

# Bess Streeter Aldrich House & Museum

I have experienced it a thousand times since I moved to Elmwood—the warm-hearted hospitality, loyal friendship and deep sympathy of the small town. And it is these characteristics and others of the better features of a small town and its people that I have tried to stress in my short stories and books.



—*Why I Live in a Small Town*, LADIES HOME JOURNAL, 1933

## What Can I Expect on My Tour?

A knowledgeable guide will take you on a tour through the Aldrich House (a 1922 Prairie Mansion) where you will learn about the author and her writings, the history of the home, and what life was like when Mrs. Aldrich lived there (1922-1946). You'll see many original furniture pieces and interesting Aldrich memorabilia.

The Museum, located about 4 blocks from the house at 124 West D, contains Aldrich memorabilia including letters written by the author, souvenirs from her movie, *Cheers for Miss Bishop*, family history pieces, and an original *A Lantern in Her Hand* manuscript. An 18-minute video about Mrs. Aldrich is available for viewing. The Museum is handicap-accessible. The Aldrich House is walker-accessible on the first floor, and a video of the upstairs can be shown to those who can't navigate stairs.

The gift shop at the Aldrich House offers a nice variety of souvenirs and books. During seasonable weather, you may enjoy the outdoor space, which includes flower gardens named after Mrs. Aldrich's books, a wedding pergola, and over 20 tree varieties. It is also a lovely spot for catered lunches, teas, and/or programs with our character actress. The Bess Streeter Aldrich Park, which is directly across the street, has an extraordinary playground, public restrooms, bus parking, and access to the MoPac biking/walking trail. The guides can give you directions to the Elmwood Cemetery where Mrs. Aldrich is buried. Finally, a walking tour of Elmwood is available and features the five homes where the Aldrich family lived, the bank purchased by the Aldriches, and the Aldrich mural.

## Let Mrs. Aldrich Be Your Group's Tour Guide



**What is a Character Tour?** During a character tour, an actress portrays Mrs. Aldrich showing you around her home. This tour is available by appointment.

### Meet Donna Durette and Billie Lefholtz (Mrs. Aldrich)

Donna is a retired teacher, Lutheran minister, and hospital chaplain. She enjoys reading Mrs. Aldrich's stories and researching her life and literary influences. Billie is retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and enjoys reading, quilting, and the outdoors.



**Cost:** Regular Tours, \$5; Tours with Mrs. Aldrich, \$8

### Reservations:

To make an appointment for a group tour, contact Kurk Shrader, Executive Director, at 402-867-4233 or at [kurkshrader@gmail.com](mailto:kurkshrader@gmail.com).

