

## 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	Gloria Martin
Paul Loos	William Strange
Kim Shrewsberry	Richard Lohmeyer
Maria Madariaga	Miles Thompson
Lynda Neff	

## AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director  
Brian DeRouen, co-director  
Julia Means, staff

## FLIGHT INFORMATION



**Raleigh County Memorial**  
Beckley, WV  
[www.flybeckley.com](http://www.flybeckley.com)  
**Greenbrier Valley**  
Lewisburg, WV  
[www.gvairport.com](http://www.gvairport.com)

## AMTRAK INFORMATION

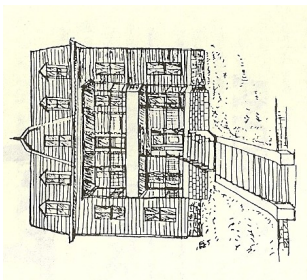


[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)  
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV  
**ONLY** Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
**From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50**  
**From New York, westbound: Train #51**

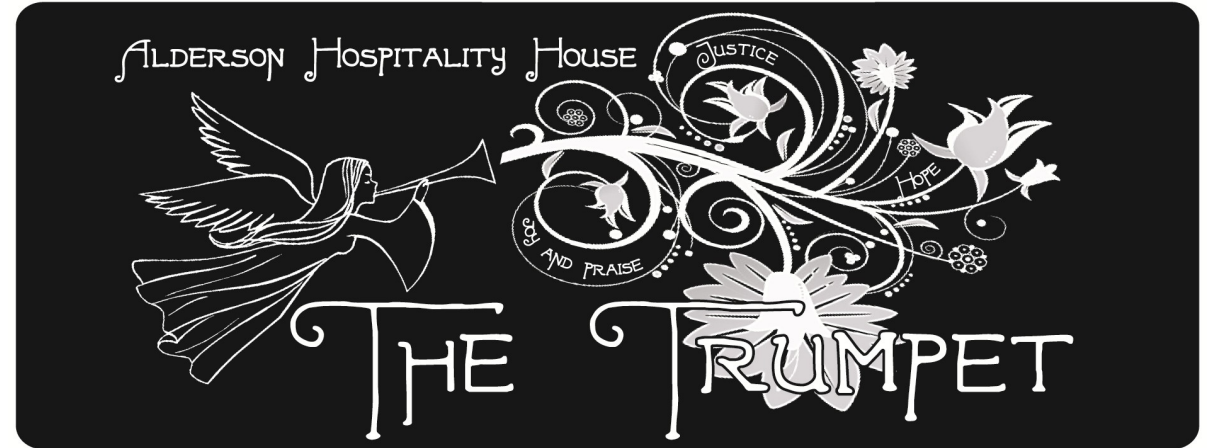
Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 579  
Alderson, WV  
24910

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

**ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE**  
203 High Street  
PO Box 579  
Alderson, WV 24910  
304.445.2980



[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)  
[aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com](mailto:aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com)



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## NEW THINGS

By JULIA MEANS

As a university graduate, I have dedicated hundreds of hours to classrooms and even more to independent study time. Over the past four years, I have read articles explaining Aristotle, immigration, and effective leadership; discussed trends in consumption, human sexuality, and Foucault's ideas on the panopticon; and written essays exploring monogamous relationships, healthy drug use, and the prison industrial complex.

DePaul University and my work and community experiences in Chicago prepared me well for life after graduation; however, moving over six hundred miles to a town with a population a fraction of the size of my graduating class has been both challenging and rewarding. While I have learned an enormous amount from my formal education, I clearly still have a lot to

learn. Reflecting on my short time at AHH, I have quickly realized how much there still is to experience.

Within my first week at the Hospitality House, I was overwhelmed with the demand any new environment offers. I questioned how I would ever learn that purple sheets belong in Maya Angelou and not in Dorothy Day, which key codes save a reservation and which opens a new one, and which road really is route 12. I am proud to say that with the assistance of some really thorough teachers and patient guests, I am now confident in these few tasks.

Although I conquered those first week nerves and crash courses, in the recent months I have continued to learn new things and better ways to do old things. Each day has brought an opportunity and a challenge: keeping up on bathrooms, making fifteen beds according to standard, or canning a lot of tomatoes. I have learned that Nasturtiums are edible and that jumping a car is easy. Besides these concrete experi-

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## BAN THE BOX

By BRIAN

We have a lot of voluntary surrenders stay with us at the Hospitality House. A few days ago, I stayed up late chatting with one such gal who had lots of questions about what her life would be like at the camp. We

chatted about food and jobs, the dorms and commissary, and eventually we got to a question that almost everyone asks. "What am I going to do when I get out?" She had caught her case while working as a pharmacist, and even though her sentence was not particularly long, she knew that her career in pharmacy was over. This fact made the prospect of getting out almost as scary for her as the reality of turning herself in the next morning.

Some of the ladies at FPC Alderson have dropped out of high school, while others have a PhD, but no matter what their level of education, they all have a felony on their record. With unemployment numbers as high as they are, getting a job is tough with a clean record, and in many instances, checking the box stating that you have been convicted of a felony will ensure that your application gets thrown in the trash.

It is for this reason that there is a bipartisan movement gaining momentum to "ban the box" in states, counties, and cities throughout the nation. In 1998 Hawaii be-

came the first state to ban the felony conviction question from job applications and during the last five years, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Rhode Island have removed the question from applications for government employment. The state level is not the only place where progress is being made, as there are over 60 counties and cities from Alameda, in California to Rochester, NY,

which have recognized that people who have done their time should not continue to be punished for the remainder of their lives.

It is important to note that "ban the

box" legislation does not prevent employers from asking about the criminal history of potential employees; nor does it prevent them from conducting criminal background checks. It merely postpones the asking of the question until an applicant has the opportunity to get his or her foot in the door. It

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## HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

This month marks 5 years that Brian and I have lived and worked at the Alderson Hospitality House. I can remember those first few weeks here at the house. I can remember cooking, cleaning, and making beds for the first time. Micah turned one a few weeks after we moved in; I can remember carrying him around on my back while cooking dinner and playing with him in the playroom. The house felt like a home right from the start. I so enjoyed meeting all the new guests, and with each new conversation, I was assured that we had made the right decision. Those feeling of contentment and joy in our job have only grown over the years.

Since those early days at the house, we have transitioned to a divide and conquer method of the everyday running the house. Brian does the laundry, makes the beds, and cleans the bedrooms. My focus is in the kitchen, cooking, cleaning, and doing the dishes. He is up in the mornings getting breakfast out and greeting everyone as they wake up; I'm up in the evenings saying goodnight. With the help of our staff member (right now, Julia), we have a very good thing going.

Just last weekend I was reminded how perfect this job has become for us. Brian was out of town, which means I had to make beds. Every time this happens I become more grateful for my husband. I do not enjoy making beds! It's tedious; I can never make them look as good as he does; and it is a thankless job. No one says, "Wow, my bed was

made so well today! Thanks." Instead Brian usually gets criticized for not helping me with dinner. Trust me; I do not want him to help with the dishes because that would mean I'd have to help make beds.

On the flip side, we had a guest this weekend who had only visited one other time. The last time he was here, I was out of town, which meant Brian had to cook dinner. After dinner, he came up to me and said that by far my pasta sauce was better than Brian's.

Whether it's the everyday running of the house or the tasks that come up weekly, monthly, or randomly, we enjoy it all. We get to wear so many hats: chef, maid, author, designer, plumber, painter, gardener, office manager, receptionist, etc. However, if you were to ask either of us what our favorite part of the job is, we would both have the same answer – talking and walking with the people who enter our doors. Brian always says how much he enjoys talking with guests, especially with the women who are about to surrender to FPC Alderson. He is good at it, too. He has a way of

telling it like it is while still assuring the women that they will be ok. For me, I cherish the chats I get to have and relationships that form while cooking a meal together. I've learned a lot from the men and women who join me, and I hope that in return I have provided some comfort and friendship during this challenging time in their lives.

The house is going strong, welcoming old and new friends every weekend. The beds are made and the meals are cooked each day with love from us. It has been a great 5 years, and we are looking forward to the next 5. Micah is now 6 and Vitale joined us 2.5 years ago. This place which we thought would be our work for two years immediately became our home and now, five years later, we are envisioning a long future for the DeRouen family at the Alderson Hospitality House. 🌟





## Women of Hospitality House

by Dan Sladich

Gathering all the spirits together,  
Maggie Louden fosters love  
in this lighted house upon a hill:  
the founder of Hospitality House.

A catalyst for change, Rosa Parks,  
stalwart and solitary, galvanized  
Montgomery for the King's victory:  
a pioneer who won the Medal of Freedom.

A liberated woman, liberating others,  
Harriet Tubman's courage was tested:  
19 night journeys to free sister,  
brother, niece, parents. "You'll be free or die!"

Inspiration for Florence Nightingale,  
admired by Queen Victoria, the first  
woman to address Parliament,  
reformer Elizabeth Fry beams from the 5 note.

Neither outshone nor discouraged,  
Julia Ward Howe educated herself.  
Daughter of the Republic and champion  
for God: the scholar of Hospitality House.

Barred from teaching, the black educator  
of Hospitality House fought racial injustice  
side by side with Dubois and Marshall.  
Septima Clark was granted a Living Legacy Award.

To comprehend words  
that bear the weight of history,  
Maya Angelou translates for us:  
the poet of Hospitality House.

### POETRY CORNER



To soothe the suffering of the soul,  
Sojourner Truth sold herself,  
stealing slaves, stealing hearts:  
the evangelist of Hospitality House.

A saint? More! Saints paid tribute  
to Dorothy Day, her life of faith.  
This saint of Hospitality House  
risked prison to promote peace.

Protector of Hospitality House, Jean Gump  
walked the walk, peace the battle cry.  
No guns, no wars, no nuclear weapons.  
Blood on the silo, eight years in prison.

Visitors, lost and confused,  
prepare to cross the threshold,  
longing and loathing to visit  
the women of Hospitality House

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! 🎨

### NEW THINGS CONTINUED

ences, I have learned countless new names and interesting stories. Interactions with guests have taught me about my inability to remember names, how far away Raleigh, Baltimore, and D.C. are, and the importance of college football.

I have listened to guests explain ways that they too are learning. As a result of incarceration, they have become familiar with the criminal justice system, discovered the best way to get money sent inside, and worked hard to develop new ways to relate to their mothers, wives, and best friends.

Admitting that I do not know it all is frightening, but spending each weekend with people that are open to learning makes it much more exciting. I know where the cilantro is in the garden, how to work the dishwasher, and the way to Kroger, but the learning does not stop here. DePaul University provided me with an incredible liberal arts education, equipping me with important

### BAN THE BOX CONTINUED

gives men and women the chance to present themselves as people rather than statistics.

Wal-mart and Target, two of the nation's largest employers voluntarily removed the criminal history question from their applications as they recognized that it was causing them to pass up a large number of talented, hard working and intelligent potential employees. Many other companies are realizing the same thing, and for many ex-offenders, knowing where to start their job search is an excellent first step. (A list of companies which hire ex-offenders can be found at [www.jailtojob.com](http://www.jailtojob.com))

These potential employees pass through the doors of our Hospitality House every week on their way out of FPC Alderson. They are ready to go home, move on with their



people and learning new perspectives! 🌍



language that informs each experience. The Hospitality House has already offered unparalleled opportunities to relate to people and experience in a new way. Needless to say, I am eager to keep meeting new

lives and not look back. They have made mistakes, and they are able to articulate the changes that they have made so that history does not repeat itself. Most of them are scared or at least a bit nervous about the welcome they will receive from their home communities, but we send them off with a message of hope. "Get your foot in the door and show them who you are, not who you were" is the advice we give and as more states, counties, and communities ban the box, that first step will become just a little bit easier.

For more information and support for those with criminal records seeking employment go to the website of the National Employment Law Project, [www.nelp.org](http://www.nelp.org) and click on the "Criminal Records and Employment" link. 🌍

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Banana Muffins

It is hard sometimes to buy the correct amount of food when the number of people staying at the House is different every weekend. I try my best not to run out of the things that people expect to have. Bananas are one of those things that sometimes run out and sometimes we have two bunches left over. This recipe has saved a lot of bananas from rotting. I can make them right away or put the bananas in the freezer to use at a later time. These muffins are one of my mom’s specialties, so I like to have a few bananas stored away in the freezer so that she can make them when she comes to visit.

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

3 large ripe bananas, mashed
- ¾ cup white sugar

1 egg

⅓ cup butter, melted

Chocolate chips (optional, but not for me)

1. Preheat the oven to 350°

2. Coat muffin pans with oil or use liners

3. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt and set aside.

4. In a large bowl, combine bananas, sugar, egg, and butter.

5. Add flour mixture to banana mixture and beat until smooth

6. Scoop into pan.

7. Bake mini muffins (my favorite) for 10-15 minutes or large muffins for 25-30 minutes

8. Muffins will be golden brown and spring back when lightly tapped.



ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE O’ HORRORS

It’s that time again. This year is the 5th annual House O’ Horrors. We have some exciting, and scary plans brewing. As always we need your help to make this year a success. If you live in the area and want to be a part of our scary adventure, please contact the house at 304.445.2980 or aldersonhospitality-house@gmail.com or come out on October 28th, 29th, or 30th and take the tour of terror. If you’re too far to join us, please consider donating one of the following items to make our event a success.

- Halloween Candy

• Face Paint

• Large sheets

• Fake body parts

• Paints and brushes for painting pumpkins

• Medical equipment, especially old or antique

• Medical wraps, hats, scrubs, masks

TOP US OFF – THE ANNUAL FUND

Things are looking better financially at this point in the year than they have since Brian and I moved in five years ago. With your help, this could be the first year we actually reach our annual fund goal!

From turning off the lights to using coupons at the grocery store, we try to save as much as we can so that we can ensure the house will remain on solid financial ground. It is with your help and generous donations that we can continue to provide our guests

with the support that they need and deserve.

Our guests love to sit down with a full cup of warm coffee in the morning, especially during these chilly autumn days. We need your continued support to top off our cup of Joe so we can continue to top off theirs.

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!

WISH LIST

Everyday Items

- Coffee :)

Postage Stamps

Ink Pens

Dish Soap

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Laundry Detergent (for HE)

Dryer Sheets

Light Bulbs

Fresh Produce

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix

Kroger/IGA/Kmart Gift Cards

Willing to spend a bit more?

- Landscaping shrubs

Quality wash cloths

Bath Towels to match the rooms

For the big spenders out there:

- New or gently used living room Chairs

Power Washer

Economy Car

GOAL  
\$90,000

OCTOBER  
\$50,200

JUNE  
\$28,527

FEBRUARY  
\$5972

