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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BEAUTIFUL, DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES TO BE DISPLAYED
AND AUCTIONED AT SAMA-BEDFORD**

Bedford – If you would like your Christmas tree this year to be a work of art, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford has the tree for you. From Sunday, November 25 through Saturday, December 1, the Museum will hold a “Glorious Trees Silent Auction,” providing visitors an opportunity to win one of five stately, beautifully decorated trees. The trees were generously donated by anonymous SAMA benefactors and all proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Bedford Museum.

The Museum will hold a champagne reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, November 26 to celebrate the “Glorious Trees Silent Auction.” The preview is open to the public free of charge. Three large fully decorated heirloom trees and two smaller trees are available in the silent auction.

The “Big Tree” is an eight-foot lighted tree and features over 250 collectible ornaments including collections from Christopher Radko, Jonathan Adler, Lenox and Hallmark. Another eight-foot lighted tree, the “Garden Tree” contains more than 130 ornaments depicting garden themes and offers collections of Jay Strongwater ornaments, Smith and Hawken’s one-of-a-kind ornaments, hand-blown glass ornaments, and other unique collectibles. The “Silvestri Crystal Tree” stands at nine feet and boasts more than 115 Silvestri glass ornaments reflecting the season, animals, nature and other themes.

Among the smaller trees is the “Country Tree.” Measuring seven feet, the tree comes with a hand-sewn skirt in a red cardinal motif and includes six antique hooped, hand tatted lace ornaments from Lancaster County. The tree’s other ornaments were collected from the Jersey, Delaware and Baltimore shores. Finally, the “Babies ‘N Toyland Tree” is a small tree with family memories and small ornaments, perfect for a child to hang. Each of the Glorious Trees comes with lights, a tree skirt, a bottle of champagne and installation at your location by the donors.

SAMA-Bedford is located in the historic Anderson House at 137 E. Pitt St. The Museum is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Museum is closed Tuesdays and holidays. Cost of admission is \$10 per person or free admission for SAMA members, ages 21 & under and 65 & older. The Museum offers free admission for Bedford residents on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Parking is available on the street or in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, please call (814) 589-3020 or visit www.sama-art.org.