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**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY GARDEN PARTY TO CELEBRATE  
“THE ART OF GOLF”**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley gardens will be the spot for the Museum’s 15<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Party, “The Art of Golf.” The event tees off Saturday, May 21 with an evening of fine dining, live music, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a variety of golfing activities.

Guests at the Garden Party will have a unique opportunity to try their hand at a pitch-and-putt course around the gardens, as well as a golf-ball drop game and golf-themed card games. In recognition of the Museum’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, guests also will be treated to a “birthday” grab bag game.

Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a seated gourmet dinner will be prepared by chefs from Vallozzi’s restaurants in Greensburg and Pittsburgh, while live music will be provided by the Rick Purcell Band featuring Shari Richards. The Garden Party also will include a special presentation recognizing the Auxiliary’s 2016 Distinguished Honoree, Sommer Toffle.

In the live auction, guests will have an opportunity to bid on an Ireland golf adventure. The package includes a 6-night stay for two with golfing in Dublin, Killarney and Ennis. Also included is 6-day car rental and 2 VIP tickets to the Guinness Storehouse (airfare not included). The silent auction will again feature a variety of antiques, artwork, gift baskets and golf packages.

As part of the Garden Party, the Museum is offering a golf tournament at prestigious Laurel Valley Golf Club on May 19. There will be several opportunities for golfers to win prizes, including a 2-year lease on a 2016 Mercedes-Benz C Class, courtesy of Bud Smail Motorcars, for a hole-in-one. Since its opening in 1959, Laurel Valley Golf Club has hosted several notable tournaments, including the 1965 PGA Championship and the 2005 Senior PGA Championship. The club ranked 55<sup>th</sup> on Golf Digest’s 2013-14 Top 100 Greatest Golf Courses in America and third in Pennsylvania. Cost for a foursome for the “Art of Golf” tournament is \$2,000 or \$500 for an individual. Several sponsorship opportunities also are available. Reservations are required by May 9 by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

“This has been such a fun experience with this being my first Garden Party,” said Emma Noonan, SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator. “I’m excited to incorporate the golf tournament

fundraiser, as it opens the Museum to a much wider audience while the Garden Party keeps the yearly tradition really authentic. But after 15 years, it was time to spice things up a bit. I think our guests and patrons will appreciate some of the features we will be offering this year. The entire weekend, with both the tournament and the Garden Party, is going to be such fun. That's the whole focus this year: to have fun all weekend."

The Garden Party begins at 5 p.m. on May 21. Cost is \$125 per person. The event is open to the public, though reservations are requested by May 13. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

Since its opening in 1976, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has been devoted to its mission of collecting, preserving and exhibiting 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4,300 works of art. With four sites located in Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto, SAMA is able to reach tens of thousands every year with its world-class exhibitions and award-winning education programs. Each of SAMA's four sites is open to the public free of charge. The Museum is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.