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Star Smiles News

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Diana Santana

*Notes for the Portrait of an
Extraordinary Woman*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY REYES

Diana Santana

Apuntes para el retrato de una mujer extraordinaria

MARGARET LOUIS EVIA

La escritora nació en Cuba y reside en Miami

English translation by Raissa Soler available as a supplement and electronically



La biografía más sencilla contiene el argumento para una gran novela. Hasta el más materialista de los hombres, debe haber sentido alguna vez el impulso de convertir su vida en una relato, porque tanto en los sueños logrados como en las ilusiones perdidas han intervenido tal cúmulo de circunstancias que cuando se termina de pasar el puente, al mirar atrás, chocamos con los ojos escrutadores de un diablito que nos lanzan una risita tan cínica y enigmática como la de la Gioconda. Pero por suerte eso sucede en el momento en que el puente se derrumba y sea cual sea la respuesta que nos auxilie, ya no podremos volver atrás.

La historia moderna es la historia del hombre común que nos contaron Balzac, Chejov, Flaubert, Hugo, Tolstoi, Stevenson. Testigos de su tiempo, los escritores realistas fundan el relato de la modernidad. Desde entonces, nuestros héroes y heroínas son hombres y mujeres comunes. Pero antes de seguir el camino de lo moderno permítanme ir un poco más atrás, al tiempo de los mitos griegos, donde el protagonista del relato era superior al hombre común, pero la verdad resultante era una verdad humana.

Es un lugar común la idea de que la búsqueda esencial del ser humano es la búsqueda del amor. Antes de ser un lugar común, esa idea se presenta en la imaginación griega en el mito de Orfeo, el más excelso cantor del Olimpo que baja al Hades, al mundo de los muertos para recuperar a Eurídice, su esposa. En ese mito está la metáfora más extrema para representar el viaje en busca del amor: un descendimiento a los infiernos. Los dioses le conceden a Orfeo bajar, pero le prohíben, una vez que este allá adentro, mirar atrás. Si lo hace, no podrá recuperar a su esposa. En el Hades, donde ningún vivo había llegado nunca, una vez que Eurídice lo ve, empieza a llamarle, a implorarlo, a suplicarle a Orfeo que la mire. Orfeo no puede resistirse a los requerimientos y reproches de su esposa: vuelve los ojos hacia atrás y la mira. Y en ese momento, la pierde por segunda vez y para siempre. Un viaje, antes de convertirse en un encuentro con la luz, es un descendimiento al infierno. Como relato del hombre en busca del amor, en ese mito se ponen en juego el anhelo desmedido y el absoluto imposible. No debe sorprendernos la conclusión inviable que se desprende del desenlace: nadie regresa del mundo de los muertos. Pero es el sentido de la búsqueda del protagonista, su traspasar un umbral para desafiar el imposible lo que importa ahí. El relato de Orfeo en el infierno nos enfrenta a ciertas preguntas fundamentales: lo que nos determina a cruzar las fronteras, lo que buscamos, a donde nos condujo el viaje.

1) Diana's parents Odilo and Luisa. 2) From left to right: Diana, her mother Luisa, her father Odilo and her sister Magaly one week after arriving to Miami in 1980. 3) Wedding photograph of Diana's parents, Odilo and Luisa, on September 7th, 1952. 4) Diana at three months of age. 5) Right to left: Diana, her mom, Luisa, and her sister, Magaly.

Empresarios, políticos, artistas, miles de hombres y mujeres de diversas profesiones y oficios han asumido a Miami como su segunda patria y esta ciudad ha sido para ellos la posibilidad de un nuevo comienzo. Se dice, no sin razón, que Miami es una provincia de Cuba no solo por la enorme cantidad de cubanos que aquí vivimos, sino también por la notable presencia de negocios y tipicidades gastronómicas y culturales cubanas por toda la ciudad. La emigración cubana es una corriente imparable desde que los líderes de la Revolución de 1959 se hicieron con el poder. Y puede decirse que la historia del cubano desde esa fecha hasta hoy es la historia de una pelea cubana contra los demonios.

El relato del hombre cubano de los últimos 50 años, es un relato donde no falta el heroísmo, donde no falta el descendimiento al infierno, donde cruzar la frontera persiguiendo los sueños es una realidad para millones. Si impulsado por el amor a la familia, a su país, a la dignidad y la libertad de los suyos, el cubano es un Orfeo descendiendo a los infiernos y cruzando las fronteras entre la vida y la muerte, su heroicidad consiste en que ha regresado del Hades no ciertamente con su Eurípides, pero sí con una claridad mayor y una acrecentada fuerza para construir un nuevo camino.



1) Diana's First Communion. 2) Diana at age 11. 3) Diana with one month old son, Robert Anthony.

Si toda vida encierra una novela, la historia contada por los cubanos del exilio en Miami da para mucho. Hallaremos de todo: extrañamiento, nostalgia por lo dejado atrás, desencanto, y también historias coronadas por el éxito. Pero, excepto en los cuentos de hadas, nada sucede de la noche a la mañana, y antes de llegar al extremo del desencanto o del éxito cada biografía atraviesa por muchos capítulos, y de hecho, cierta intransferible ganancia existe en la vida de un perdedor, como cierto inconfesado desabrimiento abre sus brechas en la del triunfador. Nada es en blanco y negro y toda vida es la suma de hechos alegres o tristes, tristes, de logros y de desilusiones, de hallazgos y de expectativas. Cuando el carácter se enfrenta a la dificultad, y vence a esta, es cuando la vida obtiene sus mejores frutos. La vida que hoy retratamos está trazada por la dificultad y por el logro, por la perseverancia y por la entrega: la vida de Diana Santana vale la pena contarla por todo lo que hay en ella de admirable.

Diana Santana, nació en La Habana, Cuba. La historia de Diana es la historia de una persona común, como corresponde a la novela de nuestro tiempo, pero no por ello es una historia sencilla, sino que tiene todo lo magnífico, lo ejemplar y hermoso y de una vida dedicada a la superación,

al crecimiento personal, y es, sobre todo, un ejemplo maravilloso de constancia, de coherencia, de entrega a sus dos pilares fundamentales: su familia y su profesión.

Como heroína moderna, Diana hereda los conflictos de su tiempo, los sufre, y logra, gracias a su carácter y su determinación, sobreponerse a los obstáculos, logra superar las adversidades, cruzar el puente, y salir airoso de la confrontación con el pasado sin dejar que la ofusque la mirada del travieso diablito en el puente, ni la enigmática sonrisa de la Gioconda.

En 1959, con el omnipoder de los Castros en la isla, el desacuerdo de los ciudadanos ante la política imperante se convirtió en delito supremo. A los que no pactaron con el régimen les tocaba la marginación. Aniquilada la posibilidad del pluripartidismo, todo el que se opuso al gobierno castrista era juzgado por subversión, y el precio por realizar actividades contra el gobierno suponía muchos años de prisión. Entre los que pagaron ese alto precio por oponerse al gobierno cubano del 59, está el padre de Diana, Odilo Santana. Odilo desempeñaba su trabajo como dirigente obrero de transporte de pasajeros de Omnibus Aliados, en la ciudad de la Habana. Su actividad cívica y política había marcado desde joven su vida. Durante el gobierno de Batista sus acciones la habían costado detenciones, e incluso en una ocasión fue golpeado por los militares batistianos. Una vez llegados al poder los hermanos Castro, desilusionado del giro que empezaban a tomar los acontecimientos en el país, Odilo fue uno de los alzados en el Escambray. Llamaron así a un grupo de hombres que se fueron a las montañas en la provincia de Las Villas y armados, se enfrentaron a la dictadura de Castro. Odilo es capturado por los agentes cubanos y condenado a 20 años de prisión en cárceles de Isla de Pino y de Pinar del Río. Cuando lo condenaron por un delito político a 20 años de prisión, dejaba sola a su esposa Luisa Tamayo Salcedo de Santana y a sus dos pequeñas hijas: Magaly, de cuatro años y Diana, de uno. Sola, Luisa tuvo que hacer frente a la difícil vida cotidiana en Cuba. Y eran aquellas unas dificultades reales y básicas como conseguir lo más elemental para la subsistencia: alimentos, vestidos, zapatos. Luisa Tamayo tuvo que enfrentar no solo el reto de criar a sus dos pequeñas hijas, sino el dolor de tener a su esposo en prisión. Luisa se convirtió en ese soporte de amor, tenacidad y entrega que las mejores personas suelen mostrar en los momentos de mayor dificultad. Tal vez ese soporte, ese ejemplo es el que da lugar a que en Diana Santana se consoliden los mejores dones de su madre: la perseverancia, la fortaleza de espíritu, la entrega total ante las responsabilidades, el sentido del trabajo y de la superación. Del padre heredó el carácter de los que no se resignan, el indolegable corazón de los guerreros.

La primera vez que veo a Diana Santana, ella está trabajando en un salón del consultorio Mosquera Orthodontics. Puedo atisbar, por puertas que se abren momentáneamente, como trabaja. Se entrega de manera tan completa y dedicada a su trabajo que tal vez por esa razón los pacientes en el consultorio del Dr. Arturo Mosquera la adoran. Diana usa el atuendo de los médicos y profesionales de la salud, tan característico como un traje de cosmonauta: máscara, guantes, grandes gafas transparentes. Usa instrumentos indescifrables. Está inmersa en lo que para los neófitos es un misterio: la arquitectura de los dientes. Mecánica, ingeniería, arquitectura, un poco de todo eso hay en su quehacer. Al lado del doctor, Diana va haciendo ajustes y retoques, alcanzando una herramienta, levantando diminutos objetos con sus herramientas. Yo espero en el vestíbulo para conversar sobre su vida. Después de un rato, sale por fin. En su trato hay naturalidad, sencillez. Diana, ya desprendida de todo los artefactos y el instrumental de su trabajo, me invita a pasar a una oficina en la que iniciaremos el diálogo sobre su vida.

Cuando comenzó a trabajar en el consultorio tenía 23 años. Hoy es la colaboradora más antigua del Dr. Mosquera. En 1982 nació la clínica Mosquera Orthodontics. Entonces estaban en Hialeah y apenas unos meses después de haber abierto, Diana entra como asistente de ortodoncia. Hoy el prestigio de Diana como profesional, el cariño que le profesan los pacientes es inmenso. Ahora enclavada en el área de Westchester, la clínica

Continued on page 4



1) Diana's son, Robert Anthony, with their dogs, Sisi and Lili, during the 2009 Christmas holidays. 2) Diana's Dad's 80th birthday celebration. 3) 6th birthday celebration for son Robert Anthony with his cousins, Sy and Giselle, and Diana's parents, Odilo and Luisa. 4) Diana and Alfredo, her husband, at Universal Studio Park.

ofrece exteriormente el aspecto de una residencia familiar. Atravieso el jardín y llego a una recepción cálida y silenciosa. Desde el vestíbulo pueden admirarse cuadros de arte moderno y de vanguardia. El paciente y el acompañante tienen exclusiva ocasión de evitarse por esta vez esos cuadros de consabidas naturalezas muertas o de insípidas abstracciones tan frecuentes en las clínicas. Imagino que el arte provoca en los pacientes un efecto distanciador, ya que les permite olvidarse de sus propios dientes y divagar por las ironías, los cinismos y guiños del arte contemporáneo.

Muchos eran los retos que Diana debía enfrentar en su nueva vida. Había abandonado sus recién empezados estudios de medicina en La Habana. Se enfrentaba ahora a la vida laboral, tenía también que aprender inglés, y, desde luego, aprender a manejar. Pero tenía toda la fuerza y el ímpetu de su juventud para lograr sus propósitos. Con perseverancia y tenacidad consiguió hacerse en poco tiempo con todo lo que hacía falta para integrarse en su nueva vida. Su formación como profesional empezó en ese momento. Al respecto me dice: *Todo lo que yo sé lo aprendí con el doctor. Esta clínica fue mi escuela.*

En la época en que Diana y su familia salieron de Cuba, años 80, el gobierno cubano había establecido unos acuerdos con España y Venezuela para que los ex-presos políticos salieran hacia dichos países. Muchos ex-presos políticos tomaban esas rutas con el objetivo posterior de establecerse en los Estados Unidos. Una gran mayoría de ellos lo lograron. También para la familia de Diana, España o Venezuela pudo ser un destino posible. Pero la enfermedad de la abuela materna los retuvo en Cuba. La madre de Diana no quiso dejar a su madre enferma y la acompañó hasta sus últimos momentos. Por esa época también Estados Unidos daba un cupo de visas para los ex-presos políticos cubanos y sus familiares. El padre de Diana,

Odilo Santana, luego de 14 años de prisión en cárceles de Isla de Pino y de Pinar del Río gano por derecho propio el poder de liberar a toda su familia de aquella historia interminable.

Diana llegó al aeropuerto de Miami junto a sus padres y su hermana en 1980. Era un atardecer de marzo, época realmente buena, de primavera en este clima tan ardiente de Miami. Y llegaron con mucha suerte. Ya sus tíos les tenían su casa amueblada a los recién llegados. La llegada supuso la ruptura con un mundo. Atrás dejaba familiares, atrás quedaban las tumbas de los seres queridos, los amigos de la juventud. Se despedía de su casa natal, de las calles y lugares que habían poblado su infancia y sus años juveniles. Quedaba atrás el lugar de sus raíces. Cuanto deja uno al irse es incontable, porque es difícil encontrar una unidad de medida para las emociones y los afectos, pero así como dejaba cosas amadas y sin duda, irrecuperables, traía consigo la pureza de su juventud, la determinación de construir una vida mejor, la posibilidad infinita de recomenzar. Diana tenía entonces 20 años.

Mi primera impresión de Miami - recuerda - son sus calles...derechitas...asfaltadas, me asombraba la cantidad de luces, tantos letreros. Tendríamos que remontarnos a una ciudad como la Habana en 1980 para entender el asombro de la entonces jovencísima Diana que veía Miami por primera vez. La Habana una vez había sido deslumbrante, pero desde 1959 había renunciado a la modernidad. Desde entonces habían dejado de existir las luces de neón y predominaban calles en ruinas, derrumbes y, en muchas partes, una enojosa, permanente y amenazante oscuridad.

Llegada a Miami y comienza un nuevo itinerario para ella. Lo más duro, al principio fue el idioma. Tuvo que hacérselas con el inglés, pero eso no

fue un gran problema, ya que a los pocos meses, no solo estaba hablándolo, sino también haciendo estudios en la universidad. Una vez ganado la batalla al idioma, Diana no perdió tiempo y se matriculó en la universidad. En Cuba, había comenzado estudios de medicina. Matriculó en una escuela y obtuvo su Certificate of Competency for Orthodontic Expanded Duties of Dental Auxiliary Personnel. Pero su interés en la superación la llevo al año siguiente a matricularse en un curso de radiología, obteniendo su diploma en 1984. Estar al día en su profesión ha sido una constante y son muchos e importantes los eventos a los que Diana asistió desde su incorporación al consultorio. *Sí, he logrado muchas cosas, me gusta mi trabajo y estoy satisfecha al mirar atrás, pero también creo lo positivo es no conformarse, en este trabajo es importante reciclarse, y siempre hay metas nuevas, como en la vida.* Hablamos de lo que hace en la clínica, de su trabajo. Treinta años en el consultorio del Dr. Mosquera, una cantidad extraordinaria, le digo. Le pregunto qué ha significado para ella una colaboración de tantos años, si el signo de los tiempos es el cambio. Diana piensa un momento su respuesta: *Creo que la tolerancia, la responsabilidad y la fidelidad, son las razones de que uno pueda estar 30 años en su trabajo.* Unos días antes, a propósitos de Diana, el Dr. Mosquera, me dice de su más antigua colaboradora: *Diana es una persona extraordinaria, su contribución al mi práctica ha sido muy valiosa y su desempeño ha sido excelente a lo largo de todos estos años.*

Si para Diana el trabajo es una pasión, también lo es su familia. En Miami nacieron sus dos hijos. La hija, Natalie, acaba de graduarse de abogada. Es

muy seria y hasta conservadora para su edad, me dice Diana. Sin embargo, Robert Anthony, el varón de 12, es bastante distinto de carácter. Le gusta jugar al béisbol, su mayor afición. Y tú esposo? Alborotado y gritón, muy cubano, jaranero. Pienso que ella es feliz al hablar de su esposo, porque en ese momento sus ojos se vuelven más brillantes. Su vida transcurre entre su trabajo y su familia. Nunca más ha regresado a Cuba.

Hace rato sentimos un paciente en el salón. Diana no puede ocultar su inquietud por regresar a su trabajo. Es hora de irme. Sin acentos enfáticos, sin exagerar el valor de ningún hecho, Diana me contó algunas cosas de su vida. Más que en los detalles, fue en el brillo repentino que avivaba su mirada, en las pausas donde buscó la justeza para responder, donde encontré rasgos y tonos para construir su retrato. Como algo tangible flotaban en el aire las palabras que ella usara para responder a sus 30 años de trabajo en el consultorio: *responsabilidad, tolerancia, fidelidad.* En Diana la acción y la palabra me parecieron tan consustanciales la una a la otra como las raíces de un árbol. Hay lugares donde lo especial y lo único gusta hacer presencia, como la ciencia y el arte en Mosquera Orthodontics. Diana es también parte de esa realidad especial y única. Ella es extraordinaria. Ha intentado lo posible y lo logrado. Su sencillez, su completo desinterés en lo que no le parecía esencial me parecieron un hermoso rasgo de su carácter. También hermoso es ese don suyo de no estar interesada en hablar de sí misma.

1) Photo of Dr. Mosquera and Diana at the office, October 2011. 2) Halloween 2006, at the office with co-workers. 3) Office luncheon, Christmas 2001. 4) Diana Santana, photography by Reyes. 5) Taking care of a patient.





Nunca Las Olvido

This Star Smiles News is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mosquera's great aunts, Alicia and Elisa Méndez. These two ladies hold a very dear place in his heart since they were instrumental in his upbringing during his early childhood.

BY DR. ARTURO F. MOSQUERA

The memory of the house next door, or la casa de al lado, is always with me. That is where my two great aunts, Alicia and Elisa Méndez, lived. That was the Méndez family home, and my maternal grandmother, María Josefa Méndez de Pereira, lived two doors down the street with her husband, my grandfather Francisco (Panchito) Pereira, but the houses were connected through their backyards. My mother, Josefina, my sister, Ana Mari, and I stayed frequently and sometimes for a prolonged period at my grandparents' home.

In my early childhood, I spent a lot of time in that very special house next door. My great aunts did not marry, so their lives were dedicated to the children of the family. I remember how they spoiled me splendidly in my first years of life. They were always taking turns feeding me and giving me chocolate treats imported from Holland in between bites so I would continue eating and have a fully nutritious meal. Later on I recall their continually making a concoction containing condensed milk, egg and vanilla to fatten me up. This was a favorite!

Sometimes the kitchen was not so great as I learned other lessons. The sight of my aunts preparing to eat chicken for dinner was not the usual Publix experience. In these homes the live bird was sacrificed before our own bewildered eyes. But, such was life then. Now, as I reflect back, at least we knew what we were eating and it was a lot healthier!

There was plenty of vegetation with potted plants everywhere in the inner patio and also lining the hallway leading to the different rooms of the house. The absolute best was, what I considered, a magical fountain that housed several turtles. This was my very special place to visit with the great aunts. I loved the time we spent together each day watching and caring for the colorful reptiles with their beautiful shades of green, yellow and red. The other children were equally fascinated by the fountain and its inhabitants.

Beyond the fountain in the backyard, there was a swing and the back wall with a door that connected this house with my grandparents'. Beyond the wall there were many fruit trees like fruta bomba, mango and banana, and all kinds of exotic vegetation, as well as a barn type of structure for storage.

1) Dr. Giraldo Méndez and bride Graciela Plasencia with their wedding guests leaving for their honeymoon. 2) Dr. Mosquera as a boy at great aunts' house. 3) From right to left grandmother Josefa, great grandmother Leonila, great aunt Elisa, aunt Mery, my cousin Teresita Viñas (whose daughter Zaida, Dr. Mosquera was privileged to treat with braces over twenty five years ago) and great aunt Alicia with dog "Beauty".

During special holidays, whenever a pig was to be roasted, this backyard area was where the animal was slaughtered. It was revolting to hear the squeals but, by dinnertime, the horrifying sounds were forgotten and everyone joined for the sumptuous feast. Alicia and Elisa were always preparing something delicious for the children of the family who thought of this house as their second home.

The youngest of seven Méndez siblings was Giraldo. The other siblings of Alicia and Elisa were my grandmother, María Josefa, Pedro, Ricardo and Emilio. I always recall with fondness an aspect of family rivalry that seemed silly. Giraldo married Graciela Plasencia, and was practicing general dentistry in Pinar del Río. (Since and early age he influenced me to also pursue a career in dentistry. I have been most grateful to him for this. So, I am glad I have also been a mentor to my daughter Carolina and several patients who have also decided on dentistry as a career.) I also had an uncle, Dr. Joaquín Cabrera, who lived and practiced medicine in Camagüey. That city in Cuba was renowned for little sweets called suavecitos (dulce crema de leche). So, whenever he and his wife, Cira, traveled to visit the relatives, he would bring a stash of suavecitos. Before I was born, Giraldo, having been the youngest, always had his pick. After I was born, I became 'the baby' and Alicia and Elisa were always safeguarding my interests, as they saw it. Thus, the suavecitos would disappear and, when Giraldo showed up to claim his stash, he would ask his sisters if they had safely put aside Arturín's (as they affectionately called me) loot. This very funny story never escapes me or how I loved those suavecitos.

When my grandparents' three daughters, my mother, Mery and Teresita, clamored for a telephone at home, my grandfather, who was extremely wise, outright rejected a line at the home since he 'had enough' with the telephone calls at his huge general supply store "La India," but offered to install a phone at the great aunts' house en la casa de al lado. Problem solved, and the aunts were the heroines once again.



1) Cousin Lourdes walking by the potted plants in the outdoor corridor of the house. 2) Cousin Lourdes on the swing in my great aunts' backyard patio. 3) Cousins Graciela María and Lourdes at the fountain in my great aunts' house.

One of my favorite pastimes back in Pinar del Río, Cuba, was buying and reading comic books. Most of my reading time took place in the company of Alicia and Elisa. I had a trunk for storing the comics which were in one of their rooms. It was my "Treasure Chest."

When our family left the island on March 10, 1962 to come into exile in the United States, I left the great aunts in charge of my comic book collection until my safe return. That was almost fifty years ago. As the years passed

and the glimmer of hope that we were coming back home soon faded away, Alicia and Elisa did the right thing by giving away the comics to the many children who had no toys to play with or comic books to read.

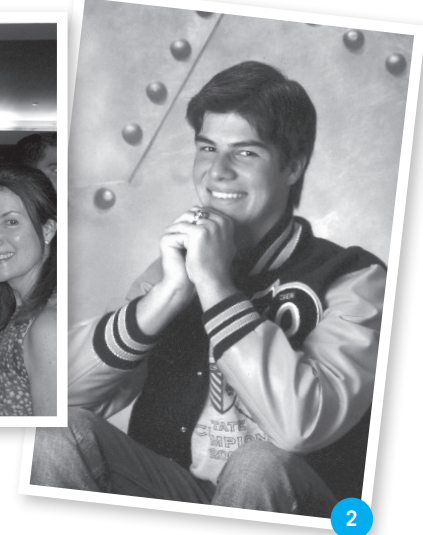
For their many years of love and devotion, I remain eternally grateful. The pain of having been separated from my darling great aunts, never again to see them alive, has continually haunted me all these years, but the beautiful memories of the two sisters will forever persist in my mind and heart.

PATIENT'S PROFILE

Patient is Valedictorian of Belen, Class of 2011

Congratulations to Nicholas Gonzalez.

BY ANI GONZALEZ



1) The Gonzalez family at Nicholas' graduation. To his left is his father, Julio, and to his right his brother, Alex, and mother, Ani. 2) Senior photo of Nicky in his letterman jacket.

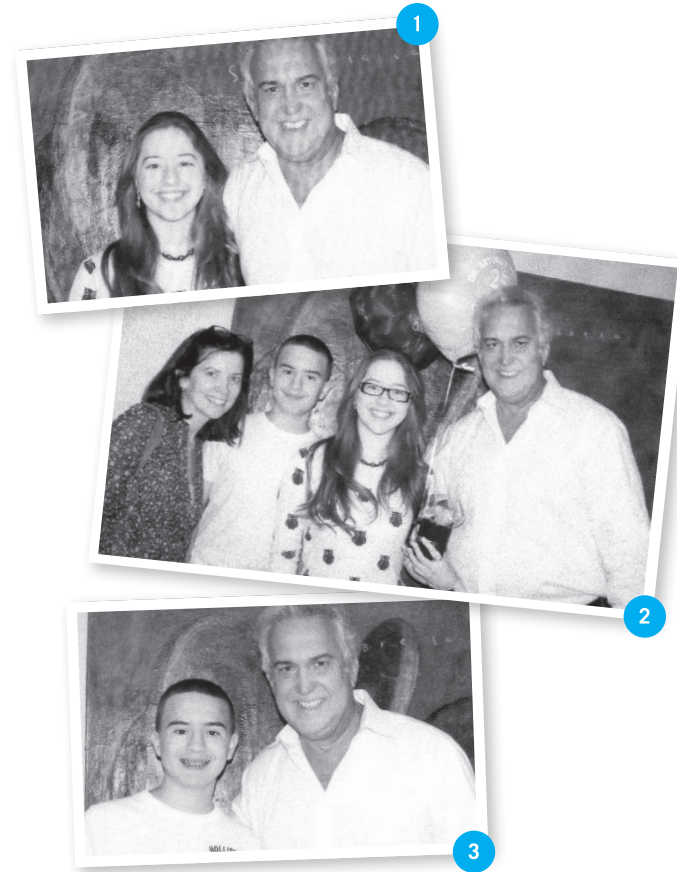
At his older brother Alex's graduation from Belen Jesuit in 2007, Nicholas Giraldo Gonzalez set out to equal or exceed his brother's impressive accomplishment of graduating fifth in his class. Four years later, Nicholas achieved his lofty goal and delivered an inspiring address to his classmates, their families, and the Belen faculty as valedictorian of the Belen Class of 2011.

At an early age, Nicholas (affectionately known as "Nicky" to his family and friends), excelled academically, while maintaining a balance between academics, sports, family, and friends. At Belen, he was a member of the crew team, rowing on the Freshmen 8 boat that won the Florida State Rowing Championship in 2008, setting a state record that still stands today, and placed third nationally.

Throughout his years at Belen, he enrolled in the most challenging courses offered at Belen while maintaining a rigorous rowing schedule – a schedule

that included 3 hours of practice per day, 5 to 6 days per week, as well as travel to numerous regattas throughout the State of Florida and the eastern seaboard. Nick also found time for his classmates, school, and community, serving as a peer minister leader throughout high school, tutoring some of his struggling classmates, and actively participating in various clubs and service projects. Though self-motivated, Nick's parents offered encouragement throughout and were influential in instilling in him the importance of education and hard work.

Nicholas is currently attending Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where he is studying economics and computer science and plans to graduate as a member of the Yale Class of 2015. Nicholas is the grandson of Dr. Mario Giraldo Mendez, Dr. Mosquera's great uncle and one of his mentors. Nicholas' brilliant smile is attributable to Dr. Mosquera's professional skill.



1) Alexa with Dr. Mosquera celebrating the removal of her braces. 2) The Cuevas children with mom, Diana, and Dr. Mosquera on this festive occasion. 3) A memento with Dr. Mosquera the day Ezequiel got his braces on.

First Time in Thirty Years

A Memorable August 16, 2011.

BY LIZA C. MOSQUERA

It has been a pleasure to treat the children in the Cuevas' family over the years and this summer they contributed to another office first. Alexa Cuevas had her braces removed the same day that her younger brother Ezequiel had his braces placed!

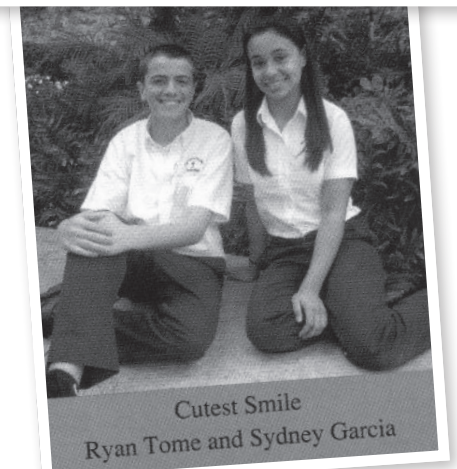
Alexa Cuevas came to our office in need of early orthopedic treatment (Phase I). After the completion of this expansion treatment, she spent a couple of years in recall observation waiting for the right time to begin her Phase II brace treatment. Once nearing treatment completion, we were performing finishing details and evaluating her to take her braces off.

Ezequiel, her younger brother, also required a Phase I expansion treatment. At the completion of that treatment, Dr. Mosquera also placed him in periodic observation visits until he was ready for braces this summer. It was just pure luck that their mother, Diana, scheduled him for the placement of his braces on the same day Alexa was finally ready to have hers removed.

Dr. Mosquera was truly amazed at the coincidence of one of the siblings getting her braces off at the same time the other one was having his placed! This was the first time in thirty years that this happened with two patients from the same family.

We are grateful to the Cuevas' family for the opportunity of treating Alexa and Ezequiel and having them as part of our family of patients.

SUPERLATIVES



Our Lady Of The Lakes Catholic School 2011

These Are Mosquera Smiles!

Another Two of Our Patients Selected as Best Smiles.

BY LIZA C. MOSQUERA

YOUSY JIMENEZ WINS BEST SMILE

Yousy Jimenez graduated in the International Baccalaureate Class of 2010 from Coral Reef High School. Along with another student at the school, she was chosen Best Smile winner and featured in the Superlatives section of their IB Memory Book. In Yousy's yearbook page they write "In the IB class of 2010 we have a few people that top the charts in awesomeness" and we couldn't agree more.

When Yousy came to our office for her initial orthodontic evaluation she was nine. At that time Dr. Mosquera recommended an early intervention with a bonded expansion appliance (Phase I treatment) with the use of a headgear. Her cooperation contributed to a successful treatment of a short duration. Yousy was placed on recall observation visits for a about three years while Dr. Mosquera monitored her dental growth and development until she was ready for her Phase II treatment with braces.

At the age of thirteen Yousy began her brace treatment and, as suspected, she was a great cooperator who finished in just over a year. She wore a positioner (exercise retainer) initially and "graduated" to retainers a few months later. Dr. Mosquera supervised Yousy for a couple of years with her retention appliances and commended her for helping us achieve her Star Smile results!



Arlene Cendan with baby Kameron Andrew Klute born August 30th, 2011. Arlene was formerly treated with braces by Dr. Mosquera and is someone very special and dear to the Mosquera family.



We congratulate our patient Susan Cole and her husband on the birth of her twin babies. Susan is a patient who traveled from London to seek Dr. Mosquera's expertise and experience in the treatment of her orthodontic problem.



Alette Barboza showing off her beautiful smile two years after her braces were removed. She is the daughter of Lourdes Barboza, a former employee of Dr. Mosquera's.



Our patient Bianca Cabrera's beautiful baby niece, Alexis Jayden

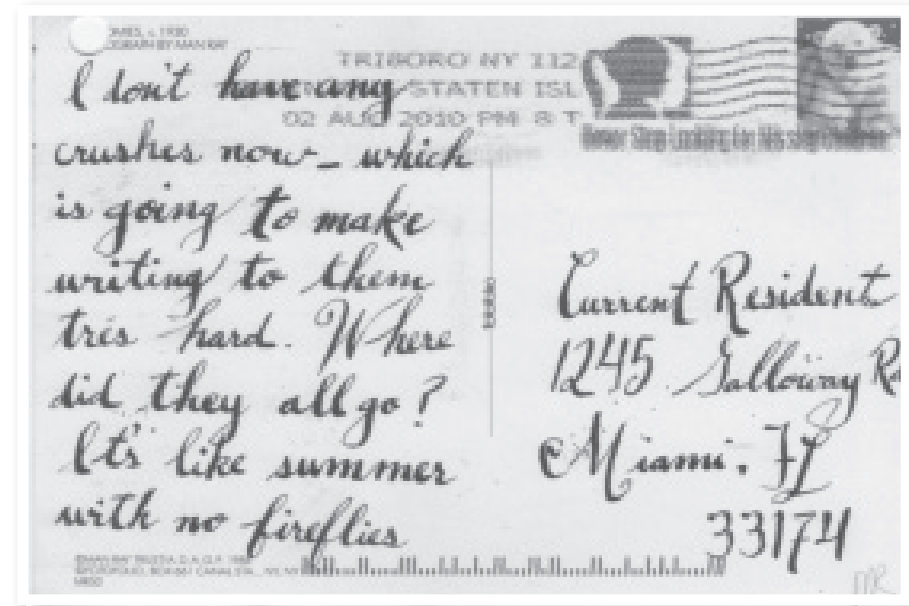


SYDNEY GARCIA SHOWS OFF WINNING SMILE

Sydney Garcia, daughter of Dr. Rick Garcia and Ms. Sandy Garcia, was voted Cutest Smile for 2011 at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School upon her graduation this year. She shares that title with another student in her class, as they appear in the publication of her school yearbook. Her effort and cooperation during her orthodontic treatment paid off making her the recipient of this exciting honor.

Dr. Rick Garcia, a general dentist whom we've had the pleasure of working for many years, has entrusted us with the orthodontic care of his daughters Sydney and Reese, as well as several other extended family members. Reese has been on Growth and Tooth Guidance and we look forward to placing her braces in the near future and obtaining for her a fabulous Star Smile too.

Sydney was treated by Dr. Mosquera first with a Phase I expansion at age 6 and later with braces when she was 11, which were removed in the summer of 2010. She was a wonderful patient and with a great disposition which allowed her to achieve a winning smile! Sydney is still coming regularly for her retention supervision and she is very responsible in maintaining her great results.



From the Series Postcards to You from Me (New York), 2010, calligraphy on found card, 4 x 6 inches.

Kerry Phillips

A reception for the artist will take place at our office on Saturday, June 5th, 2010 from 7 to 9 p.m. You and your family are cordially invited to attend.

Lately Kerry Phillips has been doing a lot of writing, recounting stories, short and mostly imagined experiences. Postcards: things I meant to say to no one in particular is from a series of postcards that she found and wrote while working abroad. Quite by accident, the postcards themselves read like an unfolding story of her time away.

For this show Ms. Phillips has continued to explore collecting as it pertains to communications, other people's and her own: often simple, sometimes trite & disposable, heartfelt, complicated or even unspoken. She explains she has never been a very good correspond-er and, as such, not very fond of leavings and goodbyes. She began to try to learn to correspond in the most elementary way – proper handwriting. While in France, Kerry learned to write just as French children do. She is now determined to learn fancy calligraphy, which she will use in many future correspondences. She writes that she is just at the beginning of this endeavor and “I don't even know what to really call it”. Both of her parents grew up on family farms in Texas. One grandmother collected things (kept things) and the other was a grand storyteller. Both influenced her greatly. She creates sculptures and installations using whatever materials are available in a given place at a given time – these range from things people throw away to collected experiences and retold stories. She often engages the public to help in the gathering of materials or uses their interaction in the completion of the work.

Kerry Phillips' work has been featured in numerous solo and collaborative exhibitions such as: Sometimes your things are my things, a project room installation/performance at the Art & Culture Center in Hollywood, FL in

2009; Crush Letters, performed at the Last Minute Performance Festival at Kawiarnia Naukowa in Kraków, Poland in 2009; Collected while here, a performance/installation at Galerie Aqui Siam Ben in Vallauris, France in 2009; Shadows, Disappearances and Illusions at the Miami Art Museum in Miami, FL in 2008; and Vacuuming Gave Me Carpal Tunnel, a project room installation at Locust Projects in Miami, FL in 2007.

Ms. Phillips earned her BFA in 2000 from Florida International University and her MFA in 2003 from the University of Arizona. She and her dog, Tonta, are currently living and working in Miami, Florida.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

“My general working practice involved finding and keeping objects for their potential. I've made a shift to a more immediate approach to working with materials and sites: finding, using and letting go. I've drastically limited my bounty of resources, forcing myself to rely heavily on insight, some good oldfangled farm know-how (thanks Dad) and my MacGyver-like resourcefulness.

This new approach has challenged me in every way, even in how I engage the viewer, which is now more direct in both scheduled events and unscheduled mini-events – like the recent farm tour I gave in downtown Hollywood where I guided groups around the parking lot pointing out and describing bits of my father's farm as if we were actually there; collecting phrases in French from French people in France; using masking tape to write large letters to crushes I've had; or by getting people to 'draw a line' for a bound book of 524 lines on 524 pages by 524 people”.



Lolita Coffee Cup I, 2002 MOCA permanent collection, mixed media, 7 x 24 inches

Pablo Cano

A reception for the artist will take place at our office on Friday, September 10th, 2010 from 7 to 9 p.m. You and your family are cordially invited to attend.

Pablo Cano is internationally recognized for his skill in intertwining marionettes constructed from found objects with performance art that delight audiences of all ages. Since childhood, marionettes have fascinated Pablo. At the age of ten, he was mounting elaborate plays for his family featuring puppets constructed of household bric-a-brac. His primary work today continues to center around the marionettes that he fashions from found objects, and the performance pieces he composes to showcase these protagonists. Cano employs numerous art forms in his work including oil and watercolor painting, fine drawing, charcoal and ceramic sculpture and is accomplished in each of these areas.

Bonnie Clearwater, Director and Chief Curator, MOCA North Miami observes, “Each marionette is a complete sculpture in its own right that is exhibited in the museum in its inanimate state; but when their creator and grand puppeteer Cano performs them, the figures take on a life force that causes the audience members to suspend their disbelief.” She adds “few artists can so convincingly transform inert material or provide a transcendent experience.” “Cano succeeds in these transformations because these marionettes are the incarnation of his own reality.”

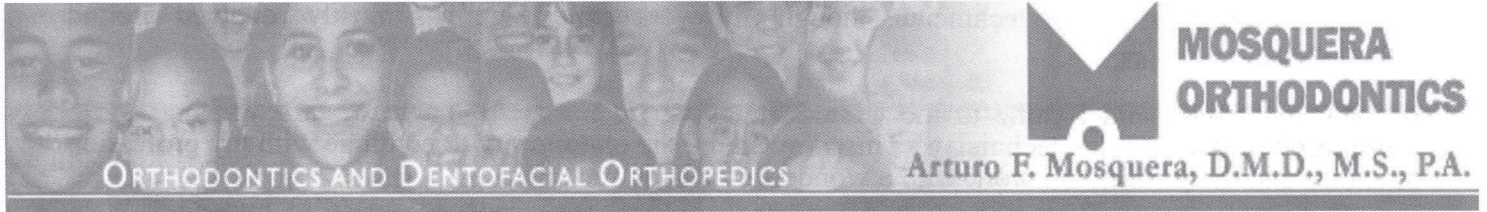
He earned a MFA from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1985 and has studied and worked in New York, Paris, Baltimore and Miami. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami, Florida has commissioned his marionette performances annually since 1997.

Pablo Cano's work is found in numerous public and private collections internationally including the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL; Museum of Art / Fort Lauderdale, FL; Lowe Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL; Cintas Foundation, New York, NY; Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, SUNY at New Paltz, New Paltz, NY; The Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, GA; The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN; Art in Public Places, Olympia, GA; Bacardi, Miami, FL; R.J. Reynolds Company, Winston-Salem, NC; Sagamore Hotel, Collection of Martin & Cricket Taplin, Miami Beach, FL; Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL. Miami Art Museum, Miami FL. Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL.



MOSQUERA ORTHODONTICS

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Visit our website: www.starorthodontics.com



It is our aim to provide our patients and their families with the highest quality of care possible. This questionnaire has been designed to help us evaluate our services. You will be helping us greatly by taking a few minutes to complete this form. This survey is confidential and your candor is highly appreciated.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The office is conveniently located	5	4	3	2	1
2. The waiting room is comfortable and attractive	5	4	3	2	1
3. The office is always clean	5	4	3	2	1
4. The staff is always well groomed	5	4	3	2	1
5. The staff is always courteous	5	4	3	2	1
6. I am always greeted by someone when I enter the office.	5	4	3	2	1
7. Incoming phone calls are answered promptly	5	4	3	2	1
8. The doctor and staff answer all my questions satisfactorily	5	4	3	2	1
9. The doctor and staff are genuinely interested in the patients	5	4	3	2	1
10. The receptionist is cheerful and cooperative in making appointments	5	4	3	2	1
11. Staff appear to get along well with each other	5	4	3	2	1
12. The staff is skillful in performing its tasks	5	4	3	2	1
13. I believe (I am/my child is) receiving excellent care	5	4	3	2	1

14. What do you like best about this office?
your staff! They are nice!
Nothing! Everything was excellent!

15. Use this space for any additional comments or to expand on your answers:
best! DR. MOSQUERA has a great staff and team! Thank you for all your help and thank you doctor for making my smile a success!

Thank you for your cooperation,
Arturo F. Mosquera, D.M.D., M.S., P.A.