

"...y la familia?"

Volume 9, Issue 2

Oct/Nov '04

Needed for
Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you
and yours...

Announcements

- New Baby
- Engagement
- Graduations
- Promotion
- New address

Upcoming
Events

- Family parties
- Reunions
- Weddings

Articles, Photos
and Fillers

- Nostalgic stories
- Photos and artwork
- Original poetry
- Vignettes on your immediate family
- Favorite family recipes
- Cute things your kids have said
- Funny stories

Lisa Warner Makes Magazine Cover!

The December/January 2004 issue of Comment, a publication of the Principal Financial Group, features our cousin Lisa (Finch)

Warner on its front cover, as well as this centerfold article entitled Masters of Motivation."

"Lisa Warner is less of a woman than she used to be. About 75 pounds less, that is. Warner, production coordinator—publishing services, has worked to improve her health by setting specific wellness goals.

Warner's motivation originated from training in martial arts the past four years. Two years ago she realized that her weight was an obstacle in developing skills to move toward the tae Kwon do black belt level. So, she and her husband focused on cooking healthier meals and eating smaller portions. 'I did it the right way, and the weight came off gradually and steadily,' she says. 'I didn't have to give up anything.'

Exercise was the other vital component of her weight-loss strategy. Going into 2003, Warner began working to gain strength and increase her endurance. In addition to her

continued martial arts training, she began jogging and weight training. Warner's husband demonstrated his support by buying her running shoes. Warner now jogs two to three times a week and lifts weights three times a week.

(Continued on page 6)

ON THE COVER |

Kick off a great 2004!

Lisa Warner, production editor—publishing services and second degree tae kwon do black belt, is literally kicking off 2004 to a great start. There's a lot going on now as the company and employees make plans for 2004. Check out this issue to get some ideas on how you may make the most of the new year.



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Meet Your Relative...

Victoria Nicholson

By Carlos Rivera

After leaving South Carolina following the reunion, Garnet and I stopped by and spent the night at Victoria's bed and breakfast place in Sevierville, TN near Gatlinburg. She has a nice rustic home in a beautiful setting near the river. I think she has 3 or 4 bedrooms for rent in the house and two cabins away from the house.

It was wonderful being able to see her after several years. The last time was when we celebrated my mother's birthday and many family members came.

We had a great time catching up on everything. Victoria had another family staying in one of the cabins. Otherwise, there were no other guests at her place except us.

The next day, we woke to a leisure breakfast, took a walk around the property and then said our goodbyes and left for home.

Victoria is such a great host. If you are ever in the neighborhood of her place, you owe it to yourself to visit her. Her place is called Persephone's Farm Retreat. It is located on Hodges Ferry Road.

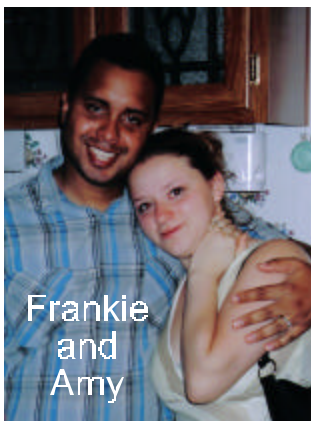
Carlos and Garnet



Victoria is the daughter of Auntie Marie Nicholson.



Aren't these pictures beautiful? What a peaceful setting and view! I know if I were to go there, I'd love to stay in one of the cabins.



Frankie
and
Amy

More Reunion Photos



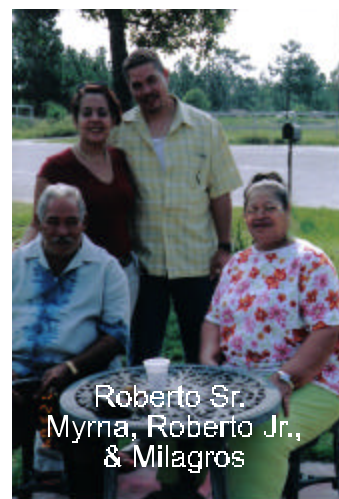
Marina, Carlos, Garnet, Joi, Tom & Randy



Olga, Joi and Norma



The three Roberto Riveras



Roberto Sr.
Myrna, Roberto Jr.,
& Milagros



Rachel Rivera, Marina Ramos, and Brooke Rivera



Garnet and
Donna

Una nota de Mary Lillian:

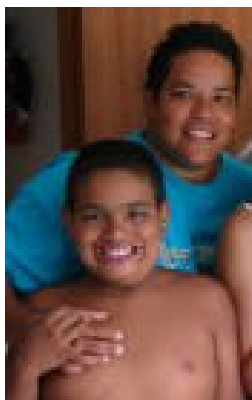
"Gracias por el momento tan bonito.; fue una experiencia bien grata. Lo guardo en el corazón. Siempre oro por todos para que esta relación se mantenga."

Next year's reunion location and date:

Ponce, Puerto Rico
June 24-26, 2005

Hosted by Luz and Lillian Rivera

2004 Reunion Awards



Welcome Award: Alex Joel
(for being the best greeter)



Distance Award: Ruben & Lisa
(for traveling the farthest)



Hula Award: Helen
(for shaking it better than anyone)



Smiliest Face:
Mary Lillian
(for showing us the joy of the Lord)



Technical Support Award: Carlos
(for bringing a trunkload of equipment)



Cooking Award: Lillian
(for putting her whole heart into every meal)
Life of the Party: Awilda
(for being a "party animal")



Whitest Legs Award: Tom
(for daring to wear shorts)

Best Female Musician:
Neysha
(for her all around rhythm ability)



Oldest Person:
Uncle Isidro
(for showing us that "older is better")



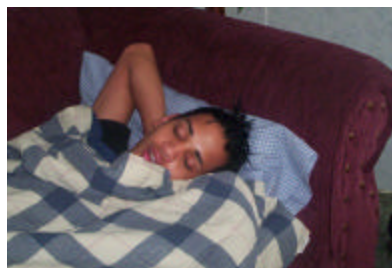
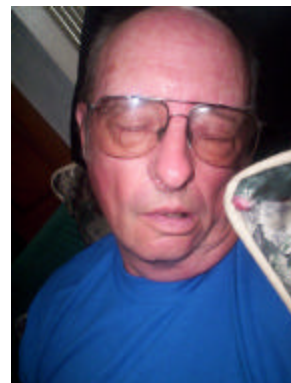
Best Male Musician: Edwin
(for starting the Reunion Band)

Reunion Musicians



Funny Reunion Photos

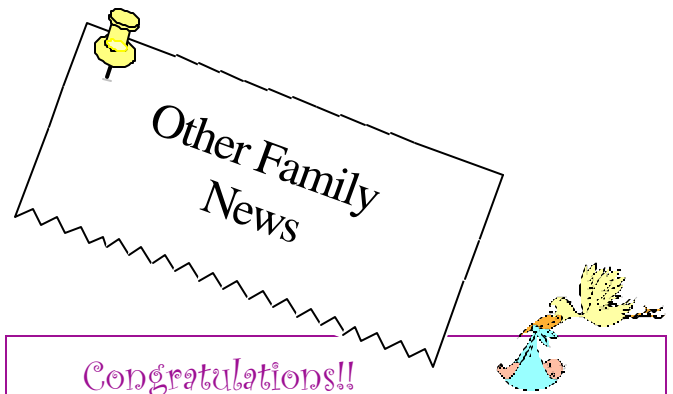
Which one
is your favorite?



Hurricane News from Cousin Carol

September 15, 2004: Hi Everyone! First chance I've had to get online. We rode it out in our guest house and it was noisy! It was water tight and safe. We had damage to our main house in rugs in the master, blue room and the Bombay room. We lost our tennis court and had 5 huge mango trees toppled. Our boat made it, but our wave runner sank. We had someone else's 32' boat in our back yard. Channel 25 came out to video our house and damage, it was so bad. We also think we got some of those tornados that came with it. All in all, my parents and two of our friends did fine in the guest house that had metal shutters on all areas. We had plenty of gourmet eats, played cards, dominoes, watched movies on our portable DVD player, and once the storm ended, our cottage ran on a generator except for the air and hot water heater. We are in the process of attaching that too. We just got power on Monday after 8 days without. We finally had to go to a hotel for three days because Larry's eyes got infected. With medicine, he is recovering. His developments had minimal damage and held up solid. Now, we are living in the cottage while we have drapes and carpet removed. We will have extensive work replacing most of our windows. We are blessed and grateful that we survived and will repair little by little. God Bless all of you who called and checked up on us. September 24, 2004: Thanks for your prayers. My parents' wood house made it fine. They lost a few trees and I think two of them were the prized mango trees. ..We had 8 huge truckloads of vegetation removed from the property. October 1, 2004: Jeanne finished us off. Had to move out permanently. We put all our furniture in storage. It may be a year before we move back in. We have to replace every window in the house. All the drywall needs to be replaced under the windows. All the flooring is gone. This storm was faster and noisier than Frances. Mom and Dad stayed with us and we all stayed downstairs together. Their home fared well. They lost some trees and were blessed their wood home survived. Boynton did not have as severe winds like we did. The wind came in at 129 where we are located. Our boat did not make it and it is trashed. October 4, 2004: Larry and I have moved into the guest house. I am using his computer since my loft is taken apart and my computer is all in pieces waiting to be put in the cottage. Rosa and Brian had some damage. Pepi lost a lot of things to power surge. Out stuff is safe in storage. We are waiting for the adjuster to see the house. We don't expect insurance to cover much. All our windows need replacing. We are fine and managing and blessed that our guest house withheld the two hurricanes. So many people are under the same predicament. Love, C

On September 17th, Dave and Delia Finch took a trip to San Francisco, and with Auntie Marie Nicholson, visited Aptos Middle School, where this photo was taken. Delia attended this school in 1950.



Congratulations!!

There is a new arrival in the family!
Cousin Vicky Cabán e-mailed to say that her brother, Nelson, became a grandpa for the third time on August 11th. His daughter, Stephanie, had her second baby girl. Stephanie's husband came from Iraq on two weeks R & R, and her in-laws came from Puerto Rico.



Your prayers are requested....
My niece,
Marina Ramos
(Olga's daughter)
was deployed to Saudi Arabia at the end of August for a six month tour of duty. Marina's 26th birthday was on September 25th.

Lisa Warner... (continued from page 1)

Setting specific goals motivated her, such as getting her arms in shape so she could look good in sleeveless shirts. Encouragement from friends also has motivated her.

Warner is now a second-degree black belt, and she continues to push herself with physical goals. 'I'm 37 years old, and my long-range running goal is to run Dam-to-Dam (a 20 kilometer race held each year in Des Moines) by the time I'm 40,' she says. Based on her past performance, smart money says she'll get there."

The copy of Comment magazine was sent to me by Lisa's mother, Delia Finch. In her cover letter, Aunt Delia adds that Lisa and her husband, Scott, now have a school of nineteen students in Martial Arts, and their school keeps on growing.

"She is extremely good at it (God Bless her) and a nice achiever," says Aunt Delia. "When she puts her mind to it, nothing stands in her way. She's been a black belt for quite sometime!

Relatives Respond

From Aunt Delia:

Got the La Familia Newsletter this past week, and really enjoyed it very much. I do not know if this will get to you, as I have tried several other times and the mail keeps being returned to me.

I'm glad that you all had a nice time in So. Carolina. It looked as if everyone enjoyed themselves. Sorry we could not go. There have been a lot of changes going on over at Dave's job, and it was not advisable for him to take the time off at that time. A lot of people had quit their jobs, and that put a strain on Dave.

We also had been contracted to do a job shooting the photos of a Quinceañera, and we could not pass the opportunity of making that good chunk of money. We worked from two o'clock till nine that evening. Everything was beautiful, including the girl.

The above was on an e-mail that I never received (cyber-space problems). She sent me the hard copy by regular mail, along with a cover letter for the magazine. In addition to what she had written in the e-mail, Aunt Delia says, "If God permits us, and our health holds, we are planning on making it to the one in Puerto Rico next year. Dave has never seen the Island, and would like to do so before we get too old.

We enjoyed reading the Newsletter, and most of all the pictures of the whole family. We do not even know the children of all our nephews and nieces. It is nice to get to see them even if in pictures.

I am sending a contribution of \$50.00 toward the "La Familia" expenses. It might be of some help. God Bless you all!

Aunt Delia and Family

WOW! This was a good couple of months for contributions to the newsletter! I received the following donations:

Tom and Olga Smith.....\$50.00
Uncle Isidro Rivera.....50.00
Cousin José Medina.....50.00
Dave and Delia Finch.....50.00

Thank you and God bless all of you for helping me out with the expenses of producing "¿...y la familia?"—together we have documented eight years of family events and reminiscences, and are starting on our ninth!!

*This e-mail was sent by **Kathy**, daughter of Cousin Raúl. The gist of her message is that she was heartbroken at having had to miss the reunion in South Carolina, but hopes to make it to next year's reunion in P.R. Kathy notes that since her Uncle Edwin has grown out his beard and hair he now looks just like her dad. She adds that she wants to order a reunion CD to view again and again.*

Hola, espero que estén todos bien. Te escribo para decirte que recibí el folleto el sábado y hasta lloré porque sé que la reunión de este año fue bien especial y habían familiares que yo hace muuuchos años que no veo y me puse sentimental al verlos toditos juntos y no haber estado allí. Pero bueno, yo le dije a Eric (mi esposo) que la del año que viene es en P.R y me dijo, "Ah, pues, a esa vamos." Así que espero poder ir el próximo año y de camino veo a abuela y a Titi Lourdes (la hermana de Mami) que hacen tres años que no las veo. Cuando ví a Tío Edwin me dije, mira ahora Papi tiene un gemelo. Se dejó la barba y el pelo largo y ahora sí que se parecen. ¿Quién es que tiene el DVD? ¿Yo puedo enviar un cheque personal o tiene que ser un money order? Yo lo quiero. para verlo una y otra y otra vez.

*This sweet note came from **Roberto**, son of Isidro and Rosita Rivera.*

Dear Norma,

It was quite the party!

As I sat there, I began to realize that there is so much heart to the people in our family! The givingness and the blessing, that provided the surround for the experience of the gathering...it was beautiful.

Those that did the planning and the execution did a fabulous job. And I know that it took a group of you to do it. Mari, Awilda, Helen, Frankie, Joi, and of course, yourself and the many others who helped in ways that completed and complimented the atmosphere...and of course, those that did the partying did a fabulous job too!

So I wanted to just take a moment to thank you and all of those who helped consummate the Gathering, for the joy and the pleasure of so many of us.

Bless you and all the family,

Roberto

"...y la familia?

C/o Norma I. Pettit
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Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings

Teena Warren (33) - Oct. 3

Christina Rivera (8) - Oct. 3

Ruben A. Quiñones (28) -
Oct. 12

Felipe René Rivera (21) -
Oct. 13

Edwin J. Rivera (7) - Oct. 14

Jackie (Correa) Eddy (40) -
Oct. 15

Austin Rivera (10) - Oct. 17

Annalise L. Nicholson (2) -
Oct. 17

Vickie (Rivera) Cabán (40) -
Oct. 23

Brandi Klene (35) - Oct. 24

Randy Pettit (49) - Oct. 27

Victoria Nicholson (65) -
Oct. 28

Joanne McLaughlin (57) -
Oct. 29

Luz (Rivera) Mojica (61) -
Oct. 30

Joshua Rambo (2) - Nov. 1

Julie Rivera (12) - Nov. 2

Alex Joel Rivera (9) - Nov. 2

Lisa Quiñones (28) - Nov. 3

Adalberto Rivera (21) - Nov. 5

Austin Miller (10) - Nov. 8

Neysha Rivera (13) - Nov. 12

Lilliana Charice Cruz (2) -
Nov. 15

Joseph T. Springer (8) -
Nov. 15

Carol (Medina) Wright (52)
- Nov. 17

Michelle Cabán (16) -
Nov. 17

Amanda Knox (16) -
Nov. 22

Edwin Rivera (50) - Nov. 27

Carol Lee Rivera (44) -
Nov. 27

OOPS!!!
Left out of last issue:

Angélica Stickle (18) -
Aug. 23

Anniversaries



**Kimm & Scott
Hargraves** (8) -
Oct. 18

OOPS!!!!!!

*In the last issue I forgot to
congratulate **Stan and
Christina (Krause) Darnell**
on their very important
FIRST anniversary
which was on
September 27th.*

*Also...
Larry & Carol Wright (17)
Sept. 26*