

Fraga Family Newsletter Fall 2023/Winter, 2024

Wedding Bells

Breanna Spanski (Natalie) got engaged on May 14th, 2023 to Tyler Horvath. Their wedding date will be Oct 24th, 2024 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Rock-a-Bye Babies

Stacey Brazen and Matt Dryke had a baby boy, Jack Robert Brazen, who was born on June 14th, weighing 8lbs.9oz.

Peter and Courtney (Fraga) had a baby girl, Willow Murphy Fraga, on September 6. Mom & Baby are doing well. Grandma Lenore rented a condo near them and stayed there to "be available" while both parents transitioned back to work.

Gabrielle (Jim & Carol) and Trevor welcomed a beautiful Baby girl, Vivian Grace, on Aug. 8, weighing 7lbs.8oz. Vivian was born on her grandparent's 37th wedding anniversary! She made it to her first Fraga picnic 4 days later.

Julie and Ben are expecting a little girl on March 3.

Retirement News

Dean's wife Tea will be retiring at the end of this year from Ohio State University after nearly 30 years of service.

Sick List

A message from Lorraine: I want to say Thank you to our wonderful family for all the prayers, kind words and well wishes. All the out pouring of love has been an extreme sense of support. Best Family Ever!! Now for an update: I have been diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer. It is the same cancer I had 9 years ago. My Oncology Team is very positive and have already started me on a plan of meds. Even though there is no cure, they are hopeful for many years of me being around to push buttons!
Love & Thanks to all!

A note from Cathy: I also want to thank our wonderful family for all the prayers and well wishes for Harold during his hospitalization. He was recently diagnosed with Hydrocephalus (Fluid on the brain), so please continue to pray for him. We believe in the power of prayer and love all of you so much!

New Homes

Dean's son Stefan and his girlfriend Allie have moved to San Antonio while Allie pursues an optometry degree. Stefan's company is based in San Antonio so while he will still work remotely, he now has the option to come to work.

Daniel Fraga recently moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

Work and Travel

Coinciding with her retirement, Dean and Tea will be traveling to New Zealand in November and will be renting a house in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, for five months (till April). Dean is on a research leave (like a sabbatical) and will be collaborating with two researchers at Victoria University at Wellington. Tea and Dean will be doing some touring of the South Island in December.

More Travel News

Paul and Lenore went to Spain and Portugal in May to celebrate their 40th anniversary. They drove from Madrid, hitting the wine country (Logrono), Barcelona (and yes a stopover in Fraga along the way!), then to Valencia, Seville, Lisbon & Porto (with a stopover in Fatima) before returning to Madrid to fly home. It was a really nice trip- 25 days in all.

Teresa (Paul) met Elizabeth (Monique) and Joe in Germany, (where they were starting a vacation) and spent almost a week with them before heading to Amsterdam for a wedding. Then Teresa did some sightseeing in Belgium & Paris. She had a great time!

Miscellaneous News

Martina's husband Kevin just received his green card and will be pursuing American Citizenship in due time.

Special Occasions

Natalie (Elaina) & James Milliken will be celebrating their 10 year wedding anniversary on May 14, 2024.

Family Gatherings

Paulette, Tim, and the whole Checkeroski clan had their annual week vacation in Silver Lake in July. They enjoyed a week of bonfires, sand dunes, ice cream, and a whole lot of swimming!

Achievements

Rachel Nanni, wife of Dane Nanni (Connie), was recently selected for the Board of Directors for "Crime Stoppers" of Genesee County. Her career in journalism and public relations, and her commitment to the Flint community made this a natural step. Currently, she's in PR at Health Alliance Plan (HAP).

A message from Len --LAZOS

I'd like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers from our Fraga family & friends who helped our Lazos fundraiser on Sunday, Oct.8th be such an amazing success! Our family documentary "Michoacan to Michigan" was featured and was the catalyst for the event. I want to ask you to please take a few minutes to go to our Fraga family website: <https://thefragafamily.com/2023/10/12/lazos-ties-october-8-2023> to see the names of those who were able to be there. Their amazing spirit was a reflection of our family!

LEN ON LAZOS Contd.

And on a personal note, I'd like to say a special muchas gracias to Madeleine Doucet (Melinda's daughter) whose time, talents, experience and expertise were invaluable to me and the project! Also, thanks to our family members who were able to attend. An especially significant aspect was that we had many members from the 2nd and 3rd generations of our family present. I am very encouraged by the many younger members who are getting involved in various ways. It was wonderful to see such a great representation of our family giving back to the community of Southwest Detroit. A very nice article about the event appeared in the community newspaper "El Central" which you can find on the link above. Also explore our website: www.thefragafamily.com

The Fraga Family Picnic, 2023

The annual picnic was held on August 12 with a large crowd of 150 people! What a fitting tribute to Uncle Martin (who started the picnics) to be celebrating its 40th Anniversary with his family as our hosts. Great job!

The Fraga Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday December 17 at the Commonwealth Club, 30088 Dequindre in Warren (between 12 & 13 Mile Rd). As usual, it's POTLUCK & Cash Bar. The Martin & Marilyn Fraga 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 pass table.) Hope to see you all there!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CATHY

I HAVE DECIDED IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE FROM DOING THE NEWSLETTER

Delores started it in 1983(thanks Delores!), I took over in 2000.That's 40years(23 for me). It's time for a change. I'm getting older and having a hard time with computers! They don't like me, and the feeling is mutual!

I think someone else could do a lot more with it in this "computer age"! Perhaps someone from the younger generation or any age would like to give it a try. I only send it out twice a year. The family is pretty good about sending their news in. Let me know if you're interested. I can answer any questions and help you along if you need it; but it's pretty straight forward.

Please don't let this wonderful way of keeping our large family connected go away!

All my love, Cathy