



Thanks for the Memories  
and Happy 99th Birthday,  
Anne Guisewite!

From Your  
Lifelong Friend,  
Mollie Alstott



### Tremont History Project Remembers Mollie Alstott



Our dear friend and original Tremont History Project member, Mollie Alstott, has recently passed away at the age of 99 years. Born Mollie Barber in 1921, Mollie and her younger sister, Irene (photographed together for first communion and in traditional Ukrainian attire), grew up in the Tremont community of the 1920's and 1930's, referring to the neighborhood at that time as "like a little village." Arriving in the United States in 1912, Mollie's parents were immigrants from the Ukraine/Poland border region of Eastern Europe, and the family identified with the Ukrainian community of Tremont. Her family belonged to Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was a center of cultural life for much of Tremont's Ukrainian immigrant community. Mollie's family lived in the apartment unit at the rear and upstairs of the family's grocery store on Professor Street, which is now Edison's Pub (see image). Mollie and her younger sister Irene were inseparable throughout their childhood, and both attended Tremont School and then graduated from Lincoln High School. Mollie enjoyed sharing memories of growing up in Tremont in the 20's and 30's, including of the many family-owned businesses along Professor Street, the incredible multiculturalism of the community, ice skating behind the Lincoln Park Baths building, seeing movies at the local Jennings Theatre, and taking the W.14th Street streetcar over the Central Viaduct bridge into downtown for special occasions.



Mollie attended Kent State University to become a teacher, where she met her husband Louis Alstott. He joined the Navy to serve as a pilot during World War II, and the two were married during the War while he was on leave in 1943. After the war, Louie became a career pilot with the Air Force, and the two lived at/near his stationed military bases in numerous locations both domestic and overseas until he retired from the service in 1966. Mollie and Louie returned to Cleveland in 1966, settling in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, and Mollie became a teacher for Parma City Schools. Mollie and Louie, in both service life and as civilians, travelled the world together with extensive journeys to far away places, with particular interest in Asian cultures and histories.



Mollie served as a volunteer docent with the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and member/officer of the Zoo Society for over 25 years, where she enthusiastically worked to support the Zoo's positive growth and excellence. Through the Metroparks, and Canalway Center, Mollie became a volunteer history guide providing walking tours of the Tremont area, and also joined the Old Brooklyn Historical Society. Molly then joined as a community volunteer an effort launched in 2002 to collect oral

histories of Tremont led by TWDC's Walter Wright in partnership with CSU's History Department, Ohio Canal Corridor, and the Jefferson Library—simply referred to as 'The Tremont History Project'. This initiative would later evolve into the community historical group which continues to this day, and Mollie's passion for researching and sharing the history of the Tremont community would continue for nearly twenty years, still a valued member of THP until her passing.

Mollie's affection for the "little village" that she fondly remembered as her childhood home, her cultural appreciation and curiosity, her enthusiasm for learning, and her devoted spirit of civic engagement have contributed significantly to the success of Tremont History Project's mission of researching, sharing and celebrating the history of our community. Mollie was also renown for her warm, gentle, and sincere presence, and kind and thoughtful friendship. Mollie greatly valued her friendship with childhood friend, Ann Guisewite: both were born in 1921 and attended school together in Tremont, and both then attended college together at Kent State and have remained close longtime friends despite Ann living out of state. Prior to her passing, Mollie was hoping to post an ad to Ann celebrating their lifelong friendship in this edition of the newsletter (see image above). Mollie's friendship was truly priceless and she will be greatly missed by many.