

## **FRAGA FAMILY NEWSLETTER FALL, 2022/WINTER, 2023**

### **WEDDING BELLS**

Dean and Tea's daughter Martina married Kevin Doolan in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in mid-October. Most of their family was able to attend, including Martina's grandparents: Dan & Helen.

Elizabeth (Monique) & Joe Stahura were married on July 16th in Grand Rapids. It was a beautiful celebration filled with love and laughter.

Peter Fraga's wedding to Courtney Goldstein was August 13 in Seattle. It just so happened to be Paul Fraga's birthday. We're sure he and Eleanor were smiling down on them.

### **ROCK-A-BYE BABIES**

Veronica (Dennis) & Adam Jock are new parents of Mateo Michael Jock who was born June 27, 2022. He weighed 7lbs. 11 oz. 7 was 20.6 in. long.

Paul Robert Fraga IV was born 7/9/22, 5 weeks early weighing 5 lbs.10 oz. and 18.5 inches long. Needed a little help from NICU for a week but had a lot of people (here and "up there") pulling for him and, hey, he's a FRAGA. He came out fighting. He went home still only at 5lbs/10oz but within a couple of weeks he topped 7 lbs. and is doing GREAT! Big sister Gioia, Paul R III, and Rosie are also all doing well and thrilled the little guy got out of the woods so quickly given all the complications Rosie had.

Adrienne has a new grandchild! Her daughter, Natalie, with husband Ryan, welcomed Blair Kennedy on Sept. 19, 2022. She weighed 7lbs.9oz. Her sister, Cameron, is a very helpful big sister, and they are adjusting well to a family of 4 now. "Kennedy" is named after Natalie's dad, Ken.

Connie & Jerry's daughter, Allison, and her husband, Ray, are expecting a baby boy on January 7,2023. Alaina is very excited to be a big sister!

### **SYMPATHY**

Message from Monique: Thank you for all of the prayers and love sent to our family during the loss of Dave's father, Jack Anthus.

## **JOB NEWS**

Ramon Valdez Jr. was promoted to Senior Global Project Manager where he's been working for almost 20 years. His family is very proud of him.

## **FAMILY TRIP TO MORELIA, MICHOACÁN – FROM LEN**

Following in the footsteps of Martina & Valeriano and our parents/aunts/uncles, a group of family members traveled to Mexico to reconnect with our family in Morelia, Michoacán (we were like the monarch butterflies returning to Michoacán - "Las Monarcas"). Our family there (Laura Solís Chávez, José Mendoza Lara, Yolanda Chávez, Roberto Santillan and all of their families) organized several incredible get togethers with family members coming from many different parts of Mexico! Old bonds were renewed and new bonds were created with a commitment to keep our connections strong for more family members to travel and visit with each other, especially our younger generations.

We also experienced great food, the culture of Morelia & Michoacán, shopping in the mercados, tours of the city and an unforgettable & magical 10-hour **Noche de Muertos** tour. Be sure and visit the website for much more information and photos [Link to Morelia trip](#). And when you talk with one of those who made the trip (you can see our group photos on the website), ask them for their impressions and thoughts.

While Len and the rest of the group were in Michoacán, Ed Fraga and Ralph Fraga presented the Michoacán to Michigan film at an event in Saginaw, Michigan. How exciting to have our family story reach more people throughout the state!

## **Piñata party photos**

Please contact Len at [michoacantomichigan@gmail.com](mailto:michoacantomichigan@gmail.com) if you have photos from past Piñata parties. There are many years, especially in the early years, we need photos for our archives.

## **Our family website - [www.thefragafamily.com](http://www.thefragafamily.com)**

The fundraiser in April for the website was a great success! Thank you to each and every one of you who took part in some way - contributing items, making donations and helping to organize/promote it. More details about all of this can be seen on the website.

And because of the tremendous support we are able to cover costs for the next two years, work on a more user-friendly layout and organization and consider a couple of new features. So, in the months ahead, please watch for and participate when we ask for your suggestions and opinions.

Lastly, ***please register on the website***, if you haven't already (it's very easy - just create a username and password like you do for other websites). As part of our next phase of the website we are preparing for a two-tier access to the website - some basic access for the general public and restricted access that's only for registered members. This transition won't take full effect for awhile and more information about it will be coming in the weeks/months ahead.

## **HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Gavin Smith (Deanna) completed his 2 years as a US Naval honor guard with the highlight of spending his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday at the Super Bowl, 2022 in LA. He completed his A school in Mississippi for logistics specialization. He will be heading to Washington state to work on an aircraft carrier in June.

Danica Smith (Deanna) had 2 pieces of original art displayed at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial for the high school's "Future artist exhibition" of 2022. She will be attending digital art school as part of her high school curriculum next year.

## **FRAGA FAMILY PICNIC, 2022**

The family picnic was held on Saturday, August 6, 2022. The Jess & Pauline Fraga families hosted it. Approximately 133 people attended. Beautiful Mexican decorations were made by Madeleine Doucet (Melinda's daughter). Plus an Ofrenda altar to remember our deceased family members was so special! The highlights were Melinda Fraga and Cadence & Callum Dolan entertaining us with traditional Mexican folk dances! Great job by everyone!

## **FRAGA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our pinata party will be on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 3pm-6pm at the Commonwealth Club. (30088 Dequindre in Warren (between 12 & 13 Mile Rd.). As usual, it's POTLUCK & Cash Bar. The Jess & Pauline families are supplying 3 pinatas. Everyone else: please bring candy for the pinatas, a dish to pass, your own paper products, silverware, and serving spoons. (You may choose to bring your own food and not eat from the POTLUCK table). Hope to see you all there!

Thanks for sending your news.

If you are not able to attend, Merry Christmas, and a Healthy Happy New Year!

Love,

Cathy

Hola mi familia,

**Following up with an Addendum and correction to the newsletter sent last night.**

Correction: Page 2 about the Michoacan to Michigan screening in Saginaw: should have read Ralph Valdez (not Ralph Fraga).

Monique kindly shared her gratitude and impressions of the family trip to Mexico, so I wanted to share this with all of you.

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Thank you, Len, for all that you did to organize the trip to Mexico and reunite our family from Morelia.

To say this was an amazing trip is an understatement. We had the chance to discover Morelia in an intimate setting with family who welcomed us with open arms. We saw their lovely homes and beautiful community. The shopping was great and the food was delicious!

The family fiestas were filled with love, laughter, dancing, great food and many hugs! We felt welcome. It took my breath away to meet cousins and see the resemblance to Grandpa, Aunt Frances and many more. Whoa!

The tours shared the culture and history of our families. The traditional architecture of Morelia is beautiful. It is amazing how well it has been preserved. Oh, by the way the food is delicious! Some of the best tacos!!!

Dia de Muertos is extraordinary!

We visited Patzcuaro, a traditional town with cobblestone streets and many opportunities to shop! They had a festival set up and vendors making food. It was mouthwatering!

Walking through the cemetery you were a part of a celebration. Families gather to celebrate past lives with love, joy and affection, remembering what their loved one brought to the world. So much love!

Thank you to our welcoming family!

Monique