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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SAMA NAMES 2014 GARDEN PARTY CHAIRS**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley has announced that Gretchen and Joseph Griffith of Laughlintown and Barbara and Gene Kravits of Ligonier will serve as co-chairs for the Museum’s thirteenth annual Garden Party. SAMA’s Garden Party will be held on Saturday, May 31. Serving as honorary co-chairs are Masters of the Rolling Rock Hunt, Christina Henderson, Sophie Mellon and Fritz Teroede.

Both Gretchen and Joseph Griffith were born in Johnstown, but have called the Ligonier Valley home for many years. Mr. Griffith spent much of his professional life working for Rockwell International and its successor companies. His employers offered him an opportunity to spend time in Europe, which provided Mrs. Griffith the chance to visit many major cities and small towns throughout Greece, Italy, Spain, and the U.K., among other countries. A member of the first Laurel Mountain Borough Council, Mr. Griffith is currently a member of Ligonier Country Club and serves on its Board of Governors. Mrs. Griffith was formerly Assistant Director of Nursing at Bethlen Home in Ligonier. Now retired, she is passionate about art and cooking.

Barbara and Gene Kravits have both lived lives dedicated to family, education, and the arts. The Kravitses own and operate Truffles Antiquities in Laughlintown and have volunteered with numerous organizations throughout the Laurel Highlands. Mr. Kravits is an avid artist whose work has been exhibited throughout the region. Mrs. Kravits has volunteered at Fallingwater and has been an active member of SAMA’s Ligonier Valley Auxiliary and currently serves as its president. Mr. Kravits has been active on several boards, including serving as education chairman of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, as well as Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and Touchstone Center for Crafts.

“The chairs have outdone themselves in preparation for this year’s Garden Party,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. “Gretchen and Joseph Griffith and Barbara and Gene Kravits have brought a tremendous amount of passion and enthusiasm to the table. We have many exciting new things planned for the event and our chairs are working hard to make this a Garden Party to remember.”

The theme for this year's Garden Party is "The Thrill of the Hunt for Art." The event will be held on May 31 and will include live and silent auctions, live entertainment and gourmet cuisine. For more information, call the Ligonier Valley Museum at (724) 238-6015.

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](http://www.sama-art.org).