

Spring Newsletter

Message from the Director



It's a special year for the Bess Streeter Aldrich House. One of the most exciting milestones is the fact that Mrs. Aldrich's first book, Mother Mason, is celebrating its 100th birthday! Granted, many of the stories in the book were printed in magazines earlier; however, the complete compilation wasn't published until 1924.



Last fall, we discovered how much Mrs. Aldrich was influenced by poetry. She wrote poetry, had several family members write poetry, and even used lines from poems as the titles of four of her books. Based on this research which was conducted by Aldrich enthusiast Jolene McLaughlin, the Aldrich Foundation offered its first poetry contest that shared the same submission deadline with the Aldrich Foundation Short Story Contest, April 15. The Syracuse Library Foundation provided funds for prize money, and our winners will be recognized at our Summer Social on June 9.

Once we recognized that Mrs. Aldrich enjoyed poetry, it shouldn't surprise us to see how many times it is actually incorporated in her writing. You won't get very far into Mother Mason to come across a humorous little ditty in "Mother's Dash for Liberty," where Marcia recites her poem with light teasing of mother's dentures: "My crockery! My crockery!" As you continue to read Aldrich, I encourage you to watch how many times poetry plays a role. If you don't have a copy of Mother Mason, let me know. As our featured book of 2024, there is a \$5 discount. Happy Reading!!—Kurk Shrader, Director

Our Summer Social

The tradition continues. The Aldrich Foundation will host its Summer Social, on Sunday, June 9. Guests can visit the Aldrich House which will be hosting Mother Nature's Quilt Show, the Short Story and Poetry Contest winners will be announced, and Dan Holtz will present his program entitled "Heroism on the Plains: Story & Song of Courage and Determination from Improbable People and Places." This is a free event.

"In this program, Dan, accompanying himself on guitar and harmonica, celebrates and commemorates people, places, and events in Nebraska history through original songs and the stories and background behind them. The songs' subjects range from an African-American, born a slave, who came to have the largest landholding in early-day Nebraska; to legendary sod house photographer Solomon Butcher; to a tribute to Susan LaFlesche Picotte, the first Native American woman to become a medical doctor; to a tribute to the self-sacrificing women who ran the North Platte Canteen during World War II; to a remembrance of Caroline Joy French Morton of Arbor Lodge; to a tribute to Evelyn Sharp, Nebraska's pioneer aviatrix; and more."



Schedule of Events

- 1:00-2:00 Mother Nature's Quilt Show 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 & Poetry Awards
- Dan Holtz, "Heroism on the Plains"
- 3:30-4:00 Refreshments, Tours Continued



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

Poetry in Motion Exhibit

Until May 19, you have the opportunity to visit a unique exhibit at the Aldrich House. Guests of all ages will enjoy “Poetry in Motion” where the rooms have been decorated around poems and their related themes. The living room highlights poems written by Mrs. Aldrich and her family members. The experience has been enhanced with QR codes. Thanks to a grant from the Syracuse Library Foundation, each room has a QR code that guests can scan and hear the poems read by retired speech teacher Marla Teegerstrom. Likewise, English teacher Kim Zach identified the elements of poetry of the poems making the exhibit truly educational. Note: a compilation of Mrs. Aldrich and her family members’ poems is available for purchase for \$10.

By the Wharf
By Margaret Dean Stevens
(Pen Name of Bess Streeter Aldrich Used until 1918)

Down by the wharf in the cool of the evening
With the breeze coming in from the sea
And the waves gurgling up 'gainst the gray of the timbers,
Thoughts, low and sweet, like a song one remembers
Sung in the far away past, come to me.

Thoughts of home, thoughts of friends, of long-ago evenings,
Familiar old pastures, green meadows and hills
With the sheep lying still in the moonlight, and over
The night wind a bird's call, the smell of the clover
Is borne sweetly soothing, as memory wills.

Down by the wharf in the cool of the evening
I sit all alone, while the breeze from the sea
Blows the fishing smacks home with their sails all flowing
And pictures of you with white thoughts all glowing
With tenderest love, from the dim past to me.

Free Admission Opportunity in 2024

Anyone who visits an exhibit at the Aldrich House during 2024 will be provided a free pass to attend Journey Into Christmas from November 30 to December 22. 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 and the American Legion Post #247 could not be more proud of the progress being made with the Elmwood Cultural Arts & Learning Center. With funding from Keith Swarts and Jayme Nekuda, we have been able to have a website developed that highlights renovation progress, upcoming workshops, and quarterly programs. This website can be accessed at elmwoodculturalarts.org. I encourage you to check it out!

Exhibits...Exhibits...Exhibits

The Aldrich Foundation has been decorating the Aldrich House with a different theme every quarter. Here are the themes for 2024. You can learn more about them at bessstreeteraldrich.org.

- Poetry in Motion Exhibit, until May 19
- Mother Nature’s Quilt Show , May 22 to August 25
- Kindred Spirit Exhibit, August 28 to November 17
- Journey Into Christmas, November 30 to December 22



State Poet Matt Mason at Opening of Poetry in Motion Exhibit

Mother Nature's Quilt Show

Mother Nature's Quilt Show
 Bess Streeter Aldrich House
 204 East F Street
 Elmwood, NE 68349
 Quilts from Eight Quilt Guilds; May 22 to August 25; \$5 Admission
 Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.



Funded in Part by Cass County Tourism, visitcasscounty.com

Nebraska Quilt Guilds have been invited to participate in a quilt show this summer at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House, May 22 to August 25. Eight guilds have agreed, and the Aldrich House will be transformed with quilts that honor Mother Nature. Guests can expect to see quilts and a collection of needlework items that focus on quilts that portray flora, fauna, and elements of weather. We anticipate having related monthly programs as well. Stay tuned to Facebook to learn about these opportunities. One example includes a Tattling Demonstration by Sondra Buell on July 18 at 2 p.m.

Kids' Writing Camp

This summer the Kids' Writing Camp will be held at the Aldrich House from June 10 to 12 (12:30 to 3:30). Children, grades 3 to 6, are invited to participate (\$40). We thank Carae Oehlerking for agreeing to teach this class again this year.

Aldrich
Writing Camp
 2024



Do you like to write? What better place to get inspired than at the home of famous Nebraska Author Bess Streeter Aldrich. A grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has enabled the Aldrich Foundation to develop writing curriculum that will help kids have fun while learning to be better writers. Come see what it's all about!



Where: Bess Streeter Aldrich House/Gardens
 204 East F Street, P.O. Box 167,
 Elmwood, NE

When: June 10th to 13th
 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Who: Children, Grades 3 to 6 in the 2023-24 school year
 Spaces are limited and must be paid in full to secure spot

Cost: \$40/Student (Materials/Snacks Provided)
 \$80 for both the Art and Writing Camp (\$10 discount)

RSVP: Mail (see above) payments or Venmo @bitsandpieces
 Send forms (bessstreeteraldrich.org) to Stephanie Mauck
 Aldrichfoundationin.steph@gmail.com
 719-349-0466



Scan for Form

SUMMER ART CAMP
 With Linda Trundle

Using the Aldrich home and gardens as inspiration, campers will study fine art techniques, with an emphasis on fibers, to apply to daily projects. All skill levels are welcome. Spaces are limited, and must be paid in full to be guaranteed. Cost is \$50 and includes supplies and snacks.
 * Tuition for both Art and Writing camp is \$80 (\$10 discount).

When: July 8th-11th
 Grades 2nd-4th: 9:00-11:30
 Grades 5-6th: 1:00-3:30

* Campers with scheduling conflicts may enroll in either session, with the understanding that each session is designed for, and predominately occupied by, students of the listed age.

Where: Aldrich House
 204 East F St
 P.O. Box 167, Elmwood, NE

Who: Any student in grades 2nd-6th for the 2023-24 school year



Scan for Form

Forms found at: bessstreeteraldrich.org or QR Code
 Return forms to Stephanie Mauck
aldrichfoundation.steph@gmail.com
 Cell: 719-349-0466
 Payments can be mailed (see above) or Venmo: [Kurk Shrader@bitsandpieces](mailto:KurkShrader@bitsandpieces)

Kids' Art Camp, Two Sections

Back by popular demand, the Bess Streeter Aldrich House will once again be offering art camp for students grades 2 to 6. In fact, we will be offering two camps during the week of July 8-11. The morning session will be geared toward younger students and is scheduled from 9 a.m to 11:30. The afternoon session will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Linda Trundle has agreed to teach the class and will focus on fiber art this year (weaving, macrame, and quilting). 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 \$50. Note: If a child enrolls in both the writing camp and the art camp, there is a discount with the cost being reduced to \$80.

Wander Nebraska

The Aldrich House will be one of the featured sites by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation in its Wander Nebraska program. It is a program designed for lovers of travel and history. Have fun exploring right here in Nebraska! Start your adventure at wandernebraska.com.

The camps have been partially funded by the Berneice M. Hopper Foundation and the Syracuse Library Foundation.

Snippets & Tidbits about Mrs. Aldrich by Aldrich Enthusiast and Character Actress Jolene McLaughlin


In an interview Mrs. Aldrich was asked, "What is your favorite reading?" She replied, "Oh, many types. I have always loved Shakespeare, Kipley, Dickens, Barrie and many moderns. Then I guess I take after my grandfather, as an omnivorous reader of political news and current events. And I am deeply fond of poetry and biographies. I read very little fiction. I suppose, for the same reason that a candy manufacturer doesn't eat candy."

Mrs. Aldrich exhibited her love of poetry by penning quite a few herself and also collecting thousands of poems. Poetry was highly valued in the Streeter and Aldrich families. Her mother, Mary Streeter, composed over 80 poems handwritten in a book she dedicated to her children. Her sister, Anna Streeter Wood, started writing poetry in her 50s and authored over 1,000 poems. At least two other siblings and her daughter, Mary, also created several poems.

Save the Date

"Lantern in Her Hand" is the Elmwood Public Library Book Club's chosen book for June. Mrs. Aldrich has graciously invited all who are interested to her home to discuss the book and ask her questions regarding it. Please plan to attend on Monday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m. at "The Elms," 204 East F St, Elmwood. You may pick up copies of the book at the library starting the last week in May. If you don't have time to read, come anyway and get the inside story of the book from the author herself. There is no admission fee for this event. Note: Mrs. Aldrich will be portrayed by Nebraska Humanities Speaker Jolene McLaughlin.

Jewelry through the Eras
Program and Tea
(wear your favorite jewelry & bring two pieces to appraise)



Dyann Rupp, Lincoln, Presenters
Bess Streeter Aldrich House, 200 East F Street, Elmwood
Friday, April 26
Aldrich House Open, 1 to 2 p.m.
Program & Tea, \$15
Program, 2 p.m., Elmwood Christian Church
Tea to Follow, Served by the CWF Women
Reservation Due April 19, Contact Kurk Shrader
Email: kurkshrader@gmail.com or Call 402-867-4233

Tea Anyone?

Make your reservations for the Aldrich Tea which will be held on Friday, April 26. Visit the Aldrich House from 1 to 2 to see the exhibit and then come to the Christian Church next door by 2 to enjoy the program entitled "Jewelry through the Eras" by Dyann Rupp of Lincoln. Wear or bring a couple of pieces of jewelry for Dyann to review. The cost is \$15 and includes the Aldrich House Tour, program, and delicious tea served by the Elmwood Christian Church CWF women.

Plant Exchange

For the third consecutive year, the Aldrich House will host a plant exchange.

This is your opportunity to

thin your own garden while incorporating some of the plants from the Aldrich House. The event will be at the Aldrich House on Saturday, May 4. People who bring ten plants can take home five for free (9 to 9:30), and others can select plants from 9:30 to 12 noon with a suggested donation of \$2/plant.

**Spring Come on Forever
Plant Exchange**

Saturday, May 4

9—10	Bring Ten Plants, Take Home Five, No Charge
9:30—12	Open to Those Who Don't Bring Plants
	Suggested Donation \$2/plant
	Refreshments Available (Coffee & Baked Goods)
9 to 12	Tours Available, Poetry in Motion Exhibit, \$5 adults; \$3 children

Journey Into Christmas

The tradition continues; every room in the Aldrich House will be decorated for Christmas; and like Mother Mason, its intention is to honor mothers: stories from Mother Mason, Mother Nature, Mother Goose, Madonnas, etc. Come see how our decorators incorporate this theme. The dates for tours include November 30, December 1, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, or by appointment. Remember if you visit the Aldrich House during 2024, you will receive a free pass for Journey Into Christmas.

Are You an Aldrich Foundation Member?

If you are unsure of your membership status, check the mailing label or go to the “Membership” link (then “current members link”) under BSA Foundation at bessstreeteraldrich.org. It was last updated on April 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, 2024

PO Box 167, 204 East F Street
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; Letters from the Elms; or Madonna of the Purple Dots.

_____ 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; Letters from the Elms; or Madonna of the Purple Dots.

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.)

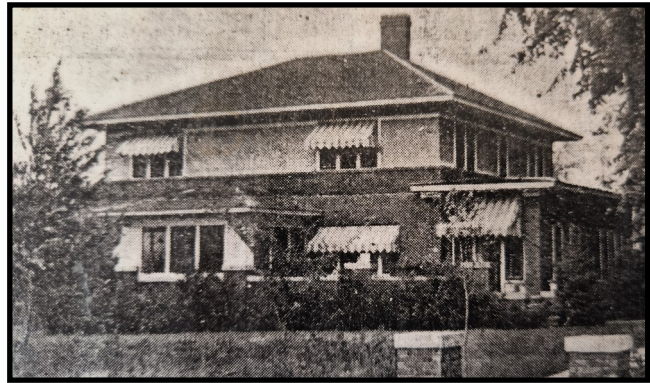
Comments:

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

**2024 Schedule
of Events/Exhibits**


Until May 19	Poetry in Motion Exhibit
April 15	Short Story & Poetry Entries Due
April 26	“Jewelry through the Decades” Tea and Jewelry Appraisal
May 4	Plant Exchange
May 22 to Aug 25	Mother Nature’s Quilt Show
June 9	Summer Social, Awards Program “Heroism on the Plains,” Dan Holtz Humanities Nebraska
June 10-13	Aldrich Writing Camp
July 8 to 11	Aldrich Art Camp
July 18	Tatting Demonstration, 2 p.m.
July 25	Pie Ride, Bess Streeter Aldrich Park
Aug. 28-Nov. 17	Kindred Spirit Exhibit
Nov. 30-Dec. 22	Journey Into Christmas
Additional Speakers and Educational Workshops Dates to Be Determined	

New Awnings!



The Forget-Me-Nots Questers Chapter, Omaha, has once again reached out to help the Aldrich House be period authentic. This picture was published in a 1942 World Herald article. What do you notice that is different? That’s correct: awnings. The Questers were successfully awarded grant dollars for about half of the cost, and the awnings will be installed in May. The Aldrich Foundation will be responsible for raising about \$3,000. If you would like to help with this project, let the director know.

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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