

# Fall Newsletter

## Message from the Director

Often, I begin the newsletter with a beautiful passage from one of Mrs. Aldrich's books. But, there have been several instances this year that reminded me of a quote by Mrs. Aldrich who described herself as "wife/mother, then neighbor, and finally writer." So today, we celebrate the person, rather than just the author.

Sadly, we recently received word that Mrs. Aldrich's granddaughter Dorothy Mapes passed away. Dorothy was a true supporter of the Aldrich Foundation and was very instrumental in providing us with a much-needed historical perspective. But for Dorothy, Mrs. Aldrich was a beloved grandmother; and so, in honor of Dorothy, we remember her loving grandmother, an influential woman.

This wasn't the first time Mrs. Aldrich was honored for her motherhood. This summer the Foundation received a special gift from Katharine Kilgour of Lincoln. She donated the program from a 1929 awards ceremony where Mrs. Aldrich was recognized by the Kiwanis Club as Nebraska Mother of the Year.

Is it any surprise that Mrs. Aldrich's women characters, especially mothers and grandmothers are portrayed as strong, formidable women? It shouldn't be; simply, she was one! Perhaps, now is the perfect time to pick up one of Mrs. Aldrich's books or a collection of short stories and be reminded why we love Mrs. Aldrich, the writer, and especially Mrs. Aldrich, the person. Help us celebrate her and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Aldrich House by visiting our Stitch-in-Time Quilt Show Exhibit or Journey into Christmas! We hope to see you soon. Kurk Shrader, Executive Director

## A Stitch-in-Time Quilt Show Continues Through November 13



The Stitch-in-Time Quilt Show will continue through November 13 and features 110 quilts that follow the seasons, January to December. While at the quilt show, guests are provided the opportunity to participate in two fundraisers for the Foundation: a silent auction for barn quilts (ends November 13) and a raffle for two quilts donated by Mary Johnson and quilted by Billie Lefholtz and the UNL Piecemakers quilt club. Guests will be able to purchase raffle tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5). The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 18.

## Journey Into Christmas

This year the Aldrich Foundation honors Mrs. Aldrich's short story "Another Brought Gifts" at our Journey Into Christmas event. In honor of the Aldrich House's 100th birthday, the decorators have been asked to incorporate gifts and/or elements of the story in their decorations. It will be a special way to conclude our anniversary year. We will have extended hours on opening day to correspond with the community's Holiday Extravaganza on November 26, 11 to 5 p.m. We hope to see you there!



### *Journey into Christmas*

*Bess Streeter Aldrich House  
204 East F Street  
Elmwood, Nebraska*

*Honoring Bess Streeter Aldrich and Celebrating the House's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
with 12 Beautifully Decorated Rooms  
Admission \$5.00; Available for Group Tours and Christmas Parties*

*Save the Dates: Nov. 26 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)  
Nov. 27; Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 (1-4 p.m.) or by Appointment*



Funded in Part by Cass County Tourism, [visitcasscounty.com](http://visitcasscounty.com)

## Learning Center Update/Elmwood Community Foundation

Two years ago, the Aldrich Foundation and American Legion Post #247 purchased a building at 221 S. 4th Street to serve as our new community learning center and museum. We asked for support to help purchase the building and make renovations, and people generously responded. Then last December, the Aldrich Foundation joined the Elmwood Community Foundation as a designated fund under the management of Midlands Community Foundation. This provided many benefits including giving the Aldrich Foundation a means to achieve long-term security. Charitable giving to the Elmwood Community Foundation earned matching funds in 2021 from Midlands Community Foundation (over 17 percent).



This enabled the Foundation to add heating/air conditioning to the learning center while growing funds for museum renovations. These facility improvements will enable the Aldrich Foundation to expand our educational offerings and have a back-up site for weather-related limitations. Anyone interested in making a donation during this year's match period should send a check dated between December 1 to January 5 payable to Elmwood Community Foundation, (put match on the memo line) and mail it to Elmwood Community Foundation, c/o Midlands Community Foundation, 217 North Jefferson Street, Papillion, NE 68046. If you would like more information concerning the Aldrich Foundation's involvement with Midlands Community Foundation, contact Kurk Shrader at kurkshrader@gmail.com.

The Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation is excited to provide a number of FREE resources to help the next generation enhance their reading and writing skills and learn about Nebraska Hall of Fame Author Bess Streeter Aldrich and her exceptional literary contributions.

### SHORT STORY CONTEST

Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

Objective: To generate a fictional short story that is written in the wholesome spirit displayed by Bess Streeter Aldrich in her works while incorporating a theme that focuses on Nebraska's family life, economy, history, cultural diversity, and/or geography. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes are awarded to Adult, Grade 3-5, Grade 6-8, and Grade 9-12 categories. Submissions are due April 15th. Guidelines and submission link are located at [bessstreeteraldrich.org](http://bessstreeteraldrich.org).

### TRAVELING TRUNKS

Grades 3-8

The Bess Streeter Aldrich Traveling Trunks provide resources and activities to enhance instruction in literature, writing, and the Homestead Movement, and include period games to play. Trunks may be checked out for up to two months.

### A LANTERN IN HER HAND UNIT OF STUDY

Grades 9-10

A Lantern in Her Hand Unit of Study will help students recognize Bess Streeter Aldrich as a Nebraska Hall of Fame author, learn about the Homestead Movement and the Nebraska pioneer experience, and develop reading comprehension and thinking skills through high-quality literature. Teachers can access instructional materials, assessments, answer keys, and enrichment activities online for FREE simply by requesting a password from the executive director.

### FIELD TRIPS

Enjoy an educational field trip to the Aldrich House, take a character tour, participate in an "I Spy" activity or tree identification activity in the gardens. Field trips are free for Lantern Novel Study participants; otherwise, \$3/student.

### New "Adventurous Mrs. Aldrich Activity" and Other Educational Resources are FREE!

With the assistance of grants from the Syracuse Library Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation has achieved many of its long-term educational goals. Besides those resources listed on the left, the Foundation has linked the "Adventurous Mrs. Aldrich" activity on our website. Essentially, the Aldrich Foundation will provide postcards to teachers, and students are encouraged to take Mrs. Aldrich on an adventure and document her

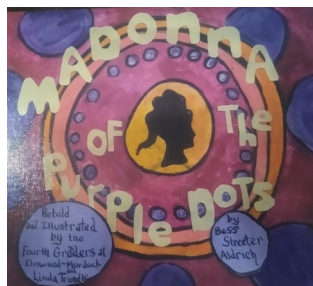
journey on social media. Participants are eligible for quarterly drawings for free Aldrich books.

### Book Club Materials Also Offered for FREE!

The development of the teaching resources for schools is only one way the Syracuse Library Foundation has assisted the Aldrich Foundation in promoting Mrs. Aldrich and her literary contributions. Gretchen Garrison of Milford has been creating facilitator guides and book review materials for all of Mrs. Aldrich's books (Song of Years is the final book, and it is currently under construction). These materials are linked to our website for book clubs and teachers to access. Additionally, the Syracuse Library Foundation has helped us purchase a surplus of each of the books so that they can be checked out for up to two months for no charge. Besides the books, clubs can check out the collections of short stories by Carol Miles Peterson, the collection of letters written by Mrs. Aldrich entitled "Letters from the Elms," and Mrs. Aldrich's biography, "The Dreams Are Real."

## Foundation Names Linda Trundle “Aldrich Educator of the Year”

Linda Trundle, art teacher at Elmwood-Murdock Public School,” was named the Aldrich Educator of the Year. As a true Aldrich fan, Linda has made several efforts to utilize the Aldrich Foundation’s educational resources and expose the next generation to Mrs. Aldrich’s writing. This year Mrs. Trundle had students enter the



short story contest, she introduced them to characters in Mrs. Aldrich’s short stories, created ornaments and decorated a Christmas tree with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at the Aldrich House, and assumed the huge challenge of taking one of Mrs. Aldrich’s short stories (Madonna of the Purple Dots) and having the 4<sup>th</sup> graders illustrate and publish it. The Aldrich Foundation couldn’t be more thankful for her extraordinary support. She

has inspired us to present our first “Aldrich Foundation Educator Award.”

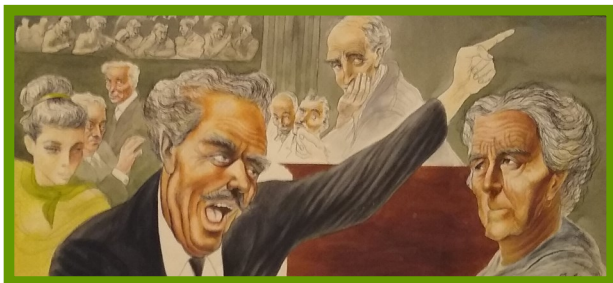


## Children’s Literature Exhibit to be Repeated!

Due to the popularity of last spring’s Children Literature Exhibit, a similar exhibit (featuring different books) will transform the Aldrich House (February to mid-May). Decorators have been encouraged to select a recognizable children’s book and decorate a room accordingly. We understand that *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Borrowers* have already been selected. It sounds like another fun time to visit the Aldrich House.

## Writing Camp Great Success!

The Aldrich Foundation hosted its second writing camp in June. The camp took place with 16 participants who were taught by Cindy Backemeyer, Elmwood, and Carae Oehlerking, Elmwood. The Aldrich Writing Camp is offered during the summers, but the curriculum and other resources are available for other Nebraska teachers and home school groups to check out without charge during the academic year.



## The Heirs, Collier’s Magazine, 1949

In 1949, Mrs. Aldrich’s short story entitled “The Heirs” appeared in *Colliers* magazine. Artist Irv Docktor created this beautiful painting to complement the story. Recently, Dr. Paul Docktor, son of Irv, donated the painting to the Aldrich Foundation. It was displayed at the Aldrich House this summer and has become part of the permanent display at the Aldrich Museum.

## Audiobooks, Kindles Available for Free Checkout

As recipients of the Syracuse Library Foundation Grant, the Aldrich Foundation has been able to create resources for Aldrich enthusiasts interested in audiobooks. The Foundation has purchased three Amazon Kindles and downloaded seven of Mrs. Aldrich’s books on the devices. These are available for checkout for free for up to six months. Interested parties simply need to contact the director and provide a \$50 check as a deposit. The check is not cashed unless the Kindle is returned damaged or not returned at all. Many of Mrs. Aldrich’s short stories are also being recorded and will be linked to the Aldrich website next spring.

Audio (text to speech) options are available on cellular devices and can be downloaded to personal computers. The process to upload the books to your devices will be added to our website ([bessstreeteraldrich.org](http://bessstreeteraldrich.org)) shortly. We thank Tom Day of Elmwood for providing this explanation.

## An Amazing Gift!

We thank Jean Beal of Little Canada, Minnesota, for providing the Aldrich Foundation with this beautiful colorized picture of Bess Streeter Aldrich when Bess was a mere eight years old. Jean’s remarkable technological skill has provided us with an outstanding gift that we proudly display at the Aldrich House!

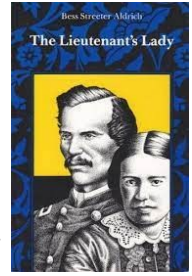




## Featured Book in 2023

Discounts remain during 2022 (our 100th Birthday year) for \$5. Contact the director if you would like to purchase *The Lieutenant's Lady* in October, *The Drum Goes Dead* and/or a Short Story Collection in November, and *Journey Into Christmas* in December.

In 2023, we will feature the book *The Lieutenant's Lady*. It is celebrating its 80th birthday, is initially set in Omaha, and is an exciting contrast to *A Lantern in Her Hand* with its riverboat journey instead of prairie travels. Simply let the director know which book you want during its respective month.



Oct.—*Lieutenant's Lady*

Nov.—*Drum Goes Dead or Collection of Short Stories*

Dec.—*Journey Into Christmas*

## Short Story Guidelines for 2023, Grades 3 through 12 and Adult

The Aldrich Board slightly modified the short story contest for 2023. First of all, anyone who enters the contest in 2023 is eligible for a free tour. Our deadline to enter remains April 15 which provides our writers, especially students, the opportunity to spend more time preparing their stories. Again, we allow participants to enter their stories in a multitude of ways but are confident participants enjoy the ease of entering them online. The submission link and guidelines are provided at [bessstreeteraldrich.org](http://bessstreeteraldrich.org). The 2022 winners are listed under "Short Story Contest" on our website, and copies of their stories are available to purchase in our gift shop.

## Are You an Aldrich Foundation Member?

Within this newsletter, you will find the current dues renewal form. A new year begins on January 1, 2023. Our records indicate the following are current members (two asterisks indicates a 2022 membership and \*\*\* denotes 2023 or beyond). An updated list is also kept on the website. Contact Kurk Shrader if you have questions.

Rosalie Ahrendsen\*\* Rim  
Joan Anderson\*\* Spring  
Joyce & Merle Backemeyer\*\* Spring  
Jolane Bakley\*\*\* Spring  
Beverly Banks\*\* Rim  
Diane Bartels\*\*\* Spring  
Kathy Benecke\*\*\* Spring  
Marsha & David Bergstrom\*\* Lantern  
Dale Betz\*\* Lantern  
Martha A. Bornemeier\*\*\* Spring  
Joyce Bingeman\*\* Spring  
Steve & Bonnie Bruttig\*\* Lantern  
Angie Buckner\*\* Lantern  
Phyllis Buell\*\* Lantern  
Judy Carver\*\* Spring  
Bain Chadsey\*\* Lantern  
Rebecca Clark\*\* Lantern  
Greg & Pam Clements\*\* Lantern  
Richard & Maechelle Clements\*\* Spring  
Robert & Peggy Clements\*\* Spring  
Rick & Laurie Collins\*\* Lantern  
Bill & Sue Connour\*\* Lantern  
Charles and April Cover\*\*\* Rim  
Hilde Dale\*\* Spring  
Betty Demster\*\* Spring  
Linda Denyer\*\* Rim  
Bill & Suzanne Dover\*\* Lantern  
Bonnie Drake\*\* Lantern  
Cindy & Kirby Drake\*\* Rim  
Jerry & Julie Druery\*\* Rim  
Donna Durette\*\* Lantern  
Cyndi & Paul Dwyer\*\* Lantern  
Elmwood Christian Church\*\* Spring  
Fred Eriksen\*\* Rim  
Bill & Bev. Fischer\*\* Spring  
Connie & Doug French\*\* Lantern  
Angie & Dave Friesell\*\* Lantern  
Mary Gillespie\*\* Lantern  
Linda Glantz\*\* Spring

John & Carolyn Golden\*\* Spring  
Owen Goodenkauf\*\*\* Rim  
Kay Lynn Haas\*\* Journey  
Catherine Haden\*\* Spring  
Gary & Cindy Hall\*\* Lantern  
John Hall\*\*\*\* Rim  
Sheri Harrington\*\* Rim  
Mary Jo Havlice\*\* Rim  
Nicole & Brian Hoffman\*\* Lantern  
Linda Homan\*\* Lantern  
Dolores Hydock\*\* Lantern  
Adalay Idler\*\* Rim  
Cheryl Alberts Irwin\*\* Spring  
Bruce Johnson\*\* Spring  
Mary Johnson\*\* Spring  
Rosanna Johnson\*\* Spring  
Jeff Johnston & Bonnie Brewer\*\* Lantern  
Karen Kilgour\*\*\* Rim  
Ron & Anne Knapp\*\* Lantern  
Dan & Becky Kruse\*\* Spring  
Jean Lake\*\* Spring  
Nina & Rick Landwehr\*\* Lantern  
Billie Lefholtz\*\* Lantern  
Roger Lempke\*\* Spring  
Sherry Lighter\*\*\* Lantern  
Elizabeth Little\*\* Spring  
Deborah Luna\*\*\* Lantern  
Ana McCracken\*\* Journey  
Connie McElvain\*\* Spring  
Jim & Jolene McLaughlin\*\* Rim  
Susan McKinnon\*\* Lantern  
Pat Meierhenry\*\* Lantern  
Fred & Pat Meisinger\*\* Lantern  
Renee Menary\*\* Journey  
Bob & Marie Meyers\*\* Journey  
Barb & Clayton Miller\*\* Lantern  
Barb & Lynn Minch\*\* Lantern  
Kathy Moss\*\* Spring  
Mary & Kurt Mueller\*\* Rim

Dorothy Murphy\*\* Rim  
Carol Nannen\*\* Lantern  
Dennis & Margie Nielsen\*\* Lantern  
Gretchen Northrup\*\* Spring  
Dave & Barb Oehlerking\*\* Lantern  
John & Carae Oehlerking\*\* Lantern  
Walter/Carolyn Oehlerking Jr.\*\* Lantern  
Scott & Barbara Oliver\*\* Journey  
Denene Owens\*\* Spring  
Diane Parker\*\* Spring  
Melanie Rauert\*\* Spring  
Mary Frances Reinke\*\* Spring  
Paul & Susan Rice\*\* Lantern  
Ross & Judeen Rikli\*\* Spring  
Jim & Grace Ronhovde\*\* Lantern  
Dianne Ross\*\* Spring  
Esther Scarpello\*\*\* Spring  
Kathy Seureau\*\* Rim  
Diana & Craig Shaffer\*\* Spring  
Kent & Loretta Shields\*\* Rim  
Steve Shively\*\* Spring  
Kurk & Kris Shrader\*\* Lantern  
Jeanette Stolen\*\* Rim  
Streeter Family Assn.\*\* Spring  
Marsha Streeter\*\* Rim  
Thomas Sutter\*\* Lantern  
Joyce Svoboda\*\* Spring  
Hersh & Betty Talley\*\* Spring  
Hugh Thomas Taggart Jr.\*\* Lantern  
Tish Timbly\*\* Journey  
Beverly VanArsdel\*\* Lantern  
Ann Van Hoff\*\* Spring  
Village of Elmwood\*\* Spring  
Kami Voboril\*\* Spring  
Brenda Vogt\*\* Lantern  
Nancy Vogt\*\* Spring  
Chloe Weber\*\* Student  
Dee Weyeneth\*\* Rim  
Roger & Anna Winans\*\* Spring

## Dining Room to Get a Facelift

The Aldrich House will be closed in January to facilitate some ceiling repair and the wallpapering of the dining room. The Aldrich Foundation is thankful to the Forget-Me-Nots Quester Chapter in Omaha for their contribution of funds for wallpaper. In addition, we received the Cass County Tourism Capital Improvement Grant which will help fund this project.

## Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, Membership Form 2023

PO Box 167, 204 East F Street

Elmwood, NE 68349

[aldrichfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichfoundation@gmail.com)

bessstreeteraldrich.org

402-994-3855; Kurk Shrader, Director (402-867-4233)



### 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 receive two newsletters and recognition in one of them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Level, \$10; Any student, up to 18 years of age, can join. They also receive recognition in the newsletter and \$5 off and book purchase.

\_\_\_\_\_ Spring Came on Forever Level, \$25; receive newsletters and \$5 off any book purchase;

\_\_\_\_\_ The Rim of the Prairie Level, \$50; receive newsletters and two tickets for house tours;

\_\_\_\_\_ Lantern in Her Hand Level, \$100; receive newsletters, two complimentary tickets for house tours; and a free book choice of book (circle one): Lantern in Her Hand, White Bird Flying, Rim of the Prairie, Spring Came on Forever, Mother Mason, Journey into Christmas; The Cutters; or Letters from the Elms.

\_\_\_\_\_ Journey into Christmas Level, \$250; receives newsletters, four complimentary tickets for house tours; two season passes, and a free book choice of book (circle one): Lantern in Her Hand, White Bird Flying, Rim of the Prairie, Spring Came on Forever, Mother Mason, Journey into Christmas; The Cutters; or Letters from the Elms.

### 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**

## Memorials/Notes of Appreciation!

In October, the Aldrich Foundation was saddened to hear of the passing of Dorothy Mapes, granddaughter of Bess Streeter Aldrich. Dorothy was a true friend of the Aldrich Foundation, and her amazing memory and ongoing encouragement will be greatly missed. We are most thankful to Dorothy's family who named the Aldrich House & Museum for her memorials.

We are also thankful for many gifts including the beautiful painting created for Mrs. Aldrich's story "The Heirs," family of Irv Docktor; Harvey Dunn print and additional print once owned by Mrs. Aldrich, Dwight Clements family; writing camp registration fees for students; anonymous donor; Song of Years Quilt, Sue Hill; colorized Bess Streeter Aldrich photograph, Jean Beal; 1929 Kiwanis Program, Katharine Kilgour; plants for the garden, Billie Lefholtz and Phyllis Buell; workshop presentation, Mickie Clements; and the many others who provided exhibit items.



Stay Up-to-Date with the Latest Events at the Aldrich House by Liking Us on Facebook:  
**Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum**

Aldrich Foundation  
Box 167, 204 East F Street  
Elmwood, NE 68349  
aldrichfoundation@gmail.com

## 2023 Schedule of Events/Exhibits

January	Closed or Tours by Appointment
Feb. to May 14	Children's Literature Exhibit
April 15	Short Story Contest Deadline
April 21	Victorian Tea
May 6	Plant Exchange
May 17 to Aug 16	Why I Live in a Small Town Exhibit
June 11	Summer Social, Awards Program
	Echoes of An Era, Paul Siebert
	Humanities Nebraska
June (TBD)	Aldrich Writing Camp
Aug. 16-Nov. 12	Unusual Collections/Hobbies Exhibit
Nov. 26-Dec. 18	Journey Into Christmas
	Also Available by Appointment

Additional Speakers and Educational Workshops  
Dates to Be Determined

This newsletter is funded in part by  
Cass County Tourism, [www.visitcasscounty.com](http://www.visitcasscounty.com)

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