

"...y la familia?"

Volume 19, Issue 1

Aug/Sept 2014

Needed for Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you and yours...

Announcements

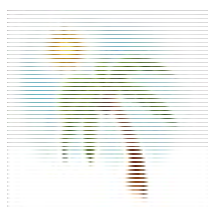
*New baby
Engagement
Graduations
Promotion
New address*

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 2014 In Ponce, Puerto Rico



Once again, the Rivera family went all out to create a memorable family reunion. The setting was at the home of Heriberto (Papo) Rivera and his wife, Ada, aided by their four grown children and extended family members. Ada had obtained permission to close off the street to cars, and tables and chairs were set out in the street, while their carport was adorned with a banner, streamers and other decorations. Tables were laden with all the typical mouth watering Puerto Rican dishes plus an array of desserts.

Music was provided by D.J. Alex Joel Rivera, and a band of renowned musicians from El Acueducto regaled us with their awesome salsa music.

Special tributes were given to cousins René and Papo for their family leadership, loyalty, and love. Wonderful words of appreciation were given by younger family members who look up to them for all that they stand for. I was also the recipient of a beautiful plaque for my dedication to the preservation of our family history and our family ties. Our family sure knows how to express their love!! ❤️❤️❤️

Inside this issue:

Family Reunion 2014.....	1-3
Needed for Future Issues.....	1
Just Enjoying Puerto Rico!.....	4
Southern Caribbean Cruise.....	5
At This Time in Our Family History.....	6
Look What I Still Have!.....	6
Other Family News.....	7
Birthday and Anniversary Greetings.....	8

¿...y la familia?

Family Reunion Photo Album



¿...y la familia?



“¿...y la familia?”

Just Enjoying Puerto Rico!



At Paisajes Curet, near Arroyo



René

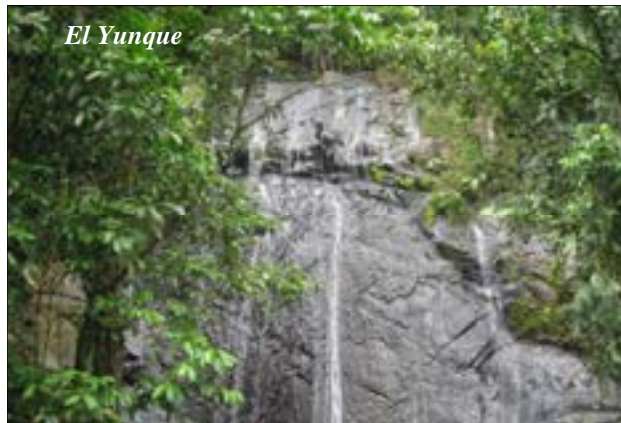
At la Guancha in Ponce



At la Guancha in Ponce



Visiting my cousin, Marta López, in Gurabo



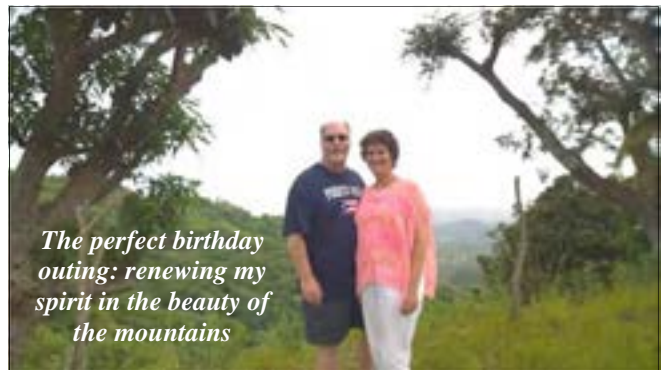
El Yunque



La Cruz de la Vigía, Ponce



Enjoying the mountain views in Peñuelas with cousin Annie Meléndez



The perfect birthday outing: renewing my spirit in the beauty of the mountains



Meeting “new” cousins—José Velázquez and his sisters. José and I found each other through Ancestry.com. He is a first cousin twice removed of family patriarch, Florencio Rivera, and lives in Peñuelas.



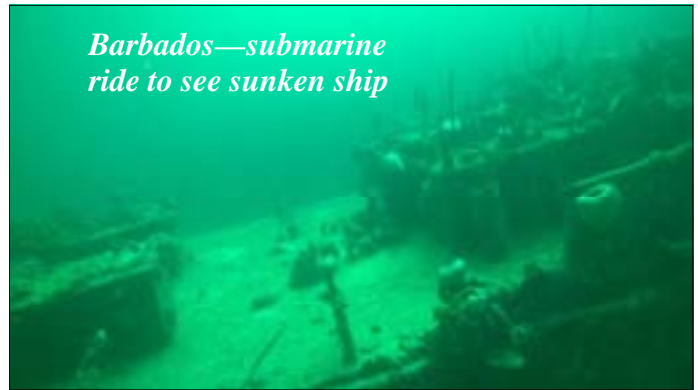
Visiting my cousin, Teresa Rivera and her husband, Jorge Segarra

¿...y la familia?

Southern Caribbean Cruise



In St. Thomas, V.I.



Barbados—submarine ride to see sunken ship



Norma and Laura on elegant night



The Carnival Valor, seen from ashore on St. Kitts



*Mmmm!
Delicious lobster dinner served on the ship's elegant night.*



Riding Segways in St. Maarten.



On St. Lucia tour—trying to blend in.

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 Chavarria, maternal great-grandmother of Neri, Isidro, Tita, and Delia, died in Peñuelas.



This is "Hector"—the *flamboyán* tree that cousin Joi planted from a seed pod smuggled from Puerto Rico after our 2009 family reunion. I guess I am making it a yearly tradition to report on his progress! Cousin Joi repots him regularly and he seems to be thriving in the unlikely location of Denver, Colorado!

Look What I Still Have!



Olga, Ruben and I (and maybe Joi, too) each had one of these windup ducks purchased in San Francisco's Chinatown. This toy is almost 60 years old!

Thank you to Tía Tita and Tío José for your \$30 contribution to the newsletter. You are always so faithful and thoughtful! ♥

Other Family News

Text messages between Joi and Norma...

Norma: Are you guys okay? I heard about the FIVE tornados that touched down in Denver!

Joi: We are OK. Eight tornados! Damage to my car, broken driver's side window and many dents from the hail. Patio furniture toast. No leaves on trees; all on ground. Still leftover hail in piles at this hour. Not sure about shingles on roof. Airport on ground stop for 2 hrs.

Norma: Oh, my GOODNESS!!! Thank God you are okay...where where you when the tornados hit?

Joi: I was at work. We stayed in the back rooms until City gave OK to resume operation. Pretty scary. One tornado just 2 miles from us, south. The sound of hail at the airport hitting tents ceiling just deafening.

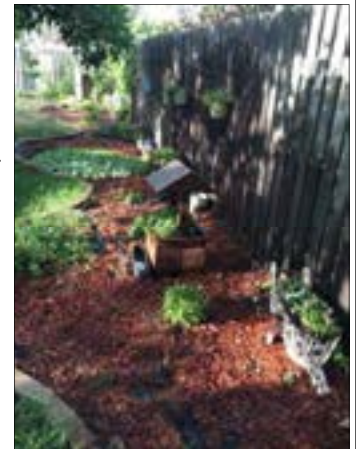
Joi: *(Days later)* After the storm...bought some plants to perk up the yard.

Joi told me that the damage to her car ended up being much more than she had thought, and the insurance compensation ended up being almost \$3,000! Also, the damage to the house was more than initially met the eye. She wrote: "In a nutshell, the roof will be replaced and the house painted. But there are so many other little things that go along with that. There is some damage to the siding, and wood trim has nicks and whatever else, the wood shingles on the front of the house will be power washed and re-stained (badly needed anyways, so that is kind of a bonus for us), fence and deck power washed, few gutters replaced, and on and on. They are replacing four screens also. I can't remember all what else, but the list is long. The claim adjustor from Allstate was here for one and a half hours. The roofing contractor said we were very lucky to have such a good adjustor -- he was on another Claim, and that insurance company adjustor only spent 30 mins. with that house; he's not convinced that the adjustor caught everything! So, we are lucky!"



In the end, Vic and Joi got a new roof and paint job on their house along with many other repairs. Joi has spent hours on her garden and it now looks better than ever.

😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊



Rivera Family Reunion 2015

*Cousin Edwin Rivera Ramos
has graciously offered to host
the 2015 family reunion
in Reading, Pennsylvania!
More details to follow in upcoming issues.*



“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (10) - Aug. 3

Christian Rivera Rosa (22) - Aug. 3

Brian Pineda (38) - Aug. 3

Chet Cline (48) - Aug. 6

Joenid Kamil Colón (4) - Aug. 6

Jacob W. Nelson (2) - Aug. 7

Michael García (22) - Aug. 8

Timothy Teal Barnes (23) - Aug. 9

Leandro González (20) - Aug. 9

Yamil Williams (28) - Aug. 10

Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (63) - Aug. 10

René M. Rivera (29) - Aug. 15

José L. Medina (90) - Aug. 15

Jennifer Campos (40) - Aug. 16

Andrea Rivera (25) - Aug. 22

Shanda Peters (28) - Aug. 23

Zuleymi Cruz (10) - Aug. 23

Héctor Burgos (48) - Aug. 24

Levi Merritt Vail (1) - Aug. 26

Angelica Stickles (28) - Aug. 26

Frankie Valentín (33) - Aug. 26

Héctor González (53) - Aug. 26

Yuly (García) Springer (42) - Aug. 26

Evelyn Roig (70) - Aug. 28

Julian Miller (16) - Aug. 29

Zulena Delgado (26) - Aug. 29

Taelyn Darnell (9) - Aug. 31

Nelson Rivera (32) - Sept. 5

Luz Rivera (66) - Sept. 6

Jerry Feliciano (38) - Sept. 6

Iris L. Rivera (32) - Sept. 8

Serena Campos (17) - Sept. 10

Miguel González (51) - Sept. 10

Leslie (González) López (51) - Sept. 10

Charice A. Rivera (32) - Sept. 12

Jamirelis C. Rivera (7) - Sept. 12

Rosanie García (37) - Sept. 13

Rachel Rivera (34) - Sept. 14

Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (68) - Sept. 15

Craig Burch (27) - Sept. 17

Monica Rivera (34) - Sept. 21

Amy Valentín (32) - Sept. 21

Oscar González (75) - Sept. 21

Carmen E. Delgado (30) - Sept. 23

Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (53) - Sept. 23

Raúl Rivera (21) - Sept. 24

Carlos M. Rivera (68) - Sept. 25

Marina M. Ramos (36) - Sept. 25

Johanna Rivera (42) - Sept. 26

Robert Rivera (45) - Sept. 26

Angélica Medina (86) - Sept. 29

Joseph Montalvo (9) - Sept. 29

Logan A. Braddock (9) - Sept. 29

Anniversaries

Michelle & David Fastenau (13) - Aug. 4

Nellie (Feliciano) & David López (26) - Aug. 6

Jeremy & Sheila Carrasquillo (13) - Aug. 11

Luz Rivera & Ramón Trinidad (23) - Aug. 14

Shanda (Peters) and Robert King (1) - Aug. 25

Evelyn & Bill Roig (43) - Sept. 11

Rosa (Medina) & Brian Meddaugh (25) - Sept. 16

Bryan & Cheryl Finch (14) - Sept. 16

Yuly (García) & Todd Springer (20) - Sept. 17

Carol (Medina) & Larry Wright (27) - Sept. 26