

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 6

JUNE/JULY '11

*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*



Meeting my Nieces



Exactly one year ago, I wrote about how my niece, Leslie, had contacted me through Facebook, and how I had also become Facebook friends with her younger sister, Diana. They are daughters of my half-brother, Oscalito, who is my father's son from a relationship he had prior to marrying my mother.

In that same issue, the "Meet Your Relatives" article was written by Diana about her son, Robert Junior, who passed away at the age of 20 on May 29, 2007. Her daughter, Daisha Caristo, was the relative you "met" in the Oct/Nov '10 issue of "...y la familia?"

From May 29th to June 3rd of this year, I was on a trip to Washington D.C. and New York as a chaperone for the 8th grade graduation trip from my school. When I found out that the trip included New York as well as Washington D.C., I immediately inquired about the possibility of meeting up with family that I had there. Not only was I assured that this was possible, the other chaperones were thrilled for me as I made plans and waited anxiously, nervously and excitedly to meet Diana and her husband and daughter. The last time I had seen Diana she was 10 years old! The next day I had the added pleasure of meeting up with Leslie and her daughter, Melissa. Leslie was 14 when I saw her last, in February of 1978.

Please read the rest of the story on page 3.



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Guess Who This Baby Is?

Hint: She is now in high school.

The answer is found on p. 7



At this time in our family history...

- On June 8, 1893, Petronila Pacheco was born. She was a sister of Otilia (the mother of Nery, Isidro, Tita and Delia). Their other sister, Francisca, was born on June 11, 1887.
- Auntie Anita Merritt passed away on June 25, 1998 at the home of her daughter, Kathy Caffey in Nebraska. She had been suffering from emphysema for a number of years. Anita was the youngest child of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, and was only a week old when her mother died.
- On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado were married.
- My beautiful and loving sister, Olga María (García) Smith, went home to Jesus on July 4, 2006, just three weeks before her 59th birthday. The family reunion in Carrollton just 10 days before her passing was a wonderful farewell party for her, and she really felt the family's love.
- Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909 in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was the oldest daughter of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García. She was not quite seven years old when her mother died a week after giving birth to baby Anita.
- Florencio Rivera ("Papa Flor")—our patriarch—died on July 22, 1941.
- My mother, Ana María López Maldonado, was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1911. She was the daughter of Juan López and María de los Santos Maldonado.



There are already a lot of pictures of me in this issue, but since my birthday is coming up, I couldn't resist this photo of me on my birthday 40 years ago! I look the same, huh? ☺

The girl next to me is Laurie Jimenez, daughter of Sasha Lovelace and granddaughter of Elena De Nardo. Laurie was celebrating her 12th birthday. This picture was taken on June 20, 1971. I was home for the summer after finishing my first year at the University of Puerto Rico.



On the wall behind us is a picture of my dad when he was first in the Merchant Marines. It's a rare portrait of him in a beard.

Here is a picture of Joi from January of 1970. What a cutie! I love the hair. I believe that is her doggie, Holly-Go-Lightly. This was probably taken in Boulder, Colorado.

¿...y la familia?

Washington D.C. and New York Trip



In Washington D.C. our group visited Arlington National Cemetery, where we heard President Obama give a Memorial Day speech. We also went to the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, the Capitol Building, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Museums, and several other famous sites. We also went on a dinner-dance cruise. All this took place in only 2-1/2 days, then we traveled by chartered bus to New York.



Shark boat ride around the Statue of Liberty and under the Brooklyn Bridge.

After that speedboat ride, we went to dinner at Dallas BBQ on 42nd Avenue, which is where I was to meet my niece, Diana. She called to say they were running late and I was afraid that we wouldn't get to meet. I was so sad and anxious about that! But God is good, and as we were finishing our meal, Diana called again and said she was at the entrance. She said, "I see you!" and there she was with her phone to her ear, walking towards me with her husband and daughter. I didn't know

whether to laugh with joy or to cry! We had a lovely hour or so together, and then they walked me over to Rockefeller Plaza where I met the rest of my group who had gone on ahead to visit "the top of the Rock". It was a short but sweet visit. I felt like I had done all the talking (I was nervous), but Diana later wrote on Facebook, "...I actually wanted to cry when I left you. I truly want to be around you more. I love your history that you shared with me. That is why I was not saying much..."

Diana's precious daughter, Daisha, will be a senior in high school this year and hopes to attend a Christian college next year.

I wasn't expecting to be able to see Leslie because she works in the evenings, but she called me that night and we arranged to meet in Times Square the next day when the group had some free time for shopping and lunch. I chose the Stardust, where

the waiters and waitresses sing to you (they were actually really good), and the food and décor are reminiscent of a 1950's diner. Though it was sometimes hard to carry on a conversation with all the singing in the background, it was still

fun. Leslie later noted that God's hand was in this meeting because up until recently she lived in Miami. After 20 years there, she moved back to New York—just in time for us to meet during my trip there!

The cutie with her is her daughter, Melissa, who misses her native Miami, but is valiantly looking for work in New York. She loves Seattle and dreams of living there someday.

With God, all things are possible!



“¿...y la familia?”

Other Family News



In April, Vic and Joi Stenroos went to Cozumel, the largest island in the Mexican Caribbean, on a diving vacation. Joi wrote, “Had a good week here, perfect weather, good diving, and met nice people.”

That’s Vic getting ready to dive in the picture on the left. The other pic is a rare shot of Vic and Joi together on their vacation, since Joi is usually behind the camera. Here they were getting ready to leave for the airport to return home, all tanned and relaxed.



Marcel Quiñones turned 3 on March 5th and Mirra Noemí Quiñones turned 1 on May 1st. Marcel is seen here with the map of the United States that he had just put together. My genius grandson can spell his first and last names and knows the names of all the states! Precious Mirra is enjoying a piece of her birthday cake.

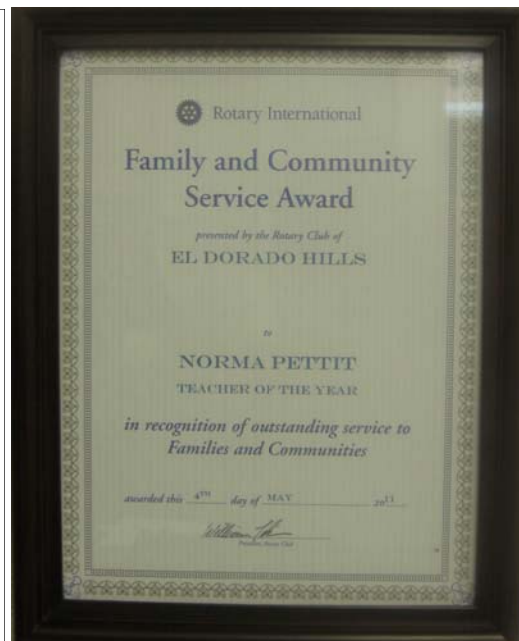


In May, Joi and her friend, Shona, spent a couple of days at Carlos and Garnet’s house in Bartersville, Indiana. This picture of Garnet was taken at a quilt show where some of her quilting work was on display.



Carol (Medina) Wright was recognized as a Women in Leadership Nominee by the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches. This photo was taken during the recognition banquet at the Kravis Center.

I was honored to have been unanimously chosen by the administrative team of the Rescue School District to be the recipient of the El Dorado Hills Rotary Club Teacher of the Year Award. The award was bestowed upon me in recognition of the work that I have done with the families of our English Learners and my endeavors to create a stronger cooperative link between families and schools. Specific reference was made to our annual English Learner Reclassification Ceremony and to the book of anecdotes that I published of the educational experiences of our ESL families.



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Other Family News, Cont.



Your Prayers Are Requested

A year ago, in the June/July 2010 issue of "¿...y la familia?" we saw pictures of this baby as a newborn. He is the son of Julie Rivera, the grandson of Raulito Rivera, and the great-grandson of the late Raúl Rivera and his widow, Julia.

Now this baby is in desperate need of your prayers. He has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. On June 13th he will have surgery to have his bladder removed, since the tumor is completely wrapped around his bladder. Little Julian is in a lot of pain. Please keep him in your daily prayers, as well as his mother and the other family members. These photos and the information was sent to me by Julian's great-aunt, Catherine Rivera.



On a happier note...

Marina Ramos, daughter of Olga (García) Smith, and granddaughter of Oscar and Ana García is engaged to be married to Dennis Wayne Nelson. The wedding is to take place on July 23, 2011 in Pittsburg, California.

Many congratulations to Marina and Dennis!
We will have wedding photos in the next issue of
"¿...y la familia?"



A Page Out of Our Family History....

The Baby We Never Knew About

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

Just a few weeks ago I made a surprising discovery. My grandmother had a baby before Auntie Adele! The baby's name was Matilde, and she was born on January 27, 1907. She died on September 23, 1908, at almost 20 months of age. Why was this baby never mentioned? We all thought that Auntie Adele was the firstborn in that family. Perhaps because none of the other siblings ever saw Matilde (Auntie Adele was not born until July 22, 1909), they didn't remember hearing about her, or maybe they were never told that their mother had a baby that died before Adela was born.

Actually, Auntie Marie did once told me that her mother had had a baby before Adela, but she said it was a baby girl named Ángela or Angélica, and that the baby's father was not Florencio, but rather a man with the surname of Lugo. She told me that the child was raised by the Lugos, who were well-to-do landowners, and that she died young of tuberculosis. I have yet to find any documents supporting this, although I will keep looking!

As for Matilde, I am not sure if Florencio was the father because back then if a couple was not married the baby only received the mother's surname and only the names of the maternal grandparents appeared on the birth record. The father or the paternal grandparents were not mentioned unless he had "recognized" the child. For a genealogist, this is discouraging because one whole side of that baby's lineage remains a mystery.

Acta No. 102

Matilde Cruz

En el pueblo de Peñuelas, Puerto Rico, á las nueve de la mañana de
cuatro de Enero de mil novecientos *siete* ante Don
Juan González y Serrero Secretario
Municipal Encargado del Registro Civil, *Comparec*
Wilia Cruz y García natural de
Peñuelas y vecina del *barrio de San Mateo* en fuero de
de *Peñuelas* de estado *soltera* mayor de edad
y de oficio *doméstico* con el fin de inscribir el naci-
miento de una *hembra* y como *madre de la misma*
declara
Que nació en la casa de la *Compareciente* el día *Veinti-*
siete de *Enero* próximo pasado á las *cuatro* de la
mañana, *hija de color blanco*
Que es hija ilegítima de la *Compareciente*

Nota
Falleció según ins-
cripción en el tomo 18
folio 226 y número 429
según de defunciones
Peñuelas, Septiembre 24/1908
Jose R. Frey
Encargado del R. C.

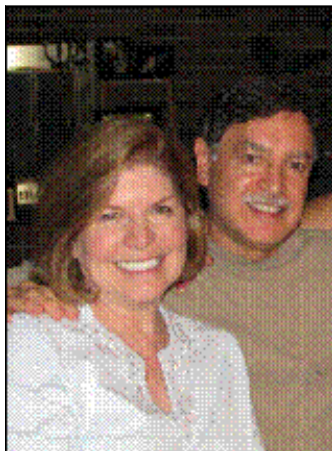
Que es nula
por línea materna de *Maximo Cruz y Vila* de esta ve-
cuidad *viudo* y de *Engracia García* ya difunta
Y que á dicha *hembra* se le puso por nombre el de
Matilde

This is not the entire re-
cord. I had to cut and paste
it to fit here. It can be seen
at www.familysearch.org,
Puerto Rico Civil Registra-
tions, Browse Images,
Peñuelas, Nacimientos
1903-1908, Image 1855.

In the Feb/Mar 2011 issue of "¿...y la familia?" I wrote about how my story, "A Slip of the Tongue" was published in Reminisce Extra magazine (Jan. 2011). In the March issue of that magazine, a reader wrote in to say, "Norma Pettit brought back memories with her story in the January issue's 'Short Memories' about the code phrase for 'Your slip is showing.' I'm a little older than she is, but we were also very modest in New York City and would never actually tell someone directly that we could see her slip. Our secret code was, 'It's snowing down South.'"

Family *¿...y la familia?*

Reunion



The 2011 Family Reunion is rapidly approaching.
The Rivera family are excited to be hosting this year's reunion at our home south of Indianapolis, IN on June 24 – 26. It will be a wonderful time to re-connect with family members from all over!

Hosted by Carlos and Garnet Rivera
4884 Krestridge Court East
Bargersville, IN 46106-8322
Tel. (317) 422-1685
Email: carlos@ylafamilia.org

Don't miss it!

It's not too late to make plans to attend this year's family reunion. We want you there! Make an effort to come and experience the wonderful hospitality that Carlos, Garnet and family have to offer.

REUNION PLANS

Details of the 3 day event are posted online together with maps to hotels and reunion locations. For your convenience, some of the information is reproduced here.

Friday June 24, 2011

BBQ Cookout at home of Chad & Brandi Strain
1790 Dockside Drive, Greenwood, IN
Tel. (317) 300-1821



Directions from hotel area: Drive west on Southport (or County Line Road or Main Street depending on your hotel location) to SR 135 (also called Meridian St). Turn left (South) on SR 135 and go to the stop light at Olive Branch Rd. Turn right on Olive Branch and go to stop sign at Berry Road. Left at Berry Road and go to the stop sign at Brockton Manor S Drive. Turn left and take the first right at Atherton Lane. Go to the stop sign at Dockside Dr. The Strain's home will be on your left at the corner of Atherton and Dockside.

Saturday June 25, 2011

- Recreation/Swimming, 1pm - Pool Open at Chad & Brandi's home
- Banquet 6 - 10pm - home of Carlos & Garnet Rivera - See Location

Directions from hotel area to Carlos & Garnet's home: Drive west on Southport (or County Line Road or Main Street depending on your hotel location) to SR 135 (also called Meridian St). Turn left (South) on SR 135 and go to the stop light at Whiteland Road (also called W 500N). Turn right. Drive approximately 2.5 miles on Whiteland Rd to SR 144. You will cross over SR 144. After crossing over SR144, go approximately 0.3 miles taking the second left (Kerrington Proper subdivision). Drive straight back, around the roundabout to the stop sign at Krestridge Court. The Rivera house at 4884 Krestridge Ct. East will be in front of you to the left of the subdivision section sign.

Sunday June 26, 2011

Breakfast Brunch—9am - 11:30am - home of Carlos & Garnet Rivera

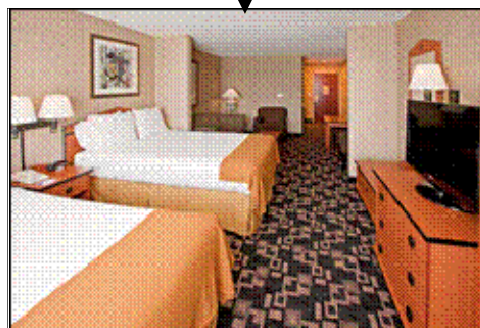
*Vic and Joi Stenroos
and
Randy and Norma Pettit have
already reserved rooms here.*

Recommended hotels include:

*Holiday Inn Express Hotel (see picture of room at right)
1180 Wilson Drive, Greenwood, IN
(317) 881-0600

Candlewood Suites Extended Stay Hotel
1190 N. Graham Road, Greenwood, IN
(317) 882-4300

Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis South / Greenwood
5255 Noggie Way, Indianapolis, IN
(317) 888-4814



**Generally a favorite place for the family to stay. ☺*

The baby on page 2 is Nicole García, daughter of Ruben and Katherine García.

“¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 327-9361 **New!**
E-mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

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

Birthday Greetings

Jayden I. Feliciano (9) - June 5	Meryem Merritt (60) - June 19	Lilliam Rivera (68) - July 11
Máximo Carrasquillo (35) - June 5	Enid Rivera (26) - June 20	José Medina (61) - July 11
Jeremy Carrasquillo (34) - June 5	Norma (García) Pettit (59) - June 20	Kayla N. Reinke (12) - July 15
Nellie Feliciano (51) - June 9	Laurie Jimenez (52) - June 21	René Rivera Jr. (49) - July 21
Annette García (28) - June 10	Tommy González (41) - June 21	Vickie Jimenez (51) - July 22
Joyce Montalvo (11) - June 12	Jason Pineda (32) - June 22	Christina Krause (33) - July 23
Alicia Rivera (29) - June 12	María L. Feliciano (28) - June 24	Annalise Cruz Rivera (7) - July 24
Julia Cruz Vilá (85) - June 13	Scott Hargraves (46) - June 25	Cynthia Feliciano (33) - July 25
Leslie Feliciano (26) - June 13	Cindy Nicholson (40) - June 29	Ada Rivera Segarra (31) - July 25
C.J. Burch (22) - June 14	Alura G. Barnes (18) - June 30	Rachel Nicholson (11) - July 26
Emily Medina (33) - June 15	Angel Feliciano (16) - July 2	Fernando Vázquez (21) - July 28
Garnet Rivera (66) - June 15	Elizabeth Rivera (15) - July 5	Paul Krause (66) - July 30
Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves (48) - June 16	Eric R. Stenroos (28) - July 7	Ethen R. Stenroos (1) - July 31
Ken Reinke (48) - June 16	Carmen Nydia (Feliciano) Carrasquillo (55) - July 7	
Nelson Rivera (47) - June 17		
René Rivera (72) - June 19		

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¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Anniversaries

Annie Meléndez & Wilson García (36) - June 15

René & Carmen Rivera (50) - June 17

Jenny & Ted Reinke (50) - June 18

Angela & David Nicholson (14) - June 21

Angélica & José L. Medina (63) - July 9

Edna & Edwin Rivera (7) - July 11

Rosanie García & José Jasad Santiago (2) - July 11

Garnet & Carlos Rivera (24) - July 14

Cindy & Christopher Nicholson (18) - July 17

Joanne & Robert McLaughlin (14) - July 21

Randy & Norma Pettit (29) - July 30