

"...y la familia?"

Volume 10, Issue 6

June/July '06

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

Sixtieth Issue!

Incredible, isn't it? But it's true!
Six issues per year for *ten years*
makes *sixty issues* of "...y la familia?"

Through features like "At this time
in our family history", "Guess Who
This Baby/Child Is?", "I Remember",
"A Page Out of Our Family History",
"Look What I Still Have", and "The
Way We Were" we have celebrated
our past.

Through columns like "Student
News", "Other Family News,"
"Meet Your Relative", and of course,
the front page articles, we have covered current fa m-
ily events such as vacations, weddings, Christmas
parties, awards, graduations, engagements, restaurant
openings, musical careers, and *quinceañeras*.

Sadly, we have reported on the deaths and/or fu-
nerals of Joshua Rivera, Inez Finch, Elena Morales,
Pat Logue, Daniel Finch, Auntie Anita Rivera, Wilbur
Caffey, Auntie Helen De Nardo, Bob Gonia, Auntie
Rosita Rivera, Reynaldo García, Luz Nereida Reyes,
and Maria McManus.

The good news is that we have also read about the
births of twenty-four babies into the family. (How
many others went unannounced because the info was
not sent in?)

The newsletter has also served as a vehicle for
communicating about upcoming events, especially our

annual family reunions, which
resulted as a natural extension of the
reconnection we now all feel.

60 issues x 8 pages per issue = 480
pages that have been written about our
family. Wow, that's a lot of material!
But it wouldn't have happened without
all of you.

I'd like to take this front page oppor-
tunity to thank my faithful contributors of
articles, stories, photos, and/or money:
Angela Barnes, Vanessa Braddock, Vicky
Cabán, Kathy Caffey, Jackie Correa,

Michelle Fastenau, Nellie Feliciano, Delia Finch,
Ruben and Katherine García, Helen González, Kimm
Hargraves, Laurie Jimenez, Vickie Jimenez, Marlynn
Krause, Sasha Lovelace, Rosa Meddaugh, Josy
Medina, José & Tita Medina, Annie Meléndez,
Meryem Merritt, Catherine Montalvo, Angela
Nicholson, George & Barbara Nicholson, Mary
Lillian Pérez, Carol Pettit, Luke Pettit, Tory Pettit,
Ruben Quiñones, Jenny Reinke, Awilda Rivera,
Carlos Rivera, Edwin Rivera Ramos, Edwin Rivera
Soto, Isidro Rivera, Raúl Rivera Sevilla, René Rivera,
Roberto I. Rivera, Bill Roig, Wilmi Roig, Tom &
Olga Smith, Yuly Springer, Joi Stenroos, Lisa Warner,
and Larry & Carol Wright.

I hope I didn't leave anyone out! Thanks to all!!

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Alicia's Visit to Japan

by Carlos Rivera

Recently I was in Japan for another business trip. I go there three times a year in my role as advisor to Eli Lilly's drug development teams involved with Japan. This will be my last year doing this trip as I will be retiring in December after 30 years with the company. My daughter, Alicia, expressed a desire to visit Japan while I was there so I could be her host. We were able to coordinate our travel so that I could finish a portion of my business before her arrival and be available to take her sightseeing.



Alicia planned to stay in Japan 5 days. I was unable to meet her at the airport since I still had business meetings the day of her arrival. I had given her detailed instructions what to do after going through customs and immigrations. She said it worked out well. I also prearranged to have a taxi take her from the airport to the hotel. Getting around in Japan can be confusing to the first time visitor since very few people speak English outside of the airport or hotel and most signs are written in Kanji. I met Alicia at the hotel upon her arrival. It was great to see her and I could tell she was pretty tired from the long trip (it was something like 20 hours from leaving her home to arrival at the hotel).

The first day of sightseeing, I took Alicia on a walking tour of Kobe. We must have walked 20 miles! Though it was a sunny day, it was also quite windy and the wind made walking that much more difficult. She got to see a large part of the city, some temples and shrines, the apartment building where I once lived, underground shopping, and the subway system. Late that afternoon, we went to Lilly's office building and I introduced her to many of my colleagues. One of them went to dinner with us and Alicia experienced her first truly Japanese dinner. It was funny to watch her. She was willing to taste everything, but some things were a bit too foreign for her. For the most part, she did very well with the food and with handling chop sticks. One thing for sure, she doesn't care for sake.

On the second day, I took Alicia to Himeji. Himeji is famous for a castle located there which is seen in many photographs depicting Japan. It is about an hour and a half train ride from Kobe to get to the city, then a 20 minute walk to the castle. Alicia experienced Japan's efficient train system and got to see some of the countryside as we rode to Himeji. The castle itself was large. You enter the main building atop a hill and climb stairs to the sixth floor where you can look out over the city. It is a beautiful view. Alicia followed the Japanese tradition of wearing slippers throughout the tour of the castle and stamping her brochure after reaching the top of the building. On our way back to Kobe, we made a stop in Maibara where the Akashi bridge is located. It is a suspension bridge much like the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco, only bigger. The Japanese built an observation deck underneath the bridge high above the water. There is a cat-walk where you can walk further out over the water and a place where they put a thick glass plate that you can stand on that gives you the sensation of being in midair over the water. Creepy! I couldn't stand on it. Alicia did. That night, we had dinner with a couple of my friends. It was a fun evening and I think Alicia enjoyed almost everything.

On the third day (Saturday), we joined a couple other friends, one of whom had a car. We then drove to the other side of the island (Japan Sea side). Along the way, we stopped in Izushii, famous for buckwheat noodles. It was too early for lunch, so we only toured the town on foot and then continued our drive to the north shore. The sea was beautiful and the scenery was great. We enjoyed seeing a few sights. We made our way to the town of Ine where there are picturesque houses along a cove that were built over the water so as to park a boat underneath, much like you would park your car in the garage.

We got back to the hotel shortly before dinner. My friends had other obligations, so Alicia and I were left on our own for dinner. I took her to a shopping area that had a lot of restaurants and we ate at a Brazilian restaurant. I think Alicia enjoyed that meal most of all because it reminded her of home.

On the fourth day (Sunday), we joined some Lilly people who had arrived from Indianapolis and who were staying at our hotel. For several of them, it was their first trip to Japan. It was prearranged that a few Japanese colleagues would meet us and take the group (about 10 people) to Kyoto, a famous sightseeing town for tourists. We had a great day visiting temples, shopping for souvenirs, and seeing the Golden Temple. It was a full day and the weather was wonderfully sunny, even a bit warm.

On the fifth day, I unfortunately had to go back to work. Alicia and I had breakfast together and said our goodbyes. She was flying back home that evening, so she spent the morning doing some more shopping. I wondered how she was going to get everything back home. Some items were dishes and they can get heavy. We made sure she had a reserved taxi to take her back to the airport so she wouldn't have to worry about transportation.

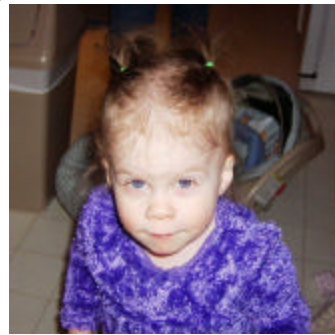
In the end, I was sad to see her leave. I had enjoyed her visit. It was a nice break from the business portion of my trip. We will have some nice memories of our time together there. I'm glad she came.



Family Album



Clockwise, from top left: Gabriel Omar Rivera (son of Edwin Rivera Soto), Joseph and Joyce Montalvo (children of Eric and Catherine Montalvo), Anita Braddock (daughter of Ken and Vanessa Braddock), Vanessa and baby Logan Braddock.



Guess Who This Child Is?

The answer is found on page 7.



A View Of....

Roberto and Myrna Rivera's beautiful new home.
Their new address is 26 Cardona Dr.,
Kissimmee FL 34758.



At this time in our family history.....

- 111 years ago, on June 7th, Petronila Pacheco was born. She was the sister of Mamá Otilia. Their other sister, Francisca, was born on June 11, 1887.
- Auntie Anita Merritt passed away on 6/25/98 in Nebraska.
- On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado were married.
- Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909 in Peñuelas, P.R.
- Papa Flor, my grandfather, died on July 22, 1941.
- My mother, Ana Maria López Maldonado, was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1911. She was the daughter of Juan López and Maria de los Santos Maldonado.

I Remember....

Going to Auntie Adele's Cabin

By Norma (García) Pettit

Recently, Joi sent me an e-mail attachment—a photo taken in July of 1966 at Auntie Adele's cabin in Lake Tahoe. She wrote, *"Look what I found! This was taken in July 1966 in Lake Tahoe. Remember we were talking about Auntie Adele's cabin? Wonder if that is the time you and I got so sunburned? I was 16. Look at all that hair!!!!"*

Now talk about coincidences. I had just unearthed my diary from 1966 and had been thinking that it would provide some material for the "I Remember" column. Sure enough, I found the account of our trip, which was preceded by entries about Uncle Bob, Auntie Anita and Meryem Merritt arriving in San Francisco, shopping trips to Stonestown Shopping Center with Meryem and Joi (where Meryem bought a "teeny weeny pink polka dot bikini"), and Meryem's efforts to teach me to dance. It's also funny to think how I only live one hour away from Lake Tahoe now, but when we were kids in the City, a trip to Auntie Adele's cabin involved two days of travel with a layover at Auntie Adele's house in Carmichael (a suburb of Sacramento).



Wednesday, July 13, 1966

Dear Diary—I woke up at around 7:20 and got up right away 'cause we had to be at Auntie Marie's by 10:00. We had breakfast and got all ready. We were surprised to find that they were almost ready at Auntie Marie's. At 11:10 we were going across the Bay Bridge. We stopped to eat at Dairy Queen. The people next door [to Auntie Adele's house] let us use their outdoor pool all afternoon. They're really nice. I almost learned to swim. Also, I almost drowned. Really! I went to the deep end to try to swim across it underwater with Joi watching me. I almost made it and I tried to go back up for air and I couldn't. I sank to the bottom and just stood there. Next minute Jo was there. Whew! Auntie had a bar-b-que and the neighbors on the left and right came. It was real fun.

Thursday, July 14, 1966

Dear Diary—I hardly couldn't sleep last night 'cause my ear hurt so much. I get earaches when I go swimming. We got to Lake Tahoe at about 2:00 in the afternoon. The place is really nice. I remember it from four years ago. We went to the beach and I fell asleep. When we went back home we were locked out because Auntie Adele gave us the wrong key. The grownups went gambling. Uncle Bob won 500 dollars in a dime machine. Good night!

Friday, July 15, 1966

Dear Diary—Today at about 1:00 P.M. we went to the beach. We laid out for a while and then we went in the water. Then we tanned some more. Only we didn't tan—we burned. I got burned the least. Tonight we stayed at a recreation place while the grownups gambled. It was terrible. No one danced and all Joi, Meryem and I did was stand around doing nothing. We couldn't even sit anywhere. Finally, Uncle Bob came by for us, dropped us off at the cabin, and left again. Jo, Meryem and I tried to spy on the guys that live two or three houses away. Jo told me to do my special whistle-scream. I did and they flashed a light out of the window and we ran!



This is a precious picture. Dad and Olga both look so cute. I don't know what year this was, but I'm guessing it was in the 80's. Happy Father's Day to all the dads in our family.

Look what I Still Have!

My father always brought us gifts when he returned from his Merchant Marine voyages. This is the purse that he brought me when I was seven or eight years old. I loved it and kept it all these years.





Student News

Michael García, son of Ruben and Katherine García, graduates eighth grade from Tabernacle Christian School on June 8th. Michael and his dad are traveling to New England for the eighth grade trip. This exciting and educational trip is from May 31st to June 3rd, and takes in historical sights in New Jersey and the nation's capital. This should be a rewarding and memorable experience for this A average student and his proud dad.

Michael has been accepted into the prestigious Catholic High School, De la Salle, in Concord, CA. This school is difficult to get into, and the course of study is demanding. The school is also well known for its competitive football team, a member of which Michael hopes to belong.

Among his other interests and hobbies, Michael has been taking karate lessons for years and takes part in competitions.

Shanda Peters
(Olga's granddaughter)
graduates from high
school
on June 7th.
Congratulations,
Shanda!

Amanda Knox (another of
Olga's granddaughters)
has graduated from high
school this year. Way to
go, Amanda!

Alura Barnes (yet a n-
other of Olga's gran d-
daughters) is a straight
A student who has been
on the honor roll for
three years in a row.
She just completed the
7th grade.
Excellent job, Alura!

Opa!...from Greece

It is so amazing to be here. Everything is the same and everything has changed. I am surprised at how much I remember, likewise, I am surprised at how much I forgot. The weather is very warm and humid—ahh, so nice! The drivers here aren't as crazy as I remember (and perhaps because Uganda broke me in to what really is crazy driving). George, the Greek pastor here, was very happy to see me, and he kept telling me so. That made me feel great, and talking with him has definitely eased my nerves about this internship....Right now I am in Athens, home of over 1/3 of the Greek population. It's a very busy city, and there are cars parked bumper to bumper around the perimeter of every block and motorbikes wedged in-between. I am staying in the apartment above the church here, off of Sygrou, on the fifth story...Last night after I got some rest, I joined the Nea Zoi (New Life) ministry. There are two American women who lead it and a British lady. There were four volunteers for the evening (I was one of them) and after two hours of prayer, worship, and then discussion, we went out to the streets bringing tea, biscuits, and reading material for the men and women. It was really crazy. The first person I encountered was a transvestite (a man who dresses like a woman and takes drugs to produce extra female parts). My job last night was to have little talking, but to watch and pray. After the transvestite, we met up with about 14 other prostitutes at the next corner (most of them hang out around hotels and brothels). Again, I just stayed in the background and prayed with Jim, another volunteer, while Jennifer and Emma (the two Americans) spoke to the prostitutes. Jim prayed for most of the time, but I was too overwhelmed to pray. While I agreed with Jim in his prayers and concerns for the girls, my own prayers were wordless. The women are friendly, and like Jennifer and Emma very much—but it is a hard life, and very hard to leave prostitution, so even though they are friends with us, they have chosen to continue to live in prostitution....Today I slept in until 10pm, and then went out to browse around the city. Well, I didn't go very far (not even to the Acropolis) because I was really on a quest to find food. I went to the agora (supermarket) which was up-street a block and bought some drinks and cheese. I also stopped over at a bakery and bought a loaf of freshly baked bread. Then I stopped in at a café and bought myself some lunch. Walking around was certainly nice—I was able to remember where most of the shops were from my last visit. I tried to act normal...you know, not looking like I'm confused and lost, or like a weird foreigner. I tried to pretend I knew Greek, but that didn't work out too well. Some old lady already yelled at me for something (that's normal—old ladies are always screaming here). In my nervousness, I forgot the words for "this" and "that" and was too shy to even say "hello" or "excuse me" in Greek, so I just pointed at the things I wanted and looked brainless when people spoke to me as I stared blankly back at them. Staring blankly is the only way I know how to respond...[excerpts from an e-mail by Tory Pettit].

Other Family News

Mary Lillian's Mission Trip to Honduras

In February, Mary Lillian went to Honduras as part of a team of six missionaries from four different states, through an organization called Triumphant Ministries. They went to be a blessing, but were hugely blessed themselves by the experience.

The missionaries held church services in which more than 200 persons were in attendance. They also sponsored and helped serve a meal to 105 children, many of whom live by the shore in 10 x 10 wooden shacks with no bathroom. Another project was to aid in the setting up of an elementary school by purchasing fabric for the uniforms of 25 children as well as obtaining a P.O. box for the school to which curriculum and other school material can be sent. Another facet of the work done in Honduras was the constructions of bathrooms at one church and the replacing of the roof at another church.

Each missionary had something special to contribute to the work in Honduras, and Mary Lillian's part was to conduct a Sunday School Workshop to a group from three different churches. Partly with the help of a number of Rivera family members, the missionaries were able to provide all three churches with materials for Sunday School and a radio cassette player for the children to learn kids' praise songs. None of the churches had established a Sunday School department, but after listening to what Mary Lillian had to say, they were looking forward to going back and starting a work with the children. Bibles were distributed, and all the children received coloring books and goodie bags.

On their last day there, they went on a boat ride through the second largest lagoon in Honduras to the primitive village of the Garifuna, a tribe of African descent who have been in Honduras for 200 years. The inhabitants live in huts with no electricity or running water. They fish daily; this is how they are able to eat. The tribal members maintain their African traditions, including language, music and dance.



For Mary Lillian's 43 birthday, back in January, she got a surprise visit from her cousin, Madeline (Raúl's daughter), and Madeline's mother (Julia), husband and younger son. They went to a zoo, where Mary Lillian rode a horse for the first time in her life.



Above:
Julia, Mary Lillian,
and Madeline.



Left: Madeline with
her husband, son
and mother, having
breakfast in Mary
Lillian's house in
South Carolina.

Under the Sea

Vic and Joi Stenroos spent several days in Key Largo, Florida during the early part of May, and got in some good diving experiences. They saw lots of fish, a shipwreck (60 years old) and plenty of colorful coral. Jois said their four dives in two days were the best ever. These are just two of the cool photos that Joi took with her new underwater camera.

Are You Packing for the Family Reunion Yet?

Pontoon boat! *Don't miss out on all the fun!* Gift Exchange



Fishing

Swimming



¿Qué?
¿Pensaban
que no me iba
a meter?



(Maybe even
tubing)

Not to mention eating, dancing, and visiting with one another.

Revised Schedule:

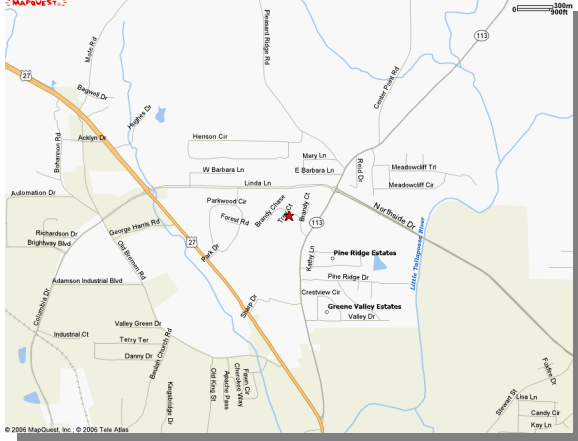
Friday night: Dinner at Orlando and Donna's house, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday night: Dinner at Orlando and Donna's house, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday morning: Breakfast at Uncle Isidro's house, 8:00-10:00 a.m.



Location of Uncle Isidro's house.



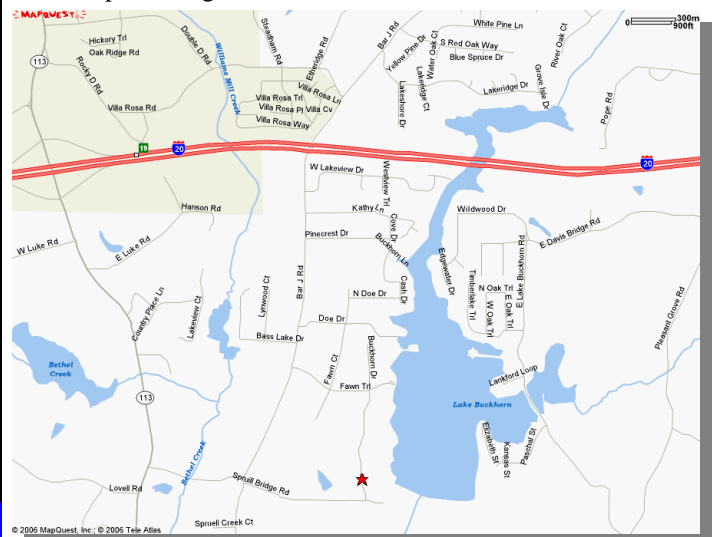
Directions to Orlando and Donna's house from the Quality Inn:

Start out going WEST on CENTENNIAL RD toward US-27—go 0.1 miles
Turn RIGHT onto US-27—go 3.2 miles
Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto GA-113.—Go 8.1 miles
Turn RIGHT onto SPRUILL BRIDGE RD—Go 0.9 miles
Turn LEFT onto BUCKHORN DR. Go <0.1 miles to **53 Buckhorn Dr**

Total Est. Time from the Quality Inn: 24 minutes

Total Est. Distance: 12.51 miles

Map showing location of Orlando and Donna's house.



Souvenir Gift Exchange

*Due to the large number of reunion attendees,
we are establishing the following guidelines
to make the gift exchange more manageable.*

- Please bring a gift to exchange (\$10 limit).
- Inside the wrapped gift, please include a note saying who the gift is from and what the significance of it is.
- Do not put any tags on the outside—where the gift originates from should be a mystery until the gift is opened.
- When you select another gift on Saturday night you will keep the gift you open—no swapping or “stealing”.
- After opening your gift, it will be your job to seek out the person who brought it. This could be a great way to “Meet Your Relative”!

The child pictured on page 3 is Raúl's daughter, Catherine Rivera.

"...y la familia?

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

Birthday Greetings

Jayden I. Feliciano (4) - June 5

Máximo Carrasquillo (30) - June 5

Jeremy Carrasquillo (29) - June 5

Isidro Rivera (87) - June 8

Nellie Feliciano (46) - June 9

Annette García (23) - June 10

Joyce Montalvo (6) - June 11

Alicia Rivera (24) - June 12

Julia Cruz Vilá (80) - June 13

Leslie Feliciano (21) - June 13

C.J.. Burch (17) - June 14

Emily Medina (28) - June 15

Garnet Rivera (61) - June 15

Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves—(43)
June 16

Ken Reinke (43) - June 16

Nelson Rivera (43) - June 17

René Rivera (67) - June 19

Enid Rivera (20) - June 20

Norma (García) Pettit (54) -
June 20

Laurie Jimenez (47) - June 21

Tommy González (36) - June 21

Jason Pineda (27) - June 22

María L. Feliciano (23) - June 24

Scott Hargraves (42) - June 25

Cindy Nicholson (36) - June 29

Alura G. Barnes (13) - June 30

Elizabeth Rivera (10) - July 5

Eric R. Stenroos (23) - July 7

Carmen Nydia (Feliciano)
Carrasquillo (50) - July 7

Lilliam Rivera (63) - July 11

José Medina (56) - July 1

Angel Feliciano (11) - July 2

Fernando Vázquez (16) - July (?)

Roberto Rivera Sevilla (66) -
July 14

Angela Barnes (37) - July 15

Kayla N. Reinke (7) - July 20

René Rivera Jr. (44) - July 21

Vickie Jimenez (46) - July 22

Olga (García) Smith (59) - July 22

Christina (Krause) Darnell (28) -
July 23

Annalise Cruz Rivera (2) - July 23

Cynthia Feliciano (28) - July 25

Ada Rivera Segarra (26) - July 25

Rachel Nicholson (6) - July 26

Fernando Vázquez (16) - July 28

Paul Krause (61) - July 30

Anniversaries

Kenneth & Vanessa Braddock (3) -
June 15

Annie Meléndez & Wilson García -
June 15

René & Carmen Rivera (45) -
June 17

Jenny & Ted Reinke (45) - June 18

Angela & David Nicholson (9) -
June 21

Angélica & José L. Medina (58) -
July 8

Edna & Edwin Rivera (2) - July 10

Garnet & Carlos Rivera (19) - July 14

Cindy & Christopher
Nicholson (13) - July 17

Joanne & Robert McLaughlin (10) -
July 21

Michael & Angela Barnes (9) -
July 26

Randy & Norma Pettit (24) - July 30