

"...y la familia?"

Volume 20, Issue 1

Aug/Sept 2015

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 2015 IN READING, PA

The 2015 Rivera Family Reunion was a tribute to family and served its purpose of reuniting, reconnecting, and reaffirming the bonds among our family members. While less attended than past reunions, those who came exemplified the dedication that comes with maintaining family relationships. We traveled from California, Colorado, South Carolina, New York and Puerto Rico to be in Pennsylvania.

This picture shows only part of the family in attendance, but I love it because it shows the joy we all felt at being together. Cousin Joi and I are standing next to Elizabeth and Robert, our first cousins once removed that we met in person for the first time (the oldest two children of the late Roberto Rivera Sevilla). It's opportunities like this that make our family reunions priceless.



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Family Reunion Photo Album



This year's reunion was held in a charming farmhouse in Reading, PA, surrounded by lush greenery which was refreshed that day by a summer rain shower. Helen was surprised and overjoyed to see her sweet cousin, Elizabeth (Lisa), and Joi and I were thrilled to get to know her. The pictures below show examples of Annie Rivera's creative decorating ideas featuring vintage family photos. It was a true labor of love!

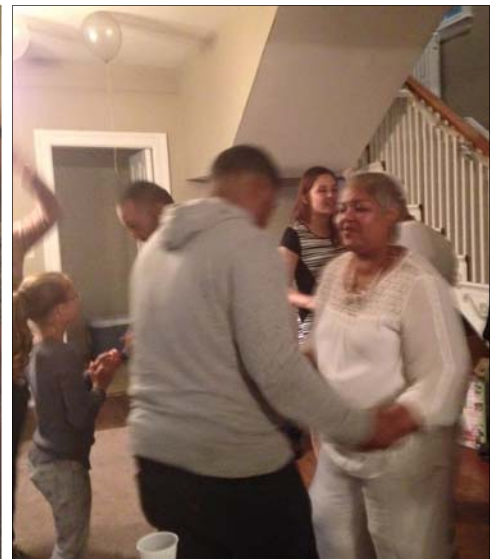


¿...y la familia?



*They hadn't seen each other
in 45 years!*

Family is Key



“¿...y la familia?”

Just Enjoying Pennsylvania!

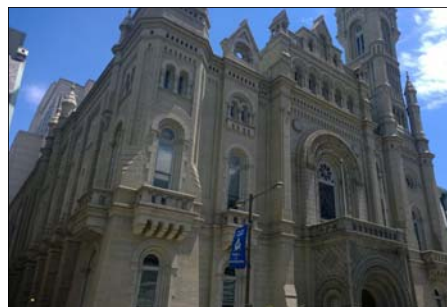


From visiting on Eddie and Annie's front porch, to spending a day in Amish country and going on an Amish buggy ride, to visiting the Liberty Bell, to getting a tour of Philadelphia aboard The Duck Tour and seeing the Tall Ships, our extra days spent in Pennsylvania were nothing short of amazing! Apart from the joy of seeing family we know and love and meeting new



relatives, these destination reunions afford us the opportunity to see parts of the country we would not normally visit. Thanks to Eddie and Annie for hosting this year's reunion and making it possible for us to visit historic Pennsylvania.

We loved it! ♥♥♥♥♥



Other Family News

Cousin **Vickie (Jimenez) Helm** (granddaughter of Elena Rivera De Nardo) has opened an ice cream shop with some friends in the town of Crestone, CO. Crestone Creamery is the latest in a string of lifetime accomplishments of Vickie's, and one that she is enjoying immensely.



*Vickie (in purple) and her business partners at Crestone Creamery.
Photo credit: Sunflower Studios Photography by Lori Nagel*

Here is an excerpt from one of Vickie's FB posts:
"Today I did something simple, not complex, not too creative, just simple and fun. I SERVED.....ice cream. I served it with so much joy in my heart. I have done a lot of cool and successful things in my life. I have written books, spoken on stages in front of thousands. I have built other business and sold them...but today I did something full of love. I helped create a memory for a little girl having ice cream with her daddy at an ice cream shop...my shop. I swept and mopped the floor, wiped the counter, did dishes and scooped ice cream.....and I loved it. Sometimes I forget that love is simple. It's intimate and it doesn't have to always be colossal to be extraordinary. Sometimes love is as simple as sharing ice cream with someone you love.....and to me.....today was an incredible joy because all I did was share ice cream with people."



*Congratulations to **William González** for completing an intensive 8 week training program and graduating on May 15th from the South Carolina FireAcademy. William is pictured here with his mother, Helen Correa, and his paternal grandmother.*



Our son, **Ruben**, his wife, **Lisa** and their two children, **Marcel** and **Mirra**, are spending three (hopefully) idyllic weeks in Japan. They visited their missionary friends that live in Nagano, have been to the Tokyo Disneyland, and to the historical Nijō Castle in Kyoto (below), among other places as of this writing. Safe travels and enjoy!



The Quiñones Family Vacation in Japan



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



The Way We Were

1992 or 1993—Ponce, Puerto Rico
Ada Pacheco Arroyo and Heriberto (Papo) Rivera
with their five children, from left to right:
Adalberto, Iris Leonor, Heriberto, Enid Milagros,
and Ada Elena (standing behind Enid)

I challenge them to recreate this photo by standing
in the same order and striking similar poses!

*¡Los reto a que tomen otra foto igual al ponerse en
el mismo orden y con poses similares!*

¿...y la familia?

Announcements

Rivera Family Reunion 2016

Next year's family reunion will be held in Northern California, hosted by Marina (Ramos) and Dennis Nelson, hopefully with the help of other family members in the vicinity. ☺
More details to follow in upcoming issues.



Volume 20 will be the final year of the "¿...y la familia?" newsletter



I will never forget the excitement with which I began publishing our family newsletter in August of 1996. For the past 19 years, it has been my pleasure to pass on news, photos, announcements, artwork, stories, memories, and family history in an effort to inform, educate and unify our wonderful family. With the passing of time, I feel that the widespread use of the internet (especially social media such as Facebook) has diminished the newsletter's purpose.

In discussing my feelings with cousin Carlos, he suggested continuing to provide family history information via a blog that he can add as a link to our family website, ylafamilia.org. I loved this idea as it combines my two favorite hobbies, genealogy and writing. So beginning with the next issue, I will include family history information that will be duplicated in a blog linked to the website. After the June 2016 issue, I will only be producing the family history

blog, although past issues of the newsletter will continue to be available through ylafamilia.org, as well as other announcements and links.

To celebrate 20 years of the newsletter, in this last volume I plan to include a favorite reprint in each issue, especially from those issues that precede June 2002, as these are not available on the website.

If you have nostalgic stories, childhood memories, old photos, or even original artwork or poetry, I urge you to submit them for publication in one of these last five issues. It's now or never!

Nunca me olvidaré la emoción con la cual empecé a publicar nuestro periódico de la familia en agosto del 1996. Por los últimos 19 años ha sido mi placer informar, educar y unificar a nuestra maravillosa familia mediante "¿...y la familia?" Con el pasar del tiempo, sin embargo, debido a que casi todos usan el internet y Facebook, siento que el periódico ha perdido su propósito.

Al dialogar con el primo Carlos, él sugirió que yo siguiera reportando información acerca de la historia de la familia mediante un "blog" el cual él puede añadir a nuestro website, ylafamilia.org, con un enlace. Me gusta esta idea porque combina mis dos pasatiempos favoritos, la genealogía y escribir. Así es que, empezando con la próxima edición, voy a incluir información acerca de la historia de nuestra familia que va a ser duplicada en un blog. Después de la última edición (la de junio del 2016), solamente estaré produciendo el "blog," aunque podrán seguir viendo ediciones pasadas del periódico y otra información y enlaces en ylafamilia.org.

Para celebrar 20 años de "¿...y la familia?" pienso incluir un artículo favorito de años pasados en cada una de estas últimas ediciones, y también quiero exhortarlos a que me envíen historias, memorias, fotos, o hasta dibujos y poesía original para ser incluidas en estas últimas cinco ediciones. ¡Es ahora o nunca!

“¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (11) - Aug. 3

Christian Rivera Rosa (23) -
Aug 3

Brian Pineda (39) - Aug. 3

Chet Cline (49) - Aug. 6

Joelid Kamil Colón (5) - Aug. 6

Jacob W. Nelson (3) - Aug. 7

Michael García (23) - Aug. 8

Timothy Teal Barnes (24) -
Aug. 9

Leandro González (21) - Aug. 9

Yamil Williams (29) - Aug. 10

Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (64) -
Aug. 10

René M. Rivera (30) - Aug. 15

José L. Medina (91) - Aug. 15

Jennifer Campos (41) - Aug. 16

Andrea Rivera (26) - Aug. 22

Shanda Peters (29) - Aug. 23

Zuleymi Cruz (11) - Aug. 23

Héctor Burgos (49) - Aug. 24

Levi Merritt Vail (2) - Aug. 26

Angelica Stickles (29) -
Aug. 26

Frankie Valentín (34) -
Aug. 26

Héctor González (54) -
Aug. 26

Yuly (García) Springer (43) -
Aug. 26

Evelyn Roig (71) - Aug. 28

Julian Miller (17) - Aug. 29

Zulena Delgado (27) - Aug. 29

Taelyn Darnell (10) - Aug. 31

Nelson Rivera (33) - Sept. 5

Luz Rivera (67) - Sept. 6

Jerry Feliciano (39) - Sept. 6

Iris L. Rivera (33) - Sept. 8

Serena Campos (18) -
Sept. 10

Miguel González (52) -
Sept. 10

Leslie (González) López (52)
- Sept. 10

Charice A. Rivera (33) - Sept. 12

Jamirelis C. Rivera (8) - Sept. 12

Rosanie García (38) - Sept. 13

Rachel Rivera (35) - Sept. 14

Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (69) -
Sept. 15

Craig Burch (28) - Sept. 17

Monica Rivera (35) - Sept. 21

Amy Valentín (33) - Sept. 21

Carmen E. Delgado (31) -
Sept. 23

Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (54) -
Sept. 23

Raúl Rivera (22) - Sept. 24

Carlos M. Rivera (69) - Sept. 25

Marina M. Ramos (37) - Sept. 25

Johanna Rivera (43) - Sept. 26

Robert Rivera (46) - Sept. 26

Angélica Medina (87) - Sept. 29

Joseph Montalvo (10) - Sept. 29

Logan A. Braddock (10) - Sept.
29

Anniversaries

**Michelle & David
Fastenau** (14) - Aug. 4

**Nellie (Feliciano) &
David López** (27) - Aug. 6

**Jeremy & Sheila
Carrasquillo** (14) - Aug. 11

**Luz Rivera &
Ramón Trinidad**
(24) - Aug. 14

**Shanda (Peters)
and Robert King**
(2) - Aug. 25

Evelyn & Bill Roig
(44) - Sept. 11

**Rosa (Medina) &
Brian Meddaugh**
(26) - Sept. 16

Bryan & Cheryl Finch
(15) - Sept. 16

**Yuly (García) &
Todd Springer**
(21) - Sept. 17

**Carol (Medina) &
Larry Wright**
(28) - Sept. 26