

# MOLLI InSights



Osher Lifelong  
Learning Institute  
at the  
University of Montana



January 2021



## Do svidaniya Until We Meet Again

On Monday, December 14, 2020 MOLLI released the first issue of its Newsletter. With a desire to feature up-close pieces on members and – occasionally – professors, it seemed natural and fitting to focus on Robert Greene. He taught often for MOLLI and to rave reviews.

Robert was interviewed for MOLLI InSights in September – it was the very first thing we did to begin assembling items we thought would be of interest. Like so many across Missoula and around the country, we were shocked and disheartened to hear that on Friday, December 18 Robert had passed away. We could not let this sad event pass without a comment on Robert – as a member of the MOLLI and UM community, and as the deeply admired person that he was.

We need not repeat all of the basic facts. Many members know that Robert was battling cancer and it is

no exaggeration to say that we lost him, at age 45, far too early. His colleagues in the History Department have collected wonderful information on Robert, including a slide show spanning his life, and notes from students young and old. <http://hs.umt.edu/history/people/inmemoriam.php>

One of the things that was so characteristic of Robert was his way of speaking. One of his students on the above-mentioned web page does a fine job of documenting his wry humor. It seems also worth noting that as much as almost anyone I have known, Robert always spoke in complete, intricately crafted sentences – even in banter about sports and politics. Such easy linguistic talent speaks to the quality of his mind. He was ferociously intellectual. However, at the same time, he was always kind hearted: fatherly toward all his students, a great pal to his faculty colleagues, and devoted to his wife and family.

As Chair of History, he did a magnificent job. He was never bombastic. Always clear-eyed about challenges and happy to do his part – rather than simply twist arms. Robert was and remains a compelling example of living a “humanistic” life. Fascinated by the pathos and humor of our lives, he could easily spin valuable and entertaining stories – as any MOLLI member who was lucky enough to sit in on a Robert Greene course will tell you. Explorers of the human brain have pointed out that remembering an episode from your life is essentially to re-experience it. So please remember Robert often, smile at his jokes you recall, and raise a glass to his name. He would be pleased if it was a Manhattan (made with Rye, of course).



by Chris Comer

### CONTENT

Robert Greene Tribute	P1
Book/Study Groups	P2
MOLLI Committees	P2
MOLLI Short Read	P3
Important Dates	P3
Member Corner	P4
MOLLI Information	P4

Check us out online or on social media.

[umt.edu/molli](http://umt.edu/molli)

# NEW MOLLI OPPORTUNITY

## Course Book/Study Groups

As we have learned, MOLLI classes are important to its members not just for the course content, but for the opportunities they have provided to connect with one another both in and outside of the classroom. Such opportunities have necessarily been limited as we have turned to Zoom to deliver courses. However, we do not want to lose opportunities to connect with one another. To this end, we will create online Book and Discussion Groups for some of the classes offered in the winter and spring terms.

Some instructors have identified a short and readable book that relates to their course content. A book discussion could be organized around that selection. Some instructors may also post “big” questions that might serve as the focus of a discussion group. This is a way for you to connect with other students in your class over Zoom to discuss topics, questions, or books that relate to your course.

If you have not signed up for the Book and Discussion Group for your winter course, you may use the links in the next column to signup for the specific course group. You may view the discussion topics and/or book for your group by going to the ShareFile folder for your course and clicking on the folder titled “Book Club/Discussion Group.” Joining a group is a way for you to connect with other students in your class over Zoom to discuss topics, questions, or books that relate to your course. If you have any questions, please send them to the MOLLI office, who will then forward them to the Member Engagement Committee.

### MONDAYS:

- [A Field Guide to Chemistry](#)
- [Online Privacy and Security](#)
- [From Occupation to Unification: Exploring Germany’s Momentous Transformation](#)

### TUESDAYS:

- [Richard Feynman’s Lectures: A Curious Character Teaches Physics](#)
- [Waltzing with Bears](#)
- [Book as Technology](#)
- [Introduction to Memoir Writing](#)

### WEDNESDAYS:

- [The Past and Future of Spacetime](#)
- [The Writings of Louisa May Alcott](#)
- [Lights, Camera, Copy](#)

### THURSDAYS:

- [U.S. News Media & the Challenge of Diversity](#)
- [Shakespeare: Tragedy Meets Comedy](#)
- [Personal Writing in the Time of “The Great Pause”](#)
- [Drawing](#)

### FRIDAYS:

- [Humanitarian Aid in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)

### SATURDAYS:

- [Great American Trials IV](#)

## MOLLI Committees

### Executive Committee

Kathy Bartlett  
Tom Storch  
William Lawrence  
Brian Derry  
Lexie Evans  
William Towle  
Timothy Nichols  
Karen Hendrickson

### Finance & Development

Tom Storch, Chair  
David Andrews  
Kathy Bartlett  
Tom Boone  
Ruth Reineking  
William Towle  
Timothy Nichols  
Karen Hendrickson

### Member Engagement

William Lawrence, Chair  
Chris Comer  
Lexie Evans  
Kerry Foresman  
Margaret Johnson  
Kat Lui  
Scott McNall  
Karen Hendrickson

### Program

Brian Derry, Chair  
Ann Boone  
Richard Dailey  
Royce Engstrom  
Kate Jackson  
Peggy Kuhr  
Paul Lauren  
Audrey Peterson  
Elizabeth Reinhardt  
William Towle  
Lois Welch  
Linda Woodbridge

### Special Events & Interest

Lexie Evans, Chair  
Gary Fee  
Carole Jensen  
Ruth Reineking  
Tobin Shearer  
Zita Stumhofer  
Karen Hendrickson

## Important Dates

**January 22, 2021**

Special Member Event - Predicting and Understanding Pandemics

**February 1, 2021**

Special Member Event - The Fire of Frederick Douglass

**February 10, 2021**

Special Member Event - Contemporary Native Art at MAM

**February 23, 2021**

Special Member Event - Mining Columbia Gardens: Butte, MT 1884 - 1973

**March 5, 2021**

Special Member Event - History of Games

**March 8, 2021**

Spring/Summer Enrollment Begins

**March 15, 2021**

Partner MSU OLLI Special Member Event - Through the Camera Lens: Managing Wildfires from 10,000 Feet in the Air

**March 18, 2021**

Special Member Event - Memory Across the Adult Lifespan

**March 22, 2021**

Spring/Summer Allocation

**March 23, 2021**

Spring/Summer Late Registration Opens

**March 23, 2021**

Special Intergenerational Project Begins - Oral History: Intergenerational Interviews on COVID-19

**April 2, 2021**

Special Member Event - Hamilton: How the Musical Remixes American History

**April 5, 2021**

Spring Courses Begin

**MOLLI members, do you have a short writing or poem you would like included in MOLLInSights? Send it to: molli@umontana.edu**

## MOLLI "Short Read"

### Excerpt from the Essay: Underqualified and Unenthusiastic

By Donna Arganbright

I didn't want to be a truck driver. Looking at me, with my skirts, weak arms, and propensity for baking pumpkin pie, you'd never think I belong on a Freightliner Cascadia, and honestly neither would I. Yet, by the grace of nepotism, my three siblings and I were all plopped into the seat of a truck or combine around the age of eleven. The passenger seat, of course. We didn't start driving until about fourteen when any child is old enough to operate heavy machinery. However, I have no clue what I'm doing.

On my first day driving, I was given a brief overview of the various parts of the truck. However, the main consensus was "It's just like a car, you'll be fine! Just make wide turns." All I was told about the braking system was that the parking brake was on the dash, the yellow and red buttons controlling it. I made it to the Carter elevator to dump the wheat just fine, using only the foot pedal brake I was used to.

While I was dumping I knew I would have to turn on the parking brake, so I looked at the red and yellow buttons on the dash. The red one said trailer air supply, and the yellow said parking brake. I pulled out to yellow one, figuring that would keep the truck in position while I was dumping. What I didn't realize is, when the parking brake is pulled, the trailer brake pops

up automatically. When I went to leave, I pressed the yellow button back into the dash, not realizing anything had happened to the red. I tried to pull forward, but it was nearly impossible. It was hard to get started in the field though too, it must just be hard to get such a big vehicle moving. So, I persevered. I stepped on the gas and haltingly managed to make my way the fifteen yards to the scale, finally realizing what had happened. Before I left the scale, I pushed the red button back down. I drove back to the field, hoping that nobody would notice the skid marks.

It didn't take long sitting in the field before the grain cart pulled over next to me. My brother got out and climbed up into my passenger seat.

"What the hell happened to your tires?" he asked. I knew exactly what had happened to my tires.

"I don't know," I said, "Is there something wrong with them?"

"Hell yeah there is, you scraped off all the rubber in patches. I can see down to the steel bands in 'em."

"Shit." I didn't know it was that bad, I couldn't play it off. "I accidentally left the trailer brake on, just from the pit to the scale though and then I realized!"

My brother shook his head. "Well, you can't drive it like this. You gotta be the one to tell Dad."

Donna Arganbright is a junior at the University of Montana, studying creative writing and English education. She grew up on a small grain farm outside of Fort Benton, Montana. Besides writing, she enjoys sewing, sitcoms, and the color lavender. She believes a person's coffee order says a lot about them, and hers is a quad americano with a little bit of honey and a lot of cream.

Copyright for this work belongs to Donna Arganbright.



**Gladys Considine**

## **A Story to Tell**

Gladys Considine will tell you right up front that she likes to talk, but once she begins you will lose track of time. Her professional experience has been intimately connected with support for people’s attempts to age well. She has worked at the national level where she literally travelled across the country for much of the year helping people to understand how to get the most out of Social Security and Medicare and targeting the issues facing older women whenever possible. So how did Gladys find herself in such a position and eventually land in Missoula?

The full story is too interesting to reveal here in its entirety, but it figures in a book she has written and that is currently being considered for publication. Challenging events in her life drive the story. She grew up in Southeast Montana on a sheep farm in Powder River County. When her two older sisters had left home, Gladys was on her own to finish school in the hamlet of Broadus (population about 450). When her father died unexpectedly she found out that the legal system of the 1950s required her to have a guardian appointed – her practically minded mom who could manage the ranch did not count. This drew the ire of both Gladys and her mom and they worked hard to get through several legal proceedings before convincing a judge that her mother was not only the obvious person to be responsible for her but also eminently suited to running the ranch and raising a capable and independent minded daughter (the details are part of her book).

After completing high school in Broadus, Gladys earned a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics (MSU) she taught for a while in Belgrade and then moved to Seattle with her husband Barney where he worked for Boeing and she raised their children and worked in community organizations. Once the children were grown, she and Barney headed east where she earned a Master’s degree in social gerontology – this is when she began travelling widely working on issues for aging folks. The decision to finally settle in Missoula was strategic – we are about halfway between Boadus where many cousins and other relatives lived and Oregon/Washington where her children now live.

Gladys acknowledges that the transition to Missoula was difficult, coming at a time when she was just retired and the usual school and work pathways for making friends did not exist. The quick association that Gladys and Barney made with MOLLI made an enormous difference. Many good friends developed and as Gladys says she “can’t participate in something without wanting to help make it work. She eventually served on the MOLLI Council and the Program Committee. Some of her favorite classes were those on writing, which led to writing groups and now, of course, there is her book. Gladys has a unique and culturally rich Montana story that will hopefully be coming to a bookstore near you soon.



by Chris Comer

# Member Corner

## *MOLLI Contact Info*

MOLLI  
Room 315, James E. Todd Building  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812  
406-243-2905  
[molli@umontana.edu](mailto:molli@umontana.edu)

## *MOLLI Staff*

Karen Hendrickson  
Program Manager

Teri Zanto  
Program Coordinator

Sierra Raulston  
Administrative Associate

## *MOLLI Council*

David Andrews  
Ann Boone  
Kathy Bartlett  
Brian Derry  
Royce Engstrom  
Lexie Evans  
Margaret Johnson  
Peggy Kuhr  
Paul Lauren  
William Lawrence  
Tobin Shearer  
Tom Storch  
William Towle  
Tim Nichols, Dean  
Davidson Honors College

## *MOLLI Committees*

Executive  
Finance and Development  
Program  
Membership Engagement  
Special Events & Interest