703-437-7997 WSofWDC@aol.com www.Wedgwood250USA.org

Celebrating 250 Years of Innovation and Artistry

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

Adele Barnett, W-250 Committee Phone; 703-437-7997 Email: <u>WSofWDC@aol.com</u>

> Bren Landon, DAR Museum Phone: 202-572-0563 Email: <u>blandon@dar.org</u>

Wedgwood: 250 Years of Innovation and Artistry

Wedgwood's remarkable story spans two and a half centuries of discovery, vision, experimentation, industry and exquisite design. From its humble British beginnings to iconic global status, Wedgwood has a rich English classic history. 2009 commemorates Wedgwood's glorious story: the magnificent efforts of Wedgwood's intrepid founder Josiah Wedgwood; its illustrious, royal patrons; the array of designers with whom Wedgwood has collaborated; and the craftsmen who still hand press wafer-thin slivers of bas-relief at the home of Wedgwood in Stoke-on-Trent.

To mark the 250th anniversary of the company's founding, the Wedgwood-250 Exhibition Committee is pleased to announce the staging of a major exhibition and ceremony to take place in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Co-Chairs, Lord Wedgwood, corporate ambassador, and Adele Barnett, president Wedgwood Society of Washington, D.C., are partnering with the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum to introduce *"Wedgwood: 250 Years of Innovation and Artistry."*

The exhibition will run at the DAR Museum from October 3, 2009 through February 27, 2010 and will showcase nearly 200 select items illustrating the company's unique history and manufacturing. All eras from 1759 to 2009 and the wide variety of clay bodies and designs will be represented with the objects being drawn from North American private, museum and celebrity collectors such as Martha Stewart and Whoopi Goldberg. The museum lenders include the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Smithsonian, Winterthur, Colonial Williamsburg, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Royal Ontario Museum, and others.

(more)

Over its rich 250-year history, Wedgwood produced hundreds of thousands of items both useful and decorative in a vast array of finishes, adornments, and colors. The exhibition will showcase early useful and lab wares, tableware from the 18^{th} to 21^{st} centuries, ornamentals, jewelry, plates from the original services of both Russia's Catherine the Great and the Theodore Roosevelt White House, and a golf trophy presented to Tiger Woods. Artist pieces featured will include works by Emile Lessore, Harry Barnard, John Skeaping, Millicent Taplin, Eric Ravilious, Norm Wilson, and many more. Among the busts and portrait medallions from the 18^{th} to 20^{th} century will be Josiah Wedgwood I, Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Queen Elizabeth II.

The opening ceremony hosted by Lord Wedgwood will feature an afternoon tea and exhibit previewing for invited guests that will take place October 2, 2009 at DAR Headquarters, a historical complex occupying a full city block located between the White House and the Washington Monument. The guest list will consist of exhibit lenders, participating museums, sponsors and benefactors, Wedgwood society leaders, Wedgwood UK and USA executives, DAR representatives, media, celebrities and dignitaries. The planned highlight will feature the British Ambassador presenting a specially commissioned Wedgwood "Gift Between Nations" statue to the White House. The program will also offer a monthly lecture series conducted at the DAR and presented by noted Wedgwood experts, and an exhibit catalogue and jasper commemorative wares will be available for purchase.

For updates on the Wedgwood-250 Exhibition project and related products, visit www.wedgwood250USA.org. For more information on the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, visit www.dar.org. For additional information on Wedgwood products, visit www.wedgwoodusa.com.