

Dear class of 1950 classmates,

We are now the long-lived survivors of our class...  
as well as the survivors of a rather special period of history.

We are part of a unique cohort of seminary graduates who grew up together in what were very different student days of the 40's, entering Yale in the fall of 1947.

Many of us both found our faith and our calling through our involvement in the student movements that then existed on college campuses. These movements grew out of the challenge of communism prior to and following WW II. Many of us were shaped particularly by the Student Christian Movement. Our classmate, Bill Miller, has written a fascinating chapter, "Coming of age in the Student Christian Movement" in a forthcoming book about student activism during this period.

Our class also welcomed to the Divinity School the major presence of WW II veterans who had also been shaped by their experiences. Many were already married and housed in Quonset huts out by the Yale bowl. Their spouses were also a vital part of the divinity school family- remember, "The Divinity Doubles Cook Book."

Our years on campus were very different from the present. The men were all housed in the buildings on the campus and we women, never more than 10% of a class, lived at "301". We came to prepare for ministries in pastoral ministry, overseas work as missionaries, religious education directors, for student work and, as always, some to become scholars and teachers.

Our time at Yale was shaped by the giants of the faculty- Bainton, Calhoun, Hart, Luccock, Niebuhr, Pope, Shedd, Weigle, *et al* which led many of us to become active in both the ecumenical movement and ministries with a strong Christian justice focus. Most of us have gone on to make tremendous contributions to the academy, the church and the world in a period of tremendous change.

What an opportunity we have to gather briefly October 10 – 13, 2005 to share our stories. While we weep for those who have already gone on before us, we can celebrate the contributions of our group.

I am also eager for those of you who have not been back to the campus recently to see the newly restored buildings. After so much struggle over whether or not the campus would be rebuilt, it is thrilling to see the Quadrangle of today. And, yes, theological education has changed tremendously since then, as has the makeup of the student body -- different, but still excellent. We will be able to dialogue with administration, faculty and students.

YDS will mail a brochure listing the details of Convocation in the next few months. They will also be posting information on the YDS web site [www.yale.edu/divinity](http://www.yale.edu/divinity).

This is also the time for us to give back a monetary gift of appreciation for our education at Yale. Some years ago our class created a Class of 1950 Scholarship. It is already being used to help one student each year. This year we have an opportunity to help that to grow. Please consider making a gift to this scholarship as part of our reunion year celebration.

If you prepare an update about what has brought meaning to your life in retirement, or other updates about yourself I will see that these are printed and shared with every member of our class. You can e-mail them to me or you can send them to me via “snail mail.”

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I hope you will join me for our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion October 10 – 13, 2005.

Warmly,  
Dodie Younger '50 M.Div.  
Class Secretary

**YDS has lost touch with the following members of our class. Please let me know if you have kept in touch with any of them.**

Rev. Tai Akagi, Ph.D  
Miss Caroline Chen  
Rev. Peter T. Chiolero  
Dean Robert W. Evans  
Chpln.. Robert M. Homiston  
Rev. Allen L. Hurdle  
Mrs. Dorothy M. Irwin  
Rev. Willard A. Legg  
Rev. Joseph R. Petree  
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Stein