

“The Tripoli Reunion News”

Greetings Everyone,

It seems incredible to think that the 2007 Tripoli Reunion is now upon us and I'm just now getting the newsletter out with the reunion information. Wow! Two years since the last reunion have just evaporated with family events and business obligations. I'm quite sure you feel the same as time now seems to pass in blocks of weeks and months instead of seconds and minutes.

So without further delay, I am pleased to advise the attendee's vote at the organizational meeting at 2005 Reunion in San Antonio was overwhelmingly in favor of the reunion returning to Houston, Texas. The dates are 19-22 July at the DoubleTree Hotel (formerly the Hyatt) Houston Intercontinental Airport. The reunion details and schedule of events are attached.

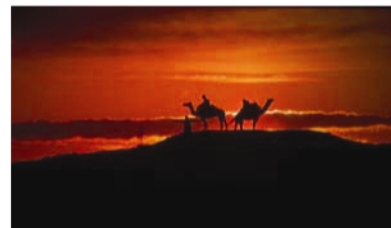
Just to briefly recap the general process regarding the reunion planning; that is, election of officers, selection of the location and consideration of miscellaneous items (mail outs, raising reunion awareness and improving attendance), the “elected” officers carefully consider the ideas and suggestions provided by the meeting attendees and these are approved by a majority vote. In all cases, the decisions we reach are based on the original premise upon which the reunion was founded, which is to provide a relatively inexpensive, central location/forum for our friends and family to gather, rekindle our relationships, recall our experiences in Tripoli and simply to catch up with one another.

Mindful of that purpose, we will do some things a bit differently for the coming reunion in an effort to allow as many people as possible to voice their opinions regarding the 2009 reunion planning and future reunions. We will

forego the Reunion Organizational Meeting that usually takes place early Saturday morning (after a late Friday night) and address that business in the Saturday afternoon reception. Prior to the 2007 reunion, perhaps those of you that have the time could please send some suggestions regarding reunion locations, format and officers so that we can develop a brief agenda pertaining to the 2009 reunion. Our intent is not to take a lot of time away from the Saturday afternoon reception. Another change we will implement will be a restricted mail out in lieu of a mass mail out, which means we will limit our mail out of hard copies to those with domestic addresses and not send copies of the reunion newsletter to those with an overseas address. Therefore, if you know of anyone residing overseas that would be interested in hearing of an attending the reunion, please forward email copies of the reunion newsletter. This is obviously a cost savings matter as the cost to mail out newsletters to overseas addresses is high. Ideally it would be extremely cost effective if we could completely move to an email system, as the mail out is an expensive line item in the budget.

Speaking of emails and computers, we hoped to have a Tripoli Reunion website up and running following the last reunion. Rather than creating our own website (which would have cost money), we tried to work with an existing OCS website (www.ocslibya.com) that had been around for some time with a documented “hit” history. Unfortunately, I have been advised the website “crashed” and we are awaiting a response (hopefully) as to when it will be up again. Ultimately the plan is to have a website that we can use to regularly disseminate reunion information as well as provide a forum for us to try to locate long lost friends. In any event it is clear, we expect to be relying more and more on emails and web-based interactions.

The DoubleTree is. When registering for a room, you may now do so via their website, “Doubletree.com” and follow the instructions to reserve your room. The code for our reunion is “TRP”. I have not yet tried to access their website but I understand from the hotel it is very straightforward. For those of you that are going kicking and



screaming into the future and are computer challenged, you may reserve your room the old fashion way, call 1 (800) 222-8733 (Tree). If you call their general reservation line, please be sure to carefully spell TRIPOLI, as I have heard that some folks have been told the reunion isn't listed. The hotel and I checked their national registration records and it is indeed listed in their scheduled events.

The hotel, as usual, has been very accommodating. If you are flying in to Houston, there is a free hotel shuttle. You may call the hotel upon your arrival and/or wait for their shuttle as it makes regular stops at all of the terminals. It is probably better to call them upon arriving to assure they will pick you up in a timely fashion. If you have any specific requests, please contact hotel at (281) 848-4000 and I'm sure they will be pleased to assist you. If not, please contact me (713) 213-9917.

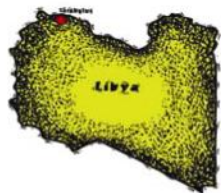
As one can see by the attached Schedule of Events, the reunion format is the same. Thursday there are no scheduled reunion events other than going to the bar and visiting with the early attendee arrivals. Friday there are no scheduled events during the day, but those groups of friends and/or family that arrive early may want to arrange golf at one of the many beautiful courses not far from the hotel (hint, play early because July afternoons are hot). And despite what some folks say about Houston, there are many incredible museums and sites and shopping (for those that are



The Arch of Marcus Aurelius. Photo by Mohamed Elyazgi.



The Corantia Hotel. Photo by Mohamed Elyazgi.



Tripoli Reunion 2007



Dear Tripolinos,

Although this is the latest I have ever sent the reunion information, I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and hope that you are still able to make plans to attend the reunion.

Please note the Tripoli Reunion has a new PO Box number as listed below.

See you there...

Kind regards,

Gary Reinsch

Program of Events

Tripoli Reunion 2007

Date	Event Type	Event Time	Room/Location
07/19/07	No scheduled events – See you in the bar.		
07/20/07	Free Time	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 P.M.	n/a
	Registration	5:00 – 8:00 P.M.	Hotel Foyer
	Hospitality	5:00 – 10:00 P.M.	Hotel Foyer and/or see you in the bar or where ever
07/21/07	Business Meeting	1:00 – 1:30 P.M.	Seattle Room (or to be advised)
	Registration/Lunch/ Reception	1:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Bar
	Dance	8:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.	Pool
07/22/07	Socializing	1:00 A.M. - ?	Where ever
07/22/07	Good-byes		

Reunion Information

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Houston Intercontinental Airport
15747 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Houston, TX 77032 USA

Phone: Reservations (800) 222-TREE Hotel
(281) 848-4000

Fax: (281) 848-4059 or
(281) 590-8461

Registration Fee: \$25 per Adult pre-registration and \$30 at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

Hotel reservations: Call the 800 number. Your confirmation will be mailed to you. Reservations must be received by June 21, 2007. Thereafter, reservations are taken on a space and rate availability bases. Reservations are not guaranteed and will not be held beyond 4:00 PM on the day of arrival.

Room Rates: \$79.00 for Single, Double, Triple or Quad

Transportation: Shuttles to and from the hotel are available.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Tripoli Affiliation: _____

Volunteer: Registration _____

Number Attending: _____ Adults _____ Children _____

Total Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____

Please include friends and family's current addresses to update our directory.

Return mail to: Tripoli Reunion, P.O. Box 180951, Austin, Texas 78718-0951

Reunion Contacts: Gary Reinsch – Email garyreinsch1@earthlink.net

Home (281) 937-0656 Mobile – (713) 213-9917

Michele Voorhees – Email mvaustin@hotmail.com

Mobile – (512) 771-7660

Don Ray – Email wheelus@aol.com



The Bowling Alley. Photo by Orval Williams.

from shopping challenged locals) that would easily fill a Friday agenda. Friday evening there is registration and/or one may pick up their registration badge.

There will be a cash bar in the lobby near the registration tables. Please order some drinks from the cash bar as we are contractually required to spend a minimum amount in order to have use of the main ballroom. Saturday afternoon is registration and the general reception. If anyone has recently been to Tripoli and has pictures/slides/video they would like to share at the Saturday afternoon reception, please contact us. We also hope to hear from our Libyan friends who have offered to provide Libyan dance lessons and food. We are not sure if there will be any belly dancing, but the dancers were particularly spectacular in San Antonio.... Wow! The reunion will provide the usual refreshments (fruit, cheese, finger foods and cash bars), including some Middle Eastern food. Saturday evening there will be a dance in the hotel bar. We plan to have a DJ but there may be an opportunity to have a band as well. Following the dance, we hope (even at our ages) to continue the party at the hotel pool. Sunday is usually one last breakfast with friends and family and then the "good byes" and promises to "stay in touch".

Hopefully this information is helpful to you. Now, there are some things you may do to help us. When registering with us, please try to do so on or before July 16th. We ask this favor because we must fulfill a room block guarantee with the hotel; we must arrange the location space and this will assist us in ordering food for the reception. The more room reservations we have, the more savings and flexibility we can secure from the hotel. We can also use volunteer help at the registration tables. Please advise your availability on the registration form.

Lastly, at the reunion in San Antonio, Michele Voorhees was elected as Secretary/Treasurer replacing Debbie Piwetz.

her to the reunion staff. You should also look for Don Ray because he tirelessly promotes the reunion and keeps in contact with many Tripolinos. He is definitely the heart of the reunion. Moreover, this whole idea began with Dale Scott. Seek him out and show your appreciation. A "thank you is truly deserved for their jobs.

So, please contact all of your friends and family to assist in motivating them to attend the reunion. Sometimes at our ages it takes a little coercion to get us going, but when we do get moving, we can delude ourselves into thinking we are young once again. In any event, our hope is you truly enjoy the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you!!

The Reunion Staff



Belly dancer at Tripoli Reunion 2005. Joe Price in background. Photo by Carla Seipel.

REUNION IN TRIPOLI ????

As many of you know, the U.S. and Libya have open trading relations again. Some members of our group have visited Libya and suggested that we consider arranging a reunion in Libya. While that may seem farfetched, there are those who have expressed an interest in returning to Libya. It sounds exciting, but it may be more than we can coordinate. If you are interested, you should look to contact Clair Brown at the reunion as she might be just the person to pull a reunion in Libya together.



Old City. Photo by Mohamed Elyazgi.

SAN ANTONIO



Ellen Chaffin and Daniel Shoenevald at Tripoli Reunion 2005. Photo by Carla Seipel.

San Antonio was the setting for the 2005 reunion. The city was chosen because it is one of the more popular convention cities in Texas and the U.S. San Antonio offered a great change of pace from the airport hotels with so much to do within walking distance of the hotel, not to mention within a relatively short drive of the city. The San Antonio Riverwalk was the biggest attraction and many of the attendees spent their time cruising the Riverwalk's restaurants and bars. We are pleased to report no one fell into the river, which was a concern with some members of our group. A few of us went to Gruene, Texas for a day outing and ate lunch next to the magnificent Guadalupe River. There were some beers consumed along the way.

The Hyatt Hotel Riverwalk was an impeccable facility. Newly renovated in 2004, the hotel's proximity to the Riverwalk added to the festive feel of the reunion. The rooms were beautifully furnished. The prices, though higher than what we are used to paying at these reunions, were less than the other hotels quoted.

In any event, the facility was just right for the reunion. At the Saturday afternoon reception, we were mesmerized by some incredibly talented, not to mention sexy (it may not be politically correct to say that, but if you saw them you wouldn't disagree) belly dancers. There was also film provided by (I'm sorry to have forgotten their name) a wonderful family. The vintage film was one of their family trips to Leptis Magna and other points across northern Libya and showed in detail the famous nude "painting" done by Allied POW's (with their own blood), which was cleverly disguised as a map of Libya. Saturday evening was the DJ conducted dance and afterward many of us went to the Riverwalk for late night entertainment.

I believe a great time was had by most all. One of the groups stated it was the best reunion they ever attended. As for me, I always marvel that someone always turns up that I haven't seen since I left Libya in 1970. I believe that is one of the biggest reasons I keep coming back.

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The Chicken on Wheels. Photo by Orval Williams.



Belly dancer at Tripoli Reunion 2005. Photo by Carla Seipel.

Tripoli Reunion
P.O. Box 180951
Austin, TX 78718-0951
