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**CARIBBEAN-THEMED GALA TO FEATURE AMAZING LIVE AND SILENT
AUCTIONS AND SPECTACULAR LIGHT SHOW**

Loretto – This summer, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is offering its guests a *Party in Paradise* for its thirty-sixth annual Gala. The Caribbean-themed event, scheduled for Saturday, July 19 on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto, will offer a variety of games, silent and live auctions, tropical music and fabulous specialty bars.

Guests at the Gala will find a number of incredible items available in the live and silent auctions, including a variety of artwork, vacation packages and never-before-seen collectibles. One highlight of the live auction will be a vintage, long wheelbase 1972 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow. With fewer than 100,000 miles, the car features custom coachwork, a vinyl top and mahogany bars behind the driver and passenger seats.

The bargains won't end there, however. Also available in the live auction is a foursome at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, a five-night vacation at beautiful Paradise Village in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and a one-night stay at Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater with white-water rafting. Art lovers will be enticed by the brilliant landscape watercolor, *Lakes at Cresson*, by Michael M. Strueber, and Helen Gorsuch's whimsical *Orange Orangutan Pot*. The live auction also includes a butterfly garden bench, a hand-painted Morley's Dog replica statue, a designer wine rack with premium wines, and a \$6,000 scholarship to Saint Francis University. Hundreds of incredible items also will be available in the silent auction, including some amazing artwork by area students. A collection of watercolor florals have been donated by students of Hollidaysburg Area High School while students of Richland High School have donated hand-crafted flower pots. The student work was created during SAMA artist residencies.

As a special treat, this year's Gala will feature a spectacular light show. The presentation will be arranged by Brien Rullman, founder of OVT Visuals. Rullman travels the world with his light show productions and has a client list that includes LL Cool J, Black Eyed Peas, The Flaming Lips, Crystal Method, the Pixies, Pretty Lights, and James Brown, among many others.

On view during the Gala will be *Wall-to-Wall Kamal*. Featuring nearly 250 works spanning more than seventy years, the Kamal Youssef retrospective is the largest exhibition ever mounted at the Museum.

This year's Gala is being led by a Leadership Circle consisting of Jim Cayce, Glenda Forosisky, Kerrie Kinzle, Kashana Kopac, Marian Morgan, Barbara and Ed O'Brien, John Reffner, Barbara and Larry Savino, Judy and Dick Scholton, Nancy Sheetz, Barbara Sincak, Margaret and Michael Strueber, and Chantel Ventura-Garofalo and Dr. James Garofalo.

The Gala will be held at 6 p.m. on July 19 on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto. Tickets are \$175 per person and can be purchased by calling the Museum at (814) 472-3920. Van transportation will be provided to and from Altoona, Johnstown and Ligonier. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available, and interested parties should contact the Museum.

Over the past three decades, the Gala has evolved into one of the most sophisticated and complex outdoor social events in Pennsylvania. The proceeds from the event enable SAMA's four museums – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – to remain open to the public free of charge. The event also helps underwrite the Museum's world-class exhibitions and innovative Arts-in-Education and Museum/Healthcare Partnership programs. For more information on the Gala, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.

SAMA's *Party in Paradise* Gala is made possible by the thoughtful contributions of numerous businesses and individuals. *Party in Paradise* Sponsors are Saint Francis University and Sheetz, Inc. *Party in Paradise* Patrons are Andrews & Beard Law Offices; Karen and Dr. Magdi Azer; Benzel's Bretzel Bakery; Blair County Anesthesia, P.C.; Jim Cayce and Tom Dosh; Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate; Dr. Betty Cottle; Deborah DeGol and Robert Krumroy; Jeanne and Rob Gleason; Kooman & Associates, LLC; Kranich's, Inc.; Marianne and Guy Landolfi; Laurel Auto Group; Diane and Dr. Scott Little; Joan and Harry McCreary; Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan; Dorothea Nelson; Barry Newborn; Barbara and Ed O'Brien; Shirley Pechter; Penn State Altoona; Nancy Sheetz; Margaret and Michael Strueber; Carmel and Phil Trimarco; Chantel Ventura-Garofalo; Mary Weidlein; Aline and Gerald Wolf; and Dr. Paul Woolley.