



# NUESTRA HERENCIA

A HISPANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK PUBLICATION

## Voices in My Blood

by Charlie Fourquet Batíz

My parents came to New York from Puerto Rico in the late 50's. My mother, **Carmen Batiz Sierra**, came to live with an aunt. My father, **Carlos Fourquet Núñez**, stayed with his brother's god-mother after serving in the military. They had known each other from La Playa de Ponce, where they had dated before Dad went into the Army. They were later married and rented an apartment in Brooklyn. I was born on a summer day in 1961, a New Yorker with the voices of Puerto Rico in my blood.



Grandma, Dad, Mom, and me!

When I first initiated the search for my Puerto Rican roots in 1990, I dove head first into unfamiliar seas. I had never done this type of research, so beginning with what I knew about my own mother and father, I set out to explore what would be a distant and exciting past. As I corresponded with family members I had never met or even knew about, a whole new world opened up for me. I was no longer just a Puerto Rican living in New York...I was now a part of something vast and wonderful. A branch on a family tree that had strong roots in a often difficult past. A part of a family, history and culture where I could truly say I belonged.

Most of my family came from the town of Ponce; the **FOURQUETS** were from La Playa, the **BATIZ** family of the *barrio* of Marueño, and the **SIERRA** family from the rural town of *Guaraguao*. The Sierra's were a warm, loving family with humble

beginnings and the subject of this particular story:

It happened in March of 1994, on one of my visits to Puerto Rico to see my relatives. As always, the warmth of the island could not compare with the warmth of being with family. I stayed with my mother's sister, **Nancy Arroyo Sierra**, and my maternal grandmother, **Isidora Sierra Luna**. My *abuelita* was this perky 77 year old woman with silver hair and a smile that could move mountains. Her once strong and robust frame now frail and weathered by a lifetime of hard work and failing health. Her eyes were misty windows to a wisdom that can only come with age. The deep lines on her face and wrinkles on her shiny delicate hands, a testament to years of more hardship than happiness. My grandmother was the classic image of a Puerto Rican mother who had worked hard to survive and provide. Every time I leave the island I am left with the indelible image of her aged features and the sounds of her infectious laughter which I believe truly came from her soul.

One night we sat in the *marquesina*, the air was cool up in the mountains of *Aguas Buenas*, where she lived. The familiar sounds of the *coquí* and other night creatures filled me with comfort, a perfect setting for stories about the past... a Puerto Rican past.



My maternal Grandfather  
Pedro Juan Batiz Más

We spoke of my mother's birth and childhood; about my grandfather, **Pedro Juan Batiz Más**, and how they had met; about her own childhood; her own parents...and about a baby brother they named *Santito*, a sibling whom the family had lost contact with a very long time

(Continued on page 4)

## Preserving Our Past Through Photographs

by Ann Margret Feliciano-Duminski

A picture is worth a thousand words – or so the saying goes. When combined with genealogy it becomes not only a link to the past but also another piece of the puzzle that we call our family heritage.

How many times have we found shoeboxes spilling over unceremoniously in a closet or basement? As researchers we know the value of what a photo can provide us. Something written in the back like a date, a place or names are a treasure. The background of the picture can also provide clues of where the picture was taken or others in the picture could be family members you have never known about or seen. But more importantly it holds our family



An Internet page from shutterfly.com

history stories of long ago, depicting happy and important times. These pictures are great to look at and they're even better to share with the rest of the family. There are two ways of doing this and, whether you prefer a physical photo album or a virtual one, the choices are endless.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### PARRANDA 2006!

Our Parranda 2006 was a success! It was held in December at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, with lots of delicious food and great music by Lirica Borinqueña. Long time members and new ones too joined us to celebrate the holidays and end a wonderful season for the society. We thank all who joined us and shared food and drink. See more pictures on pg 9.



### HGSNY WORKSHOP AT LA CASA!

On February 17, 2007, HGSNY held a Puerto Rican Genealogy Workshop at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña entitled, *Y abuelito, ¿quién fue?* Conducted by our very own Charlie Fourquet, the workshop drew some of our own members and people who are familiar with La Casa's work. For more pictures and to check out other events, please visit La Casa's website at [www.lacasapr.org](http://www.lacasapr.org).



### Our Mission Statement



*The Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York* is committed to providing the Hispanic community with the tools and encouragement needed to help reconstruct their family history, while actively seeking and preserving the resources relative to their genealogical past.

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[eulogio@prroots.com](mailto:eulogio@prroots.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Next Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting is set for Saturday, March 10 at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña at 1 P.M.

The June member meeting is set for Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 1 P.M. at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña at 1230 5th Avenue, Suite 458, in Manhattan. The telephone number is 212-722-2600.

### Y abuelita, ¿quién era? Workshop at La Casa

Back by popular demand! Our workshop in February at La Casa was so popular, we decided to bring it back. *Y abuelita, ¿quién era? Discovering Your Puerto Rican Ancestors* will be presented at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña on Saturday, May 26th at 1 P.M.

La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña  
Brings back a popular lecture with.....

### "Y Abuelita, ¿Quién Era?"

Discovering your Puerto Rican Ancestors

Have you ever wondered about your ancestors in Puerto Rico? How did they live and work? Who were your grandparents? You've heard the stories since you were a child, now find out for yourself.

Learn how to chart your family lineages and discover the valuable resources that are available to help you trace your origins on the island. Discover secrets old documents can reveal and what you can find on the internet.

**Topics Covered**

- An introduction to genealogy
- Why research our family history?
- How to get started
- What documents can we use?
- Where are they available?
- Finding resources on the internet

This free workshop will be held at La Casa's, as part of the institution's efforts to help our community learn how to preserve its history and genealogy.

Spend an afternoon with us and learn how to find your family's roots in Puerto Rico, without leaving New York!

Seats are limited, call La Casa and register today, 212-722-2600.

Presented by  
The Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York  
on  
Saturday, May 26, 2007  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
at  
La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña  
1230 Fifth Avenue, Suite 458  
Corner 104th Street  
New York, New York

The Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York  
Old Chelsea Station, P.O. Box 474  
New York, New York 10113

Telephone: 212-340-4659

<http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com>

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*From the desk of  
President Figueroa*

Dear Keepers of the Past:

Welcome to a new year at the Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York! 2007 marks the beginning of a new presidency at the society and I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and to inform you of some ideas I have for the society.



*Photo courtesy of member Raúl Rodríguez, Parranda '06*

Let me begin by thanking our former president, Dr. Jorge Camuñas, for his leadership, dedication to the society and friendship. Besides being president, Jorge is one of the three founders of the society. Thank you, Jorge, for guiding the society all these years and for being our soul. Likewise, I'd like to thank my fellow board members and officers for your camaraderie. I appreciate your help and good wishes. Lastly, I'd like to thank you, our members, for placing your trust in me and for giving me an opportunity to serve you and the society.

For the next three years, I'd like the society to embark on the road to several goals. Foremost on the list is the need we have to secure our own place. Wouldn't it be great if we had our own space that we could call home, where we could hold meetings, conferences and workshops? Where members could stop by and do some research? Where you could consult a book that the society owns? Our society is growing day by day. Evidence of this is the column to the right, where we publish new members from all over the tri-state area, from other parts of the U.S., Puerto Rico and overseas. Wouldn't it be great if members from other parts of the country or overseas could join us at a meeting or an event at our place? My goal is to guide the society, with your help, to secure this "home of our own".

The society has had two successful research trips to Puerto Rico. I'd like us to continue in this tradition by offering similar trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, the National Archives in Washington, D.C., more trips to Puerto Rico and perhaps even Spain. These trips also serve another purpose: they allow members who don't live in the tri-state area to join us, to get to know one another and to exchange advances in research.

Lastly, I'd like the society to have a stronger voice in the Hispanic Genealogy world and to this end, I have accepted, on behalf of the society, to actively plan and participate in the II Congress of Puerto Rican Genealogy to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2008. This great opportunity will allow three great genealogy societies, Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Genealogía, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Genealogical Society and HGSNY, to come together to offer its members conferences, presentations and fraternization. Please look for details, as they become available, in this newsletter and on our website.

Please remember that we always need articles for this great newsletter. Allow us the opportunity to publish your article, family reunion summary, latest genealogical research or tribute to an ancestor. You know, within each of us there is a great story teller. Let the writer in you flourish. We welcome articles in English and Spanish. And, you never know how your writing might help you connect with another member. Your relatives are waiting to be discovered!

Again, thank you for your support of the society and for your confidence in me. I look forward to serving you.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Elena Marrero  
Bronx, NY

Gene Merklein, Jr.  
Charlotte, NC

Domingo Muñiz Rivera  
Hinkley, CA

Reinaldo González  
Brooklyn, NY

Georgina García  
Brooklyn, NY

Sonia Rosa-Vélez  
Herdon, VA

Alix L. Seguniot  
NYC, NY

Carmelo Reyes  
Alhambra, CA

Edna A. Medina González  
Bronx, NY

Henry Muñoz Fernández  
Bronx, NY

*Debbie*

(Continued from page 1)

ago. As it is with all who seek knowledge of our past, the wheels in my inquisitive mind began spinning as I probed for more information. *Abuela* was more than happy to oblige.

My great-grandparents were **Isidoro Sierra Velásquez**, born in 1885 in the town of Peñuelas and **Librada Luna Ortiz**, born 1889 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. They lived in the *barrio* of Guaraguao, where they had 11 children. Four of the children died at very young ages, susceptible to the illnesses of the times, and the lack of modern medicine. The surviving children were still very young when their mother, **Librada**, also passed away. The father, **Isidoro**, worked in the fields, made homemade coal and sold our version of "moonshine" on the side. He spent his full days working, trying to support his children.

Unable to care for seven young children alone, he decided it would be best to place the children in the care of family members, a general practice in those days. Santos, the baby, was left with his godparents, **Juan Vicéns** and **Julia Cádiz**. Juan and Julia were a childless couple who adored Santos from birth, and traditionally godparents were considered "substitute parents" in the event that the parents passed on.

Although the children, ranging from 3 to 16 years old, saw each other often, they were never really ever together as a family. Years went by and Isidoro was killed in an accident. Devastated, the elder children decided to reunite the siblings. All were accounted for except Santito, who would have been 8 years old. The Vicéns couple had disappeared with the boy. His brothers and sisters would never see their baby brother again.

Searches by the family uncovered that Juan Vicéns had passed away in 1939 and Julia had taken the child to New York City. New York seemed unreachable for many years, until the three eldest children, now in their early thirties, moved to New York in the early 50's. They found Julia's address and set out to find their little brother, and found the woman who had taken him so long ago. Julia, who

was unwilling to give any information on her "son", now 16 years old, pleaded with the sisters not to tell the young man who they were if they were to find him there. Unfortunately, Santos had signed up for the Army, with a phony birth certificate, and was stationed somewhere in Germany. Although there were repeated visits to Julia's home, this was the last they had heard anything about Santos.

I wrote every detail, sitting across this living witness to another time...the survivor of a past I could only hear or read about now. Her bare, flat feet swinging nervously under her rocking chair, while her sandals sat inches below. She wondered out loud about where her little brother was now....was he all right? Did he have a happy life? Where could he be? She told me that Santito had looked very much like her eldest brother, Rafael, and then she fell silent. Her teary gaze reflected her thoughts as she looked away towards the mountains outside her home. There was a distant look on her face, as if her mind could somehow reach out across oceans. She hand-brushed back her silver hair, never looking back at me. Unconsciously, the hand dropped down to pull the hem on her *bata* as she told me that she had always wished to have been able to see him before she left this earth. My heart ached as she lamented about never seeing him again. I had to take a deep breath. I sat in silence, a lone witness to my grandmother's pain, a numbing, recurring feeling that something was missing. A pain she carried and sustained through the years while she busily made a life for herself and for her children.

I began taking mental notes and decided to search for this man with features like those of my grandmother. Finding him and finally bringing him to Puerto Rico to meet his family. I was determined to find this lost grand-uncle. I looked forward to surprising my grandmother with his presence in a family reunion I was organizing for the next year.

When I returned to New York, I used every resource available to me. I checked out national phone directories, following up with letters and calls to all the Sierra and Vicéns' families in the New York area. I looked up on-line directories and a local mailing list company but got nowhere.

Frustrated, I wondered if it were possible that he or a family member may have passed away so I turned to the Social Security Death Index at the Family History Center. The index contains a listing of



Isidora Sierra Luna and daughter  
Carmen Lydia Batiz—1939

people who applied for a Social Security Card, but have died. A search of the index came up with a SANTOS VICENS from Ponce, Puerto Rico, born on November 2, 1928. I quickly mailed in a request for information from the Social Security Administration. This information would include parents' names and some other details.

A few weeks later, I received this much anticipated response from the SSA. I quickly opened the envelope...Santos Vicéns...father: Juan Vicéns, mother: Julia Cádiz! My excitement was glazed with bitterness as I realized this meant that he had surely passed away and I would be unable to reunite Santos with my grandmother at the family reunion. My grandmother's words echoed in my head, "I wish I could have seen him before I left this earth." All the dreams I had of reuniting this family were shattered.

While looking through the information

furnished by the SSA, I noticed that Social Security benefits were being sent to Sacramento, California. This could only mean that he had family, a wife, maybe even children in Sacramento. A new hope rose within me when I realized that I could still find Santos' family and Sacramento was the place to start. I requested a listing of Vicéns in California and came up with 6 families. I spoke to my aunt Nancy about how to word this letter I was about to send. I mean, I might be turning a family's life upside-down. I quickly sent letters to VICENS families there...the only information offered was that I was looking for my grand-uncle, his approximate age, birthplace, his "parents" names, and that he had been stationed in Germany sometime ago.

A week went by and I received a call from a very nervous young man who said that he had received my letter and felt I had been writing about his father, Santos Vicéns! **Christopher Vicéns**, the youngest of four children, described every detail, matching the information I had been given, and some I had not given. While comparing notes and confirming Social Security Numbers, I began to realize that I was now speaking to the son of the lost uncle I sought. We were talking about a man who was very much like my family in Puerto Rico. This was the family I had spent months trying to find.

But now I had the difficult task of telling him about the family and that his surname wasn't even his own. There was genuine shock that Juan Vicéns wasn't his real grandfather...I mean, they carried his name! But to my surprise, Santos had known Julia wasn't his mother; he had made trips to Puerto Rico several times to find his real family, unsuccessfully. He had spent many years wondering if he had family somewhere and sure enough, he did. Not knowing that his real surname had been SIERRA, he went to Puerto Rico and asked Cadiz and Vicens family members who knew nothing about his real mother. We spoke for over an hour, relating and comparing stories. Chris wanted to know more about his aunts and uncles, three of which were still living. He hungered to know about his cousins... he had always wanted a large family. It was the beginning of reparations on the

broken branches in our common family tree.

That evening I spoke with **Irmgard Vicéns**, Santos' wife, a warm, wonderful German woman whom my uncle loved and married in Germany. While still in the military, they had their four children. Santos, Jr. was born in Germany, Linda was born in Georgia, Michael in Taiwan and Christopher was born in Sacramento, where the family settled. "Henny", as she likes to be called, related sometimes painful memories of when my uncle had lived, particularly his wishes to have found his real family. She told me of his fruitless visits to Ponce and his undying need to connect with his Puerto Rican roots. My heart broke to think that he had left us just eight short years before. I couldn't help but wish I'd undertaken this project earlier.

Within the next few months we exchanged photographs and telephone numbers of family members. There were countless long-distant calls between us as they phoned new-found uncles and aunts, trying to catch up on lost time. I was determined for our families to meet in Puerto Rico for the upcoming family reunion being held in Puerto Rico on April 8th, on the week of my grandmother's 78th birthday. I invited my California relatives, hoping my grand-



Linda Vicéns in Puerto Rico

As the day of the reunion quickly approached I felt a nervous anticipation. My grandmother was made aware that her little brother was no longer with us but that we had managed to find the family out west. I sent her photographs I had received from the Vicéns family, she was so happy to know about them.

**Linda Vicéns**, Santos' only daughter, who had two children of her own, arrived in Puerto Rico on April 6th, 1995, excitedly

anticipating meeting other family members on the island of her father's birth. Aunt Nancy, my mother's sister, gave Linda a warm, tear-filled welcome. With language being the only possible obstacle, I translated sentimental words between these new found first cousins.....just a taste of things to come.

Tears flowed freely when I introduced Linda to my grandmother, her father's older sister. Thin, wrinkled arms reached out from a rocking chair in her bedroom as Linda came to her and knelt down in front of her and they held each other. The old woman cradled her niece in her fragile arms. Her voice, con-



Abuelita and her children, Abril 1995 during the reunion.

mother would meet her baby brother's family at last.

A year had passed since I'd first heard about my lost uncle, Santos.

torted in emotion, cried out sentimental expressions of love, welcome and joy. With tears streaming from her eyes and trembling hands, the younger woman clasped the elder woman's face exclaiming, "My God...I see my father in your eyes." There wasn't anyone in the room who could speak or contain themselves. They held each other in what must have been forever and cried, the older woman who had finally met the child of her lost baby brother and the woman who traveled hundreds of miles to see the family her father never knew. It was a moment I will not soon forget. They spent the rest of the evening out on the porch, catching up on family news and exchanging stories. I had the delightful honor of translating...so I didn't miss a thing!

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Linda attended the family reunion, showing pictures of her father and his family to these new yet familiar faces who had only heard of this *pariente* through stories they were told as children. Attentively looking for family resemblances, commenting on other members who had the same nose, eyes, hairline, etc. "He was definitely one of us," someone commented. She surprised us all with a video taken only months before her father's death. The whole family piled into the *marquesina*, uncles, aunts, cousins, sisters, brothers...and *abuelita*. We sat all together watching this man, with familiar features and an unmistakable accent. The only sound heard was that of his voice. Linda wept as she watched other family members' attention on this man who was "definitely one of us." I sat beside her and put my arm around her shoulders, I wanted her to know that she was home.

Three days later Linda, my Uncle Pepo and I prepared for our trip to the town of Ponce. We would visit the church where Santos had been baptized, unaware of what we'd find and how difficult it would be to find it. We arrived at La Catedral de la Guadalupe and walked into the administrative office of the church, uncertain of religious customs and afraid of what we'd find (or not find). The clerk there asked us if she could help and I told her, in my *New York* Spanish, that we had arrived from the States seeking baptism information on Linda's father. She asked for his name, I gave her his "birth" name, praying all long that he was there.

She began opening and peering through index and books. Our hearts swelled as she announced her find, reading this text written almost 60 prior..."SANTOS SIERRA LUNA, nacido 30 de noviembre 1926; Padre, ISIDORO SIERRA; madre, LIBRADA LUNA; y padrinos...JUAN VICENS and JULIA CADIZ." There it was, the people Linda had always known



My *tio-abuelo* Santos Vicens

as grandparents had in fact appeared in this old text as her father's godparents. Here was proof positive that we shared the same ancestors, the same voices in our blood. She began to weep, her hands shaking as she read the old handwritten testament of her father's birth and baptism to a family she could now truly call her own. We requested a baptism certificate for her to keep...She lit a candle in the church where her father was baptized and quietly prayed....My uncle and I went outside, for this was a moment for her to be with the Lord...and her father. It was the end of a long journey for all of us and a moment of confirmation and truth for Linda. This would leave no doubt.

I remember that moment, imagining my granduncle in heaven smiling down at Linda. I could just hear him saying to her, "You did it, little girl, you found the family. Now I can rest, knowing your mother, and my children will always have a part of me with them!" Linda looked at me and smiled. I think she heard him too.

As we left the church grounds, I'm certain that she felt her father with her. The little boy, who was once taken from his family so many years ago, was now reunited with his family in heart and soul. I'm certain Linda felt a sense of fulfillment as she held tightly this 6" x 6" piece of paper that validated her father's connection to this beautiful island and that this family that greeted her so warmly was indeed her own. A family at last reunited forever.

There are few wonderful and fulfilling experiences we share as family historians, like: uncovering new ancestors, finding old documents, records and family heirlooms; discovering connections to established lineages. I think finding lost relatives is the best!

The experience was one that I will never forget and one that needed to be shared. As family historians, ours is a rich and rewarding pursuit. Much of what we do is about uncovering the past but most of it is about finding our place in the present. Here lies the voices in our blood. The silent voices that vibrate through our veins and make up who we are and where we stand in a never ending line of ancestors and descendants. It is in our culture, our traditions and language. It is in our music, our hospitality and love for life.

When I close my eyes and think of my parents, grandparents and the ancestors before them, I can hear the voices in me... the soft echos of a difficult past, long forgotten.

A little over a year later, on October 3rd, 1996, I received a call from my mother's sister, Nancy. My grandmother was very ill. She had suffered a cardiac infarction which left her weak. I flew out to Puerto Rico two days later to be with my grandmother. I arrived at the hospital and sat at the side of her bed. Weakly, she looked up at me, her eyes tired and glassy and said "*cuidame a Lily*", telling me to take care of my mother for her. It would be the last time she ever said to me, and the last time I would ever get to call anyone "*abuelita*".



"La Catedral" Church in Ponce

The next morning, with her family around her, she took her final breath. As I stood at the foot of the bed, I felt my chest tighten. The other sounds of mourning around me became distant. A sense of isolation came over me as warm tears escaped me. It was finally over and now I would no longer share in her warmth and wondrous laughter. The process of life which begins the day we are born had finally ended for her, and with it ending an era. As I looked down at her now peaceful features I thought about the times we spent together and how much I would miss her.

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## EPILOGUE

Writing this from the same *marquesina* I had interviewed my grandmother for over five years, I look over to her favorite rocking chair, now still. In my mind's eye I could see her sitting across from me, rocking herself, palm brushing her hair back. Her wrinkled features, straining to bring out her words. Her thin, leathery hands waving about as if it could help her to finish her sentences. I could still hear her saying, "*I wish I could see him before I left this earth.*" Indeed she did, through the eyes of his children.

To think that just a little over a few years ago, family members gathered here for our first reunion in honor of my *abuelita*. On that day, she was the happiest person in the world. To have all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren together under one roof, and to know that her little brother's family would always be a part of all our lives. I wonder sometimes if this is what she waited for.

As family historians, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to be taken back to times long ago. To be recipients of the treasures that are locked up in the minds of our *viejitos*, treasures that would otherwise be buried with the bodies of our loved ones. In the times we sit with them, we learn about ourselves as well as about our past. The rich history and culture that makes us what we are...the voices in our blood that makes us truly Puerto Rican.

*Te quiero  
mucho,  
Abuelita.*

*....estarás  
siempre en  
mí...*



Isidora Sierra Luna—1994

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cfourquet@aol.com

## II Congress of Puerto Rican Genealogy

**From three roots one  
people with  
different paths**

**De tres raíces, un  
pueblo con distintos  
senderos**

In conjunction with the Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Genealogía and the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York, the Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York proudly announces the *II Congress of Puerto Rican Genealogy* to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico from July 31st to August 3rd, 2008. The year 2008 marks the 10th anniversary of the first congress and the 500th anniversary of the founding of Caparra, the first Spanish settlement in what is now Puerto Rico.

There will be conferences and presentations to satisfy our genealogical needs. If you didn't attend the last congress, this is your chance to make it up! This will also be a good opportunity to get to know members from all three societies, whether they live in the U.S., Puerto Rico or overseas.

So, keep the dates and begin planning your vacation. Please check our website and newsletter for the latest information.

**Save the dates!  
31 July—3 August 2008  
San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Conjuntamente con la Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Genealogía y la Puerto Rican/Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York, la HGSNY se enorgullece en anunciar el *II Congreso de Genealogía Puertorriqueña* que tomará lugar en San Juan de Puerto Rico del 31 de julio al 3 de agosto 2008. El año 2008 marca el décimo aniversario del primer congreso y el quinto centenario de la fundación de Caparra, el primer poblado español en lo que es hoy Puerto Rico.

En el congreso habrán conferencias y presentaciones para satisfacer todas las necesidades genealógicas. Si no pudo asistir al primer congreso, esta es su oportunidad. También será una excelente ocasión para conocer los socios de las demás sociedades, ya sea que residan en los Estados Unidos, Puerto Rico o ultramar.

Por favor, aparte las fechas y planifique sus vacaciones. Consulte nuestro portal en la red y este boletín.

**31 de julio—  
3 de agosto 2008  
San Juan de Puerto Rico**

## First Step

Organize your pictures. One very important factor in doing genealogy is to organize your data. The same is true with your pictures. First, decide if you want to work on one side of your family tree or on an individual. Then you can sort by time-frame.

because they are password protected. This provides an opportunity for a virtual family reunion.

## Fourth Step

Choose a format. Many of the sites that I will mention at the end will allow you to make an album, print and bind within a couple of days. Or you can do a

hand an on-line album is easy to create by following the site's instructions. And your finished product looks professionally made with glossy pages, vivid color and, depending on what site you use, there is a host of enhancements, such as fancy photo edges and decorative backgrounds. Another added bonus is that family members can also request a copy of the book to be printed at their expense. The cost of creating an online album can range between \$20.00 and \$30.00. The cost of a scrapbook after buying the album, pages and embellishments can run you about the same.

Regardless of which format you choose, don't you think that you owe your ancestors the opportunity to get out of the shoe-box?

## Some sites to consider

[www.Shutterfly.com](http://www.Shutterfly.com)  
[www.Kodakgallery.com](http://www.Kodakgallery.com)  
[www.Snapfish.com](http://www.Snapfish.com)



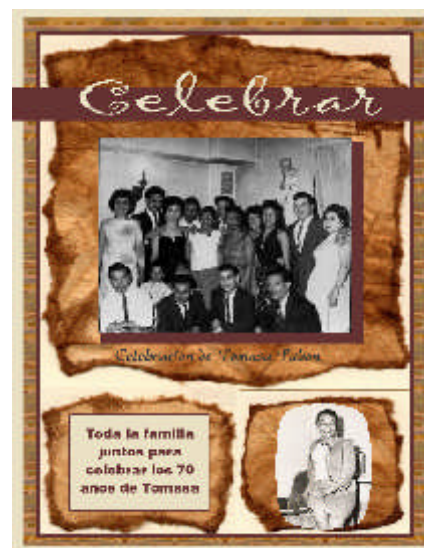
## Second Step

Scan or copy the pictures you will be using. This is something you should do anyway when a relative has let you borrow a picture. Some people would prefer not to use the original picture or document (for scrapbook purposes) and save them in archival photo boxes - sorted properly and labeled, of course. If you don't have a scanner you can go to Staples or Kinkos and they will do it for you. Keep in mind that if there is writing on the back of the picture you might want to consider scanning both sides, as this could be one of the few existing handwritten notes of your ancestor.

## Third Step

Uploading and sharing. There are many sites that allow you to post photos and invite people to view them. The majority of these sites are free and some allow you to set up a private site. You don't have to worry about other people viewing them

scrapbook instead. With a scrapbook you are able to incorporate mementos, such as wedding invitations, postcards, patches, coins and other items that would probably not work on an on-line album. I believe these items give a page a special touch. It will, however, be more time consuming. On the other



## NEED A GIFT IDEA?

Ever wonder what to get a friend, a spouse, a relative or your inquisitive co-worker as a gift? Why not give a Gift Membership to HGSNY? When you give a gift membership to HGSNY, you are giving the gift of family history to a loved one. You are enriching another person's life and helping build a legacy for the future. You are helping the society grow and furthering its plans and projects. Remember that recipients of gift memberships enjoy the same privileges as paid members, thereby enjoying the helpful articles of this newsletter, our websites, workshops and meetings. GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

# PARRANDA '06!



*Lírica Borinqueña*



Tyler picks raffle winners



Hispanic flags cake!!



Storytelling time: Christmas in Puerto Rico by Ann Margret



Executive Board with the recipients of Member Appreciation Award.

L-r: Irma Shedlock, Jorge Camuñas, Orlando Bodín, Debbie Figueroa, Hector Pardo, Charlie Fourquet, Ann Margret Feliciano.

Jorge is ready to begin serving *pasteles*



Dancing at La Casa de la Herencia Cultural



Photography Courtesy of Marina Ortiz and Raul Rodriguez Jr.

## Be a part of an HGSNY Committee!

HGSNY is hitting the floor running in 2007, forming two committees in order to concentrate our efforts to move the society forward in the next decade.

### HGSNY's Fundraising Committee

Our Fundraising Committee, headed by Vice-President and Treasurer, Ann Margret Feliciano, is mandated to:

- Come up with new and innovative fundraising ideas
- Work in fundraising product creation and production (t-shirts, etc.)
- Seek out organizations who give grants to non-profits like ours
- Apply for government grants available to non-profits
- Coordinate all fundraising activities that would generate funds

Open to all members. Please contact Member Secretary, Alice García, if you'd like to join.

### The "Home of Our Own" Committee

This committee, headed by Vice President Charlie Fourquet, has been formed to begin investigations into the availability of a centralized location where the society can:

- Provide members and visitors a place to do research
- Provide space for society operations and projects
- Store our extensive book and CD collection
- Allow access to our genealogical collection
- Hold meetings and workshops
- Receive and house donated equipment and furniture

The "Home of Our Own" Committee is made up of society officers and members. It is open to all members. Please contact Member Secretary, Alice García, if you'd like to join.

## Support HGSNY!

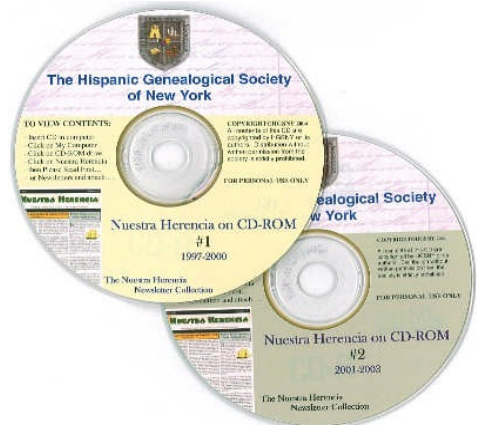
### Our New T's Are A Hit!



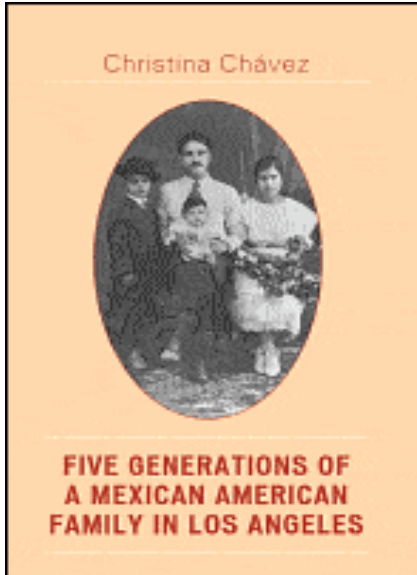
Member Secretary, Alice García, shows off her new "Discover Your Puerto Rican Heritage" T-shirt, with Annie Rivera Chupcavich, Correspondence Secretary, at our archives field trip to Puerto Rico, last October.

Get yours today. Spread the message, while helping the society! Remember, all profits will go directly to HGSNY.

### Nuestra Herencia on CD-ROM!



That's right! All issues of our award-winning newsletter on two compact disks. Saved in Adobe Acrobat format, you can easily browse and read or print your favorite newsletter in full color. There's even a search option to use keywords for specific references.



### Five Generations of a Mexican American Family in Los Angeles: The Fuentes Story by Christina Chavez

From the Publisher

Five Generations of a Mexican American Family in Los Angeles. An insider account of a multigenerational working-class Mexican American family in Los Angeles to explain Chicanos' persistent social status despite their citizenship and largely English monolingualism. Findings demonstrate that the interaction between race, ethnicity and class factors at home, in the labor market and in schools reproduces the Fuentes family's social status. Nevertheless, the persistence of Mexican cultural values over generations insulates Fuentes members against discrimination and economic hardship. Pub. Date: March 2007.

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## Membership Application

Please provide the following contact information and mail to the address below. Please include your annual dues of \$20.00 for a year subscription of *NUUESTRA HERENCIA* and your member benefits package.

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ADDR: \_\_\_\_\_, CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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*The information provided below will be a part of a database of surnames available to members, published twice a year for members. Thank you for your submission.*

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Mail check and application to:  
  
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Old Chelsea Station  
P.O. Box 474  
New York, New York  
10113

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New York, New York 10113



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at

**La Casa del la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc.**

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