



Alumni & Friends

A Word Lover's Journey

Alumni Officers

President

Carol Ajar Tipton S '70
PO Box 474
Sunland, CA 91041
818-951-7621
catipton@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Gail Huber Coyle '49
6047 St. Clair Avenue
N. Hollywood, CA 91608
818-766-8915

Editor

Teresa Venegas Cook '50
416 Crooked Stick Road
Jerome, ID 83338
208-324-5065
tmariacook@gmail.com

Membership Director

Bill Coburn
818-762-1934
campcoburn@sbcglobal.net

Visit us online at
www.nhhsalumni.com

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Anyone who had Miss Okimoto's English class in the late 60's may remember Melissa Munns '69. It seemed like after every writing assignment, Miss Okimoto would hold up Melissa's essay as an example to the class, encouraging the fledgling writer with her support and positive reinforcement. Miss Okimoto might be glad to know it paid off.

Last year, Melissa Munns Bowersock published her tenth book. Primarily a fiction writer, Melissa has nine novels to her credit, ranging from action/adventure to romance to fantasy to spiritual to satire. Her latest book is non-fiction, the award-winning true story of her aunt, an Army nurse and prisoner-of-war during World War II. It seems there is no limit for Melissa, either to the types of stories or the number of stories.

"I never like to tell the same story twice," she says. "Readers have asked me to do sequels, but I don't. When I'm done with

one book, I'm on to the next one. Right now I'm working on three novels, not all at the same time, obviously. I jump back and forth between them as they call to me. I have no deadlines so I can take all the time that I want, and this keeps me fresh when I pick up a book that's been lying about for a while."



Melissa has always had a "day job" and writes in her free time. After graduating from NHHS, she married and moved to Medford, OR with her husband and three step-children. She worked for the phone company there and in AZ (she moved there in 1981) for 22 years. She currently resides in Tucson, AZ and works for the National Observatory as an administrative assistant and is currently part of a project

to build a large telescope in Chile.

Her first book, a western romance, was published by a New York house in 1984. The second, also a western romance, followed from the same publisher in 1987. Over the years, the publishing industry has changed dramatically with the big houses concentrating on celebrity writers and being less inclined to accept mid-list authors, but luckily many small presses have emerged to fill that gap. Melissa's next three books were all published by three different small presses. When her first two books went out of print, she began investigating ways to re-publish the books herself, just to keep them available, and discovered the growing self-publishing movement. She has self-published her last five books and loves having total control over her work.

"Self-publishing is hard, but (*continued on pg 3*)

Don't forget the
Annual Picnic in the Quad, June 30th, 11-3pm

Reunions – Save These Dates!

2013 NHHS Annual Picnic is June 30th, 11:00am to 3:00pm in the Quad on Campus, we hope to see you there!

Alumni Luncheon Club meets at noon on the first Wednesday of every ODD month (except when a holiday interferes). Plan to join us on July 10th, September 4th and/or November 6th 2013. We now have people from the Class of '32, '39, the 40's, 50's and '70's attending.

We meet at the Burbank Holiday Inn in the People's Choice Restaurant located at 150 E. Angeleno Avenue, Burbank, CA 91502, telephone (818)841-4770, at NOON. Choose your own meal from the menu (separate checks). This is a social gathering and all classes are welcome. RSVP to Richard "Dick" Mutaw '41 at (818)345-5978 or e-mail dmutaw@hotmail.com. We hope to see you there!



2012 Picnic, L-R Jean Hardy '51, Pamela Hicks Mann '51, Celio McCann Arden '51, Kay Badgeley Curry '51, Chuck Tait '49 and Diane Waldron Tait '51

1948 65 Year Reunion will be held at the Sportsman's Lodge, Studio City, CA on Saturday June 29, 2013, 11:00am to 3:00pm; choices of entrees are chicken or steak. Contact Ralph & Charlene Bauer at (714)846-3937, mailing address 16511 Cotuit Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92649-2121, or e-mail rbauer1022@verizon.net. Cost per person is \$38.00.

1953 60 Year Reunion of the combined Winter and Summer Classes will be held on Saturday June 29, 2013 at the Sportsman's Lodge. We are planning a Buffet Luncheon from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Price is \$55.00 per person. Please plan to join us; the annual NHHS picnic is the following day and we hope to see you there as well. For more information, please contact Antoinette (Toni) Schaber (818)988-2774, Carole Holroyd Free (310)650-0252 or Dick Holme (818)994-4449, or e-mail 53nhhs@gmail.com.

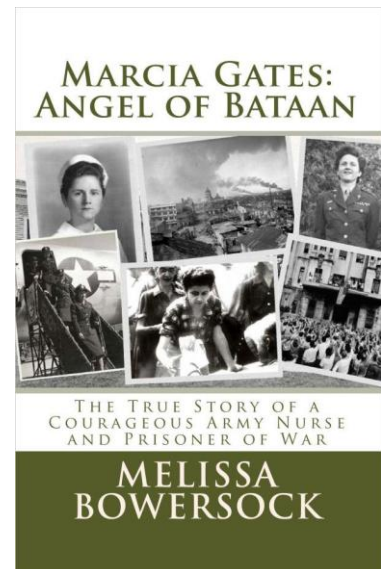
1963 50 Year Reunion of the Winter and Summer Classes will hold their event at the Beverly Garland Hotel, June 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Myra Schreiber Neuser, phone (818)894-8069, or e-mail myraneuser@yahoo.com. Tickets include dinner and dancing and are \$105.00 per person.

1969 45 Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 6 to 10pm at Santa Clarita Lanes located at 21615 Soledad Canyon Road, Saugus, CA 91350, telephone (661)254-0540. The event will be hosted by Tom, Laurie, Steve, and Randy, and information packages should go out sometime this summer, so look for yours to arrive. In the meantime, you can contact Tom at the above number for more information, or email him at scl4usc@aol.com.

Word Lover, continued

it is worth it," she says. "I have total control over the title, the cover, the way the book is packaged and presented. My first book, which I called *The Rare Breed*, was titled *Love's Savage Destiny* by the publisher. My second book, which I called *Superstition Gold*, was titled *Love's Savage Embrace*. I remember getting a letter from the publisher after they titled the second one, and they said, 'We hope you'll be as thrilled with the title as we are.' I swore after that I would one day write *Love's Savage Armpit*."

She hasn't written it yet, but she has reissued the first two books under their original titles. Only one of her books goes under a pseudonym, *The Pits of Passion* by Amber Flame. "This is a satire on romance novels," she explains. "It takes every cliché of the genre and lampoons it. I never thought any publisher would pick it up because it makes fun of this very popular genre, but one did."



Along with having all the control, self-publishing means doing all the work, as well. Melissa formats the books for both paperbacks and e-books, creates the covers (often from her own photographs), and does all the marketing. She uses all the social media and online forums to interact and get the word out, appears at book festivals and does author interviews. She's created book trailers for several of her books and posted them on youtube. "The great thing about our information age," she says, "is that I can do 99% of my marketing while sitting at the computer."

But that kind of interaction will never replace talking to readers face-to-face. "In Tucson, we have a huge book festival every spring," she says. "Last year I was promoting my aunt's story and had a terrific time talking with people about their own stories of overcoming hardship. I was having so much fun chatting with folks, I didn't even realize until later that I was selling a book every 20 minutes."

This latest book appears to be her most popular yet. The book was awarded an Honorable Mention medal by the Military Writers Society of America and was featured in a TV documentary on Wisconsin's military history (her aunt's home state). However, the success of this book probably won't lead to more non-fiction.

"Fiction is my first love," she says. "I wrote my aunt's story simply because I didn't want it to be lost to history. She and all her generation are gone, and I felt her story was important enough that it needed to be out in the world, not shut up in a drawer and forgotten."



The three books currently in the works are all novels. One is a ghost story about a ghost that travels from England to Arizona with the London Bridge. The second is about a woman who tours a restored German work camp and experiences a spontaneous past-life memory of the Holocaust, and the third is a western action/adventure with a strong romance.

For more information, visit her on the web at www.newmoonrising.net and her blog at mjb-wordlovers.blogspot.com. You can also find her on Facebook and Twitter.

Notes of Interest

APOLOGIES: Our sincerest apologies to **Judy Salk Watson '57** and **Chuck Tait '49** who were listed in **Memory Lane** in our last issue; fortunately they are both still with us!

We extend our apologies to **Don Paglia** as well. **Don's** most generous donation of \$5,000 was to honor five classmates, but we only named four of them; **Don Clarke's** name was accidentally omitted.

NEWSLETTERS: A big thank you goes to the Alumni who were instrumental in getting the last newsletter ready to be sent regular mail to members who do not have email. Answering the last minute call for help were: **Bill Coburn '44, Patti Jose Mick '47, Gail Coyle '49, Pamela Hicks Mann '51, Kay Badgley Curry '51, Betty Sommerfeld Bunch '52, Owen Strang, Harriet Olshen Vallens '52, Al Held '53,** and **Carol Ajar Tipton '70. Teresa Venegas Cook '50** and **Carol Ajar Tipton** work closely with each other to get each edition ready to go to the printer so they can be snail and e-mailed to you. Thank you all!



Chuck '49 and Diane Waldron '51
Tait

2012 PICNIC: Those who work to make the summer picnic a great success get little recognition. The music of **Allen Weiss'** "Sounds of Music" is absolutely terrific. A special thank you goes to **Coach Harris** and the young men from the Athletics Department who set up the Arcade area and do the cooking. Year after year the same people give up their picnic time to make this event an enjoyable time for those in attendance. Helping make the event a success last year were: **Anne Briscoe Laughlin '32, Dick '41 and Dorothy Samuel '50 Mutaw, Bill Coburn '44, Dianna Kooden Davidson '47, Bill Mason '47, Gail Huber Coyle '49, Jean Hardy Reese '51, Pamela Hicks Mann '51, Kay Badgley Curry '51, Owen and Arlene Wheelless '52 Strang, Jean Hardy Reese '51, Pamela Hicks Mann '51, Kay Badgley Curry '51, Harriet Olshen Vallens '52, Al Held '53,** and **Carol Ajar Tipton '70.** Thanks also go to those who stayed after to help clean up without being asked. If you can donate some time to give these dedicated people a much needed break, please volunteer to help at the event.

VOLUNTEERS: The Alumni Assn. desperately needs your help, not just with the Annual Picnic/All Class Reunion. Up until about 8-10 years ago, the Alumni Assn. membership was made up only of graduates from the founding classes of the '30's, 40's and 50's, and most of the officers are still members of those founding classes. These people are now in their 80's and 90's, and ready to 'retire' once again. We do not need a lot of your time, usually only a few hours every couple months, but we do need it! Please contact Alumni Assn. President **Carol Ajar Tipton '70** at catiption@sbcglobal.net or (818)951-7621.

SCHOOL NEEDS: Occasionally someone will ask us "what are school needs?". School needs are the things that the school needs but cannot afford to buy. They do not fit in any budget, but are necessary or very desirable. For example: mats for the hallways on rainy days, bookshelves for the library, computers for the office or classrooms. We recently purchased rings for the City Wide championship baseball team. The school had two golf carts that were used to transport anyone who was sick or injured; adults that needed to get to the other end of the campus in a hurry or who were on patrol around campus and other such things. This year, both carts broke down. We replaced them with a four-seater and a two-seater (both used) at a cost of \$4,100. We try to be good stewards of your money and the school is very thankful.

(continued on next page)

Notes of Interest, continued

DUES, DONATION AND PICNIC FORM: This form is now a permanent part of our Alumni Newsletter. People like to make donations when they are able to throughout the year, pay for the picnic, and new members need to pay dues. If you have already paid your dues for the year, and you send us another check for them, we will consider it a donation and thank you for your generosity!

LOST & FOUND: Looking for **Joan Robertson '51**. See Alumni News for information on 'found' members **Barbara Wilson Spear '52** and **Gary Edwards '52**.

Alumni News

1936 In the past we have printed stories about **Carl Stevenson**, his wife **Patricia Fritz** (deceased), and their children. **Carl**, who has lived in AZ for the past 60 years, is now 95 years old and continues to collect honors. He was recently named Cattleman of the Year, and last year he was named Pioneer Cattleman of Arizona.

1943 Ann Roemheld Cullen '46 reports that **Vernon Monroe** died on 2/3/13. **Vernon** joined the Coast Guard before he finished school and got his degree later. His picture is in the Year Book that combined the Classes of W&S '42 and W '43. He graduated from USC in 1947.

1946 Joyce Yarrow Mercer is at home from the hospital and would love to hear from you. She has a new phone number, (661)726-2032, or you can write to her at 43531 Carol Dr., Lancaster, CA 93535

1948 Betty Vess sends us a glimpse from the past: **Gaylord Hendricks '48** was in a military vehicle on a road in Korea when he saw **Nick Alex '48** leading a column of soldiers along a road; the two friends had time to exchange a quick greeting.

1949 Edward "Ed" Booker writes: I hope my classmates got as much enjoyment reading the article that was in the Winter Issue of the NHHS Newsletter (lead story), as I did composing it. My wife **Connie Castro '52** and I recently celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends.

1950 Jack Langford writes about alumni get together and reunions of classmates from 1949-50 under the warm blue skies of AZ, and in some cases, reuniting for the first time in over 50 years since graduation! In February, **Barry '50** and wife **Carol Woodruff '54 Thomas** came to Phoenix to escape the "cold" winter of Sandpoint, ID. During their month long vacation in the area, a lot of catching up was done; military service, careers, marriage, kids, grandkids, etc. A very highpoint was a trip to Prescott to visit **Burt Dillard '50** and relive some common ground both grads had over their years in the Motion Picture Industry; Burt mostly in stunt work and Barry in over 40 years of production behind the cameras. In March, **Terry Morse '49** came to Phoenix for his annual support of the Los Angeles Dodgers spring training program, and we took in several games while in the area. We also put together a trip to Prescott to see Burt and visit with **Bill Ferris '49**, who also lives in Prescott. Lots of hashing over our glory days of involvement in baseball, football, track & field etc. while at NHHS. Some great memories were shared all around, and this was long overdue!

Dave '50 and Betty Sommerfeld '52 Bunch donated a 1986 Annual that Betty found at a garage sale. Thank you, we are always in need of the NHHS Annuals!

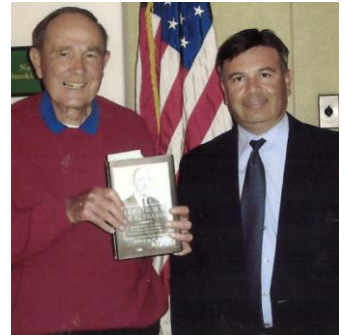
1950 Leonard Street passed away on Sept. 22, 2012 after a short battle with cancer. After graduation Leonard's career was in Real Estate. He was a natural in sales, and when the housing market dried up, he went to work for Future Auto Sales in Glendale until June of 2011 when he was diagnosed with lymphoma. He could not tolerate the chemotherapy and that is when he moved to CO to be near his family. **Leonard** loved NHHS and attended class reunions and many a football game.

1951 Jean Hardy Reese reports on the Mexican Riviera cruise that she and **Kay Badgley Curry** and **Pamela Hicks Mann** took. A great time was had by all as they took off-ship walks through Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas and Ensenada; they enjoyed too much food on the ship, and sadly, the gambling in the casino at sea

More Alumni News

had no big pay-outs. Jean says "We'll talk it up at the reunion in June".

Robert "Bob" Low shares with us an event that was very meaningful to him. Upon completion of his fourth term as a member of the Covina City Council, City Attorney Marco Martinez presented him with a copy of "Hugo Black of Alabama" by Steve Suits. The author writes that more than any other person, Hugo Black made the Constitution the Bible of the legal profession and the Bill of Rights its Ten Commandments. Bob writes, "One cannot help but feel grateful that one had the opportunity to attend school in North Hollywood during the 30's, 40's, and 50's." He goes on to say that it is unfortunate that today's CA schools are not as imaginative, creative and inspirational as they once were, and that we were extremely fortunate to have attended school at a time when community leaders fought for the fine arts, science museum field trips and yes, even library books. When Mike Bernard, the NHHS librarian, was recently asked about the book budget, he indicated that the District had not allocated any money to purchase books for the last five years. Editors Note: Bob has been a great supporter of our NHHS library for many years. His support has included writing letters to many LAUSD officials when they were going to close the school libraries as well as making very generous donations to the library for new books.



Robert "Bob" Low

1952 John Barta writes: My wife Bobbie and I are enjoying retired life in Atascadero, in peaceful central coast of CA, but I realize I'm close to being a graduate from this world, so I just sent to our President Carol Ajar Tipton, at her suggestion, my almost complete collection of Arcade newspapers of "Bingville" from September 1949 to June 1952. These should be available along with the yearbooks at the June picnic. Alumni from those years will enjoy seeing photos and articles about their contemporaries, teachers and administrators. The humorous editions are fun. Remember Sadie Hawkins Day? Some standouts for me:

Nov. 18, 1949: photo of the "Beaver of the Week," a bearded band leader called Curley Williams, whom I believe is John Williams, who made quite a name for himself. Editor's Note: John "Curley" Williams did indeed make quite a name for himself John!

Nov. 23, 1949: a special Thanksgiving edition showing two Pilgrims praying and the text of Psalm 100 (Heaven forbid!)

April 13, 1951: called the "Happy Hadacol Journal," this title being a test of the memory of old-timers and an unknown for younger generations.

April 4 1952: a hilarious photo of five female teachers and administrators, showing the stern chem teacher, Georgianna Miller, in a completely new light.

June 6, 1952: a photo of Queen of the May Chris Reed, with princesses June Harper and Patsy Pearman, which made me recall the abundant pulchritude in my graduating class.

I hope other alumni will enjoy the memories these old newspapers bring. Editor's Note: The Alumni Assn. hopes to have all the issues of the Arcade that John donated laminated and copied in time for the picnic in June.

Barbara Wilson Spear writes: this is to inform you that I am not lost. I am living in the Colorado San Juan Mountains in the town of Ridgway. We are located on the western slope two hours south of Grand Junction. I moved here four years ago after my husband Harry died. I am living with my son Jim and his lovely wife, and I feel like I am in heaven. We are surrounded by beautiful mountains and rivers. I volunteer at our Ridgeway Visitors Center from April to November and get tourists from all over the world; some come to ski or take advantage of the huge reservoir for boating, and photographers come to take pictures all year round. Ridgeway is also the home of the "Grammy Makers"; my son Jim is one of them!

Gary Edwards says "I'm alive and well, and I have paid my Alumni dues; I'm not lost!"

Even more Alumni News

1956 Bennett Rolfe passed away on 2/5/13 in Beaumont, CA. His family, including his older brother **Ronald**, relocated to California in 1947 from Minneapolis, MN. After graduation in 1956 **Bennett** completed his under-graduate degree at UCLA in 1960 and matriculated in UCLA School of Law. **Bennett** served as an attorney for almost 50 years in private practice specializing in employment discrimination law. He served as a planning commissioner for the City of Camarillo for eight years in the 1980's. **Bennett** will be greatly missed for his generous spirit, intellect, his laughter and great sense of humor. He was preceded in death by his brother **Ronald**, who passed away in 1968.

Herbert "Herbie" Gregory Griffin died in Bedford, IN on March 8, 2013. He and his sister **Velma '56** were very close growing up in Southern California, and then to Catalina Island during the early to mid forties where they dove for abalone, played at the bird park, collected rattle snake rattles, rode wild horses and had a shoe shine stand in downtown Avalon. **Herb** was 8 and **Velma** was 7. They had a baby sister, **Pearl**, born on the island in 1944. **Velma** mentions these because they were favorite memories **Herb** was remembering in the end. As you all know he was a fun guy, good football player, handsome, loved by all the girls and a great dancer. **Herb** died of metastatic melanoma. This is a rare type of melanoma, as there were no signs to his skin. **Herb** is survived by his sisters, **Velma Griffin Rodgers** and **Pearl** (Olympia, WA) and three sons.

1957 Michael D. Cherniss passed away April 1, 2013. **Mike** was born and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from NHHS and then attended U.C. Berkeley where he earned a B.A., M.A. and PhD in English. He joined the staff of the University of Kansas where he taught for 44 years. He published numerous articles and books in his specialty, Old and Middle English. He retired as a full professor in 2010. **Mike** will be remembered for his keen intelligence and sharp sense of humor.

1958 Nila "Kay" Gieg Arlington writes about the new Cupids on Victory Blvd. and Tyrone in Van Nuys. It is just a few feet from where the original was on the corner. Parking is in the back, and there is no parking on Victory after 4:00 pm. The owner gave **Nila** pictures for the Newsletter, including the "\$1 off with purchase of \$5 or more" coupon. **Nila** knew Frank, the manager of the original Cupid's. One of his daughters owns Cupid's in Simi Valley. **Nila** says to be sure to welcome them back when you go to get your hot dog.

Dave Smith (former Vice-Principal at NHHS) writes that he is working part time at UNLV (University of Nevada at Las Vegas). He facilitates student teachers and their mentors at the Clark County School District and UNLV. He finds it very rewarding.

1960 The NHHS Class of W60 Lunch Get-together was held April 20, 2013 at Islands Restaurant in Porter Ranch, CA. Attending were **Fred Zimmerman, Adele Katz, JoAnne Buckley, Sarah Grayson, Judy Hunter, Sue Barsha and Phil Brown**. **Adele** (Los Angeles, CA), **Phil** (Philadelphia, PA) and **Sarah** (Astoria, OR) were all born on the same day, April 15, 1942.

1987 Daniel "Danny" Gabriel Spector died unexpectedly March 4, 2013. **Danny** attended Wonderland Ave. Elementary, Walter Reed Jr. High, NHHS and Valley College. An outstanding athlete and teacher, he was bright, funny, gentle and cordial. He loved sports and had an incredible knowledge of sports statistics. He loved to fish the mountain streams and the ocean. He is survived by his parents and siblings, **Mark, Kasey, Alex and Shana**. A memorial was held in early April.



Herbert "Herbie" Griffin



Daniel "Danny" Gabriel Spector

Memory Lane

"Take a walk with us down memory lane from 1940 to 1987."

- 1940 George Neustedt per daughter Joan Neustedt Berry
- 1943 Vernon Monroe per Ann Roemheld Cullen
- 1944 Bronwen Williams Weiss per Social Security
Frank Alex by his wife Doris '44
Wilburn "Bud" Oliver per Lauri Oliver-Foss
- 1946 Mary Lee Stever Clark wife of Clifford Clark '44
Diane Hollister Hicks per Paula Ross Jacobs '48
- 1956 Herbert (Herbie) Griffin brother of Velma Griffin per Susan Plumb Hart
Bennett Miles Rolfe per Ventura County Star
- 1957 Doug Allen Griffin per Sydney Lawrence Balbes '56
Michael Cherniss per Fred Selan
- 1958 Charlene "Lolly" Morris Wise per Arlene Chersky Bernholtz
- 1961 Rick Rugge per Sue Rugge Townsley
- 1987 Daniel Gabriel Spector per L.A. Times



Bennett Rolfe



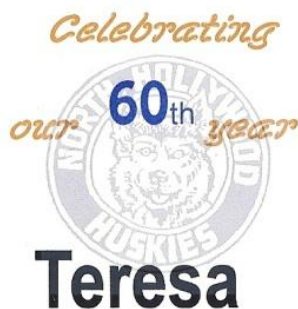
Sylvia M. Brigden

Sylvia M. Brigden, graduation class year/maiden name unknown, Class of 1956 per obit

Editor's Corner by Teresa Cook

North Hollywood High

Class of 1950



Teresa Veneas Cook

I want to thank the Alumni that sent me get well messages. My surgery was a success and with physical therapy, I should soon be back to normal, whatever that is!

We hope you continue to enjoy the newsletter and thank you for your contribution of news and pictures; there would be no newsletter without your help. As always we need more of you to contribute. Let us know what is going on in your life and the lives of your classmates. When you send your content please e-mail it to me if at all possible, but don't hesitate to send your news via "snail mail" if that is more comfortable to you. My address is on the front page of the newsletter. Please send photos and content to me at tmariacook@gmail.com.

If your item does not appear this time, we will try to get it into the next issue. Thank you again for sending your news.

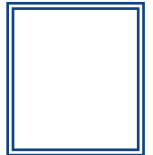
~ Teresa

North Hollywood High School Alma Mater



Near the valley's purple mountains
In the golden tinted plain
Near the Padre's sacred fountains
Reaching to the sounding main
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
Stands the high school that we love:
And our noblest aspirations
Are inspired by Heaven above
We will always love our high school
As her sons and daughters should;
And our fondest, noblest wishes
Are for you, North Hollywood

North Hollywood Alumni Association
c/o Gail Huber Coyle
6047 St. Clair Ave
North Hollywood, CA 91606



Alumni Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

