

THE GALLERY



ISSUE 70
sama-art.org



New Trustees to Make Big Plans for 50th Anniversary

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) proudly announced the appointment of four distinguished individuals to its Board of Trustees: Gary Discavage, Barbara Hollander, Michael Strueber, and Chantel Ventura. These new trustees brought a wealth of experience, expertise, and dedication to advancing the arts across the region.

Gary Discavage joined the board inspired by his

lifelong belief that art elevates the human spirit. He emphasized that SAMA provides the community with opportunities to learn, create, and experience art in ways that inspire and transform. Barbara Hollander, a former educator and site director at SAMA for 21 years, expressed her excitement to continue fostering the museum's growth and ensuring its future vitality.

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PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!

Volunteers Bring Sparkle Back

New Trustees *(cont' from front page)*

Michael Strueber focused on broadening the museum's exhibitions and educational programs, aiming to integrate the arts into social settings and enhance community engagement. Chantel Ventura highlighted her passion for creativity and innovation, emphasizing her

commitment to expanding opportunities for people of all ages to connect with the arts.

"We were thrilled to welcome Gary, Barbara, Michael, and Chantel to SAMA's Board of Trustees," said Barry H. Newborn, President. Their collective expertise and dedication strengthen SAMA's mission as it celebrated its fiftieth year of inspiring creativity through exhibitions, programs, and events across Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, and Ligonier.



Dedicated volunteers from the "White Glove Gang" brought new life and sparkle to SAMA Ligonier's beloved Paperweight Collection through a day of careful cleaning,

What seemed like another overcast, dreary Tuesday turned into a day of sweat, scrubbing, light and sparkle. Volunteers from the "White Glove Gang" quietly walked through our museum door in Ligonier, smiled and quietly said, "We're with the White Glove Gang". Volunteers Elizabeth Tufts Brown, Reba Harmon and Iris Hung gave their time to MidAtlantic Association of Museums and SAMA to clean our beloved Paperweight Collection. Elizabeth, the veteran participant and Manager of Registration and Archives at Carnegie Museum of Art worked with her Carnegie

colleague Reba and Carnegie Mellon University Graduate student Iris to clean not just our paperweights but our display cases. SAMA's head of Buildings and Grounds, Lee Rummel and his assistant Cameron Farabaugh led the volunteer team in washing glass shelves, light covers, display case glass and our paperweights. By the end of the day all 160 paperweights were washed, dried and carefully placed back in the display cases. Everybody was tired but amazed with the glow emanating from the sparkly clean paperweight display.

MUSEUM AS A VENUE

Looking for a unique and inspiring setting for your next gathering? SAMA offers beautifully curated spaces surrounded by world-class art—perfect for baby showers, birthday celebrations, meetings, small receptions, and more.

Why Choose SAMA?

An elegant backdrop of fine art exhibitions. Flexible space ideal for both casual gatherings and professional meetings. Affordable pricing with discounts for nonprofit organizations. A welcoming, creative atmosphere that makes your event unforgettable.

SAMA provides an artistic and memorable setting to bring people together.

Learn more at sama-art.org/venues.



Telling Stories

SAMA Teaching Artists Inspire the Next Generation



Artists Deb Bunnell and Evgeny Krayushkin guide students in transforming personal and historical stories into powerful works of art.

Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art teaching artists are working to help students learn how to tell stories through art. Two teaching artists are working closely with students to create meaningful, historical, and personal art. Artist Deb Bunnell is working with students at Ligonier Valley High School to paint five murals that will be a part of Ligonier's 250th Celebration of the United States. Artist Evgeny Krayushkin is working with students at Pressley Ridge to create expressive, creative, and one-of-a-kind artwork that promotes positivity and strength.

Students have been working with Ms. Bunnell to paint and tell the story of Ligonier. Students work quietly as they look at reference photos, match colors and follow Ms. Bunnell's guidance and art

teacher Brandon Rensko encouragement. The completed murals will hang at five locations SAMA Ligonier, Ligonier Townhall, the Railroad Museum, Compass Inn, and Fort Ligonier. Each site's mural depicts various aspects of life in Ligonier.

Artist Evgeny Krayushkin has partnered with SAMA to work with students at Pressley Ridge for three years. He has cultivated connections with students and is able to encourage participating students to try, to explore, to experiment, to express and most importantly enjoy art. In discussing his goal Mr. Krayushkin explained that "Art is a safe place to go to express very intense emotion." As he works and mingles with students around the classroom, Mr. Krayushkin encourages students to share their stories,

Call for Artist Applications

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is now accepting applications for Biennial 2026, sponsored by Benzel's Bretzel Bakery. The juried exhibition will run from July 24 to October 18, 2026, and invites regional artists to showcase their work alongside both emerging and established talent. Cash prizes include \$1,000 for Best in Show, \$500 for First Place, \$250 for Second, \$100 for Third, and a \$300 People's Choice Award. Works will be selected by juror Fred Danziger, with top prizes awarded by Nicole Maye Luga. For details and entry requirements, visit sama-art.org/biennial.

thoughts, and ideas with him and with each other. Through these conversations Evgeny "mines for stories" from the students.

Both teaching artists are helping students tell stories about Ligonier, our country and their personal lives. Not all of these stories are known, but they are important. Deb Bunnell and Evgeny Krayushkin teach, guide, encourage and inspire their students to be active participants in the creative process. The end results are beautiful, heartfelt, personal and collaboratively creative.

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SAMA CELEBRATES



KEYS TO A KIA CAR RAFFLE

Give the Gift of Possibility This Holiday Season!

Looking for a unique gift that's both exciting and meaningful? A SAMA raffle ticket could make someone's holiday unforgettable! For just \$50, they'll have the chance to win \$10,000 in cash or the key to a 2026 KIA Sportage Hybrid — the perfect way to start the new year in style.

Each ticket also supports the Museum, helping bring exhibitions and arts education to communities across our region. Only 500 tickets will be sold, so don't wait to share this festive opportunity!

Purchase tickets at sama-art.org or any SAMA location.

Whimsy, Wonder, and Artistic Talent Shine

From Rots and Pots to SPCA's 30th Annual Juried Exhibition



Ligonier Valley delighted visitors with “Rots, Pots, and Mountaintops,” by husband-and-wife artists Stuart and Nora Thompson. Giggles, laughter, and animated conversations echoed through the galleries as visitors enjoyed the whimsical and sharp “Rots” Nora Thompson created and exhibited on the museum walls. Reflective conversations about the realistic beauty of Stuart Thompson’s landscape paintings.

Stuart and Nora also created collaborative pieces with clay. Viewers admired the beautiful glazes Stuart created and the fun Rots that were walking around and crawling out of the pottery added to the wit and whimsy of the exhibition. “Rot, Pots, and Mountaintops” kept visitors smiling, talking, and sharing through November 2, 2025.

Shortly after “Rots, Pots and Mountaintops” came down off the museum walls artwork from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council of the Arts came into

the museum for their 30th juried exhibition. Seventy-four works of art from nineteen different counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania are displayed in this exhibition of vision and artistic talent. Viewers can admire colorful depictions of nature and home from artists Peg Panasiti, Georgene Bemis or Lydia Mack. Visitors can examine and wonder at the complexities of Duncan Everhart’s sculpture and appreciate the intricate details of Peggy Black’s textile artwork.

This yearly exhibit shows artwork by young, new, returning, and experienced artists. Combining the artist’s different talents, experiences and creativity provides viewers with multiple styles, perspectives, and subject matter. The experimentation and use of materials by artists is meant to inspire the exploration of art and encourage young artists to test their talents. Visitors can view the exhibition from November 14, 2025, to February 1, 2026.

LOCAL ARTISTS

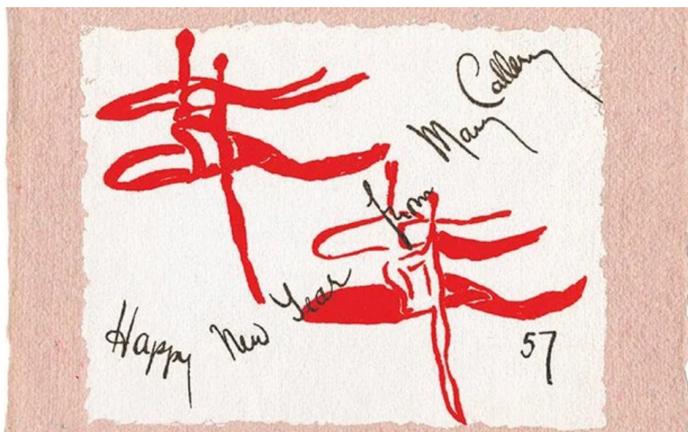


© Joe Servello, *Still Life with School Supplies*, 2001, Acrylic on wood relief, 24" x 20" x 2".

Joe Servello Memorial Exhibit

Altoona honored the life and legacy of beloved artist and educator Joseph “Joe” Servello with a heartfelt exhibition in the Paul I. Detwiler Education Center. Featuring selections from the Museum’s permanent collection, the exhibition celebrated his remarkable contributions as an illustrator, teacher, and advocate for the arts. Visitors reflected on Servello’s signature style—marked by expressive linework, storytelling depth, and affection for his hometown of Altoona. His artwork captured both the whimsy and warmth of everyday life, echoing his lifelong devotion to creativity and community. Through this special memorial display, SAMA paid tribute to an artist whose vision extended far beyond the canvas—one that continues to inspire future generations to see art, and Altoona itself, through Servello’s vibrant and enduring lens.

ART2ART AT ALTOONA AND BEDFORD



© Mary Callery.

Bedford’s “Season’s Greetings” exhibition, on view in the Titelman Galleries from October 31, 2025, to February 1, 2026, offers visitors a charming glimpse into the art of personal expression. On loan from Art2Art, the exhibition featured holiday cards from the Monroe Wheeler Archive—handmade and limited-edition works sent by celebrated modernist artists to the former MoMA Director of Exhibitions and Publications. Each card reflected creativity, friendship, and the spirit of the season. Through delicate designs and historic connections, Season’s Greetings beautifully bridged art and sentiment, celebrating the warmth of personal correspondence and artistic kinship.



© William Henry Jackson *Veta Pass, 1882*.

Altoona transported visitors back to the era of exploration with “Transcontinental: Photographs by William H. Rau and Contemporaries” which opened October 17th. Featuring selections from SAMA’s Rau collection alongside eleven works from *Picturing the West: Masterworks of 19th Century Landscape Photography*, the exhibition offers a compelling look at the expansion of the American railroad and the breathtaking landscapes it traversed. Audiences admired the technical brilliance and artistic depth of these historic photographs, which stood proudly beside the great landscape paintings of the same era, uniting art, history, and innovation in one striking presentation.



FUNDRAISER SUCCESSES

Paint-Out Artists in Ligonier Valley

The end of September means Fall Plein Air Paint Out Festival in Ligonier Valley. More than twenty-five artists came to participate in this year’s annual Fall Paint Out Festival. Laughter, conversation and comradery filled the museum with life.

Participating artists had three days of painting in and around Ligonier Valley. We started the Festival on Wednesday with our Quick Draw Contest in downtown

Ligonier. Artists were given two hours to paint and create a work of art depicting scenes on “The Diamond” of Ligonier. Starting Thursday, artists had three days to paint scenes of Ligonier Valley. This year we had watercolor artists, a wet felt artist, oil painters and pastel artists. Sunday brought the close of the Festival and the Wet Sale Exhibition to the museum.

Artists brought in their freshly painted work to hang in the museum. Visitors were invited to enjoy light refreshments, artwork of Ligonier Valley and enjoyed talking with the artists. Stories about curious cows, lost artists and back porch views were shared amongst artists and curious museum visitors. We love having artists visit the museum and grace our walls with their beautiful creations. Thank you to all who attended, participated, contributed and supported the Fall 2025 Plein Air Paint Out Festival in Ligonier Valley. We can’t wait to see you at our Winter Paint Out Festival!



Artist captures the beauty of Ligonier Valley during Fall Plein Air Paint Out.

GOLDEN GALA

SAMA is thrilled to announce that its 2026 Gala, celebrating the Museum’s 50th Anniversary, will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Co-chaired by Margaret and Michael Strueber, this milestone event will be a spectacular evening honoring SAMA’s rich legacy and bright future—please save the date and join us for this unforgettable celebration sponsored by Honorary Chair and Event Sponsor, Roberta Titelman! Tickets available soon.

LEGACY CHALLENGE

HELP US REACH \$100K.

Serving the community through educational, cultural, and fulfilling opportunities requires assistance from a range of resources.

Thoughtful donations by members and patrons help us keep our four museums in Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, and Ligonier open to the public free of charge. Donations also help fund world-class exhibitions and a diverse range of programming from tours of rotating exhibitions, signature fundraisers, traditional workshops and art camps for all ages, innovative Arts-in-Education programs in our schools, and more.



Mark Your Calendars

THANK YOU



Sat, Dec 6 | Ligonier Pop Up Exhibition

Discover the vibrant artistry of Becky Mormack at Ligonier Valley's two-week Pop-Up Exhibit, December 5–21, 2025! Join us for a free public reception celebrating Becky and her expressive palette knife paintings from 1–4 p.m. Don't miss this inspiring showcase of creativity, color, and passion from a beloved local artist!



Sat, Dec 13 | Bedford Holiday Card Making

Join us from 2-4 p.m. for a festive workshop where you'll design and craft your own personalized holiday card, guided by creative tips and techniques. All supplies will be provided, so you can focus on adding your unique touch with colors, patterns, and messages to create a card that's truly one-of-a-kind. Registration closes December 10, 2025.



Fri, Dec 12 | Altoona Art After Dark

Attend a lively evening from 6–8 p.m. celebrating creativity and community! Enjoy an artist & maker market, live local music, and relaxed networking with fellow creatives. Shop unique art, connect with others, and soak in the vibes. Vendor details and featured artists will be announced on Meta. Cost is \$15 per person.



Sat, Feb 21 | Altoona Cash Bash

Get ready to celebrate our newest fundraising event, the Mardi Gras Cash Bash! Join us on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Bavarian Aid Society in Altoona, PA, for an evening full of excitement, drawings, tear tickets, and additional surprise prizes. Tickets will be available soon — don't miss your chance to join the fun and support SAMA!

TO ALL OUR AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF FOR YOUR SERVICE IN 2024 AND BEYOND.

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