

# North Hollywood High



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## Alumni & Friends

### Trout Lakes

It was 1939 when Bob Berkey and his partners, Amos Elliott and Robert Clark purchased the property at 12833 Ventura Blvd. to build the Sportsman Lodge, which was the dream and design of Bob Berkey.

Construction commenced in early 1940 and the small chicken restaurant had to be shuttered and a new entrance to the lakes was constructed.

During this period a new bridge was constructed

across the front lakes and a large waterfall was built. A new compressor was also installed to supply aeration for two of the three lakes.

The key to success for the trout lakes was the use of good well water, continuous water movement and supplying air to the water.

Trout cannot live in chlorinated water and need active water movement in order to exist.

While the lodge was being built, December 7<sup>th</sup> happened and we entered WWII. All construction stopped and we spent the following four years concentrating on the fishing business.

People could no longer travel to go trout fishing and trout on the dinner table was an excellent replacement for the table meat that was rationed.

(continued pg. 4)

### Little Jeanne Saleen '41

Mel Koontz, an animal trainer who specialized in movie cats, went to the editor of the San Fernando Valley Times in North Hollywood to suggest a publicity story. He wanted a girl who would not be afraid to pose with Jackie the lion, Satan the tiger and Dynamite the panther. The editor said he knew just the right girl as he knew I loved animals. The whole photo shoot took about 30 minutes.

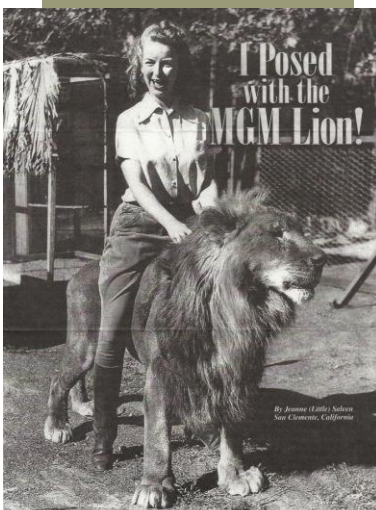
The panther was the offspring of one of Frank

Buck's African captives and could be recognized by her movie appearances because of one crossed eye. Jackie was also the second and most famous of the MGM lions, roaring from within the logo for several decades.

About 18 years after I posed with those beautiful cats, my husband and I took our four children to nearby Thousand Oaks to see Mel Koontz's wild animal show. After the show I decided to find Mel. When I found him I said "Pardon me, Mel" I'm

sure you probably don't remember me, but...he leaped from his chair, grabbed me and said, "Don't remember you?! You were the only girl who would ever pose with my cats."

This article originally appeared in *Reminisce* magazine.



## Reunions – Save These Dates!

**1941** First Wednesday of every odd month

The Alumni Committee under the direction of Dick Mutaw meets every other month at the Burbank Hilton Inn, Carousel Room. Classmates are welcome to join them. Call Dick Mutaw at 818-345-5978, email [dmutaw@hotmail.com](mailto:dmutaw@hotmail.com) for dates and time. These meetings are just a friendly social gathering with no business conducted.

**1952** 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Ted Clarke and Ralph Mauriello are planning a 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the class of '52 and also invite all classes that attended the school while the '52 class was at Bingville (1950-1954). Plans are to hold the reunion at the Sportsmen's Lodge sometime during October 2012. Please contact Ted at [tcclarke@earthlink.net](mailto:tcclarke@earthlink.net) for more information. Phone # 626-798-6886, 5000 Rising Hill, Altadena, CA 91001



**1957** 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion

There will be a luncheon at the Sportsmen's Lodge on Saturday, May 19, 2012. This link provides all the information <http://nhhsclassof1957.com>

**1971-1972** 40th Reunion

Please join us for a Combined Reunion for the Classes of 1971 & 1972, May 19, 2012, Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City, CA

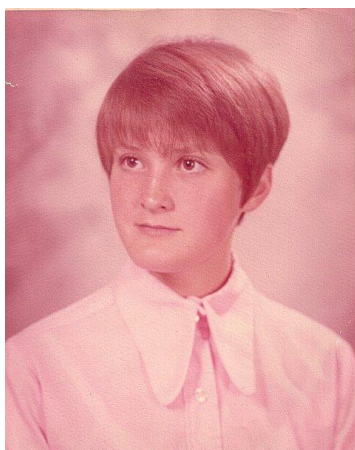
Contact Class 1971 Anita Jamison, Scott Pollard Email [nhhs1971@gmail.com](mailto:nhhs1971@gmail.com)

Contact Class 1972 Kathy Phillips Coss [kkpc3@mac.com](mailto:kkpc3@mac.com)

**2012** Annual Picnic will be June 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 -3:00 p.m. on the Quad on Campus



## Interesting People and Facts



### Meet Carol Ajar Tipton:

Carol has been helping Teresa (Editor) and Gail (Treasurer) by sharing her computer skills these past few years. Carol is a '70 graduate. She attended Rio Vista Elementary and Walter Reed Jr. High schools. After graduation she attended Schiller College in Germany for one year, then attended Pierce, Valley and several other colleges around the US. Carol is a few credits shy of having her BA degree, which she plans to get in the near future.

After returning to the US, she worked in insurance, served in the military for 2 years, and worked as a Studio projectionist/sound technician. She was also Chief Financial Officer for her Dad's projector business while she worked for the Studios.

### From the Arcade, Fall 1931

A noon dance was held in October with the Jazz Orchestra furnishing the music.'

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas vespers were held

December 13. Among the soloists was Alan Ladd.

On the morning of Thanksgiving Miss Bernice Sheets (later Hutchinson) played at the Hollywood Bowl with the People's Symphony Orchestra (Music teacher)

### Sincere apologies

Still with us Linnie Murphy Kephart '60 and Barbara Brown Holcombe

### Coming Up!

March 3, 2012 - Mailing Work Party

March 24, 2012 - Annual Meeting

## LADWP Science Bowl

The LADWP Science Bowl results: North Hollywood High School tied for 8th place out of 69 teams from 44 states at the National Science Bowl. They made it to the Double Elimination Tournament and placed at the top of 16 teams. The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the school \$1,000 for their Science Department.



## Reaching Out

**John Knierim '51** was looking for information on the Brink Brothers '52.

Here is his answer:

Jack Brink writes that brother Don passed last year and brother Dick lives in Oceanside. Jack lives in North Hollywood.

**Janet Edwards Reed** class of '49 would like to reach Bob Nipple's widow.

She has a picture of Bob and her brother William (Bud) Edwards '44 that was taken the day they reported for duty in the Navy V-5 and V-12

programs respectively at Occidental College.

**Betty Mahler Vess** would like to thank **Nancy Kennedy Riley '50** for her work on the Class of 1948's 62nd reunion.

**Peter Katcoff** NHHS 1955; UCLA/Cal State LA International Business; Retired; Lives and taught business in SF and in Vietnam through 2010. Travel and Tango

**Leah Katcoff Vasquez** NHHS 1957: Otis/UC Irvine MFA, Artist; Lives and works in Laguna

Beach, CA/Business:  
Leah Vasquez Fine Art Services:  
[www.leahsart.com](http://www.leahsart.com); Arts Director/Hortense Miller Garden

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*"Peter and Leah Katcoff strolling in a park alongside the cranberry bogs."*



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*“At the end of WWII, construction of the Sportsman Lodge continued to completion.”*



## Trout Lakes (cont)

We stocked the lakes with over 3,000 trout each week. Dad built a large skid mounted tanker that was self contained with water pumps and a large drain shoot for discharging trout into the lakes.

Once a week we would travel to the hatchery at Whitewater, near Palm Springs.

At the end of WWII, construction of the Sportsman Lodge continued to completion. The Lodge was leased out to two restaurant professionals, Dave Harlic and Ray Fine, and became an immediate success.

In 1945, our mother, Dortha Berkey, died of kidney failure, (one year before dialysis was perfected). Dad and his partners bought the adjacent property and Dad remodeled the farm house for his family. We moved into that house about a month before the lodge opened its doors.

After our mom passed, life appeared to be one of survival for our entire family. Dad and his partners sold the lakes and lodge in 1948 to Harlic and Fine. The old farm house was removed and this is where the Sportsman's Lodge Hotel currently exists.

Since those great years, the property has had drastic changes. The well was shut down which eliminated the trout. Bridges and docks have been removed. The barbeque and picnic tables were removed. One lake is completely missing in favor of the parking lot. There is no longer a tackle shop and the waterfall is just a trickle of dirty water flowing from the top.

Sad----BUT time marches on.

Bruce Berkey

## Alumni News

**1938 Aleda Murrell Cowan** recently talked to **Mckinley McIntosh '38**. We would like to hear from anyone from our class. Please contact me at [Aleda@att.com](mailto:Aleda@att.com).

**1942 Phyllis Vernon DeCinces** passed in May. She and Camilus Theadore were married in 1946. They had met in high school. Ted built a construction business which became a multi-state Construction Corporation. Phyllis served on the board of Hilltoppers, Auxiliary, Assistance League of So.CA, the March of Dimes and Children's Spastic League. She received the President's Call to Service Award in 2007. She was also a Girl Scout Leader, PTA President and great baseball fan. (from Newspaper).

**Edith Moore Hoffman** passed in April. Eadie worked at Disney Studios in Ink and Paint Dept where she met her husband Phil. Eadie sang for the USO during WWII, traveled the world with Phil and got two hole-in-ones! She loved working in her garden and having pool parties for grandchildren. Blindness from macular degeneration failed to change her positive attitude in recent years.

**1943 Douglass Smith** passed October 2010. He was married to **Sally Campbell Smith class of 47** for 60 years.

**John Edward Bass** joined the U. S. Navy before graduation at 17 years of age. He became a medic and was involved in nine of the beach invasions in the war against Japan. After the war he joined the L.A. Fire Department. He retired as Captain after 28 years. He loved playing golf, bowling, jogging and reading. He was a deacon in the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Van Nuys and taught Sunday School for 25 years.

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*“Eadie sang for the USO during WWII, traveled the world with Phil and got two hole-in-ones!”*

## More Alumni News

**1944 Jim Robertson** writes: **Tom Keller**, the last of my dearest buddies in the entire world, died last year. He was what Tom Brokaw called “The Greatest Generation”. He was born and raised during the Great Depression. He went to war to “save the world for democracy” when his country called on him. He married Evelyn Gore ‘46, his high school sweetheart and together they raised a family of four great kids, alumni all. He learned to make dental prosthetics on the G.I. Bill and opened his own laboratory. Maybe he didn’t make it “big” by some standards, but he was the backbone of this country and what made this the greatest country in the world. So let’s “take a cup of kindness yet to auld lang syne,” to the kids of North Hollywood High School Class of ‘44, and those who went before us like, Morrie Holtby, Lynn Knowels and Tom Keller, and those of other classes who went before them like my brothers Norm and Dick Robertson, and those of other classes who will come after us, and to the great-teachers who touched our lives at NHHS (This may take several cups). Amen- alumni Members

**Walter Mikesell** of Yuma, AZ passed away as reported by his daughter, Karen Olson of Reno, NV. She writes Walter entered the U.S. Navy after graduation and served till 1946. He went to work for Lockheed and Aero Jet as a tool and die maker. He was an avid model railroader and enjoyed class reunions.

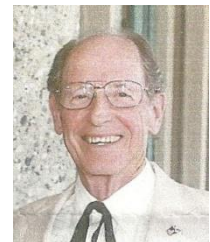
**1945 Virginia Lunsford Springer** graduated from Cuesta College and Fresno State University. She raised 4 daughters. She worked at Wells Fargo in Yosemite National Park. After retiring in 1982 she joined the National Park Service and served in Yosemite and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Leaving there, she moved to Tucson, AZ where she was involved in ticket sales for the University of Arizona. She loved quilting and belonged to Eastern Star. Her ashes are being distributed high in the mountains she loved. Donations in her name can be made at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

**1947 Burton Sperber** passed in September. He met Charlene when he was 16 and they married in 1949. He was an Army Master Sergeant in the Korean War. When the owner of the MG Nursery in North Hollywood died he and his father purchased the nursery in 1949. Burt became founder and chairman of Valley Crest Landscape Co; the nation’s largest landscape service. Two of his projects have been the garden at Getty Center and Walt Disney Concert Hall. Burton had a passion for magic. He was a member of the elite Inner Magic Circle, a London Society. He also was instrumental in building what is now known as American Jewish University of Los Angeles.

**1948 Prudence Pinto Spelta** passed in May of this year. She was a real estate agent.

**John Barbour ‘48** passed in March. John learned to play clarinet and saxophone in elementary school; played in the band in junior high school and during WWII played in a USO dance band. During high school he sang in the glee club in operettas and learned to call square dances. John was a realtor for over 50 years. He was President of San Jose Real Estate Board, a Lifetime Director of the CA Association of Realtors and Realtor Emeritus of the National Association of Realtors

**Bill Tiernay ‘48 writes:** He and his wife Grace of 59 years have lived/retired on Hilton Island, SC for the past 17 years. I stay in e-mail touch with many class members i.e. Bill King, Marv Franklin, Dick Gifford, Richard and Carolyn Beaubien, and Bob Thayer who is our S’48 email coordinator. They have four children, the eldest is in charge of his company’s operations in Afghanistan and two sons are in DC. One with the Federal Reserve Bank and the other is with the FBI. Our daughter lives on Hilton Head Island, has a family and is a Spanish teacher.



John Barbour



Bill Tiernay

## Even More Alumni News



Dick Williams

**Richard T. Williams** passed away 10/4/11. After graduation he joined the Marine Corps, where he served in the Korean War and received two purple hearts. After returning he attended UC Berkley on the G.I. Bill. His degree was in Agricultural Economics.. He began his professional career in 1955 with Dow Chemical, Dow Brands and Bio Science Laboratories. Following his retirement he started a new career as CEO of Long Beach Memorial Hospital and later as CEO of Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife Mutsko, three daughters, grandchildren and his sister Bronwen Williams Weiss '44.

**Dolores (Dody) McConkey Kinsman**, of Chatsworth CA, died on November 4, 2009. She was born in Los Angeles and lived most of her life in the LA area. At the age of 5 she contracted polio but was able to attend school. Dody attended Walter Reed Junior High, and North Hollywood High graduating in 1948. Dody graduated from UCLA in 1952 with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics. She and Dick had 56 wonderful years together; she will be missed by all that knew her. She was one of a kind.



Dean Rankin

**1949 Lee Reem '50** reports that **Dean Rankin '49** passed away this year after a long illness. He and his wife Brooke lived in Palm Desert. **Dean** was a very active **Husky**. He served on Student Council, Ephiepians, Letterman Club, Escuderos, Argonauts and Varsity Football Ball. Dean attended UCLA and received his degree in dentistry from USC Dental School. He had his practice on Magnolia Blvd. near Valley Village for many years. He also had a 1932 Ford coupe that was bronze in color and admired by many. **Dean** was loved and respected by all who knew him.

**Pjite (Lorraine) Lawson Lunstrom** says "hello" to classmates. She and husband celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and birth of grandchildren

**Edward Booker** sends us a bit of humor: When I was a member of the high school band at NHHS the band needed new uniforms but the school board could not afford them so the band put on a concert at the local theatre in downtown North Hollywood area called the El Portal. A step type formation such as bleachers had been prepared on the stage and we all took our places. I played the sousaphone so I had a seat right on the top back row. It was about a five foot drop to the floor. At one point, the particular number we were playing had a bass solo. My friend **Fred Ghezzi W-'50** and I playing bass, were really getting with it up until the folding chair I was sitting on collapsed and I went tumbling backwards with the large horn coming down right on top of me. We did not raise much money with the concert but everyone sure did get a big laugh at my expense. I did not think my friend **Toni Haskenschmidt S-'49** would ever stop laughing.



Erla Wolfsen

**Erla Wolfsen Marley Curtin '49** writes; I retired again. I have been working as a Director of Congregational Care and as a Parish Nurse at a church here in San Clemente for the past 8 years. (I was a school nurse for 17 years previously). Anyway I decided since I turned 79 this year (2010) that it was time to retire again. I will be celebrating by taking a trip to Ireland the spring of 2011.



Sharon Bohn

**Tom Bohn** writes that his sister **Sharon Bohn Whitney '50** passed away 2/2010 in Covina, CA. One year before her husband **Henry Whitney '45** passed in Pomona, CA. I am living in Simi Valley, CA. I have four sons all married and seven grandkids

## Yet More Alumni News

**1952 Richard (Denny) Niles** graduated USC in 1956, where he was a champion Golden Gloves boxer. After two years in the army he became a TV and movie actor, moving to the Producer of the "All-American College Show" that discovered the Carpenters, if memory serves me right, Barbara Ruick '50 and Bert Convy '50 were regular guests. Later, he worked with his brother, Wendell '49, the Monte Carlo Sports Festival. Denny and Wendell's father was well-known radio personality Wendell Niles.

**Mike Schneider** and his wife, **Patti Gerstad '53** returned from a 38 day trip to 9 countries: China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Canada and Alaska. They visited Pusan, South Korea, which Mike saw in 1953, on fire, when he arrived on an army troop ship for his 18 month tour of duty.

**1953 Jean Martin Robinson** writes from San Antonia about her marvelous cruise through the Panama Canal with **Roberta Butts Boardman '52**. She remembers **Len Lookabaugh** from NHHS who later lived in Washington State and passed in 2009, friends of **Vince Martinelli** and **Larry Jay**.

**1956 Dave Cedarquist** passed away on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Atascadero, California. Dave was a member of the Road Rumlbers Car Club, driving a white '32 roadster.

**Tim McCollum** writes to Esquires and Friends; First the bad news. Once again I will not be able to attend the party at Freddy's. Schedules (court) just keep changing. I am disappointed as I was looking forward to seeing many. On a different note, Sarah Grayson, younger sister of Mary Grayson, is seeking encouragement to get Mary and her husband John Rushton to come to the annual Picnic. If you remember Mary or John a note to Sarah will be forwarded. All is well here. I just finished my 8<sup>th</sup> term at EOU, only 2 more to go. Phil Paul reports that he, Deek Smith, Perry Altsule and Mike Balaban just returned from a fun 3 day trip to Las Vegas, and that they have been meeting once or twice each year for more than 35 years. Way to go guys! Hope all is great for you.

**1957 Roxane Bloom Stern** sends the latest news from the class. About 35 classmates were at our 2011 picnic. **Carol Pruett (Balcom-Amundson)** hosted. We started planning for the 55<sup>th</sup> reunion next year.

**1958 Tony Angell** reports on his latest books Puget Sound Through an Artists Eye (University of Washington Press 2009) was nominated for the Best Book Award (Non Fiction) by the Washington State Library Association. His forthcoming book, The Gift of Crows (Simon and Shuster), will be available early in 2012. It is co authored with John Marzluff, who was recently featured on PBS NATURE in the program, "Murder of Crows". A one person show of my sculptures and drawings will be at the Foster/White Gallery in Seattle in the Fall of 2011 [rolfeangell@aol.com](mailto:rolfeangell@aol.com)

**1960 Joan Diamond** has written a book called Artful Aging: A Celebration of Life After 60. [www.artfulaging.com](http://www.artfulaging.com)

**Jay Carlisle** writes from White Plains, New York that he is Professor of Law at Pace University (New York City and Westchester). He is Commissioner for the New York State Law Revision Commission

**Patricia "Pat" Dalawrak Kleiman '60** passed away 11/1/11 in Tarzana, CA after a 7 year battle with cancer. She was a gallant and gracious lady.

**Shirley Perry Scarff** (no year given) writes that she has moved to a Senior's home in Newport Beach while her sister, **Virginia Perry Anderson** is still living in her home in Newport Beach.



Pat Dalawrak

## Memory Lane

- 1936 Suzanne Smith Thrasher and  
Kenneth Thrasher per  
Pauline Thrasher Gates
- 1937 Mary Kennedy Sherman on Social  
Security death Index
- 1940 Marietta Guerra Genne  
Ferris Murdy by Harold Knowles
- 1941 Leonard Newman brother of  
Shirley Newman LaRoy '47 and  
Lyle and Leith Newman
- 1942 Edith Moore Hoffman by  
Marv Allison '53  
Phyllis Vernon DeCinces per  
Newspaper
- 1943 John Bass brother of  
William and Robert  
Doug Smith  
John Edward Coss'43
- 1944 Walter Raymond Mikesell per  
Karen Olson his daughter  
George Taggart per George's son Ron  
Lorraine Lanoutte Lasky by  
Ken Lanoutte  
Tom Keller per  
Jim Robertson
- 1945 Henry Whitney per Tom Bohn  
Virginia Lunsford Springer, sister of  
Betty Lunsford Mercer'46 an  
Shirley Lunsford
- 1946 Joanne Church Williams by  
Daughter
- 1947 Patricia Peterson Tily by  
Marilyn Hogeland Johnson  
Dewey Huber by brother Gene Uber  
Leonard Newman brother of  
Shirley Newman LaRoy, Lyle and  
Leith Newman  
Burton Sperber
- 1948 John Buckley per Nancy Riley  
Marilyn Copper Johnson per  
Betty Mahler Vess  
Sue Doron Antonelli per  
Betty Mahler Vess  
Delores McConkey Kinsman per  
Betty Mahler Vess
- 1949 Sheldon Auerbach  
Dean Rankin per Lee Reems  
Joan Vosburg Black by sister  
June Vosburg Doyle
- 1950 Sharon Bohn Whitney per Tom Bohn  
'49
- 1951 Robert A. Foster by Peter Cramer '51
- 1952 Richard "Denny" Denison Niles by  
Los Angeles Times
- 1953 Howard Larson by  
Marion Fishman Schiff  
Barbara Altice by  
Judy Hilary Knight
- 1956 Dave Cedarquist per Lewis & Carol  
Rowe
- 1957 JoAnn Farber Lewis by Roxane Stern  
Ernest Chaves per Roxane Stern  
Jack Victor Defoe per Roxane Stern  
Harvey Bernstein per Roxane Stern  
Sally Chisholm Hewitt per R. Stern  
Kay Latter Dalton per R. Stern  
Janet Kirk Brehen per R. Stern  
JoAnn Farber Lewis  
Naomi Monson Thompson per  
Roxane Stern  
Norman Leonard per R. Stern  
Pat Simpsoin Kent per R. Stern  
Donald Sopp per R. Stern  
Royle Rodgers per  
Sharon Stahler Betz  
Harvey Bernstein per R. Stern
- 1960 Gary Gabriel Klapow  
Robert "Bob" Brooks  
Patricia Dalawrak Kleiman
- 1965 Nikki Howard Pederson per  
Sue Rugge Townsley  
Melissa Ross

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*"Take a walk down  
memory lane from 1936  
to 1965."*

**Editors Corner** by Teresa Cook

Teresa Venegas Cook with the infinitely patient Bob Cook.

We have a new look with this issue. We've been able to add some photos and, hopefully, made the content easier to read. I'd love to receive your comments about the cosmetic changes. Send me feedback via email at [tmariacook@gmail.com](mailto:tmariacook@gmail.com).

Regardless of any new look what makes the newsletter interesting is

the content. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

But we need more of you to contribute. Let us know what is going on in your life.

When you send us your content please email it to me if at all possible. When I receive it handwritten I have to retype everything and that seriously

increases the workload. If you are not computer savvy, perhaps a friend, child, or grandchild can help you. Please send photos and content to [tmariacook@gmail.com](mailto:tmariacook@gmail.com).

Finally - We need more people like Carol to step up and help keep the Alumni Association going.



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North Hollywood Alumni Association  
c/o Gail Huber Coyle  
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North Hollywood, CA 91606



**Alumni Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, ST ZIP Code**

