

"...y la familia?"

Volume 18, Issue 1

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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 artwork*

*Original poetry
Vignettes on*

your immediate family

Favorite family recipes

Cute things your kids have said

Funny stories

Family Reunion 2013 at Disneyworld in Orlando, FL!!



Siblings Angélica (Rivera) Medina and Isidro Rivera enjoyed drinks and the pleasure of being with extended family members. The 2013 family reunion dinner was held at Bongo's Cuban Café in Downtown Disneyworld, Orlando Florida.

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Family Reunion Photo Album



This year's family reunion, while less attended, was exciting and fun since it was held at "The Happiest Place in the World" - *Disneyworld!* The pictures on this page are from those of us who stayed at Disney's Art of Animation Hotel and were able to get extra time together on Friday night. Following our initial time of greeting and photo-taking, we moved to a poolside bar area to continue visiting.



It was wonderful to see Tía Tita and Tío José Medina, whom I hadn't seen since the 2006 family reunion in Carrollton. They both looked great! I also had not seen Rosa, Pepi, Rosa's husband, Brian (in green shirt above), or Carol's husband, Larry (in blue shirt), since the 2000 family reunion in Florida. After 13 years, they both still look the same! I believe that Helen had never before met Carol's sisters Pepi or Rosa or their husbands.

Since we were at the same hotel, Randy and I got to spend extra time with Helen and her family at the pool and in the dining hall. That was very special to us!

Saturday's dinner at Bongo's was attended by over 30 persons. We took up two long tables and enjoyed a delicious Cuban-style dinner (see pictures on page 3). When the band set up their instruments, Awilda introduced herself and was allowed to play their congas (see pic on p. 4). Some of us even got a little dancing in. ☺



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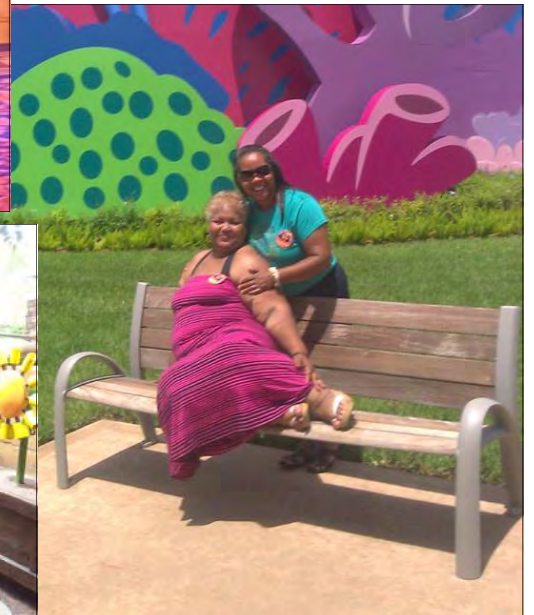
There's Awilda, getting in the action! She was definitely the life of the party. Carmen Feliciano and her family (from Chicago) were unable to attend at the last minute because her little granddaughter had become very ill and had to be taken to the hospital. Thankfully, she was treated in time and was soon well again, but we missed seeing some five people from that group. Frankie and Amy Valentin and their two children showed up at Bongo's after the dinner, and it was nice to see them at least for a little while.

Cousin Carol put together the collage of pictures you see below. Whether it be a large or a small gathering, when family gets together it is always a wonderful time of reconnecting, meeting new family members, recalling previous reunions and making new memories. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend the 2013 Rivera family reunion. Special thanks to Carol and Larry for handling the Bongo dinner details. ¡Hasta la próxima!



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Just Enjoying Disneyworld!



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. This was just before Florencio's fourth birthday.
- **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 Peñuelas, Puerto Rico.
- **Aug. 10, 1855**—Engracia García, mother of Ana Cruz García, was born in Peñuelas, P.R.
- **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. Anita, only one week old, was taken in by her maternal grandparents until about the age of seven.
- **Aug. 17, 1904**—Carmela Cruz was born in Peñuelas, P.R. She was a daughter of Máximo Cruz and Genara Maldonado, and an aunt of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita. Carmela 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, P.R. at the age of 80.
- **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 Nerí 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 Chavarría, maternal great-grandmother of Neri, Isidro, Tita, and Delia, died in Peñuelas.



Guess Who
This Baby Is?
The answer is found
on page 7.



These two pictures are of "Hector," Cousin Joi's thriving *flamboyán* tree. She planted "Hector" from a seed pod we picked up in Puerto Rico during the 2009 reunion and smuggled back stateside. This proves that Joi has inherited Auntie Helen's green thumb! The table topper the plant is on is a work in progress by Joi, utilizing buttons that once belonged to Auntie Helen.

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Other Family News

Ethen Ryan Stenroos, son of Eric Stenroos and Donna Willems, and grandson of Cousin Joi and her husband, Vic, turned three on July 31st. He had a great Batman-themed birthday celebration with friends, family, and fun! His G'ma Joi snapped all of these great pics.



Norma (García) Pettit's Mexico Mission Trip

This was my fourth time going to Ensenada, Mexico on a mission trip with Westside Church, although I've gone on other trips with former churches that I've attended. Westside has committed to working alongside Iglesia Cristo Vive with their Vacation Bible School, which ministers to almost 200 children each year. These children are picked up by bus or van from neighborhoods all over Ensenada, and they are so excited to attend VBS.

In addition to VBS, our team visited orphanages (pic on the right), performed drama in the park and handed out free lunches, helped with a construction project to benefit a Cristo Vive church family, ministered at a men's drug rehab, visited and ministered at a juvenile detention center, and participated in church services with preaching and worship. Despite a hoarse voice all week long, I was able to use my interpretation skills constantly throughout the week, interpreting for our preachers and back and forth between English and Spanish for whoever was praying or speaking. I am always blessed by these trips!



A Heads Up on the 2014 Rivera Family Reunion

Next year's family reunion is going to be a Southern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Valor, departing from San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 22nd and returning to San Juan on the 29th. The ports of call are St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten. Randy and Norma Pettit have already booked their cabin on this cruise! We are looking for someone to host an informal potluck gathering in Ponce on June 21st so that we can all be together one day since not everyone will be able to go on the cruise. We don't need any fancy theme for the June 21st gathering—just a place where we can eat, visit, make music and take pictures. Any offers to host this one day event?

El año que viene, la reunion familiar va a ser abordo de un crucero al sur del Caribe, en el barco Valor de Carnival, saliendo de San Juan el 22 de junio y regresando el 29. Los puertos que visitaremos son St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, y St. Maarten. ¡Randy y Norma ya han reservado su cabina en este crucero! Estamos buscando a alguien de Ponce que ofrezca su casa para una reunion informal para el 21 de junio para que podamos estar todos juntos un día ya que todos no podrán ir en el crucero. No necesitamos un tema especial para el 21 de junio—solo un sitio donde todos podamos contribuir a la comida y a las bebidas, visitor, tocar instrumentos, y tomar fotos. ¿Alguién puede ofrecer su hogar para ese día?

The baby pictured on page 6 is Eric Ryan Stenroos, who just turned 30 years old on July 7th. He is the son of Vic and Joi (De Nardo) Stenroos, and the grandson of Angelo and Elena (Rivera) De Nardo. He's pictured at the top of this page with son Ethen.

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Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (9) - Aug. 3

Christian Rivera Rosa (21) -
Aug 3

Brian Pineda (37) - Aug. 3

Chet Cline (47) - Aug. 6

Joenid Kamil Colón (3) - Aug. 6

Jacob W. Nelson (1) - Aug. 7

Michael García (21) - Aug. 8

Timothy Teal Barnes (22) -
Aug. 9

Leandro González (19) - Aug. 9

Yamil Williams (27)- Aug. 10

Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (62) -
Aug. 10

René M. Rivera (28) - Aug. 15

José L. Medina (89) - Aug. 15

Jennifer Campos (39) - Aug. 16

Andrea Rivera (24) - Aug. 22

Shanda Peters (27) - Aug. 23

Zuleymi Cruz (9) - Aug. 23

Héctor Burgos (47) - Aug. 24

Angelica Stickles (27) -
Aug. 26

Frankie Valentín (32) -
Aug. 26

Héctor González (52) -
Aug. 26

Yuly (García) Springer (41) -
Aug. 26

Evelyn Roig (69) - Aug. 28

Julian Miller (15) - Aug. 29

Zulena Delgado (25) - Aug. 29

Taelyn Darnell (8) - Aug. 31

Nelson Rivera (31) - Sept. 5

Luz Rivera (65) - Sept. 6

Jerry Feliciano (37) - Sept. 6

Iris L. Rivera (31) - Sept. 8

Serena Campos (16) -
Sept. 10

Miguel González (50)-
Sept. 10

Leslie (González) López (50)
- Sept. 10

Charice A. Rivera (31) - Sept. 12

Jamirelis C. Rivera (6) - Sept 12

Rosanie García (36) - Sept. 13

Rachel Rivera (33) - Sept. 14

Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (67) -
Sept. 15

Craig Burch (26) - Sept. 17

Monica Rivera (33) - Sept. 21

Amy Valentín (31) - Sept. 21

Oscar González (74) - Sept. 21

Carmen E. Delgado (29) -
Sept. 23

Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (52) -
Sept. 23

Raúl Rivera (20) - Sept. 24

Carlos M. Rivera (67) - Sept. 25

Marina M. Ramos (35) - Sept. 25

Johanna Rivera (41) - Sept. 26

Robert Rivera (44) - Sept. 26

Angélica Medina (85) - Sept. 29

Joseph Montalvo (8) - Sept. 29

Logan A. Braddock (8) - Sept. 29

Anniversaries

Michelle & David
Fastenau (12) - Aug. 4

Nellie (Feliciano) &
David López (25) - Aug. 6

Jeremy & Sheila
Carrasquillo (12) - Aug. 11

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

Evelyn & Bill Roig
(42) - Sept. 11

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

Bryan & Cheryl Finch
(13) - Sept. 16

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

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

