

"...y la familia?"

Volume 12, Issue 2

Oct/Nov '07

Needed for
Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you
and yours...

Announcements

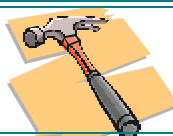
- New Baby
- Engagement
- Graduations
- Promotion
- New address

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



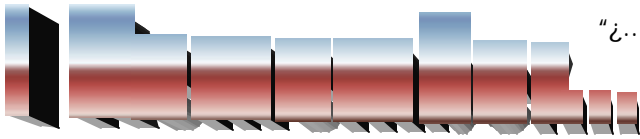
A Labor of Love



Kathy (Merritt) Caffey (standing on the left) went with a group of about twenty persons from her church on an adult mission trip to help Katrina victims in the central part of New Orleans. The team worked in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and other groups to assist people in restoring their homes. Kathy says that this trip changed her life. Read her story and see more photos of her trip on page 5.

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“¿...y la familia?”

Going to Confession

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

As you will read on page 4, Joi and I paid a visit to Ruben and Katherine García in Concord, California on Saturday, Sept. 29th. I hadn't seen my brother since Christmas, even though it is only a two hour drive between our houses. Still, we love each other very much, and when we get together we share a lot of laughs and memories.

This time was no different, and our journey down memory lane took us to different church-related scenes from our childhood. We were raised Catholic, attending St. Anne's church on Judah street in San Francisco. I recalled how Mom would let a couple of months go by without taking us to confession, and then she would start feeling riddled with guilt over it. I can picture her standing at the kitchen sink, doing the dishes, and glancing over at the calendar on the wall as the realization hit her that we were long overdue a visit to the confessional. She'd immediately get agitated, and that restlessness would persist and her nervousness would continue every step of the way as she'd march us to the church the following Saturday. I also remember her relief after it was over and we were heading home. She looked as if a huge weight had been lifted off of her. Her step was light and her demeanor was carefree.

As for us kids, we would have been relieved if she forgot all about taking us to confession. Do you think we ever reminded her that it had been two months or more since our last confession? Not on your life! Speaking of which, when we entered the confessional, we recited what the nuns had taught us to say: “Bless me Father, for I have sinned, it has been [*amount of time*] since my last confession. I am sorry for these sins and for all the sins of my past life, especially for [*fill in with the worst offense*]. My sins are...” We were supposed to rattle off all of our sins, but, as we discovered when Ruben, Joi and I were comparing notes the other day, we never could remember

the sins we had committed during the course of two or more months, so we simply made something up to tell the priest. Our confessions went something like this: “I told two lies to my mother, four lies to my brother, fought with my sister three times, and fought with my brother once.” I guess we should have added, “And I'm not telling you the truth right now, since I made something up and rehearsed what I was going to tell you.”

After “confessing”, the priest would give us our penance—a certain amount of “Hail Marys” and “Our Fathers” that we had to say to earn God's forgiveness, and we'd go up to the altar to say our prayers. I recall one time that Ruben and I were kneeling side by side at the altar, doing



The little angel

our penance, and Ruben leaned over to ask in a whisper, “How much penance did you get?” I answered, “Ten ‘Hail Marys’ and ten ‘Our Fathers’.” How about you?” Ruben replied, “Fifty ‘Hail Marys’ and Fifty ‘Our Fathers’.” I remember just staring at him in shock, wondering what he had done that had earned him such a steep penance. Now, some 45 years later, I finally got up the nerve to ask him what he had done, but he can't remember. We shared a good laugh over that memory, though!

It's nice to know that our God is a loving, merciful God, and that we need only to repent of our wrongdoings and He forgives us of our sins. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. We can do this as often as needed, right in the privacy of our own home, or wherever we are. None of us are *perfect*, but we can all be *forgiven*.

"¿...y la familia?"

A Page Out of Our Family History

You'll probably need a magnifying glass to read this page out of the 1910 Census of Barrio Santo Domingo in Peñuelas, but the entry for Florencio Rivera, Ana Cruz, and their baby, Adela is second from the bottom. You can see where I highlighted the entry.

MUNICIPIO		DEPARTAMENTO DE COMERCIO Y TRABAJO OFICINA DEL CENSO		CENSO DÉCIMOTERCERO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: 1910-POBLACIÓN		DISTRITO DE ENUMERACIÓN N° 579		B	
BARRIO				PUERTO RICO				5	
URBANO O RURAL								2226	
NOMBRE DE LA INSTITUCIÓN		X		ENUMERADA POR N° EL DÍA 22 DE Abril DE 1910		Santiago de los Caballeros, P.R.		ENUMERADOR	
SEX	AGE	NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	ETHNICITY	RELATIONSHIP	EDUCATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION
M	40	Florencio Rivera	1870	Peñuelas, P.R.	White	Head	10		
F	35	Ana Cruz	1875	Peñuelas, P.R.	White	Wife	10		
		Adela	1910	Peñuelas, P.R.	White	Child	0		

Look What I Still Have



This bowl and cup set was a baby shower gift in 1976, when I was expecting my first child. My old school friends in San Francisco gave me the baby

shower when I was visiting the City. This month that first baby, Ruben, turned 31 years old.

The Way We Were

This is a picture of Kathy Merritt, given to Olga García, who went by the nickname Yogi.

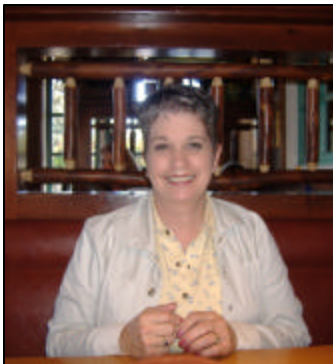
Writing on the back:
October 17-63
To Yogi
The nuttiest cousin
I've ever had.
Love, Kathy



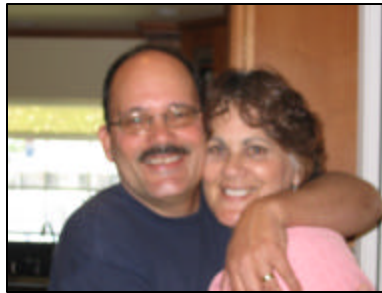
At this time in our family history...

- Elena and Sinforiano (Guar) Rivera were born on October 1, 1913, according to their baptismal records.
- Rosita Hernández and Isidro Rivera were married on October 2, 1946, in San Francisco, California. They were married three days after Isidro returned from the war.
- On Oct. 10, 1815, José Santa Ana de la Cruz married Lorenza de Santiago in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. José Santa Ana was a great-uncle of Máximo Cruz Vilá.
- Achilles George Nicholson was born in Elias, Greece 115 years ago on October 10th. He was the husband of Auntie Marie, and the father of Jenny, Victoria and George. He died on November 3, 1953.
- Oscar Cruz García, second child of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, was born on October 30, 1910.
- Máximo Cruz Vilá was born on Nov. 18, 1853. He and María Engracia García were married on Nov. 3, 1877. Their daughter, Ana, was the mother of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.

"¿...y la familia?"



Joi flew out from Colorado on Friday and drove straight to the school where I teach. After a relaxing evening together, we headed out to Concord the following morning. We stopped for lunch at Mimi's, where this pic of Joi was taken.



First stop was at my brother's house in Concord. We hadn't seen Ruben since last December. Katherine and Ruben both work in banks.

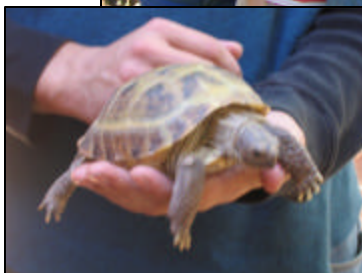


Tory and Lisa prepared savory homemade pumpkin soup which they served up with fresh sourdough bread. Yum!



From there we drove to Martinez in my new yellow Beetle to visit Angie and Marina in Marina's new condo. Angie lives in Oklahoma, but she was out here in California taking part in a women's health study. She returned to Oklahoma two days later.

That night, Michelle, Olga's oldest daughter, was driving up with her husband and sons to go out to dinner with Marina and the Barnes family (Michael, Angela, Teal, Alura and Marlin).



Ruben showed off his pet tortoises. They are his "babies" for the moment, until the **real** baby arrives next March. ☺



Marina followed us over to our next stop—back to Concord, to the home of my son, Ruben and his wife, Lisa. My younger daughter, Tory, also is also living there temporarily. Marina didn't stay long, as she had those dinner plans with her sisters and their families.



"¿...y la familia?

A Labor of Love by Kathy (Merritt) Caffey



About six months ago our pastor announced that the church was going to sponsor an adult mission trip to help Katrina victims in the central part of New Orleans. He and his family have been involved with Urban Impact ministries in New Orleans for over 10 years. In fact one of his daughters works for Urban Impact and hosted us during our trip. As soon as I heard about the trip I knew I wanted to go. The purpose of the trip was to work with Habitat for Humanity and other ministries in helping people restore their homes. Two years after the storm many people still do not have a home. Due to lack of funding or slowness of funding the poor especially may have enough money for materials but not labor. Our job was to provide the labor. I knew in my heart this was something I could do. We had both pastors and their wives but mostly just plain folks like me--twenty in all. I am not construction oriented but I could paint, tear out and clean up and if nothing else, do what I was told. We were lucky in that both pastors know a lot about construction, we had an electrician and others who were handy with tools

So on August 24th we loaded 2 15 passenger vans and a trailer. We headed out and drove straight through to New Orleans. Our first day was free so we headed to the French Quarter and the biggest flea market I have even seen. It was female heaven. I walked around the quarter and took a lot of pictures, talked to a lot of friendly people, sat and listened to some music. The quarter is a beautiful place especially St. Louis Cathedral (photo below left). We all met back up after lunch and headed to the "yellow house" which is owned by Urban Ministries. They house dozens of groups like ours who are making these trips. Dorms on one side for men and the other side for women.



My group was sent to Mr. Myke's house. Miss Lois is 75 and Mr. Myke is 85 and have a granddaughter living with them who is going to college. They have owned their home for over fifty years. Everything they own and have in this world is invested in this home. We were lucky in that the home was getting to the completion stage. We installed trim and painted. Put on a new front door, tiled bathroom and utility room floors, installed interior doors and knobs plus generally just cleaned up. Mr. Myke and his family were sweet and bought us lunch one day. It was a blessing working for them. Mr Myke is failing and our hope is that he lives to move into that home. He is on dialysis three times a week. He is a proud man who served in WWII, is proud of it and took care of his family all his life.



*Mr. Myke's family
Their granddaughter lives with them
and goes to college*

The other group worked in a rougher neighborhood. There were gangs on the streets openly making drug deals. However, they never bothered us. That group of ten did electrical work on Rev Boyd's home and worked on a four-plex that is being built for interns for urban impact, which was around the corner. That group made friends with a 12-year-old kid who was staying with his grandmother for the summer. He was to go back to Baton Rouge to school the next weekend as the schools for the most part in New Orleans are still closed down. Think of all the kids not getting an education and just hanging out because they have no where else to go. That boy was alive on Wednesday and shot Wednesday night by a gang member. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Friday we cleaned up the streets in that neighborhood (see photo at right). Rev. Boyd came out and we had a small service for the boy. We never knew his name. A lot of tears came while we sang "Amazing Grace". Such a waste. But it had such an amazing effect on all of us. We would all go back and work again. For the most part there was a lot of pouring out of love and gratitude from those people. They can't pay you but they do cook for you, pray with you and cry with you. It was an special experience that I treasure. As one of the group said we all see each other at church and say hi but don't really know each other. Those of us on that trip came to know each other really well. We know how blessed each of us are and hope to take back the gift of giving back to our own towns. There is a lot to be done yet in New Orleans. Hopefully other groups will feel it in their hearts to contact Urban Ministries and give of their time and soul.



Johnny Muñiz Passes Away

John Muñiz Jr., born July 24, 1947, died on June 29, 2007 in San Jose, California, during a dialysis treatment. Johnny was married to Neida (Hernández) Muñiz—a niece of Rosita Rivera—for over 35 years.

Family was the most important thing to John. His wife, children, grandchildren and friends meant the world to him. He also enjoyed riding with his brothers of the Ghost Mountain Riders Motorcycle Club.

He worked for the City of Sunnyvale for many years and was admired by everyone for his affectionate nature and fun-loving sense of humor. He will truly be missed by all who knew him.



Above: Neida is seated in the middle of the photo.

Left: I visited with two of Neida's sisters—Emy and Helen—who I hadn't seen in years. Helen played the guitar and sang in the funeral service.

Your Prayers are Requested

Just nine days after Joi and I visited her in Martinez (story on page 4), and exactly one week after returning to her home in Oklahoma, my niece,

Angela (Warren) Barnes, passed away from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Angie died at 7:10 a.m. on Monday, October 8th.

A memorial service will be held for Angela at 11:00 in the morning on October 20th at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, 475 E. I St., Benicia, California.

Please keep the family in your prayers at this extremely difficult time.

A feature story on Angela will run in the next issue of "¿...y la familia?"



David Finch, husband of Tía Delia (Rivera) Finch has also been diagnosed with lymphoma and has been undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Aunt Delia recently sent an update on his condition and progress.

"The cancer treatment that Dave is going through appears to be working so far. He has three more treatments to go, and then we will know what the outcome will be. He gets a treatment every three weeks. He gets sicker than a dog the first week after, and when he is getting back to normal, it's time for the next treatment all over again. We trust and believe that GOD is with us and we are very thankful for everybody's prayers. Please keep the prayers coming as we have a long journey ahead of us. Hopefully his hair will grow back and he will be able to feel more like his own self again. We love you all very much. Aunt Delia and fam."

"¿...y la familia?"

Relatives Write

Congratulations to Cousin **Kathy Rivera** (daughter of Raúl Rivera) and her husband, **Eric Montalvo**, who have purchased their first home! Kathy is thrilled to share her new mailing address and phone number with the family:

Kathy and Eric Montalvo
P.O. Box 1415
Newberry, FL 32669

352-474-6208

Kathy and Eric have two children:
Julia and Joseph. I just noticed that Joseph's birthday is September 29th, and that *he also turned two*, just like Ken and Vanessa's son, Logan.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSEPH!!

Recently, I had a surprise phone call from my nephew, Oscar González, the oldest son of my brother, Oscarito. Bless his hear, every now and then, after I've lost track of him, Oscar pops up and lets me know he is okay. It was a thrill to hear from him and get his new address, phone number and e-mail address, all of which Oscar wants me to share with the entire family. So feel free to contact him and introduce yourself. He says he doesn't know anyone in the family except me (and he knew Olga).

Oscar González
230 Cottonwood Loop
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431

Phone: 270-245-2359
e-mail: u4u_now@yahoo.com



Logan Alex Ander Braddock celebrated his second birthday on September 29th.
Happy Birthday, Logan!!

2008 Rivera Family Reunion Placerville, CA June 20-22, 2008



This is the place! Randy and I invite you to come enjoy the fresh country air and rustic ambience of our home in Placerville, 45 miles east of Sacramento, California.

The pot of Puerto Rican coffee and the hammock will be waiting for you. The congas are on order and should arrive any day! We have an acre of land for the kids to run around on, space for Water Balloon Volleyball, badminton, basketball, and an above-ground pool to cool off in. And of course, there will be music and dancing, and lots of food!

As Cousin Papo said when I talked to him the other day, "*Ahí es donde empezó todo*," (that's where it all started) because in 1999 Olga and I co-hosted the very first reunion. Papo said to count him in! God willing, he will be here, and I **so** want as many family members to attend as possible. There is a lot to see and do in California, and this can be a dream vacation for many of the cousins who have never been to the West Coast. *¡Empiezen a guardar sus chavitos desde ahora porque yo quiero que todos vengan a California el año que viene!*

Thank you to Josy Medina for his unfailing support! xxxooo

"¿...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>Teena Warren</i> (36) - Oct. 3	<i>Tito Shenker</i> (10) - Oct. 22
<i>Christine Rivera</i> (11) - Oct. 3	<i>Vicky (Rivera) Cabán</i> (43) - Oct. 23
<i>Roxanna Rivera</i> (37) - Oct. 6	<i>Brandi Klene</i> (38) - Oct. 24
<i>Eric J. Montalvo</i> (30) - Oct. 7	<i>Randy Pettit</i> (51) - Oct. 27
<i>Ruben A. Quiñones</i> (31) - Oct. 12	<i>Victoria Nicholson</i> (68) - Oct. 28
<i>Mike Shenker</i> (31) - Oct. 12	<i>Madeline Rivera</i> (41) - Oct. 28
<i>Felipe René Rivera</i> (24) - Oct. 13	<i>Joanne McLaughlin</i> (60) - Oct. 29
<i>Lourdes Rivera</i> (34) - Oct. 13	<i>Joshua Rambo</i> (5) - Nov. 1
<i>Edwin Joel Rivera</i> (10) - Oct. 14	<i>Julie Rivera</i> (15) - Nov. 2
<i>Jackie (Correa) Eddy</i> (43) - Oct. 15	<i>Alex Joel Rivera</i> (12) - Nov. 2
<i>Sonia Rivera</i> (33) - Oct. 15	<i>Lisa Quiñones</i> (31) - Nov. 3
<i>Austin Rivera</i> (13) - Oct. 17	<i>Adalberto Rivera</i> (24) - Nov. 5
<i>Annalise L. Nicholson</i> (5) - Oct. 17	<i>Orlando Rivera</i> (52) - Nov. 6
<i>Virginia T. Feliciano</i> (18) - Oct. 21	<i>Stephanie Feliciano</i> (18) - Nov. 6
<i>Javier Rivera</i> (36) - Oct. 18	<i>Matthew Thompson</i> (2) - Nov. 7
<i>Sierra Campos</i> (11) Oct. 21	<i>Lydia N. Carrasquillo</i> (28) - Nov. 7

Rosa M. Rivera (84) - Nov. 8

Austin Miller (13) - Nov. 8

Joannie Garcia (27) - Nov. 9

Neysha Rivera (17) - Nov. 12

Juan Meléndez (62) - Nov. 12

Lilliana Charice Cruz (5) - Nov. 15

Joseph T. Springer (11) - Nov. 15

Esmeralda Rivera Delgado (3) -
Nov. 16

Carol (Medina) Wright (55) - Nov. 17

Michelle Cabán (19) - Nov. 17

Amanda Knox (19) - Nov. 22

John Feliciano (45) - Nov. 22

Rose A. Segarra (7) - Nov. 23

Hector L. Feliciano (57) - Nov. 26

Edwin Rivera (53) - Nov. 27

Carol Lee Rivera (47) - Nov. 27

Solimar Delgado (21) - Nov. 28

Anniversaries

*Kimm and
Scott Hargraves*
(11)
October 18

*Muñeca (Osorio)
And
David Simon-Baker*
(1)
October 21

*Delia (Rivera)
And
David L. Finch*
(47)
November 26

