



NEWS RELEASE

Founders' Day Weekend Celebrates 84th Anniversary of AA, June 7-9

Yoga for 12-Step Recovery offered on Saturday, June 8

May 10, 2019 – Akron, Ohio – Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens honors the 84th anniversary of the founding of Alcoholic Anonymous at its Gate Lodge during Founders' Day Weekend, June 7-9, 2019. Hours are 10am - 4pm each day; complimentary admission to the Gate Lodge and free parking on the Great Meadow is available for all who come to visit this historic site. On Saturday, June 8, complimentary yoga class is offered, as well as free transportation between Founders' Day activities at Stan Hywet and The University of Akron.

On Friday and Saturday, June 7-8 radio station 91.3 The Summit presents the live music of Rock N Recovery. Guests may leave their personal story in the Reflections Tent journal. On Saturday at 1pm, guests are invited to participate in "Yoga for 12-Step Recovery." This class combines the practical tools of the 12-step recovery program with the physical and spiritual practice of Yoga. It is presented by certified Y12SR and RYT-200 instructor, Ann Durr.

Lunch is available for purchase and Gate Lodge memorabilia will be for sale, including the book, *The Gate Lodge: A New Beginning*, written and edited by Stan Hywet staff.

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. In 2020, Stan Hywet will unveil a new updated exhibit in the Gate Lodge, with additional exhibit spaces in this historic building.

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