

## Who is AHH?

The Alderson Hospitality House supports the women of the Federal Prison Camp Alderson and their families and friends. We believe in the importance of visitors during incarceration. Our volunteers and staff, through donations, demonstrate this belief by providing temporary lodging, meals, transportation assistance, information and support.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Dameron	Dale McCutcheon
Paul Loos	Gloria Martin
Kim Shrewsberry	Joe Lusk
Tina Marquart	William Strange
Maria Madariaga	Richard Lohmeyer
Lynda Neff	

## AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director  
Brian DeRouen, co-director  
Anna Robertson, staff

## FLIGHT INFORMATION



### Raleigh County Memorial

Beckley, WV  
www.flybeckley.com  
**Greenbrier Valley**  
Lewisburg, WV  
www.gvairport.com

## AMTRAK INFORMATION



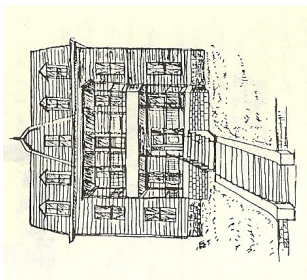
www.amtrak.com

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

If you would like to be added or removed, please contact us!

**ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE**  
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## ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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## A PLACE TO CALL HOME By ANNA

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines." So said renowned spiritual writer Henri Nouwen, and it's in his spirit of hospitality that I embark on my time working at the Alderson Hospitality House. My name is Anna Robertson, and I will be cleaning bathrooms, cooking dinner, taking reservations, and more for at least the next year here at the Hospitality House. I can't wait to meet you!

Perhaps it'll be best to introduce myself using as a guide the myriad places I've called

home that have led me here. We'll start with Nashville, TN, my hometown where I spent the first eighteen years of my life and where my family remains. From Nashville, I took away an appreciation for Southern accents and the love of making music, although I deviate away from Nashville's famed country roots. A few inspirational, Jesuit-educated teachers in high school led me to pursue a theology major with minors in Spanish and peace studies at Xavier University, a Jesuit Catholic school in Cincinnati, OH. While at Xavier, I was given the opportunity to add a few more countries to the list of places I call home: Nicaragua and El Salvador, where I spent a semester and a summer, respectively. In Latin

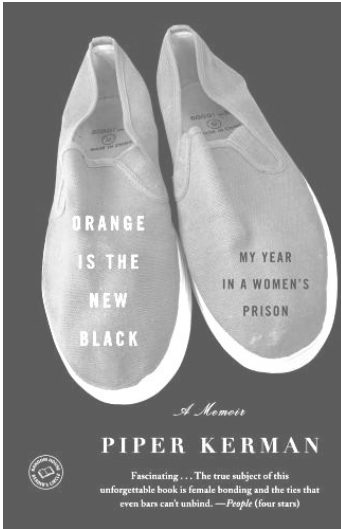
America, I added Spanish songs to my music repertoire and learned a lot about myself and

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## BOOK REVIEW - ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK

By BRIAN



In the days before I surrendered to CI Taft, the many questions and unknowns regarding life at a federal prison camp were the hardest part. I did not know about prisontalk.com, and there was no Hospitality House near the Taft Correctional Institution for us

to call. I had no idea what life in a federal prison camp was like, and my mom was having visions of me locked up in Alcatraz. My family and I were fortunate enough to be dealing with incarceration for the first time, and we had no idea what we were in for. When ladies and their families first contact AHH prior to their surrender, they often feel the same way. "What is it like?" is usually foremost amongst their many questions. We spend countless hours on the phone and in our living room talking about life in FPC Alderson, and we are constantly recommending *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison* by Pieper Kierman.

Pieper had a successful career, a loving fiancé, was happy, and far from any trouble when federal agents showed up at her door. Ten years previous to her arrest, she got involved with the wrong folks and knowingly delivered a suitcase full of drug money. That one time mistake caught up with her and sent her "down the rabbit hole" as inmate 11187-424 at the Danbury Correctional Institution.

In *Orange is the New Black*, Kierman brings her readers into a camp quite similar to FPC Alderson. She writes about her relationships with other women, their generosity, humor, struggles, and heartbreaks. She (and her reader) quickly learns that all strip searches are not created equal, that enforcement of rules can be arbitrary, and that interactions between inmates and correctional officers are complex. While she goes into great depth writing about her fellow inmates, information about herself and some details about life in prison are left out. Her greatest success is in painting a general, humorous, engaging, and accurate picture of life in a federal prison camp. Families of women about to surrender who read *Orange is the New Black* will find both comfort and reasons for concern in the book's pages.

Having spent time at a men's rather than women's prison camp, there were some obvious differences between Kierman's experience and my own; however, the similarities for me were both striking and poignant. I immediately related to her



wonder at the deliciousness of her first prison cheese-cake (I remember exactly where I was sitting when I was handed my first piece) and to the guilt she felt for putting her wonderful family through

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## HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

Gloria Martin has been speaking at the local rotary clubs, and Brian went to share our ministry with the Archdiocese of Wheeling/Charleston. If you are part of an organization in that is interested in our mission and would like us to come talk to your group, let us know. We love to share the workings of the Hospitality House.

Anna, our new full-time staff member, started working with us this May, and Catherine, a full-time student at Virginia Tech and amazing gardener, will be joining us in July as a summer volunteer. They have already proven to be a blessing. Anna jumped right in her first weekend as Brian needed to be away for a night, and Catherine

## ORANGE CONTINUED

such a difficult experience. Her bewilderment and anger towards the War on Drugs will be familiar to many of our guests, as will the joy of Family day (when inmates and their families get to interact outside of the small visitation area), followed by the loneliness and tears that inevitably come when all too short and infrequent visits come to an end.

Being incarcerated is an experience which truly cannot be understood by reading a book. Reading Kierman's memoir will not give you the experience of incarceration; that is something gained only by living it. It will, however, give you a glimpse into life inside a federal prison camp. It was particularly helpful for my family who were not convinced that I was telling the truth or at least the whole truth when I told them during my incarceration that I really was doing okay. Kierman

came for a weekend at the beginning of May to help get the garden in. We are very lucky to have both these women working with us.

Spring has been great, but temps have reached the upper 80's already and summer is right around the corner. I am looking forward to fresh vegetables from the garden, swimming in the river, and front porch sitting with the Hospitality House family. 🌿



includes just enough good with the bad and her honesty blended with humor makes *Orange is the New Black* an excellent resource for anyone supporting a loved one doing time at a federal prison camp.

\*On July 13<sup>th</sup> an original series based on Kierman's memoir, and sharing its title, will appear on Netflix. The first season of the show (by Jenji Kohan, creator of *Weeds*) will be comprised of 13 episodes. While we whole heartedly recommend reading the book, at this point, we are making no such endorsement or recommendation of the TV show.



POETRY  
CORNER

## Alderson (Acrostic)

Away from the home I love  
 Learning how to cope  
 Daunting at first  
 Each day is a test I know  
 Reflect at times I must  
 Surely, I dare not escape, but  
 One day I will depart  
 Never to come back

## Silence

Sh! Sh!  
 Are you listening?  
 Yes, I hear you  
 Good!

Cynthia Vaughan  
 While in Alderson FPC

## Priceless Me

I am a treasure all my own  
 Revering every moment meant to be  
 I've homed on mountains and camped in valleys too  
 But most of all, I never left me

Please 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! 🎨

## HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN



The green leaves, flowering rhododendrons, and joy of Spring have arrived at the Alderson Hospitality House. The house is busy as kids are out of school for the year; the garden is planted; the grass is getting mowed, and we've even snuck in a few hikes already.

Spring has brought us many volunteers. It is such a blessing to know that so many people care about the house and its mission to love and support our guests. Thank you to those who have given their time to repair the house, chop wood, cook a meal, or help make beds.

We have started our volunteer program with the FPC Alderson. Through the camp's volunteer program, 4 women spend three hours a week helping us with the landscaping. It is always a relief when they start coming, as the weeds and lawn often get away from us this time of year.

## HOME CONTINUED

the way the world works. Another place belongs among Nashville, Cincinnati, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. A grounding thread running throughout my college experience was the time I spent right here in West Virginia. I first met Kathleen, Brian, Vitale, and Micah and became interested in the work of the Hospitality House while working as a summer intern at Bethlehem Farm just over the river and through the woods in Summers County, West Virginia. Nashville, Cincinnati, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and this corner of

We'd like to send out a special thank you to the men of the Alderson Ministerial Association Breakfast group for chopping wood on their Saturday together in May. Thank you, also, to the many people who helped keep the house open while Brian ran his marathon in Cincinnati: Anna, India, Evey, Maria, Bill, and the Virginia Tech Newman Center students. Without such a great community to support us, the House would not exist.

We have been working to expand our community by sharing what we do with the local community. Brian, Vitale, and I visited the Kindergarten class at Alderson Elementary to share with the kids how we contribute to the community. Board member

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West Virginia - or, I should say, the people and communities I have encountered in all of those places - have helped me to unfold the meaning of hospitality. It's because so many people have shown me hospitality - have welcomed me not as a stranger but as a friend - that I can call so many places home. None of our guests want Alderson to be home, as having an incarcerated loved one is difficult. But, unlike the prison camp, we will strive to make the Hospitality House a place our guests are proud to call home. 🎨

## RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

## Chicken (or Turkey) and Dressing

1 whole Chicken or 4 Chicken breasts  
 Swiss Cheese  
 1 large can Cream of Chicken Soup  
 4 cups Herb Seasoned Stuffing  
 2 Carrots, diced  
 2 Celery Stalks, diced  
 1 Onion, diced  
 ¼ - ½ cups Chicken Stock

1. Cook the chicken whole. I put it in a roaster with some water and broth on the bottom and cook it slowly for a few hours.
2. Pull all the meat off and place one layer of chicken on the bottom of a 9x13 casserole pan. (Use leftover meat for another recipe later)
3. Add a layer of Swiss cheese on top of chicken.
4. Sauté celery, carrots and onion until tender.
5. Mix veggies, stuffing, soup, and stock. Then, spoon on top of cheese.
6. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes. 🍴



## Wish List

## Everyday Items

Postage Stamps  
 Dish Soap  
 Paper Towels  
 Laundry Detergent (for HE)  
 Toilet Paper  
 Light Bulbs  
 Fresh Produce  
 Pasta  
 Pasta Sauce  
 Dry Beans  
 Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix  
 5 Gallon Buckets  
 Refillable Salt and Pepper Shakers  
 Mason Jars

## Willing to spend a bit more?

Horse Shoe Set  
 Landscaping shrubs  
 Standard size pillows  
 Quality wash cloths

## For the big spenders out there:

Television  
 Windows for the Little House  
 Push Lawn Mower  
 Power Washer  
 Economy Car

## CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES:

[www.prisontalk.com](http://www.prisontalk.com)  
[www.thousandkites.org](http://www.thousandkites.org)  
[www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org)  
[www.fcnetwork.org](http://www.fcnetwork.org)

## HELP FAMILIES GO THE DISTANCE - THE ANNUAL FUND

"Are we there yet?" I'm sure many of our guests hear these words from their children as they make the journey to Alderson. "No, we still have a long way to go," says the dad in the minivan bringing his children to visit their mom at FPC Alderson.

That is exactly how we are feeling here at the Hospitality House this year in regard to our Annual Fund...we still have a long way to go to make our goal of \$95,000!

The kids here need your help to keep this house open! For some of them, it's the only way they get to see Mom or Grandma, and for many, AHH has become a home away from home. They look forward to the playroom and running in the park, and they have fun with all the other kids that come to

visit.

Leaving mom behind at the prison is a very hard thing for these kids. Many show up to the house with tears in their eyes, but later in the day, they are able to forget that sadness, even if just for a moment, while playing together. After the tears, it is a joy to hear all the laughter.

Please help make these visits a little easier for the kids by donating today to the Alderson Hospitality House. They are counting on you. 🍴

Please make  
 all checks payable to  
**Alderson Hospitality House**  
 or donate online at  
[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

