

NEWS RELEASE

Founders' Day Weekend Celebrates 89th Anniversary of AA, June 7-9

Complimentary Gate Lodge Tours and Singer-Songwriter Marc Lee Shannon performs on Friday, June 7

May 8, 2024 – Akron, Ohio – Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens honors the 89th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholic Anonymous at its Gate Lodge during FOUNDERS' DAY WEEKEND, June 7-9, 2024. Hours are 10am-4pm each day with complimentary admission to the Gate Lodge and the immersive exhibit, HENRIETTA SEIBERLING: A SPARK FOR A MOVEMENT.

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is located at 714 N. Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

In addition to Gate Lodge tours, activities include singer-songwriter Marc Lee Shannon, who presents his "Sounds of Recovery" on Friday, June 7 at 11am and 1pm. A member of The Michael Stanley Band for 25 years, Shannon has collaborated with other Northeast Ohio artists and opened for nationally acclaimed artists 91.3 The Summit is providing music on Friday and Saturday. The Reflections Tent near the Gate Lodge is an opportunity for guests to share stories about recovery.

Lunch is available for purchase at Molly's Courtyard Café. Gate Lodge memorabilia, including a new shirt from local business, Just a Dad From Akron, will be for sale in Molly's Shop. Stan Hywet provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Polymer Circle, 170 University Avenue on the University of Akron campus.

ABOUT THE GATE LODGE

Located at the entrance to Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, the Gate Lodge was built as a residence for the estate's superintendent. The first (and only) superintendent lived there until his death in 1923, when Fred (eldest son of F.A. Seiberling) moved in with his wife, Henrietta and their three children. It was in the Gate Lodge on Mother's Day in 1935 that Henrietta brought together for a discussion her friend Dr. Bob Smith, a prominent Akron surgeon and Mr. Bill Wilson, a New York stockbroker. Two admitted alcoholics, the meeting went long into the evening, where the principles that still serve as the cornerstone of Alcoholics Anonymous were identified. The Gate Lodge at Stan Hywet was formally dedicated as the "Birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous" in 2000. Most recently restored in 2021, it now features the immersive exhibit, "Henrietta Seiberling: A Spark for A Movement."

ABOUT STAN HYWET

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is the former home of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company co-founder F.A. Seiberling and his family. Since 1957, it has been a non-profit historic house museum where the public can learn about the cultural, educational, and inspirational riches of one of the most significant achievements in architecture and horticulture to come out of America's Industrial Age. Open April-December, Stan Hywet is the largest historic home in Ohio and the sixth largest in the U.S. Stan Hywet is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is Akron, Ohio's oldest National Historic Landmark.

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