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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**METAL AND WOOD WORKER TO SPEAK AT  
SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY LUNCH PROGRAM**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with Bob Shamey at noon on Thursday, November 2. Cost for the program, which includes lunch and presentation, is \$15 per person or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015 by October 27.

A Ligonier native, Shamey first found professional artistic success through his unique bronze belt buckles. Clients included household names such as Greg Allman, James Brolin, Bobby Darin, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Mike Love of the Beach Boys, among others. Shamey soon moved to California, where he would become a world-class goldsmith and jewelry designer. He returned to Ligonier in 1985 and opened a goldsmith studio, but in a few years branched out into a new form of art: wood carving. To challenge himself, he began working smaller and smaller, eventually working on wooden toothpicks.

Shamey's incredibly intricate carvings are listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's smallest carved chain, and twelve of his carvings are on display in Ripley's Believe It or Not museums around the country. In later years, he ventured into carving hard fruit pits, beginning with peach pits and olive pits and then working down in size to dogwood seeds, which measure 1/16" in diameter. Recently, he has expanded into carving hobo nickels, with more than 200 coin carvings now in private coin collections across the U.S.

Prior to the lunch program will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please attend the meeting or call the Museum for further information.

Lunch a l'Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by the Museum.

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).