

April 4, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SAMA PROGRAM HONORS LONG-TIME PATRONS**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will host its inaugural *Night of Distinction* on Saturday, April 28. *Night of Distinction* is a special program designed to celebrate the Museum's Trustee Emeritus inductees. During the program, Betty Gamble, Jeanne Gleason, Edgar Dean Nelson, and Shirley Pechter will be celebrated for their years of commitment to the Museum and will officially join Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R. as SAMA Trustees Emeritus.

*Night of Distinction* also will include the presentation of the Museum's prestigious Service to the Arts Award to J. William Meek III. Since 1978, Meek has been the Director and Owner of the Harmon-Meek Gallery in Naples, Fla. Meek has made numerous contributions to the art world and was instrumental in last summer's Will Barnet retrospective at SAMA-Loretto.

"*Night of Distinction* affords SAMA the opportunity to recognize the collaboration, contributions, and commitment a select group of individuals has made to the Museum over the years," said SAMA Executive Director, Gary Moyer. "Betty Gamble, Jeanne Gleason, Dean Nelson, and Shirley Pechter have all been invaluable to the Museum's success and we are pleased to recognize them as Trustees Emeritus. These individuals, along with Service to the Arts Award honoree William Meek, have all demonstrated exemplary service to SAMA and have offered noteworthy contributions to the arts. Through their efforts and passion, these individuals have enriched the cultural lives of many who live in this region and for generations to come."

SAMA's *Night of Distinction* is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. The event will begin with a cocktail reception and will be followed by dinner and presentation of the Trustees Emeritus and the Service to the Arts Award. Cost is \$80 per person and reservations are required by April 20. Seating is limited to 200. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum 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).