

# UPWORDS

UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
(UPCC) NEWSLETTER

*Your Neighborhood Voice*



November 2014 • [www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us)

Join Us For  
The UPCC's Annual  
Holiday Event

*Sing And  
Sleigh Bells*

At Observatory Park

Sunday, December 7, 2014  
4 to 6 p.m.



Are your holidays not feeling so jolly? Are you looking to add a little magic to your season? If so, then come one, come all, to the annual Sing and Sleigh Bells event in Observatory Park!

Come celebrate the season with horse drawn hayrides, holiday carolers, warm drinks, and star gazing at the Chamberlin Observatory. Depending on how good we've all been this year, Santa himself may even make an appearance!



In the traditions of the giving season, we encourage everyone to bring some treats to share with your neighbors!

The UPCC will be there, and with our volunteers, we will make sure that this is an evening that everyone enjoys. Come celebrate with us!

In the event of extreme cold or snow on December 7, check the University Park website, [www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us) for additional information.

# Getting To Know Your Neighbors: Dr. Dorothy Lagger

**Editors Note:** This article is part of a new series of interviews and biographies that we will be running about some of the residents here in University Park. If you know of someone with a good story to tell, please let us know at: [com@upcc.com](mailto:com@upcc.com).

Dr. Dorothy Lagger's personal motto is "When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade." With Dorothy, you might expect to find a warehouse of lemonade. Dr. Lagger is one of University Park's "Greatest Generation" seniors: an inspiring 90-year-old who often walks through the neighborhood for up to five hours per day with her cane and her well-worn satchel. She collects aluminum, hauling 28-32 cans for a 20-cent return at King Soopers where the clerks have long known Dorothy on a first name basis. She gifts her earnings to the church, Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts.

If you spotted Dorothy along one of her daily odysseys, you might mistake her for a vagabond. Yet she has been a distinguished 24-year resident of University Park, retiring on Jackson Street in 1990 to one of three adjacent homes owned by Dorothy and her two sisters Wilma and Eleanor.

Dorothy was an early pioneer of women's achievements in higher education. She learned how to juggle raising children with a career when that kind of ambition was not common or even celebrated among her peers. She earned her doctorate as a working mother of three children before Title IX was even enacted in 1972, and was an award-winning teacher for over 30 years.

Born in 1924 in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, Dorothy was the youngest of six children and a Great Depression survivor. She was six-years-old when bread lines were forming and vagrants began knocking at her family's back door for change and oatmeal.

About life during our nation's worst economic disaster, Dorothy shrugs, "We didn't know we were poor! We were rich in family affection." The siblings bonded through music. They were gifted in voice, piano and clarinet and often stood around the piano singing or



*Dr. Dorothy Lagger with photos of her parents.*

staging plays. Neighbors were used to hearing their spontaneous recitals on summer evenings.

Dorothy cheerfully recalls her family's "cold cellar," where vegetables were stored during winter months. They dug a hole in the ground and deposited the summer/fall harvest at the bottom. They covered the vegetables in sand which prevented freezing and made it easy for the children to dig them up as needed. Dorothy's mother would send the kids outside to the cold cellar to retrieve a ration of vegetables for dinner.

Another chore from Dorothy's Depression-era childhood was hauling coal for heating. The town coal truck would deposit a heap in the alley. Her siblings then took turns shoveling and filling a wheelbarrow with coal and dumping it into the chute on the side of their house. While many children today have a hard time keeping their bedrooms uncluttered, Dorothy never questioned the arduous tasks that kept her family's 1930s household running.

Dorothy's first job as a teenager was clerking at JC Penney in Ambridge for 25 cents/hour. She remembered how

*Continued on page 3*

## UPCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President:

Traci Samaras, 303-282-7281  
[president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us)

### Vice President:

Debbie Harrington, 303-507-2652  
[vp@upcc.us](mailto:vp@upcc.us)

### Secretary:

Megan Bettinger, 303-842-0687  
[secretary@upcc.us](mailto:secretary@upcc.us)

### Co-treasurers:

Ryan Zorn & June Morgan,  
[trs@upcc.us](mailto:trs@upcc.us)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Advisory:

Bill Winn, 303-691-8703  
[advisory@upcc.us](mailto:advisory@upcc.us)

### Communications:

David Wrangham, 303-656-1391  
[com@upcc.us](mailto:com@upcc.us)

### Legacy & Historic Preservation:

Rosemary Stoffel, 303-692-9197  
[hist@upcc.us](mailto:hist@upcc.us)

### Membership:

John Rogala, [membership@upcc.us](mailto:membership@upcc.us)

### Neighborhood Safety:

Steven Hick, [safety@upcc.us](mailto:safety@upcc.us)

### Open Space & Parks/Buchtel:

Diana Helper, 303-733-4902  
[parks@upcc.us](mailto:parks@upcc.us)

### Purple Pages:

Janet Bardwell, 303-756-4212  
[pp@upcc.us](mailto:pp@upcc.us)

### Transportation,

### Traffic & Sidewalks:

Vaughan Kendall, 303-910-6590  
[traffic@upcc.us](mailto:traffic@upcc.us)

### Zoning Chair:

Pat Cashen, [zone@upcc.us](mailto:zone@upcc.us)

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

(no vote on board)

### Area Coordinator:

Phyllis Ward, 303-756-6146  
[areacoord@upcc.us](mailto:areacoord@upcc.us)

### Archives:

Ellen VanNess-Seymour  
303-759-2488, [archives@upcc.us](mailto:archives@upcc.us)

### Email Communication:

Wes Sjaardema, 303-884-3272  
[email@upcc.us](mailto:email@upcc.us)

### Events: OPEN, [events@upcc.us](mailto:events@upcc.us)

### Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation:

Diana Helper, 303-733-4902  
Carleen Evanoff, 720-363-8403  
[i-n-c@upcc.us](mailto:i-n-c@upcc.us)

### Nominations: OPEN

### School Liaison: OPEN

[president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us)

### Web Master:

David Schutt,  
[webmaster@upcc.us](mailto:webmaster@upcc.us)

UPWORDS is published five times a year, prior to the fall, winter and spring general meetings, the special Holiday issue for the Sing and Sleigh, and the summer issue for the 4th of July Parade.

## UP BULLETIN BOARD

**DU GOOD NEIGHBORS MEETING: Nov. 19, 6-8 p.m.,** Sturm Hall Room 286. Staff from DU will meet with members of the community to address neighborhood concerns and campus building plans. Chancellor Rebecca Chopp has been invited to attend. Park free in the big lot adjacent to Sturm — at the kiosk enter “2 hours” and “Coupon #14651.” [www.DU.edu/communityvisitors/neighbors](http://www.DU.edu/communityvisitors/neighbors)

**DENVER PARKS STAFF** worked hard to clear out vegetation on the north edge of Prairie Park, to eliminate “hidden” areas used by campers, and make the area much safer. Thanks to them and to the neighbors, and DU personnel, who helped with this project!

**UP SCHOOL** 3rd Graders will receive thesauruses this month, a gift from Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) in response to UPCC's excellent support of the annual INC “Dollar Dictionary” drive. They received their dictionaries in September. *Write On, kids!*

## Ten Delights In A Denver Year

by Cathy Stilton

sunflowers high as the sky  
tangerine, blue-black sunsets  
seventy degrees in December  
purple flowers poking through snow on New Year's Day  
forest green, cobalt blue, velvet white, smiling red faces  
bicycling on a meandering path beside a tree-lined canal  
gently rolling pastures with a backdrop of indigo peaks  
dining with new friends al fresco at a cafe on a summer's night  
rustling leaves, warm sun, balmy fall breezes, cool, dry skin  
savoring luscious grapes from a neighborhood vine

## It Is The Snowy Season!

Clearing the sidewalk of snow and ice is required 24 hours after the snow has stopped. If you know your neighbor is elderly, disabled, or experiencing a difficult time, surprise them by shoveling their walk. If you need a service, refer to your *Purple Pages*. It is also available at the UPCC website ([www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us)).

## Getting To Know Your Neighbors: Dr. Dorothy Lager

*Continued from page 2*  
transactions were handled in the '30s: Customers often paid for their purchases with exact cash but when change was required, the clerks would place the cash into a cup that traveled aloft in a pulley system to a balcony where a “cash clerk” would make correct change and send the cup back down to the floor level clerk. This device was called a “cash railway system” and was intended to prevent possible theft or errors from making change at the checkout stand.

Dorothy's parents met in Pittsburgh after her father, a civil engineer born in Knoxville, Iowa, returned from his Methodist missionary mission in Singapore where he had been the principal of an Anglo-Chinese school. Dorothy's mother was an Austrian governess who took English lessons from Dorothy's father. They married and started their family in Ambridge, PA, but came to Colorado in 1941 after Dorothy finished high school. Her father had acquired a long-term lung ailment complicated by misdiagnosis and pneumonia. He tragically died in 1942 while Dorothy was a freshman at CU Boulder, leaving her fatherless at 17 and wondering how she could help support her mother and finance her own passion for higher learning.

Dorothy came back to Denver and enrolled at DU. Dr. Lager paid for her

tuition while working as a keyboard operator of a machine that cut aluminum for mailing stencils at *The Denver Post* for \$17 per week during summers. She earned her four-year degree in Social Studies (Arts and Humanities) in 1945 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Mortar Board. DU had higher numbers of women students due to the war, which provided rare opportunities for women like Dorothy. After getting her bachelor's, Dorothy took a civil service exam and started work in the claims division of Social Security in Denver.

Dorothy married, raised three children, sang soprano regularly in her church choir, and in 1959 took a job at the Emily Griffith School — which was the academic and vocational adult arm of Denver Public Schools. Dorothy taught speed reading in the evening and adult basic education during the day. She went on to earn her master's from CU in 1964 and obtained her doctorate from CU in 1971. In 1976, she was honored as Teacher of the Year by DPS.

Although Dorothy has traveled to Australia and New Zealand, she humbly counts her most recent excursion on foot to deliver her voting ballot as the greatest of privileges. Dorothy likes to say, “Isn't it a beautiful day?! Did you know that Denver has more days of sunshine than Miami?”

Since Dorothy's life spans nine

decades, it is a wonder that her stories encompass everything from cold cellars and hauling coal to wireless technologies and cars run by computer chips. Dorothy's perspective on the most interesting technological achievement? Smart phones. The worst? Pollution. As Dorothy put it, “I am reminded of something I read. In the not-so-distant future, the world will not be fighting over oil. Instead, the rare and precious resource will be clean water.”

Dorothy's proudest moments include raising her three children, earning her doctorate and being named Teacher of the Year. Her favorite book is the Bible and she can recite it's passages easily and accurately from memory along with her favorite poetry. Her sense of humor is infectious and her tenacity is inspiring. And what does Dorothy love about University Park? The people, the trees, the walkability and what she calls “the changing scene.”

Dorothy is only one of a notable group of University Park “nonagenarians” (people whose age ranges from 90-99) with a thousand stories to tell and still doing great yet quiet works for their community. The next time you empty a soda can, you might want to toss it into a bag labeled “Cans for Dorothy.” Dr. Lager will likely find it on her next trek in the hood.

# University Park Elementary Open House Tours

University Park Elementary will be holding open houses and tours for prospective families through January. If you would like to attend, please see the list of dates below and RSVP to the school secretary Jennifer Plesa at 720- 424-3410. More information is available on the website: [www.uparkelementary.org](http://www.uparkelementary.org).

## Open House Dates

- Saturday, January 10, 2015:  
Open House, 9-11 a.m.

## School Tour Dates

- Friday, December 5, 2014:  
9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 12, 2014:  
9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 16, 2015:  
9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 23, 2015:  
9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 30, 2015:  
9:15 a.m.

## A Benefit To Benefit Prairie Park

### A Rousing Program of **SONGS & POEMS of the WEST**

with Diana Helper and Friends

**Friday, November 14, 2014**

7 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open 6:45 p.m.)

**at the Historic Carriage House**

of Fitzroy Place/liff Mansion • (Accelerated Schools) • 1960 South Cook St., Denver

Admission is only: \$20 – First Come, First Serve

**to Benefit University Park's Prairie Park Interpretive Sign Fund**

*Parking on the circle or street*

**There are 2 ways to purchase your tickets or donate**

(Please specify TICKETS or DONATION)

### Send Checks To:

UPCC (Prairie Music Tickets)

P.O. Box 102407 • Denver, Colorado 80250

**PLEASE INCLUDE:** Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address  
and Number of Tickets (\$20/each)

### To Pay or Donate Online:

Through Prairie Park PayPal Payment Link

**PLEASE INCLUDE:** Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address  
and Number of Tickets (\$20/each)

*\*Next to the "thank you for your donation" in paypal – you may add your comments there.*

**Any Questions? Please feel free to email us ([parks@upcc.us](mailto:parks@upcc.us))**

## Thank You!! Recent Dues Payers!

**The following residents paid voluntary UPCC dues in August and September of 2014. Thank you!**

Andrea & Scott Steuer  
Anita Sanborn & Bob Thomson  
Barbara Boucher  
Bob Goodyear & Suzanne Martin  
Boyd & Mary May Hight  
Cathleen Osborn  
Charles & Jerry Tuffield  
Chris & Staci Bouc  
David & Karen Lausa  
Dorothy Sutherlin  
Elizabeth Kraft & Robin  
Schmachtenberger

Jackie Davis  
Jay & Nancy Carlson  
Jeanie & Randal Martines  
Jeff & Betty McClintock  
Jerry & Peggy Kirkegaard  
Joe & Karen Chin  
Joe & Lori Davis  
John & Peggy Bender  
John Davidson  
Karen Coffey & Peter Rockwood  
Laura Love & Greg Aden  
Mark & Jeanne Balent

Mary Knowles & Bob Hinz  
Matt & Elysabethe Olmstead  
Megan Bartsch & Mark Hampel  
Mike & Jane Herbert  
Nancy Silverstone & Jason Miller  
Richard & Mary Krugman  
Sam & Judy Wilson  
Sarah & Chris Bock  
Spencer & Sheila Zinn  
Stephen Pougent & Christopher Green  
Theresa Pena & Matt Chavkin  
William & Sara "Sally" Harvey

## UPCC Voluntary Dues 2014

All residents of University Parks are members of the UPCC.

Voluntary dues are integral to the operation of the UPCC,  
neighborhood events and publications.

You are invited to pay your UPCC Voluntary Dues for 2014.

The suggested amount is \$20 or \$15 for seniors.

**Mail to:** UPCC, 2100 S. Monroe St., Denver, CO 80210

**Online:** Use PayPal at [www.upcc.us/support](http://www.upcc.us/support)

## The Infamous Purple Art House

Hello neighbors. My name is Liz Afshar and I live in the infamous purple holdout house at 2484 S. Columbine St. As an artist, teacher and advocate for art therapy in Denver schools, I would love to start a community mosaic project to possibly be installed at Observatory Park. This project will start the first of the year and details will come soon! Also, I would like to invite you to stop by for coffee and homemade scones and my **Bits and Pieces trunk show** being held at the Purple House Dec. 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please feel free to drop by! Any questions? Please email me at [greengoartworks@gmail.com](mailto:greengoartworks@gmail.com).