

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4

FEB./MAR.'10

Needed for Future Issues:

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

Family recipes

Cute things your kids have said

Tribal Pages

Tribal Pages is a private and secure website onto which families load data, photos, charts, reports, maps, relationships, events, and stories. **The Rivera family has their own Tribal Pages account** thanks to a collaborative effort between Carlos Rivera and Norma Pettit. After Norma told Carlos about Tribal Pages, he looked into it, declared it to be what he had envisioned, and paid the fee to acquire an account for us. Norma sent him a GED file of her Family Tree Maker program data, and Carlos uploaded the information into our Tribal Pages account. Our website was created on Oct. 6, 2009 and has 1,713 names in it. The earliest recorded event is the birth of Lope Maldonado in 1650. The most recent event is the death of Roberto Rivera on Nov. 13, 2009.

There are several ways to browse the family tree. The Family View shows the person you have selected in the center, with his/her photo on the left and notes on the right. Above are the father and mother and below are the children. The Ancestor Chart shows the person you have selected in the left, with the photograph above and children below. On the right are the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. The Descendant Chart shows the person you have selected in the left, with the photograph and parents below. On the right are the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our site can generate various reports for each name in your family tree.

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The Way We Were



This great picture is one that cousin Carlos Rivera has posted on the family web-site, www.ylafamilia.org. Cousin Meryem saw it and asked Carlos for a copy of it, and I said I wanted one, too, so he e-mailed it to both of us. In this photo, Rosita (Hernández) Rivera is seated in the foreground and my mother, Ana María (López) García is in the middle, surrounded by children. Standing, from left to right is Meryem Merritt, Ruben García, Olga García, Kathy Merritt, Marlynn Merritt, and Carlos Rivera. Seated in the foreground is Edward Rivera, and behind him, that little brown face is mine—Norma García. Does anyone know where exactly this photo was taken?



Guess Who This Baby Is?

Hint: It's a BOY, and the date on the back says April 6, 1935. The little guy was only two years old, and this photo was taken in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico.

At this time in our family history...

- Hilario García, Jr. and Juliana Pérez were married on Feb. 1, 1861. Hilario's brother, José de la Cruz García became the maternal grandfather of my grandmother, Ana Cruz García.
- Florencio Rivera Maldonado and Ana Cruz García were married on Feb. 12, 1914.
- Auntie Marie and Achilles G. Nicholson were married on Feb. 15, 1937.
- Dionicio del Carmen Rivera Maldonado (a sister of our family patriarch, Papa Flor) was born on Feb. 20, 1867.
- Victoriano Rivera Maldonado (my father's great-uncle) was born on February 23, 1845. He was a brother of Manuel Alejo Rivera Maldonado (my father's paternal grandfather).
- Juan Julian Rivera Maldonado was born 132 years ago, on February 28th. He was five years younger than his brother Florencio (my father's father), and died on New Year's Eve at the age of nine-and-a-half. This is probably the brother that he sometimes spoke of.
- Pedro Alcántara Rivera Maldonado, one of Florencio's paternal uncles, was born on March 21, 1844. He was the sixth child born to José de los Santos Rivera and Cipriana Maldonado.

I was just about done putting this issue together when I received this e-mail from Myriam (Feliciano) Pinedo. I had already put some information about the reunion on page 7 and had printed it out, but I still had this page blank (I was going to write an “I Remember” column, but I’ll save it for next time). So, I’m inserting Myriam’s entire letter here. Note that I’ve been calling it the Chicago reunion, but actually it is in Indiana, although the airports are in or near Chicago.

My family is very excited about hosting the coming Family Reunion in Indiana on June 25-27, 2010. We are looking forward to re-connecting with family that we met in Puerto Rico and hopefully new family members that will be making the trip to Indiana.

If people are flying in, the two airports are Midway Airport and O'Hare. They are both located in Illinois but both airports are easy access to Indiana. Midway is approximately 35-40 minutes away and O'Hare is approximately 45-1 hr. depending on traffic.

The Schedule of Events to date are the following:

On Friday June 25, 2010 the Meet and Greet will start at 6:00 p.m. and it will be held at Carmen and Max Carrasquillo's Home, 10004 Belmont Street, St. John, Indiana. This will be an informal and casual backyard event. Food, drinks and music will be provided. My family will be preparing the food and it will be partly American and Puerto Rican cuisine.

Saturday, June 26, 2010 - we will have more information on day events and activities in Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. The Dinner/Dance location for Saturday evening will be determined on the number of people attending this event. There will probably be a minimal charge per person for this event (depending on costs of location, food, alcohol and music).

Sunday, June 27, 2010 - Church Service (for those that are interested in attending) and Breakfast for those that are still in town. This will probably start at 8:00 a.m. Tentative at Carmen's house.

I have the following Hotel information:

Hampton Inn & Suites, 8936 Calumet Avenue, Munster, Indiana, 219-836-5555

(This hotel is in a very nice area about 20 minutes from Carmen's house and centrally located to many other cities)

Group Rate: \$109.00 (Double bed or King Room)

I can book up to 10 rooms at this rate.

It has an indoor pool, complimentary hot breakfast and room service available. This hotel is close to restaurants, grocery store, Movie Theatre, Millenium Park, Wicker Park, stores and near a hospital and various churches of different denomination.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott, Residence Inn by Marriott, 7720 Corrine Drive, Hammond, Indiana, 210-845-6950 (Steve is contact person) Group Rate: \$95.00 for Single or Double (Fairfield Inn)

This has three properties all located next to each other. These hotels have wire and wireless internet access, continental breakfast provided, Indoor pool and 24 hour fitness center. Close to restaurants and parks and stores. The Residence Inn have Full kitchen with 1 queen bed and pullout couch in living room. These hotels have easy access to highway (for those traveling to Chicago). Easy directions to Carmen's house and Nellie's house. Close to Horseshoe Casino, Ameristar Casino and Majestic Casino.

Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, I-65 and U.S. 30, Merrillville, Indiana, 219-757-3537 (Karen is the sales manager)

Group Rate: \$119.00 for Single or Double. This rate applies if we book 5 rooms or more.

This hotel has an indoor and outdoor pool, game room, free internet access and fitness room that is opened until 11:00 p.m. every day. Spa services provided for a fee by "House of Bianca which is located behind their property. They have a starbucks on their property along with T.J. Maloney Restaurant. They do not provide breakfast but there is a restaurant on the property and many restaurants nearby. They have entertainment on Saturday nights at the Atrium. This hotel is close to Westfield Mall, Deep River Water Park, movie theatre, clubs, free internet access. This hotel has shuttle service to Horseshoe Casino but must have 25 people to book shuttle. If you have children this is a great place to stay because of the proximity to Chucky Cheese restaurant, water park, game room and the indoor atrium swimming pool and if you have teens that love to shop you are close to the mall - for adults it has several bars located on the property and surrounding area. The Star Plaza Theatre has live entertainment and is accessible from the hotel/ I do not know who is performing that weekend but will find out and forward that information at a later date. This hotel is very large and is easy access to highway (if traveling to Chicago - approximately 45 minutes from downtown Chicago) and approximately 20-25 minutes from Carmen's House which is very easy to find from this location.

The casinos also have hotels and if anyone is interested I will call and find out what rates they will give for groups.

We would like for everyone who is attending to send me an email so that we can have a rough idea of how many people will be attending the Meet and Greet and the Saturday event. If you have children please let us how many and what age group (this will determine what Saturday activities to plan). Also submit your T-Shirt size for everyone in your group. Any questions—email me at myr9045@comcast.net or call me at 219-433-9208.

¿...y la familia?

Fotos de la Familia

*I love it when Christmas cards come with family photos!
Here are some that I received this year from my niece, Teena Warren, of her two youngest
boys, Raymond Lee Cavino (10) and Robert Paul Cavino (4-1/2).*



*These adorable
rascals live in
Eufaula, Oklahoma.*



Tribal Pages....Continued from page 1

In addition to the charts and reports we have Photo Albums, the Events list and the Relationships tool. Family photographs are organized in the Photo Index. Each Album's photographs are accompanied by a caption. To enlarge a photograph just click on it. Keep up with the family birthdays and anniversaries in the Events list. Birthdays and anniversaries of living persons are listed by month. Want to know how you are related to anybody ? Check out the Relationships tool, which is a very cool feature! The website also automatically sends out customized newsletters to each registered member with birthday reminders.

As Carlos says, "This is exciting and a huge step forward for cataloging our family's history!"

Family members are encouraged to visit <http://ylafamilia.tribalpages.com> and request an invitation. As administrator of the site, Carlos will receive your request when it is forwarded by the web-site. Once registered, you will have access to private family information and be able to update yourself, your spouse and your descendants, as well as upload photos.

Other Family News



Congratulations to **Eric Stenroos** and **Donna Willems** on the purchase of their first home.

The spacious three bedroom, three bathroom home is located at
5545 E. 130th Drive
Thornton, CO 80241

Eric and Donna just moved in a few days ago, and although they are busy working full time, they should be settled in nicely by August, when the arrival of **Baby Stenroos** is expected!



More Remodeling in the Pettit Home— Hopefully, this will be the last of it! During Christmas vacation we took out the bathtub in our master bathroom and installed a jetted tub. This involved restructuring the walls to fit the larger tub, texturing, sponge painting to match the rest of the bathroom, and re-

tiling the area. I got to help with the tiling and grouting!



¿...y la familia?



Ken and Vanessa
Braddock have
moved to Las Vegas.

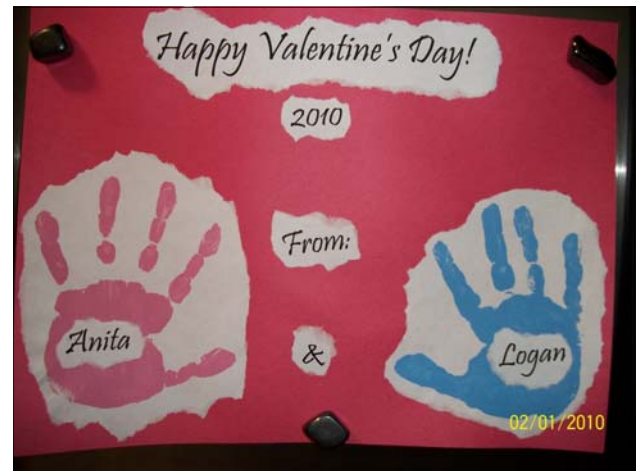
Their new address is
211 Cliff Valley Dr.
Las Vegas, NV
89148

Their humungous home has five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a three-car garage, pool, hot tub, water fountain, and is on a golf course. In the second picture, taken on Jan.9, 2010, Logan and Anita Braddock are playing in the hot tub. Such darling, happy children! God bless them.



*Happy is the
grandma that re-
ceives a handmade
Valentine card
from her precious
grandchildren.*

*The grandma is
Meryem Merritt of
West Des Moines,
Iowa.*



Get Published!

The best of thirteen years of memories recorded in the "I Remember" column of *"...y la familia?"* will be published in a hardback book which I am tentatively calling Yo Recuerdo/I Remember. Once completed, anyone who is interested can purchase a copy directly from Blurb.com. This is not a for-profit project or a fund raiser, but rather, an opportunity to have a keepsake volume of family memories for your bookshelf which you can purchase at the publisher's price. Furthermore, it is a chance for you to see your own memories of years gone by in print, with your name in the byline.

Although I have begun working on it, my progress on this book has been woefully slow due to the busyness of my life as a teacher. *My delay is your golden opportunity!* Send me your stories and I will print them in upcoming issues of the newsletter and gather up the best of the "I Remember" columns for a family book that will definitely be something to treasure. . My goal is to have it finished by summer and be able to display a sample copy at the family reunion in Chicago.

So don't delay—send me your memories today!





Alexis Valentín-Pérez graduated from boot camp in December. Present at his graduation were his proud mother, Mary Lillian Pérez, his grandmother, Lillian, and his brother, Frankie. Alexis has already received his orders for Korea and will be leaving after he completes the training program he is in at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Please keep Alexis in your prayers!

Delia Finch has moved from Florida where she was staying with her sister and brother-in-law, Tita and José Medina, and is now back in California. She has purchased a home in Modesto in conjunction with her son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Cheryl Finch. Her new address is 623 Geer Ct., Modesto, CA 95354.

2010 Family Reunion Plans

Join us in Chicago for the 2010 Family Reunion
Hosted by the Feliciano Family
June 25-27, 2010

"In Chicago, there are lots of things to do. Museums (Science and Industry, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Planetarium)..Grant Park which is a must see- historical Buckingham Fountain in the middle of the park, right across from the Lake front (Lake Michigan). Zoos (Brookfield which is further north/outside of the city and Lincoln Park Zoo - which is a great area too. Lincoln Park Zoo is a free zoo but you need to pay to park. We also have two professional baseball teams (White Sox and the Cubs). I'm not sure if they are in town that week but easy to check. Navy Pier has specialty shops and Dinner Cruise lines. In the heart of Chicago are several good restaurants. Whatever taste you want, there is a restaurant. Right now one of the downfalls of Chicago is the parking. Parking meter rates are very expensive...and so are the parking garages (we always park in the garages). If you want to get somewhere else, there are trains, taxis and bus services. I can't wait to see everyone. We practicing cooking some speciality dishes...we'll see how well we do." —Nellie Feliciano

We like to try to stay close to each other, preferably at the same place (it's so much fun!) but we haven't selected a specific hotel yet. These are some of the places we are considering:

Hampton Inn Merrillville
8353 Georgia Street, Merrillville, IN - (219) 736-7600

Holiday Inn Express Hotel Merrillville
8375 Georgia St., Merrillville, IN - (219) 795-9500

Fairfield Inn & Suites Merrillville
8275 Georgia Street, Merrillville, IN - (219) 736-0500

As you can see, these places are not in Chicago proper. Merrillville is about 30 minutes from the St. John area where Carmen (Feliciano) Carrasquillo lives (where the Friday night and Sunday morning gatherings will take place). Merrillville is supposed to be a nice area, recommended by both Carlos Rivera and his daughter, Alicia Tokar, who both live near Chicago.

Some of us have made plans to go to Navy Pier on Saturday. It looks like there is enough to do there to keep us busy all day long—everything from amusement rides to specialty shops to boat tours on the lake, to the lakefront beach. Check it out online! Google "Chicago's Navy Pier."

"In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, a bridge to our future." —Alex Haley

The baby pictured on page 2 is Bill Roig, who just turned 77 on Jan. 31st.

“¿...y la familia?”

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E-mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

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

Birthday Greetings

Eduardo Medero (22) -
Feb. 2

Juan González (49) - Feb. 2

Katherine García (46) -
Feb. 4

Brook Rivera (31) - Feb. 5

Angela Nicholson (43) -
Feb. 6

Maritza Rivera (47) -
Feb. 11

Melissa González (24) -
Feb. 15

Nicole García (14) - Feb. 16

Ruben J. García (61) -
Feb. 21

Heriberto Rivera (58) -
Feb. 24

Gwendolyn Rivera (8) -
Feb. 27

Dustin Yager (25) - Mar. 3

Miguel González (15) -
Mar. 3

Matthew Hargraves (10) -
Mar. 3

Marcel Antonio Quñones
(2) - Mar. 5

Stephen Nicholson (13) -
Mar. 11

Rafael González (41) -
Mar. 13

Karen Rivera (31) -
Mar. 15

James Caffey (68) -
Mar. 15

Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke
(72) - Mar. 17

Joi Stenroos (60) - Mar. 18
¡Ay mi madre!

Raynell H. Díaz (29) -
Mar. 19

Veronica Nicholson (12) -
Mar. 21

Michael Rivera (11) -
Mar. 22

Mackenzie Eddy (17) -
Mar. 24

Todd Anthony Springer
(8) - Mar. 24

Sonia (Quiñones) Rambo
(32) - Mar. 26

Barbara Nicholson (64) -
Mar. 26

Milagros Rivera (67) -
Mar. 28

Lisa (Finch) Warner (44) -
Mar. 28

Anniversaries



Sheila Andujar and
Edwin Rivera (13)
Feb. 15

Frankie and Amy Valentin
(7) - Mar. 29

Sonia (Quiñones) and
Jake Rambo (8)
Mar. 30