

"...y la familia?"

Volume 18, Issue 4

Feb/Mar 2014

*Needed for
Future Issues:*

Announce- ments

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

Family recipes

Cute things
your kids
have said

Our Illustrious Youth



These four amazing young relatives are featured in this issue:

- 1—Hayli Frosheiser
 - 2—Amber Nicholson
 - 3—Edwin Joel Soto Andujar
 - 4—Gabriel O. Soto Andujar
- Let's celebrate more of our kids—send in photos & stories!

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Look What I Still Have! *By Joi Stenroos*

Wonder how many family members saved this way. Mom did and I know I did a few back in the 50's! Remember how much fun it was to get a dime and put it in a slot....and then watch it fill up to reach \$3.00? That seemed like a FORTUNE then. This was Bank of America's savings promotion....on the back it says"

"Be Money Happy...after you fatten this little fellow with dimes, use him to open a savings Account at Bank of America. You'll get the security of the world's largest banking resources, plus the convenience of doing all your banking in one stop, under one friendlyroof - - SAVE AT BANK OF AMERICA!"

This "piggy" had to be Mom's because most of the dimes are dated 1941 - 1945. However, there is one dated 1937 and the oldest 1935 (that's 79 years!!!).



The Way We Were

In this lovely blast from the past photo is my beautiful sister, Olga María (García) Warren (at the time), visiting our brother, Oscalito in New York. With her is her baby, Angela. Olga was on her way to Puerto Rico where she lived for about a year in a beach cabin near Isabela. I love this photo! Olga and Angie look so cute, and Oscalito looks so handsome. They were so happy to be together.

This was in early 1970.



At this time in our family history...

- Hilario García, Jr. and Juliana Pérez were married on Feb. 1, 1861. Hilario's brother, José de la Cruz García became the maternal grandfather of my grandmother, Ana Cruz García.
- Florencio Rivera Maldonado and Ana Cruz García were married on Feb. 12, 1914.
- Auntie Marie and Achilles G. Nicholson were married in San Francisco, CA on Feb. 15, 1937. She died on Feb. 8, 2009.
- Dionicio del Carmen Rivera Maldonado (a sister of our family patriarch, Papa Flor) was born on Feb. 20, 1867.
- Victoriano Rivera Maldonado (my father's great-uncle) was born on February 23, 1845. He was a brother of Manuel Alejo Rivera Maldonado (my father's paternal grandfather).
- Juan Julian Rivera Maldonado was born on February 28th. He was five years younger than his brother Florencio (my father's father), and died on New Year's Eve at the age of nine-and-a-half. This is probably the brother that he sometimes spoke of.
- Pedro Alcántara Rivera Maldonado, one of Florencio's paternal uncles, was born on March 21, 1844. He was the sixth child born to José de los Santos Rivera and Cipriana Maldonado.

Our Illustrious Youth



Amber Nicholson, daughter of Chris and Cindy Nicholson and oldest grandchild of George and Barbara Nicholson, was recently accepted by the University of Chicago. Even with her 4.3 GPA, Amber wasn't automatically assuming that she would get in. The University of Chicago is considered one of the

top schools in the nation, often compared to schools like Stanford. Chicago has an early application process and Amber has applied to several other colleges, but this was her first choice. She has been invited to visit the campus and will be flying back with her dad in a few weeks.

We are so very proud of Amber. She shares "first grandchild" status with her second cousin, Kelsey Pombo, granddaughter of Jenny (Nicholson) and Ted Reinke, who graduated from Perdue University with a degree in engineering a few years ago. Great-grandmother, María (Rivera) Nicholson, must be smiling down on these two brilliant girls. The rest of María's thirteen great-grandchildren have a lot to live up to!

The above photos are of Amber's K-12 School pictures and her senior portrait. Her grandmother, Barbara, submitted the information and the photos.



Edwin Joel Soto Andujar

(son of Edwin Rivera Soto and Sheila Andujar Ubides)

By 5th grade Edwin Joel was able to be fully mainstreamed into regular classes, and he graduated from the 6th grade with an A average and high honors. He obtained medals in English, Spanish, Social Studies, and P.E. The graduating class named "Arexius" (which signifies "God lifts our dreams toward the stars") was dedicated to Edwin Joel. He is currently in the seventh grade in intermediate school, also in regular classrooms, and still carries an A average.

Logró integrarse en la corriente regular full en 5to grado. Se graduó de sexto con promedio A y fue Honor. También obtuvo medallas en inglés, Español,

Estudios Sociales y educación Física. La clase graduanda nombrada "Arexius" (que significa "Dios levanta nuestros sueños hacia las estrellas) se le dedicó a él. Actualmente cursa el séptimo grado en la escuela intermedia, también en un grupo de corriente regular. Hasta el momento lleva promedio de A en todas sus clases.



Gabriel Soto Andujar

(son of Edwin Rivera Soto and Sheila Andujar Ubides)

Gabriel has been studying Transverse Flute (the normal orchestral flute) in the school of music for three years. He has distinguished himself as a flute player, and in only three years has earned a place in the flute ensemble and the concert band at his school. He has played in different venues, including *el Teatro la Perla* in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Gabriel is also outstanding in sports, winning various championships in local tournaments. In the Puerto Rican Basketball Federation, he got Sub-Champion as well as in the elite Jr. Olympics tournament.

Lleva tres años en la escuela de música donde estudia Flauta Traversa. Se ha destacado en el instrumento y en tan solo tres años logró ser parte del conjunto de flautas y de la banda de conciertos de la escuela. Ha tocado en diferentes escenarios, incluyendo el Teatro la Perla de Ponce. En el aspecto deportivo también se ha destacado, ganando varios campeonatos en torneos locales. En el torneo de la Federación de Baloncesto de Puerto Rico obtuvo el Sub-Campeonato al igual que en el torneo elite Jr. Olympics.



Update on Hayli Frosheiser

(daughter of Kirstin Frosheiser, and great-granddaughter of Bob and Anita (Rivera) Merritt)

Hayli, who was featured in the April/May 2013 issue of *¿...y la familia?*, is now a senior in high school, looking forward to her May 18th graduation and attending college next year at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. She has earned a Presidential Scholarship for academics as well as two departmental scholarships from Concordia (one for music and the other for art). At this point, her majors will be music and graphic design, reports Hayli's grandmother, Kathy (Merritt) Caffey.

Recently, Hayli participated in the Academic Decathlon in Omaha, comprised of students from all over Nebraska. Students are divided into groups according to grade points, and Hayli competed in the highest level—Honor Division. She won a gold medal for having the highest scores among all of the students from Seward that competed, a silver medal for all students from Nebraska in the honors section for Music Theory, and bronze medals for Math and Economics.

In addition to all this, Hayli is playing one of the lead roles in her high school's play, *The Music Man*. A report on this and accompanying pictures will hopefully appear in the next issue of *¿...y la familia?*

A poem that Hayli wrote appears on the next page. She wrote it after reading Dante's *Inferno* and spending a lot of time researching the literary work online. Enjoy!



The Warning

By Hayli Frosheiser

Three beasts there are
Scouring the side of that mountain
That is all in shadow save for the delightful peak

Three beasts there are
One of spots, one of pride, and one of pack
Repelling souls who climb with stronger foot dragged behind

Three rivers there are
Separating the realms below
And serving as torment for those caught in the murk

Three rivers there are
One of woe, one of hate, and one of fire
With three ferrymen as dreadful as the rivers they guard

Three sins there are
Plaguing the earth with a sure grip
And hurling their victims far below

Three sins there are
One of incontinence, one of violence, and one of fraud
Each successor more damning than the last

Three paths there are
Beckoning all who walk the earth
From the dawn of man until his dusk

Three paths there are
One of bliss, one of refinement, and one of punishment
Laid out in the gradation of eternity

Every man wishes to climb that steep slope
Each soul hoping to defeat the predators
That spring up before him to block his way

But three beasts there are
Inside every man, woman, and child
Waiting to rear their ugly heads before the ascent is complete

Now, tell me pilgrim:
When all is said and done
Which foot will you drag?

Your Prayers are Requested

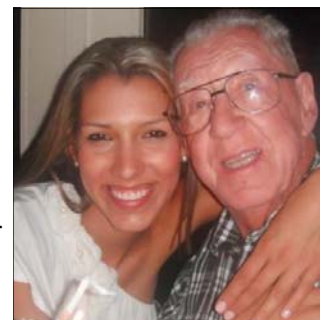


Oscar González, my brother, known to many as *Oscalito*, has been hospitalized in New York for over a week (as of Feb. 8th) and has been diagnosed with dementia. This is in addition to the plethora of other ailments that he suffers from, including diabetes, heart problems, and the inability to walk. He has been wheelchair bound for some time now. He is pictured above with two of his children, Tommy and Waleska.



Helen Correa had emergency surgery on January 20th to remove a large tumor from her abdomen which was said to be the size of a watermelon. It was ovarian cancer, and Helen had been rushed to the hospital a few days earlier in extreme pain. She is now recuperating at home, but needs continued prayer for healing from cancer.

William Frank Stickles, father of Angie Stickles Matlock, passed away on Jan. 26th. He was almost 88 years old and had been suffering from cancer. He is shown here with Angie, who loved her father dearly and misses him so much. Please keep her and her mother, Pepi, in your prayers.



Angie lives in Florida with her husband of one year, Dave, and is the granddaughter of José and Tita Medina.



Jennifer Oquendo, oldest daughter of Albert Oquendo, and granddaughter of Lilliam Rivera, was shot in a hold up and is in critical condition in the intensive care ward at a hospital in South Carolina. She has had surgery to have her pancreas and part of her intestine removed, and as of this writing will be having a second surgery to reconnect her intestine. To refresh your memories, Jennifer is the one who dresses up as “Fufa” at the family reunions. Please pray for a miraculous healing for this young woman.

Other Family News



Edwin Rivera Soto, son of Edwin Rivera and Felita Soto, received his Masters Degree in a Business Administration-related field. He began his graduate studies in the summer of 2010 and completed them in the summer of 2013. "My sons were my inspiration, to give them the example," says Edwin, "and my parents, because when I graduated with my BA I missed being able to achieve the medal of honor by only one point. I promised myself that I'd get it when I received my Masters. I was able to graduate with a 4.0 grade point average and received the "Academic Excellence" medal, which I owed to my mother and father. Thank God I was able to earn it for them as an expression of gratitude for all of their effort and dedication to educate me."

"En el verano de 2010 comencé mis estudios de maestría en 'Gerencia Estratégica y Liderazgo' culminando los mismos en verano del 2013. Mi inspiración fueron mis hijos, para darles el ejemplo, y mis padres, ya que en mi bachillerato no pude obtener la medalla de honor por tan solo un punto. Me prometí a mí mismo lograrlo para la maestría. Logré graduarme con 4.00 de promedio, obteniendo la medalla de 'Excelencia Académica,' la cual

le debía a Mami y Papi, y gracias a Dios se las pude entregar como muestra de recompensa por todo su esfuerzo y dedicación para educarme."



From Bill Roig: I don't know who would be interested in knowing that today [Jan. 31st] I turned 81 and I would be fooling myself if I said that I feel like 18. We are all doing fine (more or less). Architectural work has gone down with the economy, so outside of some small residential designs that Wilmi has helped me develop, there hasn't been much to do. She started working for an Italian company that deals in LED lighting technology (superefficient light-emitting diodes). They recently opened a store in Mayagüez (west coast) and named her manager. She feels lucky to have landed the position, is getting a fair remuneration, and moved to Mayaguez. She is happy with her new challenges and so are we.



After over two decades with no news from their oldest sister, Waleska Ivette González, the children of Oscalito (son of Oscar Cruz García and Paula Rivera) have had the joy of reuniting with their long lost sister. Waleska is also pictured on page 5 with one of her brothers, Tommy.

It just goes to show that God answers prayers and that families should never give up on the hope of finding and being reunited with family members. Waleska is overjoyed also to be able to spend time with her ailing father. Welcome back to the fold, Waleska!



Carlos and Garnet Rivera hosted a family Christmas party that included all of their kids and grandkids. What a great group of good-looking people!

Family Reunion Plans for June 2014

This 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! Cousins **Papo and Ada** have stepped forward to offer their home in Ponce as the site for the potluck gathering on Saturday, June 21st. That way we can all be together one day since not everyone will be able to go on the cruise.

*Este año 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! Nuestros primos **Papo y Ada** han ofrecido su casa en Ponce como el lugar para la reunión informal del 21 de junio. De esa manera podemos estar todos juntos un día ya que todos no podrán ir en el crucero.*



“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthday Greetings

Eduardo Medero (26) -
Feb. 2

Juan González (53) - Feb. 2

Katherine García (49) -
Feb. 4

Brook Rivera (35) - Feb. 5

Angela Nicholson (47) -
Feb. 6

Maritza Rivera (51) -
Feb. 11

Alessandra Carrasquillo
(10) - Feb. 13

Melissa González (28) -
Feb. 15

Nicole García (18) - Feb. 16

Jaysli Barbosa (12)- Feb. 17

Nathaniel F. Vázquez (1) -
Feb. 17

Ruben García (65) - Feb. 21

Felícita Soto (58) - Feb. 21

Leilani Isabel Sua (1) -
Feb. 23

Heriberto Rivera (62) -
Feb. 24

Gwendolyn Rivera (12) -
Feb. 27

Jennily Oquendo (16) -
Feb. 27

Dustin Yager (29) - Mar. 3

Adam Campos (19)- Mar 3

Miguel González (21) -
Mar. 3

Matthew Hargraves (14) -
Mar. 3

David Trinidad (41) - Mar 4

Marcel Antonio Quiñones
(6) - Mar. 5

Gabriel O. Rivera (14) -
Mar. 5

Stephen Nicholson (17) -
Mar. 11

Jayrick Barbosa (13) -
Mar. 12

Karen Rivera (35) -
Mar. 15

James Caffey (72) -
Mar. 15

Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke
(76)- Mar. 17

Joi Stenroos (64) - Mar. 18

Raynell H. Díaz (33) -
Mar. 19

Veronica Nicholson (16) -
Mar. 21

Michael Rivera (15) -
Mar. 22

Mackenzie Eddy (21) -
Mar. 24

Todd Anthony Springer
(12) - Mar. 24

Sonia (Quiñones) Rambo
(36) - Mar. 26

Barbara Nicholson (68) -
Mar. 26

Julian Alexander Rivera
(4) - Mar. 27

Milagros Rivera (71) -
Mar. 28

Lisa (Finch) Warner (48) -
Mar. 28

Jennifer Oquendo (28) -
Mar. 31

Anniversaries

Sheila Andujar and
Edwin Rivera (17)
Mar. 15

Frankie and Amy Valentín
(11) - Mar. 29

Sonia (Quiñones) and
Jake Rambo (12)
Mar. 30

