

# "...y la familia?"

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

AUG/SEPT '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 artwork*

*Original poetry  
Vignettes on*

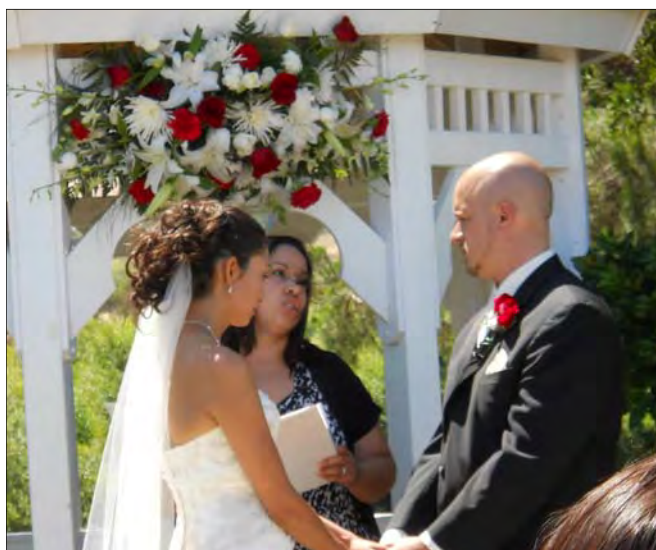
*your immediate family  
Favorite family recipes*

*Cute things your kids have said*

*Funny stories*



## *Dennis and Marina's Wedding*



Marina Marie Ramos, daughter of Olga M. García and Robert Ramos, and granddaughter of Oscar and Ana (López) García, was wed to Dennis Wayne Nelson in a beautiful outdoor ceremony on July 23rd.

The wedding was held at 11:00 in the morning at Delta View Golf Course in Pittsburg, California on a brilliantly sunny summer day.



Family and friends united to celebrate the joining of two lives and two hearts. A minute of silence was held at the beginning of the ceremony in remembrance of Marina's mother and sister. It was an emotionally charged but necessary moment to punctuate Olga and Angie's presence at this pivotal event in Marina's life.

*(See more pictures on page 3.)*

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## *At This Time in Our Family History*

- **Aug. 1, 1876**—Cipriana Maldonado died in Guayanilla, P.R. She was the paternal grandmother of Florencio Rivera.
- **Aug. 4, 1710**—Lope Maldonado de León and Juana de los Reyes Orozco were married in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. If you count Florencio Rivera Maldonado as your ancestor, then you are a direct descendent of Lope Maldonado and Juana de los Reyes Orozco.
- **Aug. 8, 1916**—Anita Rivera (Merritt) was born in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was the youngest child of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García.
- **Aug. 9, 1872**—Florencio Rivera was born in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico
- **Aug. 9, 1821**—José de la Cruz García, maternal great-grandfather of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita, was born in
- **Aug. 19, 1855**—Engracia García, mother of Ana Cruz García, was born in Peñuelas.
- **Aug. 16, 1916**—Ana Cruz García, wife of Florencio Rivera, passed away in Peñuelas, P.R., leaving six motherless children: Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.
- **Aug. 17, 1904**—Carmela Cruz was born in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was a daughter of Máximo Cruz and Genara Maldonado. She was the grandmother of Annie Meléndez, who hosted the 2009 family reunion in Peñuelas, and of the Felicianos, who hosted the 2010 family reunion in Chicago. Carmela died in Sept. of 1998.
- **Sept. 6, 1991**—Ana López Maldonado, wife of Oscar Cruz García, passed away in Ponce, Puerto Rico
- **Sept. 7, 1878**—María Inés Vilá died in Peñuelas at the age of 58. She was a great-grandmother of Matilde, Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.
- **Sept. 11, 1917**—Vicente Neri Rivera, oldest son of Florencio Rivera and Otilia Pacheco, passed away in Ponce, at 55 years of age.
- **Sept. 23, 1908**—Matilde Cruz, daughter of Ana Cruz García, died in Peñuelas at less than 20 months of age. It is unknown if she was a daughter of Florencio Rivera.
- **Sept. 30, 1887**—Petronila Chavarria, maternal great-grandmother of Neri, Isidro, Tita, and Delia, died in Peñuelas.

## *A Page Out of Our Family History*

While updating my Family Tree Maker program with information given by cousins René, Titi, Papo, Ada, and Lilliam on my recent trip to Puerto Rico, I questioned the four year gap between Lilliam's birth and Luz's.

"Did your parents lose a child in between Lilliam and Luz?" I asked, thinking that maybe there was a miscarriage or a stillbirth.

"Oh, yes," they replied, "Reinaldo."

"What?! He had a name? It wasn't a miscarriage?"

I was told that there was a little boy who died at about the age of three. René said he used to take care of him, and remembered that he was about 11 years old when his little brother died of a bad case of intestinal worms, vomiting and diarrhea. How devastating this must have been for the Rivera family! I was so surprised that NO ONE had ever told me about this before, and probably wouldn't have said anything if I hadn't asked. Not my dad, nor any of my aunts or uncles, and most surprisingly, none of Reinaldo's siblings. By the next morning, I had located his death record on [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com).

Little Reinaldo is now listed in his proper place in the family tree, surrounded by the other children of Guar and Elena. He was born on Jan. 14, 1946 in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and died on Aug. 18, 1949, also in Ponce.



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## Wedding Album

1. Robert and Marina Ramos
2. Feeding each other cake
3. D & M chat with cousin Monica
4. The gown was exquisite!!
5. First dance
6. Marina's oldest sis, Michelle, & family
7. Alura caught the bouquet!
8. The youngest guest: Aluna, 6 weeks old
9. Rich Cavino; Marlin, Teal & Michael Barnes
10. Monica (García) & David Simon-Baker, Ruben Quiñones, Michelle Fastenau, Lisa Q., & Tory Pettit

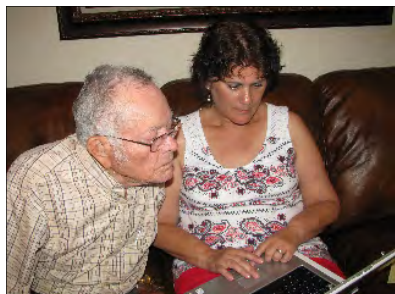




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# 2011 Family Reunion in Bargersville, IN

Thursday, June 23rd:



*We were welcomed by Carlos and Garnet. Orlando and Jana brought equipment and even a refrigerator! Last minute planning, shopping, and catching up...and then Norma had to sneak in a little genealogy!*



## Friday, June 24th

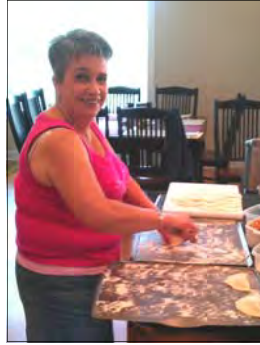
*Afternoon pool party and BBQ at the home of Brandy and family.  
(Brandy is Garnet's daughter.)  
The weather was a little chilly, but the food and fellowship was great!*





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## Saturday, June 25th



While Uncle Isidro serenaded us, Orlando, Joi, and I made the empanadillas that would be part of the evening's Puerto Rican banquet. Orlando made the dough from scratch, Joi filled and formed the empanadillas with meat or crab, and I fried them up. Jana was the sous chef, and Randy was the dishwasher extraordinaire.

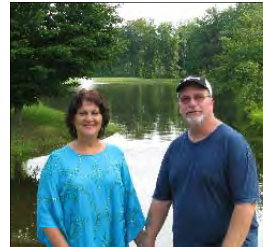


## Saturday Afternoon Pool Party



Finally, some sunshine!  
We had a great time in and out of the water.

## Saturday Evening Banquet





## More Saturday Evening Banquet Pics



The dinner menu included arroz y habichuelas, perril asado, ensalada, empanadillas, pasteles de yuca, piononos, pollo criollo, and homemade cheese-cake. The “DJ in a Box” provided great background music for our fiesta. Afterwards, several of us enjoyed karaoke singing. Nikki Carrasquillo and Myriam Pineda proved to have real singing talent!

## Sunday Morning Farewell Brunch



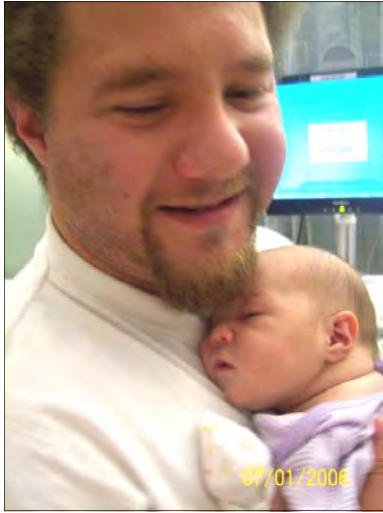
The Farewell Brunch, like the Saturday night banquet, was held at the home of Carlos and Garnet Rivera. Cousins Orlando and Jana, exhausted from three days of shopping, preparing, cooking, and serving, left early to drive back to their home in Carrollton, GA. Cousin Carlos took over the task of preparing the brunch, and did a fabulous job. We all left for our homes across the United States with happy tummies and wonderful memories.

Many, many, heartfelt thanks to **Carlos and Garnet** for hosting this year’s amazing reunion! They really outdid themselves to provide a memorable event. Thank you also to **Brandy and her family** for opening up their home for Friday and Saturday’s pool parties. You guys rock! Thanks also to **all the people** who made the effort to drive or fly to this year’s family reunion. Each time we see each other and share in our culture and family history, we strengthen the family ties a little bit more. **The children** were sweet and well behaved, and some of the cutest kids that walk the face of this earth. Our attendees ranged in age from two to ninety-two! **Cousin Joi** must be thanked, also, since she took almost all of the reunion pictures you see on these pages, which explains why she is not in many of the photos. Great job, Joi! Last, but not least, an immense shout out of appreciation to **Orlando and Jana** for their incredible job of catering the reunion meals. My mouth still waters at the memory of every tasty morsel. **Next year’s family reunion will be in South Carolina, hosted by Waleska, Jackie and Helen—the three daughters of cousin Milagros Rivera.**



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# Other Family News



New Arrival! Aluna Nevael Howell, daughter of Alura Barnes and Alan Howell, was born on June 11th at 6:16 a.m. She was 21" long and weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. Aluna is the first great-grandchild of Olga (García) Smith. Congratulations!!

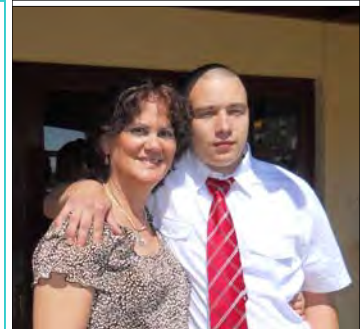


**René Rivera** and his wife, **Carmen ("Titi") Medina**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and Randy and I, along with their sister-in-law, Felita Soto, were privileged to be guests at their special dinner. Titi was confined to her bed after having a procedure done on her spine, so René set up a table replete with flowers, Dom Perignon, and a delicious meal. René and Titi are role models for younger couples in our family and exemplify the love, devotion, care, and understanding that need to be present in successful marriages. Congratulations to them both!



Randy and I were in Puerto Rico from June 14-22. The day after we arrived we had dinner with David Hernández (son of Auntie Rosita's brother, Carmelo), his wife Laurie and daughter Victoria, who had just arrived in P.R. that day. We hadn't seen them in over 20 years! We stayed a few days in Luquillo, then went to Ponce, stopping first to visit my

cousin Marta López in Gurabo. On June 20th, Randy and I drove to my mother's home town of Adjuntas. We went to the barrios of Juan González (where my grandmother, Mama Santa, was born) and Pellejas (where my grandfather, Juan López, was born). Adjuntas is a beautiful town! I don't know anyone there, but I just wanted to see it and "walk the land" where my mom lived.



## Update on Dustin

Many of you have asked for an update on Teena's son, Dustin, who almost died in a car accident 2-1/2 years ago. I was so pleased to see him at Marina's wedding and he is doing fantastic!! Praise the Lord!!

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c/o Norma I. (García) Pettit  
2426 Meadow Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
Phone: (530) 327-9361 **NEW!!!**  
E-mail: [mamanony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamanony@sbcglobal.net)

Visit us on the Web at [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

## Birthday Greetings

**Anita C. Braddock** (7) - Aug. 3

**Christian Rivera** (19) - Aug. 3

**Brian Pineda** (35) - Aug. 3

**Chet Cline** (45) - Aug. 6

**Joenid Colón** (2) - Aug. 6

**Michael García** (19) - Aug. 8

**Damian Campos** (10) - Aug. 8

**Teal Barnes** (20) - Aug. 9

**Leandro González** (17) - Aug. 9

**Yamil Williams** (25) - Aug. 10

**Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh** (60) - Aug. 10

**René M. Rivera** (26) - Aug. 15

**José L. Medina** (87) - Aug. 15

**Jennifer Campos** (37) - Aug. 16

**Carmen Rivera** (68) - Aug. 18

**Andrea Rivera** (22) - Aug. 22

**Shanda Peters** (25) - Aug. 23

**Zuleymi Cruz** (7) - Aug. 23

**Héctor Burgos** (45) - Aug. 24

**Angelica Stickles** (25) - Aug. 26

**Frankie Valentín** (30) - Aug. 26

**Héctor González** (49) - Aug. 26

**Yuly (García) Springer** (39) - Aug. 26

**Evelyn Roig** (67) - Aug. 28

**Julian Miller** (13) - Aug. 29

**Zulena Delgado** (23) - Aug. 29

**Taelyn Darnell** (6) - Aug. 31

**Nelson Rivera** (29) - Sept. 5

**Luz Rivera** (63) - Sept. 6

**Jerry Feliciano** (35) - Sept. 6

**Iris L. Rivera** (29) - Sept. 8

**Serena Campos** (14) - Sept. 10

**Miguel González** (48) - Sept. 10

**Leslie González** (48) - Sept. 10

**Charice A. Rivera** (29) - Sept. 12

**Rosanie García** (34) - Sept. 13

**Rachel Rivera** (31) - Sept. 14

**Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey** (65) - Sept. 15

**Craig Burch** (24) - Sept. 17

**Monica (Rivera) Shenker** (31) - Sept. 21

**Amy Valentín** (29) - Sept. 21

**Oscar González** (72) - Sept. 21

**Carmen E. Delgado** (27) - Sept. 23

**Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel** (50) - Sept. 23

**Raúl Rivera** (18) - Sept. 24

**Carlos M. Rivera** (65) - Sept. 25

**Marina (Ramos) Nelson** (33) - Sept. 25

**Johanna Rivera** (39) - Sept. 26

**Robert Rivera** (42) - Sept. 26

**Angélica Medina** (83) - Sept. 29

**Joseph Montalvo** (5) - Sept. 29

**Logan A. Braddock** (6) - Sept. 29

## Anniversaries

**Michelle & David Fastenau** (10) - Aug. 4

**Nellie (Feliciano) & David López** (23) - Aug. 6

**Jeremy & Sheila Carrasquillo** (10) - Aug. 11

**Luz Rivera & Ramón Trinidad** (20) - Aug. 14

**Evelyn & Bill Roig** (40) - Sept. 11

**Rosa (Medina) & Brian Meddaugh** (22) - Sept. 16

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

**Carol (Medina) & Larry Wright** (24) - Sept. 26

