

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 17, Issue 2

Oct/Nov 2012

*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!*



*Angelica Stickle  
and  
Dave Matlock*

*Wedding Day*

*September 15,  
2012*

*Miami, Florida*

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# Guess Who This Tot Is?



The answer is found on page 7.

The Way We Were



This is cousin Heriberto Rivera Sevilla of Ponce, Puerto Rico, known to one and all as Papo. He was about 17 or 18 years old here. The year was either 1969 or 1970.

# Genealogy Gems

**María del Carmen Rivera Maldonado** was an aunt of our family patriarch, Florencio Rivera. She was the oldest sister of his father, Manuel Alejo. María del Carmen was born on July 15, 1842, in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico. She was the daughter of José de los Santos Rivera Rivera and Cipriana Maldonado Santiago. She married Félix Gulá of Yauco on August 29, 1872, and they had two daughters—Hipólita (b. 1874) and María (b. 1876). Félix was the son of Hipólito Gulá, reportedly born in France, and Teresa Maldonado of Guayanilla. María del Carmen died on Dec. 6, 1896, of tuberculosis.\* She was preceded in death by her husband, Félix, who died on Nov. 4, 1886 of cirrhosis of the liver.

\*Source: www.familysearch.org, Puerto Rico Civil Registration (1836-2001), Guayanilla, Defunciones 1894-1922, Image 578.

## 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.

# Reflecting About...Moving Away

By Norma (García) Pettit

The subject came up again recently. Randy and I talked about whether or not we would move out of California after we retired, and I shook my head. "As long as the grandkids are living here, we're staying." I don't see them often enough as it is; I couldn't bear to be in a different state and go months without seeing them.



That made me reflect on how my mother must have felt when I moved back to California with Ruben and Sonia, following my divorce from their father. All of her grandchildren were now in California, and she was living in Puerto Rico. Did Mom think of *her* mother, who had remained in Puerto Rico when Mom moved to California to marry Dad and bear him three children? Mom made two trips back to Puerto Rico with her children before my grandmother died in 1963. The first trip was before I was born, and the second time was when I was about three (1955). We spent eight months in Puerto Rico, returning before my fourth birthday. I have only a few very faint memories of my grandmother, Mama Santa. This is a picture that she mailed to my mother in 1952. The little girl with her is one of her granddaughters, my cousin Marta López.

As I work on the never-ending project which is our family tree, I wonder about those ancestors who made the initial leap from Europe to the Caribbean. What family members did they leave behind? Was there some tearful woman in Spain who never got to see her grandchildren who were born in the New World, or were our seafaring ancestors already without family ties in the Old Country? So many questions...so many unknown facts and stories! I hope someday I can discover what they are.

## Your Prayers are Requested



*Several of our family members are in need of your prayers...*

**Cousín Helen Correa González** is suffering a recurrence of cancer. A recent scan indicated that while her vital organs are clear, there is cancer in two of her lymph nodes. She is seeking a second medical opinion and working with her doctors to ascertain the best course to take. Additional chemo is an option. Helen has a lot of faith and is a fighter. She needs prayer for complete healing from cancer and for God's continued provision for every aspect of her life.

**Cousín Kathy (Merritt) Caffey** continues to be afflicted with a myriad of health issues. She is scheduled for surgery to remove her thyroid on October 31st, and the hope is that this will eliminate or alleviate some of the symptoms she has been experiencing. Always busy with work, her granddaughter's activities, and her church involvement, Kathy plugs along despite pain, sleeplessness, and problems eating. She is also is a woman of great faith, and is grateful to God for His many blessings. Please pray that Kathy can get the rest and nutrition that she needs to stay active, and for a successful thyroid operation and quick recovery.

**Cousín René Rivera** lost his wife of 50 years one year ago on October 12th and is still grieving for her. Please pray for God's peace and comfort for him and his children and grandchildren.

*¿...y la familia?*



Angelica Stickle and David Matlock were wed in a lovely ceremony at Comber Hall, a beautiful, historic building in Miami, Florida. The ceremony was held in the elegant downstairs ballroom, and the reception was celebrated in the upstairs ballroom.

The bride, with her model's figure, graced a gorgeous gown, as seen in the photo at left. Below, Angie poses with her grandparents, José Lino Medina and Angélica (Rivera) Medina.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Playa Mujeres, Mexico, near Cancún.

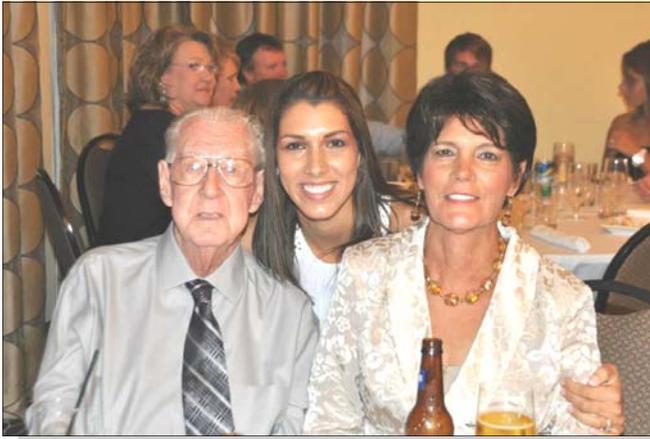


**Back row:** Walter (Pepa's son), Bill Stickle, Niki (Walter's wife), Pepa (the beautiful mother of the bride), Carol (Angie's aunt), and Larry Wright (Carol's husband).  
**Front row:** Zack (son of Walter and Niki), José and Tita Medina.

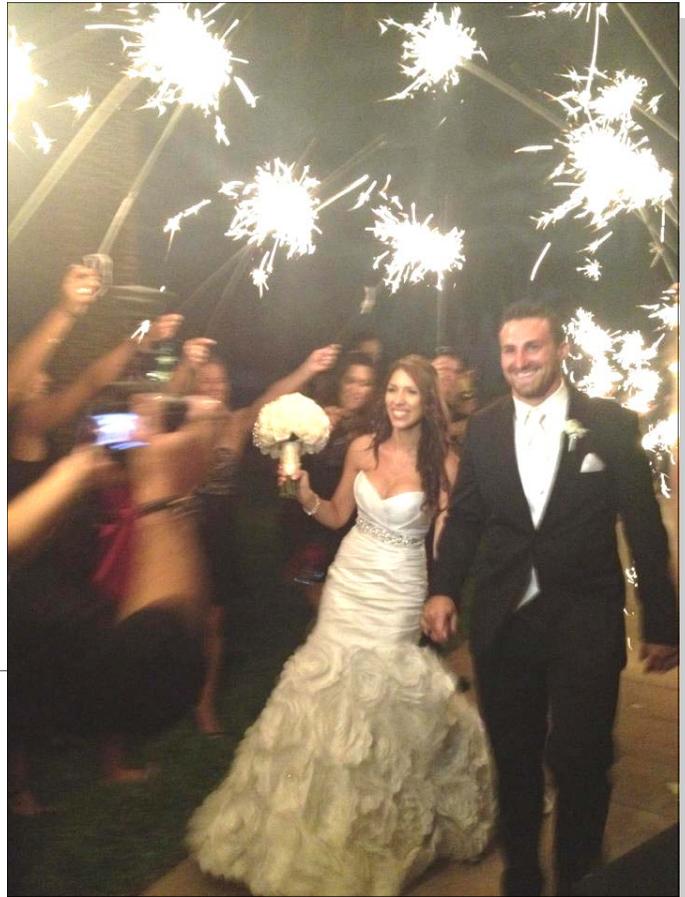


*Mother and daughter dance.*

*¿...y la familia?*



*Angie with her parents:  
Bill Stickles and Pepa (Medina) McLaughlin*



**About Angie:** She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Broadcasting and Multimedia Journalism degree. She enjoys being captain and catcher for her co-ed softball team "Cleats and Cleavage." She also enjoys wine, girl nights, kayaking, golfing, tiki hang out spots, taking care of her animals, and most of all spending time with Dave.

**About Dave:** Dave graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Business Degree and went back to school for pre-med. He received a great opportunity to work for Zimmer Spine in medical device sales and enjoys being in the medical field. He plays pitcher position for "Cleats and Cleavage," He also played the O-line for his whole college career at FAU. Dave enjoys riding his Harley, working out, golfing, fishing and diving, football, hanging out with his friends and spending time with Angie.

**How they met:** They met through two mutual friends, Mike and Veronica. It all started when Angie commented on a picture that her really good friend, Veronica, had on her Facebook page. It was a funny picture of Dave and his roommate, Kyle, being silly with kitchen aprons on. Meanwhile, Dave on his end was asking Mike and Veronica of a good girl to introduce him to. Angie and Dave were set up to go out on a group date. They met at the Ale House to watch the Steelers VS Jets game, and the rest is history.

**The proposal:** Angie tells the story: "December 29th came and we were on our family vacation to NYC. One of the tourist attractions we wanted to check out was seeing the amazing view of NYC on top of the Rockefeller Center. There we were on the top of the building, stories and stories up! Dave and I were observing the view, me snuggled in his chest, when I noticed his heart was pounding out of his chest. I asked him if he was ok, and then he leaned over and said to me, 'Babe, remember when I told you that you would make the happiest man alive if you add to the pages of the scrap book I made you for Valentines day,' and not knowing better I interrupted with 'I did add to those pages.' (ha ha), he was like 'No, shh.... let me finish. Well I lied to you when I told you that would make me the happiest man alive—this would.'" Next thing I knew, he was down on one knee and said, 'Baby, marry me.' With the family already knowing and the camera ready, pictures were snapped and onlookers were awwwing and clapping. I just knew in that moment I felt as if I was in a bubble and it was just him and I. Funny thing is I was so mixed with happy emotions that I said yes but then left him there on his knee with the box open, didn't even look at the ring and started hugging the family until his mom was like, 'Well, aren't you going to get the ring?!' Ha ha. It was absolutely a romantic thing and I was so happy to have family there to support and experience it with us. It is a night that I truly won't ever forget!"

*¿...y la familia?*

## Other Family News...

# 30th Anniversary Cruise

On July 31st, Randy and I set sail from Seattle, Washington aboard the Carnival Spirit on a week-long cruise to Alaska to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. With us were two of our grown children, Ruben and Luke, as well as Ruben's wife, Lisa, and their two children, Marcel, 4, and Mirra, 2. In addition, Lisa's mother, Elaine, and step-father, Tom, accompanied us.

With so much to do aboard the ship, it was fun to meet for dinner each night and catch up on everyone's activities for the day. The food in the formal dining room was amazing, and it was just fun to all sit together at a big table with an awesome view of the ocean.



It was so exciting to enter the Tracy Arm Fjord and see blue ice floes, magnificent waterfalls cascading down immense mountain walls, and bald eagles. We got as close to the Sawyer Glacier (below) as possible, and then the ship turned around.



On Friday, August 3rd, we docked at Skagway, where Randy

and I went on an incredible train ride along the White Pass and Yukon Route, which took us through some of the most breathtaking scenery I have ever seen.

The next day we visited Mendenhall Glacier, and then went on a

whalewatching expedition—my favorite experience. We got to see other wildlife, also, but for me the most beautiful thing was to see those majestic creatures surfacing and diving, treating us to a wave of their enormous tails.

The others had their own adventures—including salmon fishing and ziplining. We all enjoyed sightseeing, souvenir shopping, and just spending time together. It was a vacation that I will always remember, and a wonderful way to celebrate our anniversary.



¿...y la familia?

New Arrival!

Meet **Jacob Wayne Nelson**, son of Dennis Nelson and Marina (Ramos) Nelson, and grandson of Robert Ramos and the late Olga García. He was born on August 7, 2012, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 19-1/4 inches. On the picture on the right, Jacob is already about six weeks old. What a cutie!!



*Plans are already underway for the 2013 Family Reunion at  
**DISNEYWORLD in ORLANDO, FLORIDA, June 21-23, 2013!!!***

We are planning to stay at a hotel inside of the park, which will make the experience more exciting and at the same time more convenient. Some of the benefits of staying at a Disney Resort Hotel include the following:

- More quality time with family—we will be conveniently close to all the attractions and can come and go to our rooms as we please. For families with small children, this could be a huge advantage!
- We can make use of extended park hours.
- There is COMPLIMENTARY transportation between the airport and our hotel, as well as throughout the theme parks (on monorail, motor cars and ferry boats). If you are driving to Disney World instead of flying, there is complimentary parking at our hotel.
- We will avoid the hassles and delays of traffic jams entering the regular parking lot, and the expense of daily parking.

To keep the cost more reasonable, we are planning to stay at one of the “Value Resorts.” If, after looking at the Value Resorts on [www.disneyworld.com](http://www.disneyworld.com), you have a preference for a specific Value Resort, please let me know as soon as possible. Cousin Frankie, who works at Disney World, will be working up a package for us that will include the hotel stay, the entrance tickets to the various theme parks, and a meal plan. We are planning to forego a formal banquet hall evening for this reunion, and instead, have an informal dinner gathering that won’t cost us anything extra and that will not take away from time enjoying the theme parks. Keep in mind, however, that for this reunion we will not be having Puerto Rican food or salsa dancing. Although very different from past reunions, it should be an exciting and memorable reunion for all who attend. Already some 50 people have expressed interest!

As more information becomes available, you will be notified via this newsletter, Facebook, e-mail, and/or the family website: [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

Greetings from **Juan González**: *To all the familia, old and young who have suffered illnesses and loss, who experienced grief and are still shackled to their pains, let them know that I share that grief with them from afar. Let them know that God is great and to believe that His promise is true. In life we suffer so we could understand and recognize our strengths. Tell all to stay strong, to stay true, to stay united, because it's the only way we could attain peace! Tell all to believe. We're all we've got! Love you all, Taino.*

The tot pictured on page 2 is Ruben Alejandro Quiñones, who turned 36 on October 12th.

# “¿...y la familia?”

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## Birthday Greetings

Teena Warren (41) - Oct. 3

Christine Rivera (16) - Oct. 3

Roxanna Rivera (42) - Oct. 6

Eric J. Montalvo (35) - Oct. 7

Ruben A. Quiñones (36) -  
Oct. 12

Mike Shenker (36) - Oct. 12

Felipe René Rivera (29) -  
Oct. 13

Lourdes Rivera (39) - Oct. 13

Edwin Joel Rivera (15) - Oct. 14

Jackie (Correa) Eddy (48) -  
Oct. 15

Sonia Rivera (38) - Oct. 15

Austin Rivera (18) - Oct. 17

Annalise L. Nicholson (10) -  
Oct. 17

Javier Rivera (39) - Oct. 18

Virginia T. Feliciano (23) -  
Oct. 21

Sierra Campos (16) - Oct. 21

Tito Shenker (15) - Oct. 22

Vicky (Rivera) Cabán (48) -  
Oct. 23

Brandi Klene (43) - Oct. 24

Randy Pettit (57) - Oct. 27

Victoria Nicholson (73) -  
Oct. 28

Madeline Rivera (46) -  
Oct. 28

Joanne McLaughlin (65) -  
Oct. 29

Julie Rivera (20) - Nov. 2

Alex Joel Rivera (17) - Nov. 2

Lisa Quiñones (36) - Nov. 3

Adalberto Rivera (29) - Nov. 5

Orlando Rivera (57) - Nov. 6

Stephanie Feliciano (23) -  
Nov. 6

Matthew Thompson (7) -  
Nov. 7

Lydia N. Carrasquillo (33) -  
Nov. 7

Rosa M. Rivera (89) - Nov. 8

Austin Miller (18) - Nov. 8

Joannie García (32) - Nov. 9

Neysa Rivera (22) - Nov. 12

Juan Meléndez (67) - Nov. 12

Lilliana Charice Cruz (10) -  
Nov. 15

Joseph T. Springer (16) -  
Nov. 15

Esmeralda Rivera Delgado (8) -  
Nov. 16

Carol (Medina) Wright (60) -  
Nov. 17

Michelle (Cabán) Su'a (24) -  
Nov. 17

Amanda Knox (25) - Nov. 22

John Feliciano (50) - Nov. 22

Rose A. Segarra (12) - Nov. 23

Marcantonio Williams Jr. (5) -  
Nov. 25

Kaylee Noemí Valentín (4)  
Nov. 25

Hector L. Feliciano (62) -  
Nov. 26

Solimar Delgado (25) -  
Nov. 28

## Anniversaries

Kimm and Scott  
Hargraves (16) -  
Oct. 18

Yamil and Bianca  
Williams (5) -  
Oct. 20

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

Alicia (Rivera) and  
Mike Tokar (5) -  
Oct. 27