



Questers Celebrating 80 Years! April 11 and 12, 2024

We will celebrate almost to the day, the 80th anniversary of the first meeting of Questers. **That first meeting took place on April 6th 1944** at the home of Jessie Elizabeth Bardens in Fort Washington, PA. The item that got everyone's attention was an antique blue syrup jug. Where is that jug now? So much has changed in these past 80 years, but not the love of antiques, historical buildings and the history these objects represent to Questers. That is



why we decided we should meet for the 2024 Spring Annual State Convention in Eureka Springs at the Historic 1886 Crescent Hotel and Spa. We will meet and dine in the bright and beautiful Conservatory, have breakfast in the stunning Crystal Salon and sleep in one of the characteristic Victorian period style rooms.

The 1886 Crescent Hotel first opened as a hotel, but has also been a Junior College for Women, and the notorious Baker Hospital . . . actually 80 years ago. Dr. Baker was found to be a fraud. Following his ousting, the building was unoccupied except for the ghosts, until 1947. It has been a year-round hotel since. It is a member of The Historic Hotels of America and listed on The National Historic Registry.



The New Moon Spa was added within the last 15 years in a garden setting. It is recognized as one of the finest full-service Spa's in growing Northwest Arkansas. nail and make-up appointments are available.



years in finest Hair,

The Ghost Tour - Over the past 25 years, the Crescent has gained a reputation as "America's Most Haunted Hotel," thanks to 17 paranormal television shows that have featured this Historic Hotel of America. Its fame reached new heights in 2019 when an accidental discovery revealed the discards of Norman Baker, the charlatan who ran the hotel as a fraudulent "cancer-curing" hospital in the late 1930s. An archaeological excavation uncovered hundreds of bottles of Baker's "secret formula" and jars containing surgical "medical specimens" removed from patients. This eerie collection added to the hotel's macabre ambiance, which already included a "morgue" with an autopsy table and cadaver walk-in cooler from the Baker era. These ghostly aspects are showcased during nightly hotel ghost tours.

The Springs Native Americans originally discovered this land containing multiple natural springs with healing properties. News of the healing waters soon spread, and a town known as Eureka Springs formed in 1879. Not long after, the Frisco Railroad laid tracks to the growing resort community bringing many enterprising individuals who built it into the artisan, mystical and mountain top escape that it has become today. Our dinner speaker will be Jeff Danos, executive director of the Eureka Springs Museum, who will share the city's historic beginnings with us.



The Eureka Springs Trolley Service is available Tuesday through Friday 10:00 to 6:00 and Saturday 9:00 to 6:00. To see the Trolley Routes and Fares, please visit eurekatrolley.org or call (479) 253-9572. This is a splendid way to travel and visit the town's various neighborhoods. Another excellent way to see all the sights from the



comfort of a tram car is to book one of their narrated city tours which last approximately 85 minutes and has 2 stops, the 1886 Crescent Hotel and one of the lovely springs, Grotto Spring. <http://www.eurekaspringstramtours.com>

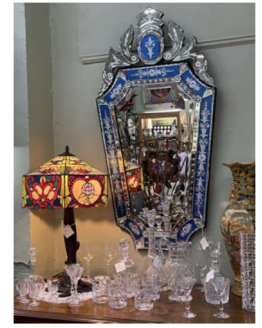


The Architecture and Homes By 1880, 2000 homes had appeared and over 15,000 people were residing in Eureka Springs. The first of the late 19th century homes were designed and built by folks migrating from throughout our vast nation. Many architectural styles may be found and appreciated, but none more than the Victorian dwellings with their ornate trim and vibrant colors. It is a must to tour the winding streets and discover these treasures.

Shopping, Galleries and Restaurants



Unique Shops and Galleries abound in Eureka Springs. All kinds of quirky shops are found on the uptown and downtown historic district's streets. You will find no big box department stores here. From items such as original art to custom jewelry, splendid antiques to a treasured primitive find, you will see something to take home. On the outer loops of town are quilt shops, rustic furniture stores, tons of gift selections, and flea markets. We won't even get started on the restaurants. Just trust us, there is something to please everyone's tastes.



The Thorncrown Chapel

No trip to Eureka Springs would be complete without a visit to the world famous Thorncrown Chapel. Designed by renowned local architect Fay Jones, Thorncrown has won numerous architectural awards. Additionally, members of the American Institute of Architects placed Thorncrown Chapel as number four on its list of the top 100 buildings of the twentieth century. It is simple yet majestic and should be surrounded by blooming native foliage in April. There is no admission cost.



The Ozark Mountains

For our outdoorsy, adventuresome members you will find lakes and streams for boating and fishing. There is ziplining and hiking plus cycling and biking and just plain enjoying the views.

To book your stay at the 1886 Crescent Hotel, please call **888-980-9766**.

Ask for the State Questers convention rate. Both king and double 'double bed' rooms are available. Questers special discount rates apply for Wednesday April 10 and Thursday April 11. They cannot extend the discounted rate for the weekend but can accommodate any bookings scheduled by **March 11, 2024**. After that, the discount will no longer be available. You may want to book ASAP.

The Convention schedule is designed to let you visit the city of Eureka Springs on your own terms.



Our first scheduled event on Thursday April 11, will be a Cash Bar Social Time in the Conservatory at 5:30.

Social time is followed by a scrumptious '**Pastabiotics Buffet**' and our dinner program at 6:30. The evening's event is \$60.00 per person. It is suggested to wear **1940's attire** this evening, but who needs to stop there? Feel free to dress for a 1940's resort weekend. Afterward, at 8:30 PM we will be offering a group **1886 Crescent Hotel Ghost Tour**. The cost for the tour is \$26.00 per person.



On Friday morning a Bountiful Breakfast Buffet is available from 8:00-9:30 in the Crystal Salon at \$25.00 per person.

The full Council meeting will begin at 9:30 am in the Conservatory. There will be a break followed by our Fundraiser Drawing and the announcement of the Silent Auction winners. The



convention will conclude at 1:00 pm to allow you to lunch on your own, visit the New Moon Spa or continue to explore the sites.

The Questers chapters, Butterfield Trails, Trail of Tears, and Happy Rackensackers look forward to being your hosts at this incredibly special Arkansas State Convention celebrating our "80th-year Questers anniversary".