

"...y la familia?"

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Needed for Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you and yours...

Announcements

New baby
Engagement
Graduations
Promotion
New address

Upcoming Events

family parties
Reunions
Weddings

Article, 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

José Medina and Donna Bridges Wed

In a unique and lovely setting, long-time sweethearts José Medina and Donna Bridges finally tied the knot on March 15th.

The music-filled ceremony was held at the Candlelit Way Wedding Chapel, a charming 125-year old chapel in Dallas Center, Iowa.

José, or Josy, as he is known to us, entered the chapel to the harmonic strains of "En Mi Viejo San Juan." Josy, who is the son of Tío José and Tía Tita (Rivera) Medina, was born in Puerto Rico.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the new Mr. and Mrs. Medina stepped down from the altar, slipped into each others arms, and had their first dance as husband and wife in the center aisle of the chapel.

Family members who attended the 2000 Rivera Family Reunion in Florida may remember Donna's Marilyn Monroe impersonation.

Many congratulations to Josy and Donna!



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Busy City...Busy Students

A blog entry by Tory Pettit,
Daegu, South Korea

I expected adjustment to be more difficult than it has been and to my surprise I have found this place to have very simple living. I live on the fourth floor of a small building on the outskirts of the Puk gu district in Daegu. Daegu is something like the 2nd or 3rd largest city in South Korea and the downtown seems to enjoy showing off its material splendor. However, the outskirts of the city is closer to my taste, although still not a place I would be happy to live in for long. The area in which I live is clean, but just a few meters out my window I can see a dump yard and some little shacks that are used for storage, I think. Poverty isn't an issue in the metropolitan areas in this country, at least it isn't manifested the way it is in the cities in the United States. I haven't seen any sort of poverty in this city yet. On the contrary, I've seen a lot of wealth. It doesn't seem to be exploited wealth at all; in fact, the recycling here is like a habit for the people, and almost intrinsically they have found ways to make Daegu a cleaner and better place to live. Foreigners like me still haven't learned the culture of recycling...

The city never sleeps. Already I have found myself up later than I would have ever imagined in California (but only on two occasions). It's hard to sleep when my single-pane windows resonate the sounds of the streets (horns, voices, music) and the lights of the neighboring buildings flash into my small but well lit 24/7 "aparta". Sometimes I'll be up reading or watching TV and feel a bit hungry, so I'll walk downstairs to buy a snack...maybe take a stroll down the street...maybe wander downtown...or visit a friend. Everything is way too convenient--a temptation for someone bored and sleepless.

Because I work from 2-10 P.M., I have so much day time to spend getting to know the culture and people here. Surprisingly, I haven't been able to do that. My introvertedness is really starting to bloom, but hopefully it will last as short as the blooming of the cherry-blossoms because it has really made it difficult for me to want to meet new people. And when I do have the opportunity, I become so suddenly shy that any Korean that I memorized has completely vanished and all I can say is "annyeong haseyo" with an embarrassed smile. Then the people will start talking and asking me questions, and being so ashamed that I can't understand I just say "Ne...ne" (Which is "yes"). Always embarrassing. They immediately see that I am linguistically inept and say "Ss OK, Ss OK!" and then leave. Hopefully this will wear off soon. I *am* trying, though!

My students are very hard workers. The middle school students go to school in the daytime, then to "academy" in the afternoon, and then to Oedae (my school) later. I have some elementary students who go to other language schools (like Chinese) in the mornings, then go to school, then to Oedae to learn English, or have music lessons somewhere in between. They have very tough schedules and are often very tired by the time they come to my class.

(Continued on page 3)

At this time in our family history...

- *Pedro José Rivera Maldonado was born on April 3, 1875. He was a brother of our family patriarch, "Papa Flor." Pedro only lived for 15 months, though, dying on July 10, 1876.*
- *165 years ago, on April 13th, María Inés Vilá and Marcelino de la Cruz were married. They were my father's maternal great-grandparents. María's father, Pedro Vilá, was born in Cataluña, Spain.*
- *On April 22, 1946, my parents, Oscar C. García and Ana M. López, were married in San Francisco.*
- *Florencio Rivera (Tío Guar) died on April 22, 1986.*
- *April 23rd makes thirteen years since my father, Oscar, passed away.*
- *Máximo Cruz, my father's maternal grandfather, married his second wife, Genara Maldonado, on May 5, 1909. He was widowed from his first wife, María Engracia García.*
- *Jesús Cruz Maldonado was born on May 20, 1896. He was my father's uncle, the son of Máximo Cruz and his second wife, Genara Maldonado. I met this man when he was about 74 or 75 years old. I was with my father "debajo del Acueducto de Ponce". . . We were on our way to visit Tío Guar when we encountered Tío Jesús, who was very happy to tell us that he was learning to read and write. You are never too old to learn!*
- *Elena Sevilla de Rivera (Tío Guar's wife) would have been 94 years old on May 22nd.*
- *María de los Santos Cruz, youngest sister of María Engracia García, was born on May 23, 1859.*



"¿...y la familia?"



New Arrival!

Marcel Antonio Quiñones, son of Ruben and Lisa, and grandson of Randy and Norma Pettit, was born at 7:30 a.m. on March 5, 2008, in Martinez, California. He weighed 6 lbs, 10 oz. and measured 19". Marcel is the sweetest, most precious baby in the world!



Busy City...Busy Students (continued from page 2)

One of my classes (the middle school class) was telling me last night about how they are tired of learning and they don't like education. They were telling me that their parents are the ones who love education, but the students no longer love it since they have school sometimes on Saturdays and don't rest on the weekends. These students also come from diverse religious backgrounds, yet no matter the religion, the Korean families are very committed to their religion. Some of my students are Buddhist and some are Christian. I was having a conversation with three of my students (one is Buddhist and the other two are Christian) and they were all saying how their parents love religion, but they don't. It's just another chore or tradition to them. One boy blurted out in class "Always they talk about Jesus!" and the other students just looked down. I think this kind of outburst was unusual, but it was something they all agreed with in their hearts. My students are very tired.

In one of my high school writing classes that I teach, I made "English" the next topic of our persuasive papers that we were working on. The students had to write a paper that supported their stance on learning English (whether learning English is important or not) and support their thesis using strong arguments. One paper I read from a boy said that "English is disrupting our other interests. English is changing what we do and it is the most important of all subjects. This is not fair." I could see what he is saying because all they seem to do is study English, at least they prioritize it above other things. The boy also made a point about how English has changed the ideals of Koreans, because everyone wants to be more like the West. He feels that the more English they learn, the less Korean they become. I thought that was very interesting, since I myself have been curious about the role and impact of English here.

To read more of Tory's blogs, log on to <http://sunrisesineast.blogspot.com/>

I asked Aunt Delia for a report on how she is doing, and she graciously wrote this article in time for the April newsletter.

Update on Delia Finch

I just got back to Iowa, after spending almost two months in Sunny Florida. I had a wonderful stay over at my sister Tita and her husband Jose's home. We all had a very good visit reminiscing our childhood stories, and listening to the wonderful Puerto Rican music, and laughing every time we remembered something funny from our growing up years, which helped me quite a bit mentally and physically.

As you all know, I had gone through a lot of trauma, with the loss of my husband Dave, his illness, the selling of our home, and still a lot of work needed to be done so I can begin a new chapter in my life.

Right now, my biggest dilemma is to sort out through all my stuff which is in storage, and having to get rid of everything accumulated during our 47 years of marriage. It is tough to do so, but it needs to be done quickly as soon as the weather cooperates with me.

The headstone for his grave is number one on my priority list of must do. The grave is still the same as the first day he was put to rest, because of the harsh winter here in the Midwest. Now that the weather is getting a bit warmer, maybe the cemetery people might be able to finish the job.

I was glad to be able to get away for those two months. I had not been able to get out of the house here in Iowa because of all the cold weather, the ice, and the need of getting a good winter coat. I had forgotten how bitterly cold Iowa was. I thought I could tackle the cold weather, but I was wrong.

My plans for the trip to Florida popped just quickly. I was very glad to leave Iowa behind. Because of the lack of exercise on account of the cold weather, my legs were beginning to fail me. I could not walk long distances without hanging onto something to keep me balanced. When I got to Florida, the heat of the tropical sun felt to me like a million dollars. Tita and Jose go out every single day for a ride in the car and doing a lot of walking as Jose needs it for his legs, too. I started walking everywhere there, and started getting my strength back and started feeling like my own self again. Now that I am back in Iowa, I have my breakfast early in the morning, get myself dressed, and I am out the door every single day for a forty minute walk. I do that twice a day. If the weather is crappy outside, I do my walking in the house and do the stairs over at Lisa and Scott's house. That is twelve steps up to the upstairs, and twelve to go down the basement several times during the day when I am by myself. I feel like a new person now, and thank God for allowing me to get stronger again.

While in Florida, I was able to attend several wonderful shows that Carol and Larry are affiliated with at one of the theatres there, in Tequesta. I really enjoyed all the outings with the whole family. The girls and everyone in the family were great to me, and I thank them all for the good times. I might consider moving there as soon as I get all my jobs taken care of here.

May God bless everyone in the family, lots of good health. And PLEASE, keep Rosa, my niece, in your daily prayers. She has not felt very good for some time. She really needs your prayers.

Love,

Aunt Delia

¿...y la familia?

Thanks to Cousin Helen Correa-González for e-mailing me this...
How many of these can you identify with?

You're
Boricua if
your sofa is
covered in
PLASTIC!

You're
Boricua if you
were raised on
GOYA
products

You're
Boricua if
you grew up
afraid of
"El Cuco"

You're
Boricua if
you were
ever hit with
a *chancleta*.

You're
Boricua if
you ever ate
pegao from
a *caldero*

You're
Boricua if you
think **Cristina**
can beat
Oprah
anytime.

You're
Boricua if
you call all
morning
cereals
"Con Flei"

You're
Boricua if
you have at
least 30
cousins

You're
Boricua
if you can fit
more than 10
people in a
2-seater

You're
Boricua if you
know the
meaning of
"No da pie
con bola"

You're
Boricua
if 20 people
go to pick you
up at the
airport

You're
Boricua if
Spanglish is
your official
language

Update on the Rivera Family Reunion

I'm repeating pages 6 and 7 in case you misplaced the last issue (shame on you if you did!). Please note that the phone number for the Carmeron Park Inn was wrong and has been corrected. They offered a great price and it is not a bad place to stay.

*In a recent telephone conversation with Cousin René he said he and Titi were thinking about coming to California, although they had not made definite travel plans yet. Mary Lillian is getting close to making her plane and motel reservations and hopes that her mother, Lillian, will be accompanying her. Cousins Papo and Ada have said that they will come. Others who I am expecting are Kathy Caffey with granddaughter, Haley; Meryem Merritt with grandson, Austin; Aunt Delia, Bryan and Cheryl Finch; Vic and Joi Stenroos; Eric Stenroos, Carlos and Garnet Rivera; Ruben and Lisa Quiñones with baby Marcel; and Ruben, Katherine, Michael and Nicole Garcia. The Nicholsons all live in Northern California (except for Victoria and family), so I am hoping they will all attend. Did I forget anybody? **It's time to RSVP if you plan to attend so that I know how many pasteles to make!** ☺*



2008 FAMILY REUNION in Placerville, California

*“Una Pachanga en Placerville”
(Mira lo que les tengo ya...) →*

Come early and stay late, if you can.
There is lots to see and do in
California.



While I don't have the schedule made out yet, my plans for Saturday include old-fashioned family fun during the day with events like whiffle ball baseball, water balloon volleyball, badminton, regular volleyball, basketball, sack races, and cooling off in the above-ground pool. For the professional relaxers there will be a hammock and a domino table. Saturday's lunch will be a BBQ—hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken, with all the usual picnic fixings like potato salad and watermelon. Saturday evening will be the Puerto Rican “Pachanga”—the big party with Puerto Rican food, salsa music and dancing. We also plan to have a karaoke machine.

Placerville is a charming California "gold rush" town named after the placer gold deposits found in its river beds and hills in the late 1840s. The City of Placerville is centrally located between Sacramento, the State capitol, and South Lake Tahoe, world-famous recreation center. Accessibility to Placerville is via State Highway 49 and U.S. Highway 50, along one of the most traveled corridors in California. Placerville's treasured heritage is reflected in the historical, nineteenth century architecture of its downtown core.



The history of Placerville began with the "rush for gold" to California in the 1840s. The highly publicized discovery of gold in the tailrace section at Sutter's Mill in Coloma (only 10 miles from Placerville) in 1848 resulted in the migration of thousands of fortune-seekers to Northern California in the mid 1800s. During the gold rush, Placerville became an important supply center for the surrounding mining camps.



*Make
Time to
Visit
San
Francisco!*



¿...y la familia?

Reunion Lodging

Joi flew out to California on February 1st for the express purpose of going with me to scope out the different motels in the Placerville area. What dedication to the family cause, eh? I definitely appreciated her sacrifice of coming out here because it turned a chore into an adventure. Armed with my planner, we attacked the job with an organized itinerary and a professional air. We visited two places on Friday and five on Saturday. Here are our findings:



#1 The Holiday Inn Express at 4360 Town Center Blvd. in El Dorado Hills is the most expensive but also the nicest place to stay. Only two years old, this beautiful building is located in the new Town Center shopping complex. There are fancy shops and upscale restaurants, a 14 screen movie theater, a supermarket and a Target Store within walking distance. The list of amenities offered by the Holiday Inn Express is almost endless, and includes a complimentary and lavish continental breakfast (not just pastries and coffee mind you, but scrambled eggs, omelets, bacon, sausages, and the works), microwaves, refrigerators and in-room safes in all rooms, complimentary high-speed internet access (wireless and hard-wired), and a gorgeous outdoor heated pool and spa. After getting the tour of this hotel, I feel like booking a room for Randy and me there and letting someone else have our bedroom at our house! ☺ From the Holiday Inn Express it is an easy hop onto the freeway (Hwy 50) and then a 20 minute drive to my house under normal traffic conditions (I timed it). So, although it is the farthest away of all the places to stay, it is not that bad of a distance, and the plus side is that if you are going to drive to the airport from there, you are 20 minutes closer to it than if you stayed in Placerville. The “special” room price (only \$5 off the regular price) is \$114.95 per night (plus tax). There is a block of 10 rooms reserved under the Rivera Family name, and are guaranteed to be available up until two weeks prior to the reunion. Cancellations can be made up to 6 p.m. on the date of arrival with a full refund. Check out their website at www.hiexpress.com/eldoradohills for more information or to make reservations. Phone #: 866-933-8773



#2 The Cameron Park Inn at 3361 Coach Lane in Cameron Park is undergoing a name change. It used to be a Best Western, but now it is going to be a Quality Inn. They also recently underwent a management change. New manager Adam Sangha explained that his family has owned the motel for many years, but just recently took over the management of it. The online reviews for this motel are not good, which probably explains why the owners dumped the previous managers and installed their son in that position. The outside of the motel was plain and unimpressive, but the rooms we visited were a delightful surprise—very nice, as you can see in the picture at right. Not only do they offer free high-speed internet, but *each room comes equipped with a computer!* (You can see it on the desk in the second picture.) Each room also has a hair dryer, coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, iron and ironing board. The TVs get local channels plus HBO and Cinemax. Some rooms come equipped with full kitchenettes, which would be great for those of you planning on an extended stay in Northern California, and the motel also has a laundry area, pool and spa. For larger family groups, you can get adjacent rooms with a connecting door. There is a continental breakfast (not as lavish as the Holiday Inn Express has) that is served from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Although the regular price is \$89 per night, Adam Sangha has given us a very special rate of \$59 per night, regardless of whether you have a regular room or one with a kitchenette, or whether you stay three nights or seven. Considering the fact that most of you will only be “crashing” in your room at night since you will be either at my house or out sightseeing most of the time, this is a great deal. Joi and I were shown the rooms at each motel we visited, and for the price and the amenities offered, you can’t beat the Cameron Park Inn with a stick. It is also a few miles closer to my house, and you have an Applebee’s restaurant within walking distance, and a Denny’s, a Sizzler, a Safeway other stores and fast food places nearby. We blocked ten rooms under the name Rivera Family, and you can call Adam at **530-677-2203** to make reservations. **Corrected phone number.**

#3 The Best Western Placerville Inn had no vacancies for June 20-22.

#4, #5, #6 and #7 Okay, from there it went downhill very fast. The four motels we visited in Placerville (within 5 minutes from my house) were all dumpy and more expensive than the Cameron Park Inn, so they are not really worth mentioning, but since we visited them I might as well list their info.

Gold Country Inn - This place was such a dump that we didn’t even get their address or phone number. Stay away! They also wanted payment *in advance* for blocked rooms. I’m sorry, but they would have to pay *me* to stay there. **National 9 Inn** - 1500 Broadway, Placerville. Phone: 530-622-3884. The room rates ranged from \$65-\$80 per night. There is no pool or Jacuzzi, but rooms do come equipped with a microwave and refrigerator. This is a basic, no frills room. **The Motherlode Motel** - 1940 Broadway, Placerville. Phone: 530-622-0895. Microwave, fridge, free internet, pool. Rates are from \$64-78. The furniture in the rooms looked old. **The Gold Trail Motor Lodge** (next to the Motherlode Motel) - Phone: 530-622-0895 was undergoing total remodel and the office was closed, so we were unable to talk to anyone or see a room.

*Add 10% tax to all room rates listed on this page.

"¿...y la familia?"

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

Birthday Greetings

Michael Barnes (45) - April 1 **Vic Stenroos** (60) - April 22 **Roberto I. Rivera** (57) - May 16
Emilio Maldonado (77) - April 1 **Dalie Delgado** (16) - April 23 **Ryan Reinke** (12) - May 12
Michael A. Feliciano (42) - April 3 **Naiome Campos** (4) - April 23 **Helen Correa-González** (46) - May 12
Catherine Rivera (31) - April 5 **Raymond L. Cavino** (9) - April 25 **Alexis Valentín** (23) - May 17
Dustin Cavino (17) - April 4 **Haley Frosheiser** (12) - April 26 **Riley Hargraves** (6) - May 22
Wilma E. Roig (23) - April 6 **Daniel Campos** (14) - April 27 **Heriberto Rivera** (21) - May 26
Marlynn (Merritt) Krause (60) - April 6 **Luz E. Sánchez** (2) - April 28 **Ada I. Rivera** (31) - May 26
Tiana J. Rivera (13) - April 6 **George Rivera** (35) - April 29 **George Nicholson** (63) - May 27
Ana V. Pettit (23) - April 8 **Nicholas Rivera** (18) - May 5 **Lucas R. Pettit** (22) - May 29
Maria Nicholson (96) - April 9 **Ken Braddock** (40) - May 5 **Stephanie (Krause) Thompson** (31) - May 29
Tom Smith (70) - April 13 **Ted Reinke** (71) - May 13 **Cristina Cruz** (5) - May 30
Elienith Dessus (20) - April 21 **Isidro Rivera** (89) - May 13

Anniversaries



Monica (Rivera) and Mike Shenker (11) May 10
Carmen (Feliciano) and Maximino Carrasquillo (33) May 16
Cathy (Rivera) and Eric Montalvo (11) May 24
James and Erika Frosheiser (1) May 26
Marlynn (Merritt) and Paul Krause (38) May 30