

2013-2014 Kitchen 8 Board Members

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>President
Norma (Decker) Hoagland
Watkins 1969-71
normahoagland@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Watkins Campus Coordinator
Beverly (Runkle) Benso
Watkins 1954-58
bevbenso@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair
Alica Thomas
Miller 1990-94
alichathomas@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Website/Facebook/Twitter Coordinator
Michelle Loewenstein
Watkins 2005-09
michelleloewenstein@kitchen8.org</p> |
| <p>Vice President
Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman
Watkins 1971-75
elizabethboman@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Miller Campus Coordinator
Judy (Johnson) Niebaum
Miller 1958-61
judyniebaum@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chairs
Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman
Watkins 1971-75
elizabethboman@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Newsletter Co-Coordinators
Sarah (Wohlraabe) Shortall
Watkins 1972-76
sarahshortall@kitchen8.org</p> |
| <p>Secretary
Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley
Miller 2003-08
paulawrigley@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chairs
Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger
Watkins 1970-74
susankissinger@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Pat (Jolly) Putnam
Watkins 1971-74
patputnam@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas
Watkins 2002-06
alizayas@kitchen8.org</p> |
| <p>Treasurer
Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Watkins 2004-09
maryemerson@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Valentine Baumann
Watkins 2003-05
valbaumann@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Mentoring Co-Coordinators
Emily Bannwarth
Miller/Rieger 2004-08
emilybannwarth@kitchen8.org</p> | <p>Newsletter Publisher
Stephanie (McDuff) Hamby
Douthart 1995-97
stephaniehamby@kitchen8.org</p> |
| <p>Historian
Laura (Draxler) Sixta
Watkins 2005-09
laurasixta@kitchen8.org</p> | | <p>Cathie (Fuller) Miller
Watkins 1970-73
cathiemiller@kitchen8.org</p> | |



3825 Stonewall Ct.
Independence, MO 64055

www.kitchen8.org

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National treasures Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls were added to the National Register of Historic Places in January.

Standing the Test of Time

The next time someone asks where you lived in college – you just tell them you lived in a Neoclassical “national landmark” with fluted Ionic columns that’s on the National Register of Historic Places. In other words, you tell them that you lived at a place that has stood the test of time.

It’s the truth. You can say all of that and more because on January 8, 2014, Watkins and Miller Halls finally earned their rightful place in history when the National Park Service (NPS) approved the Kansas Historical Society’s (KHS) recommendation to the put the Lilac Lane halls on the National Register.

Eleanor Roosevelt sipped tea here

Kitchen 8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) called Watkins and Miller the “perfect additions” to the KU Campus Historic District and the National Register. “The halls are rich with historic significance,” Norma said. “Watkins and Miller were the unique first-in-the-nation dream of Mrs. Watkins that made it possible for so many daughters of The Great Depression to get an education.

“When First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt learned how successful Mrs. Watkins’ experiment had become, she came to KU to see for herself. Other than

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Standing Up For Elizabeth

By Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Kitchen 8 Treasurer
Watkins 2006-09

Welcome to the Kitchen 8 Newsletter!

The 2014 Kitchen 8 Newsletter co-editors tapped me to write the welcome letter this year. I should have seen it coming. A couple of years ago I let it slip that I like to write letters. I’ve been a sitting duck ever since. However, I was very excited when the editors told me that this year’s theme is: **Standing the Test of Time.**

As I reflected on this year’s theme in preparation for writing this letter, the first thought that came into my head was of Elizabeth Miller Watkins, or “Lady Bountiful” as so many of us call her. As KU’s greatest benefactress, she practiced a special type of far-sighted philanthropy, borne from her heart where “my sympathy has always been with the girls who must travel uphill.” Mrs. Watkins’ very first gift to KU was Watkins Scholarship Hall, her unique first-in-the-nation experiment that turned out to be so successful

over the next decade that she built Miller Scholarship Hall 11 years later. The fact that there are 12 scholarship halls now shows that Mrs. Watkins’ experiment has stood the test of time. But personally, I like to remember that we, the women of Lilac Lane, were her very first.

But wait – there’s more

Mrs. Watkins’ successful launch of the scholarship halls system would have been enough to ensure a lasting legacy, but she didn’t stop there. Mrs. Watkins wrote shortly after husband Jabez Watkins’ death, “I have work to do for humanity . . . I wished to contribute to the welfare of the thousands of students here in the years to come.” So she donated the funds to build two hospitals, land for west campus and KU Medical Center, and almost every building on Lilac Lane – Danforth Chapel, Watkins Hall, Miller Hall, The Outlook, and Watkins Hospital. Mrs. Watkins’ contributions transformed the KU campus and also have left an indelible

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2014 K-8 Annual Meeting Weekend Schedule of Events		
Friday, April 25		
3 p.m.	Kitchen 8 Board Meeting: Open to K-8 members and Watkins/Miller residents	Watkins Community Museum 1047 Massachusetts Street
Saturday, April 26		
9 a.m.	2014 K-8 Annual Meeting: Business Meeting Report: <i>Watkins and Miller Halls—National Treasure</i> Program: <i>In Her Own Write—The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins</i>	Lawrence Country Club 400 Country Club Terrace
Noon	K-8/EMWMS Celebratory Luncheon	Lawrence Country Club
1 p.m.	2014-15 EMWMS Awards Presentation	Lawrence Country Club
3:30 p.m.	“For the Good of All: The Community Philanthropy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins”: Exhibit showing and talk for K-8 members, friends and Watkins/Miller residents.	Watkins Community Museum 1047 Massachusetts Street
Sunday, April 27		
1 p.m.	Watkins Alumnae Tea	Watkins Scholarship Hall
2 p.m.	Miller Alumnae Teas	Miller Scholarship Hall
4 p.m.	Honoring “Lady Bountiful” Laying flowers on Mrs. Watkins’ grave	Oak Hill Cemetery 1605 Oak Hill Avenue

National Treasures in Store for K-8 Meeting

By Pat (Jolly) Putnam
Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting Co-Chair
Watkins 1971-74

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman
Kitchen 8 Vice President and
Annual Meeting Co-Chair
Watkins 1971-75

“Lady Bountiful” herself will make a guest appearance to participate in “In Her Own Write: The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins,” the special program for the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting on Saturday,

April 26, at Lawrence Country Club. Lady Bountiful (Gail Trottier) will join Kitchen 8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland and Lawrence historian Mary Burchill to share, read and talk about Mrs. Watkins’ times and letters, which are stored at the Spencer Research Library (Spencer). Their program will bring to life the warmth, personality and force of Elizabeth Miller Watkins to Watkins and Miller, KU and the Lawrence community.

Norma and Mary are researching Mrs. Wat-

kins’ letters in order to write *Watkins and Miller Halls*, a book about Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her special gift for the “girls who must travel uphill.” The book is a joint-venture with Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF), a preservation group whose “goal is to ensure KU’s part is always part of its future.”

Gail Trottier, with the KU Department of Theatre, will reprise her role as Lady Bountiful for her guest appearance in the K-8 program. Many K-8 members remember Gail’s starring role in the 2011 one-act play “Elizabeth, Betsy, and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Watkins,” which debuted as part of the 2011 K-8 Annual Meeting weekend of festivities. Retired theatre professor Ron Willis, father-in-law of Watkins alumna Sheree (Welch) Willis (Watkins 1975-76), wrote the play. (You can see a clip on YouTube.)

Watkins and Miller – national treasures

In addition to Lady Bountiful, Norma and Mary sharing their insights from Mrs. Watkins’ plentiful letters, Kitchen 8 members will hear the story of how Watkins and Miller officially became national landmarks,

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Tea for Two, Scholarship Halls

Sunday, April 27

1 p.m. Watkins Scholarship Hall Tea
2 p.m. Miller Scholarship Hall Tea

Sunday afternoon, April 27 Watkins and Miller will host their annual Alumnae Teas where they treat alumnae and friends to tours of the halls, home-baked goods, special presentations and musical numbers by Watkins and Miller residents. In keeping with tradition, the programs will conclude with a combined chorus of “My Sweetheart of Lilac Lane.”

The Watkins Alumnae Tea will begin at 1 p.m., and the Alumnae Tea will start at 2 p.m. at Miller.

After the Alumnae Teas Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents will head to Oak Hill Cemetery to place flowers on Elizabeth Miller Watkins’ grave.

‘ELIZABETH’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
mark on the Lawrence community.

The past year has been an exciting celebration of and effort to preserve Mrs. Watkins’ lasting legacy. As reported on this page, on January 8 the National Park Service put Watkins and Miller, along with the other buildings in the KU East Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the best evidence of all that Mrs. Watkins and her Watkins/Miller experiment has stood and will continue to stand the test of time. K-8 members Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) and Sarah (Jackson) Martin (Miller 1998-02) were present when the Board of Review cast their historic vote and the story on this page captures their reactions.

Putting pen to paper

Kitchen 8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71), along with Lawrence historian Mary Burchill, have been working very hard this year to personally preserve Elizabeth Miller Watkins and Watkins/Miller Halls in print! Norma and Mary, working in cooperation with the Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF), have been researching the fourth book in HMOF’s series, “Biography of a Building.” Norma personally “pitched” the book idea to HMOF, convincing them to pledge 50% of the publication costs. Very quickly, Kitchen 8 members who share Norma’s desire to preserve Watkins and Miller donated the other half. You will enjoy reading Norma’s story in this issue about Mary and her efforts to compile contributions from many of the women who found a home on Lilac Lane, which made their dreams of attending KU come true.

Power of the pocketbook

On the financial pages of this issue, read about how Kitchen 8 started the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) Fund in 1998 with a few hundred dollars and how K-8 members and friends have grown the fund to over \$1.3 million. The 2013 K-8 Sugar Bowl and EMWMSF annual reports show that K-8 members and friends are steadfast and generous in their contributions to both funds. Not only did their contributions to both funds grow again last year, but for more than half the donors, 2013 was not the first time they helped Kitchen 8 stand the financial test of time. In particular, all of the 1970s Watkins/Miller alumnae who donated funds in 2013 also made donations in

2012. We can’t call those Lilac Lane women the “lost generation” any more. In addition, the steadily increasing number of “Generation Y” Watkins/Miller alumnae who are donating to the EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl portends well for the future.

The article about the record 2013-14 EMWM Scholarships celebrates Kitchen 8’s accomplishment in awarding more than \$55,000 in scholarships to a record 22 talented young women, bringing to over \$200,000 the amount of scholarship money EMWMS Fund has awarded to 109 women in Mrs. Watkins’ name. We hope you will be there at the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting on April 26 so you can see what record we break when Kitchen 8 presents the 2014-15 EMW Memorial Scholarships to help the newest group of deserving young women “travel uphill” in Lizzie’ memory. After 16 straight years of awarding scholarships, I don’t think any of the early doubters can laugh off our capacity to make wonderful things happen on Lilac Lane.

Gifts from the heart and hand

The 2014 K-8 Newsletter also shows that monetary contributions are not the only way Kitchen 8 members have lived and furthered the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins. Norma’s “President’s Pantry” celebrates the thousands of hours Kitchen 8 members put in to honor Mrs. Watkins and help the women of Lilac Lane during the past year. The long list includes:

- Making and donating all the food for the New Women Dinner,
- Hosting a birthday party to celebrate Lizzie’s birthday, complete with birthday gifts for Watkins/Miller,
- Reviewing the many EMWMS applications and selecting the 22 recipients,
- Organizing and providing a Career Day for Watkins/Miller.

Let’s not forget to mention how much Norma has given of herself to launch, research, and write the book on Watkins and Miller Halls, along with local historian Mary Burchill.

Standup members of Kitchen 8

I also think that an organization’s durability and strength are a reflection of those very same qualities in its members. Thus, it should come as no surprise that in addition to Kitchen 8’s achievements, individual members also achieved personal milestones in 2013. The K-8 Alumnae section raises

three cheers to Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48), who celebrated 63 years of marriage to husband Doug in 2013. Watkins Alumna Megan Stites (2004-08) stood the test of time and distance this past year when she ran the 2013 New York City Marathon. Her dedicated effort was multifaceted -- she demonstrated a commitment not only to training for and completing the grueling 26.2 mile race, but also to raising money for Dystonia and Parkinson’s disease research through the Bachmann-Strauss Foundation. Ali (Bannwarth) Zayas (Watkins 2002-06) provides a recap on Megan’s race.

“We have work to do for humanity”

So this April, I invite you to make it your goal to standup for Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her legacy that we all share by coming to the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting on April 26. While you are there, take a look around the room at the women who stand before you and I guarantee that you will feel a swell with pride at what we have accomplished together. And then think how you can standup to help ensure our Lady Bountiful and her successful and lasting “experiment” on Lilac Lane continues to stand the test of time and move forward into a bright future. Let Elizabeth’s words be your guide: “*I have work to do for humanity.*”

‘PRESIDENT’S PANTRY’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

My work on *Watkins and Miller Halls* continues. Mary Burchill, my co-writer, and I find it so hard to limit what we can include in the book, but we both agree that doing the research has been a joy. As I read Elizabeth’s letters and see her strength in them, I learn all over again what a truly exceptional woman she was and how fortunate we are to have her as a role model.

I can’t wait to tell you about our research at the 2014 Annual Meeting program “*In Her Own Write: The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins.*” Word on the street is that Lizzie herself will make a special appearance to participate in the program. I hope you will come to the annual meeting to learn new ways to keep speaking Lizzie’s name.

With Lilac Lane Love,
Norma (Decker) Hoagland
Kitchen 8 President
Watkins 1969-71

2014 K-8 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 26

Lawrence Country Club, 400 Country Club Terrace

- 9 a.m. Registration, coffee and greetings
9:30 a.m. K-8 Business Meeting
K-8 Board and Committee Reports
Treasurer’s Report – EMWMSF and K-8 Sugar Bowl
“State of the Halls” reports
10:30 a.m. Program by Gail Trottier, Mary Burchill, and Norma Hoagland
Noon Celebratory Luncheon
1 p.m. Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Presentations

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 19.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

To register: In addition to registering online at www.kitchen8.org, you may register for the Annual Meeting any one of the following ways:

E-mail: norma.hoagland@yahoo.com
Phone: 913-727-6446 (Norma Hoagland)
Mail: Mary Emerson, Kitchen 8 Treasurer
3620 Wyoming
Kansas City, MO 64111

Registration fee: The registration fee for the Annual Meeting is \$20. The fee includes the luncheon and morning coffee and rolls. You may send your check to Mary Emerson or pay at the Annual Meeting. Make your check payable to Kitchen 8. Please consider a donation to cover the lunch of a Watkins/Miller resident or EMWMSF recipient, who are the guests of K-8.

You may pay for the Annual Meeting in one of the following ways:

Online: Pay using PayPal on the K-8 website at www.kitchen8.org.
Mail: Send a check, payable to Kitchen 8, to Mary Emerson (see above).
In Person: Pay at the Annual Meeting.

Information: For more information or local transportation, please contact Norma Hoagland.

Directions: Take West Lawrence Exit off I-70.
Turn right onto Rockledge.
Turn right onto Country Club Terrace and drive into Country Club parking lot.



being in her kitchen. She made many friends at Watkins, eight of whom she corresponded with for many years, round-robin style.

We have chemistry

After Carolyn graduated from KU with a degree in microbiology and completed her medical technologist internship at KU Medical Center, KU hired her right away. Carolyn worked her entire professional career at KU Medical Center. One of the highlights of Carolyn's career was discovering a way to speed up the processing of blood in laboratory tests by eliminating the boiling process. The paper she published on her results led to change throughout laboratories.

In addition to working in the laboratory, Carolyn had a teaching appointment in chemistry, which she loved. According to Doris, who also worked at the KU Medical Center, Carolyn taught about 20 students a year and many of them remained in contact with Carolyn for years.

Jeannette Lang Sterrett, who graduated in 1966, recalled, "She taught me to 'love' her Chemistry Department at the KU Medical Center. She was my mentor, my long time friend, even though I moved from KC after graduating in 1966. I always kept in contact with her every year."

It's a women's world

In the 1940s when Carolyn pursued a medical technologist degree, the profession was "a women's field," Doris said. The up side was that students pursuing this profession and the women with careers in it became a very close group, a "clan," Doris said. "If you knew one medical technician you had friends all over the world," she added. This was true for Carolyn, who had close friends who lived all over the country and she enjoyed visiting them.

Today, as in nursing, more men are entering the medical technology field, which now requires a master's degree. The field of medical technology is not the only thing that has changed since Carolyn started her career in 1950. When Carolyn went to work at KU Medical Center neither she nor Doris could get a loan to purchase a house, even though they made decent money. According to Doris, not many women owned homes in the 1950s.

In 1959, they were finally able to buy a home within walking distance of KU Medical center, but only by Doris borrowing on a

life insurance policy. Home ownership eventually got easier for women a few years later. Carolyn and Doris took advantage of this and bought a weekend "get-away" home on Tanglewood Lake in LaCygne, KS.

A passion for art

When Carolyn wasn't at work, her heart turned to artistic endeavors. She was known for her beautiful handwork. Nancy said Carolyn made beautiful beaded eggs, called temari eggs, that she gave to family and friends every year. "The eggs were amazing, especially since she had such bad arthritis," Nancy said. "She even made a KU egg for me. My family really treasures them." Doris said Carolyn's friends and family couldn't wait to get their temari eggs every Easter.

Jammin'

But what family, friends and even co-workers seemed to love the most was the black raspberry jam she made for them every Christmas from wild berries growing about her lake house. "Her jelly was very treasured, so much so that we would fight over and even steal it from each other at Christmas," Nancy admitted. Nancy added that when she and her brother cleaned out their father's home after he died that they found two unopened jars of Carolyn's jam. "It was the only thing in my father's home that my brother and I fought over." Carolyn made black raspberry jam up to the summer before she died, Doris said.

Live, love, leave a legacy

But it wasn't just the jam that made Carolyn so beloved to her family and friends. "I admired my aunt greatly, she was so bright," Nancy recalled. "We were a close knit family and she was very influential in my and my children's lives. She was always so interested in my and my kid's generation. It is reassuring when more than just your parents are watching out and keeping track of you."

Virginia (Powell) Conard Miller 1945-47

Virginia (Powell) Conard, who lived in Miller at the end of WWII, died April 22, 2013, in Lawrence. She was 86.

Virginia was born to Maude Amber and James Osborn Powell at the family farm south of Olathe, KS. She was the youngest of eight children. She was valedictorian of her graduating class at Olathe High School.

While Virginia was an undergraduate living at Miller, she met John Conard, a graduate student in political science and brother of Watkins alumnae Violet "Connie" Conard (1940-44). They wed September 13, 1947, in Olathe.

April in Paris

Virginia graduated from KU in 1948. The following year Virginia and John moved to Paris, France. Virginia began work with the U.S. Foreign Service in the Marshall Plan economic recovery office. John, who was a Rotary Foundation fellow, studied at the Sorbonne. After John finished his Ph.D., he also began to work with the U.S. Foreign Service. The couple lived in Paris for five years and two of their sons, Joseph Harvey and James Powell, were born there. In 1954, the couple moved to Chevy Chase, MD, where Virginia taught at a business college in Maryland while her husband worked for the federal government.



Miller Alumna Virginia (Powell) Conard

Stop the presses

The following year, they moved to Syracuse, KS, when John became editor of the "Syracuse Journal." In 1956, Virginia and John moved to Greensburg, KS, where they purchased and operated two weekly newspapers, "The Kiowa County Signal" and "The Haviland Journal." They later purchased the "The Mullinville News." Sons Spencer and John Jr. were both born in Greensburg.

Virginia won many state and national awards for her writing. Twice she was selected as Kansas Woman Journalist of the Year. She was President of the Kansas Women Press Association and vice-president of the National Women's Press Club.

A new calling

In 1968, Virginia became active in interdenominational prayer and Bible study groups. She also conducted Conversation Prayer sessions through the Midwest. Virginia continued her interest in those organizations after she and John moved to Lawrence in 1970, where they lived until their deaths.



The President's Pantry: Speaking Lizzie's Name

Dear Kitchen 8 Sisters and Friends,
Kitchen 8 achieved many successes this past year, but 2013 also was a very difficult year for me. I lost both my beloved mother, Jennie Mae Decker, who was 99, and my lovely mother-in-law, Ruth Reed Hoagland, who looked like Heddy Lamar's twin sister in her youth and was such a character.

A great role model, and baker, too
My mother was an incredible role model. She and my father worked the family farm in Tecumseh, KS. It was hard work for not a lot of money. Mom also was a legendary cook, feeding harvest crews on the farm and baking for church events and my school friends who loved her cinnamon rolls. Mother showed her love for people by cooking for them, which likewise brings back memories of Watkins Hall.

In 2010, at the age of 96, mom won Topeka's "Grandma's American Pie Baking Contest" with her famous Coconut Cream Pie recipe. Just a couple of months before mother passed away she was the featured cook in the summer issue of the Midwest Historical and Genealogical Register.

As I have been dealing with loss of these two wonderful women, a friend offered me some comforting words. She said that, according to Jewish tradition, there is a belief that people die twice; once when they pass away and a second time when no one ever speaks their again.

Kitchen 8 speaks Lizzie's name

Thinking back on those words, it occurs to me that Elizabeth Miller Watkins will never die that second death thanks to our work together. Every time we pass along the story of her life and her efforts to help the women who "must travel uphill," every time we take

action to preserve her legacy or help the women who currently live on Lilac Lane, we ensure that generations of women will continue to speak the name of "Lizzie" Watkins. Our efforts and actions ensure that our "Lady Bountiful" lives on and that her intelligence and generosity will continue to inspire generations of young women yet to come.

In this past year, there are so many ways Kitchen 8 has spoken Lady Bountiful's name loud and clear:

- On Lizzie's 152nd birthday, Kitchen 8 responded to the requests of Watkins/Miller residents and organized a Career Day. We provided the Watkins/Miller residents with sessions ranging from resume writing to hot careers for the future to business dinner etiquette. Of course, since it also was Lizzie's birthday, Kitchen 8 also gave presents to Watkins/Miller;
- On Lizzie's 153rd birthday earlier this year, the Watkins Community Museum of History (Watkins Museum) invited Kitchen 8 to throw the birthday party at the museum to help launch their new exhibit "For the Good of All: The Community Philanthropy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins." And yes, there were lots of birthday presents for Watkins and Miller.
- Kitchen 8 loaned newly donated artifacts for the Elizabeth Miller Watkins exhibit, the first exhibit the Watkins Museum has put together on Mrs. Watkins.
- The Elizabeth Miller Watkins Scholarship (EMWMS) Selection Committee revamped the application materials so



K-8 President Norma Hoagland tells Watkins/Miller alumnae and residents about the book K-8 is writing about Elizabeth Miller Watkins and her dream to help the girls who must travel uphill.

the process is totally electronic now, in large part due to Gayle (Barry) Matchett's (Watkins 1955-57) work and faith in technology.

- The EMWMS Fund grew as K-8 members and friends donated almost \$6,000 more than the previous year.
- Kitchen 8 awarded a record 22 scholarships to deserving young women and raised the amount of each first-time award to \$4,000.
- Watkins and Miller Halls were confirmed as part of the KU East Historic District and on January 8 the entire District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- After Kitchen 8 and Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF) formed a partnership to publish *Watkins and Miller Halls*, the 4th book in a series called "Biography of a Building," and HMOF pledged 50% of the \$8,000 needed to publish the book, Kitchen 8 members donated the other half. Now we are working to an additional \$4,000 so Kitchen 8 can print enough books to give them Watkins/Miller women when they graduate.
- Kitchen 8 made dinner for the new Watkins/Miller women and passed on the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and the story of Kitchen 8.
- Earlier this month Kitchen 8 assisted Watkins Museum with putting on a tea dedicated to Elizabeth Miller Watkins for Women's History Month.

Authors, authors!

Please see 'PRESIDENT'S PANTRY', page 23

Big Agenda for 2014 Kitchen 8 Board Meeting

The Kitchen 8 Board will hold its annual meeting at 3 p.m., Friday, April 25. This year the Board meeting, which is open to all Watkins and Miller alumnae and residents, will be in the Watkins Community Museum of History meeting room, 1047 Massachusetts Street.

The agenda for the Board meeting includes:

- K-8 Board and Committee reports;

- 2013-14 K-8 Sugar Bowl report;
- 2014-15 K-8 Sugar Bowl proposed budget - review and approval;
- 2013 K-8 Board meeting minutes – consideration and approval
- EMWMSF Advisory Committee report – review and approval of Committee recommendations;
- K-8 Website;

- *Watkins and Miller Halls* book update;
- Membership development;
- K-8 product marketing.

For more information about the 2014 K-8 Board meeting, please contact K-8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) at normahoagland@kitchen8.org or 913-727-6446.

Getting to Know Lizzie In Her Own Write

For the past several months, Kitchen 8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) and Lawrence historian Mary Burchill have spent a good portion of their time at KU's Spencer Research Library (Spencer Library) getting to know Elizabeth Miller Watkins, our "Lady Bountiful," in "her own write." There they have been gathering new information about and insight into Mrs. Watkins for *Watkins and Miller Halls*, the book Norma and Mary are co-writing as part of the Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF) "Biography of a Building" series on historic KU buildings. *Watkins and Miller Halls* will be the fourth book in the series.

The new emphasis on primary historical resources, such as Mrs. Watkins's letters and original text from historical documents, was the suggestion of HMOF members Carol Shankel and Barbara Watkins, who are consultants and editors for the book. Their suggestion meant it was back to the drawing board for Norma and Mary, who already had combined their previous research and

begun writing the book last summer. However, as Norma said, she and Mary realize that starting over will make the Watkins/Miller book "more in the same format as the first three books in [HMOF's] 'Biography of a Building' series."

In hindsight, Norma now considers the suggestion to be a blessing in disguise because the new research has focused on Mrs. Watkins's letters, which have been preserved at Spencer.

Getting to know her, getting to know all about her

"Reading her letters has shined new light into Elizabeth's life," Norma said. "Reading her words of loneliness at the holidays, her firmness in the face of difficulties, and her travel way from Lawrence to escape the pressures of daily business decisions reveals that Elizabeth was a complex person of deep emotion." In particular, Norma said Mrs. Watkins's later letters talked at length about how much she missed her husband, Jabez Watkins, and her brother Frank

Miller, after they both passed away.

Norma and Mary also have been savoring Elizabeth's letters of victory and triumph. "It was wonderful to read her words of pleasure and pride in the success of her 'experiment' on Lilac Lane and how Watkins, and later Miller produced fine, motivated, successful young women," Norma emphasized.

Norma and Mary will present a special program, "In Her Own Write: The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Miller Watkins," about their research for the book at the 2014 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26.

Research "Bountiful"

Mary says their new research has garnered "enough material for another whole book on Elizabeth's life, even after we finish this one."

Mrs. Watkins' letters at Spencer Library are not the only "primary" historical documents Norma and Mary need for the book. "We need to hear from Watkins and Miller alumnae about their memories and experiences

ing registration form. The registration fee for the Annual Meeting is \$20, which includes the luncheon and morning coffee and tea. You may pay online with PayPal, send a check to (Mary Emerson) Gomez or pay at the Annual Meeting. Please make your check payable to Kitchen 8. If possible, please consider making a donation to cover lunch for a Watkins/Miller resident or EMWMSF recipient, who are the guests of K-8. Last year K-8 hosted more than 50 guests for lunch.

Kitchen 8's national treasures preserve annual meeting

Kitchen 8 Vice President Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75) and Pat (Jolly) Putnam (Watkins 1971-74) are Kitchen 8's "national treasures" for co-chairing the K-8 Annual Meeting Committee for a third time. Joining them on the committee are Norma and Bev (Runkle) Benso (Watkins 1954-58).

For more information about the 2014 K-8 Annual Meeting and 2014-15 EMWM Scholarship presentation, please contact Norma at 913-727-6446 or norma.hoagland@kitchen8.org.

'MEETING' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

or national treasures as we like to say, on the National Register of Historic Places this year. The report, "Watkins and Miller Halls - National Treasures," will detail the process from start to successful completion.

The K-8 Annual Meeting will start at 9 a.m., with registration and greetings over coffee and tea. At 9:30 a.m., Norma will open the meeting and K-8 Board members and committee chairs will report on Kitchen 8's projects and accomplishments during the past year. K-8 Treasurer Mary (Emerson) Gomez (Watkins 2004-09) will give the financial reports on the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) and K-8 Sugar Bowl Funds. Next, Watkins and Miller officers will present their "State of the Halls." The special program will follow.

At the conclusion of the programs, Watkins and Miller residents and the 2014-15 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) recipients will be Kitchen 8's guests for a celebratory luncheon with K-8 members, friends and invited guests.

Traveling uphill just got a little easier

After the luncheon, the annual meeting will conclude on a high note with the EMWMS Selection Committee presenting the 2014-15 scholarship awards to the new recipients. Come to the annual meeting and see if Kitchen 8, as predicted, sets another new record for the number and amount of scholarships presented to deserving women.

For the good (time) of all

After the annual meeting adjourns, the Watkins Community Museum of History invites everyone to the museum for a special 3:30 p.m. showing of the exhibit "For the Good of All: The Community Philanthropy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins." It is the first exhibit the Watkins Museum has done on Mrs. Watkins. Watkins Museum and exhibit curator, Ms. Brittany Keegan, will present the exhibit talk for Kitchen 8. The museum opened the exhibit on Mrs. Watkins' 153rd birthday in January and it closes after the special showing for Kitchen 8.

We request that you register by April 11, if possible. You may register by e-mail, telephone or mail. See directions on the meet-

guided Dodie to scholarships, such as the Miller Scholarship Hall Award. Apparently, the principal also arranged for Dodie to live with his family in Lawrence her first year. Kathy wrote, "Something that seemed out of the realm became possible because of this man extending a hand." Between her principal and Mrs. Watkins, two "extended hands" had opened the gates to allow Dodie to "travel uphill." According to her family, Dodie remembered this and spent her life extending her hand to others.

As a journalism major, Dodie became the editor of the *University Daily Kansan* and a stringer for both the *Kansas City Star* and *Tribune*. After graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Journalism, Dodie moved west and took a job with the *Garden City Telegram*, which she called "the Temple of Truth."

Love blooms in the Garden . . . City

Dodie met her husband, Clifford Hope, Jr., in the summer of 1948, when he came home for the summer after his second year at Washburn Law School in Topeka, KS. They went out on a first date and married six short months later. After Clifford finished law school, the couple returned to Garden City to work, Dodie with the *Telegram* and Clifford with a law firm, and raise six children.

In 1954, after Dodie gave birth to her third child, she returned to the *Telegram* and began writing a column, "At Random," that ran for more than 50 years and 12,000 columns. Dodie's obituary in the *Telegram* said her column ran six days a week for 20 of those years because, as her daughter Holly said, in those days they were paid by the column.

Dodie also was a news and features reporter at the *Telegram* when the Clutter family, which Capote wrote about in *In Cold Blood*, was murdered. Her husband, Clifford Hope, Jr., was the Clutter's attorney. When Capote and Lee came to Garden City to do research for Capote's book, Dodie befriended the writers and helped to introduce them to Garden City society. She even invited them for



Miller Alumna Dolores "Dodie" (Sulzman) Hope

Thanksgiving dinner, which prompted others to extend invitations to the authors.

Dodie maintained her acquaintance with Harper Lee for many years, even traveling to visit Harper some 25 years later. Over the years Dodie several times addressed the murders and their impact on the community in her column.

True friend and good writer

The author E.B. White must have been thinking of Dodie when he penned the last line of *Charlotte's Web*. "It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer. [She] was both." Every writer and journalist who knew or worked with Dodie thought her an excellent writer and mentor, some calling her "the consummate journalist." Carol Crupper, former *Telegram* managing editor, said in Dodie's obituary that she was the best person Carol had ever known. "[G]ood natured, with a wry sense of humor, and a great teacher," she told the *Telegram*. "I was her boss, but she was my mentor."

Living the creed

Dodie also was very civic-minded, according to daughter Megan Hope. She served on the boards of the Garden City public schools, St. Catherine Hospital, YMCA and High Plains Public Radio. Dodie also volunteered for the American Cancer Society, the Tuberculosis and Health Association, and St. Dominic Catholic Church.

Dodie's and Clifford's involvement in the community, politics and history sparked their children's interest in civic life. When expansion of the meat-packing plants in the 1980s attracted immigrant workers to Garden City, Holly Hope said her parents took an un-

popular stance in welcoming their arrival. "They taught me that Garden City was just as much anybody else's town as it was theirs," Megan said. "If we had new residents, no matter where they were from, it was a better place because it would give us a better sense of what the rest of the world is like."

In 1979 Dodie was named Woman of the Year by the Garden City Business and Professional Women.

Dodie is survived by her son, Quentin (Sab Ong) Hope of Denver, CO; five daughters, Christine (Ab) Abercrombie of North Charleston, SC, Nancy (Esteban) Perez of Santiago, Chile, Holly (Chris) Currin on Dallas, TX, Rosemary (Ray) Ruppert of Roeland Park, KS, and Megan (Bob) McGill of Denver, CO; six grandchildren; three sisters, Helen Gedminas of Overland Park, KS, Bernadine Wood of McCook, NE, and Bernice Hayes of Kansas City, MO; and 17 nieces and nephews.

Carolyn Crocker Watkins 1944-46

Carolyn L. Crocker, a life-long resident of Kansas City, KS, who worked for more than 40 years as a medical technologist at KU Medical Center, passed away at her home November 13, 2013. She was 89.

Carolyn was born October 16, 1924, to Vennor and Lydia Crocker. According to Carolyn's niece, Nancy Davis, Carolyn was from a blue-collar background. Her mother worked at KU Medical Center. Her father ran a grocery store for several years and eventually went to work in the KU maintenance department.

Traveling uphill

After Carolyn graduated from Argentine High School she enrolled in junior college in Kansas City because the family did not have money to send her to KU. According to Nancy, receiving a Watkins Hall Scholarship was the only way Carolyn was able to go to KU. Doris Brown, KU graduate and Carolyn's friend of almost 70 years, said Carolyn's neighbor use to send her \$5 a week anonymously which made a big difference in what she was able to do at KU.

Carolyn loved living at Watkins, both Nancy and Doris remember. Doris said Carolyn was a "great" cook, having taken home economics in high school, and other residents liked

In Memoriam

Remembering Our Lilac Lane Sisters

Laura (Holste) McGuire Miller 1937-41

Laura (Holste) McGuire, a member of the Miller Hall inaugural class when she moved there in the fall of 1937, passed away on April 1, 2012, at the Good Samaritan Home in Atwood, KS.

Laura was born to Emma Adeline (Niermeier) Holste Hestermann and John Holste on the family farm just north of Ludell, KS, the winter of 1919. It was the worst year of the Spanish influenza epidemic, which killed millions of people worldwide, including her father. Laura contracted the influenza and then polio 18 months later, but survived to age 93.



Miller Alumna Laura (Holste) McGuire

Laura was the middle of 11 children; her mother married H.L. Hestermann after her father died. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church and her faith was always central to her life.

Reading is fundamental

Laura grew up loving to read, a quality she inherited from her mother. Laura was valedictorian at Rawlins County High School in Atwood, KS, and Watkins alumnae Margery "Betsy" (Lewis) Wigner (Watkins 1938-1941) was salutatorian. Laura won a scholarship which made it possible for her to attend KU and live in Miller Hall. Margery's daughter, Betsy (Wigner) Holste, said that to get to KU for their first year Laura and her mother rode the train to Topeka and Margery's brother, another KU student, brought them both the Lawrence.

Laura told her friend Betsy that getting the Miller Scholarship Hall award was what enabled her to go to college. It was the Depression and, without the scholarship, there was no money to send Laura to KU.

In 1941 Laura graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Shortly after she graduated, Laura married Benjamin F.

McGuire, a mining engineer. After WWII, the couple moved to Arizona and then to Carlsbad, NM, in 1950. The couple raised four children there, two daughters and two sons. Later, Laura also raised her grandson after his mother, daughter Sheila, died.

From dusty stacks to engines

In 1967, Laura attended Texas Women's University, where she earned a master's degree in Library Science, specializing in research involving government documents. Laura became an assistant professor at Eastern New Mexico State University in Portales, NM.

Laura worked many years as a librarian. When her husband developed Huntington's disease, she became the sole source of family income. Laura's husband passed away while she was still working and retirement left a big gap. However, the advent of search engines like Google and Bing sparked her curiosity and filled part of her time.

I will be giving and forget the gift

As a Miller alumna, Laura lived Mrs. Watkins's creed throughout her life. She believed in giving service to her community and belonged to a number of organizations. As a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Laura worked hard for passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibited sex discrimination in sports and entitled women's sports programs to equal government funding. Laura gained great satisfaction seeing Title IX become a reality.

As a member of the hospital auxiliary, Laura put her Miller Halls skills into action by baking lemon rolls every Saturday for the coffee shop.

Always active in her church, for many years Laura sang in the choir, directed the Junior Choir, and played the piano and the dreaded organ for services at Immanuel Lutheran in Carlsbad, NM. She belonged to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the Lutheran Laymen's League and years and years of bible study groups. She sponsored and corresponded with a Laotian child, and enjoyed helping Hmung families in the area.

With books you can go anywhere

Laura's love of reading and her innate curiosity led her to travel. She would read extensively and then travel the researched locale, including Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Israel, France, Russia, and her all-time favorite, Turkey.

Laura is survived by her son Dr. Thomas (Judy) McGuire of Prairie Village, KS; her daughter Jean (Bill) Merritt of Pine Island, NY; five grandchildren; three siblings (L.D. "Bud" Hestermann and Francis Hestermann of Ludell, KS; and Norma Wegener of Norton, KS); and many nieces and nephews. Laura was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Benjamin; daughter Sheila M. Van Hyning; son James W. McGuire; and her seven siblings (Irene Hart, Elfrieda Tobias, Ruthe Penzes, Harold Holste, Ed Holste, Herman Holste, and Gerhardt Holste).

Dolores "Dodie" (Sulzman) Hope

Miller 1943-45

Dolores "Dodie" (Sulzman) Hope, who was an acquaintance of *To Kill a Mockingbird* author Harper Lee and Truman Capote, author of *In Cold Blood*, died February 26, 2014, at Bickford Assisted Living in Mission, KS. She was 89.

Dodie was born to Mary (Miller) and Joseph Sulzman on November 29, 1924, in Selden, KS. The lean years of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl formed Dodie's character, "teaching her to work hard, be grateful for what little you had, help others in even greater need and dust often."

Extended hands unlock the gates

In 1942, Dodie became the first person in her family to go to college when she received a scholarship to live in Miller Hall. According to *The Hutchinson News* columnist Kathy Hanks' tribute to Dodie, because it was the Depression, Dodie had only set her sights as high as business school since she could type and take shorthand. However, as Dodie's son Quentin Hope recounted to Kathy, Dodie's high school principal said she must go to college. The principal saw that she enrolled at KU, his alma mater, and

living on Lilac Lane," Norma said. "We also need input from our younger Watkins and Miller women, especially those who lived in the halls in the 1990s and the past decade."

You never know what a year will bring

To be expected, due to the large amount of material about Mrs. Watkins in the Spencer Library and the work it takes to go through

it, the publication of the book has been pushed back to 2015. For Norma, who like Mary is volunteering her time to write the book, life events also overtook a lot of her volunteer work in 2013.

"Summer brought the passing of my dear mother-in-law, and then late September brought the loss of my mom," Norma ex-

plained. "As you may imagine, I lost my focus on the book for a while and I hope you can understand."

Please send your memories of life in Watkins and Miller to Norma at the following:

Norma Hoagland
25332 Wolcott Road
Leavenworth, KS 66048
normahoagland@kitchen8.org

Sara Passionate and Tall

There can be no doubt that *Watkins and Miller Halls* is destined to become a best-seller now that best-selling author Sara Paretsky has agreed to write the introduction. Elizabeth Miller Watkins would have liked Sara Paretsky very much. In fact, it would be hard to find someone who more perfectly or fully embodies the spirit of Mrs. Watkins than Sara Paretsky.

Sara grew up outside Eudora, KS, in the 1950s, one of very few Jewish families in an area teeming with religious and racial prejudice. She had a passion for social justice early on, but conservative rural Kansas and her parents' views on the roles of women in society made life difficult. "[I]t was expected that girls would not have a life outside the home, so educating them was a waste of time," she once wrote.

Sara did not let societal and parental attitudes limit her when she graduated from Lawrence High School. Fortunately, she was named a Watkins Scholar, which helped her to travel uphill to KU. Sara lived at Sellards Scholarship Hall, where she was elected both President and Outstanding Woman of the hall.

Woman for equality

Strong and changing winds were blowing through KU in the 1960s. What Sara particularly remembers "is becoming active in women's political issues on campus, working to overturn parietal laws, and chairing the first University of Kansas Commission on the Status of Women." Her effects were instrumental in affording women students equal protection at KU. In addition, as Commission chair, Sara helped to produce a report on career paths of KU graduates, which the U.S. Department of Labor used to develop its affirmative

action guidelines.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude and third in her class with a degree in political science, Sara headed to graduate school at the University of Chicago on a Ford Foundation fellowship. While earning a master's in business administration and a Ph.D. in history, Sara also travelled around the country organizing seminars and workshops for the National Organization for Women. She continued these activities after completing her studies, and began lecturing as well. In addition, Sara worked as a community organizer on the Chicago's South Side during the race riots of 1966.

SinC into great mysteries

Sara was a marketing manager at a Chicago insurance company when she decided to act on a dream she had had for a long time. In 1980 her dream was realized with the completion of her first work, *Indemnity Only*, and Chicago justice-seeking private investigator V.I. Warshawski was born. Since then, Sara has assembled an impressive body of work, including 17 V.I. mysteries; *Bleeding Kansas*, set in the Kaw Valley area of rural Kansas; and *Writing in an Age of Silence*, a memoir of her journey as a writer from rural Kansas to The New York Times best-seller list.

Lizzie would be so proud

Like Mrs. Watkins, even as Sara's writing career took off, she continued to help open doors for other women. In 1986, Sara became the "founding mother" of Sisters in Crime (SinC), a worldwide organization that supports women crime writers and works to achieve equity in the profession. Ms. Magazine named Sara its 1987 Women of the Year. The following year, Sara was inducted into the KU



Best-selling author and Sellards Scholarship Hall alumna Sara Paretsky.

Women's Hall of Fame.

Not only does Sara stay busy writing, she continues to be a passionate advocate for women and justice issues. Sara has established several scholarships at KU, including an annual scholarship for a returning resident of Sellards Hall who has "demonstrated leadership, contributed to the understanding of 'Women's Issues,' and developed writing skills." She also established the Sara and Two C-Dogs Foundation, which primarily supports girls and women in the arts, letters, and sciences.

In addition, Sara has mentored students in Chicago's troubled inner city schools. She has served on the advisory boards of Literature for All of Us, a literacy group for teen moms, and on Thresholds, which helps Chicago's mentally-ill homeless, with then state senator Barack Obama. Sara also has been active with reproductive rights groups. Sara has won many accolades for her writing, including the Cartier Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement from the British Crime Writers (BCW); the 2004 BCW Gold Dagger award for best novel for *Blacklist*, National Book Critics Circle Award finalist for her memoir.

One Woman's Trash is . . .

By Norma (Decker) Hoagland
Kitchen 8 President
Watkins 1969-71

Everyone knows the old saying "One woman's trash is another woman's treasure." Last November Kitchen 8 received a treasure trove of historic documents quite literally rescued from the trash almost 75 years ago.

The rescued treasure trove includes 163 postcards mostly mailed to the offices of JB Watkins Land and Mortgage Company in Dallas, TX; on Wall Street in New York City; and Lawrence. The writers address everything from loan applications to lost cows. The treasure also includes 18 cancelled checks, five of which Elizabeth Miller Watkins signed as "L.J. Miller, Asst." At that time Lizzie, as she was known, was Secretary of the JB Watkins Company, therefore, she was the signatory on all company accounts.

The path from trash to trove

The path of the documents, 181 in total, from trash to trove was a long and circuitous one going back more than 75 years. Frank Willey found the documents in 1939 in the alley behind the Watkins Bank Building, formerly JB Land and Mortgage Company. Mrs. Watkins had donated the building to the City of Lawrence in 1929 and they were using the building as City Hall. One day Mr. Willey, who worked at the Water Department in City Hall, saw city workers carrying boxes of records out to the alley that they had cleaned out of the old bank vault on the second floor. The city planned to burn the records along with the other trash. Mr. Willey retrieved the post-



At EMW's 153rd birthday at the Watkins Museum, Lawrence resident Marion Willey examines a 128-year old cancelled check Mrs. Watkins signed and her father rescued from the trash.

cards and other items from the trash because his son and grandson were interested in stamps.

Marion Willey, Mr. Willey's daughter kept the old postcards and cancelled checks after her father died. Last November, when Marion was "downsizing" in order to move to a retirement community, she and her son, Gale, found the documents. Ms. Willey brought the documents to Kitchen 8 member Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) because she remembered Gayle's interest in Elizabeth Miller Watkins. Gayle responded by immediately calling Watkins Campus Coordinator Bev (Runkle) Benso

(Watkins 1954-58) to come see the trash turned treasure.

Don't talk trash

Kitchen 8 already has taken steps to prevent the new treasure trove from ending up back in the trash heap. Kitchen 8 Historian Laura (Draxler) Sixta (Watkins 2005-09) has scanned the documents and Kayla Budd, Gayle's granddaughter, has transcribed them. Kitchen 8 is still itemizing and cataloging the documents, which will be stored in the Kitchen 8 collection at the Watkins Community Museum of History (Watkins Museum). Eventually Kitchen 8 hopes to put the scanned documents on the K-8 Website.

Recently, Kitchen 8 loaned some of the documents to the Watkins Museum to include in the exhibit "For the Good of All: The Community Philanthropy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins," the first exhibit at the museum devoted entirely to Mrs. Watkins. Kitchen 8 members and friends and Watkins/Miller residents will have an opportunity to see some of the newest treasure trove at the exhibit showing and talk at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26 at the Watkins Museum after the K-8 Annual meeting.



Cancelled \$14.56 check signed in 1886 by Elizabeth (LJ Miller) Watkins, Watkins Land and Mortgage Company Secretary.

Whisper sweet Españolas in my ears

Rodrigo knocked on Mary's door a few nights later "with two beers in hand and a wide smile on his face," asking Mary if she would like to chat. "With no TV or internet at my apartment," Mary remembered, "our friendship formed over many nights of conversation on my patio and walks on the trails that passed behind our apartment complex."

That summer Rodrigo had to return his hometown, Juarez, Mexico, in order to renew his passport and visa. "I dropped him off at the bus station with a tearful goodbye, quite unsure of whether or when I might see him again," Mary lamented. The couple talked on the phone nearly every night, only this time Mary was alone on her patio talking to Rodrigo. When he returned to the U.S. a month and a half later, Mary again stood in the bus station parking lot. "This time I had happy tears in my eyes," Mary recalled. "We picked up right where we left off, only this time knowing that we both wanted more than friendship."

The Mamas and the Pappas

During the next year Mary began assimilating Rodrigo into her family. She and Rodrigo traveled to Oklahoma to meet the Emerson clan, celebrate holidays, and join the annual family camping trip. Later, Mary joined Rodrigo on a trip to Mexico to meet his family for the first time. "My mother already was uneasy with my decision to travel to Juarez," says Mary, "and she nearly had a heart attack when I called her crying in the middle of the night."

Rodrigo's request to renew his permit had

been denied. "I was faced with the prospect of returning without him, which I adamantly refused to do," Mary said. "Fortunately, our second visit to the immigration office was far more fruitful, and we soon crossed back over the border with the newly-issued and stamped permit in hand."

Quieres casarte conmigo?

When the couple returned to Kansas City, Rodrigo proposed to Mary over wine at their special spot – the candlelit patio where it all started. On June 12, 2012, the couple wed in a small chapel in downtown Oklahoma City, OK, in front of her family.

The couple then began the arduous U.S. residency process, which culminated in March 2013 with an interview before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Never have I been so nervous," Mary recalls. "The prospect that a complete stranger would have so much power over the fate of my relationship was overwhelming."

"We survived," she whooped. "Rodrigo officially became a U.S. resident. Never again would I cross the United States/Mexico border with the worry that he might not be allowed to return with me."

The newly-weds currently live in midtown Kansas City with their two dogs, Paige and Princess. Mary is a Bilingual Victim Advocate at Rose Brooks Center, a local domestic violence shelter, and Rodrigo is a manager at Five Guys. "It's hard to believe that it's been nearly four years since a chance meeting on the stairs started our adventure together."



Watkins Alumna Mary (Emerson) Gomez and her new husband Rodrigo relax with their dogs Paige and Princess after their wedding last summer in Oklahoma City.

What's New, What's In, What's Up?

By Michelle Loewenstein
K-8 Website Coordinator
Watkins 2005-09

Want to know what's happening in Kitchen 8? Just click on any of the following:



www.kitchen8.org

K-8's social media sites are the best way to get the latest news about events throughout the year and to keep in touch with Watkins/Miller alumnae. If you don't have a Facebook page or Twitter profile, it's easy to sign up for both and they are free:

Facebook

For Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and click the "Sign-up" button. After entering basic information (e.g., name and e-mail address) you will be set up with a profile. Then it's just a just search on Facebook for "Kitchen 8." Click "Like" at the top of the Kitchen 8 page to get updates and keep in touch!



Twitter

To follow Kitchen 8 on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com. At "New to Twitter," you just enter your name, e-mail address, and a password you want to use. Then you will get to create a username. Once you complete that step, search for @Kitchen_8 in the Search box and click "Follow" to get K-8's Tweets.



At the 2013 Annual Meeting we will have computers to show people how to sign up for social media and answer any questions K-8 members and friends may have.

Alumnae News

Run Llamas run

For most people, 4 hours and 50 minutes might not seem like a significant passage of time. But for Megan Stites (Watkins 2004-08) 4 hours and 50 minutes on a Sunday in November represents a special moment in time and the culmination of hard work, tears and joy — because that's when she crossed the finish line at the 2013 New York City Marathon.

Megan found the NYC Marathon to be an amazing experience. "To be able to run through the streets of New York was incredible," she said. "With over 50,000 participants and over 1 million spectators, you never feel alone. There is so much love and support for the runners ... it is overwhelming."

Catch me if you can

Running beside her, or for at least 20 miles before pulling ahead, was Megan's older brother Josh Stites (Stephenson 2002-04). The siblings wanted to run the race together, but Megan didn't grab one of the lucky lottery slots. So, she joined a charity team to support a cause close to her heart. Fifteen years ago, Megan's dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, so she decided to run for the Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia and Parkinson's Disease Foundation. With the help of family, friends, and co-workers, Megan raised more than \$3,600 for the foundation.

If you can make it here ...

Megan's favorite part of the marathon was heading towards the start line. Megan remembered that Frank Sinatra's version of "New York, New York" was playing and she could feel the excitement and anticipation of the crowd. She noticed many people from different countries speaking their native languages. "It was so incredible and overwhelming that it brought tears of joy to my eyes," Megan said. International runners also kept Megan's spirits high during her least favorite part of the race — running uphill on one of the bridges. Although there weren't any spectators on the bridge, Megan and her brother encountered some Peruvian runners who started yelling and cheering them on. Megan and Josh said the international spirit reminded them of the good times they had with the international students living in the scholarships halls.



Watkins Alumna Megan Stites and her brother Josh show off their medals after completing the New York City Marathon last fall.

2,4,6,8 – who do we appreciate?

Megan and Josh said they were lucky to also have their own cheerleaders in the crowd. In the sea of one million people, they were astonished to spot Megan's fiancé Ryan MacFarlane, Josh's wife, Shana (Hurst) Stites (Miller 2002-05), Shana's mom, and Shana's youngest sister. "It was incredible to look up and see their faces," Megan proudly recalled. Megan also had a cheerleading squad back at home. Several of Megan's friends from Watkins, including Elena Larson (2004-08), Jill Lock (2004-09), and Natalie Penn (2005-07), showered her with words of encouragement in supportive texts and phone calls.

The NYC Marathon wasn't Megan's first foray into the world of running. Megan has been an avid runner for several years. Two years ago, she ran the Groundhog Run 10K in Kansas City and wore her Watkins intramurals shirt. Megan said that before the race, a group approached and asked if she had lived at Watkins Hall. The group was excited to meet a Watkins alumna, and Megan was equally excited to learn they were volunteering at the race. "It was awesome as I went through the water station to see them cheering on the runners and providing them water," Megan gushed. "Watkins women continue to impress me every day and seem to appear in the most unexpected places!"

The agony of de-feet

To prepare for the NYC Marathon, Megan ran three half-marathons within

five weeks in the spring and another half-marathon last June. Megan also followed an 18-week training program, running 30 to 50 miles a week, racking up more than 560 miles while training. "There were a few mornings in which I would get up at 4 a.m. because I needed to get 10 miles in before work," she said. "It's almost like having a part-time job."

After graduating from KU in 2008, Megan earned an MBA in 2012

from the KU Edwards Campus. Megan currently works for Johnson County and lives with her fiancé Ryan in Prairie Village, KS. The couple got engaged in January.

Stairway to heaven

What first attracted Mary Emerson (Watkins 2004-09), now Mary (Emerson) Gomez, to Rodrigo Gomez Torres? It wasn't his good looks (which he has) or his strong, muscular, outdoor-job body (which he also has). It was his vernacular -- Spanish to be precise. And theirs was a romance of words — lots of foreign words.

Mary first met her soon-to-be husband, Rodrigo, in April 2010, the very week she moved to Kansas City, MO, for her first job after earning her master's degree in social work. Mary had just returned home from one of her first days on her new job to find Rodrigo perched on the stairs in front of her apartment. Rodrigo was talking on his cell phone in Spanish as she walked past him on the stairs to her apartment.

"It had been just over four months since I had returned to the United States after a study abroad program in Central America," Mary recounted. "I dearly missed the language, culture, and music of Latin America. He seemed a handsome young man and I felt determined to make some new friends in my new town." So, Mary took a deep breath and walked back down the stairs. "I introduced myself," Mary said, "and mentioned that I would love an opportunity to practice my Spanish."

'STANDING THE TEST OF TIME' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Watkins and Miller, I can't think of any other building at KU that a First Lady has asked to visit."

Living on the east side

Not only did the NPS's action turn Watkins and Miller into national treasures, but it also did the same for the rest of the KU East Historic District.

According to the National Register application, the KU East Historic District "encompasses the oldest intact residential enclave affiliated with the University" and reflects "the evolution of the residential, religious, and student-life facilities associated with the [KU] campus over a period of [75] years."

More than half of the 15 "contributing resources" in the East Historic District are scholarship halls, led by Watkins and Miller Halls, Elizabeth Miller Watkins's farsighted experiment to "help the girls who must travel uphill." The district also includes The Outlook, Mrs. Watkins's home on Mount Oread that she donated to KU for the Chancellor's residence, and Danforth Chapel, which she helped to fund.

The tie that binds it all together

"Elizabeth Miller Watkins is the lynchpin of the East Historic District," said Sarah (Jackson) Martin (Miller 1998-2002), the National Register Coordinator with the Kansas Historical Society. "Her roots are in this district. She is the thread that connects most of the contributing resources in the East Historic District." For example, Sarah said that Mrs. Watkins funded or built and donated to KU almost every building on Lilac Lane.

Favorable winds guide Watkins and Miller straight through

Less than two months before the East Historic District, including Watkins and Miller, were placed on the National Register, the Kansas Historical Society Historic Sites Board of Review (HSBR) approved KU's application to put the district on the Register of Historic Kansas Places (Kansas Register).

As the KHS's National Register Coordinator, Sarah's job includes reviewing applications for accuracy before the HSBR considers the application. Although Sarah said the process

can take a long time if she is not familiar with site, she breezed through the KU East Historic District application. "I didn't have to stare at the East Historic District maps and try to learn about the site," Sarah said. "I knew the neighborhood so well having lived there. It was very special for me."

Making history come alive

Although Sarah graduated from KU more than 10 years ago, she has retained her familiarity with the KU East Historic District by providing tours to women who are attending KU during the summers as part of an international women's leadership program. "I always take them to see Miller Hall and they love it," Sarah said. "These women have never seen anything like Miller, the kitchens and the sleeping porches, and have a million questions."

Sarah also arranged to take the women through the hall. "I always show them the portrait of Elizabeth Watkins and explain the reason she built the hall," explained Sarah, who earned a master's degree in historic preservation after graduating from KU with a history degree. "I put Mrs. Watkins and the hall in an historic context so they have a wonderful example of leadership skills they can take home."

A long and winding road

The triumph to preserve Watkins and Miller Halls, the East Historic District and the KU Historic District (i.e., the academic core of the campus) on the National Register actually was more than eight years in the making.

The process started with a 2006 grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust that enabled the KU Campus Historic Preservation Board (CHPB) to develop a master plan to guide campus preservation. Their first project was creating an historic district covering the academic core of the KU campus. As specified in the master plan, the academic core includes 52 buildings, landmarks and landscapes built between 1863 and 1951, such as Watson Library, Snow Hall, Spooner Hall, Hoch Auditorium (Budig Hall), the Memorial Campanile and Carillon, Potter Lake, Jayhawk Boulevard, and the Pioneer, the first statue on the KU campus.

On February 11, 2013, the Kansas Historical Society's HSBR approved placing the KU academic core on the Kansas Register and

forwarded a recommendation to the NPS for consideration for the National Register. The NPS approved the recommendation in April 2013, making it the first campus historic district in Kansas.

Now it's our turn

After the NPS placed the KU academic core on the National Register, the Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF), an organization dedicated to preserving "the historic and beautiful campus of the University of Kansas that generations have known and loved," helped to champion adding Watkins and Miller, as well as the other buildings, landmarks and landscapes in the East Historic District, to the KU Campus Historic District, the Kansas Register and the National Register.

According to Sarah, KU hired a preservation consultant to prepare the application for the KU East Historic District and present it to the Kansas HSBR. Sarah and Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57) were at that meeting on November 16, 2013, when the HSBR voted to add the East Historic District to the Kansas Register and forward a recommendation for consideration for the National Register.

"I was very excited and pleased," Sarah recalled. Gayle called the vote "another success for EMW."

What it all means

A National Register designation certainly lends prestige, but it also yields more concrete benefits. "It is a good thing for preservation," Sarah said because it provides some protection from razing "contributing resources in historic districts." According to Sarah, the KU CHPB must review work that will be done within the East Historic District. The CHPB also oversees demolition and construction in the historic district. Without the Kansas or National Register designation there is no requirement for CHPB review.

Monetary benefits also are available for buildings on the Kansas and National Registers. For instance, the Kansas HSBR awards preservation and rehabilitation grants and the national Register designation makes the East Historic District eligible for tax credits for construction and rehabilitation projects that preserve the "contributing resources."

The Financial Page

Members, Friends Show the Compassion of Giving

By Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Kitchen 8 Treasurer
Watkins 2004-09

“Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness.” Dalai Lama XIV

The Dalai Lama’s definition of generosity also captures the spirit of Elizabeth Miller Watkins’ dream “to help the girls who must travel uphill.” Thus I can only imagine how happy Mrs. Watkins would be to see such compassion and loving-kindness every year from Kitchen 8 members and friends.

In 2013, Kitchen 8 members and friends contributed \$8,171 to the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF), almost the amount donated to the fund in 2011 and 2012 combined.

The numbers add up

The EMWMSF started 2013 with an asset value of \$1.16 million and ended the year with \$1.32 million. Even after awarding \$55,000 in EMW Memorial Scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year, the year-end balance was \$16,000 above the starting balance. In 2013, the fund had a total gain of

almost \$212,000; nearly \$188,000 of which was in unrealized and realized gains, and over \$23,000 in interest and dividends.

The EMWMSF continues to maintain an investment profile of 65% equity (i.e., stocks) and 35% fixed income (i.e., bonds). Most financial advisory services recommend this mix for conservative investments.

When GKCCF talks Kitchen 8 listens

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF), a nationally recognized institution dedicated to helping philanthropic investments return the greatest benefit while protecting the asset base, continues to do a superb job supervising the EMWMSF. The GKCCF administrative fee is less than 1%, which is a true bargain in today’s financial world.

The purpose of the EMWMSF and sole use of its funds is to award scholarships to exceptional young women who have a demonstrated financial need to attend the University of Kansas. Contributions to EMWMSF are tax-deductible. You can contribute to the EMWMSF by either of the following:

Credit card: payable at www.gkccf.org
Credit card donations can be one-time trans-

actions or automatic monthly payments.

Check: payable to EMWMSF and sent to **Greater Kansas City Community Foundation 1055 Broadway, Suite 130 Kansas City, MO 64105-1595**

Minding the mint

Pursuant to the K-8 By-laws, the EMWMSF Advisory Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing fund investments, updating and revising investment strategies, and determining the amount of funds available each year for EMWMS awards. The 2013-14 Committee members are:

Alica Thomas
EMWMSF Advisory Committee Chair
Miller 1990-94

Norma (Decker) Hoagland
Kitchen 8 President
Watkins 1969-71

Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Kitchen 8 Treasurer
Watkins 2004-09

Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley
Kitchen 8 Secretary
Miller 2003-08

Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger
EMWMS Selection Committee Co-Chair
Watkins 1970-74

K-8 Members Top Off ‘Sugar Bowl’

By Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Kitchen 8 Treasurer
Watkins 2004-09

In 2013, contributions to the Kitchen 8 “Sugar Bowl” of \$4,479 topped the rim and the 2012 donations by over \$1,000. The Sugar Bowl received \$778 collected through the newly-established PayPal account on the Kitchen 8 website.

Since money in the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund (EMWMSF) may be used only to fund EMW Memorial Scholarships, donations to the Sugar Bowl fund the many projects Kitchen 8 does to help for Watkins/Miller residents and to preserve the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins. Every year Kitchen 8 pays for the K-8 Annual Meeting, celebratory luncheon and EMWMS awards presentation with Sugar Bowl funds.

A teaspoon of sugar goes far

The Sugar Bowl funds all of Kitchen 8’s means

of communication with Kitchen 8 members and friends as well as Watkins/Miller alumnae, including the K-8 Newsletter and Website. The Newsletter costs involve design, printing and postage, while Website costs include maintenance, 3-year listserv agreement (\$9.96 per month through April 2016) and PayPal transaction fees. I note the PayPal fees in 2013 only amounted to \$25.56, which is 3.2% of the funds PayPal brought in.

Giving ‘til it doesn’t hurt

With the addition of the PayPal to the Kitchen 8 Website, donating to the Sugar Bowl is both easy and painless. PayPal makes it possible to charge a donation to the Sugar Bowl or pay for the Annual Meeting by credit card. The PayPal system is set up to make donating painless because it allows K-8 members to automatically donate a little bit each month

If you would like to make a donation to the K-8 Sugar Bowl, please use the PayPal ac-

2013 K-8 Sugar Bowl Report

Cash on Hand as of 01/01/13	\$2,847.13
Deposits in 2013:	\$4,479.00
\$2,743.00	K-8 General Donations
\$900.00	Newsletter Donations
\$400.00	Website Donations
\$336.00	EMW Birthday Donations
\$100.00	New Women Dinner Donations
Expenses in 2013:	\$3,595.99
\$774.51	2013 Newsletter/Printing
\$127.20	2013 Newsletter Postage
\$1,599.12	2013 Scholarship Luncheon
\$411.12	EMW Birthday Party/Gifts
\$300.00	K-8 Website Maintenance
\$358.48	Express Marketing Listserv Agreement
\$25.56	PayPal Transaction Fees
\$0.00	2013 Watkins/Miller New-Women Dinner
\$0.00	Aprons for New Watkins/Miller Women
Cash on Hand as of 1/1/14	\$3,730.14

count on the K-8 Website or send a check (payable to Kitchen 8) to:
Mary (Emerson) Gomez
Kitchen 8 Treasurer
3620 Wyoming Street, #4
Kansas City, MO 64111



AT LEFT: Watkins Campus Coordinator Bev Benso at the head of the table enjoys her cake at the birthday party Kitchen 8 organized to celebrate Elizabeth Miller Watkins’s 153rd birthday at the end of January.



AT LEFT: Watkins resident Sarah Horning opens the first of many presents Kitchen 8 gave to Watkins and Miller Halls to celebrate Mrs. Watkins’s birthday at the party hosted by Watkins Museum.

BELOW LEFT: Watkins residents show Lizzie the matching strings of pearls Kitchen 8 gave each of them at the birthday party to celebrate her 153rd birthday.



ABOVE LEFT: Scrumptious – the lemon bars and coconut madelines on the menu for the Women’s History Month Tea that Watkins Community held to honor Elizabeth Miller Watkins are certain to satisfy even the pickiest of appetites.



ABOVE: Abby Magariel, Lauren Taylor, Kitchen 8 Campus Coordinator Judy Niebaum and Kitchen 8 President Norma Hoagland look over the special treats being served at the Women’s History Month Tea to celebrate Elizabeth Miller Watkins at the Watkins Community Museum of History on March 8.



ABOVE: At the Women’s History Month High Tea honoring Elizabeth Miller Watkins, Kitchen 8 President Norma Hoagland pours tea for Alexis Fekette and Kristine Schenk. Watkins Community Museum of History organized the tea and Kitchen 8 members volunteered to help serve the tea.

Kitchen 8 in Action:

Tributes and traditions, Tea and crumpets, Cake and punch, And Lots of presents!

BELOW: Watkins roommates Sarah Hornung and Trina Sieg delight at the photo of Mrs. Watkins in the exhibit titled "For the Good of All - The Community Philanthropy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins" at the Watkins Community Museum of History. The museum launched the exhibit, the first one on Mrs. Watkins, as part the celebration of Lizzie's 153rd birthday on Jan. 31.



AT RIGHT: Watkins and Miller New Women gather around the portrait of Elizabeth Miller Watkins in the Watkins living room on Tribute Night for Kitchen 8's presentation about the life and legacy of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Miller Watkins, "Lady Bountiful" of Lilac Lane.



ABOVE: Shh! Watkins residents Kailyn Hasselman and Rebecca Kleinkauf put their New Women aprons to good use while they make a batch of surprise birthday cookies for their roommate Monica Funk. Kitchen 8 donated the aprons to help Watkins and Miller welcome the New Women to KU last fall.



ABOVE: Watkins Alumna and former Watkins President Lynne Lammers (2006-10) tells the New Women about her first experiences living in Watkins Hall at the New Women dinner last September. Kitchen 8 members cooked a home-made dinner for an almost record number of New Women who moved into Watkins and Miller this school year.

Roselyn George: Octogenarian 'Energizer Bunny'

By Sarah (Wohlrabe) Shortall
Kitchen 8 Newsletter Co-Editor
Watkins 1972-76

At age 87 and married for 63 years (64 years come June 18), there's one thing you can definitely say about Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48) – this Watkins woman has stood the test of time. She's like the Energizer Bunny, but never needs re-charging.

Roselyn inherited her energy and perseverance from her parents, Hazel (Lynch) and Victor Skonberg, a hardworking and handsome "catch-of-the county" Swedish farmer and his "happy go lucky" but industrious Irish bride. Roselyn was born on the family farm outside Osage City, KS, in a tight-knit Swedish farm community.

The fact that the Skonberg family still owned the heavily-mortgaged farm when Roselyn was born is a testament to her father. Although he wanted to be a lawyer, Victor Skonberg had to quit school after 4th grade to help his father. To make ends meet for the family of 15, Victor's father worked in the coal mines during the winter, where he likely contracted tuberculosis. In a period of just over three years, Victor lost his father, two sisters and a brother to TB and at 17 he was left to support his mother and two siblings on the farm.

Life's double whammy – Depression and Dust Bowl

Life was not easy on the farm for either Victor or Hazel. Roselyn said her parents were always working -- her father raising cattle or harvesting hay while her mother tended a large garden, cooked and "canned and canned" produce. Roselyn and her three younger sisters were born in rapid succession and grew up in the Depression and Dust Bowl years. Although the family did not have any money in those days, she remembers her childhood as a happy one. "As long as there is hay in the barn it's like money in the bank," Roselyn recalls her father saying. However, hay in the barn was not a guarantee since it also was a time of terrible drought and some families in the area



Watkins Alumna Roselyn (Skonberg) and Karl George leave church after exchanging their vows on June 18, 1950.

lost their farms during that time.

"I'm sure we were poor but I didn't feel that way," Roselyn said, "Anyway, farmers had an advantage. We had a large garden, eggs, chickens, and we grew out own meat." Roselyn remembers her father butchering sides of beef on the kitchen table and making sausage.

Little red schoolhouse

Roselyn attended Rapp Grade School, a one-room school house. The only other building in Rapp was the Swedish Covenant Church, where Roselyn later married. She went on to Osage City High School, which was seven miles from the farm. There were no school buses in those days, so before Roselyn started high school her father took her out into the fields and taught her how to drive a Model-A Ford "Dynamite." Roselyn, who was the youngest girl to learn to drive, was responsible for getting everyone to school, which was 7 miles away. As a result, driving became more of a chore than a privilege. WWII started during Roselyn's freshman year and gas rationing started. Fortunately, farmers were allotted extra gas, but Roselyn was

2013 Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund and Kitchen 8 Sugar Bowl Donors

From the 1940's

Donna (Holm) Fisher (Watkins 1946-49)
Memorial to Anita (Caddonau) Birkland
Roselyn (Skonberg) George (Watkins 1945-48)*
Mary (Carter) Gosney-Lancaster (Miller 1947-48)

From the 1950's

Bev (Runkle) and Eldon Benso (Watkins 1954-58),**Memorials to Jennie Mae Decker, Jan Heine and George Manos*
Gayle (Barry) Matchett (Watkins 1955-57)*,
Memorials to James Bogner, Sr., Jennie Decker and Jan Strub
Judy (Johnson) Niebaum (Miller 1958-61)*
Carol Sparks (Watkins 1956-60)
Pat (Gardner) Stein (Miller 1953-57) *Memorial to Ira Stein*

From the 1960's

Norma (Decker) and Joe Hoagland (1969-71)*,
Memorial to Jennie Decker

From the 1970's

Elizabeth (Ervin) Boman (Watkins 1971-75)*
Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger (Watkins 1970-74)*
Susan Tara Masih (Watkins 1972-75)*
Cathie (Fuller) and Ron Miller (Watkins 1970-73)*, *Memorials to Jennie Decker and Sue Overmann Garcia Thompson (Watkins 1970-73)*
Sarah (Wohlrabe) and John Shortall (Watkins 1972-76)*
Elena Wahbeh (Watkins 1970-72)*

From the 1980's

Simone Briand (Watkins 1982-86)
Annette Smith (Miller 1987-91)*

From the 1990's

Cheryl (Funke) Milligan (Miller 1995-98)
Alicia Thomas (Watkins 1990-94)*

From the 2000's

Emily Bannwarth (Miller/Rieger 2004-08)
Valentine Baumann (Watkins 2003-05)
Mary (Emerson) Gomez (Watkins 2006-09),
Memorials to Jennie Decker and Judy Carrico
Laura (Draxler) Sixta (Watkins 2005-09)
Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley (2003-08)

Friends of Kitchen 8

Verlin G. Meier
Beth (MacCurdy) Wigner (1974-77)*

*--Indicates donor also contributed in 2012

under strict orders not to “joyride” around town.

Although Roselyn’s father did not have a chance to attend college, her parents insisted she “must” go. Roselyn wasn’t worried about getting into a college because, at that time, state schools “had to take” Kansas high school graduates. Roselyn heard about Watkins Hall from the local grocer, whose daughter lived there. Watkins sounded like such a perfect place to live that Roselyn chose KU, instead of closer Emporia State, because “that’s where Watkins Hall was.”

Finding her place

When Roselyn was “wait listed” at Watkins Hall, she headed to KU anyway not knowing where she would live. After two nights at Corbin Hall, a spot opened at Watkins and Roselyn took her rightful place on Lilac Lane. “The first time I saw Watkins was when I moved in and I loved it right away,” Roselyn remembers. “I grew up with three sisters and family all around and Watkins felt so much like my home.”

In fact, Watkins even looked like Roselyn’s home. The Skonberg family home was built by a wealthy railroad operator who “just left it standing” when his wife wanted to move back east. Roselyn’s family purchased the vacant home, which, like Watkins, had elegant chandeliers, fireplaces, stained glass windows, front and back staircases, porches, and a big balcony off the master bedroom.

Lilac Lane BFFs

Roselyn loved everything about living in Watkins and she quickly made close friends with Carole (Ruhlen) Gray, Beverly (Stember) West, and Christine (Mann) Zeider. “We were bosom buddies,” Roselyn said. “When we were getting ready to leave Watkins, the four of us sat on the rock wall outside the hall and talked about how we would stay in contact.” They finally decided on a round-robin letter that lasted for over 60 years and also got together every few years. “I have one picture of when we are all pregnant at the same time,” Roselyn recalled.

Roselyn and her friends also loved social events at Watkins, especially the dances. “The spring formal was held the same day as the Kansas Relays and we all turned up with sunburns at the dance that night,” Roselyn remembered. Wednesday night



Watkins Alumna Roselyn (Skonberg) and Doug George will celebrate the 64th wedding anniversary in June.

“Hour Dances” with a men’s hall, usually Battenfeld, were another favorite.

Being a very social person, Roselyn had to pay close attention to closing hours. “Mother Willard would blink the porch light 5 minutes before closing and lock the door right on time,” Roselyn said. “If you had to ring the door, you got a demerit.” The rules were strict in those days so the residents could get demerits for many things, including not making their beds or having a dirty room. Enough demerits and a woman got “campused,” which meant she couldn’t leave the hall during the weekend, although Roselyn never mentioned whether she was ever grounded. All things considered, Roselyn said she didn’t mind closing hours too much, “The best thing about closing hours was you knew if a date was a dud that it would soon be over.”

Times were different

Not only did Watkins have plenty of rules, Roselyn said KU did as well, including a campus dress code. “No matter how cold it was you couldn’t wear pants or jeans to class,” Roselyn recalled, adding that long skirts and coats became the winter fashion. Women could wear pants on campus during the weekends since there were no classes, however, Roselyn learned the hard way that the growing post-WWII male student body

did not like that look. “I wore jeans and a long shirt once and the Vets started hollering as I walked across campus,” Roselyn said. “I snuck back to Watkins on the underside by Potter’s Lake.”

WWII had just ended when Roselyn came to KU. Although Roselyn had to bring her ration book with her, she said, “The end of shoe rationing was an event worth celebrating for all young women.”

By spring semester the campus was flooded with returning veterans. “Classes were held in odd and out of the way places because of the sudden influx of veterans,” Roselyn reported. There also was terrible competition because the veterans were there to learn quickly and start careers. “I took Advanced Algebra and was the only woman in the class with all veterans,” she said. “They were all headed for engineering school and didn’t want to see me there.”

Rock rock rock chalk

Roselyn almost ended up being a geology major. Her freshman year she was one of the last groups to register for classes and she was closed out of many choices. Geology was still available. Roselyn remembers, quite clearly, that the class turned out to be taught by “this handsome Indiana Jones type professor and all the girls fell in love.”

Current Hall Happenings
Llama Love is ‘Back in the Groove’

Dear Watkins Women and Friends, I have been a proud Watkins Woman for 6 semesters, and I have become one of the Old Women who fondly tells the new, baby llamas of my Watkins experiences thus far. While I have learned many things as a student at KU studying Elementary Education, my true education has been rooted in my experiences on Lilac Lane. It’s been in this hall that I have met my closest friends and have learned so many valuable skills that allow me to grow into one of the many self-sufficient and high achieving women that have shared in the Watkins Spirit. Every single group of Watkins Women contributes to the Watkins Spirit, and this year has proven to be the year that Watkins Hall, I believe, has gotten its groove back! We have succeeded academically and have reclaimed the meaning of Llama Love.

not apparent but find a way to glow in our days. It is knowing that in this big world where everything happens a mile a minute, you are able to have time stop when you are united with your Llama Sisters.

There have been so many ways Watkins Women have shown Llama Love to their Lilac Lane sisters this school year, and I hope you can identify with a few, if not all of them:

- Helping a new Watkins Woman prepare her first delicious dinner;
- Helping to carry in groceries, no matter what the weather;
- Bonding by watching movies;
- Offering chocolate or sweet treats on the good days and the bad days;
- Providing academic expertise during late night study sessions in the Study Room;

Let me set the scene that set up this year of Llama Love: Half of our hall this fall was New Women in their first year of college. Big

During Elizabeth Miller Watkins’s birthday party this year, held by K8 at the Watkins Community Museum of History, I visited the new exhibit entitled “For the Good of All,” which is about Mrs. Watkins’s contributions to the KU and Lawrence communities. At the event, I was surrounded by generations of Watkins Women, all celebrating the legacy of one generous woman. As I looked at the many photographs, newspaper articles, and keepsakes, I realized that every generation is unique in the fashion they wear, the music they listen to, the events that they hold, and their individual pursuits. But one thing has stood the test of time - no, not the radiators in the TV room or the water fountain on the first floor – but the sisterhood and the Llama Love that radiates from each woman who exemplifies Elizabeth Miller Watkins’ creed!



Watkins President Trina Sieg enjoys her first time sledding during a rare snow day at KU.

Sisters helped their transition into Watkins Life and taught them the Watkins ways, which is a topic so intricate that it might as well be a class in itself! We earned a 3.50 GPA for the fall semester, which attests to the overall high achieving disposition of the whole hall and our baby llama geniuses. We have continued traditions and celebrated each other’s engagements and entrances into prestigious academic organizations and schools; we even honored a housemate on receiving American Citizenship!

I am highly honored to have had the opportunity to lead such an impressive group of Watkins Women this year. It has truly been an educative experience that I would not have received from any amount of schooling. Watkins has been my classroom: Some days I have felt like the teacher, and on others, the student. I am constantly learning from the lovely ladies of Lilac Lane and I can’t get enough of that sweet alliteration. I feel so ready to rock my student teaching assignment next year now that I’ve had six unforgettable semesters of Watkins Wisdom.

Freshman Margarita Nuñez eloquently added another side to the definition: *Llama Love is the little things. The ones that are*

Llama Love,
Trina Sieg
2013-14 Watkins Hall President

A Sweet Year for Miller Women

Dear Miller Alumnae and Friends, First things first, to our wonderful alumnae who threw a great party for Elizabeth Miller Watkins’s 153rd birthday on January 31, I want to thank you for your time, company, and delicious cake and generous birthday presents for Miller Hall. I’ve never seen a group of women so excited about . . . trash cans!



Miller President Haley Gilchrist shows off some Miller Power.

2013 has been a great year for Miller. This year’s theme for our Murder Mystery Dinner was Barbie Beauty Pageant and everyone in attendance enjoyed solving the crime. No, Ken didn’t do it!

More recently, Miller women enjoyed two snow days. We went sledding, baked, bonded, relaxed, and maybe got a little work done in the meantime. Days like those really bring out the warm Miller fuzzies.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

This year Miller tried some new projects to develop stronger ties with the other women’s scholarship halls, especially our sister hall next door on Lilac Lane. For example, we brought back BYOB (Bring Your Own Banana), an ice cream social between women’s halls. We were lucky enough to stumble upon this idea while going through some old Miller scrapbooks. Fall semester we enjoyed 31 flavors with Sellards Scholarship Hall and are looking forward to ice cream and conversation with the Watkins Women this semester. Hopefully the weather will be a little warmer by then!

Miller is looking forward to seeing many of you at the Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting and Luncheon and entertaining you at the Miller Alumnae Tea on April 27. In the meantime, we send our well-wishes and gratitude to all of you.

Miller Love,
Haley Gilchrist
2013-14 Miller President

EMWMS Awards Get Bigger Every Year

Kitchen 8 completely shattered the record book last spring when they awarded Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) awards to 22 young women at the 2013 K-8 Annual Meeting. The recipients received a total of \$55,000 for the 2013-14 academic year.

Kitchen 8 awarded \$4,000 to each of six first-time recipients and \$2,000 to each of 16 previous recipients who maintained the required GPA and full-time status. The EMWMS Selection Committee also announced at the meeting that the EMWMS awards will be automatically renewable for up to three additional years, the remainder of a recipient's undergraduate studies at KU. This represents a potential commitment of more than \$100,000 to the 22 recipients and up to \$10,000 for individual recipients. For example, Kitchen 8 presented a \$4,000 award to Miller Freshman Emilyjane Pyle as a first-time recipient and she remains eligible for an additional \$2,000 per year for her final three undergraduate years.

And the EMWMS goes to . . .

The EMWMS Selection Committee presented \$4,000 first-time awards to:

- Sophomore Akira Cowden**—English/Religious Studies
- Junior Erika Garcia**—Public Administration
- Senior Hali Hutley**—Pharmacy
- Freshman Emilyjane Pyle**—Music Therapy
- Freshman Jocelyn Sajjani**—Biology
- Junior Katerina Sieg**—Elementary Education

Sixteen recipients who received \$2,000 con-

tinuing scholarship allotments were:

- Senior Hailey Baker**—Microbiology
- Senior Qiao Yi Chen**—Biology
- Junior Kerra Ann Cissne**—Pharmacy
- Senior Rebecca Crook**—Environmental Studies
- Senior Simona Dragieva**—Pharmacy
- Junior Dakota Driscoll**—Visual Arts Education
- Junior Payton Friess**—Public Administration
- Junior Jenna Gannon**—Chemistry
- Senior Yugi Gao**—Finance
- Senior Lydia Afua Gyamfi**—Biology (Pre-med)
- Sophomore Anna Hu**—Pharmacology
- Senior Natalie Scott**—Pre-nursing
- Senior Eman Siddiqui**—Architecture
- Sophomore Natasha Sudac**—Biology (Pre-med)
- Senior Christina Turner**—Psychology and Literature
- Junior Ann Wallsmith**—Chemical Engineering

Additional information about each of the 2013-14 EMWMS recipients is available on the Kitchen 8 website at www.kitchen8.org/2013.html.

From humble beginnings

Watkins and Miller alumnae, residents and friends established the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship Fund ("EMWMSF") in 1998 to assist women who have outstanding scholastic achievement and demonstrated financial need to get a college education at the University of Kansas. To date, Kitchen 8 and the EMWMS Selection Committee have awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to 109 deserving young women.

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation supervises the fund and the EMWMSF Advisory Committee oversees the investments and allocation of funds. The EMWMSF is valued at more than \$1.3 million, thanks in part to a generous testamentary bequest from Janice Gartrell (Watkins 1939-42).

The EMWMS Selection Committee oversees the



Watkins alumna Pat Putnam, 2013 K-8 Annual Meeting co-chair, congratulates Ankira Cowden and her mother for being awarded a \$4,000 EMWMS Scholarship.

scholarship application and selection process. This includes reviewing scholarship applications, which have increased every year, and identifying deserving recipients. The committee ranks applications and selects scholarship recipients based on objective criteria. The application for EMWMS awards is online and may be viewed at www.scholarselect.com/scholarships/13005-2014-elizabeth-miller-watkins-memorial-scholarship.

The 2013-14 EMWMS Selection Committee members are:

- Susan (Harshaw) Kissinger, co-chair**
Watkins 1970-74
- Valentine Baumann, co-chair**
Watkins 2003-05
EMWMS recipient 2004-05
- Gayle (Chiles) Burger**
Watkins 1970-73
- Jill (Callies) Comcovich**
Miller 1989-93
- Cathie (Miller) Fuller**
Watkins 1970-73
- Annette Smith**
Miller 1987-91
- Alica Thomas**
Miller 1990-94

We need your help

The EMWMS Selection Committee wants to add members to the 2014-15 Selection Committee to help with reviewing applications, selecting scholarship recipients and publicizing the award. If you are interested, please contact Susan Kissinger at joythru-movement@sbcglobal or Valentine Baumann at valbaumann@yahoo.com.



EMWMS Selection Committee member Valentine Baumann and Miller President Kristina Nielander congratulate Afua Gyamfi on winning a second EMWMS award.

When Roselyn talked to her counselor, however, she told Roselyn not to major in geology because "you'll never get to be anything but a secretary."

After that Roselyn had a hard time choosing a major. She finally decided on home economics education, saying, "Oh well, home economics is something I could always use." Looking back, it was a natural choice for Roselyn. Her mother taught her to cook and she made meals for the family and hired hands. When Roselyn took home economics in high school, her teacher suggested she pursue a home ec degree. At Watkins she cooked two meals a day and took turns cooking Sunday dinners.

In addition to cooking, Roselyn was accomplished in various types of handwork by the time she moved into Watkins. "I use to knit and embroider during house meetings because we weren't allowed to read," Roselyn admitted. Years later Roselyn's oldest daughter, Susan, found some of the embroidery Roselyn sewed during house meetings and made a quilt from them which hangs in Roselyn's Colorado home.

Real housewives of KU

As a home ec major, Roselyn was forced to move out of Watkins her senior year and live in the Home Management House, where the students had "the real experience of running a household," Roselyn said, including caring for the infant son of the house director. For Roselyn, it was repeating what she already had learned at Watkins, but without the loving support of her Watkins "sisters" or Mother Willard. The home ec majors had to cook dinners, but Roselyn missed the dinners at Watkins, which she regarded as one of the "nicest times of the day."

Roselyn also found it especially difficult to see how her classmate Esther, the daughter of an African American Baptist minister, was treated. "Esther was not allowed to stay in the house," Roselyn stated. "At 10 p.m. she was required to walk home to where she lived. I went to the Dean about it, but about all she could say was 'I know, but that's the way things are.'" Roselyn remembered this for a long time, eventually finding Esther's family and writing to them to apologize for the injustice Esther had suffered.

One smart cookie, one smart decision

Getting a home economics education degree

turned out to be a smart choice because schools were desperate to find home economics teachers. Before Roselyn graduated in 1949 she had her pick of jobs and chose the Emporia Middle School because it "was close to home." At the new teachers' picnic before the start of the school, Roselyn met her future husband, Douglas George.

Although Doug didn't call Roselyn until three weeks later, he put in some serious groundwork before the call. According to Roselyn, Doug drove to her school and parked his car across the street so he could follow her home. Roselyn was dating another person, but found Doug irresistible when he took her on a plane ride for their second date.

The wedding of the decade

By March, they were engaged because, as Roselyn put it, "I knew what I wanted." On June 18, 1950, a hot and humid day at the end of the school year, Roselyn and Doug married at the Swedish Covenant Church, Roselyn's childhood church, in Rapp, KS.

"Since this was the first 'long white dress' wedding in the church since before the big Depression everyone wanted to attend," Roselyn recalled. However, the church seated fewer than 75 people and the Skonberg and George families were so large that the overflow crowd had to watch the wedding through the church windows. At least there was room for everyone at the reception at the Skonberg family home.

Niagara Falls or bust

After a long honeymoon car trip to the East Coast, including Niagara Falls, Roselyn and Doug started out their married life working with his father on the family farm. Eventually Doug took a position in agribusiness in Dallas, TX. The couple had three daughters, Susan, Sara and Laura. Doug's job required that he travel Monday to Friday so for 15 years Roselyn became mother and father to their daughters during the week. "It made me learn to be more independent," Roselyn explained, "And he was always around for weekend events the girls had, and which he supported, even coaching their softball team in the summer."

Quit - not in her vocabulary

Once all the girls graduated from high school the "we are just country folk" couple moved to a small farm near Quitman, TX. Although Roselyn called this "semi-

retirement," she did quite the opposite, answering an advertisement for a librarian in a "tiny shell of a library." Roselyn said, "The ad had run a long time and they were desperate to hire someone. They practically hired me sight unseen."

Over the next 10 years Roselyn grew the small library into a driving force in town. Roselyn started with asking for book donations and got enough to join the Texas Library System, which qualified the library for grant money. As librarian, Roselyn established a summer reading program, a GED program, and special events for adults and children, such as plays and Black History Sunday. By the time Roselyn "retired," the library had moved into a larger facility and had even added onto that. In 1985, the Texas Library Association had named Roselyn Librarian of the Year.

Rocky Mountain high

In 1988, Roselyn and Doug "retired" once again and moved to Loveland, CO, to be near their daughters and their families. By that time, the couple had been married for almost 40 years. "An advantage in having a 'long' marriage" is that after we retired, there was time for a lot of traveling," Roselyn stated. "Our first 20 years out here, we were still young enough for long trips--many abroad." The couple still travels, she added, but travels are mostly to family weddings and graduations.

To Roselyn, her second retirement has meant being active in the Friends of Loveland Public Library, a book club, Mountain View Presbyterian Church, and Amy's House, an organization that aids women rescued from prostitution. She knits prayer shawls for women coming into Amy's house.

The year Roselyn "retired" for the second time, she got active in Kitchen 8. It was the very beginning of the effort to preserve Watkins Hall and help the residents. Roselyn was there for the law suit and the formation of the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) Fund, to which she has faithfully donated. This spring, Roselyn just completed three years on the EMWMS Selection Committee. Roselyn and Doug will be driving from Loveland to attend the 2014 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting on April 26. Lord only knows where Kitchen 8's Energizer Bunny will be off to next. She just keeps on ticking.

Unique and Enduring

By Paula (Hopkins) Wrigley
Kitchen 8 Secretary
Miller 2003-08

The 2013 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting weekend definitely lived up to its theme, "Unique and Enduring" – filled with announcements about new projects K-8 is undertaking to preserve the legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins and help the women who currently live on Lilac Lane, reports of Kitchen 8's, Watkins' and Millers' accomplishments during the past year, and several special events, including one "white gloves required" event.

Tour of homes

To kick start the weekend of events, KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little invited K-8 members and Watkins/Miller residents for a private tour of The Outlook, the chancellor's residence that Mrs. Watkins home she donated to KU upon her death. The Chancellor was returning Kitchen 8's invitation to attend the New Women Dinner at Watkins the previous August. Shade Little, the Chancellor's husband, hosted the tour of the public areas and the wealth of art displayed at The Outlook from the Spencer Museum of Art.

Tell us all about it

At the 2013 Annual Meeting on April 27, K-8 President Norma (Decker) Hoagland (Watkins 1969-71) announced that Kitchen 8 will write a book on Watkins and Miller Halls as a joint venture with the Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF), an organization dedicated to preserving the historic KU campus.

Special guest Ken Armitage, past HMOF president and Campus Heritage Advisory Board Member, presented a report about HMOF's new project to get the East Historic District, which include Watkins and Miller Halls, added to the KU Campus Historic District, which is listed on the Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places.

Kitchen 8 board members reported on our many projects and accomplishments, including:

- **Treasurer's Report** – Kitchen 8 added a PayPal account to the website, which makes it easy to donate to the Sugar

Bowl and pay for K-8 Annual Meeting registrations;

- **Campus Coordinators** – Kitchen 8 presented the first ever Career Day at the request of Watkins/Miller women and celebrated EMW's birthday by showing Watkins/Miller with gifts, including new vacuum cleaners;
- **By-laws Committee** – Kitchen 8 held the first ever Kitchen 8 board elections under its new by-laws.

Watkins President Ramona Yoder and Miller President Kristina Nielander shared the accomplishments in their "State of the Halls" reports, including:

- Both Watkins and Miller got facelifts of new furniture and other redecorating;
- Miller attained the highest GPA of any KU residence hall;
- Watkins's composting project has expanded to include all the scholarship halls;
- Watkins started a "Llama Bucks" to award Watkins women's extraordinary efforts;
- At the conclusion of the Rates setting Committee meeting, Miller Rates Chair Lianna Dang invited the committee, including the Chancellor, Provost and Director of Student, housing to tour Watkins/Miller and see for themselves how the halls differ from other student housing;

Following a celebratory luncheon, the Elizabeth Miller Watkins Memorial Scholarship (EMWMS) Selection Committee presented EMWMS awards to a record 22 recipients.

White gloves required

After the Annual Meeting, Kitchen 8 members and Watkins/Miller residents were treated to a private viewing of Elizabeth Watkins' personal scrapbook and letters at the Watkins Community Museum of History. Baskets of white gloves were waiting those who wanted to peruse Lizzie's keepsakes, some of which were more than 100 years old.

Fortunately, Watkins/Miller alumnae only had to bring good appetites and memories to the Annual Alumnae Teas at Watkins and Miller Halls on April 28.

AT RIGHT: Kitchen 8 members and Watkins/Miller residents take advantage of the beautiful surroundings to preserve a memory of their private tour of The Outlook.



TOP: At Kitchen 8's private tour of The Outlook, K-8 Treasurer Mary Emerson and Miller residents Kristina Nielander, Keeleigh Smith, Katie Kutsco and Erin Christiansen pay their respects to "Lady Bountiful" at the Kitchen 8 tour of The Outlook.

MIDDLE: Michelle Loewenstein, Laura Sixta, Tobey Billinger, Mary Emerson, Norma Hoagland and Pat Putnam discover new information about Mrs. Watkins as they carefully examine her scrapbook at the Watkins Museum.

BOTTOM: Watkins President Ramona Yoder presents her "State of the Hall" address at the K-8 Annual Meeting.



MIDDLE: K-8 President Norma Hoagland welcomes Watkins alumnae to the annual Alumnae Tea and highlights some of Kitchen 8's recent accomplishments.

BOTTOM: K-8 member Camille Olcese and Miller resident Brittany Nefcy ask Ken Armitage, former Historic Mount Oread Friends President, about his work helping to get Watkins Halls placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

AT LEFT: Watkins alumnae Bev Benso asks 2-time EMWMS recipient Eman Siddiqui about her master's program in architecture during the celebratory luncheon before Kitchen 8 names the new EMWMS recipients.



MIDDLE LEFT: At the Watkins Alumnae Tea, alumna Mary Loveland tells K-8 Mentoring Co-Chair Cathy Fuller about life at KU during the turbulent 1960s.



MARILYN'S BIG WEEKEND: K-8 member Marilyn Thomas (1943-47), who lived in Watkins more than 70 years ago, traveled all the way from Altadena, CO, with her daughters to participate in all of the festivities at the 2013 Kitchen 8 Annual Meeting Weekend. She didn't miss a single event.

TOP: Marilyn Thomas shows her daughter Laure Cole a newspaper story from Mrs. Watkins' scrapbook at Watkins Museum special showing.

MIDDLE: K-8 President Norma Hoagland welcomes Marilyn Thomas to the 2013 K-8 Annual Meeting and thanks her for bringing her scrapbooks from life on Lilac Lane in the 1940s.

BOTTOM: At the Watkins Alumnae Tea, K-8 Historian Laura Sixta explains to Marilyn Thomas and her daughter Jan Antwine how Kitchen 8 preserves alumnae scrapbooks and makes them available on the K-8 website.



ABOVE MIDDLE: Watkins resident Marie Humphrey welcomes her mother Karen, a Watkins alumna, to the Annual Alumnae Tea.

ABOVE BOTTOM: K-8 Vice President Elizabeth Boman places a picture she donated of her mother Corrine Ervin, a Watkins alumna, with her grandmother on the front steps of Watkins Hall. The other picture shows First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on the same steps when she visited Watkins.