

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 18, Issue 6

June/July 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 art-  
work*

*Original poetry  
Vignettes on*

*your imme-  
diate family  
Favorite family  
recipes*

*Cute things your  
kids have  
said*

*Funny stories  
Prayer Requests*



## The Class of 2014



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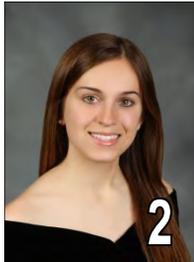
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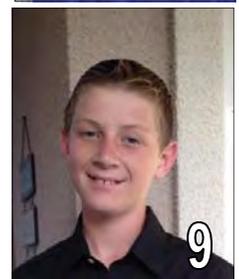
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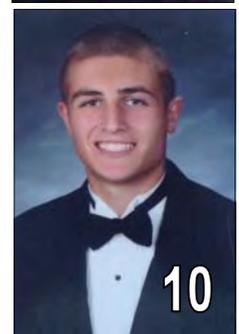
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1. Leana Marie Rivera 2. Amber Nicholson  
3. Marlin Barnes 4. Craig Burch  
5. Rachel Nicholson 6. Hayli Frosheiser  
7. Nicole Garcia 8. Alex Joel Rivera  
9. Matthew Hargraves 10. Ryan Reinke

### Inside this issue:

The Class of 2014.....	1,3
Needed for Future Issues.....	1
At This Time in Our Family History.....	2
The Way We Were.....	2
I Remember.....	3
Genealogical Update and Family Connections, Part II.....	3
Student News.....	4-6
Family Reunion Info.....	7
Birthday and Anniversary Greetings.....	8

# The Way We Were

*Marlynn Merritt and Paul Krause were married on May 30, 1970 in Des Moines, Iowa, so they just celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary. Marlynn is the daughter of Anita (Rivera) and James Robert Merritt. This reception photo was taken in the back yard of the Merritt home. The Krauses raised two beautiful daughters, Stephanie (Krause) Thompson and Christina (Krause) Vail, and have four wonderful grandchildren—Emma and Matthew (Stephanie's kids) and Taelyn and Levi (Christina's kids). Congratulations to Marlynn and Paul, and God's blessings for many more happy years.*



## *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 Maldonado and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado Rivera were married. Manuel Alejo's mother, Cipriana Maldonado, and María Apolinaria's father, Felipe, were siblings. That means that my great-grandparents were first cousins in addition to being husband and wife. This was perfectly legal and not so unusual in Puerto Rico in the olden days.*
- *My beautiful and loving sister, Olga María (García) Smith, went home to Jesus on July 4, 2006.*
- *Angela M. Warren, Olga's second daughter, was born on July 15, 1969. She passed away on Oct. 8, 2007.*
- *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.*

## *I Remember...by Angélica (Rivera) Medina*

On page 5 of the April/May 2014 issue of “¿...y la familia?” I printed an article and photos—“Genealogy Update and Family Connections.” This was about descendants of Mamá Otilia’s sister, Petronila, who was 2-1/2 years older than Otilia. Otilia’s daughter, Angélica (Tita) responded with the following recollections.

I was wondering about Ursula who was one of Petronila’s oldest daughters. I knew her and last time I saw her was in 1952 in Puerto Rico and she was married to a military man. She visited me when Carol was born. Angelina was another sister, and Gonzalo was the oldest son. I have always wondered what happened to them.

I also remember that Petronila was slender and looked old for her age since she worked in the sugar cane fields. I remember her as a smoker. She was very outgoing and active. She got throat cancer and died. The last time I saw her I was in my early teens. Nery took us to the campo to visit her. We ate a type of spaghetti. It was a country home with a sugar cane field. She already had about four of her children.

She died around 1958 and we were living in Panama with Mamá Otilia. My mother wrote to her often until she died. My mother cried very much when she died.

Otilia had another sister, Francisca Rosana Pacheco Arroyo, who was the oldest of the three, born on June 11, 1887. I have no other information on Francisca, so cousin Carol asked her mom, and this is what Tita remembers: Francisca was taller than Otilia and had dark skin and a round face. She lived in Salinas and had a son and two daughters, who misbehaved a lot. She thinks the son’s name was Pablo and remembers that he was handsome. He died young, maybe in his twenties, of pneumonia. Tita remembers that Francisca and her kids came to live with them (without the kids’ father) when Tita was about six years old. They stayed only a week because Otilia told them that they had no food for extra

## Genealogy Update and Family Connections, Part II

Inspired by Tía Tita’s recollection of Petronila, I dove back into research and found her death certificate online at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Petronila died on Jan. 18, 1959 at around 8:00 a.m. She was 64 years old, and died of throat cancer, just as Tía Tita remembered. The informant was her son-in-law, Antonio Galarza. I looked up her husband’s death record, also. Cecilio Feliciano Velázquez died on June 5, 1966, around 11:00 a.m. The record said he was 67 years old and the cause of death was “paro cardiaco debido a trombosis cerebral,” which I believe means cardiac arrest due to a cerebral blood clot. I went on to gather information on some of the other members of the Feliciano Velázquez family: Gil, Camila, Eladio, Águeda, Eusebio, and Andrea.

In case you are wondering why I bother to do this when there is no apparent connection to my direct lineage, it’s because of what an old cemetery caretaker told Joi and me when we were traipsing through the cemetery in Peñuelas in 2009, looking for our grandmother’s grave. I told him some of our family surnames, and he told us that the García, Cruz, and Feliciano were all one family. He said this with the certainty of an old time Peñuelan who had seen many families bury their loved ones. I’m finding out that what he said was true, and in addition, the Velázquez and Estrada families were also intertwined in the web. So with the double surnames, if you look through the census records for Santo Domingo, the barrio in Peñuelas that our family hails from, you see combinations like Feliciano Cruz, Cruz García, García Feliciano, Feliciano Velázquez, Velázquez Estrada, Estrada Feliciano, García Velázquez, etc.

One definite connection that I’ve already discovered is Eusebio Feliciano Velázquez, an older brother of the abovementioned Cecilio Feliciano (husband of Otilia’s sister, Petronila), or as they would say in Puerto Rico, *un concañado de Otilia*, married Rufina Cruz, daughter of Manuel de la Cruz and Ynez Pérez. Manuel de la Cruz was a brother of my great-grandfather, Máximo Cruz Vilá.



### Nicole García—High School Graduate

We have been a bit busy here with **Nicole's** senior-year related activities. She applied to, and was accepted to seven University of California campuses, with several of them offering her scholarships and admittance to their first year honors programs. We have visited or attended receptions for most of these campuses, and she finally selected UC Davis as her choice. She has been admitted to the College of Engineering with a major of Computer Science.



Katherine, Michael and I are all very proud of her dedication, hard work and accomplishments in High School and look forward to her continued success in college and beyond.

**Michael** continues to study at UC at Santa Cruz, pursuing his major in Computer Engineering. He finds his course of study both challenging and interesting. Despite the long hours in class and sleepless nights spent at the computer lab, he has managed to sprinkle a few sailing and kayaking classes here and there. Last December, he and a number of other students chartered two yachts at St Thomas and sailed the Caribbean for a week. We are also very proud of Michael's perseverance, hard work and progress. His sticktoitiveness and cheerful personality will open doors of opportunity for him in the future.

Katherine and I are both doing well. We will be living on Ramen noodles for the next few years. —Submitted by Ruben García

**Craig Burch—College Graduate:** During Craig's senior year of high school, he was accepted into the Electrical Engineering program at the University of Utah. However, after one year he returned to the Bay Area and transferred to Mission College. There he earned a general Associates in Arts (AA) Degree and an Associates in Science (AS) Degree in Fire Protection Technology (i.e., Firefighter and Medical technician).

He was then accepted into the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business at San Jose State University. Within two intense years, he earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Business Administration, Concentrating in Marketing. His first year in the Business Program at SJSU he interned at Cisco Systems. During his second year he interned at a Hewlett Packard company, and he began to create his own company. He has been offered positions with both Cisco and Hewlett Packard, as well as several others but has yet to decide the best fit moving forward. He intends to continue to build his own business and may even join me in pursuit of helping others with their nutrition and fitness goals.

Most of Craig's immediate family attended the small Business College Graduation ceremony on Friday, May 23, followed by an intimate lunch immediately after. A large Open House celebration was attended by many of his friends and family. Craig's father's family came from Utah and otherWe are all so very, very proud of him and know that he will continue to succeed at anything and everything he does. He's got a loving heart, a great head on his shoulders, an incredibly supportive family behind him, and an incredible girl by his side.

areas of California and visited with him for the weekend. Early Monday morning he boarded a plane with his girlfriend, Lauren, for a 12-day, well-earned vacation to Hawaii. Craig has been dating Lauren for the last several years. She has been an incredible addition to our family, and seems to be an awesome partner for Craig; she inspires, supports and encourages him, and puts the sparkle in his eyes. :-)

We are all so very, very proud of him and know that he will continue to succeed at anything and everything he does. He's got a loving heart, a great head on his shoulders, an incredibly supportive family behind him, and an incredible girl by his side.

Submitted by his mother, Michelle





**Alex Joel Rivera** graduated from Lugoff-Elgin High School in Lugoff, S.C. on May 31, 2014. He is shown here on his prom night, in his senior picture, and on his graduation day. His mom, Awilda, is with him in the last picture. Congratulations to Alex Joel!

Two Nicholson grandchildren are graduating this year.

**Amber Marie Nicholson**, 18, daughter of Chris & Cindy Nicholson, granddaughter of George and Barbara Nicholson, and great granddaughter of María (Rivera) Nicholson, will graduate from Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA, on June 13th. Because of many Advanced Placement classes, she has a grade point average that is well over 4.00. The responses to her college applications have been truly amazing. Her first choice was the University of Chicago, where she has been accepted and is planning to attend. Many other offers have come to her. I know I won't remember them all. Lewis & Clark offered a merit scholarship as did Willamette. Amber received a personal phone call from UC San Diego, inviting her to enter a special six year program that would combine a BS and MD. Reed College (Steve Job's alma mater) and UC Berkeley both "want" her. UC Berkeley even sent a gold star that she could put on her mortarboard. Amber said thanks but no thanks to them all. She is set to go to Chicago in September. A summer program there last year really impressed her.



*Amber's prom picture*



*With Grandpa George*

**Rachel Charmaine Nicholson**, 13, daughter of David & Angela Nicholson, granddaughter of George and Barbara Nicholson, was promoted (not supposed to say "graduated" until high school) from 8th grade at Marina Middle School in El Dorado Hills, CA on May 9th. She has been a strong student and remarkable athlete. She has been involved in cheer (including tumbling and gymnastics) for many years. A great honor for a Freshman, Rachel will be on the Varsity

Cheer team at Oakridge High School, joining her older sister, Veronica, 16.

*Submitted by Grandma Barbara*



*Mom, Angela, and siblings surround Rachel*

**Matthew Hargraves** was promoted from Mendenhall Middle School to Granada High School in Livermore, California. He was awarded the Top AR Award for reading and the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. In addition to school, Matthew enjoys playing indoor and outdoor soccer, basketball and video games. He is a Boy Scout, currently working on his Life Rank in Troop 931 of Livermore. Matthew is a grandson of Jenny (Nicholson) and Ted Reinke, and a great-grandson of the late María (Rivera) Nicholson.

*Submitted by his proud mama, Kimm*



Cousin Helen (Hernández) Darr had two of her grandchildren graduate high school this year—**Mark-Anthony Lyric Barry** from Lander, Wyoming, and **Taylor Alaine Barry** from Riverton, Wyoming.

Congratulations to all of our young family members for their outstanding achievements. They represent the future and they make us all so proud!



Submitted by Orlando Rivera:

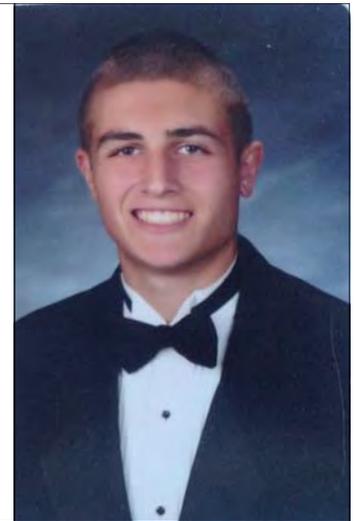


**Leana Marie Rivera**, (and yes the middle name is from Auntie Marie) my daughter, graduated from the University of Georgia, *Go Dawgs!*, with a degree in accounting. She is presently applying for positions, but is working as a server for an upscale restaurant and bar in the Buckhead District in Atlanta. Leana is a granddaughter of Isidro and Rosita Rivera.

Submitted by Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke:

Our grandson, **Ryan Reinke**, is graduating from High School and will attend West Valley Junior College for two years . He is following his father's footsteps.

Ryan is the son of Ken and Brenda Reinke, the grandson of Ted and Jenny Reinke, and the great-grandson of María (Rivera) Nicholson.



**Hayli Frosheiser**, of whom much has already been written in previous issues, graduated with high honors from Seward high school on May 18th. She is shown to the left with her mother, Kirsten, and on the right with her grandmother, Kathy. Hayli, who is a great-granddaughter of Anita (Rivera) and Bob Merritt, will attend Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska in the fall.



**Marlin Barnes** was chosen by the Benicia Unified School District to be honored at their Scholarship Awards Night, where he received two scholarships! The two top pictures are from that night. With Marlin are his father, Michael, and his siblings, Alura and Teal. His high school graduation from Liberty High was on June 5th. Pictured with him at left is his Aunt Marina (Ramos) Nelson.

Marlin, who is the youngest son of the late Angela (Warren) Barnes and the grandson of the late Olga María (García) Smith, plans to attend Solano College and transfer to UC Davis, majoring in Environmental Science.

## 2014 Rivera Family Reunion in Ponce, Puerto Rico and a Southern Caribbean Cruise on Carnival

This year's family reunion is going to be a Southern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Carnival Valor, departing from San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 22nd and returning to San Juan on the 29th. The ports of call are St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten. Randy and I have already booked our cabin on this cruise! Cousins **Papo and Ada** have stepped forward to offer their home in Ponce as the site for the potluck gathering on Saturday, June 21st. That way we can all be together at least one day since not everyone will be able to go on the cruise.

Two other couples, friends of ours, are also attending the reunion. All six of us are spending a week at Palmas del Mar, at a timeshare procured by one of the couples, Richard and Randi Wood. The other couple is Dave and Laura Friestad, who along with Richard Wood have been trying to learn some Spanish in preparation for this trip. They are very excited about meeting *la familia* and getting to know our beautiful Puerto Rico. I'm including their pictures below so that you can get familiar with their faces, greet them by name when you see them, and show them true Rivera love and hospitality. Richard and Randi are pictured with us on the left, and Dave and Laura are on the right with Mickey and their granddaughter.

*Este año la reunión familiar va a ser abordo un crucero que viajará al sur del Caribe, en el barco Valor de Carnival, saliendo de San Juan el 22 de junio y regresando el 29. Los puertos que visitaremos son St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, y St. Maarten. ¡Randy y yo ya hemos reservado nuestra cabina en este crucero! **Papo y Ada** han ofrecido su casa en Ponce como el lugar para la reunión informal del 21 de junio. De esa manera podemos estar todos juntos por lo menos un día ya que todos no podrán ir en el crucero.*

*Dos otras parejas, amigos nuestros, también van a estar en la reunión. Nosotros seis nos vamos a quedar en Palmas del Mar por una semana, en un "timeshare" procurado por una de las parejas, Richard y Randi Wood. La otra pareja es Dave y Laura Friestad, quienes junto a Richard Wood han estado tratando de aprender un poco de español en preparación a este viaje. Están locos por conocer a la familia y a nuestro bello Puerto Rico. Estoy incluyendo sus fotos abajo para que ustedes se puedan familiarizar con sus caras, saludarlos de nombre cuando los vean, y demostrarles el verdadero amor y la hospitalidad Rivera. Richard y Randi están con nosotros en la foto a la izquierda, y Dave y Laura están a la derecha con Mickey y su nieta.*



## Is This Our LAST Reunion?

During the past two years, no one has offered to host the annual Rivera Family Reunion, so for last year I made an "executive decision" and announced that the reunion was going to be at Disneyworld (since I wanted to go there anyway!), and for this year I chose Puerto Rico (since I wanted to go there anyway!). If no one steps forward to offer to host next year's reunion, I guess this month's reunion will be our last official one, unless I decide to pick another destination reunion. Watch out—it just might be at your house!

*¿Es esta nuestra ÚLTIMA reunion? Durante los últimos dos años, nadie se ha ofrecido auspiciar nuestra reunión familiar, y yo he escogido el lugar (Disneyworld en el 2013 y Puerto Rico en el 2014) basado en dónde yo quería ir de todos modos. Si nadie se ofrece a auspiciar la reunion del año que viene, creo que esta sera la última reunión familiar oficial... ¡a menos que me antoje ir a tu casa!*

# “¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit  
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Visit us on the Web at [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

## Birthday Greetings

Jayden I. Feliciano (12) - June 5    Meryem Merritt (63) - June 19    Lilliam Rivera (71) - July 11  
Máximo Carrasquillo (38) - June 5    Enid Rivera (29) - June 20    José Medina (64) - July 11  
Jeremy Carrasquillo (37) - June 5    Norma (García) Pettit (62) - June 20    Kayla N. Reinke (15) - July 15  
Nellie Feliciano (54) - June 9    Laurie Jimenez (55) - June 21    René Rivera Jr. (52) - July 21  
Annette García (31) - June 10    Tommy González (44) - June 21    Vickie Jimenez (54) - July 22  
Aluna Howell (3) - June 11    Jason Pineda (37) - June 22    Christina Krause (36) - July 23  
Joyce Montalvo (14) - June 12    María L. Feliciano (31) - June 24    Annalise Cruz Rivera (10) - July 24  
Alicia Rivera (32) - June 12    Scott Hargraves (49) - June 25    Cynthia Feliciano (36) - July 25  
Julia Cruz Vilá (88) - June 13    Cindy Nicholson (43) - June 29    Ada Rivera Segarra (34) - July 25  
Leslie Feliciano (29) - June 13    Alura G. Barnes (21) - June 30    Rachel Nicholson (14) - July 26  
C.J. Burch (25) - June 14    Angel Feliciano (19) - July 2    Fernando Vázquez (24) - July 28  
Emily Medina (36) - June 15    Elizabeth Rivera (18) - July 5    Paul Krause (69) - July 30  
Garnet Rivera (69) - June 15    Eric R. Stenroos (31) - July 7    Ethen R. Stenroos (4) - July 31  
Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves (51) - June 16  
Ken Reinke (51) - June 16  
Nelson Rivera (50) - June 17  
Carmen Nydia (Feliciano) Carrasquillo (58) - July 7

## Anniversaries

Jenny & Ted Reinke (53) - June 18  
Angela & David Nicholson (17) - June 21  
Angélica & José L. Medina (66) - July 9  
Edna & Edwin Rivera (10) - July 11  
Garnet & Carlos Rivera (27) - July 14  
Cindy & Christopher Nicholson (21) - July 17  
Joanne & Robert McLaughlin (17) - July 21  
Marina & Dennis Nelson (3) - July 23  
Randy & Norma Pettit (32) - July 30



8 ¡Feliz Cumpleaños!