

"...y la familia?"

Volume 13, Issue 1

Aug/Sept '08

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

2008 Reunion: *Pachanga en Placerville*



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Ahhh, the reunion issue. So chock full of photos that usually I don't have room for anything else. This time, though, I saved this page for Pre-Reunion pictures, and asked Cousins Helen González-Correa and Mary Lillian Pérez to send me pictures of their two days in San Francisco. Even after reminding them a few times, the pics never came my way, so I find myself with a little extra space on this page. Therefore, I am going to do what Cousin Carlos has been urging me to do for a very long time....I am going to send out a plea:

HELP US TO REDUCE OUR COSTS

Publishing the newsletter costs me more than \$1,200 per year in supplies and postage. If receiving this newsletter via computer is an acceptable option for you, please sign up at www.ylafamilia.org. You will receive an e-mail notification when the latest issue is posted on the website. Of course, if you prefer to receive your copies by regular mail, I am happy to continue mailing them to you. On the other hand, if you don't want to continue receiving the newsletter at all, please let me know and I will take you off the mailing list, thereby saving me money and maybe in the long run, saving a tree. ☺ Thank you!

Please e-mail your requests to mamanony@sbcglobal.net or send me a note via the postal service to:

Norma Pettit
2426 Meadow Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Also, if you move, as a courtesy, please provide me with your new address.
With every issue I always get at least two newsletters returned to me. ☺

Pre-Reunion Fun

Helen, Mary Lillian, Milagros, Lilliam, Papo, Alex Joel, William and Leandro spent their first two days in California touring San Francisco. They spent the bulk of their time in the vicinity of Fisherman's Wharf, although they also visited the Golden Gate Bridge. Mary Lillian and some of the others even walked partway across the bridge. Asked what her favorite thing about their stay in the City was, Mary Lillian said she enjoyed the Bay Cruise the most. They also loved visiting the Boudin Bread Factory and riding the cable cars. Cousin Helen said that the clam chowder they had at the Boudin Bread Factory was the best she had ever tasted. What was the worst thing about being in the City? The cold! Apparently, the first day they were there, Cousin Papo had nothing warm to wear and was freezing in his shorts and T shirt, so he stayed in the car while the others went on the cable car ride! The next day I guess he purchased a sweatshirt or something and didn't have to miss out on any of the adventures.

They were disappointed about not getting to see Auntie Marie, who was just recovering from a cold and whose caregiver recommended that she not receive visitors, as she was still very weak. Although the cousins had been really looking forward to visiting Auntie, who is now 96, the last thing they wanted to do was cause her any additional health problems by exposing her to more germs or tiring her too much.

Up in Placerville, Randy, Joi and I had been working hard all week, shopping, cleaning, etc. in preparation for the reunion. On Wednesday night about midnight, Joi and I picked up Kathy and her granddaughter, Hayli at the Sacramento airport and brought them back to the Cameron Park Inn. The next day, Joi and I picked them up and we all drove to Sutter Creek, to the town where Olga and I had our very first Golden Girl Getaway, ten years ago. We had a grand time going to all the antique shops and gift stores, and eating lunch in an elegant old hotel dining room. On our way back out of Sutter Creek we took a tour of an actual gold mine. That was so interesting!



After our gallivanting in Sutter Creek, we gals came home to Placerville to pick up Randy and head over to Applebee's in Cameron Park where Carlos, Garnet and Uncle Isidro were waiting for us. They had flown into the Sacramento airport that afternoon and had been relaxing at the nearby Cameron Park Inn. We had an enjoyable evening together, although we were exasperated by the slow service we received. More specifically, it was Joi who didn't get served her dinner until the rest of us were about done with ours. After expressing our dissatisfaction to the manager, we weren't charged for Joi's dinner *and* we all got free desserts.

Friday, June 20th



The official start to the reunion was the welcome dinner on Friday night. Joi had prepared two batches of delicious Italian meat sauce, and we set up the spaghetti buffet dinner out on the side patio. It included salads (Caesar and garden), a veggie platter, and the incomparable San Francisco style sourdough bread. For dessert, Joi had made mini apple turnovers and I had made guava bars.

We were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the South Carolina group, who had spent the previous two days touring San Francisco, and they pulled up just as we were starting to eat dinner. I went wild—I just felt so honored and awed to be finally receiving into my home some of the much-loved descendents of Auntie Helen's twin brother, Guar. Milagros, Lilliam and Papo (Heriberto) are three of Guar's children and therefore my first cousins. With them were Mary Lillian (Lilliam's daughter, who along with her sister, Awilda, hosted the 2004 reunion), Alex Joel (Awilda's son), Helen Correa-González (Milagros' daughter), and William and Leandro (Helen's sons). I hope this little explanation helps straighten out the family relationships in the minds of some of you. ☺



What is a family reunion without music? Here Uncle Isidro plays the güiro and Lilliam plays the maracas. You also see Milagros' hands tapping the beat with the claves.



We had a special visitor every day of reunion week. Joi snapped this close up photo of an over-friendly deer that plagued my garden flowers. Just days before the reunion she nibbled all the leaves off of my beautiful hostas plant and left only the stems. ☹



My daughter, Tory, is currently teaching English in South Korea. We contacted her via Skype on the computer and she was able to see and speak with the visiting relatives. Here Cousin Helen takes her turn in the chair to chat with Tory.



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Saturday, June 21st



Playing dominoes: Milagros, Papo, Lilliam, and Teal (one of Olga's grandsons—Angela's oldest son)



Playing badminton: Marlin Barnes (in black), Craig Burch (another of Olga's grandsons—Michelle's oldest son), and Hayli Frosheiser.



Playing a board game that Ruben brought: Too many names to list but they were highly engaged playing this game for ages.



Randy and Carlos were in charge of the BBQ (check out their Puerto Rican aprons), and check out Joi's plate below. Mmmm, the All-American summer BBQ.



That slow-cooked BBQ was so yummy!



Dinner was typical PR fare: *arroz con gandules*, *pasteles*, *empanadillas*, *gaspacho de bacalao* and more.

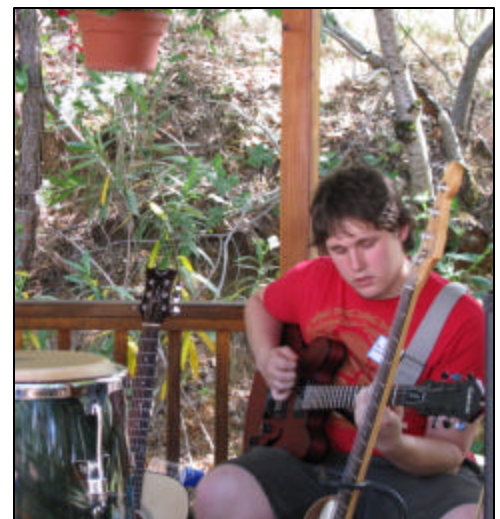


Mary Lilliam Pérez and Marlin Barnes were among the relatives that enjoyed the above ground pool.

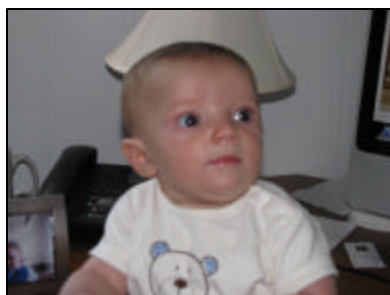
Below right: Craig expresses himself musically. Instruments were set up in the gazebo.

I counted exactly 50 persons at the reunion, including some of our friends who stopped by. It was so great to have everyone come!

Saturday evening, Milagros, Helen, Lilliam, Papo, and Uncle Isidro took a trip up to the casinos in South Lake Tahoe, and reportedly had a very fun time.



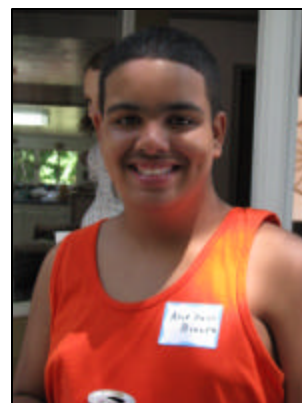
¿...y la familia?



Marcel Quiñones—the youngest reunion attendee (and the cutest, I might add!)



They could be winners of a father-son look-alike contest: Edward Rivera and his father, Isidro.



Awilda's son: Alex Joel



Luke Pettit and Marina Ramos, playing a board game.

Below: Milagros dozes in the hammock



Lilliam Rivera



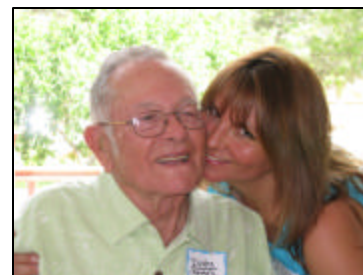
Papo



Proof that Ruben García was here. Further proof is below. He's with his son, Michael, and his wife, Katherine.



Ruben Quiñones sang for us.



Uncle gets a kiss from loveable Michelle.



Tom Smith, Marina Ramos, and the Barnes family (Marlin, Michael, Alura and Teal).

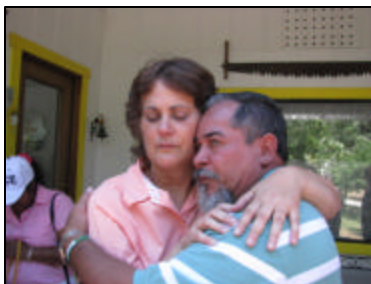
¿...y la familia?

Sunday, June 22nd



Mother and daughter pics: left—Milagros and Helen; right—Lilliam and Mary Lillian

Sunday breakfast and lunch turned out to be a small group—the eight that had flown in from P.R. and S.C., the Quiñones family, the Pettits, Kathy, Hayli and Joi—17 persons all together. Carlos, Garnet and Uncle Isidro had managed to change to an earlier flight and had already headed out to the airport. We had a mellow gathering and a tearful goodbye.



*I love this picture of Cousin Kathy!
I call it "Identity Crisis".*

*Most of these great reunion pics are
courtesy of Cousin Joi. Thank you!!*

After the "Pachanga"

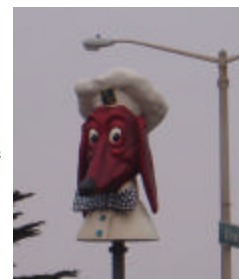
Joi left for Colorado on Monday morning, and Kathy, Hayli and I took off for San Francisco. We checked into the Day's Inn right across the street from the zoo, and promptly made our way there to spend the afternoon. That evening we also drove past the house that the De Nardo family had owned on nearby Cutler Street, and Kathy pointed out that the Merritts had lived there for a time when she was a young girl. We then drove along the beach up to the Cliff House. Kathy and I were continually commenting on life as it was in S.F. back when we were kids. As we were returning to the motel, Kathy and I apologetically explained to Hayli that at our age we spent a lot of time reminiscing about our childhood. Hayli quipped, "I know. That's what my friends and I do about Day Care." Kathy and I laughed so hard about that!

The next day we went to Fisherman's Wharf and had an exciting time taking the Bay Cruise, going through the Wax Museum, touring the Boudin Bread Factory, riding the cable car and eating lunch at a wonderful seafood restaurant. One of the day's highlights was when Hayli got her picture drawn. The artist did a great job, and the beautiful artwork was a gift to her grandpa, Jim, upon her return to Nebraska.

The next morning we checked out and I dropped off Kathy and Hayli at the Sacramento Airport on my way home. The reunion was over.

It was a joy for Randy and I to host this year's reunion and we thank all of you who attended. We know what a financial sacrifice it was for those who came from out of state, and we appreciate the importance you place on staying connected with the extended family.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS to **Joi** without whom we could not have pulled this off and who was basically co-hosting this event with Randy and me. She was indispensable for her help with planning, organizing, shopping, cooking, serving and cleaning up. Love you, Cuz! ♥



*S.F.'s famed Doggie
Diner head was right
outside our motel room.*



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Other Family News



Iris Rivera Pacheco, daughter of Cousins Papo and Ada, graduated college with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work, receiving the honor award of Magna Cum Laude. Iris is pictured with her mother (at left) and with her husband and children (at right). Cousin Papo was not at the graduation ceremony held on June 24th because he was in California attending the family reunion.

God willing, Iris plans to continue studying with the expectation of earning her Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology.

*Many heartfelt congratulations!
We are all so proud of you!!*



Another one of Papo's daughters, Enid Rivera, 22, sent photos of her baby son, Kenyon Lee Colón Rivera, who was born on October 26, 2007. In the middle picture, the baby is with grandparents, Papo and Ada, and in the third picture, little Kenyon Lee is already seven months old and bears a striking resemblance to his daddy. Enid and I share the same birthday—June 20th—so, happy belated birthday, Enid!



Analís Annette Fernández García, daughter of Annette García and granddaughter of Cousins Annie and Wilson of Peñuelas, Puerto Rico, was born on May 31, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. 5.7 oz and measured 19-1/2" long.



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

Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (4) - Aug. 3

Christian Rivera Rosa (16) - Aug. 3

Brian Pineda (32) - Aug. 3

Chet Cline (42) - Aug. 6

Michael García (16) - Aug. 8

Timothy Teal Barnes (17) - Aug. 9

Leandro González (14) - Aug. 9

Yamil Williams (22) - Aug. 10

Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (57) - Aug. 10

René M. Rivera (23) - Aug. 15

José L. Medina (84) - Aug. 15

Jennifer Campos (34) - Aug. 16

Carmen Rivera (65) - Aug. 18

Andrea Rivera (19) - Aug. 22

Shanda Peters (22) - Aug. 23

Zuleymi Cruz (4) - Aug. 23

Héctor Burgos (42) - Aug. 24

Angelica Stickles (22) - Aug. 26

Frankie Valentín (27) - Aug. 26

Héctor González (46) - Aug. 26

Yuly (García) Springer (36) - Aug. 26

Evelyn Roig (64) - Aug. 28

Julian Miller (10) - Aug. 29

Zulena Delgado (20) - Aug. 29

Taelyn Darnell (3) - Aug. 31

Nelson Rivera (26) - Sept. 5

Luz Rivera (60) - Sept. 6

Jerry Feliciano (32) - Sept. 6

Iris L. Rivera (26) - Sept. 8

Serena Campos (11) - Sept. 10

Miguel González (45) - Sept. 10

Leslie (González) López (45) - Sept. 10

Charice A. Rivera (26) - Sept. 12

Rosanie García (31) - Sept. 13

Rachel Rivera (28) - Sept. 14

Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (62) - Sept. 15

Craig Burch (21) - Sept. 17

Monica (Rivera) Shenker (28) - Sept. 21

Amy Valentín (26) - Sept. 21

Oscar González (69) - Sept. 21

Carmen E. Delgado (24) - Sept. 23

Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (47) - Sept. 23

Raúl Rivera (15) - Sept. 24

Carlos M. Rivera (62) - Sept. 25

Marina M. Ramos (30) - Sept. 25

Johanna Rivera (36) - Sept. 26

Robert Rivera (39) - Sept. 26

Angélica Medina (80) - Sept. 29

Joseph Montalvo (3) - Sept. 29

Logan A. Braddock (3) - Sept. 29

Anniversaries

Michelle & David Fastenau (7) - Aug. 4

Nellie (Feliciano) & David López (20) - Aug. 6

Jeremy & Sheila Carrasquillo (7) - Aug. 11

Luz Rivera & Ramón Trinidad (17) - Aug. 14

Evelyn & Bill Roig (37) - Sept. 11

Rosa (Medina) & Brian Meddaugh (19) - Sept. 16

Yuly (García) & Todd Springer (14) - Sept. 17

Carol (Medina) & Larry Wright (21) - Sept. 26

