

Spring Newsletter

Message from the Director



“In 1926, she (Mrs. Aldrich) received \$500 for the photoplay rights to the story (The Woman Who Was Forgotten), but nothing came of it at that time.” I’ve read Mrs. Aldrich’s biography by Carol Miles Peterson and overlooked this text many times. Yet, not until recently did I inquire about what was meant by “nothing came of it at this time.” Something did come of the photoplay rights.



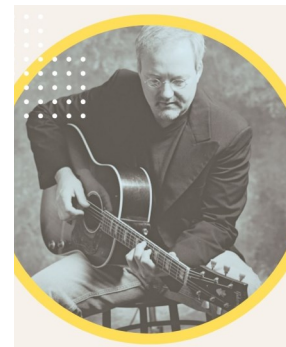
We are all familiar with Mrs. Aldrich’s movie *Cheers for Miss Bishop* and two television films from the 80’s; however, little is known about a fourth film entitled “The Woman Who Was Forgotten.” Thanks to the investigative work of Robert Clements, the Aldrich Foundation recently acquired the sheet music for the musical score “Give to the World the Best You Have” from the movie *The Woman Who Was Forgotten*. This sheet music confirms that Mrs. Aldrich wrote the story.

The app IMb indicates that the 80-minute motion picture was produced in 1929 and was directed by Richard Thomas. One of the early talking films, it has a familiar theme more fully developed in *Cheers for Miss Bishop*. Miss Miller, a dedicated teacher, beloved by her students, loses her job when she protects a favorite pupil, who is accused of embezzling from the bank. Years later, a banquet is organized as a testimonial to Miss Miller’s 40 years of service where a confession is made that clears up a long-ago crime. LeRoy Mason and Belle Bennett held the leading roles.

This sheet music is on display at the Aldrich House, and we think it is yet another reason to visit us. If any of our Aldrich enthusiasts have additional information about this film or other movies, please share your findings.—Kirk Shrader, Director

A Summer Social

Like last year, the Aldrich Foundation will host its Summer Social, on Sunday, June 11. Guests can visit the Aldrich House which will be using the Why I Live in a Small Town theme, Short Story Contest winners will be announced, and Paul Siebert of Lincoln will present his program entitled “Echoes of an Era.” Paul’s program was greatly enjoyed in 2022. At the time, he mentioned he had four hours of material so we are excited to having him share again.



“Using the Nebraska State Seal and Flag as a back drop, Paul presents a musical living history program of a family’s journey from Russia to Nebraska in the 1870’s. Using original and period music with up to 7 different acoustic instruments, storytelling, personal family history, period costume and extensive knowledge on the subject of blacksmithing, Paul presents an interactive family-centered entertaining program, ensured to entertain the whole family!”



With major funding support from Humanities Nebraska, the National Endowment of the Humanities, and private donations.

Schedule of Events

- 1:00-2:00 “Why I Live in a Small Town” Exhibit
Aldrich House, 204 East F Street
- 1:30-2:00 Musical Prelude, Church
- 2:00 Program, Elmwood Christian Church
311 North Fifth Street
- Short Story Award Presentations
Paul Siebert, Echoes of an Era
- 3:00-4:00 Refreshments, Tours Continued

Meet Stephanie Mauck and Jolene McLaughlin



The Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation is pleased to introduce two individuals you may see when you visit. Stephanie Mauck (left) was recently hired to assist the director in the development and promotion of activities being offered at the Aldrich House.

Jolene McLaughlin (right) became a guide last year and has recently agreed to be a character actress with long-time character actresses Donna Durette and Billie Lefholtz. As an ambassador for the Foundation, Jolene

has shown an interest in speaking with civic groups as Mrs. Aldrich and then inviting them to the Aldrich House. The director can provide contact information for Jolene.



Free Admission Opportunity in 2023

Anyone who visits an exhibit at the Aldrich House during 2023 will be provided a free pass to attend Journey Into Christmas from November 25 to December 23. The pass is similar to the picture on the right. When the guide presents you with it, simply turn it over and write your name and the date of your visit on the back. It will provide you with free admission .



Learning Center Update!



The Aldrich Foundation joined with the local Legion Post in 2020 to purchase the building located at 221 South 4th Street for the purpose of creating the Elmwood Cultural Arts and Learning Center. Renovation plans are continuing with the desire of making the large back room into a Learning Center and museum. Last month, they started offering educational workshops and quarterly programs. The workshops have been promoted on Facebook under

the Elmwood Cultural Arts & Learning Center. We thank Midland Community Foundation for a \$5,000 grant to be used to help make the restroom ADA Compliant.

Upcoming programs include Polymer Eggs, wool applique, folded paper workshop, Bob Ross painting, Cricut classes, watercolor greeting cards, and other art-related classes for kids and adults. The next free quarterly program will be Sunday, June 25, when Dr. Gwyneth Talley of Eagle will talk about her travel and teaching experiences in Egypt.

Exhibits...Exhibits...Exhibits

The Aldrich Foundation has been decorating the Aldrich House with a different theme every quarter. Here are the themes for 2023. You can learn more about them at bessstreeteraldrich.org.

- Classic Children's Literature Exhibit, Feb. to May 14
- Why I Live in a Small Town Exhibit, May 18 to August 27
- Unusual Collections, August 30 to November 12
- Journey Into Christmas, November 26 to December 23



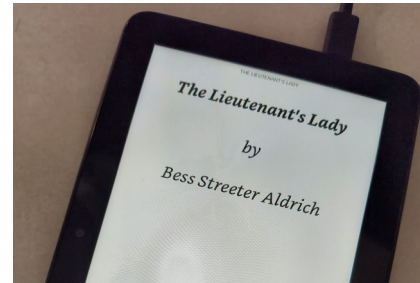
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
Display in the Dining Room

Book Club Discussion Questions/Reviews Complete

With assistance from the Syracuse Library Foundation, the Aldrich Foundation has been having book club materials developed. The latest edition came from Gretchen Garrison, who most recently completed our last book materials for *Song of Years*. If your club is contemplating reading an Aldrich book, you will want to check out "Book Club Materials" on bessstreeeraldrich.org. Here, we have discussion questions and facilitator links. The Syracuse Library Foundation Grant has also enabled us to purchase multiple copies of Mrs. Aldrich's books and make them available to book clubs to use for free. Contact the director to check out the Aldrich book of your choice.

Audiobooks and Short Stories

The Syracuse Library Foundation has generously funded additional exciting resources for Aldrich enthusiasts. First of all, the Aldrich House has secured three kindles with seven of Mrs. Aldrich's books prerecorded. Guests are invited to check them out for free for up to two months. A \$50 check reserves the device and is given back to the owner when the Kindle is returned.



Additionally, approximately 10-12 of Mrs. Aldrich's 160 short stories have been recorded and placed on our website under the "Resources Link". This is a great resource for book clubs and individuals who want to hear Mrs. Aldrich's short stories. We thank several individuals for serving as readers for this project: Gus Pope, Brenda Vogt, Nina Landwehr, Dottie Lamson, and Natasha Breton.

Kids' Writing Camp



This summer the Kids' Writing Camp will be held at the Aldrich House from June 12 to 15 (12:30 to 3:30). Children, grades 3 to 6, are invited to participate (\$40). We thank Cindy Backemeyer and Carae Oehlerking for agreeing to teach this class again this year.

New! Kids' Art Camp/Humanities Nebraska Educator Grant

The Aldrich Foundation is very pleased to announce that Elmwood-Murdock 4th Grade teacher Cindy Backemeyer received a Humanities Nebraska Educator Grant to help students learn and value what it means to be "human." Cindy and Elmwood-Murdock art teacher Linda Trundle proposed teaching art concepts to do just that. They have been awarded \$1,000 to use at school and through an art camp to be held at the Bess Streeeter Aldrich House this summer, July 10-13. Designed for 3rd-6th grade students, the camp will enable students to use Aldrich literature, house architecture, and nature in the gardens to learn a number of art techniques. The camp cost is \$40, and reservations can be made with Kurk Shrader or Stephanie Mauck.



With major funding support from Humanities Nebraska, the National Endowment of the Humanities, and private donations.

Free Educational Resources!

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 4/15/22. Guidelines and submission link are located at 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 in 2022 for Lantern Novel Study participants; otherwise, \$3/student.



Please check out the educational resources that the Aldrich Foundation offers to public, private, and home schools. Share this information with your friends and family. Thank you to the Syracuse Library Foundation for funding the Lantern Unit and this publicity.

Free Educational Resources

Wander Nebraska & Uncover the Unexpected

There are two more reasons to visit this summer. The Aldrich House was once again selected by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation as one of the historical sites across the state to participate in WanderNebraska, a program designed for lovers of travel and history. Individuals who are interested in participating may find the sites and program guidelines at WanderNebraska.com starting the 3rd week in May. Another passport program is "Uncover the Unexpected in Sarpy and Cass County."



Whether you have lived in Sarpy and Cass Counties for years or just weeks, there are many things to do and places to explore right in our own backyard. Thus, Uncover the Unexpected encourages residents and visitors to stop by participating businesses to learn what they offer and get the chance to win prizes. The form and guidelines are located at <https://visitcasscounty.com/Uncover-the-Unexpected/>. Have fun exploring right here at home! Isn't it time to visit again?

Juno's Swans

Last year, the Aldrich Foundation introduced a children's book based on Mrs. Aldrich's short story "Madonna of the Purple Dots." This year, under the direction of art teacher Linda Trundle (Aldrich Teacher of the Year) and Cindy Backemeyer, the Elmwood-Murdock Public School 4th graders once again adapted another short story, "Juno's Swans." This charming story appeared in *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 1935. Copies of the children's book should be available for purchase by June 1.



Journey Into Christmas

The tradition continues; every room in the Aldrich House will be decorated for Christmas and honor Mrs. Aldrich's short story "The Drum Goes Dead." The decorators have been asked to think about how they can decorate each room around a different Christmas carol. Come see how our decorators incorporate this theme and music in their decorations. The dates for tours include November 25-26, December 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23, or by appointment.

Are You an Aldrich Foundation Member?

If you are unsure if your membership is up to date, check the “Membership” link (then “current members button”) under BSA Foundation at bessstreeteraldrich.org. It was last updated on May 6. Your membership dues enable us to plan programs, maintain the Aldrich Home, stay connected in our community, and coordinate learning activities for Aldrich enthusiasts. Personally, you may be entitled to discounts on books, free admission to the Aldrich House, and even free books. Contact Kurk Shrader if you have questions.

Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, 2023

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Elmwood, NE 68349

aldrichfoundation@gmail.com

bessstreeteraldrich.org

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 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.)

Make checks payable to: Aldrich Foundation. To process a credit card, contact the director.

New Wallpaper!

2023 Schedule of Events/Exhibits

- Until May 14 Children's Literature Exhibit
- May 6 Plant Exchange
- May 17 to Aug 27 Why I Live in a Small Town Exhibit
- June 11 Summer Social, Awards Program
"Echoes of An Era," Paul Siebert
Humanities Nebraska
- June 12 to 15 Aldrich Writing Camp
- July 10 to 13 Aldrich Art Camp
- Aug. 30-Nov. 12 Unusual Collections Exhibit
- Nov. 25-Dec. 23 Journey Into Christmas
Also Available by Appointment

Additional Speakers and Educational Workshops
Dates to Be Determined



The dining room of the Aldrich House has a new look. In January new wallpaper was applied thanks to funding from a Cass County Tourism Capital Improvement Grant and a generous donation from the Forget-Me-Nots Questers Chapter, Omaha, Nebraska. Come check it out!

This newsletter is funded in part by Cass County Tourism., www.visitcasscounty.com.

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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