

Dear Family,

I apologize for not getting out a newsletter in a timely manner. Please check the web site in the next week for updates and information. Also send me family news so that I will be able to send out another newsletter at the end of March. Thanks and love to all.

Fabiola

Maestas Family Reunion Newsletter November 2008

Hello everyone. It is almost time to get your vacations scheduled for next year. The reunion dates are July 9-12, 2009.

Need:

Update on addresses; phone numbers; email addresses. We have family members we would like to be in touch with again. So please get in touch with Uncle Abencio's and Aunt Demetria's families and the Zamora family to let them know we would like to hear from them and have them join us. Please let us know if you want to be notified by email or snail mail on the newsletter.

Please RSVP so we can be able to plan.

Thursday night meal will be cooked in the valley.

Here are some activities we are looking at doing during the reunion.

- We will have a map of the USA so that everyone can mark where they live. There will also be separate maps of California, Colorado, and New Mexico since those states have the most in attendance.
- We will be having our usual Christmas Celebration. The gift exchange will be for the children only (18 and under). Is anyone interested in doing an ornament exchange? If so, let Adelita Craig know (craigcjadelita@bacavalley.com).
- Come prepared for a pie eating and a watermelon eating contest.
- Learn about family history hunt. Youths will have to go to an adult for clues for information to win this game.
- A dance is being considered for Saturday night.
- The traditional games are still on: Volleyball – Horse Shoes – Baseball

Please let us know if you think that making a new reunion quilt would be something to do. E-mail the webmaster with your vote (webmaster@maestas-family.info). Check the web site for information about the last quilt we made in 1997. (See "Quilt Raffle" in "[September '97 Newsletter](#)", "Family Quilt" in "[June '97 Newsletter](#)", and the second and following paragraphs of "[February '97 Newsletter](#)". The [August '98 newsletter](#) contains the pictures of the completed quilt.

Family Updates:

- Phil Maestas, (son of Ignacio, grandson of Matias and Rosarito, great grandson of Cirilio and Cresencia) got married in July to Suzie Ann Dixon.

- Joaquin Maestas-Manuel (son of Christy, grandson of Cirilio and Vangie, great grandson of Jose and Clodovea, great-great-grandson of Cirilio and Cresencia) got married in August to Lorinda Castillo.
- Tim Valdez, Robin Valdez and Keith Royal (son and daughter of Elias and Micky (Baez) Valdez, grandchildren of Seraida Maestas, great grandchildren of Cirilio and Cresencia) were in Holman, NM during August.
- Melvin Maestas (son of Moises and Susie, grandson of Moises and Flor (Trujillo), great grandson of Cirilio and Cresencia) got married in August to Henrietta.
- Lulu (Maestas) and Fidel Valdez celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in August at La Luz, NM. Lulu is the daughter of Ignacio and Adela (Branch) Maestas, granddaughter of Cirilio and Cresencia Maestas.
- Fred Chavez, son of Sam and Martha (Maestas) Chavez, grandson of Moises and Flor (Trujillo) Maestas, great grandson of Cirilio and Cresencia got married May 2007.
- Mariah Maestas was home-coming queen this fall at McCurdy Mission School. She is the daughter of Annette & Kenny Maestas, Annette is the daughter of Cirilio Maestas and Vangie (Roybal) Maestas, granddaughter of Jose and Clodovea (Hurtado) Maestas.
- Great grandchildren!
 - Lulu (Maestas) and Fidel Valdez became great grandparents again. TI Montgomery (son of Tobias, grandson of Mina) was born in June and Arya Montgomery (daughter of Zachary, granddaughter of Mina) was born September 9.

Thank you to the various people who made special money donations for building tables.

Up-coming changes such as an increase in fees will be shared in the next newsletter. This is to off set inflation.

A committee composed of: Daryl Brillhart, Paul Maestas, Larry Maestas, and Barbara Rose met in New Mexico in August to see about becoming responsible for preparing for 2009.

Lori Maestas and Fabiola Esposito will work on the food but will not be in charge of the kitchen tent. Rhonda Valdez is also becoming a member of this committee. If you are interested and can give the time to this committee, let Daryl know darylb3@gmail.com.

Maestas Family Reunion February 2009

The reunion is right around the corner. July 9, 10, 11, 12; Thursday to Sunday at Los Alamitos, New Mexico.

Please RSVP as soon as possible

Family notes.

Daryl's input.

In June '08, the Brillhart family met in Chicago, IL to attend and celebrate the graduation of a new doctor in our family, David C. Brillhart, Psy.D. (Familia de Jose)

Dave (Davey as we remember him in his youth) received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology, specializing in Forensic Psychology, and will continue to live and finish his post doctorate work in Rushville, IL. Forensic psychology is the field where the law and psychology meet. Dave's internship for the last year was at the Illinois Dept of Juvenile Justice, a medium security facility for youth.

In addition to our folks, Floyd and Flo Brillhart, Joshua and I, and our Dad's sister, Aunt Donna (Gwynne), joined the celebration.

Congrats to the newest Doctor in the family.

Lionor and Predicanda Maestas Family update by Barbara Rose:

We are proud to announce the arrival of Isaiah Ray Maestas on December 11, 2008 born to Rachel (Bloomquist) and Ernest Maestas. son of our beloved deceased sister Yolanda Maestas and grandson of our beloved deceased parents Lionor and Preddy Maestas. Also sharing in our joy is Bercy Maestas. Isaiah was born in San Diego California.

We are also proud to announce that Rachel and Ernest were married in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Alex Saiz, son of John and Anna witnessed the blessed event.

We were fortunate enough to have a couple of family gatherings during Ernest's leave from Guam as we shared family gatherings with Frank, Dianna, Barbara, Candace, Austin, Amanda, Bryson, Alyssa, John, Anna, John Jr., Amy, and Alex, and of course Ernest, Rachel and Isaiah. This was a special blessing for us because it was a rare occasion for all of John and Anna's children to be together at the same time! During the holidays we also shared time with Jo and Guy, Christopher, Jessica, McKenna and Kage along with the Barstow gang and Ernest, Rachel, and Isaiah. I look forward to sharing pictures with everyone at the reunion.

Barbara Maestas Rose is now the Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Barstow Unified School District in which she continues to be the voice of the students. In addition, she has now been elected as the President of the California School Employee's Association for the Barstow Community College.

Candace Rose (daughter of Barbara Rose) has just received news that she has been nominated as an All-American Scholar for the 2008-09 school year. The significance of the nomination is that Candace will be a qualifying candidate who can apply for one of 400 Educational Cash Grants. Candace continues to strive for excellence as her GPA is 4.17. Her goal is to attend UCLA upon graduating from High School in 2010.

On a somber note, we are grieving the loss of our Step Brother, Lee Pacheco. He is the son of our beloved Step Mother Bercy and our Father Lionor.

Input from Larry Maestas:

Kevin Maestas (youngest son of Carlos and Lucille and grandson to Matias and Rose) has accepted a job in Afghanistan. He is scheduled to leave in early February for a one-year assignment. Kevin has been working as a mechanic at the Marine Corp Logistics Base in Barstow. The family would rather he not go but we fully support his decision.

Adrienne Maestas (oldest daughter of Pam Hill (husband Mike) and granddaughter of Carlos and Lucille) visited from New York over Christmas. She is working and going to school in Long Island. She's living with her dad, Mike Carson, and his family; wife Theresa and brother, Thomas, and little sister, Jennifer.

Barstow was greeted with snow in mid-December. The white stuff actually stuck around more than an hour and it allowed the many Maestas kids to get their first feel of snow. (The attached photo is of Andy and Marilyn's grandkids—Malachi, left, and Mariah after rolling around in the snow for the first time. They are sitting in front of grandpa and grandma's newly built house just outside of Barstow.)



Input from Rhonda Valdez

From Matias Maestas family in Colorado area.

In 2008, Janele (Jerry and Rosalie Valdez daughter- Cleo Valdez) and Daniel Santistevan had their baby, Daniel Kingston, on June 2, 2008. Robert Valdez (Louie and Elsie Valdez' son- Cleo Valdez) and Anita had a son, Isaiah Jacob on October 28, 2008. Both babies and their parents are doing well.

Kristen Trujillo (daughter of Kristy (Valdez) and Ernie Trujillo (Richard Valdez daughter- Cleo Valdez) celebrated her 18th birthday with a grand party in September.

Joshua Olguin (Catherine (Valdez) and Anthony Olguin's son) has recently received his blue belt in Karate. Alison Valdez (daughter of Michael and Rhonda Valdez- Cleo Valdez) was a beautiful flower girl in her cousin's wedding in Washington D.C. over Christmas

Holiday, 2008. Gina Trujillo (daughter of Marie (Valdez) and Robert Trujillo- Cleo Valdez) along with her children is active in the Teen Ministry at church. We all are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear mother and grandmother, your sister-in-law and aunt- Cleo M. Valdez on January 20, 2008. She is extremely missed and has left a great void in many of our lives. She is always remembered with joy and fondness for her unselfish acts and loving spirit.

We also lost Minnie Espinar James, she was the daughter of Demetria Maestas Espinar; granddaughter of Cresencia and Cirilio Maestas. She passed away in December of 2008.

Notes from New Mexico

In November 2008 Quemoso was recognized as being in the top 15 bands in New Mexico (Los quince grandes de Nuevo Mexico. See "Quemoso" at "[The New Mexico Latin Music Academy](#)".) They won for having one of the best songs in New Mexico. Joaquin Maestas-Manuel is a member of this band. Joaquin is the son of the late Christy Maestas and Joe Manuel of Arizona; grandson of Cirilio Maestas and Vangie (Roybal) Maestas. They also won el Hispano Music Association Awards instrumental song of the year, for the song El Vals de la Grama - newmexlma.org ([The Awards Show](#)) to check this out.

Christine (Maestas) Taylor fell and broke her hip. She is the daughter of the late Jose and Clodovea (Hurtado) Maestas. Her husband Dick and her daughter Carol St. John have been taking care of her.

Martha (Maestas) and Sam Chavez are looking forward to the graduation of their grandchildren this spring. Their daughter Connie's son Belarmino Romero and their daughter Samantha's daughter Beverly Bonney will be finishing school in Mora.

Andrea Maestas, daughter of Paul Maestas, granddaughter of Cirilio Maestas and Vangie (Roybal) Maestas is going to Washington D.C. this spring with her school.

Monica (Martinez) and Rick Maestas were in Las Vegas, Nevada in February. Rick was there for work and lucky enough for Monica to join him. They live in Virginia.

Fidel, Lulu (Maestas) and Mina Valdez went to Hawaii in December. They took a cruise around the islands. They also got to see where Fidel had been stationed.

Major Robert Craig and his family will be moving in June/July to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. They spent spring break in Disneyworld, Florida.

Stella (Maestas) Vasquez is in Albuquerque with her son Sam. Stella had been with Matt and Joan (Markham) Maestas in La Cordillera. Joan went to Ohio to stay with her sister who is not well.

Colorado Note: Donnie & Malanie (Maestas) Romero son of Rosalie & Jerry Valdez (son of Cleo) won third prize wrestling. Donnie and Malanie's sons all do well in their respective classes in wrestling.