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SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY PREPARES FOR ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will celebrate its eleventh annual Garden Party this spring. Scheduled for Saturday, June 2, this year’s event celebrates “Some Enchanted Evening.” The Garden Party is a community event designed to benefit the Museum and its beautiful flower gardens, and has brought more than 1,000 patrons to the Museum over the years. Serving as Garden Party Co-Chairs are Bonnie Hoffman and Carolyn Turner, both of Ligonier.

The Garden Party begins at 4 p.m. with a reception in the Museum gallery celebrating the exhibition, *People, Places and Things: Works by William DeBernardi*. The artist will be in attendance to meet guests during the reception and throughout the Garden Party. Following the reception, guests will proceed outside under a tent on the Museum grounds for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres provided by Vallozzi’s. Adding to the ambience will be the music of the Tropical Sands Steel Band. The two-man steel drum ensemble from Pittsburgh is renowned for capturing the sounds of the Caribbean and helping to deliver the atmosphere of “paradise” to any event.

While on the lawn, guests also will have an opportunity to bid on numerous items in the silent auction. In recent years, the auction has featured a wide assortment of antiques, artwork, jewelry, garden accessories, gift baskets, and vacation packages.

“As we were planning this year’s event, we thought a tropical theme might spice things up a bit,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. “This year’s event will treat our guests to the sights and sounds of the tropics. Our chairs and the entire Garden Party Committee have done a fabulous job organizing a Garden Party that will be one to remember. This is our signature event at SAMA-Ligonier Valley, and I couldn’t be more excited for it.”

The Garden Party is open to the public, but reservations must be made by May 22. Cost is \$75 per person. For reservations or more information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit www.sama-art.org.

Since its opening in 1976, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has been devoted to its mission of collecting 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 4,000 works of art. With four sites located in Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto, SAMA is able to reach tens of thousands every year with world-class exhibitions and award-winning education programs. Each of SAMA's four museums is open to the public free of charge.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.