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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAMA GARDEN PARTY FEATURES SPLENDID SILENT AUCTION

Ligonier – When the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley hosts its eleventh annual Garden Party on Saturday, June 2, there will be no shortage of amazing items available in the silent auction. A progressive dinner, a week's stay in Colorado, and a "brewer for a day" package are just a few items to be included at this year's event.

"Our silent auction will feature a variety of gift baskets, jewelry, golf packages, vacation packages, antiques, and original artwork from several local and international artists such as William DeBernardi, Ron Donoughe, Brian Ferrell, Bud Gibbons, Rita Haldeman, Bill Hoffman, and Helen Thorne, among others," said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. "We'll also have garden accessories, sports memorabilia, event tickets, luxury items, gift certificates, and other wonderful items donated from many local stores. There also will be a wine and beer raffle with a chance to win two tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers game. The Garden Party committee has taken every measure to create a memorable evening with high quality auction items."

Over the years, some of the most popular silent auction items have been vacation packages and other special opportunities. This year's auction boasts a number of intriguing items, including a week's stay in Vail, Colorado at a private home with four bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms that accommodates up to eleven people. Also being auctioned is a progressive dinner, where guests travel to three beautiful Ligonier area homes for hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and dessert.

One lucky bidder will be a "Brewer for a Day" at Full Pint Brewing Company in North Huntingdon. This package allows the winner to brew beer with a brewmaster or bottle a batch of beer, as well as receive two cases of beer or a five gallon keg. Another item available in the auction is an authentic Italian dinner for four hosted by Mother Mary Anne. The dinner will be prepared by two full-blooded Italian cooks and will be served in the formal dining room of the Robertshaw Country House Bed and Breakfast at St. Emma's in Greensburg.

The Museum's Garden Party begins at 4 p.m. with a reception in the gallery celebrating the exhibition, *People, Places and Things: Works by William DeBernardi*.

The artist will be in attendance to greet visitors and discuss his works on view. 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 event's tropical theme 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. The Garden Party also will provide guests with an opportunity to have private readings with Intuitive Tarot Card Reader, Rebecca Bloom. Serving as co-chairs for the Garden Party are Bonnie Hoffman and Carolyn Turner.

The Garden Party is open to the public, though reservations are required. Cost is $75 per person. For tickets or additional information, please call the 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.