

September 26, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY LUNCH PROGRAM TO FEATURE
PAPERWEIGHT HISTORIAN**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l’Art program with journalist and paperweight historian Michael Calleri on Thursday, October 17. The program, which begins at noon, includes lunch and a presentation by the speaker. Cost is \$13 or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by October 11 and can be made by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015. Attendees are invited to bring one paperweight per guest to the lunch program.

Calleri, of Buffalo, New York, is a movie reviewer and entertainment reporter for the daily Niagara Gazette. He also writes for WNYMedia.net, the Buffalo Alternative Press, and the national website, Indiewire.com. Calleri will discuss the history of fine art glass paperweights and how they are made, and will share his thoughts about SAMA’s Walter Carlyle Shaw Collection of nearly 200 paperweights. The collection, donated by Elizabeth Shaw Gamble in 1992 in memory of her father, is on permanent display at the Museum.

Classic and modern paperweights are included in the collection, with works by some of the world’s leading glass manufacturers such as Whitefriars Glass, England; Perthshire Paperweights, Scotland; Baccarat, Clichy-de-Garenne, and Saint Louis, France; and Millville, New England Glass Company, and Orient & Flume, United States. Also included are works by a number of modern glass artists such as Rick Ayotte, Bob Banford, Chris Buzzini, Ken Rosenfeld, Debbie Taristano, David Trabucco and Paul Stankard, considered the father of modern glass paperweights. The collection is housed in a custom cherry wood “wall” with random window openings, permitting visitors to view the paperweights from a variety of perspectives.

Prior to the lunch program will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. The Auxiliary is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please come to the meeting or call the Museum for further information.

Lunch a l’Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.