

## Who is AHH?

The mission of the Alderson Hospitality House is to provide support for those incarcerated at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp, their families and friends by providing temporary lodging, meals, transportation, emotional support and education.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Paul Loos        | Sam Kasley   |
| Kim Shrewsberry  | Bobbi Loos   |
| Gloria Martin    | Tod Hanger   |
| William Strange  | Nancy Burris |
| Richard Lohmeyer | Judy Lucas   |

## AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director  
Brian DeRouen, co-director  
Emelia Gleber, staff  
Daniel, volunteer

## 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



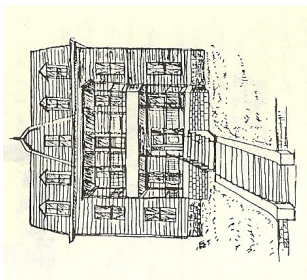
[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

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)  
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## ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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## HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

The House has been busy, as it usually is around this time. As the weather gets warmer, we get more inspired to make improvements around the house; and guests who have been staying close

to home for the cold winter months, resume their visits to their loved ones. We have had some very full weekends lately.

Unfortunately, the long waiting lists were exacerbated because one of our rooms was closed for a few weeks. One of Daniel's big projects since he arrived was to do a revamp of the Rosa Parks room. He tore up the ugly carpet, fixed a hole in the floor, and got rid of the uncomfortable beds. He was doing a marvelous job, but then was held up by a delay with the carpet installers. It took them so long to get to us that Daniel thought he was going to have to leave before he could see that project to completion. However, the installers finally

made it to the house on Tuesday and Daniel was able to get the room back to working order before he departed the following Friday.

We have been very lucky to have Daniel around the house. He has led up many projects-cleaning out the garage and the back storage room were two of the one's I'm most grateful for.

He couldn't have finished those projects, though, without the help of many great volunteers. Virginia Tech Newman Center Spring Break Trip joined us again this year for a few days of serious spring-cleaning, and Hamilton College Spring Break also stayed at the house during

their trip with Friends of the Lower Greenbrier. The carport cleaning was aided by our

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## RHETORIC vs. POLICY

By BRIAN

When politicians are on the campaign trail they can say many things. They can tell the voters what they want to hear, and they make a lot of promises. Donald Trump, much like every other candidate did just that; however, now that he is no longer a candidate but rather the President, his rhetoric is transitioning into policy. During May, two documents were released by the administration; the final 2018 budget proposal and a new charging memo from the Attorney General. Each of these documents represents a shift in policy that will significantly impact our guests and their incarcerated loved ones. In our opinion, those impacts will not be for the better.

At \$27.7 billion, the proposed 2018 budget for the Department of Justice represents a 4% decrease from 2017. Despite that decrease, some areas such as immigration enforcement would see funding increases. The budget would provide \$80 million, a 19% increase for more immigration judges to relieve the backlog of cases. However, to increase spending in one area while decreasing spending overall means that other areas will experience deeper cuts. The Bureau of Prisons will be one of the hardest hit areas in the DOJ. The proposed budget would eliminate 6,000 program and administrative positions from the BOP. It also calls for a 9% reduction in funding for corrections officers, which would result in 2,000 fewer officers on duty.

For many, these numbers are merely sta-

tistics among myriad others, but we see first hand how they impact those who are incarcerated and their families. Cutbacks in programming positions result in fewer opportunities for those in prison to improve their situation while they are incarcerated. They result in fewer drug treatment, educational, and professional development programs being offered. There is a direct correlation between participation in such programs and lower recidi-



vism rates. Thus, cutting dollars may help decrease the budget in the short term, but if doing so results in more Americans behind bars ten years from now the costs will far outweigh the savings both financially and on the human level.

In recent years the average federal prison has been overcrowded by 20-36%. Cutting the number of corrections officers without cutting the number of incarcerated individuals is a dangerous idea and yet the charging memo recently released by Attorney General Jeff Sessions actually advocates increasing the number of Americans behind bars. He has ordered federal prosecutors to aggressively seek convictions resulting in mandatory minimum sentences.

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## GOODBYE CONTINUED

- Replaced light bulbs
- Sorted pens
- Built a (very fancy) pigpen
- Flooring repairs in Rosa Parks
- Made a lot of reservations
- Made and served a bunch of meals
- Washed a lot of dishes
- Cleaned a lot of bathrooms
- Built sawhorses
- Vacuumed a lot of carpet
- Made more trips to True Value, Lowe's, and Tractor Supply than I can count
- Removed as much useable stuff from the old director's house (the "Little House") as possible
- Volunteered at the Alderson Ministerial Association food pantry
- Numerous electrical and plumbing repairs
- Organized tools



- Played basketball with guests
- Built shelves and repaired a door for the Green Grocer
- Had so many wonderful conversations with our fantastic, kind, smart, funny guests
- Did a whole lot of laundry
- Walked or rode a bike on almost every street in the town of Alderson
- Made a lot of beds (easily more than I'd made in my life to date, grand total!)
- Read, walked, hiked, and planned the months ahead, all while dreaming about coming back here.

I have so much love, appreciation, and respect for everyone who has made this such a special six months for me, especially Brian, Kathleen, Emelia, Micah, and Vitale. THANK YOU! 🙏



## RHETORIC CONTINUED

During the previous presidential administration, Attorney General Eric Holder released a memo stating that when possible, mandatory minimum sentences were to be avoided. Lowering the number of cases in which mandatory minimums were applied resulted in a decrease in federal prison population and tax dollars spent. Beyond the numbers, it resulted in mothers being reunited with children in our living room.

Those mothers are no more likely to return to prison than they would have been had they served draconian sentences of 10, 20 or even 30 years for first time non-violent drug related offenses. Study after study has shown that "tough on crime" policies such as those the Department of Justice is returning to are not the slightest bit effective

in preventing or deterring crime.

The budget of the Department of Justice is a zero sum game. More low-level offenders being incarcerated equals less funding for police officers on the streets and more rape kits going untested. Of course rhetoric about cutting government waste and offering tax cuts sounds wonderful in theory. None of us "want" to give up more of our paycheck to the federal government, but a Saturday night dinner at the Alderson Hospitality House, talking to our guests and learning about their lives, would likely help the average American and our elected officials re-evaluate their definition of wasteful government spending. 🙏

POETRY  
CORNER

## Dorothy Day



Turn the other cheek,  
again and again and again;  
how does one succeed at non-violence  
in a violent world?  
Yes, there are supreme examples  
of victories gained through endless suffering.  
I speak of it only in theory;  
it has existed for me only experimentally.  
But Ms. Day, Ms. Catholic Worker herself,  
knew the inside of a prison cell,  
faced the ridicule of those who were "on her side".  
Who could oppose "The Great War"?  
Why go to jail so women could vote?  
Only a president's intervention saved her,  
and others, from further indignity.  
Who could object to "The Good War"?  
A journalist, she knew the value of words,  
and their power. People listened,  
and were moved to action.  
She went anywhere to do God's work:  
Chicago, New Orleans, New York.  
By day a revolutionary,  
at night Dorothy would slip away,  
secretly to pray in silent, sacred churches.  
Worship in fellowship with other Catholics,  
this she considered the noblest of actions.  
What a contradiction then  
to abort the love child of fellow journalist,  
later move in and live together for four years  
with a confirmed atheist and anarchist

By: Dan Gladich

From a collection of poems inspired by  
the women whose names adorn the  
rooms of the Alderson 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! 🌱

## GOODBYE FOR NOW By DANIEL

I'm writing this at the beginning of my final week as a volunteer at the AHH: for now, at least! I'll be back. I love the people, the place, the house, the work. This is truly an extraordinary place, full of extraordinary people.

As I begin to pack up, I'm reflecting on almost six months at the AHH, and feel so warmed and welcomed, and have met so many wonderful folks. It has been such an honor to be here to help you visit your loved ones at the camp, to help women self-surrender to the camp, and of course, to help you pick up your loved ones when their time there is done. I've seen so much strength and resiliency from so many people, in all of these situations.

I guess it's a good thing that it's (hopefully) not clear how much work goes in to maintaining our big, beautiful, approximately 120 year old, house. Ideally our guests get here, and we can welcome you into a clean, safe, functioning place, and the work to maintain it is backgrounded. So

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED good friends from up at Bethlehem Farm, who were looking for a few extra community service hours.

This House could not run without the help of all of our volunteers. Whether it's guests who volunteer to do dishes or college students spending several days getting dirty, we appreciate it all. Mr. Bob from New Jersey came to visit once again and we are beyond grateful to him for taking a day to fix the flood-damaged fence in the park. Rich Marr, friend/on call handy man of the house for years has been over more than once to help Daniel with a few of the more challenging repairs.

It is garden-planting time again. I have most of the main garden planted, and as a

just for fun, here is an incomplete list of semi-tangible things I've done, in no particular order:

- Cleaned out the outdoor storage shed (with help!)
- Got one lawnmower and one lawn tractor working (with help!)
- Helped clean out our food pantry (with lots of help!)
- Mowed a lot of grass
- Built beds
- Repaired the compost bins



new experiment, I'm trying to turn a lot of the landscaping into edible gardening. I'm interested to see what areas are receptive to plants and continue to grow this project over the summer. If all goes as planned, the guests will be enjoying fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green beans, watermelons, herbs, and more grown in front of the house in the months to come.

We are almost to the one-year anniversary of the flood. Our old home was finally demolished by the National Guard a few weeks ago, and we are thrilled to be looking forward. With summer comes renewed energy, guests working the grill, shopping at the Farmer's market, and countless friends both new and old spending their weekends with us. 🌱



## RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

## Easy Pasta Salad

**1 lb small pasta (ex. macaroni or spirals)**

**1 bottle Italian dressing**

**Veggies of your choosing! My favorites: 1 red onion, 3-4 c tomatoes, 2 bell peppers. 2 cucumbers.**

**Herbs of your choosing! My favorites 1 c basil, 1 c parsley, ¼ c mint.**

**\*While these veggies and herbs are the basics that I use, if other things are coming into the kitchen fresh, I will certainly add them. It's hard to mess this recipe up if the ingredients are fresh and you like how it tastes\***

It's almost time to bring out the pasta salad again! This is such a great side when the herbs and vegetables are fresh from the Farmer's Market or straight from my garden.

1. Boil pasta according to package
2. Finely chop the fresh herbs while pasta is cooking.
3. After draining the pasta, immediately stir in the dressing and herbs.
4. Allow pasta to cool
5. While pasta is cooling, chop all the vegetables into small pieces.
6. Once cool, add the vegetables and stir everything to combine.
7. Serve immediately, or cool overnight in the refrigerator and serve cold.

\*I find that the flavors just keep getting better the longer it sits.🍷



Raise money for AHH without spending a dime. Every time you search the internet using goodsearch, you raise can raise money for the Hospitality House. Go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) to find out more.

Raise money for AHH while buying your groceries. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) and register your Kroger Plus card to automatically give a percentage of every sale to AHH. Our number is 85722. Use it when you sign up today!



Like Us on Facebook! You can follow us and keep up with what is going on at AHH throughout the year.

## THE ANNUAL FUND

When one makes homemade lemonade it involves a lot of squeezing. The same is true with our budget. The cost of food and fuel keep going up, and we want to continue providing all our services with the same quality to our guests. Last week, I hit a deer on the way back from the airport with a guest causing an unbudgeted \$2000 squeeze.

These are the lemons we get. We are counting on you to provide the sugar and sweetness for our lemonade by donating

to our annual fund. Please help us turn our lemons into lemonade by being as generous as you are able.🍷

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 (Not decaf)  
Postage Stamps  
Ink Pens  
Dish Soap  
Dryer Sheets  
Toilet Paper  
Hand Soap Refills  
Batteries  
Light Bulbs  
Fresh Produce  
Pasta  
Pasta Sauce  
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix  
Kroger/Kmart Gift Cards

**Willing to spend a bit more?**

Extra Long Table Cloths  
Bath Towels to match the rooms  
Rain Barrel  
Dehydrator

**For the big spenders out there:**

New or gently used living room recliners  
Economy Car and/or Minivan

