

## **FRAGA FAMILY NEWSLETTER/ Spring, Summer,2023**

### **Wedding Bells**

Katie Mae Fraga (Terry & Debbie) & Nate Huizenga were married in Hawaii March, 2023.

### **Rock-a-Byes Babies**

Stacey Brazen and Matt Dryke are expecting, with the baby due very soon (mid June). They have not found out the gender—they want to be surprised! They also bought a house in Oak Park.

Kaycee (Dennis) & Michael Odziana welcomed their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, a baby boy named Tatum Michael. He was born September 12 and weighed 8lbs.4oz.

Allison (Connie) & Ray Ewers welcomed their new son, Ralph in January. Alaina loves being a big sister!

### **Retirement News**

Linda Fraga (Joe & Helen) is happy to say she retired on 2/3/23, after 43 years of caring for others as an RN. She spent 3 years at Children's Hospital, one year as a Traveling RN, and 37 years at Beaumont Hospital. Congratulations!

### **Sick List**

Tim Checkeroski (Paulette) has had 2 carotid artery bypasses and open heart surgery. He is home from the hospital but has a long road to total recovery. He's been a trooper through it all! His family thanks you for your continued love and support.

Linda Fraga (Joe & Helen) had a bunionectomy and mid foot fusion. She was off work for 12 weeks, and had to have the right foot done later in the year, due to getting Covid from a patient. Linda says her feet took a toll for the 43 years she was a nurse. (She won't mention all the years of wearing those high heels shoes!)

### **School News**

Nick Fraga's (Elaina) son, Joe, is attending U of M Dearborn and playing baseball for them. Daughter, Avery, has numerous awards for swimming and is carrying a 3.5 GPA. Nick is very proud of his kids!

Juliana Hanna, (daughter of Jenni & Bret) is the first female wrestler at Trenton High School! She had a good first season! Juliana pinned two boys, and hopes to continue to train and develop her skills each year.

Aryn Dotterer (Carmen & Gary) is on a research sabbatical from Utah State University, and is working with professors at Michigan State and Wayne State Univ. to advance her program of research promoting positive development among marginalized adolescents. As an added bonus, Aryn got to visit her mom & dad on a recent trip to Michigan.

## **Family Get Togethers**

Uncle Dan & Aunt Helen are planning a get together with their immediate family on June 17 at their place. They expect to have all of their children, grandchildren and their significant others to join them.

Michelle's (Carmen & Bill) family and Steve's kids will go to Glen Arbor, MI for a week in July. They rent a house on the lake, and it has become an annual tradition that they all love and look forward to.

Julie, (Michelle) Ben and Kai went to California in May to visit Bobby. They started in Los Angeles for a few days, where Bobby lives, then they all traveled to Yosemite National Park. They were joined there by Ben's brother and his wife. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Steve and Michelle (Carmen & Ben) spent two weeks in Siesta Key Florida in March. They were able to meet up with Jeff, Melanie, Len, Bev, Adrienne and Bill one day for a Tiki Boat cruise, and had a fun day! Stacey and Matt came down for a few days too.

Dan, Amanda, Elizabeth & Sophia (Jim & Carol Radjewski) went to Orlando Florida. They experienced hurricane Nicole! Luckily, they only had 2 windy, rainy days.

Carole & Linda Fraga spend spent a nice afternoon with Len & Bev sharing stories and pictures of the family. They went through a lot of their dad (Joe Fraga's) slides—the kind you would watch with a projector and screen on a Saturday evening with the family.

## **New Homes**

Dennis Radjewski has moved to Richmond, Michigan.

He's only a ¼ mile from some of his kids and grandkids! His 9 grandchildren are happy to have him so close!

## **TRAVEL NEWS**

Helen and Dan had a wonderful 17 day trip in April. It started in Croatia and then a cruise along the Dalmatian Coast and ending up in Greece for 3 days. Some of the photos are posted on Facebook.

Jim, Gabriel, & Adrienne Radjewski went with the family group trip to Morelia, Mexico. They had a great time meeting our family members who live in Mexico for the first time!

Nikki (Christina) and Patrick finally got to take their Honeymoon trip to Europe and spent 2 weeks traveling in Italy and Greece and it was like a dream come true for them! Highlights were a tour of the Vatican and the islands of Paros and Santorini!

## **News From Len**

We have started a new initiative called **NextGen/Próx.** We are using social media to reach out to the next generations of family members to connect them with each other. Helping with this are Madeleine Doucet (Melinda's daughter), Nicolle Brennan (Adrienne's daughter) and Katie Fraga (Terry & Debbie's daughter). Please watch Instagram and Facebook for some get togethers this summer - while they are for the next generation, any/all are welcome! Our first is this Saturday - [Concert of Colors - Mexicantown](#). Our own Ralph Valdez is the Deputy Director for this event as well as the main Concert of Colors in Detroit - July 19-23 <https://www.concertofcolors.com/>

**Mark your calendars - Sunday, October 15th.** We will be having a special fundraiser showing *Michoacán to Michigan* at Vallarta Live in Southwest Detroit. The mission of this fundraiser is - *The documentary "Michoacán to Michigan" shares the story of how the Fraga family immigrated from Mexico in 1919 and successfully integrated their culture into the fabric of American society. Our mission is to inspire other families to share their own immigration stories, raise funds for organizations that support immigrant communities, and showcase the positive impact that immigrant families have had on American culture.* Go to [www.thefragafamily.com](http://www.thefragafamily.com) and our Fraga Family Facebook group for much more information and details.



## **Fraga Christmas party**

Approximately 60 people attended the Christmas party. Robert Valdez gathered the little ones to the stage and he had them singing Christmas songs. They, of course, loved the piñatas!

For those of you who like to plan ahead, this year's Christmas party is Dec. 17, 2023.

## **Fraga Picnic**

The family picnic will be held on Saturday, August 12. The Martin & Marilyn Fraga families will be our hosts. This year will be the 40<sup>th</sup> year of our picnics! Thank you, Uncle Martin, for your initiative to keep our families connected. As usual, it will be at Raintree Park in Troy (off of John R between 16 & 17 Mile Rd. Please bring a dish to pass, BYOB (no glass bottles), your own paper products, silverware, and serving utensils. Hope to see you there!

Thanks for sending me your news!

Love,

Cathy