

"...y la familia?"

Volume 19, Issue 2

Oct/Nov 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 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!*

Family Gathering in San Jose, California



From left: Danny Hernández, David Hernández, Emy (Hernández) Granada, Norma (García) Pettit, Miriam Negrón, Edward Rivera, Nancy (Hernández) Sánchez, and Carlos Rivera

Inside this issue:

Family Gathering in San Jose, CA.....	1, 3
Needed for Future Issues.....	1
At This Time in Our Family History	2
I Remember.....	2
The Quiñones Family Visits Norway and Sweden!.....	4
Joi's Visit to Dollywood.....	5
Other Family News.....	6
Carlos and Garnet's Reunion Weekend.....	7
Birthday and Anniversary Greetings.....	8

I Remember... *“No Es Cáscara de Coco”* *and other Puerto Rican sayings*

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

I wore my colorful Mexican necklace to church today. I bought it from an indigenous craftswoman during one of my mission trips to Ensenada. She told me it was made from “cáscara de coco,” the outer brown covering of a coconut. I had been searching for some authentic jewelry to take back as gifts and up until then had only seen cheap jewelry made in China. When I finally saw these necklaces, I was ecstatic. To me, they were worth more than the asking price because they were handmade examples of the local culture, made by a tribeswoman who still spoke her native Mayan dialect to her children. The irony of the story, though, is that “No es cáscara de coco” is a Puerto Rican saying that means something is not just any old junky thing, but something that is valuable or hard to come by, and so the assumption is that *cáscara de coco* is worthless—it’s the part of the coconut that is ripped off and discarded. These necklaces *were* made out of *cáscara de coco*, though, and yet to me they were valuable. So, I guess I could say, “*Es cascara de coco pero no es cascara de coco.*”

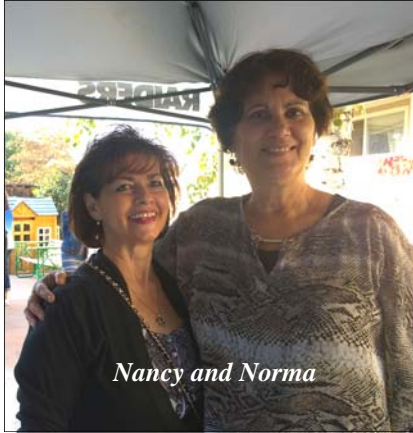


I have a few other favorite Puerto Rican sayings. One is “*No se puede tapar el cielo con la mano*” (you can’t cover up the sky with your hand), which means that the truth can’t be hidden and will eventually be known. The English counterpart would be, “Everything comes out in the wash.” But my favorite saying of all is, “*El hombre vago trabaja doble*”—the lazy man works twice as hard. For example, if you are too lazy to walk over to the trash can, and you toss your wadded up paper and miss, you still have to get up and walk over to pick it up and throw it away, so it was double the effort. Randy has modified the translation to “The *wife* of the lazy man works twice as hard.” I bet there are some people that would agree with that!

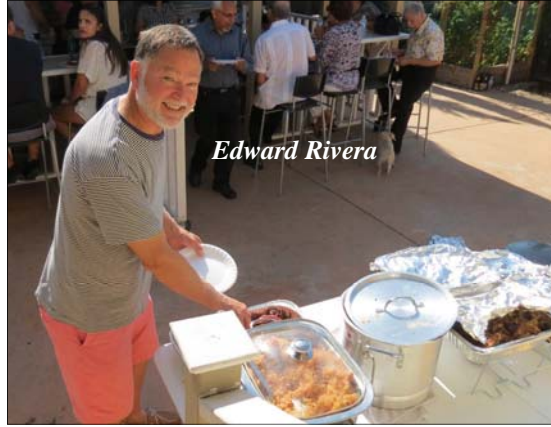
At this time in our family history...

- Elena and Sinforiano (Guar) Rivera were born on October 1, 1913, according to their baptismal records.
- Rosita Hernández and Isidro Rivera were married on October 2, 1945.
- My niece, Angela (Warren) Barnes, passed away on Oct. 8, 2007.
- On October 10, 1815, José Santa Ana de la Cruz married Lorenza de Santiago in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. José Santa Ana was a great-uncle of Máximo Cruz Vilá. (See last entry for a reminder on who Máximo was.)
- Achilles George Nicholson was born in Elias, Greece on October 10, 1891. He was the husband of Auntie Marie, and the father of Jenny, Victoria, and George. He died on November 3, 1953.
- David Finch, husband of Aunt Delia, and father of Bryan Finch and Lisa (Finch) Warner, passed away and was laid to rest on Oct 31, 2007.
- Oscar Cruz García, second child of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, was born on October 30, 1910. He was my father.
- Máximo Cruz Vilá was born on November 18, 1853. He and María Engracia García were married on November 3, 1877. Their daughter, Ana, was the mother of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.

¿...y la familia?



Nancy and Norma



Edward Rivera



Carlos and Garnet Rivera



*On Sunday, September 21st, the Hernández family of San Jose, California hosted a gathering at the home of Danny Hernández and his wife, Teresa (both squatting in the picture below). The Hernández "kids" are first cousins to the children of Isidro Rivera and Rosita (Hernández) Rivera. For us Garcías, as well as for Joi (De Nardo) Stenroos, the Hernández were just an extension of our own family and we grew up calling them our cousins, too. I even have fond memories of **their** cousins, Jimmy and Shirley (pictured at left). It was wonderful to see them all and to*

meet new family members. The reunion was organized because of Carlos and Garnet's visit to California. David and Lori Hernández also joined us from Colorado just for this occasion. Danny prepared a feast of Puerto Rican and Mexican food with the help of his sisters and Teresa, and Puerto Rican music played in the background while we all ate, visited, and connected the dots in the family tree. It was a joyous gathering of smiling faces, and I am hoping we get to do this again another time!



¿...y la familia?

Quiñones Family Vacation



Ruben and Lisa Quiñones (son and daughter-in-law of Randy and Norma Pettit), spent an idyllic three weeks in Norway and Sweden in the company of their two children plus Lisa's mother, stepfather, and stepbrother. Lisa's stepfather, Tom Glimme, is of Norwegian descent, so this was a very special trip. Ruben had been studying Norwegian for about a year and was able to carry on conversations there without resorting to English.



Ruben's favorite sunrise and favorite sunset in Norway.



The kids did great and even learned to say some basic Norwegian phrases.



“¿...y la familia?”



*In mid-September, cousin **Joi (De Nardo) Stenroos** and her friend, Dona Emerson, enjoyed a vacation in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. They stayed at cousin Victoria Nicholson's Bed and Breakfast (Persephone Farms), and had a fun-filled visit to Dollywood.*

Joi and Dona loved the Egyptian Tomb Adventure and enjoyed solving the “live” mystery puzzle. They also attended a country music show at the Smokey Mountain Opry. “Totally enjoyed the museum ‘Chasing Rainbows,’ which was about Dolly’s life growing up through all of her music achievements,” says Joi.

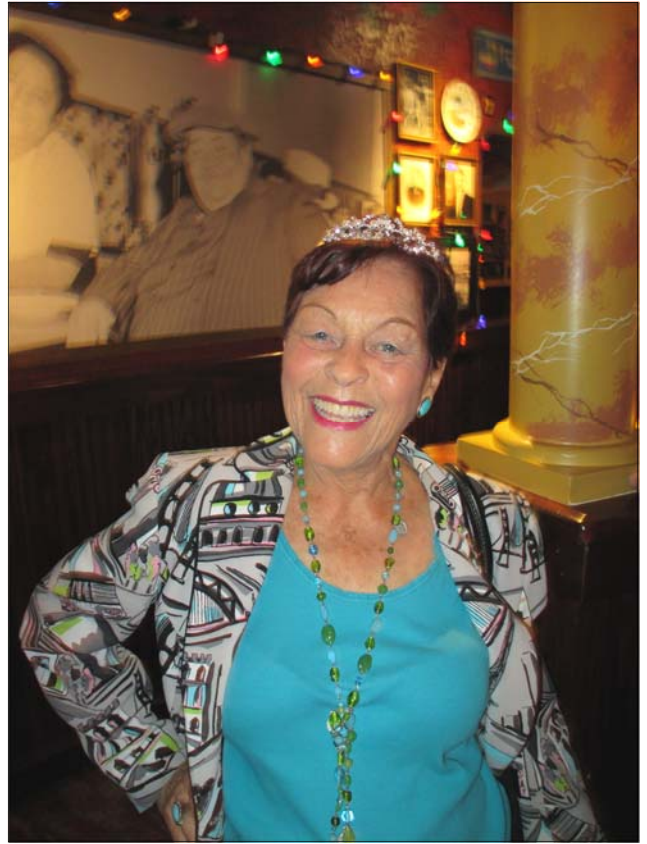


¿...y la familia?

Other Family News

Happy Birthday!

Angélica (Rivera) Medina celebrated her 86th birthday in style, with a beautiful pearl and rhinestone tiara. The birthday lunch was held at the Boynton Beach (Florida) Buca di Beppo Restaurant, where the surprise was a guitarist who serenaded her with her favorite Spanish songs. Some of the songs were "En Mi Viejo San Juan," "Sin Ti," "Aquellos Ojos Verdes," and "Bésame Mucho." She got very emotional during the songs and sang along with most of them.



*The 2015 Rivera Family Reunion
will be held in Reading, Pennsylvania,
hosted by cousins Edwin and Annie Rivera*

*The date has been pushed back
one week from our
normal reunion weekend.
New date: June 26-28, 2015*

*More details to follow in
upcoming issues!*



Reunion Weekend

By Carlos Rivera



Garnet and I spent the weekend of September 19-21 in California to attend two reunions. The first reunion was my high school class 50th reunion. I had not been to any of the reunions until now and it was wonderful to be able to spend time with my two best friends from high school. Pictured next to me are Kay and Harry. The three of us used to hang

out together the last couple years of high school. We stayed in touch over the years and so it was with great anticipation that I went to the reunion to reconnect with them. One interesting fact about us: Our birthdays are only a few days apart. I'm the oldest of the group by 3 days. Kay and Harry were born on the same day!

While we were in California, we stayed at Ed and Chris' house and were able to visit with them most of the weekend. Ed surprised us with his Ernest Hemmingway look. He had decided not to shave while they were on a week vacation in Greece with their children, Andrea and Brett. The two-week old beard was shaping up nicely. Now I am the younger of the two. LOL.



We were also able to reconnect with some of our cousins in San Jose, the Hernandez family. A picture of all of us is shown on page 1 of this newsletter. Norma came down to join us and [my mom's great-niece] Miriam stopped by, which was a pleasant surprise! It was a blast to see everyone after way too many years!! We had a lot of catching up to do and vowed not to let as many years go by before getting together again. Danny's family hosted the event complete with Puerto Rican dishes. It was a time we'll always remember!

“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthday Greetings

Teena Warren (43) - Oct. 3

Christine Rivera (18) - Oct. 3

Roxanna Rivera (44) - Oct. 6

Eric J. Montalvo (37) - Oct. 7

Austin J. Rivera (1) - Oct. 7

Ruben A. Quiñones (38) -
Oct. 12

Felipe René Rivera (31) -
Oct. 13

Lourdes Rivera (41)- Oct. 13

Edwin Joel Rivera (17) - Oct. 14

Jackie (Correa) Eddy (50) -
Oct. 15

Sonia Rivera (40)- Oct. 15

Austin Rivera (20) - Oct. 17

Annalise L. Nicholson (12) -
Oct. 17

Javier Rivera (41) - Oct 18

Virginia T. Feliciano (25) -
Oct. 21

Sierra Campos (18) - Oct. 21

Tito Shenker (17) - Oct. 22

Vicky (Rivera) Cabán (50) -
Oct. 23

Brandi Klene (45) - Oct. 24

Randy Pettit (59) - Oct. 27

Victoria Nicholson (75) -
Oct. 28

Madeline Rivera (48) -
Oct. 28

Joanne McLaughlin (67) -
Oct. 29

Julie Rivera (22) - Nov. 2

Alex Joel Rivera (19) - Nov. 2

Lisa Quiñones (38) - Nov. 3

Adalberto Rivera (31) - Nov. 5

Orlando Rivera (59) - Nov. 6

Stephanie Feliciano (25) -
Nov. 6

Matthew Thompson (9)-
Nov. 7

Lydia N. Carrasquillo (35) -
Nov. 7

Rosa M. Rivera (91) - Nov. 8

Austin Miller (20) - Nov. 8

Joannie García (34) - Nov. 9

Neysha Rivera (24) - Nov. 12

Juan Meléndez (69) - Nov. 12

Lilliana Charice Cruz (12) -
Nov. 15

Joseph T. Springer (18) -
Nov. 15

Esmeralda Rivera Delgado (10) -
Nov. 16

Carol (Medina) Wright (62) -
Nov. 17

Michelle (Cabán) Su'a (26) -
Nov. 17

Amanda Knox (27) - Nov. 22

John Feliciano (52) - Nov. 22

Rose A. Segarra (14) - Nov. 23

Marcantonio Williams Jr. (7) -
Nov. 25

Kaylee Noemí Valentín (6)
Nov. 25

Hector L. Feliciano (63) -
Nov. 26

Solimar Delgado (26) -
Nov. 28

Anniversaries

**Vanessa (Bell) and
John Chamberlain** (1)
Oct. 13

**Kimm and Scott
Hargraves** (18) -
Oct. 18

**Muñeca (Osorio) and
David Simon-Baker** (8)
- Oct. 21

**Alicia (Rivera) and
Mike Tokar** (7) -
Oct. 27

