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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY LUNCH PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT
STORY OF MUSEUM'S FOUNDING**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with Connie Pilz at noon on Thursday, September 21. 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 September 15.

One of the Ligonier Valley Museum's original steering committee members, Pilz will share a slideshow presentation chronicling the founding of the Museum. She will touch upon the Museum's origins, the construction process, and observations on how it has evolved over its twenty year history.

A Ligonier resident for more than 40 years, Pilz is a retired school teacher who has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin. She currently serves in the Museum's Auxiliary and is an avid painter. Two of her works are featured in the Museum's special 20th anniversary exhibition, *Art from the Heart: A Celebration of SAMA-Ligonier Valley's Founders*.

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.