

## 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	Tod Hanger
Gloria Martin	Nancy Burris
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## AHH STAFF

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

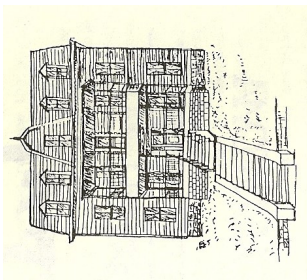


www.amtrak.com  
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV  
**ONLY** Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
**From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50**  
**From New York, westbound: Train #51**

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

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



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## ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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## HOUSE NOTES BY KATHLEEN

As the weather warms, the house grows busy again with kids out of school and families more willing to drive these twisting and turning roads. There are columbine and rhododendrons blooming all around and in the garden, green bean, tomato and cucumber plants popping up out of the ground. It is an exciting time at AHH. We hope to be welcoming a new staff member and volunteer in the next couple of weeks, and their help will be happily welcomed.

Our guests can often be found helping me in the kitchen after visitation, and occasionally, they cook the entire meal! Skipper and Claude did a particularly great job with the spaghetti dinner they prepared a few weeks ago. I have actually had a lot of help with the cooking lately, and that has been wonderful. We have started the "Supper Project", and many individuals, groups, and churches have responded. Our goal every weekend is to make fresh, home cooked meals for our guests. Our Supper Project is a way to help make that happen. People can donate money, cook food and we will pick it up, or come to the house and cook a meal using our kitchen. If you'd like more information on this project, visit [aldersonhospitalityhouse.org/giving-and-support/supper-project](http://aldersonhospitalityhouse.org/giving-and-support/supper-project).

Thank you to those who have responded so far!

Brian, the boys, and I made a trip to Cincinnati in early May for him to run the Flying Pig Marathon. During the trip, we also got to



(Continued on page 3)

## REALITY TV COMES TO WASHINGTON...FOR PRISON REFORM By BRIAN

"At first art imitates life. Then life will imitate art. Eventually life will find its very existence from the arts." Fyodor Dostoevsky

When the author of *Crime and Punishment* was commenting on the relationship between art and life, he was not likely thinking ahead to American pop culture in 2018. It is also questionable as to whether one could designate pop culture, and more specifically television, these days as art. However, what should not be underestimated is the effect that popular culture has on our world today, and that impact is being felt on the issue of prison reform.

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian was in the oval office last week to talk with President Trump about the case of Alice Marie Johnson and the broader issue of prison reform. Johnson is a 63-year-old grandmother serving a life sentence for a first time, non-violent drug offense. Like so many others, she made a mistake, went down the wrong path and for that mistake

has spent the past 20 years of her life in prison. The difference between Alice Marie Johnson and countless others is that an incredibly famous reality television star heard about her case and decided to become involved. Because the President of the United States is also a past reality television star and is very interested in the support and approval of celebrities (especially celebrities of color such as Kardashian's husband, rapper Kanye West), a meeting was scheduled, photos were taken, and Alice Marie Johnson's name became a trending subject on Twitter.

I am a member of Families Against Mandatory Minimums and support the work of CAN-DO in their work advocating for non-violent drug offenders, but to be honest, before Kim Kardashian went to the White House last week, I could not have said for certain who Alice Marie Johnson was. This is the nature of



## CookBook

This year, I am working on creating a cookbook to sell as a fundraiser for the AHH. I really want to include a section for "Recipes from the Inside". I know that our incarcerated readers create some pretty incredible food from the limited resources at their disposal. I hear stories of cheesecake and Lo Mein! Would you be willing to share your secrets with us? If you would like to submit a recipe to be published in the cookbook,

please mail it to:

AHH Cookbook  
PO Box 579  
Alderson, WV 24910

Please let me know if you would like your name and or location to be placed alongside the recipe. I look forward to reading them and learning about the creativity you use to turn simple ingredients into delicious snacks, meals, and desserts. 🍴



## REALITY TV CONTINUED

both prison and sentencing reform. There is so much to do, so many organizations working for progressive changes to be made, so many lives involved, and yet, one celebrity and a president I almost always disagree with may be the combination that we have been waiting for.

Prison and sentencing reform are two of the rare issues (they are related but are not identical) in American politics today where the left and right can come together. This has led to some particularly unusual bedfellows, such as the Koch Brothers (two of the largest contributors in right wing American politics) teaming up with the Center for American Progress (a left wing think tank founded by John Podesta who served as Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff and Chairman of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign) to work for change in America's broken system which currently incarcerates over 2 million Americans at the cost of 80 billion dollars a year.

When disparate groups like the ACLU and Freedom Works who usually find themselves on opposite sides of arguments and lobbying agendas work together on an issue, it is evident that it is both a prominent issue and that politicians from both sides of the aisle can work together, as well. Towards that end, we see Republican Rand Paul from Kentucky working with Democrat Kamala Harris co-sponsoring the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act a bill aimed at reforming cash bail practices. Democratic National Committee co-chair Keith Ellison has



Alice Marie Johnson was pardoned by President Trump on June 6, 2018.

thrown his support behind the Trump backed First Step Act and while many progressives such as myself see this bill as flawed in many ways, the conversation is happening and thus the potential for progress is there.

In 2010, the book *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison* by Piper Kerman was released. It is an excellent book and one of our most suggested reads to women and families who are about to start their

journey through a sentence at FPC Alderson. While it is an important book in our circles, the vast majority of Americans had never thought about life in a minimum-security camp for women, and thus, had little interest in the book. In 2013, the Netflix show based on the book became an instant hit. Now in its 6th season it is wildly popular, and as a result, millions of Americans have seen the inside of camp (albeit a fictional one) like Alderson, and through the characters, have come to think about and possibly even care about the women and families that we serve.

Of course, there will always be debates about whether the Netflix portrayal is accurate enough or if Kim Kardashian's primary motive is to get into the headlines again or to actually progress the issue of prison reform. I don't really know the answer to that question but thanks to its appearance on television (reality or otherwise) people are talking about both prison and sentencing reform, and to me, that is a significant First Step. 🍴



POETRY  
CORNER*Arminta Ross*

She fled in fear but returned fearless,  
again and again to the Maryland  
of her birth, leading or, by force of a gun,  
liberating the reluctant.  
“You’ll be free or die.”

Like Moses, impatient;  
unlike Moses, not wandering,  
but straight as a railroad track---  
underground, hidden, secret---  
but unstoppable.

Forgotten by her husband,  
she was never forgotten by those  
whose freedom she provided.  
Harriet, in honor of her mother,  
Tubman, assumed from her husband,  
honored as a hero  
by Frederick Douglass  
and John Brown,  
truly lived for the sake of others.

*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! 🌍

## HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

visit our friends at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Missions Office who have given great support to the Alderson Hospitality House and us personally over the years. It was great to see them again and catch up a bit. At the end of that trip, I visited my alma mater, Stephen T Badin High School to talk to the freshman classes about the path I took getting to the hills of West Virginia and what it is like working at the Hospitality House. It was strange, but fun, to walk the halls again and be in the classroom. I can't say that the experience made me want to be a teacher (probably the opposite), but it was a fun experience nonetheless, and I hope I got the students thinking.

Brian is usually the speaker of our little team, and he has been doing his job a lot lately. He spoke to the Lewisburg Lioness Club, the CEOs at Organ Cave, and a few other groups over the past couple months. He'd love to come talk to your group, as well, about the work we do at AHH. Just give us a call and set up a time.

We received grants this year from the United Way of the Greenbrier Valley and The Seneca Trail Foundation. Thank you to these



organizations for your wonderful support. The Seneca Trail grant is designated to fixing up the bedrooms, so be prepared to see some changes inside the house in the next few months. A volunteer has already started painting bedrooms, and we have set up appointments for estimates on new carpet installation. Buying new linens will be the final step in the project.

We've got things going on both inside and out, and it should be a good summer for getting projects accomplished. 🌍



United  
Way



United Way of the  
Greenbrier Valley

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Potato Corn Chowder

Here’s a recipe I love because you can pretty much add whatever sounds good to you and it will turn out tasting good. The essential ingredients are corn, potatoes, and broth. Everything else, you can play with.

2 Onions, diced	6 ½ Cups frozen or fresh corn
¼ cup Earth Balance butter spread or Butter	2 Red Bell Peppers, diced
2-3 Tablespoons Olive Oil	1 Poblano Pepper, diced
1-2 Tablespoons Cumin	Enough broth to cover the vegetables (~12 cups) I use vegetable broth.
5 Cloves of Garlic, peeled and roughly chopped	Salt and Pepper to taste
3-5 Potatoes, diced (you can peel them if you want, but I usually don’t)	

1. I usually chop the Onions first and get them cooking while I chop all the rest of the vegetables. Put the Onions and Buttery Spread in a large pot and sprinkle with Salt. Cook on low for ~10 minutes, stirring only 1-2 times. When the onions are fragrant and slightly browned, turn the heat up to medium and move to step 2.
2. Set aside a bowl of 2 cups corn, ½ cup bell pepper, and 1 tablespoon poblano pepper to be used at the end.
3. Add Oil, Cumin, Garlic, Potatoes, Bell Pepper, and Poblano Pepper to the pot to sauté. Sauté for 10-20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add Corn and Broth to the pot. Bring to a boil, and then turn down to a simmer. Simmer until the potatoes are cooked through, 20-30 minutes, stirring as needed.
5. Blend everything in the pot. I use an immersion blender, but you could do it in batches in a standard blender or food processor.
6. Once the soup is blended, add the bowl of food you set aside earlier and bring back to a simmer. Adjust seasoning and enjoy!

There are a lot of alternatives for this soup. I use it as a clean out the fridge soup.

1. Leftover roasted vegetables? Chop into smaller pieces and put them in at the end to add more texture. I often roast Broccoli and cauliflower at AHH and have leftovers. They work really well in here. I’ve also put in greenbeans...I thought that was going to taste funny, but it actually tasted pretty good.
2. Want more color? Carrots work well and turn the soup a rich, orange color, but Brian doesn’t like cooked carrots, so I usually don’t put them in. Just chop them the same size as the potatoes and add them at the same time.
3. Diced tomatoes added to the bowl to be put in at the end add texture and color. Heck, if you have a little salsa or pico left over from a party, throw that in at the end. Yum!
4. Want some protein in here? Add silken tofu or white cannellini beans when you put the corn in. You won’t even notice a different in the taste. In fact, these two things will help the soup have a more silky smooth taste once you blend it.
5. Want an Indian flavor? Add a variety of spices in with the cumin (Turmeric, Garim Masala, All Spice, Corriander). You can make your own curry or use curry powder.
6. I guess you could add cheese, too. I usually make this as a vegan soup, but I bet some cheese would taste good in or on top of the soup. I’d recommend parmesan, but if you try something else out and it works, let me know! 🍴

THE ANNUAL FUND

Big families eat a lot and so large pots and pans are useful. Our Hospitality House family is a big one so on most Saturday nights after dinner there is a big pile of plates, pots and pans to be cleaned. Thankfully, guests usually step up to lend a helping hand which makes a daunting job feel a bit more manageable.

The same holds true for filling up the pots. It takes money to buy the food, pay for the propane and the dishwashing soap. Just as they do with the dishes, our

guests help out as they are able, but to get the job done, we need your helping hand as well. Please consider a financial contribution which will help us to fill our pot! 🍴

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
- AA or AAA Batteries
- 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:

- Pressure Washer
- New Twin Size Mattresses

