

"...y la familia?"

Volume 18, Issue 3

Dec. '13/Jan. '14

*Needed for
Future Issues:*

*"Stuff" about
you and yours...*

Announcements

*New baby
Engagement
Graduations
Promotion
New address*

Upcoming Events

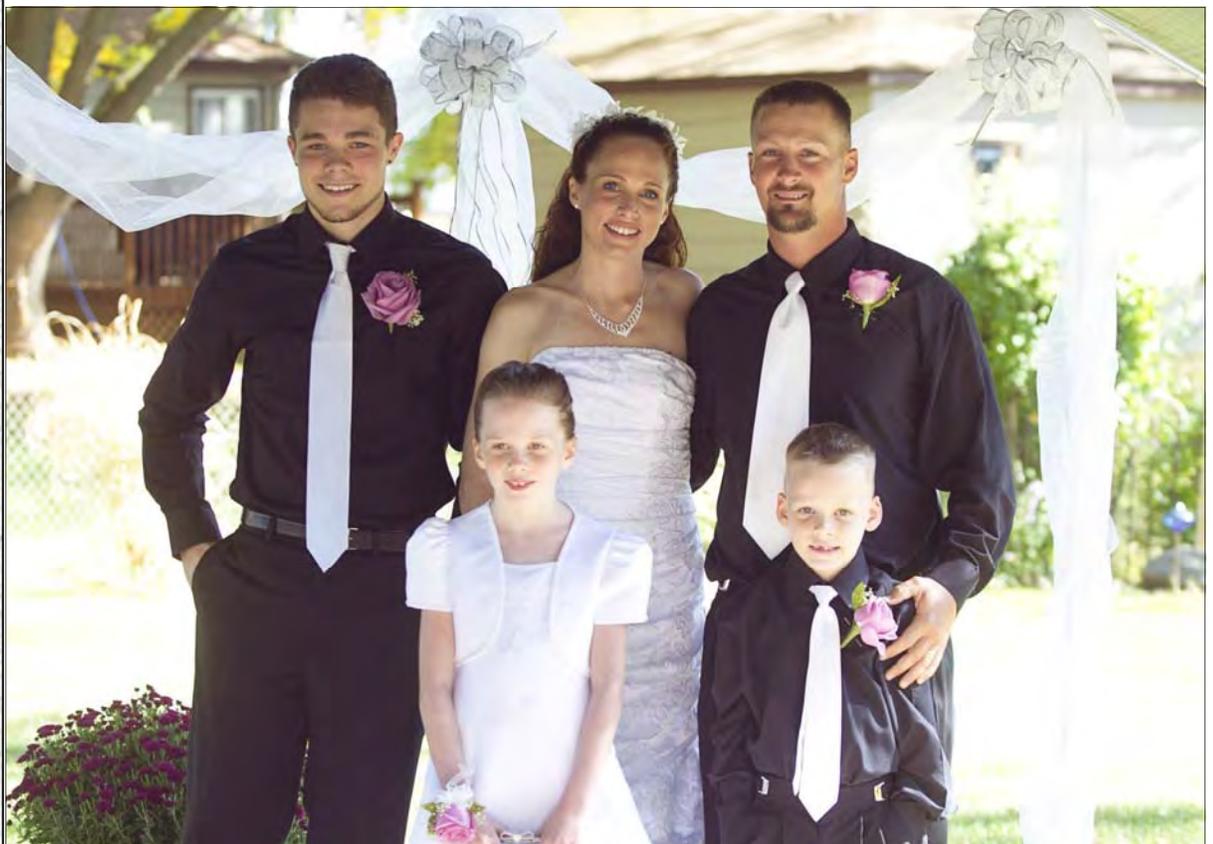
*family parties
Reunions
Weddings*

Article, Photos and Fillers

*Nostalgic stories
Photos and
artwork
Original poetry
Vignettes on
your im-
mediate family
Favorite family
recipes
Cute things your
kids have
said
Funny stories*

*This is **your**
family news-
letter. Fill it
with things
about your
family!*

The Wedding of Vanessa Bell and John Chamberlain



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The Way We Were *¿...y la familia?* The Way We Were



*Eric Stenroos, 12-25-87
4-1/2 years old*



*Luke Pettit, Christmas 1988
2-1/2 years old*

Luke and Vickie (as she was called then) at Grandma and Grandpa's house in Daly City, CA. This time Luke wasn't afraid of Santa (Uncle Ray)



For close to 20 years, we had great family Christmas parties at our home in Placerville, CA. Great memories! These two pictures are from 1998. Marina got the Puerto Rican purse during the Pink Elephant game.



The siblings and cousins above were not only close in relationship, but also close in height in 1998. From left, Tory (aka Vickie), Luke, Eric, Marina, and Sonia.

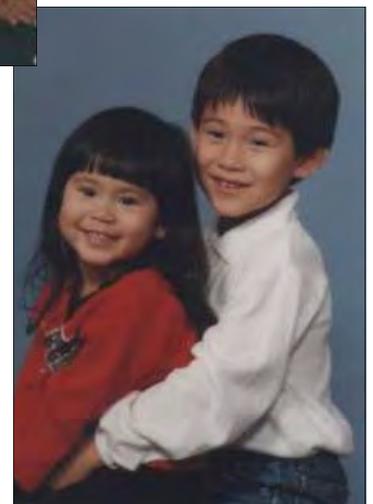
Below—Nicole and Michael García, the children of Ruben and Katherine García, also in 1998



Andrea and Brett Rivera, the children of Edward and Chris in 1998



← Austin, in 1998, the son of Vanessa and grandson of Meryem Merritt. He is pictured on the front page of this issue, at his mom's recent wedding.



“¿...y la familia?”



*Photo at left:
Vanessa with her
children, Anita,
Logan, and Austin*

*Photo at right:
Beautiful Vanessa
with her gorgeous
mom, Meryem
Merritt*

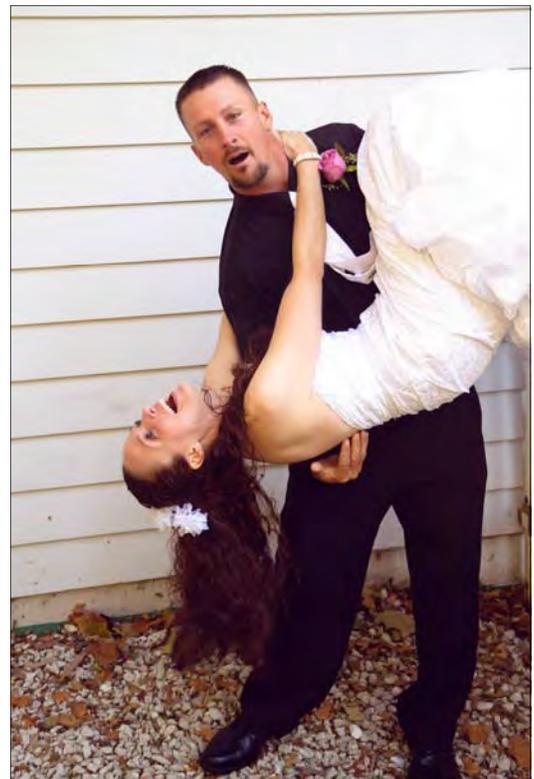
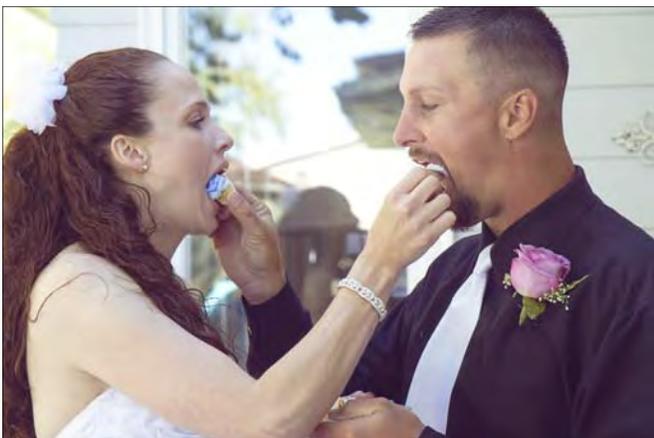
*I am sure everyone
joins me in wish-
ing John and
Vanessa all the
best! ♥♥*



“¿...y la familia?”



Vanessa Bell, daughter of Meryem Merritt and granddaughter of Bob and Anita (Rivera) Merritt, married John Chamberlain on October 13th. The couple, who reside in Des Moines, IA, had a lovely intimate wedding in Meryem’s backyard.

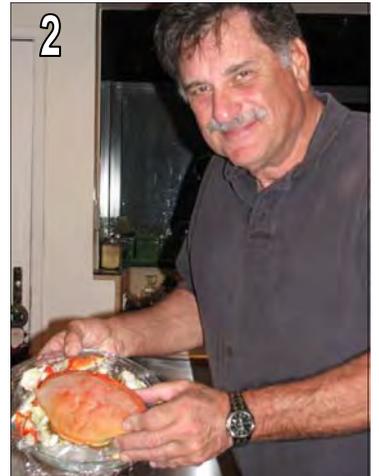


Joi's Christmas Visit *“¿...y la familia?”*



Do we look happy, or what? Joi's December visit truly kicks off the Christmas season for both of us.

1—Joi has a beautiful, fragrant wreath shipped to my home from Maine each year. 2—Cousin George cooked a fabulous dinner for us in his home in El Dorado Hills. 3—For the 3rd year in a row, Joi and I attended my church's Ladies' Christmas Tea.



4—We passed through Coloma on our way to Auburn and stopped to see their living history events. This is the American River at Coloma. 5—Lunch at a great restaurant in Auburn. 6—Shopping in Auburn. We loved this store! 7—Joi made me a retro-style reversible apron that reminded me of my mother. ♥ 8—We ate pasteles and arroz con gandules, then tried our hand at making guanimitos and bacalao. Yum!!



“¿...y la familia?”

Life With Children

(Anonymous)

Those of us who have had more than one child can relate to this:

Your clothes: **1st baby:** You begin wearing maternity clothes as soon as your OB/GYN confirms your pregnancy. **2nd baby:** You wear your regular clothes for as long as possible. **3rd baby:** Your maternity clothes ARE your regular clothes.

Preparing for the birth: **1st baby:** You practice your breathing religiously. **2nd baby:** You don't bother because you remember that last time breathing didn't do a thing. **3rd baby:** You ask for an epidural in your eighth month.

The layette: **1st baby:** You pre-wash newborn's clothes, color-coordinate them, and fold them neatly in the baby's little bureau. **2nd baby:** You check to make sure that the clothes are clean and discard only the ones with the darkest stains. **3rd baby:** Boys can wear pink, can't they?

Worries: **1st baby:** At the first sign of distress—a whimper, a frown—you pick up the baby. **2nd baby:** You pick the baby up when her wails threaten to pick up your firstborn. **3rd baby:** you teach your three-year-old how to rewind the mechanical swing.

Pacifier: **1st baby:** If the pacifier falls on the floor, you put it away until you can go home and wash and boil it. **2nd baby:** When the pacifier falls on the floor, you squirt it of with some juice from the baby's bottle. **3rd baby:** You wipe it off on your shirt and pop it back in.

Diapering: **1st baby:** You change your baby's diapers every hour, whether they need it or not. **2nd baby:** You change their diaper every two to three hours, if needed. **3rd baby:** You try to change their diaper before others start to complain about the smell or you see it sagging to their knees.

Activities: **1st baby:** You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics, Baby Swing, and Baby Story Hour. **2nd baby:** You take your infant to Baby Gymnastics. **3rd baby:** You take your infant to the supermarket and the dry cleaner.

Going out: **1st baby:** The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call home every five minutes.

2nd baby: Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a umber where you can be reached.

3rd baby: You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

At home: **1st baby:** You spend a good bit of every day just gazing at the baby. **2nd baby:** You spend a bit of every day watching to be sure your older child isn't squeezing, poking, or hitting the baby. **3rd baby:** You spend a little bit of every day hiding from the children.

Swallowing coins: **1st baby:** When the first child swallows a coin, you rush the child to the hospital and demand x-rays. **2nd baby:** When the second child swallows a coin, you carefully watch for the coin to pass.

3rd baby: When the third child swallows a coin, you deduct it from his allowance!



Grandchildren

...God's reward for doing the best you could with the resources and skills you had at the time.

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Family Reunion Plans for June 2014

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?



I cherish this tiny hand painted nativity set made for me by Ruben, Lisa, Sonia, Tory and Luke in Dec. 1995. I lovingly set it out on my piano every December, and it brings back warm memories of Christmases past.

Our prayer for you and your family is that warm family gatherings will continue to abound in your lives, and that the peace that only our Lord Jesus Christ can give will glow in your hearts. Blessings and love from our home to yours...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthdays Greetings

<i>Monica M. García (Muñeca Osorio)</i> (39) - Dec 2	<i>Joshua Omar Cabán</i> (8) - Dec. 22	<i>Bélgica González</i> (33) - Jan. 12
<i>Christopher Nicholson</i> (44) - Dec. 4	<i>Cama Klene</i> (46) - Dec. 25	<i>David Nicholson</i> (50) - Jan. 18
<i>Emma Kathleen Thompson</i> - (10) Dec. 5	<i>Michelle Harrell</i> (47) - Dec. 30	<i>Sylvia (Atiles) Lovelace</i> (76) - Jan. 18
<i>Yanelis Aisha González</i> (11) Dec. 9	<i>Vanessa Braddock</i> (41) - Dec. 31	<i>Angeleena Ketcher</i> (2) - Jan. 23
<i>William A. González</i> (21)- Dec. 14	<i>Oscar González</i> (54) - Jan. 1	<i>Timothy Ketcher</i> (2) - Jan. 23
<i>Ryan Rivera</i> (34) - Dec. 16	<i>Mary Lillian Pérez</i> (51) Jan. 6	<i>Amber Nicholson</i> (18) - Jan. 24
<i>Jonathan F. Segarra</i> (16) - Dec. 17	<i>Robert Paul Cavino</i> (9) - Jan. 9	<i>Zachary David Nicholson</i> (7) - Jan. 30
<i>Kaden Amir</i> (1) - Dec. 18	<i>Ada (Pacheco) Rivera</i> (59) - Jan. 10	<i>Larry Wright</i> (65) - Jan. 30
<i>Kelsey Pombo</i> (24) - Dec. 21	<i>Marlin R. Barnes</i> (18) - Jan. 10	<i>William Roig</i> (81) - Jan. 31
<i>Arlene González</i> (32) - Dec. 22	<i>Edward Rivera</i> (65) - Jan. 11	

Anniversaries

Ada (Pacheco) and Heriberto Rivera (35) - Dec. 10

Joi (De Nardo) and Vic Stenroos (33) - Dec. 26

Kathleen (Merritt) and Jim Caffey (28) = Dec. 26

Michelle (Rivera) and Jason Su'a (7) - Dec. 30

Ruben and Lisa Quiñones (13) - Jan. 6

Sephania (Krause) and Scott Thompson (13) - Jan. 6

