

Who is AHH?

We offer a warm welcome and support to visitors at the women's FPC in Alderson. We offer meals, transportation, and sleeping accommodations to our guests. It's a place in town where visitors can freshen up before or after visiting; where they can rest, talk, and feel supported.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Mark Stauffer	Nancy Plummer
Linda Dameron	Tina Marquart
Susan Hewman	Maria Madariaga
Neta Roush	Linda Neff
Patricia Talley	Michael Vincent

AHH STAFF

Ashley Boone
Kathleen DeRouen, co-director
Brian DeRouen, co-director

FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial
Beckley, WV
www.flybeckley.com

Greenbrier Valley
Lewisburg, WV
www.gvairport.com

AMTRAK INFORMATION

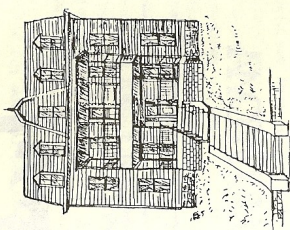


www.amtrak.com
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV
ONLY Sundays, Wednesdays,
and Fridays

From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50
From New York, westbound: Train #51

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 579
Alderson, WV
24910

Alderson Hospitality House
203 High Street
PO Box 579
Alderson, WV 24910
304.445.2980



www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org
aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2010

THEN AND NOW

By ASHLEY

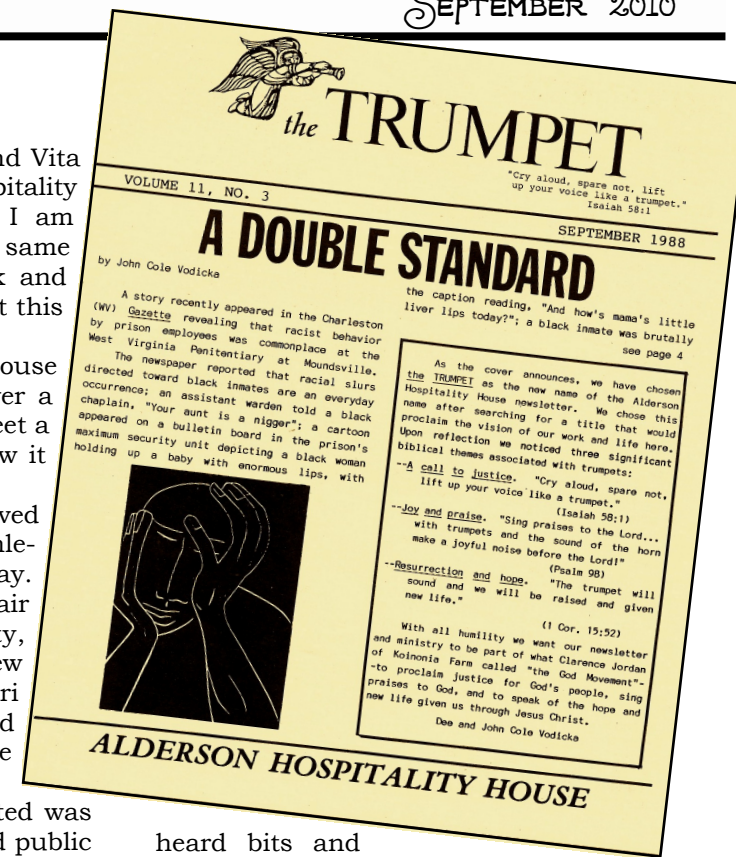
In 1985, the year I was born, Bob and Vita Shively were running the Hospitality House. I've never met them, but I am thankful for the work they did in the same way I am thankful for Maggie, Dick and Kathi for the work they put in to start this beautiful ministry.

This fantastic 100+ year-old house has only been my home for little over a month, and I've had the chance to meet a handful of guests, but I already know it is where I am meant to be right now.

For the past two years I've served as an Americorps VISTA up at Bethlehem Farm, just fifteen minutes away. There I led volunteers on home repair projects in the local community, learned about sustainable living, grew in my faith and welcomed Micah Henri into the world with Brian and Kathleen when they also lived at the Farm.

One of the favorite jobs I inherited was working on the Farm's newsletter and public relations. Reaching out into the community was difficult sometimes as most folks around here know it by its previous name, John Filligar Catholic Worker Farm. I've

heard bits and pieces of what life was like back in the "old days," but never enough to truly satisfy my curiosity. It, therefore, came as a surprise to me that I would learn... **Cont on pg 2**



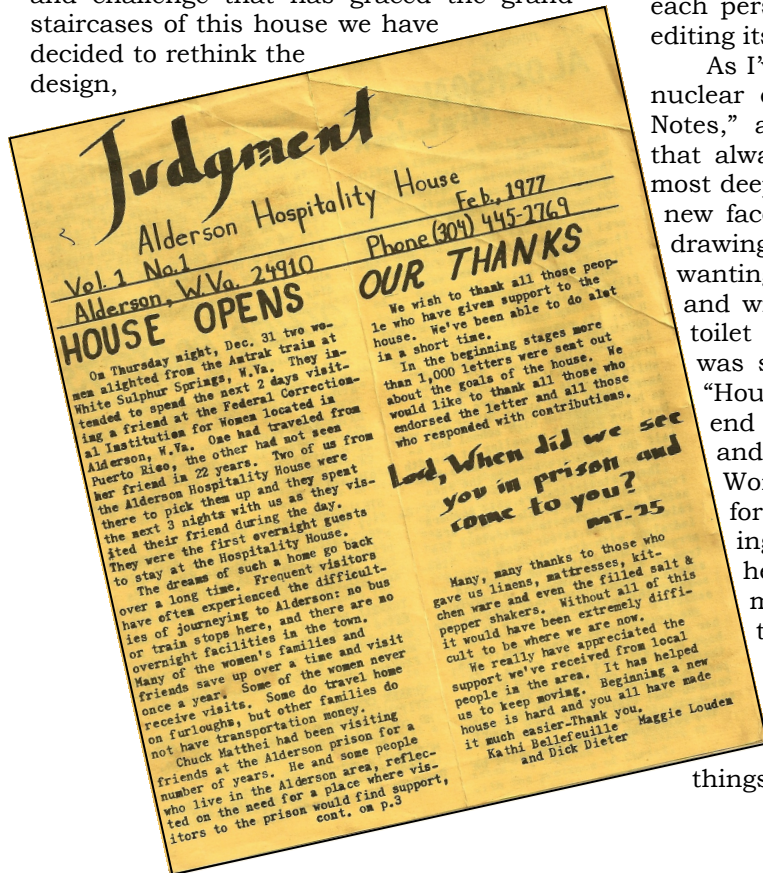
THEN AND NOW CONTINUED

more about my previous residence from working at my new one.

Kathleen and I are teaming up to share our quarterly doings through the newsletter. We thought it might be fun to gain some inspiration from an old cardboard "treasure chest" box that has seemingly lived in the office for decades.

Inside the box I found 33 years of newsletters, dating back to the first handwritten/ typewriter copy from February 1977.

We have all enjoyed reading past issues of *Judgment*, which became *The Trumpet* in 1981. To honor the decades of work, love and challenge that has graced the grand staircases of this house we have decided to rethink the design,



Ashley and her newsletters.

content and message of the newsletter. The goal is to hopefully pull the best ideas from each person who has graciously spent time editing its pages.

As I've poured over countless articles on nuclear disarmament and years of "House Notes," as they first appeared, the things that always stay the same have struck me most deeply—fresh produce from the garden, new faces willing to lend a hand, children drawing pictures, meals shared, people wanting to talk about issues of injustice, and wish lists containing bed sheets and toilet paper. The June 1985 *Judgment* was short. It was comprised mainly of "House Notes" penned by Vita. Near the end it read, "Thanks to Michael Kirwan and the folks at John Filligar Catholic Worker Farm for donations of food and for sharing their copies of the Washington Post." I am delighted to be here, 25 years later, having recently moved from the community now settled at the former "Worker Farm" to share my gifts and talents. My time in West Virginia has shown me that when you slow down long enough you can see love as it flows. Some things never change, and never should.

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

in Boston, MA. Pat Talley (board member) and her family, Tina Marquart (board member), Kevin Johnson and Renee Hemmelgarn (local community friends), we would not have enjoyed ourselves if we didn't know that the house was well taken care of in your hands. While we were celebrating the union of two great people, we were comforted to know that many families were able to reunite with loved ones in a special way for family day.

Speaking of reuniting families, our little family was able to reunite with our pet, Laurence E Hawking de Rouen y Ponderosa (Larry for short) thanks to the Alderson City Council. Larry is our 4-year-old potbellied pig, and he had to get special permission from the city to live in the backyard. Potbellied pigs are often mistaken as livestock, but really they are much smarter than dogs, cats, and other pets. He has enjoyed performing his tricks for many of the guests, and we have loved having our son living with us again.



In addition to welcoming Larry to the Hospitality House this summer, Ashley moved in at the beginning of August. She is doing great work, and we look forward to all she'll do this year during her time with us. One of Ashley's unassigned jobs has become spotting leaks at the house. A few weeks ago, we had a horrible plumbing day where we found three leaks. They say things come in threes, so we're hoping that's the end of our plumbing issues for a while.

July held some exciting events for AHH. Brian, Micah, Micah's Nana, and I attended the 4th of July parade here in town. We cheered passionately when the two trucks of FPC firefighters drove by. The next day we found out that some of the women on the



truck have loved ones that stay with us! Later that month we welcomed the Alderson FPC Community Relations board here at the house for a tour. We also had a successful and enjoyable board meeting in July. At this meeting, however, we realized there is a lot that needs to be done at AHH, Inc., so the board is working hard by adding new board members (welcome Tina Marquart and Maria Madariaga), forming and participating in new committees, increasing the number of meetings, and is looking to grow the board.

Our garden is growing nicely thanks to all the help from Anne Brown and Mark Porterfield (local community friends) who plowed the little garden for me and gave me lots of advice on what to plant. This was my first garden, and I had no idea what I was doing. I really enjoyed myself, and we got some vegetables and herbs, too!

Overall, it has been a great summer. It's not over yet, though; and we plan to take full advantage of the good weather before the cold winter sets in. There's more garden work to do, more bike rides to take, and talk of Micah's first camping trip. There are more guests to be welcomed and meals to grill, and I'm sure we'll need lots more help from our new and old friends. We've heard there used to be a lot of community members who came and volunteered on a regular basis. We'd love to have you back, if you're still willing. Just give us a call.

SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUED

not understand, I discovered a support group that is for the family and friends of addicts/alcoholics. There was not a group that met closer than 100 miles, so a friend and I researched how to start meetings locally. We meet once a week and it has been therapeutic as we share our hurts, fears, dreams, and successes with each other. This is not about our loved ones, only us and how we can better cope and go on with our lives without this turmoil smothering our life out of us. I came to understand the three C's; I did not **cause** it, I cannot **control** it, and I cannot **cure** it.

As we paged through old newsletters a theme of collected art began to emerge. We are calling again upon our readers to share your artwork, thoughts and words of anguish, hope and joy. We'll consider any submissions for future publications, so please send us your stuff! 🎨

If I could

A testimonial to the world is what I wish to produce—
Although sometimes I fear it is all of no use.
But it would fill me with such astounding delight—
To focus attention on our hellish plight.
To expose the truth—that I am innocent;
And make it known, that there are hundreds like me—
To prisons sent.
If I could publicize all this, and more,
Expose my tormentors to their rotten core,
Then everything I've survived was not in vain—
Years of anguish and of pain
If I could make people believe—
There are hells on earth difficult to perceive,
Then in my soul at least, I could be free—
But as for now, the world refuses to see;
--But let them be blind!
Still, I pour forth my mind—
In my poems—words on paper, from
flowing ink,
They're everything I feel and everything I think,
Poetry—born and nourished by my precious life's blood,
My they rise above censorship's murky mud!

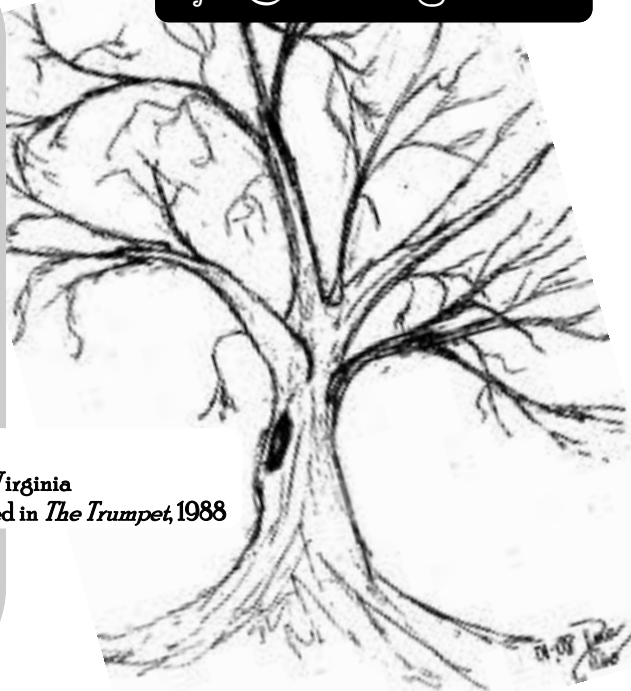
Annette Eaton
Alderson, West Virginia
Originally printed in *The Trumpet*, 1988

I would encourage anyone that has a family member or friend going through this to look for a **Nar-Anon Family Group** in your area, and if there is not one then please look into starting one. A local church group lets us use their fellowship hall free of charge for our meetings. 🎨



The contact information is:
Nar-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
22527 Crenshaw Blvd. Suite 200B
Torrance, CA 90505
1.800.477.6291 / 310.534.8188
www.nar-anon.org
email: naranonwso@gmail.com

A CALL FOR JUSTICE



HOUSE NOTES

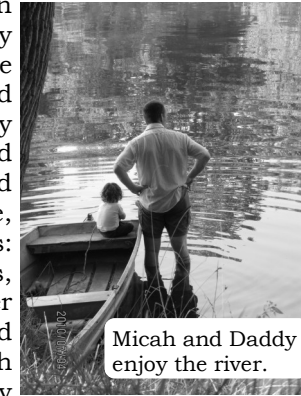
By KATHLEEN

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. It's been a blessed summer full of swims in the river, cooking out on our newly donated grill, and family bike rides. We've had to say goodbye to some great "regulars" – Tom and the kids, Charlie, Dennis and many more. We miss you, but we're glad you are reunited with your loved one. For all the great people we lose, we gain some new great regulars: the Anwar's, Aristel and the boys, Keith, Eileen, Rose, Keisha and her family, and many, many more. We'd rather you had your loved one with you, but we'll enjoy your company while it lasts. In addition to new guest friends, we've made some new community friends as well, who have helped us tremendously around the house. AHH also has new

neighbors who have helped to mow the lawn in the park. Thanks to all who have helped.

This summer Bethlehem Farm, www.bethlehemfarm.net, celebrated their 5th year in existence. Our community was happy to celebrate that anniversary with them. Brian led one of the BF groups on a tour of the prison and AHH, followed by a discussion of the criminal justice system. The farm has also shared some of their volunteers to help with deep cleaning, weeding, and removing two very big trees that were cut down behind the little house. (Thank you to Boywer Tree Trimming & Removal for cutting them down for free.)

We want to send out a special thank you to those of you who helped to keep the house open for family weekend so that Brian, Micah and I could attend the wedding of dear friends... **Cont. on pg 7**



NAR-ANON FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

By GLORIA BUNCH

My family and I are relatively newcomers to Alderson Hospitality House since our daughter came to the Camp in the spring. We were not sure what to expect, as we had never stayed anywhere except hotels in the past, but we soon discovered a sense of community. It is awesome to see how the guests pitch in to help with prep for meals and clean up after meals. Speaking of meals, wow, what a wonderful treat they are! I take home new recipe from each stay.

There is a common thread among all the guests as we all have a dear daughter, granddaughter, mother, or friend that we have come to visit and though the reasons they are there will vary, we as family and friends need to support each other in this season of our lives. If you sit around before, during or after the meal times and

get in on the conversations, you will learn that we all don't share our feelings the same, but somehow something will be said that let's us know we really need someone who understands the anguish and turmoil of our lives. I never understood the impact that our loved one's bad choices have on us until our daughter got into this trouble. The addiction s which our family members or friends struggles with are problems which have consequences and are not something we need to beat ourselves up over. It is good to see so many visitors letting their loved one know they are still there for them. We all make mistakes in life and these women are paying dearly for theirs. There but for the grace of God goes anyone.

In the course of trying to make sense of something I simply could... **Cont. on pg 6**

IN THIS TIME OF NEED

By BRIAN

One of the reasons that Alderson Hospitality House is such a special place is that since it's inception it has traveled a path similar to that of the people that stay in its various rooms each weekend. The House and its staff have had tough periods of fear and uncertainty in regards to the future. Thankfully, we've had many more times of hope and expansion. The House has shared the tears of fear and uncertainty with families the night before a loved one self surrenders, and tears of happiness and relief when a long time guest stops by one last time to introduce a recently released loved one. The house has shared blazing hot summers with guests struggling to sleep without air conditioning and freezing cold winter Saturdays when a huge snowfall has locked down the camp and cancelled visitation.

Since 1977, the AHH has opened its doors to all, regardless of a person or group's ability to pay. We request guests to contribute whatever they are able and ask no questions. Thus, there have been times when, along with a strong economy, the house received lots of donations. This allowed us to renovate and build, strengthen our services, and save for the future. There are other times when things are rough. When the economy is slow, everyone tightens their financial belt, and the Hospitality House has done the same.



AHH 1984



AHH 2010

Right now we are all experiencing the stress of the economy. Many folks are looking for jobs, and even those who are employed see that their incomes are not stretching as far as they used to. It is at times like these that AHH is more important than ever. Many families cannot afford the cost of a hotel and meals on top of the gas, train tickets, and time off work necessary to travel to Alderson to visit. Those visits are what this House is about. They are the reason we are here, and we would not want a single person to skip a visit because they are unable to leave a donation. Having said that and meant it, the bills still need to get paid. In addition to expected food and utility bills, pipes freeze and burst; hot water heaters go caput and need to be replaced; and this winter we had the added surprise of a Christmas Eve flue fire which did several thousand dollars worth of damage to our chimney.

Over the past 33 years, the house has faced deficit budgets and in each instance our guests, friends, and supporters have helped us to make ends meet. Like the majority of non-profits, our donations are down 20% this year. In a budget of \$75,000 that equals a short fall of \$15,000. We are confident that you will help us to raise \$10,000 of that deficit. We thank everyone who has previously donated to us, and we humbly ask you to continue your support. In addition, we are asking friends who have never donated to consider doing so now. We ensure that every dollar you give will go directly toward the mission of the Alderson Hospitality House and allow our doors to remain open to all who knock. ☺

FUNDRAISING ON A ROLL

We need your help filling up the **toilet**
...paper rolls that is.

Please make
all checks payable to
Alderson Hospitality House or donate on-line
at www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

\$34,000

JANUARY 2011 - ACTUAL NEED

\$24,000

JANUARY 2011 - PROJECTED FUNDS RAISED

\$17,256

FUNDS RAISED - AUGUST 2010

JANUARY 2010

Wish List

Everyday Items

Postage Stamps
Large (39+ gallon) Trash Bags
Laundry Detergent (for HE)



Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
5 Gallon Buckets
Mason Jars
Kroger/IGA/Kmart
Gift Cards

**Willing to spend a
bit more?**

Standard size pillows
Sheets (please call
for details)

Good Quality dish rags, towels,
and wash cloths

For the big spenders out there:

Windows for the Little House
Riding Lawn Mower
Dyson Vacuum
(DC14 Telescope
Reach All Floors)
Power Washer
Small Car

