

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 19, Issue 5

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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 art-  
work*

*Original poetry  
Vignettes on  
your imme-  
diate family  
Favorite family  
recipes*

*Cute things your  
kids have  
said*

*Funny stories  
Prayer Requests*

## *Neysha Rivera and John Mathew Maldonado*



Neysha Rivera and John Mathew Maldonado were married in a beautiful outdoor wedding in St. Cloud, Florida, on March 29, 2015.

Neysha is the daughter of Roberto Rivera and Myrna Suárez. Roberto's father was the late Roberto Rivera Sevilla, son of Guar and Elena. Perhaps some of you remember Neysha from family reunions—she was the amazing thirteen-year-old bongo player at the 2004 family reunion held in Lugoff, South Carolina. Now 24, Neysha was a stunning and radiant bride on her wedding day.

John Mathew is the son of Puerto Rican parents, also—John and Nancy Maldonado. An only child, John Mathew is an avid fisherman and plays the drums at their church. He and Neysha met at church in Kissimmee, Florida, and they both work for the same medical office. Neysha is the administrative assistant and John Mathew is the Lab Carrier. He was selected for the dental hygiene program beginning this summer. They will be making their residence in St. Cloud, Florida, minutes away from Kissimmee.

Best wishes to John Mathew and Neysha Maldonado for a blessed marriage!

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# Genealogy Update

By Norma

(García) Pettit

My Christmas present to myself last December was having my DNA analyzed through Ancestry DNA. The results were pretty interesting. Keep in mind that these are *my* results, and would also pertain to my full siblings, Olga and Ruben. If you were to get your DNA analyzed, your results could be radically different.

## 72% Europe

- 42% Iberian Peninsula
- 11% Italy/Greece
- 7% Scandinavia
- 6% Great Britain
- 4% European Jewish
- 1% Ireland
- Less than 1% Finland/Northwest Russia
- Less than 1% Europe West

## 15% Native American

(This would, of course, be Taino.)

## 10% Africa

- 4% Ivory Coast/Ghana
- 3% North Africa
- 2% Senegal
- Less than 1% Mali

## 3% Trace Regions

- 3% Caucasus



Estimates of my genetic ethnicity were created by comparing my DNA to the DNA of people who are native to a region. When they calculated the estimate for each ethnicity region, they ran forty separate analyses. Each of the forty analyses gave an independent estimate of my ethnicity and each one was done with randomly selected portions of my DNA. As I evaluate these results, the percentages from the Iberian Peninsula, Taíno and Africa are not surprising. What does pique my curiosity is the other small percentages from places like Scandinavia, Italy, Greece, Great Britain, European Jewish and Ireland. Then there was that 3% of Caucasus. What is that? I had to look it up: a mountain range between the Black and Caspian Seas that forms part of the traditional boundary between Europe and Asia. Okaaaay....so how did all those extra ethnicities get into the mix? I have a hunch from which of my tree lines most of this comes, but I'm not going to say anything until I research it and know more. Genealogy is a lot like archeology. The more you dig up, the more curiosity you have to find out more. There is no end to it, and that's where the intrigue lies.

*¿...y la familia?*

## The Way We Were...



*I think my mother, Ana Maria (Lopez) Garcia, was an amazing photographer, capturing candid, natural photos of her family without any formal training and using only a Brownie box camera without a flash. I believe my daughter, Ana Victoria, inherited this innate ability. At any rate, this is my favorite of all the childhood photos that I have. It shows us Garcia kids in the living room, photographed with only the natural light that spilled in through the large bay window. Our essence is here in black and white: Olga, the sweet big sister; Ruben, the impish middle child (all boy); and Norma, the baby of the family. I actually remember that pink, satin quilt that I am laying on. In fact, I think I still have it.*

### *At This Time in Our Family History*

- **April 3, 1875**—Pedro José Rivera Maldonado was born. He was a brother of our family patriarch, “Papa Flor.” Pedro only lived for 15 months, though, dying on July 10, 1876.
- **April 9, 1912**—Auntie Marie, baptized as María Perfecta, was born in Barrio Santo Domingo of Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was one of Papa Flor’s daughters and the matriarch of the Nicholson clan.
- **April 13, 1839**—María Inés Vilá married Marcelino de la Cruz. Her father, Pedro Vilá, was born in Cataluña, España. They were the grandparents of Papa Flor’s wife, Ana Cruz García.
- **April 22, 1946**—Oscar Cruz García of Peñuelas, Puerto Rico, married Ana María López Maldonado of Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. They were married in San Francisco, CA, and were the parents of Olga, Ruben and Norma.
- **April 22, 1986**—Florencio Rivera (“Guar”) died in Ponce, Puerto Rico.
- **April 23, 1995**—Oscar Cruz García died of emphysema in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was 84.
- **May 5, 1909**—Máximo Cruz, father-in-law of Papa Flor, married his second wife, Genara Maldonado. He was widowed from his first wife, María Engracia García.
- **May 22, 1914**—Elena Sevilla was born. She was Tío Guar’s wife, and the mother of René, Roberto, Raúl, Milagros, Lilliam, Reinaldo, Luz, Heriberto and Edwin.



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## *Wedding Album of Neysha and John Mathew Maldonado*

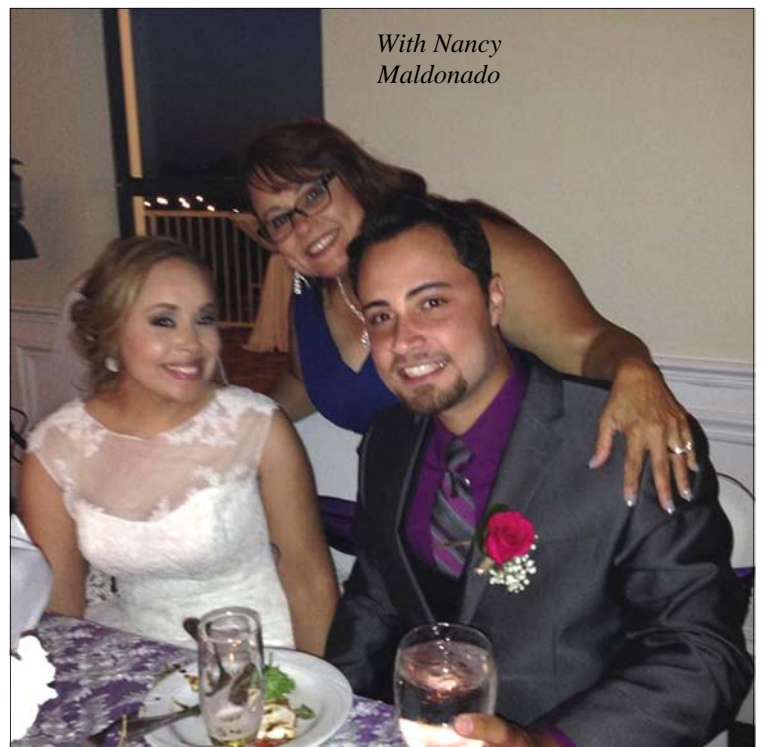




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*Myrna Suárez and Christian Rivera*



*With Nancy  
Maldonado*





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## New Arrival!



Welcome Grace Elizabeth Tokar, new daughter of Mike and Alicia (Rivera) Tokar, and granddaughter of Carlos and Garnet Rivera. She weighed 6.5 oz., measured 19" and was born on March 30th. Grace joins adoring (and adorable!) big sister, Lily. ***Congratulations to the Tokar family!***

## Other Family News

I spent 10 days at our house in Yabucoa over Spring Break, enjoying visits from various family members, including a sleepover with Milagros Rivera, and Waleska, Sharivette, Leyna, and Kayla Roman. We went to the beach (*cropped* picture at right), cooked a feast, watched movies, ate popcorn, and played Peanuts (the family card game). So much fun!

On Friday, a friend from college (the University of Puerto Rico) who I hadn't seen in about 35 years, spent the afternoon with me. Yariela lives in Naguabo, which is only about a half hour north of Yabucoa. We talked non-stop for a good four hours, especially after we discovered that we both loved doing genealogy!



*Waleska, Norma and Milagros*



*Leyna and Kayla Roman*

***Urgent prayers are requested for the Medina family. Tía Tita is continuing to receive chemotherapy treatment for a cancerous tumor in her gall bladder, and now Tío José has been diagnosed with severe dementia. He has been falling, also, and was hospitalized today (4/6) and will need to have a feeding tube.***

# 2015 Reunion Information

Date: June 26-28, 2015

Place: Reading, PA

Hosted by: Edwin and Annie Rivera

Recommended Lodgings: Day's Inn or Candlewood Suites

The actual reunion party is going to be on **June 27th only**, at the Jim Dietrich Park Farmhouse at 4900 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road in Reading, PA. However, those of us who arrive on Friday can gather either at the hotel, at a restaurant, or at the home of Edwin and Annie, for an informal pre-reunion get together. Saturday is open for sightseeing, shopping, or relaxing. Our reunion party is Saturday afternoon/evening from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the farmhouse.



Eddie and Annie have reserved a block of 10 rooms at each of two different hotels for June 26-28 so that family members can have a choice of lodging. Reservations need to be made by **May 20th**. After that date, whatever rooms remain unreserved in our room blocks will be released back into the hotel reservation systems.

At the Day's Inn in Reading/Wyomissing, your stay includes free hot Daybreak Breakfast, free Wi-fi, free coffee 24/7, access to their fitness room and business center with computer and printer. The room block rate is \$85 plus tax for a room with two queen beds or one king bed. There is no pool at this hotel. **For reservations, call Cara at (610) 374-1500.**

The Candlewood Suites/Country Inn & Suites is currently under renovation to become a Holiday Inn Express. The special prices for our block of rooms are \$99 plus tax for standard 2 double beds and \$109 for a King Suite. Your stay there includes complimentary hot breakfast each morning, microwave and mini fridge in each room, free high speed Wi-fi, indoor pool, fitness center, and guest laundry. **For reservations, call Sarah at (610) 373-4444.**



## *“¿...y la familia?”*

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*Visit us on the Web at [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).*

### **Birthday Greetings**

<b>Michael Barnes</b> (52) - April 1	<b>Emilio Meléndez</b> (60) - April 21	<b>Nicholas Rivera</b> (25) - May 5	<b>George Nicholson</b> (70) - May 27
<b>Emilio Maldonado</b> (84) - April 1	<b>Liliana Marie Tokar</b> (3) - April 21	<b>Kaliana Grace Maskell</b> (2) - May 6	<b>Lucas R. Pettit</b> (29) - May 29
<b>Michael A. Feliciano</b> (49) - April 3	<b>Vic Stenroos</b> (67) - April 22	<b>Ted Reinke</b> (78) - May 13	<b>Stephanie (Krause) Thompson</b> (38) - May 29
<b>Catherine Rivera</b> (38) - April 5	<b>Dalie Delgado</b> (23) - April 23	<b>Roberto I. Rivera</b> (64) - May 16	<b>Cristina Cruz</b> (12) - May 30
<b>Dustin Cavino</b> (24) - April 4	<b>Naïome Campos</b> (11) - April 23	<b>Ryan Reinke</b> (19) - May 12	
<b>Wilma E. Roig</b> (30) - April 6	<b>Raymond L. Cavino</b> (16) - April 25	<b>Helen Correa-González</b> (53) - May 12	
<b>Marlynn (Merritt) Krause</b> (67) - April 6	<b>Hayli Frosheiser</b> (19) - April 26	<b>Alexis Valentín</b> (30) - May 17	
<b>Tiana J. Rivera</b> (20) - April 6	<b>Daniel Campos</b> (21) - April 27	<b>Kirstin Frosheiser</b> (43) - May 21	
<b>Ana V. Pettit</b> (30) - April 8	<b>Luz E. Sánchez</b> (9) - April 28	<b>Riley Hargraves</b> (13) - May 22	
<b>Tom Smith</b> (77) - April 13	<b>George Rivera</b> (42) - April 29	<b>Heriberto Rivera</b> (28) - May 26	
<b>Jayden Daniel Valentín</b> (4) - April 14	<b>Mirra Noemí Quiñones</b> (5) - May 1	<b>Ada I. Rivera</b> (38) - May 26	

### *Anniversaries*

Jana and Orlando Rivera (6)  
April 12

Carmen (Feliciano) and  
Maximino Carrasquillo (40)  
May 16

Cathy (Rivera) and  
Eric Montalvo (18)  
May 24

James and Erika Frosheiser (8)  
May 26

Marlynn (Merritt) and  
Paul Krause (45)  
May 30