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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VINTAGE AUTOMOBILES, ANTIQUE MASCOTS TO BE EXHIBITED DURING SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY GARDEN PARTY

Ligonier – Exhibitions of Full Classic® automobiles and antique mascots/hood ornaments will be offered as part of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art's annual spring Garden Party. Scheduled for Saturday, June 3, the "Roaring '20s" Garden Party will transport guests to the jazz age with an evening of fine art, gourmet cuisine, live music, auctions and games of chance.

Headlining the 16th annual Garden Party are the exclusive exhibitions of antique automobiles and mascots. Eight Full Classic® automobiles will be on display under a tent on the Museum lawn. Guests will marvel at the 1910 Packard, 1922 Studebaker, 1932 Packard 900 Coupe, 1933 Rolls Royce Phantom II Continental, 1934 Packard Phaeton, 1937 Bentley, 1937 Cord 812SC Phaeton and 1941 Cadillac 62 Series that will be featured in the SAMA exhibition. These high-end marques are masterpieces of engineering and triumphs of aesthetic design and craftsmanship.

Inside the Museum, Garden Party guests will be treated to a special exhibition of antique mascots/hood ornaments. On loan from a private collector, the mascot collection will be exhibited together for the first time at the Garden Party. Among the dozens of mascots on display will be a 1930s Voisin Cocette mascot and radiator badge, 1929 Packard mascot, 1920s Minerva mascot, 1931-32 Auburn mascot, 1928-29 Pierce Arrow mascot, and the famous Rolls Royce mascot, "Spirit of Ecstasy."

SAMA's Garden Party also will feature gourmet cuisine from Vallozzi's, live period music by the Rick Purcell Band, and a dance contest that will highlight dances of the era. Additional entertainment will be provided by members of Ligonier's Diamond Theatre, who will be performing at the event as characters from the 1920s. Games of chance will be offered, as well as Chinese and art auctions and a 50/50 raffle. Guests are encouraged to dress in costume to add to the evening's ambience. Connie Pilz and Peggy Shepler are co-chairs of the Garden Party.

After dinner, the live auction will tempt party-goers with six spectacular items. Original paintings by Chas Fagan, Rita Haldeman and Michael M. Strueber will be offered, as well as a painting by the Museum's exhibiting artist, Dennis Sheehan. Other featured items include a pig

roast for up to 50 people from Hoffer's Ligonier Valley Packing, and a private tour, wine tasting and hay ride at Christian W. Klay Winery in Chalk Hill.

The Garden Party will commence at 4 p.m. on June 3. Tickets are \$125 per person. The event is open to the public, though reservations are required. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit 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 19th and 20th 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 4,400 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.