



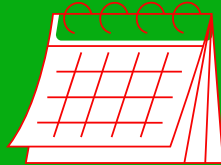
WORD ON THE STREETER

With Steph



DECEMBER 2023

WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR?



"Journey into Christmas" Exhibit Now through Dec. 23. Last Sunday, my family and I were able to see this amazing exhibit at night! The lights and music throughout the house were just breathtaking. The "carol" theme had us all humming each room's tune, and when it got a little off key, the QR codes to each song allowed me to bring back the harmony. This interactive exhibit is going to get you wholeheartedly into the Christmas spirit. With only a month to take the tour during regular hours, or schedule a private tour, don't wait to plan your visit!!

January: The Aldrich House will be closed for regular visits, but you can still schedule a tour. The house is an exciting, and warm, place to take the family during the holidays. When you need to get out of the house, contact us and we will help plan a fun afternoon for whomever you would like to share it with!

"Poetry in Motion" Exhibit, February 15th - May 19th: I have already started bragging on what I expect to be an amazing exhibit. However, as the planning has taken shape, and almost all of the decorators are lined up, I cannot contain my excitement. With the Elmwood-Murdock elementary and high School students getting involved, this will be an exhibit you will have to see!

"IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!"

Crank the Christmas music and let the fake snow fly!!! My husband has a strict rule to observe Thanksgiving and bans Christmas music until its over. But bright and early Friday morning, you can bet the girls have the music blaring, the fall decorations packed up and its full on Christmas time. The mood is just lighter, smiles are brighter and no matter the age, the excitement for that special morning hangs thick in the air. I love it! But even with all my enthusiasm, noone quite paints a Christmas picture quite like Mrs. Aldrich.

But, why?! Although over 100 years old, her Christmas stories still ring true for the modern reader. Having just finished "Journey into Christmas," and ready to forego presents all together and just get the kids and make cookies, string popcorn, and sing carols, the "magic" of Mrs. Aldrich's writings has taken control of my entire outlook on this blessed holiday.

Her take on Christmas, told through her short stories and novels, paints a picture of the “way it’s supposed to be” that my plebian words cannot do justice. The simplicity of the occasion as celebrated through her characters, and the true sincerity of giving that is lost in modern gifting, sparks a deep desire to find a way to give that experience to my children. Sure they can read the books eventually, but I don’t want that true joy of the holiday to wait and be tarnished by all the modern-day interpretations of presents, parties, and even the meaning of the holiday as a whole.

Mrs. Aldrich’s tales of Christmas just ooze of charity, unity, and love; emotions that are increasingly easy to forget as we become overcome with all the other “stuff” of the holiday. Yet, parents and grandparents still yearn for their children to exhibit these characteristics as they prepare to get AND GIVE Christmas cheer this year. How sad is the image of children thinking only of the store bought, silly things to be soon forgotten, or the thought of leaving ALL the gifting to mom? We want them to think and feel about Christmas the way Mrs. Aldrich wrote about it: innocent, soulful, and truly magical!

I know I am preaching to the choir when I talk about simplifying Christmas, and doing things the old-fashioned way.

Therefore, this year maybe we try a different tactic: do it the Aldrich way! Let’s make a few more gifts, cut back on the trips to the mall (or Amazon orders), bake more cookies, sing more carols, and (if you are really committed) read a few Aldrich short stories to all those special children in your life and share the dream of the most simple, and memorable Christmas ever!



Thank you for following me this year and welcoming all of us into the Aldrich family.

Saylee (10), Adalie (4), Manx (1)

From my family to yours,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



With a year full of new people and fabulous events coming to a close, The Aldrich Foundation Board would like to wish you a **Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!**

We can't wait for you to see what we have planned in 2024!

Pictured Board Members: Cyndi Dwyer, Jolene McLaughlin, Mary Johnson, Rob Clements, Brenda Vogt, Barb Oehlerking, Kurk Shrader, Nina Landwehr, Steph Mauck

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

VINYL STICKERS YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE!! SHARE YOUR INTERESTS IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!



\$2



THIS COULD BE YOU!!

(WELL YOUR KIDS OR GRANDKIDS).



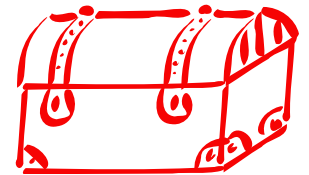
Pictures are available at the Aldrich House, as well as online, so Mrs. Aldrich can always be at your fingertips. Snap a pic of your favorite kids with Mrs. Aldrich on an adventure, send it to us, and we will share on FB and enter them into a contest to win a free book!! Our last winner, Hudson Vogt, received a copy of our 4th Grade rendition of Juno's Swans!

See our link:

<https://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/field-trips>

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