

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

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
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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
Greenbrier Valley
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www.gvairport.com

AMTRAK INFORMATION



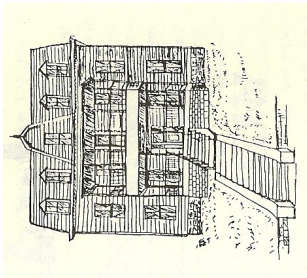
www.amtrak.com

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



VOLUME 40, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2017

VISITORS! BY BRIAN

In 1976, Kathleen and I had not been born yet, but the work that would become our passion and vocation was already getting started here in Alderson. As we were learning how to walk and talk, Dick Dieter and Maggie Louden were getting the Alderson Hospitality House off the ground and guiding it through its own early years. This past week, we were thrilled to have the founders of the Alderson Hospitality House visit for the first time since they were here for the House's 25th anniversary celebration back in 2002. We had a wonderful time asking questions, hearing and telling stories, and sharing our commonly held love for this place.

While walking around the House, we found that despite an age difference measured in decades, we have many things in common with Maggie and Dick. Kathleen and I moved into the Hospitality House on our older son's first birthday, and when they moved into the House to get it started in 1976, their daughter Simone was 15 months old.



They became acutely aware of the need for a hospitality house in Alderson serving the incarcerated women and their visitors while driving back and forth to Alderson as visitors themselves. Maggie and Dick were friends with an activist who was serving a sentence at FPC Alderson. Similarly, Kathleen and I learned about the needs of friends and family visiting incarcerated loved ones while she was visiting me at Taft Correctional Institution while I was serving a short sentence for non-violent direct action.

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and Kathleen in a suburb of Cincinnati, OH. Before moving to Alderson, Dick and Maggie were city folk from the Washington DC/Baltimore area. Thus, all four of us have found it easy to relate to our guests from urban and suburban areas who, before arriving at the House, could not fathom a county that was not home to a single stoplight. While living in a rural setting was unfamiliar at first for all of us, we found that many of the same people were a part of making Alderson a beloved home and community. We talked

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HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

The leaves are starting to turn and the mornings are cool again. As I sit here drinking my coffee on these fall mornings, I find myself wondering where the summer went. It was a good summer for all of us here at AHH. Along with Brian, Emelia, and me, Daniel came back to join us as handyman, and Becky, a college student from Avila University, joined us for the

I'M BACK

By DANIEL

Back in the summer I thought my time in Alderson had come to an end, but happily I was wrong. After a bit of hiking and time away, Alderson called me back. My day job has me working as the Executive Director of the Alderson Community Food Hub. I am again living and working at the Hospitality House, but this time I am here primarily as the fix it, project, handyman type.

In addition to my handyman duties around the AHH, which I genuinely enjoy, some of my favorite things to do are to answer the phone, and return voicemails. I particularly love orienting new guests to the Hospitality House: explaining who we are, what we do, and how we function. These new guests are largely families and loved ones of the women at the prison camp, and sometimes women who are self-surrendering.

Some of this amounts to small, but important, details: don't let your GPS try to send you over the pedestrian only bridge, this is when we serve meals, these are the visiting hours and protocols, and so on. But a great deal of it is about hearing, and listening, and meeting folks where they're at. We

month of July to learn about and help run the Hospitality House. It's fun to have so many people around to lend a hand.

On top of long-term volunteers, we had Mr. Bob come join us a couple times to visit and help out around the grounds; Paul Loos repaired the front steps; Evey Ferrotte and Nancy Burris helped with dinner preparations; a group of O school students helped clean and organize, several groups from Loyola Academy in Chicago joined us to

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try very hard to make the Hospitality House a "home away from home". Sometimes that means guests want to help us do dishes, play cribbage, or move wood around. And just like at home, sometimes you want to go for a walk, or close your bedroom door and have some alone time.

I was talking with a regular guest the other night (we love our regular guests, too!) about the struggles and beauty we face outside of the prison system and in the world, and how important it is to remember and honor the struggles (and occasional beauty) our loved ones inside the prison camp experience. Being able to be present, and

helpful, and kind, in these moments, and difficult times in the world, is such an honor. Whether it's greeting a guest, fixing a toilet, driving someone to visitation, sorting recycling, baking banana bread, or anything else, I'm extremely lucky and grateful to be here, every day. 🌟



VISITORS CONTINUED area, the house was being run by the King family from the Bruderhof community and then by volunteers from the Brethren Volunteer Service. Some of these wonderful people like the Bennishes spent many years at the house, while others were here for a year or less before moving on, but each one of them played an important role in the life and history of the Alderson Hospitality House.

I could type page after page about the beauty and color which the Alderson Hospitality House has brought

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

learn about and help out at the House, and planning for the Alderson Hospitality House of Horrors has begun. Whether it's for an hour or a year, we continue to run because of our volunteers, and we are very thankful for all of them.

We've also had some great visitors this summer. Brian writes about our visit from Dick Dieter and Maggie Loudon, but there were many more. A group from Washington DC visited to learn about what we do and to share ideas about making a difference in our world. Brian, Emilia and I all had family visit; former staff members, Anna, Marissa, and Chrissy all visited; and Alan and Lisa Zucchari came in for an afternoon.

We find that while we absolutely love the work we do here at AHH, we all need a break sometimes. We enjoyed a fun day at home with my family watching the eclipse. We went to the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope in Green Bank, WV and the Clay Center in Charleston, WV and had a full staff outing to the WV State Fair. We all took turns traveling, and together with Emelia, our family enjoyed a fun camping

into our lives and hopefully the lives of our guests. From the blessings to the challenges, living and working at the House is like no other "job" that I can fathom. Dick Dieter and Maggie Loudon made this wonderful life that our family is living possible. Kathleen and I owe them, and the many others who have helped to make AHH what it is, a deep debt of gratitude. We aspire to be like them when

we grow up, and we could not be happier to carry on the work that they began back in the day. 🌟

trip during the weekdays when there were no guests. As our boys get older, it's fun to watch them ride their bicycles around the campground and roast marshmallows over the fire. And after the mal-



lows were roasted, we sat together around the fire and read Harry Potter out loud.

We have enjoyed this summer, but I'm looking forward now to the changing weather; fires in the wood-burning stoves; and less work in the gardens. The guests will gather together in the living room to watch football, and soup or chili will become a typical Saturday or Sunday meal. Things don't necessarily slow down in the winter as the holidays bring us a different kind of busy, but I think we're ready for the change. 🌟

POETRY
CORNER*Rosa Parks*

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—
Rosa Parks
December 1, 1955:

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! 📧

VISITORS CONTINUED

of Mark Blumenstein and Terry Wontrobski, long time supporters of the House (Mark served on the board of directors) who still live just out of town on Big Branch Road. Paul and Bobbi Loos who also live down Big Branch Road and are currently members of the board of directors were also a big part of life at the House back in the 70's and 80's. We talked about Michael Vincent and Linda Bunce who lived and worked at the Hospitality House when their daughter was an infant and have stayed involved as supporters of our mission over the decades.

Michael and Linda worked at the House at a particularly busy time, so they lived at the “Catholic Center,” which eventually became St. Mary of the Greenbrier, where the diocese generously allowed our family to live after the flood destroyed our caretaker’s home just over a year ago. Lynda and Robert Neff were amongst the group that worked with Dick and Maggie to get the Catholic Center open, and they remain dear friends of the House, with Lynda serving as former president of our board and still dropping off fresh eggs from her chickens. We even talked about Tonto, a neighbor and frequent visitor at the Hospitality House. Many of our guests these days enjoy chatting with Tonto about what Alderson used to be like back in its heyday. Kathleen and I giggled a bit when he came up in our conversation with Dick and Maggie as they referred to him as “the young

man who lived over across from the train station”...Tonto is now in his 70's, and it is hard to imagine him ever being young.

While we share many things in common with Maggie and Dick, one thing that was decidedly different about our experience of the Hospitality House was the condition in which we found the house itself. By the time they discovered the building, it had served as a dorm for a boarding school in the 1880s, a military school, a hospital, a boarding house, and a private residence. It was a proud and sturdy building, and



the exterior looked similar then as it does today, but the interior was a different matter. When they lived here the kitchen was tiny, there was no large playroom for the kids, and instead of the 6 bathrooms we enjoy today, they and their guests made do with a total of 2. The Little House of Prayer, capable of comfortably sleeping 10, had not yet been built, and our beautiful park across the street from the house had not yet been donated. Between their time and ours, many wonderful caretakers contributed their blood, sweat, tears, laughter and prayer into the house and its mission. Kathleen and I are standing on all of their shoulders. John and Hillary Bennish ran the Hospitality House for 10 years, during which fresh chocolate chip cookies were baked to welcome the guests every week. John and Nikki left their mark in the form of beautifully painted names and decoration on the door of each guest room. When we first moved to the

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RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Corn Salsa

Taco Night has become a fairly regular Saturday Night Dinner here at AHH. In addition to the meat, rice, and cheese, I like to make the salsa and guacamole fresh when I can. This is the corn salsa recipe that I've tried to perfect over the years. I think I've finally gotten it right.

1 large bag of frozen corn
 ½ onion, diced
 2 tablespoons honey
 Cumin
 Chili Powder
 Salt

2 garlic cloves, minced
 1 can Rotelle, spice level of your choice
 ½ cup cilantro (or to taste), Optional for those who think it tastes like soap
 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil
 1 Tablespoon Lime Juice
 Cumin, Salt and Pepper to taste

1. Put corn, onion, honey, and a few shakes of cumin, chili power, and salt (column 1) into a pot and just barely cover with water. Bring to a boil and allow to simmer for 15 minutes.
2. Drain water and move contents to a large mixing bowl.
3. Add column 2 and stir.
4. Taste and adjust seasoning to your liking.
5. Eat as a side, with tortilla chips, or as a taco topping 🌮



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 to find out more.

Raise money for AHH while buying your groceries. Go to 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 Alderson Hospitality House of Horrors is at it again. We took last year off, but will be back to Haunting on October 30, 31, and November 1. For more information, please visit www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org/AHHH.

The theme this year is Holiday of Horrors. If you have any non-Christmas holiday decorations you no longer want, please send them our way. Thanks!!

THE ANNUAL FUND

While summer is the season of trying to stay cool, enjoying picnics and cold lemonade, with Autumn comes a change. The days are still warm but the nights are turning cold. Efforts to stay cool are replaced by bundling up and loading the wood stove to keep the place warm. We love our hot apple cider and the changing of the leaves, but along with the cooler temps come challenges as well. Keeping a big old house like this one warm on chilly Fall evenings can be a challenge and so

once again we look to you, our generous friends. Your donation will help to keep our stove burning and our guests warm as the days get shorter and the nights longer. 🌕

Please make all checks payable to
Alderson Hospitality House
 or donate online at
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
 AA or AAA Batteries
 Light Bulbs
 Fresh Produce
 Pasta
 Pasta Sauce
 Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
 Kroger/Kmart Gift Cards

Willing to spend a bit more?

Bath Towels to match the rooms
 Dehydrator
 Small working lamps

For the big spenders out there:

Refrigerator
 Pressure Washer
 Economy Car and/or Minivan

