

**THE YALE CLASS OF 1945W  
ANNOUNCES THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR  
MINI-REUNION APRIL 8-12, 2002  
IN CHARLESTON SC**

The majority of classmates desired our Mini-Reunion to be in Charleston in the Spring. If you are going to Charleston in the Spring, there is only one time to go and that is the second week of April in the peak of the floral display at the lovely houses, gardens and plantations. This will be the week after Easter and it is so popular that we had to book hotels, dinners, plantations, boats and buses one year in advance. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to see Charleston at its most beautiful and enjoy some unique tours.

Our reunion hotel is the Mills House Hotel in the heart of historic Charleston and within easy walking distance of the famed houses and gardens at the peak of the Spring flower season. We have reserved 55 rooms at a special rate of \$189 plus tax with executive level and petite suites \$50 more. There are many smaller inns, hotels and B&B's within walking distance of the Mills House at varying but mostly higher rates. We may be able depending on timing and availability to increase our room allotment at the favorable price. You should make your own booking and payment directly with the hotel at 1-800-874-9600 or on their web site at [www.millshouse.com](http://www.millshouse.com). Be certain to identify yourself as a member of Yale Class of 45W Mini-Reunion. If you have problems or special requests, ask for Tim McLaine, Sales Manager. The web site has a virtual reality tour of the hotel and the type of rooms available. The hotel's capacity of 210 rooms was 75% reserved as of last week for some of our Mini Dates.

We will forward details of what to do on arrival day. Suffice it to say you will not need a car in Charleston at this reunion; as in NYC, it can be a liability to find space in the reasonable municipal parking facilities. Upon arrival we suggest you let the concierge arrange a carriage tour or a van-guided tour of the historic area to get your bearings and from then on you can walk to your chosen sites or take the inexpensive downtown area shuttle. The joy of Charleston is exploring places of interest to you and classmates at a leisurely pace. The city market, art galleries, and fine stores are within four squares of your hotel as well as most of the historic homes, and gardens are visible from the street.

The Mini starts with the arrival cocktail party at the Mills House. You will certainly wish to tour this delightful faithful 1970's reproduction of the original Mills House Hotel built in 1853. Dinner is on your own but we will have sufficient reservations in the Barbadoes dining room at the hotel for those wishing for relaxed dining.

Tuesday we will take tour buses up the Ashley River to visit Drayton Hall, the oldest preserved Georgian Palladian plantation house in America. We will have two garden tour guides and one historical guide leading our tours. We then arrive at Middleton Place, the oldest landscaped gardens in America. We will have lunch in the Middleton House Annex and then a tour of the house and free time in the garden with guides. We will arrive back in Charleston by late afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Charleston has many fine restaurants serving all types of cooking; also many terrible restaurants. During this week it is essential to have reservations well in advance. We will enlist the concierge to book 25-30 reservations at several types of restaurants about a week in advance. The best restaurants are relatively small and cannot take 50 or 60 people in one group.

Another important reason for not reserving your own dinner space in advance is the evening tours of both private houses and secluded gardens usually on either King or Church Streets that begin at 7:00PM and end up as a candlelight tour at 10:00PM. The new innovation is the serving of wine tasting and cheese enroute. We will not know the exact houses or garden schedules for Tuesday or Wednesday night until about the end of February. The unfortunate part is that we can't all go at once as a group. The cost is expected to be about \$40 per person. Indicate your interest on the preliminary registration form for priority placement. Obviously, if you want dinner in Charleston at 10 PM, we will need to make advance reservations.

Wednesday morning we have scheduled a visit to Fort Sumpter National Monument by boat to its location in the harbor. The opening shots of the Civil War were fired by the Confederates on Fort Sumpter on 12 April 1861. After two days of bombardment the Union forces surrendered and the Confederate forces until 1865 defied the blockade and prevented Charleston from being captured. National Park Service Rangers present talks on the history and the fort's interesting museum. You get a wonderful view of Charleston from the harbor on the return. We will be back in Charleston in time for lunch and shopping or touring on your own.

Thursday is still in process. Many, and certainly more of the men, will be interested in a planned bus trip to Patriots Point where the carrier Yorktown is berthed. It has seventeen planes in a museum on its flight deck. There is also a World War II destroyer, submarine, and Coast Guard Cutter that can be boarded and a very interesting museum. We would then proceed to Fort Moultrie, across the channel from Fort Sumpter. The old original fort played an important role in the Revolutionary War and in one of the first American victories repulsed the British Fleet from Charleston. Moultrie was the major factor in shelling Sumpter by the Confederates. It was active through World War II. A replica of the CSS Hunley submarine is on display and there is a movie of the fort's history. On the return to Charleston we could stop at one of the crab restaurants on Shem Creek to sample three kinds of crabs or oysters. We could try to arrange a private visit to the restoration of the recovered Hunley. I was told that they had just identified the body of the captain and his remains were the last to be removed. It is on display even as they recover the artifacts since the money is needed for restoration.

While it may not interest everyone, we have located a new 40 passenger specially designed boat for ecological tours of the marshes and creeks in the Charleston area. The crew are experts in spotting the unique birds and wild life in the area which is not duplicated elsewhere along the coast. There is a morning and afternoon tour. Since it is so popular we need to know your interest to reserve early.

A golf committee is being assembled to offer golf one or two days. Please indicate your interest.

Our farewell reception and dinner will be held in the Mills House Thursday evening. We hope to have a noted local history expert speak after dinner.

What is it going to cost? We do not have all of the charges but we are trying to keep the Mini-Reunion cost down to \$350 per person. Charleston is not inexpensive. Everywhere you visit there is a charge. We realize that not everyone can attend every day of the Mini-Reunion. We will indicate the day cost including evening events for each day of the Mini in our final registration forms.

We can't emphasize too much the need for you to plan ahead for this Mini and reserve early. Middleton Place was completely booked on two days the week before our mini, next year. This year at the same time the tour arrangers ran out of buses and imported them from Columbia at great expense. If you wish to extend your visit, the rate for our hotel increases to \$300 Friday and Saturday, and you must book for both days. Charleston becomes a zoo on the weekends in the flower season. Plan your arrival and departure accordingly.

There was some interest expressed in including a visit to Savannah in our Mini. Savannah is a good two and a half hours by bus from Charleston; even more if you take a look at Beaufort. If you took one and a half hours for lunch you would only have about three hours to see Savannah. It would only make sense for those who had a car and could stay overnight. We could arrange tour guides, bus transportation and hotels, if enough were interested.

Regards,

Bill Holiday

PRELIMINARY RESERVATION/RESPONSE FORM  
CHARLESTON MINI-REUNION APRIL 8-12, 02  
YALE CLASS OF 1945W

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_  
(B OR ALT.) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PERSONS: SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE EXPECT TO COME. MAIL THE REGISTRATION BROCHURE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

I/WE PLAN TO STAY AT THE MILLS HOUSE HOTEL.

ELSEWHERE IN CHARLESTON- WHERE? \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER CAN COME. KEEP ON MAILING LIST.

DEFINITELY WILL NOT BE ATTENDING. REMOVE NAME FROM MAILING LIST

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN GOLF

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE PATRIOTS POINT/FORT MOULTRIE TOUR

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE CANDLE LIGHT TOURS TUES \_\_ OR WED\_\_

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE ECO TOURS ON WED \_\_ OR THURS \_\_

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN A FRIDAY ADD ON, SELF TRANSPORTED VISIT TO SAVANNAH. PLEASE STATE PREFERENCES OR ALTERNATIVES.

WE HOPE TO HAVE FINAL REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE BY AUGUST. IF WE HAVE NOT HAD A RESPONSE FROM YOU BY 1 AUGUST, 01, WE WILL NOT SEND ANY MORE MINI-REUNION INFORMATION OR BROCHURES.

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

CLASS OF 1945W CHARLESTON MINI REUNION  
ASSOCIATION OF YALE ALUMNI  
P.O. BOX 209010  
NEW HAVEN CT 06520-9010

A RETURN ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.