

**NEWS RELEASE**



**Founders' Day Weekend Celebrates 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of AA, June 9-11**

May 9, 2017 – Akron, Ohio – Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens honors the 82nd anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous at its Gate Lodge during Founders' Day Weekend, June 9-11, 2017. 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 location. Free transportation is provided from 9:30am-5:30pm between Founders' Day activities at Stan Hywet and The University of Akron on Saturday, June 10.

Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

On Friday and Saturday there is music by "Rock N Recovery" powered by radio station 91.3 The Summit. Guests may leave their personal story in the Reflections Tent journal. The merchandise tent features Gate Lodge memorabilia, including the book, THE GATE LODGE, published in 2016.

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. It was restored and reopened in 2004, with an exhibit that highlights this historic event.

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