

Fall Newsletter



Message from the Director

As for the year 2020, we absolutely cannot ignore the "elephant in the room." This has been an unforgettable year, one that has challenged all of us physically, emotionally, and financially. We've been asked to make big sacrifices! In fact, this fall we are being asked to reconsider how we gather with family for the holidays. Recently, I re-read Mrs. Aldrich's book The Cutters, and the concluding paragraph provided a good reminder of how our family ties cannot be broken.

"Across the table Ed and Nell Cutter, alone, faced each other, as they had done twenty-four years before. Two middle-aged people are a pitiful number to sit down to a meal. But there were others there . . . invisible guests . . . held by the cords of affection. You cannot break the radii which stretch out from the center of a good home. They are the most flexible things in the world. They reach out into every port where a child has sailed, into every country where a child has strayed--these radii of love. They pull at the hearts of the children until, sometime, somewhere, they draw the wanderers all back into the family circle."

Like the average family, the Aldrich House has faced its challenges. As a tourism destination, we were greatly disappointed to have to cancel our spring banquet, numerous educational workshops, and our first writing camp. Yes, tourism is down, over 50 percent. Yet, membership is up, we've received nearly \$5,000 in Humanities Nebraska CARES support, and we've invested time and energy in strategies that will assure our long-term success. We are exploring virtual programming options, partnering with American Legion Post #247, and purchasing a building that will eventually house an amazing educational facility. (Check out the next story). Our future is bright!

We are enthusiastically embracing 2021 and invite you to join us by visiting the Aldrich House, renewing your membership, or simply reading an Aldrich book. May I recommend The Cutters, our featured book for 2021. Stay tuned! Kurk Shrader, Director

Learning Center



The Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Board's Action Plan called for the development of strategies that assure the longevity of the foundation. A discussion with G.A.R. Veterans Museum commander Bonnie Brewer indicated that they were also eager to develop strategies to assure their long-term status. We met with architect Rick Hawks about the possible construction of a new building located on the empty lot next to the G.A.R. Hall. He ultimately

suggested that we consider the Prairie Solutions Technology building at 221 South Fourth Street. After much consideration, the Aldrich Board voted to purchase the building with American Legion Post #247. The intent (after we pay for the building) is to convert the 40' x 40' room in the back of the building into a learning center with exhibits about Mrs. Aldrich, local military contributions, the history of Elmwood, and a genealogy research section. A separate board made up of Aldrich supporters, Legion supporters, and at-large members will coordinate the venture. They have already rented the three offices and are fundraising to pay for the building so we can begin Phase II, the renovation of the new space. To learn more about the project's journey, you can watch an informative video at <https://youtu.be/w8XWrOudsM0>. Financially, if you would like help, check out the enclosed flyer about our brick project or follow us on Facebook at Elmwood Cultural Arts and Learning Center to learn about other ways you can assist us with this project.

We thank Humanities Nebraska for the CARES Grant. Funding was provided by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. *Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

Journey Into Christmas

Journey into Christmas will once again be hosted at the Aldrich House. Like past years, 13 individuals and civic groups will decorate every room with trees and theme-related decorations. This year, decorators have been asked to incorporate decorations related to the state of Nebraska, an ongoing theme in Mrs. Aldrich's book Spring Came on Forever, which was the Foundation's featured book in 2020. A few of the themes that will be used in decorating the 13 trees on display include the state capitol, agriculture, Nebraska products, a Nebraska's author brunch, Arbor Day, the prairie, and one-room schools.

We will once again have one day where we are open in the evening in order to see the beauty of the trees at night. The Aldrich House will be open from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 29. Other tour times are available by appointment if you contact the director Kurk Shrader at 402-867-4233.

Guests may participate in an "I Spy" activity, too, by locating certain artifacts in the Aldrich House. Those who participate are eligible for a free drawing for a copy of Mrs. Aldrich's book Journey Into Christmas. Accommodations have been made for social distancing, and masks are required. Admission is \$5.



Journey Into Christmas
Bess Streeter Aldrich House

Hours or By Appointment
Sat. Nov. 28, Noon to 5 p.m.;
Sun. Nov. 29 (1-7 p.m.);
Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27 (1-4 p.m.)

Spring Banquet

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Spring Banquet on Saturday, April 10. As you know the banquet had to be cancelled last spring, but we are hopeful that we will be able to offer a similar program this spring. Online options are also being explored. Pandemic willing, there will be a social hour from 5:00 to 5:45 at the Aldrich House where the exhibit will be "America on the Move." At 6 p.m. the banquet will begin. We are fortunate that Nebraska Humanities Speaker Jeff Barnes could reschedule and will give his presentation "Nebraska Landmark Buildings." "From the first trader cabins through the skyscrapers of today, the buildings of Nebraska tell the story of the state. They carry the tales of the pioneers, of its emigrant and ethnic groups, of its famous sons and daughters, of its suffering through war, its prosperity in peace, and of its innovation and excellence." Jeff, a former newspaper reporter and editor, trustee with the Nebraska State Historical Society, past chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, and former marketing director for the Durham Museum will show pictures of some of Nebraska's most notable buildings. A delicious meal and the naming of the short story winners will round out the program which will start at approximately 7 p.m. Expect more details in our Spring Newsletter and on social media.

(Humanities Nebraska provides major funding for this program. HM receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations.)



Traveling Trunks!



You may remember that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)—with the sponsorship from the Mary Katharine Goddard Chapter—donated \$1,200 to the Aldrich Foundation for two literacy projects. First of all, the Aldrich Foundation developed curriculum for summer reading/writing camps, which we hope to offer next summer at the Aldrich House and Museum (cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus).

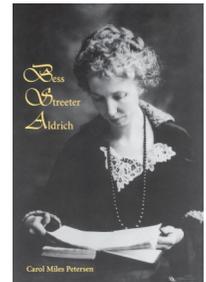
With the second phase of the project, the Foundation created traveling trunks that highlight Nebraska's Homesteading Movement, include literacy and writing ideas, and explore Mrs. Aldrich and her literary contributions. The trunks are available for teachers, home school groups, and individuals who are teaching their children remotely during this pandemic period. Contact the director for availability. There is no charge.

Outstanding 4-H Project Honored Mrs. Aldrich

You might remember that for the first time last year the Aldrich Foundation chose to honor the best Heritage Project with a Bess Streeter Aldrich Award. Its purpose was to educate Cass County youth about Mrs. Aldrich and to draw attention to the fact that she resided here. The Aldrich Foundation decided to present a special award to the 4-Her who created the best Heritage Project. In spite of the fact that there was no Cass County Fair this year, the 4-Hers were permitted to present their projects for judging. Fair judges decided Marshall Caddy, Eagle, was the winner. He received a recognition certificate, a copy of **A Lantern in Her Hand**, and \$25 in prize money. Congratulations, Marshall!

Honoring Carol Miles Petersen

The Aldrich Board extends its sympathy to the family of Carol Miles Petersen. Aldrich enthusiasts will remember Mrs. Petersen for her portrayal of Mrs. Aldrich and her outstanding informative presentations. Of course, the greatest legacy she left the Aldrich Foundation was writing Mrs. Aldrich's Biography, The Dreams are Real, for which we are forever grateful. We also thank the Fired-Up Readers of Whispering Hollow Book Club and several other individuals for their generous memorials. The Aldrich Foundation has dedicated a tree in the Aldrich Gardens honoring Mrs. Petersen and also purchased a commemorative brick for our new museum.



Mrs. Petersen's obituary read: "Carol Jean Miles Petersen born Topeka, Kansas, 9/7/1930, died 9/28/2020, Omaha, Nebraska. She is survived by husband of 67 years, Alfred; sister Patricia Petring; daughter Sheryl Tilson and spouse Richard (deceased); son Jerald Petersen and spouse Charmaine Stewart; son Mark Petersen and spouse Ann; six grandchildren; and one great grandchild. She was preceded in death by father Arba Miles and mother Cora Steele Miles. She graduated from Omaha University with a degree in English, returning to school after her children went to college. She earned a PhD in English Literature. She taught at UNL, UNO, and Midlands College. She wrote the biography of Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich, which was published by University Press. She presented over 100 one-woman performances as Mrs. Aldrich for the Nebraska Historical Society."

Breakfast Update/Generous Gifts



Since our last newsletter, Aldrich supporters have generously donated monetary gifts and items for the Aldrich House/Gardens. I'm always hesitant to make a list for fear that I will forget someone, but here is an attempt to thank our many benefactors.

- 1950's Kitchen Table, Sherri Erickson, and Painting of Hutch, Darlene Middleton
- Plants for the Garden, Bill & Sue Connour & Billie Leftholz
- Silver Serving Pieces, Beverly Swenson, Lincoln
- Autographed Copy of A Lantern in Her Hand, Diana Dunn
- Other Books, Cheryl Alberts Irwin and Deb Safarik

Wish List for 2021

- Funds to create curriculum for A Lantern in Her Hand
- Laptop Computer
- Hoe and Spade
- Aldrich/Elmwood Artifacts for the New Museum

Featured Book Sales!



Spring Came on Forever, \$15 (expires 12-31-2020)

The Cutters, \$15 (expires 12-31-2021)
(Not Available Until Spring 2021, \$5 Shipping)

Short Story Contest Continues

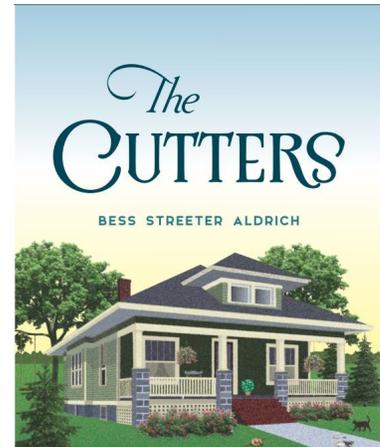
The updated guidelines for the Bess Streeeter Aldrich Short Story Contest have been posted on the Foundation's website. Similar to last year, the Foundation has encouraged writers to make their fictional stories realistic while incorporating Nebraska references. Also, The Cutters is our featured book for 2021 so it has been recommended as a "good read" before one begins his/her writing. The short stories can be submitted online or arrangements can be made with the director for an alternative submission. The deadline is midnight February 17.

Review the 2021 guidelines and
2020 Winner's List at:
bessstreeeteraldrich.org

The Cutters

Mrs. Aldrich's book The Cutters is currently out-of-print, and the Aldrich Foundation is committed to having it reprinted in 2021 (the soonest copyright laws allow). The Foundation hosted a design competition this spring, and the winning design was created by Suzanne Oliver of Weeping Water. This book will be available some time next spring and will feature Suzanne's new cover.

The book will eventually sell for \$20, but individuals who purchase it in 2021 will be able to get it for \$15. To pre-order a copy, contact the executive director. You will be notified when they arrive so you can pick them up at the Aldrich House, or they can be shipped for an additional \$5.



Are You an Aldrich Foundation Member?

Within this newsletter, you will find the current dues renewal form. A new year begins on January 1, 2021. Our records indicate the following people are current members (one asterisk indicates a 2020 membership and ** denotes 2021 or beyond). Contact Kurk Shrader if you have questions.

Rosalie Ahrendsen** Rim	Bill & Suzanne Dover* Rim	Jean Lake* Spring	John & Merrily Setlack* Spring
Joan Anderson* Spring	Bonnie Drake* Rim	Billie Lefholtz* Spring	Kathy Seureau** Spring
Nancy Anderson* Rim	Cindy & Kirby Drake* Spring	Roger Lempke* Rim	Diana & Craig Shaffer* Spring
Curt & Cindy Backemeyer* Spring	Donna Durette* Lantern	Sherry Lighter* Lantern	Kent & Loretta Shields* Rim
Joyce & Merle Backemeyer* Spring	Elmwood Christian Church** Spring	Elizabeth Little* Spring	Kurk & Kris Shrader** Spring
Jolene Bakley* Spring	Fred Eriksen* Spring	Rosemary Lucky* Lantern	Doug & Karyl Smith* Journey
Beverly Banks** Rim	Bill & Bev Fischer* Spring	Dorothy Mapes* Spring	Stock Seed Farms Inc.* Spring
Diane Bartels* Spring	Connie & Doug French* Lantern	Ana McCracken* Journey	Jeanette Stolen* Rim
Kathy Benecke* Spring	John & Carolyn Golden* Spring	Sue McKee Neill* Spring	Streeeter Family Assn.** Spring
Dale Betz* Spring	Kay Lynn Haas** Lantern	David & Helen McKinney* Rim	Hugh Thomas Taggart Jr.* Lantern
Valaine Bonebright* Spring	Gary & Cindy Hall** Spring	Susan McKinnon* Lantern	Mary Teten* Spring
Keith & Martha Ann Bornemeier* Spring	Glenn Hall* Spring	Fred & Pat Meisinger* Rim	Ann Van Hoff* Spring
Ruth Briney, Time Travelers* Spring	John Hall** Rim	Renee Menary* Journey	Village of Elmwood* Spring
Steve & Bonnie Bruttig* Lantern	Denisa Hanania* Lantern	Barb & Clayton Miller* Rim	Kami Voboril* Spring
Angie Buckner* Rim	Mary Jo Havlicek* Rim	Connie Mincer* Lantern	Sarah Vodicka* Spring
Phyllis Buell* Rim	Jim & Judy Hendrix** Lantern	Barb & Lynn Minch* Lantern	Brenda Vogt** Lantern
Judy Carver* Spring	Heritage Room of Nebr. Authors** Spring	Brandon Minch* Rim	Chloe Weber* Student
Rebecca Clark* Rim	Eloise Hiatt* Lantern	Dorothy Murphy** Rim	Dee Weyeneth* Rim
Dwight Clements** Journey	Joann Hill* Lantern	Carol Nannen** Rim	Lesa Williams* Rim
Greg & Pam Clements* Lantern	Linda Homan** Lantern	Gretchen Northrup* Rim	Roger & Anna Winans* Spring
Richard & Maechelle Clements* Spring	Cheryl Alberta Irwin** Spring	Dave & Barb Oehlerking* Lantern	Mike & Colleen Winter* Rim
Robert & Peggy Clements* Spring	Jeff Johnston & Bonnie Brewer* Lantern	Walter/Carolyn Oehlerking Jr.* Spring	Joyce Wright* Spring
Rick & Laurie Collins* Lantern	Anna Jamrog* Spring	Jon & Suzanne Oliver* Spring	Janet Zoz* Lantern
Bill & Sue Connour* Spring	Bruce Johnson* Spring	Scott & Barbara Oliver** Journey	
Charles and April Cover* Rim	Mary & Marlon Johnson* Journey	Denene Owens* Spring	
Gerry Cox* Spring	Rosanna Johnson* Spring	Diane Parker* Spring	
Hilde Dale* Spring	Ron & Anne Knapp** Lantern	Mary Frances Reinke** Spring	
Linda Denyer* Rim	Bruce Koehler* Rim	Paul & Susan Rice** Spring	
Dean & Judy Douglas* Spring	Dan & Becky Kruse* Spring	Jim & Grace Ronhovde* Spring	
		Nancy Savery* Spring	
		Esther Scarpello** Spring	

Contact Information

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402-994-3855



Contact Information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Membership Levels (Mark One): Your membership in the Aldrich Foundation demonstrates your commitment to encourage the reading of exceptional great plains literature and to illustrate a sense of community pride by specifically promoting Elmwood and the works of Bess Streeter Aldrich. All members will be recognized in one of our two newsletters.

- _____ Spring Came on Forever Level, \$25; receive two newsletters and \$5 off any book purchase;
_____ The Rim of the Prairie Level, \$50; receive two newsletters and two complimentary tickets for house tours;
_____ Lantern in Her Hand Level, \$100; recognition in Aldrich Foundation publications, two newsletters, two complimentary tickets for house tours; and one Aldrich paperback book (one that remains in print). Indicate choice of book (circle one): Lantern in Her Hand, White Bird Flying, Rim of the Prairie, Spring Came on Forever, Mother Mason, or Journey into Christmas.
_____ Journey into Christmas Level, \$250; receives two newsletters and two season passes for monthly visits.
_____ Student Level, \$10; Any student, up to 18 years of age, can also join. They also receive recognition in the newsletter and \$5 off a book purchase.

Other:

- _____ Cash Donation: Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____.
_____ Volunteer. Please contact me about volunteer opportunities at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House and/or Museum (provide guided tours, decorate house, assist with house and garden maintenance, help with fundraiser, and/or become a board member.)

Comments:

Make Checks Payable to: The Aldrich Foundation
House & Museum Hours:
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 1 to 4 p.m.; May through Oct.
Saturday and Sunday: 1 to 4 p.m.; Nov. through April

Volunteers Needed

The Aldrich Foundation is in great need of more guides. We hope to be open on Wed., Thurs., Sat. and Sundays from 1 to 4 (May through October) and weekends (November through April). What are you doing during these times? How would you like to help us inform others about Mrs. Aldrich and preserve the history of our community for the next generation? Contact the director if you are interested. You pick your schedule and the frequency you want to help.

We welcome new guides Cheryl Alberts Irwin, Colleen Winter, and Nina Landwehr.

2021 Exhibits and Events

January to April	America on the Move
May	Everything Elmwood Open Memorial Day Garden Plant Exchange
June to August	Wedding Exhibit Garden Style Show
Sept. to Nov.	Vintage Toys & Games
December	Journey into Christmas

This pandemic period makes it challenging to set dates for events too far in advance so many of our dates are yet to be determined. We will keep an updated calendar at bessstreeteraldrich.org.

Other Upcoming Events for 2021

Educational Workshops, TBD
Writing Camps for Kids, TBD

Sympathy and Appreciation

We extend our sympathy to the family of Pat Bornemeier. Pat was a devoted member of the Aldrich Foundation Board for several years. Many of our guests enjoyed a lively tour from Pat, who also coordinated the guides at the Aldrich House. She was known for her enthusiasm for Mrs. Aldrich and the Foundation and wasn't afraid of any job whether it was cleaning the dining room chandelier or washing windows. We are thankful for the memorials received in her name as well.

We also express appreciation for memorials we received in honor of Joyce Althouse Jacobson.

Finally, we thank Sue Connour for her years of service to the Aldrich Foundation. A long-time enthusiast of Mrs. Aldrich and supporter of the Aldrich House, Sue recently retired from the board. Her replacement is Cyndi Dwyer, Elmwood.

Stay Up-to-Date with the Latest Events at the Aldrich House



by Liking Us on Facebook:

Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum

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