Mark Your Calendar to Attend the Best Party of the Year

Join us at Hollidaysburg’s beautiful The Blairmont Club on Friday, November 5th, 2021. This year’s annual fundraiser is chaired by Jen Daniels and Lindsey Kranich.

**Reservations are required by October 29th** and can be made online on the Altoona Dueling Pianos webpage of sama-art.org or by contacting the museum at altoona@sama-art.org or (814) 946-4464.

Beginning at 6:30 pm, this event will kick off with a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres reception. Dinner stations throughout the club will follow, prepared by the Blairmont’s celebrated chef. The highlight of this year’s event is a live musical performance by the Flying Ivories.

The Flying Ivories is a dueling piano group with artists based in NYC, Boston, Austin and Philadelphia. Specializing in all-request, sing-along, totally interactive dueling piano shows, the Flying Ivories tackle music from (cont. on page 6)

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Subscribe to our website to join our email list and be the first to know about events like these!
WELCOME NEW SAMA TRUSTEES

Six new members have been welcomed to the Board of Trustees at SAMA.

“I believe the six outstanding new trustees from Altoona, Bedford, Ligonier and Loretto to the Board of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will have a dynamic impact upon the institution. Combined they represent a sophisticated knowledge of art, business, law, philanthropy and strategic planning.” - Michael M. Strueber, SAMA Director Emeritus

This qualified group of leaders will join existing members in overseeing the organization and representing SAMA proudly in the six counties we serve. Together they will fulfill SAMA’s mission to preserve, exhibit, and advance American art and bring educational and cultural programs and activities to the people of the southwestern area of central Pennsylvania. Joining the Board of Trustees is Abigail Cook, Robert J. Crucial, Fred Danziger, Jr., Brother Shamus J. McGrenra, Dr. Terri Nicole Sawyer, and Aimee Willett.

Abigail Cook began her career in banking and international markets and has been recognized as a “top performer” in foreign exchange sales for twenty years. Currently, her real estate career is “super” hosting Airbnb properties in Pittsburgh and Aiken, SC. She volunteers for Clothesline in Pittsburgh and Habitat for Humanity in Aiken and is currently President of the Linden Garden Club.

Robert Cruciel brings with him a wealth of knowledge as well as strong ties to Saint Francis University where he has worked in enrollment management, alumni relations, and major gift fundraising prior to his current position as Vice President for Advancement. Outside of work, he serves as vice president of the Cresson Lake Playhouse Board of Directors, a finance committee member at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto, and holds a leadership role with Knights of Columbus, Loretto council.

Fred Danziger is an avid art collector, artist, and educator. He is educated at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, and his work has been exhibited at over 100 group shows and 18 one-man shows.

Brother Shamus J. McGrenra has been a Franciscan brother for 55 years and has been involved in higher education since his graduation from Saint Francis University in 1973. During his 48 years of service to the educational community, Brother has held various positions in Enrollment Management including Deanship and served as Director of International Admissions for seven years until his retirement in 2020.

Dr. Terri Nicole Sawyer has a master’s and doctorate in social work. She has worked with teens and adults for over 20 years. Currently she is counseling the chronically ill on end-of-life decisions, helping couples and families navigate conflict and assisting individuals with mental health issues. Terri possesses a passion for art and for community. She is also an avid art collector.

Aimee Willett has been a practicing attorney in Blair County for over 20 years. She provides legal services to educational institutions ranging from early education, K-12, and post-secondary education, businesses and non-profits. Her servant leadership includes coaching various high school Mock Trial teams, board member on the Cambria County War Memorial Authority and the ARC of Blair County as well as many committees for Blair County’s Children, Youth and Families and the Commonwealth’s Office of Children, Youth and Families.
SUMMER ART CAMPS

Campers delight this year at SAMA art camps reaching students across six counties and many school districts by our award-winning educational programming.

ALTOONA

Students explored color theory in a ten-day art camp. Local artist, Sarah Jubeck, led students through exercises in abstract painting, collage, marbling, the science of color theory, color wheels, and more. Students studied light and its effect on color through a variety of exercises and activities in the downtown Altoona museum as well as in the community during walks and excursions. Artwork created by the students was displayed at the end of camp to celebrate the students’ artistic achievements and experimentations. SAMA is proud to have obtained scholarships on behalf of many of its students who were participating for the first time in a SAMA program.

BEDFORD

Lessons at Bedford ranged a wide variety of topics and medium. This year’s art camp was held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in August for a unique ten-day camp that spanned the entire month giving students (and parents) something to look forward to each week. Bedford focused on a basic understanding of art materials including more traditional topics such as painting and drawing as well as unique forms like beading and texture applications. Each day the lessons were based on a different region of the world, and highlighted artists globally. The inclusive program was diverse, historically informational, and most importantly, fun for the students.

LIGONIER

At SAMA, art camps are taught in small, informal groups to foster each child’s creativity, personal growth, and interest in the arts. Ligonier held sessions for two different age groups this year. Amy Roadman, taught a younger age group in the “Heads or Tails” camp, and Rita Haldeman taught the older group in the “Around the World in 10 Days” camp. Each session was a two-week exploration. Students were introduced to a multitude of countries and cultures through the world of art. The students traveled through several countries and immersed themselves in all art aspects. They learned about the “art” of food, written language, famous artists, and much more.

LORETTO

Using things around us, campers made beautiful works of art and fun craft projects with things like rocks, flowers, leaves, berries, and more! Instructor, Sarah Baumbach is the owner of Maker Studio. She assisted students in completing five different projects during camp. A showcase exhibition at the end of camp highlighted each camper’s unique projects which friends and family attended! Projects created included: seed bombs, watercolor paintings made from berries, sun art collages, smashed flowers and greens tote bags, and painted rocks. In Loretto, we brought nature in to the museum for our summer art campers to enjoy.

SAMA art camps are made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts in Education Partner in this region is SAMA.

Top to bottom: SAMA Altoona art campers with teacher, Sarah Jubeck, SAMA Bedford art camper, SAMA Ligonier art campers Leah Bellke, Lucy Vogelsang, SAMA Ligonier “Heads or Tails” art campers with teacher, Amy Roadman, SAMA Loretto art campers, Dante Mione.
SAMA & Ligonier Country Club hosted the Westmoreland Symphony

Guests enjoyed the sounds of their favorite movie soundtracks at a performance by the Westmoreland Symphony at Ligonier Country Club. Sitting on blankets and lawn chairs on the golf course, guests munched on popcorn, ice cream sandwiches, nachos, pretzels, and more movie might snack favorites. There was a silent auction including fantastic prizes such as symphony tickets, a golf club package and a one-of-a-kind Rita Haldeman painting. Don’t miss our next SAMA fundraiser. Subscribe to our email list at sama-art.org to be the first to know about exclusive events!

45th Anniversary Exhibition

Loretto showcased landscapes and Steuben Glass sculptures from the SAMA permanent collection in celebration of our milestone anniversary.

The “45th Anniversary Celebration” exhibition was on display from July 9, 2021 through October 9, 2021 in the main Sullivan Gallery at SAMA Loretto. Cherished artworks from the landscapes and Steuben Glass sculptures of the permanent collection were displayed to the delight of visitors. The exhibition captured the evolution of landscapes from vividly realistic to painterly abstract styles and much more by featuring works from George Hetzel, Frederick Alan Counsel, and Ron Donoughe, just to name a few.

Steuben Glass Works opened in 1903 under the direction of Thomas G. Hawkes along with glassmaker Frederick Carder, who specialized in colorful, art noveau art glass typical of that period. In 1933, Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. is brought in to run Steuben and color is phased out of their designs. SAMA’s Nicholas Unkovic Collection consists of 95 Steuben Glass sculptures dating from 1940 to 1980. These ornamental pieces are made of clear glass and are notable for their expressive, free-flowing forms.

In combining the various characteristics of the landscapes and the brilliant clear glass forms, this exhibition was a favorite among visitors’ this year.

Photo credit: Steve Clemens, BlueSkiesAnd75.com

Watch a short clip from the Westmoreland Symphony performance on our facebook page @SAMAligonier.
Virtual Programming

Artist and collector, Fred Danziger, expands our collection of virtual tours with two virtual lecture discussions.

Viewers delighted as Danziger gave a tour of the “101 Artists: Selections from the Fred Danziger Collection of Contemporary Art” exhibition. Participants at home and in person got a first-hand discussion on many of the individual artists and artworks in Danziger’s personal collection. From artworks by his students at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia to fellow artists, teachers, and collectors, Danziger’s collection boasts a wide variety of local and regional names of significant recognition. Watch his “101 Artists Live Tour” from July 22nd to hear a discussion on creating art during a pandemic with topics such as technique, subject matter, and so much more. Follow it up with the “Fred Danziger Collector Discussion” to hear tips and tricks for collecting art on a budget. Be inspired to collect as Danziger passionately discusses the many reasons to become a collector - and the reasons not to. Danziger states, “Art is one of the rare constants in human civilization...it is quite clear that art is an essential part of our humanity.” Scan the QR code to follow our Youtube channel SAMAartonline and watch the live tours!

Reflection/Absorption

On display through Sunday, December 5, 2021, this exhibition features Josh Leff’s hanging sculptures and panoramic projections.

The small sculptures, lit from inside, both glow and project light outward. The resulting piece is an overwhelming experience with form, light, and space. Leff’s abstract, otherworldly artwork encourages the viewer to disconnect from their everyday and to explore this light-altered space.

Joshua Leff is an artist originally from New England, where he grew up playing in the woods and by lakes and streams. There, he developed a free relationship with the natural environment. It was through these experiences that he realized the dissociation between people and their own nature. In his art practice, Leff creates installations in order to facilitate the wonder and intrigue that he had experienced as a child. Using light and lenses, he creates surreal environments through light projections and built forms.

PUP ART FUNDRAISER

The whole family was invited to this “PUP Art” event! Artists and makers crafted custom pieces for guests’ pets. Custom dog tags, pet caricatures, and digital and photographic pet portraits were a few of the amazing vendors in attendance. We would thank our sponsors, Pigeon Hill Studios, Bedford Fine Art Gallery, and the Bedford County Humane Society, for helping us put on such a sucessful family-FURiendly event at Bedford!
**Dueling Pianos** *(cont' from front page)*

any genre. From Billy Joel to Aretha Franklin, from Sinatra to Metallica, from Garth Brooks to Madonna, these talented musicians let the guests control the evening. The audience is sure to get involved in the pianist’s antics in this combination musical performance and comedy act.

Guests can also expect to find incredible artworks available for sale at the event, as well as unique experiences and gifts at the silent auction. This annual event benefits SAMA and our exceptional programs, numerous changing exhibitions, and award-winning educational experiences. SAMA’s Dueling Pianos is one of the signature fundraisers and provides critical support to the Museum. Individuals and businesses can sponsor this event to show support for the arts in their community. Visit sama-art.org for more details and to purchase tickets or sponsorships.

**ARTISTS IN OUR MIDST**

Annual exhibition in association with Art In Common

On view Friday, October 8, 2021 through Wednesday, December 22, 2021, the “Artists in Our Midst” exhibition is the annual juried exhibition of work by members of Art in Common. Art In Common is a nonprofit organization that started in 1986 as a forum for artists, photographers, digital artists and sculptors to network with other artists, exhibit and promote their artwork. 27 local and regional artists are showcased in this exhibition every year.

Altoona will host a reception on Thursday, October 14, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the exhibition opening. This will be a free reception, open to the public during which all will be able to mingle with local artists. Refreshments and light snacks will be available during the reception. Registration is required for this event and can be made online at www.sama-art.org or by contacting the museum at altoona@sama-art.org or (814) 946-4464. There is also the option to join virtually on zoom using the link provided upon registration.

“This annual exhibition highlights the incredible artistic talent in this region,” said Altoona Site Director, Hannah Harley. “Whether it’s watercolor, oils, ceramics, photography, metalwork – this creative community continues to create impressive and exciting artwork.”

**CRYSTAL SOIRÉE**

The Bedford County Humane Society and SAMA Bedford have come together to create a meaningful night of entertainment, dinner, and dancing. The 2022 Crystal Soirée will be hosted at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

Crystal Soirée is an important charity event raising funds for two significant community organizations. Donations, sponsorships, and event attendance will help to maintain the Museum and the Humane Society’s regular operations and sustain programs for both organizations.

SAMA Bedford’s mission:
• Making art accessible in our rural community
• Bringing art into schools and healthcare facilities through the Artist-In-Residence, Arts-In-Education, and Museum Healthcare Partnership programs
• Provide a gathering space for artists, teachers, community members and more

In November, look for a Crystal Soirée event page on our website at sama-art.org for ticket purchase and sponsorship information.
“Fall” in Love with SAMA

This Fall season brings new exhibitions and events

Come to one of the four operating museums in Altoona, Bedford, Ligonier and Loretto this Veterans Day. The hours of operation on Thursday, November 11th are from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Each site will offer a small spread to show our appreciation for the sacrifice and service of our Veterans. At the Loretto location, artist and veteran Tom McCarty will offer a free ceramics demonstration to all visitors who come to celebrate the day. Artwork created by Veterans during residencies of the Museum Healthcare Partnership with on display in the “Forgotten Veterans” exhibition.

Please consider spending your day at SAMA and donating to support the museum and free educational programming. Subscribe to our email list to stay up to date on all events at SAMA.

Mark Your Calendars

Thu, Oct 21 | Ligonier Lunch A’la Art
with current exhibiting sculptor, Jack Mayer

We will celebrate the “Here and Beyond” exhibition with a luncheon on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at noon. Artist, John (Jack) Mayer, will discuss and share his experience and work. Cost for the delicious lunch and inspiring lecture at noon is $15 per person. We will be hosting a SAMA Auxiliary meeting at 11:00 a.m. if you would like to see what we have to offer! Seating for the luncheon is limited and registration is required by Monday, October 18th.

Thu, Oct 21 | Loretto Silhouettes Fashion Show
“From the Fig Leaf On...” by Bonnie Resinski

Join us for a preview of the new exhibition with a one-woman fashion show featuring Bonnie Resinski on Thursday, October 21st from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Learn a survey of fashion history from Eve to Scarlett O’Hara and the shapes of modern clothing from 1890 to 1990 highlighting social, political, and economic influences. Cost is $15 per person and includes light refreshments. Dress in your favorite fashion statement or decade in person or join us virtually via Zoom.

Sat, Nov 06 | Bedford Adult Workshop: BYOB Succulent Pumpkin Centerpiece

Sip the beverage of your choice while creating succulent centerpieces! Participants will create a unique centerpiece for a Thanksgiving banquet that will last for months! You’ll follow step-by-step instructions to create your own centerpiece without carving or heavy gluing. No prior experience needed. Class is appropriate for all skill levels. Registration is required by October 29th. Alcohol will not be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!