

"...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 art-
work*

*Original poetry
Vignettes on
your imme-
diate family*

*Favorite family
recipes*

*Cute things your
kids have
said*

*Funny stories
Prayer Requests*



Cousin's Store Featured in Magazine!



Only six months after its opening, Cousin Carol (Medina) Wright's new store was featured in a Florida magazine, bringing great publicity to an already successful business.

A page-length article about Circa Vintage ran in PBG Lifestyle, self-described as "a high-quality, color magazine dedicated to the trend-setting residents who live, work and play in and around Palm Beach Gardens." The magazine is published monthly with a distribution of 12,000 copies per issue.

The article gave some interesting background information in how our cousin first became interested in vintage clothing. Her father, our Tío José, used to collect and restore antique automobiles. When Carol and her sister, Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh, were twelve and thirteen years old respectively, Tío José used to take them with him to antique car shows, and the girls would dress up in vintage clothing to help their father show off his antique cars. They loved the clothes so much that they started collecting them and have amassed a huge collection.

In the 22 years that Carol has been married to Larry Wright, a developer, she has always helped him decorate his condo units and houses. She has also been a makeup artist and fashion stylist. With all this combined experience, it is no surprise that Carol owns what PBG Lifestyle magazine hails as a "chick, swanky" shop, "decorated in bright lavender and orange with a leopard-patterned carpet." The shop carries authentic designer handbags, hats, home décor, signed costume jewelry, custom jewelry from local artists, designer shoes, boots, ball gowns, costumes, wigs, gifts, and a growing line of men's apparel. They have an inventory of about 1,000 items, many of which are from prestigious labels like Oscar de la Renta, Valentino, and Vera Wang. Besides clothing and accessories, the shop also carries a line of gift items, including hand-painted note cards and a vintage lunch box collection.

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The Way We Were

¿...y la familia?



Oscar C. García on his lobster fishing boat, 1967
Photo by Ruben J. García



Oscar "tendiendo café" (spreading coffee beans out to dry). 1967
Photo by Ruben J. García

Oscar and Norma in Playa de Ponce, Oct. 29, 1955→



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.
- 167 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 fifteen years since my father, Oscar, passed away. Amazing. The photos at left are a tribute to his memory.
- 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 95 years old on May 22nd.
- María de los Santos Cruz, youngest sister of María Engracia García, was born

Guess Who These Babies Are?

The answer is found on page 6.



“¿...y la familia?”



When Carol Wright was just 12 years old, the vintage clothing-bug bit her and she has been collecting ever since.

That love of beautifully made, older clothing has resulted in a new shop in the North County area – Circa Vintage, which opened its doors September 1 in Trquesta's The Village Shops on US Highway 1. It's an upscale, glamorous consignment boutique of current designer and vintage fashions – and the shoppers are flocking to it!

"My husband can't believe my sales figures," Wright said, bustling around the dressing rooms and re-hanging items left by customers. She is modeling a "little black dress," large picture hat (that she designed herself), pearls, long black gloves and black shoes – ala Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

The chic, swanky Circa Vintage, decorated in bright lavender and orange with a leopard-patterned carpet, carries authentic designer handbags, hats, home décor, signed costume jewelry, custom jewelry from local artists, designer shoes, boots, ball gowns, costumes, wigs, gifts and much more.

"We will carry vintage and vintage-inspired everything. If we don't have it...we will hunt it down for you," Wright said. "Circa Vintage is where everything old is new again!"

Wright became interested in vintage clothing because her father loved to restore and collect antique automobiles. When she and her sister Rosa (now Rosa Meddaugh) were 12 and 13 years old, their father took his cars to various antique car competitions, dressing the sisters up in antique outfits to show off his cars.

The two girls loved the clothes they wore so much that they never stopped buying the vintage items, amassing a huge collection together over the years by shopping in antique shops, flea markets, collectable shows and online.

Today that collection, with clothes dating from the 1700s up to the 1950s, contains more than 2,000 items. They named it "Somewear in Time" and frequently loan or rent it for fundraising events locally and in Deland, Florida, where Meddaugh lives.

"I was born in Puerto Rico," Wright said. "My father was in the US Military and was transferred to Maryland when I was 4. After school I became an Eastern Airlines flight attendant for eleven years. I met my husband of twenty-two years, Larry Wright, on one of my flights. It was love in the sky," she quipped.

"I've always helped my husband, a developer, by decorating his condo units and houses, and also became a makeup artist and fashion stylist, so this business is perfect for me. I have my niece, Angie Stickle, and Nicole Carta working with me to help with our fashion shows, dressing ladies for balls, picking out costumes for theater performances and modeling in the store. We can do makeup for special events and dressed quite a few

ladies for the recent Maltz Jupiter Theatre Gala."

"All our consignment clothes must be authentic. We don't accept counterfeit (knock off) pieces," said Wright, who also designs big, fancy, picture hats and boasts seven at this year's Kentucky Derby.

With an inventory of about 1,000 items, some labels Circa Vintage will accept include Nicole Miller, Oscar de la Renta, Prada, Pucci, Cavalli, St. John, Stuart Weitzman, Valentino, Vera Wang, Versace, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent, Dior, Chanel and others.

"I have one designer, Meg Fromhold from Orange City, Florida, who designs vintage-style clothing from vintage fabrics. I can't keep her pieces in the store. She also takes the vintage fabric and decorates custom lampshades, handbags and other items. They are really beautiful."

Wright also talked about a small section of men's vintage clothing, hats, shoes, belts and ties that she is constantly expanding. This section features some hardly worn western-style boots that are priced well and go out as fast as they come in.

In addition to the many gift items she features – hand-painted note cards, a vintage lunch-box collection and wonderful jewelry – there also is a unique bust of Elvis Presley, which Wright purchased online, that talks and sings forty songs. It's for sale, but only if the buyer comes up with a tidy sum.

"With niece Angie at my side," Wright said. "I feel this shop will become a big success. We've already had three people come in and offer to buy the store. That shows how much people like this kind of merchandise."

"We believe in going green," Wright added, with a chuckle. "We say, bring in your high-end designer items to sell and we'll put the 'greens' in your pockets."TM

You can reach Circa Vintage at (561) 741-1616, or www.circavintageshoppe.com.



Get your magnifying glass out (or hit the zoom key on your computer if you are reading this newsletter online) if you want to read the actual article, but I am recapping most of it here for the family's benefit. ☺

The article makes reference to Carol's two employees, one of whom is Carol's niece, Angie Stickle (Pepa's daughter). Besides selling from their inventory, the gals do fashion shows, dress ladies for balls, pick out costumes for theater performances, do makeup for special events, and model in the store. Yes, that is Cousin Carol in modeling a "little black dress" in the full-page magazine picture!

Carol is quoted as saying, "With niece Angie at my side, I feel this shop will become a big success. We've already had three people come in and offer to buy the store. That shows how much people like this kind of merchandise."

It shows more than that: It is probably an indication of how attractive and successful the store is, and how efficient and talented the women who run it are. Best wishes for continued success, Carol and Angie!

You can check out Circa Vintage's website at www.circavintageshoppe.com.

¿...y la familia?

Meet Your Relatives



The cute people on this page are Fernando Vázquez Rivera (19) and Natalie Medlock (17), who recently got engaged. Fernando's mother, Madeline, is the daughter of Raúl Rivera Sevilla and Julia Vázquez.

When Fernando contacted me a few weeks ago, I wrote back that I thought I had never met him, but he set me straight on that.

"You met me before," Fernando responded. "I went to the reunion in southern Florida... I was the kid that ran around and cracked my head open by the pool. Ha ha. [Wow, Cousin Carol, I remember that, don't you? You doctored up his bloody head and then reprimanded him for running around the slippery poolside. We had to keep a close eye on the little rascal after that because he was soon back to his antics.] I also went to the one in Puerto Rico and the last one I went to was in Georgia. I met your sister Olga, too, in Isidro's house. I was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. I lived in Tibes, right next to my grandpa, Raúl Rivera, till I was eleven years old. I moved here to Orlando, FL, and I've lived here ever since. On July 28th I'm going to turn 20. I have a little brother named Jean Carlos who is thirteen years old. My hobbies consist of skating (I'm an amazing skater ha ha), cooking (I love it!) and motorcycles (I have a sports motorcycle). I recently got into a wreck on my motorcycle and it's ruined at the moment, but I'm working at getting it fixed. Don't worry, I'm fine, I only broke my pinky. Natalie and I want to go to a culinary art school for college to become great cooks. Hopefully, in the next two or three years we can start our own café. It's a dream of ours. Natalie's a great singer and a great painter, too. She's one talented girl.

I feel like there isn't a lot of my family that really knows me. I just want them to know something about me and my life. I'm trying really hard to go to the next family reunion. Hopefully, I can bring Natalie with me so she can meet my amazing family. Even though I don't know a lot of the people there, and a lot of them don't know me, we all are such a fun, happy family. I would really like for Natalie to see that and be a part of it.

I just want everyone to know that they have a little cousin in Orlando, Florida that would love to be part of their lives and if they're ever around they're more than welcome to come and visit. They all can write me at lostking141@aim.com."

This picture is on my back porch on a beautiful September evening.



A Page Out of Our Family History

In the more than twenty years that I have been researching our family tree, genealogical research has undergone much progress. In recent years, DNA testing for genealogical use has become popular. Wanting to explore our deep ancestry, I decided to order a testing kit.

My brother, Ruben García, kindly agreed to do the cheek swabs and return the kit to the testing company, so I ordered the kit and had it mailed to Ruben's house. The reason I needed Ruben to do the test instead of doing it myself was because with his sample we could test both our paternal line and our maternal line.

The Y-chromosome test strictly traces the MALE line only, with no influence from any females along that line. Females do not receive Y-DNA; therefore I could not do the cheek swab for this test.

Both males and females can test their mtDNA, however, to determine the origin of their maternal line. Note that the mtDNA strictly checks the maternal line, with no influence from any males along that line. Men and women both receive their mtDNA from their mother, but only women can pass it down to their children. Ruben received the mitochondrial DNA from our mother, but he did not pass it down to his children; they got it from *their* mother.

Receiving the results of our DNA testing was exciting, but not terribly surprising.

My father's father, Florencio Rivera, was the son of Manuel Alejo Rivera, who in turn was the son of José de los Santos Rivera. José de los Santos was the son of Francisco Rivera, but I don't know the name of Francisco's father. The Y-chromosome testing shows that this line of men belongs to Haplogroup R1b1b2, which was prevalent in Western Europe, predominantly in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal). If you are a descendant of Florencio Rivera, then the results of this test are applicable to you.

My mother's mother was María de los Santos Maldonado, and her mother was Luisa Torres. Luisa's mother was Ildelfonsa Torres, who in turn was the daughter of Eusebia Nieves. That's as far back as I have names, but if you continue back on that maternal line, you end up with a Taino maiden since my mother's maternal line belongs to mtDNA Haplogroup A, which belongs to Native Americans. If you are a descendant of my great grandmother, Luisa Torres, your Taino heritage has been proven.

By now you are probably asking, "What the heck is a haplogroup? Truthfully, I'm still learning about this and other genetic terms. A haplogroup is a genetic population group associated with early human migrations and which can today be associated with a geographic region. It is important to note that even though female and male haplogroups may have the same letters, their definitions are different. One way to think about haplogroups is as major branches on the family tree of Homo Sapiens. These haplogroup branches characterize the early migrations of population groups. As a result, haplogroups are usually associated

with a geographic region. If haplogroups are the branches of the tree then the haplotypes represent the leaves of the tree. All of the haplotypes that belong to a particular haplogroup are leaves on the same branch. Both mtDNA and Y-DNA tests provide haplogroup information, but remember that the haplogroups nomenclature are different for each.

So back to my earlier comment that the results of my brother's (and hence my) DNA testing was not surprising, just think about it... We know that Columbus, believed to have been Italian, sailed under the Spanish flag and that most of his sailors were from Spain. No women sailed with Columbus during his voyages of exploration. So when those men arrived in *Borikén* after many weeks of being at sea, and then set their eyes on those lovely Taino women, you can bet that at least some of them cast off their ethical scruples *para hacerle la pocavergüenza a las mujeres*, loosely translated as "to have their way with the women." One of those women could have been my ancestor, *la pobre!* I always remember my mother lamenting her straight hair. Would she have felt differently about it if she had known she had Taino roots?

Next, Joi is going to do the cheek swab to have her maternal DNA traced. This will give me information on my father's mother, for which I cannot be tested since my father could not pass that on to me. Remember that the mtDNA is passed down from mother to daughter only, but the information that will be derived from that test will be of importance to all of us who are descendants of Ana Cruz García, the mother of Adela, Oscar, María, Guar, Elena, and Anita.

¡Esto se está poniendo bueno!

***Would my mother
have felt differently
about her straight
hair had she
known about her
Taino roots?***

Other Family News

Puerto Rican Birth Certificates

While trying to get a copy of her birth certificate, cousin Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh discovered that a new law that has been passed will make all Puerto Rican birth certificates invalid, come July 1st.

An Associated Press article explained that the law was enacted in Puerto Rico this past December in an attempt to curb identity theft. Since people born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens, a stolen Puerto Rican birth certificate can allow people to enter and move about the United States easily, posing possible security problems. Schools, places of employment and other institutions have traditionally required original birth certificates and have maintained them in unsecured files, making them accessible for theft. Under the new law, this will no longer be legal to do. Local agencies in Puerto Rico, as well as private employers, may request to inspect birth certificates and even copy them, but cannot retain the original under any circumstance. Approximately 40 percent of the passport fraud cases investigated by the U.S. DOS Diplomatic Security Services in recent years involved Puerto Rico birth certificates.

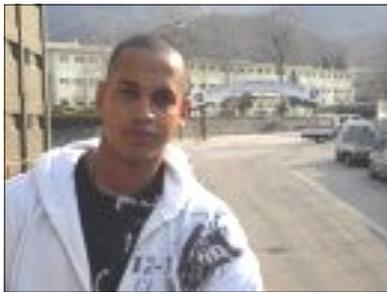
While the new law is aimed at reducing identity theft, it is also causing a stir among the island-born Puerto Ricans now residing in the United States who will find themselves with invalid birth certificates this summer. Cousin Rosa has spent many weeks trying to obtain her birth certificate from Puerto Rico and as of recently still had not received it. "Now I know why," she says.

In Florida there are some 377,000 island-born Puerto Ricans while the figure for New York is about 317,000.

"There is no need for those born in Puerto Rico to rush out and get a new birth certificate on July 1," asserts the Puerto Rican Secretary of State in a different article on the subject. "Only people who have a specific need for their birth certificate for official purposes need to request a new one right away. Those who want to obtain a copy for their records are encouraged to do so at a later date to prevent an unnecessary rush of applications."

He adds that those who are Puerto Rican-born living in the states can obtain the new certificate by mail starting July 1, 2010. The fee is \$5, but will be waived for people over 60 and veterans. The new birth certificates will be issued through the Puerto Rico Health Department's Vital Statistics office. For more information, go to www.prfaa.com/birthcertificates or www.prfaa.com/certificadosdenacimiento.

If Rosa's experience is any indication, however, family members would be wise to begin the process of obtaining their new birth certificates as soon as possible after July 1st, especially if they need to get a passport. Also, please pass this information on to others who may not receive the family newsletter or who do not read English, so that everyone can be informed of the new law.



Alexis Valentin Now in South Korea

Alexis Valentín-Pérez, youngest son of Mary Lillian Pérez, has arrived at South Korea where he is part of the second infantry division, in the 302nd Fox unit, according to his Facebook page.

Prior to flying to South Korea, Alexis spent a wonderful vacation in Puerto Rico with his mother, visiting the homes of many family members and seeing some of the typical tourist sights like El Morro. He took some great photos of the trip which showcase his talent as a photographer. Some of them could be postcards, they are so pretty!

Please continue to keep Alexis in your prayers for health and safety as he serves our country.

The babies shown on page 2 are my own two youngest children, Ana Victoria and Lucas Randall Pettit, at the ages of 20 months and 7 months respectively. Tory turns 25 on April 8th and Luke turns 24 on May 29th. Happy birthday to my "babies"!

Family *¿...y la familia?* Reunion

This is a reprint of the article printed in the Feb. 2010 issue. As of this moment, I don't have any updates, but I will print the final information in the June issue. Also, if anyone has any specific questions, please feel free to e-mail or call Cousin Myriam (see the bottom of this page).

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, Millennium 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?”

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

Birthday Greetings

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Michael Barnes (47) - April 1 | Dalie Delgado (18) - April 23 | Roberto I. Rivera (59) - May 16 |
| Emilio Maldonado (79) - April 1 | Naiome Campos (6) - April 23 | Ryan Reinke (14) - May 12 |
| Michael A. Feliciano (44) - April 3 | Raymond L. Cavino (11) - April 25 | Helen Correa-González (48) - May 12 |
| Catherine Rivera (33) - April 5 | Haley Frosheiser (14) - April 26 | Alexis Valentín (25) - May 17 |
| Dustin Cavino (19) - April 4 | Daniel Campos (16) - April 27 | Kirstin Frosheiser (38) - May 21 |
| Wilma E. Roig (25) - April 6 | Luz E. Sánchez (4) - April 28 | Riley Hargraves (8) - May 22 |
| Marlynn (Merritt) Krause (62) - April 6 | George Rivera (37) - April 29 | Heriberto Rivera (23) - May 26 |
| Tiana J. Rivera (15) - April 6 | Nicholas Rivera (20) - May 5 | Ada I. Rivera (33) - May 26 |
| Ana V. Pettit (25) - April 8 | Ken Braddock (42) - May 5 | George Nicholson (65) - May 27 |
| Tom Smith (72) - April 13 | Ted Reinke (73) - May 13 | Lucas R. Pettit (24) - May 29 |
| Elienith Dessus (22) - April 21 | Isidro Rivera (91) - May 13 | Stephanie (Krause) Thompson (33) - May 29 |
| Emilio Meléndez (55) - April 21 | | Cristina Cruz (7) - May 30 |
| Vic Stenroos (62) - April 22 | | |

Anniversaries



- Jana and Orlando Rivera (2)
April 12
- Monica (Rivera) and
Mike Shenker (13)
May 10
- Carmen (Feliciano) and
Maximino Carrasquillo (35)
May 16
- Cathy (Rivera) and
Eric Montalvo (13)
May 24
- James and Erika Frosheiser (3)
May 26
- Marlynn (Merritt) and
Paul Krause (40)
May 30