

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 12, Issue 6

June/July '08

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

## Orlando and Jana Rivera's Wedding



Orlando and Jana were married in Carrollton, Georgia on April 12, 2008 in Jana's beautiful church. Her pastor performed the ceremony.

Joi and I, who will probably some day be known as "the old lady cousins who never miss a family event if they can help it", flew out on Friday, the 11th. We were invited to attend the Rehearsal Dinner at a Hawaiian restaurant and enjoyed every minute of it. It was wonderful to sit with the relatives and also to get to meet Jana's delightful

family. Her parents exude the warm and charming friendliness that is typically seen in the South.

Joi and I stayed at the Jamison Inn, but we spent a lot of time at Uncle Isidro's house, where Carlos, Garnet, Edward and Roberto were staying. It had rained the day before, but the weather thankfully cleared up for the wedding. It was a wonderful ceremony that included the bride and groom's closest family—Jana's brother and sister-in-law and her niece and nephews, Orlando's daughters (Monica and Leanne), his son-in-law Mike, and his grandson, Tito. It was a lovely expression of the blending of two families. Jana, who has never been married before, was a sweet and lovely bride. We wish both Orlando and Jana much love, joy and blessings in their marriage!

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I took this picture on May 23, 1992 when I traveled to Puerto Rico with Auntie Marie (on the left). Here she poses with my dad, Oscar García, and their aunt Carmela, on the front steps of Carmela's home in Peñuelas.

Tía Carmela passed away years ago, but her granddaughter, Annie Meléndez, is hosting **next year's** reunion in Puerto Rico. Annie lives in a different part of Peñuelas, but her pharmacy is just a few doors down from the house that her grandmother lived in.

At this time in our family history...

- On June 8, 1893, Petronila Pacheco was born. She was a sister of Otilia (the mother of Nery, Isidro, Tita and Delia). Their other sister, Francisca, was born on June 11, 1887.
- Auntie Anita Merritt passed away on June 25, 1998 at the home of her daughter, Kathy Caffey in Nebraska. She had been suffering from emphysema for a number of years. Anita was the youngest child of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, and was only a week old when her mother died.
- On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado were married.
- My beautiful and loving sister, Olga María (García) Smith, went home to Jesus on July 4, 2006, having been led to the Lord by our cousin Mary Lillian Pérez only ten days earlier. My heart aches with loneliness for her, but I will see her again in Heaven some day.
- Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909 in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was the oldest daughter of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García. She was not quite seven years old when her mother died a week after giving birth to baby Anita.
- Florencio Rivera ("Papa Flor")—our patriarch—died on July 22, 1941.
- My mother, Ana María López Maldonado, was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1911. She was the daughter of Juan López and María de los Santos Maldonado. She had one older brother, Confesor.

## Look What I Still Have!

Hi, Norma,

You probably do not remember back in 1969, when Dave and I and our two kids decided to move back to Iowa, you and your Mom Anita, came to visit us and say goodbye for we were leaving the next day. You brought for Lisa whom at the time was only four years old, a real cute dolly, made out of rubber. She has dark braided hair, still wearing the same outfit and red shoes she came with. I have kept it all these years and one of the socks is beginning to deteriorate with the years. I took this picture that I am sending you for the Newsletter before leaving Stockton last year. She's got big blue eyes and is as cute as could be. I just gave her back to Lisa as a keepsake. She never liked playing with dolls when she was growing up, and I have kept all her dolls ever since she was little.

I thought you would like to know that this cute little dolly is still in good shape and looks just as new as the first day when she got it from you. She is being in good hands!



Love,  
Aunt Delia

# I Remember... "El Cuartito"

by Norma (García) Pettit

In the house I grew up in at 1718-22nd Avenue in San Francisco, there was a little room in the basement, which—not surprisingly—we called “el cuartito” (the little room). It was mainly used as a storage place, but at different times it served other purposes as well.

As a small child, I played house in there with my sister, Olga. The section of the *cuartito* that was under the stairs was the bedroom, and we put the baby bassinette in there. We had a set of plastic toy dishes and a drain board. Our old discarded family phone was a fun addition to our “home” décor. (I wish I had that antique phone now!) When Olga, five years my senior, outgrew playing with dolls, I still played in the *cuartito* with Joi or my friend from around the corner, Cheryl.



Another favorite childhood game was Hide and Seek, which was tons of fun to play when the Rivera boys and Joi were there to play with us. The *cuartito*, with its storage boxes and dark corners, was the perfect place to hide. The seeker wasn't allowed to pull on the chain that turned on the single lightbulb in the *cuartito*.

When I was about 12, my best friend (Laurie) and I used the *cuartito* as a writer's studio. I remember we were writing a story about a girls' orphanage, and we worked on it every time Laurie came over. I don't know what happened to the story, but it's probably in some box of memorabilia somewhere in the darkest recesses of my basement. I do remember that working on that story and other stories was sooooo much fun, and my childhood desire was to become a writer when I grew up. Maybe after I retire from teaching I'll take up writing.



During my teenage years, Uncle Dave helped Ruben make a dark room out of the *cuartito*. They set up photography equipment in there, and Uncle Dave taught him how to develop black and white pictures. It was such a cool thing to learn to do, and provided many, many entertaining hours of a worthwhile pastime. For a teenage boy like my brother, Ruben, who was surrounded by women (Mom, Olga, Joi, Auntie Helen, me...), Uncle Dave's teaching, mentoring, and companionship was invaluable. Thank you, Uncle Dave! Ruben taught Olga and me how to develop pictures, too, and as a surprise for Mom we made a photo album of her favorite family photos, including the one at left of Dad, Olga and Ruben in 1955. I still have that album.

In 1994 we contacted the family that bought the house from my parents, and they graciously allowed us to visit. I hadn't been in that house since 1971, and I used to dream about it all the time. It was such a treat to be able to tour the house again and show my husband and children the place in which I had lived as a child, although parts of it looked different since the owners had remodeled some of the rooms. It was so exciting and emotional for me that I felt like I was in a dream, but I remember looking in amazement at the *cuartito*, which still looked the same. The family was using it as a pantry and there were rows and rows of home canned jars in it. After all those years, the *cuartito* was still being used in a vital way.

It's funny how such a little basement room can hold so many memories.

“¿...y la familia?”



Orlando came to Uncle Isidro's house for lunch on his wedding day.



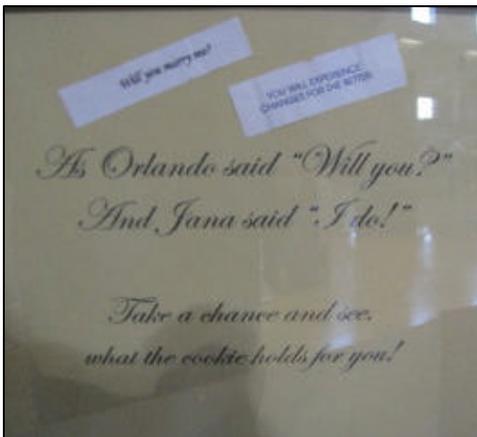
Exchanging vows at the altar—always an emotional moment.



Two of the groom's brothers—Edward and Roberto.



I loved the bride!



Orlando proposed with a fortune cookie. At the reception, all were given boxes of fortune cookies.



Family photo—Standing: Roberto, Isidro, Jana, Orlando, Edward, and Carlos. Sitting: Tito, Monica, Mike, and Leanne. Monica and Leanne are Orlando's daughters, and Tito is his grandson. Mike is his son-in-law.

*¿...y la familia?*



The toast



Garnet and Carlos



Orlando and Jana  
exited under a  
shower of sparklers.  
The couple honeymooned  
in Mexico.



At the reception, a country band played  
and Tito Shenker showed off his  
fancy footwork.

# Other Family News



These photos were taken on April 27, 2008 at a tea that Carol and Rosa held in Debarry, Florida, to benefit the Veteran's History Project.

Pictured from left to right in the group picture are Tía Tita (Rivera) Medina, her three daughters (Rosa Meddaugh, Joanne "Pepa" McLaughlin, and Carol Wright), and her granddaughter, Angelica (Pepa's daughter).

Bottom left: Rosa Meddaugh

Bottom right: Angelica Stickle



## Upcoming Wedding...in Greece!

Rachel Rivera, daughter of Roberto and granddaughter of Isidro and Rosita Rivera, is getting married to her fiancé, James, in Greece in just a few weeks. Her parents and siblings will be there to share the excitement of this very special occasion and to enjoy the trip of a lifetime all together. We will be anxiously awaiting photos and a story for the next newsletter!

## News Flash...

### Tory Eats Bugs Now

(The following is an excerpt from Tory's blog.)

Besides the palace and the marketplace and eating out at good Korean places, I was excited to experience another thing: bu dae gi. They're silk worms, and I ate them. I had been wanting to try them since the first time I ever laid eyes on them. It was kind of funny: at first when I saw them, I told my friend that I was interested in trying some. She looked at me like I was crazy. I looked back at her like I was serious. I wanted to try some right away. So she asked the seller for a sample. I tasted it. "What do you think?" She asked. I nodded my head in approval and said that I was satisfied. We kept walking. But, the funny thing was the further we walked the better the taste became in my mouth. I wanted *more*. We went back and I got a normal serving of a Dixy cup for \$2. Okay, so it was good, but not worth the two bucks!

To read more of Tory's blogs, log on to <http://sunrisesineast.blogspot.com/>





## 2008 FAMILY REUNION in Placerville, California

*“Una Pachanga en Placerville”*  
(Mira lo que les tengo ya...)



Come early and stay late, if you can.  
There is lots to see and do in  
California.



### The Schedule

#### Friday, June 20th: *La Bienvenida (The Welcome)*

We will gather here at the Pettit home (2426 Meadow Lane, Placerville, CA) for an informal howdy-do that will include appetizers, dinner and dessert. Come as early as you like! Kids of all ages can cool off in the pool, shoot some hoops, swing in the hammock, or sing with the karaoke machine (yes, we got it, and I've been warming up my vocal chords on it!). Even the domino table will be set up.

#### Saturday, June 21st: *La Pachanga (The Big Party)*

Again, come early (before noon) to swim, play volleyball, badminton, whiffle ball baseball, sack races and other lawn games, dominoes, water balloon volleyball, and probably the inevitable water balloon fight. Lunch will be the All American Barbecue, featuring chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, watermelon, potato and macaroni salad, and desserts. The congas and bongos will be set up in the gazebo, and we'll have a guitar and guitar amp and rhythm instruments available for the musicians in the family. Of course, the karaoke machine will also be at your disposition. Our daytime party will flow right into the evening festivities, which will feature a typical Puerto Rican menu and great music for dancing.

#### Sunday, June 22nd: *La Despedida (The Farewell)*

We'll come together again here for a buffet breakfast and picture taking as some of the family that is coming from out of state has to leave on Sunday. Quite a few are staying until Monday, though, and a trip to Lake Tahoe is being planned by some family members. Others are more interested in touring the area around Placerville. If you want to hang out at my house again, that's cool, too! We can feast on leftovers (if there are any). We're open to whatever you want to do.

*RSVPs received so far include Heriberto Rivera, Lillian Rivera, Milagros Curet, Helen Correa-González and her two sons, Mary Lillian Pérez and her nephew, Alex Joel, Kathy Caffey and Hayli Frosheiser, Vic and Joi Stenroos, Ruben & Katherine García and kids, Ruben & Lisa Quiñones and precious baby Marcel, Carlos, Garnet and Isidro Rivera, and a bunch of others who have said they “plan to come”. If you live in California, don't miss out on this opportunity to meet new relatives and renew acquaintance with family you haven't seen in years!*

## "¿...y la familia?"

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## Birthday Greetings

<b>Jayden I. Feliciano</b> (6) - June 5	<b>Enid Rivera</b> (22) - June 20	<b>Lilliam Rivera</b> (65) - July 11
<b>Máximo Carrasquillo</b> (32) - June 5	<b>Norma (García) Pettit</b> (56) - June 20	<b>José Medina</b> (58) - July 11
<b>Jeremy Carrasquillo</b> (31) - June 5	<b>Laurie Jimenez</b> (49) - June 21	<b>Roberto Rivera Sevilla</b> (68) - July 14
<b>Nellie Feliciano</b> (48) - June 9	<b>Tommy González</b> (38) - June 21	<b>Kayla N. Reinke</b> (9) - July 15
<b>Annette García</b> (25) - June 10	<b>Jason Pineda</b> (29) - June 22	<b>René Rivera Jr.</b> (46) - July 21
<b>Joyce Montalvo</b> (8) - June 12	<b>María L. Feliciano</b> (25) - June 24	<b>Vickie Jimenez</b> (48) - July 22
<b>Alicia Rivera</b> (26) - June 12	<b>Scott Hargraves</b> (43) - June 25	<b>Christina (Krause) Darnell</b> (30) - July 23
<b>Julia Cruz Vilá</b> (82) - June 13	<b>Cindy Nicholson</b> (37) - June 29	<b>Annalise Cruz Rivera</b> (4) - July 24
<b>Leslie Feliciano</b> (23) - June 13	<b>Alura G. Barnes</b> (15) - June 30	<b>Cynthia Feliciano</b> (30) - July 25
<b>C.J. Burch</b> (30) - June 14	<b>Angel Feliciano</b> (13) - July 2	<b>Ada Rivera Segarra</b> (28) - July 25
<b>Emily Medina</b> (20) - June 15	<b>Elizabeth Rivera</b> (12) - July 5	<b>Rachel Nicholson</b> (8) - July 26
<b>Garnet Rivera</b> (63) - June 15	<b>Eric R. Stenroos</b> (25) - July 7	<b>Fernando Vázquez</b> (18) - July 28
<b>Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves</b> (45) - June 16	<b>Carmen Nydia (Feliciano) Carrasquillo</b> (52) - July 7	<b>Paul Krause</b> (63) - July 30
<b>Ken Reinke</b> (45) - June 16		
<b>Nelson Rivera</b> (44) - June 17		
<b>René Rivera</b> (69) - June 19		

## Anniversaries

**Ken & Vanessa Braddock** (5) - June 15  
**Annie Meléndez & Wilson Garcia** - June 15  
**Renó & Carmen Rivera** (47) - June 17  
**Jenny & Ted Reinke** (47) - June 18  
**Angela & David Nicholson** (11) - June 21  
**Angélica & José L. Medina** (60) - July 9  
**Edna & Edwin Rivera** (4) - July 11  
**Garnet & Carlos Rivera** (21) - July 14  
**Cindy & Christopher Nicholson** (15) - July 17  
**Joanne & Robert McLaughlin** (11) - July 21  
**Randy & Norma Pettit** (26) - July 30