

"...y la familia?"

Volume 11, Issue 6

June/July '07

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

James and Erika



Married on May 26, 2007
At the Sunken Gardens in Lincoln, Nebraska
Story and photos on page three.

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I Remember... Fun with Cousins by Norma I. (García) Pettit

Joi and Meryem are two years and one year older than me, respectively. We were just little girls when the Merritts moved from California to Iowa, and although Joi and I saw each other frequently, I didn't see Meryem again until the winter that I was 11-1/2 years old. Olga was living with the Merritts that year, and Mom, Ruben and I traveled to Iowa by Greyhound bus to spend the Christmas and New Year holiday with them.

Meryem was a cute, boisterous, fun-loving extrovert on the brink of her teenage years. I was too tall and skinny, quiet and shy—a geeky introvert. We were total opposites. Auntie Anita expected Meryem to keep me entertained, but I preferred to be left alone and spent my days trying to pet Kathy's elusive Siamese cat. Probably the most entertaining thing we did together was push and shove each other at night in the twin bed we were supposed to be sharing as we both vied for a comfortable niche to sleep in. I remember once saying, "Fine, I'll sleep *here*, if that's what you want!" and I rolled into the crevice between the bed and the wall. Meryem just cheerfully said, "Okay!" and happily snuggled under the covers. I had to wait until she was sound asleep before gently moving her over and easing myself back onto the edge of the mattress. Somehow, we endured those two weeks together and 2-1/2 years later we were actually quite excited to see each other again.

That next time was the summer of 1966.

That was the summer that Meryem bought her teeny-weeny polka-dot bikini, which she wrote about in the June/July 1999 issue of "¿...y la familia?". Joi, Meryem and I traveled together (with the grownups, of course) to Auntie Adele's house in Carmichael and to her cabin in Lake Tahoe. The next year Meryem flew out to California with Auntie Anita and we three cousins had a blast together celebrating Meryem's 16th birthday and my 15th birthday. That was **forty years ago!** Now, in just a couple of weeks Joi and I are heading to Iowa to have some pre-reunion time together with Meryem, and we are going to be together celebrating our birthdays again. You can do the math to figure out our real ages (or look on page 8), but I daresay that when we three are together again we will once again feel like teenagers.



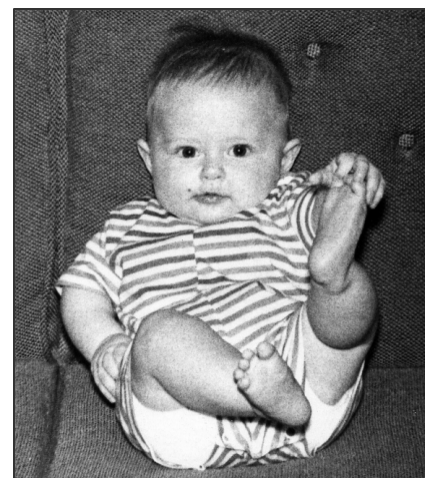
At this time in our family history...

- *112 years ago, on June 8th, 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 at the home of her daughter, Kathy Caffey in Nebraska.*
- *On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera and María Apolinaria Maldonado were married.*
- *My beautiful sister, Olga María (García) Smith, died and went to heaven on July 4, 2006.*
- *Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909 in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico.*
- *Papa Flor, my grandfather, died on July 22, 1941.*
- *My mother, Ana María López Maldonado, was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1911. She was the daughter of Juan López and María de los Santos Maldonado.*

San Francisco, California June 20, 1971

I was home from my first year of college at the University of Puerto Rico. We celebrated my 19th birthday, Laurie Jimenez's 12th birthday, and Father's Day all together with a cake for the three of us at the home of my parents, Oscar and Ana García. This picture was taken in the dining room. That beautiful paisley dress had been made for me by my talented mother and I hand made my earrings with beads purchased at a Haight-Ashbury bead shop. My kids have always insisted that I was a hippy, but I was only influenced by the style. ☺

The Way We Were



Guess Who This Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 7.

"¿...y la familia?"

James and Erika's Wedding

Story and Photos by Kathy (Merritt) Caffey,
Mother of the Groom

The wedding was beautiful and although the weatherman said there was an 85% chance of thunderstorms all rain stopped the minute we got to the gardens. The first hour was spent touring the gardens and they had their photographs taken so I snuck a few in there myself. The wedding guest turned out to be fewer than expected because a lot were afraid of the weather. But God smiled on James and Erika.



The reception as was lovely and the food was out of this world. It was put together by some of Erika's friends who also doubled as wedding attendants. The entire event was planned by Erica, her sister Brandy and James. It was their day and they made it a lovely day.

Hayli happily ran around doing her job as bubble girl and Kirstin set up the sound system. Erika's father performed the ceremony. Denise (Erika's Niece) sang the opening song and Kirstin sang the special song she wrote, played and sang for them. It fit the ceremony, which was not only a marriage but the blending of a family. James and Erika had a special ceremony accepting the lifelong responsibility of raising the family and the children accepting James as their father. Kirstin's song fit the whole ceremony perfectly. It is a song about a completed family life with love.



"¿...y la familia?"



Student News

Tory's College Graduation



My daughter, Ana Victoria Pettit, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Cross Cultural Studies from Simpson University in Redding, California, on April 28th. It was a happy day for her and a proud moment for all of us.



Tory, with parents, Randy and Norma.



Here I am!

20th Anniversary Trip to Hawaii

by Carlos Rivera

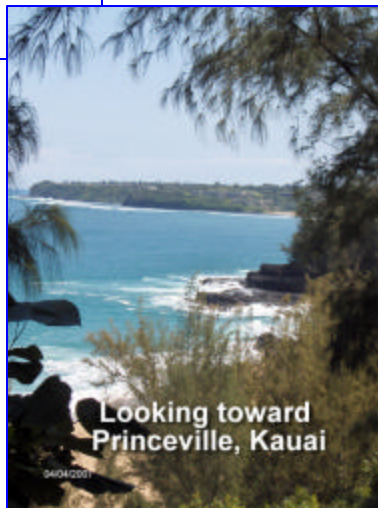
Last April, Garnet and I went to the island of Kauai in Hawaii to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Hawaii is a special place for us. At least once a year when I was traveling to and from Japan with Lilly, I would stop in Hawaii on my way home and Garnet would join me for several days of rest and relaxation. This time we splurged and stayed at the beautiful Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa (pictured at right) and had a wonderful anniversary dinner at their Poipu Bay Grill and Bar restaurant which looks like thatch roof huts that sit over tide pools stocked with koi, a waterfall and beautiful landscaping. It was very nice.



We enjoyed ourselves for 5 days before having to return home. It was so hard to leave. Kauai is our favorite island of all the major islands in Hawaii (though we have not been to the Big Island).



View from our hotel room



Looking toward Princeville, Kauai



Touring Kauai

Trip to Japan



Ruben and Lisa Quiñones took advantage of some time off that they each had and flew to Japan for Easter break. Ruben had lived in Japan for two years following his college graduation, from 1998 to 2000, and he and Lisa had gotten engaged during a trip that she made to visit him in Japan. So the country held a lot of good memories for them both, and they had longed to return there.

We traveled about four hours on the bullet train to get to this village, Kakunodate, in northern Japan, in order to see a section of town that contained houses where real samurai had lived. When we got there, we realized that the houses looked exactly like old Japanese houses, of which we had seen plenty. Too bad there weren't any samurai inside.



This is an old town in rural Japan. I wish I could have seen the samurai who walked its streets.



Gorgeous cherry blossoms.

¿...y la familia?



My son, Ruben Quiñones, and his wife, Lisa, just purchased their first home and moved in already. You can see that they are very excited about this. Even Luke, my youngest, who was visiting them over the Memorial Day weekend, is jumping up and down with joy (he's on the left).

This picture is of their spacious backyard. The building on the left is a studio apartment which Ruben uses as his music room. He calls it the "Q Flat".

New address:
1668 Dorchester Pl.
Concord, CA 94519
Phone: (925) 300-8448



Your Prayers Are Requested



God answers our prayers! Cousin **Raúl Rivera**, who was in ICU for a long time in very grave condition, has been released from the hospital and is being taken care of in the home of his sister, Luz, in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He still needs our prayers, though, as he is still a very ill man, remains bedridden, and doctors say he will need to continue with dialysis treatments for the rest of his life.

Cousin **Roberto Rivera Sevilla** has responded well to the chemotherapy treatments and the surgery he underwent and is doing well, reports his niece, Mary Lillian. Please continue to pray for his complete recovery.

Tito, brother of Mary Lillian, Awilda and Albert, and son of our Cousin Lillian, has suffered a third heart attack. At only 38 years of age, Tito now has a damaged aorta and doctors say surgery is not possible at this time. But there is power in the prayer of faith!! Please add Tito to your prayer list.

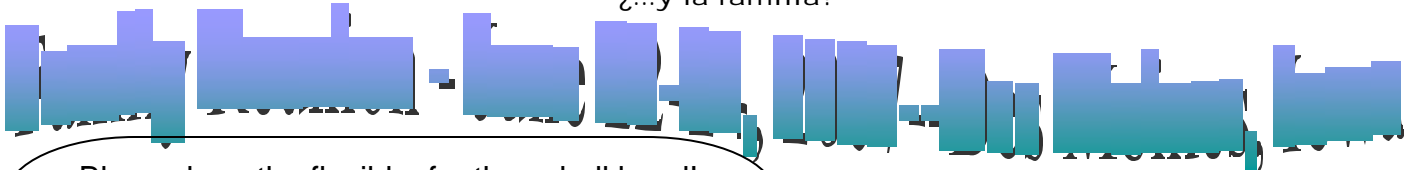
Under the Sea...Again!



For at least the third year in a row, I am printing underwater pictures taken by Joi during the scuba diving trip that she and Vic took to Key Largo, Florida in the month of May. It is a favorite vacation spot for them because of the great diving. Joi loves the quiet beauty of the underwater world.



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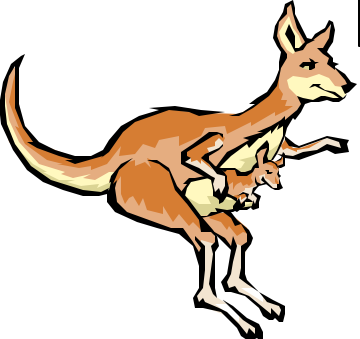


Blessed are the flexible, for they shall bend!
Ladies and gentlemen, there have been some last minute changes. Due to less confirmed reunion attendees than originally expected, we have cancelled our reservations at the Raccoon River Park Lodge. Please read on to apprise yourselves of the new reunion schedule, addresses, and other pertinent information.

My lodge has been *cancelled*?
Humph!



Hop to it!
Tell us what we need to know!



Don't worry,
I've got it all written down.



There are lots of things to do in Des Moines if you prefer to go out on Saturday. We'll have a list ready.



Don't forget your quilt square! The instructions were in the last issue. If you can't find your copy, go online to www.ylafamilia.org. The reunion quilt is in lieu of the gift exchange this year.

Friday night:
We all come together at Meryem's house

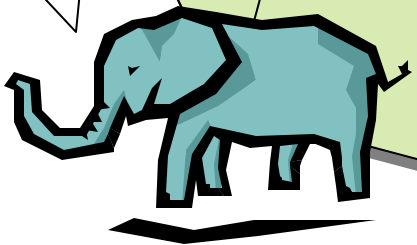
Saturday during the day :
hang out at Vanessa and Ken's house

Saturday evening:
Party at Meryem's place

Sunday morning:
Goodbye breakfast at Vanessa and Ken's house.

Ken and Vanessa's address:
6151 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Home phone: (515) 222-1356
Vanessa's

Meryem's address:
1047 Belle Mar Drive
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Cell Phone: (515) 669-9313
**Pack your swimsuit...
Meryem has a Jacuzzi!!**



Confirmed reunion attendees so far: Uncle Isidro, Uncle Dave, Aunt Delia, Bryan, Cheryl, Lisa, Scott, Sasha, Laurie, Noan, Vickie, Robin, Edith, Joi, Norma, Kathy, Jim, Kirsten, Hayli, James, Erika, Callie, Kate, Robbie, Marlynn, Meryem, Vanessa, Ken, Anita and Logan. There are a few maybes, so our total should end up somewhere between 30 and 40 people.

The baby pictured on page 2 is James Frosheiser, who is on the front page of this newsletter. The back of the snapshot says, "Jamie. Thanksgiving 1969."
7 **Josy...thanks for your contribution!! ☺**

"¿...y la familia?"

c/o Norma I. Pettit
2426 Meadow Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 642-8960
E-Mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings

<i>Jayden I. Feliciano</i> (5) - June 5	<i>René Rivera</i> (68) - June 19	<i>Roberto Rivera Sevilla</i> (67) - July 14
<i>Máximo Carrasquillo</i> (31) - June 5	<i>Enid Rivera</i> (21) - June 20	<i>Angelaa Barnes</i> (38) - July 15
<i>Jeremy Carrasquillo</i> (30) - June 5	<i>Norma (García) Pettit</i> (55) - June 20	<i>Kayla N. Reinke</i> (8) - July 20
<i>Isidro Rivera</i> (88) - June 8	<i>Laurie Jimenez</i> (48) - June 21	<i>René Rivera Jr.</i> (45) - July 21
<i>Nellie Feliciano</i> (47) - June 9	<i>Tommy González</i> (37) - June 21	<i>Vickie Jimenez</i> (47) - July 22
<i>Annette García</i> (24) - June 10	<i>Jason Pineda</i> (28) - June 22	<i>Christina (Krause) Darnell</i> (29) - July 23
<i>Joyce Montalvo</i> (7) - June 11	<i>María L. Feliciano</i> (24) - June 24	<i>Annalise Cruz Rivera</i> (3) - July 24
<i>Alicia Rivera</i> (25) - June 12	<i>Scott Hargraves</i> (43) - June 25	<i>Cynthia Feliciano</i> (29) - July 25
<i>Julia Cruz Vilá</i> (81) - June 13	<i>Cindy Nicholson</i> (37) - June 29	<i>Ada Rivera Segarra</i> (27) - July 25
<i>Leslie Feliciano</i> (22) - June 13	<i>Alura G. Barnes</i> (14) - June 30	<i>Rachel Nicholson</i> (7) - July 26
<i>C.J. Burch</i> (18) - June 14	<i>Angel Feliciano</i> (12) - July 2	<i>Fernando Vázquez</i> (17) - July 28
<i>Emily Medina</i> (29) - June 15	<i>Elizabeth Rivera</i> (11) - July 5	<i>Paul Krause</i> (62) - July 30
<i>Garnet Rivera</i> (62) - June 15	<i>Eric R. Stenroos</i> (24) - July 7	
<i>Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves</i> (44) - June 16	<i>Carmen Nydia (Feliciano) Carrasquillo</i> (51) - July 7	
<i>Ken Rinke</i> (44) - June 16	<i>Lilliam Rivera</i> (64) - July 11	
<i>Nelson Rivera</i> (44) - June 17	<i>José Medina</i> (57) - July 11	

Anniversaries

Kenneth & Vanessa Braddock (4) - June 15

Annie Meléndez & Wilson García - June 15

René & Carmen Rivera (46) - June 17

Jenny & Ted Reinke (46) - June 18

Angela & David Nicholson (10) - June 21

Angélica & José L. Medina (59) - July 9

Edna & Edwin Rivera (3) - July 11

Garnet & Carlos Rivera (20) - July 14

Cindy & Christopher Nicholson (14) - July 17

Joanne & Robert McLaughlin (10) - July 21

Mchael & Angela Barnes (10) - July 26

Randy & Norma Pettit (25) - July 30

