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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAKE A JOURNEY DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE FOR SAMA'S "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" GARDEN PARTY

LIGONIER – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is mad as a hatter for another Garden Party. This summer, the Museum invites the public to join “Alice in Wonderland” for our 18th annual fundraiser on Saturday, July 27.

SAMA-Ligonier Valley’s Garden Party is a community event designed to benefit the Museum and its lavish 400-square-foot flower gardens. Co-chairs Patty Jones and Joyce Collins along with the rest of the Garden Party Committee have planned an exciting evening.

“This very special event is recreated each year through the efforts, commitment and hard work of the Ladies Auxiliary, a dedicated museum staff, and other volunteers to make this wonderful evening for everyone in attendance,” Collins says.

The evening begins with a champagne and hors d'oeuvre reception in the SAMA gallery celebrating the Museum’s featured exhibition, Stan Sperlak’s: *The View from My Easel: Pastel Landscapes of the East Coast*.

Sperlak currently resides in New Jersey where he has his home studio at the Crow Creek Farm. This exhibition features approximately 65 pieces of his work inspired by South Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Having a passion for natural sensory experience, Sperlak uses pastel as his medium to capture stunning realities of earthly sights.

Following the reception, guests will make their way to the Ligonier Country Club where they will be greeted by Alice in Wonderland characters. Guests will enjoy cocktails, gourmet cuisine, live music provided by The Rick Purcell Band, and flamingo croquet. Live and silent auctions will give guests the opportunity to purchase artwork, antiques, collectibles, garden accessories, gift baskets and much more.

“Imagine peering through the looking glass and stepping into a wonderland of exciting entertainment. That is what you will experience at this year’s “Alice In Wonderland” Garden Party.” Kristin Miller, Ligonier Valley Site Coordinator says, “We have an enchanting evening planned for our guests that will provide an array of lively music, charming games, beautiful

auction items and much more. “We are all mad here” so join us and be mad for SAMA Ligonier.”

The Garden Party is sponsored by Somerset Trust and the SAMA Ligonier Auxiliary. This Alice Wonderland event will be held from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 27. Tickets are \$125 per person, please RSVP on or before **July 19, 2019**. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. To purchase tickets, sponsorship or for more information please contact the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit the Museum.

Since its opening in 1976, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has been devoted to its mission of collecting, preserving and exhibiting 19th- and 20th-century American art to the rural communities of southwestern and central Pennsylvania. Since that time, the Museum’s permanent collection has grown to number more than 5,000 works of art. With sites located in Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto, SAMA reaches tens of thousands every year with its world-class exhibitions and award-winning education programs. The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is open to the public free of charge.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located on One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Business hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Museum is handicapped-accessible. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, visit www.sama-art.org or call (724) 238-6015.