



Huggable for
Eighty Years





The Puorro family was an ordinary one with four ordinary children until one day, May 20, 1928, when something special happened. God decided to bless this family with an extraordinary baby girl, not only because Florence was being overwhelmed by her three older brothers, but because He had a surplus of gifts and needed to distribute them quickly. He did so by giving them all to this one child, Claire. Then the stock market crashed the next year, so God decided to distribute His gifts evenly from then on, but that's another story.

Claire, in honor of your eighty years, we give you eighty years of memories. You have touched us all. We love you, we thank God for you, and we thank Him for making you so huggable.



Grandma always has Life Savers in her pocketbook for when we ride in the back seat together. And she always sends me new dollar bills for my bank. She made me an owl puppet with Harry Potter cloth that I still keep. **Elias**

I carry on the tradition today among my friends and family, making cakes for everyone's birthday. For any family member, Claire would make whatever cake anyone wanted. I always "ordered" Aunt Dee's deep dish cheesecake which had a thin layer of sour cream on top. All the Siani relatives especially loved the cream cheese swirl chocolate cake and the Italian ricotta cheese cakes. I also remember a popular 1970s wheat germ cheese cake phase. **Michael**

I remember the fun I had running around the grass fields behind your new house in Long Island. It was great to have all that space. But then the bummer: the guy on the lawn mower ran over the nest of baby rabbits. **Mike P.**



When I was a cheerleader in high school, we had a tradition of wearing hand-knitted socks. You were the only person I knew who could knit and you made me 2 pairs. I don't remember if I told you how much I loved those socks. I was so proud to wear them, because I thought they were the best knitted pair and my Aunt Claire made them for me. When they would wear out in spots, I would take maroon or white yarn and sew it in the worn area before a hole formed. I wanted them to last! I still have 3 socks in my drawer (I don't know what happened to the 4th one) and think of you every time I see them! Thank you again. **Deecy**

You could always count on Claire to enter a room with a great big smile and buzzing with lots to say. I always enjoyed her presence. Of course her laugh is memorable. People say that about mine, too! **Caryl**

Growing up on Locust Streets was a great atmosphere for us and those wonderful summers in South Floral Park with frequent trips to point Lookout Beach were a treat. **Flo**

Auntie Claire is our family's history file. Need to know something about the Porro family tree? Ask Claire. I never needed to, as sister Caryl and brother Mark took over this responsibility in our generation. For me, need to know something about our family tree? Ask Mark or Caryl. They would then ask Claire and get the story right. Although I did uncover a few things that Caryl and Mark knew nothing about, Claire may not either. Let's give it a try: Who was grandma Krause? **Mike P.**

The Historical Research Center *
Family Name History
Puorro

O nome de família italiana Puorro é classificado como sendo de origem habitacional. Nomes habitacionais são aqueles nomes de família derivados do local de residência de seu portador inicial ou do nome da cidade ou vila onde residia. Neste caso em particular, o sobrenome Puorro originou-se no nome de família "Porro", por sua vez derivado do termo "porro" que significa "alho-poró", a seu turno derivado do latim "porrum". Podemos, portanto, imaginar o portador original deste sobrenome como alguém que residia em uma área onde a mencionada planta crescia em abundância. Variantes do sobrenome Puorro incluem Porri, Porcini e Porcino.

Entre antigas referências a este sobrenome, ou a uma variante, encontramos o registro de nascimento de Carlo Porro, filho de Agostino Porro, ocorrido em Cruzosano, Milão, Itália, em 1660. Entretanto, pesquisas atualmente em curso podem encontrar este sobrenome já documentado em data anterior à indicada acima. Outras referências mencionam o casamento de Felice Antonio Puorro e Maddalena Sulli, celebrado em Civile, Cella San Dato, Foggia, Itália, em 13 de novembro de 1831; Angela Porro, filha de Lorenzo Porro e Scalerita Baber, nascida em 3 de março de 1858 em Antria, Bari, Itália. Entre nobres portadores deste sobrenome, ou uma variante, acham-se Agostino Parcini (1816-1863), militar e deputado italiano, e Giuseppe Parrino, tenente-coronel, também italiano, mencionado em 1844. A seguir, as armas deste linhagem.

BRASÃO DE ARMAS: De azul, três pés de alho-poró de sua cor, cabu um cesto em pala, guies em chefe; um chefe de ouro, carregado com uma águia sobre o negro.

CREDAÇÃO: Azul Demora Derchão: Ouro (emercio) Simbólica o pai e Demora Derchão.

TIMBRE: Uma águia estendida de negro, coroada de ouro.

ORIGEM: ITALIA

Celle San Vito, Italy



I remember first meeting Claire and the Puorro family at Locust street. Adolph Puorro poked his head in and said hello as we girls sat in the living room. **Gen**

Claire has always been warm and caring. She helped me a lot when I was a new mom with suggestions and encouragement. She had already been through it and her ideas were great. **Alice**

Going to Grandma's house was always a treat as we got to hang out with our aunts and cousins, enjoy ham and cheese sandwiches and Grandma's chicken noodle soup and always leave with a bag of candy to the joy of our family dentist. **Mark**

We used to meet for Sunday lunch near the cemetery or shopping malls. We had a good chat and then went our separate ways. When we couldn't meet, we would chat on the phone almost every Saturday. Thanks! **Flo**



I enjoyed meeting up with Claire and Dolph at Michael's in celebration of Elias' birthday. **BG**

Thank you for sending me a birthday card with some money in it every year. I always put that money in the bank and saved it for college. **Deecy**

Welcome to the "Over the Hill Club." It isn't as bad as it sounds. **Viola**

I have the Siani's spaghetti sauce recipe. At the time I thought it was quite interesting to use torn pieces of bread instead of bread crumbs in the meat balls. I took that recipe and Stella Marine's recipe and created my own out of two wonderful Italian sauces. My kids love my sauce today! **Caryl**

You and Flo are living proof that good clean living pays off. Damn. **Mark**



I remember receiving birthday cards when I was a child. Claire also sent cards when I had my children. I always enjoyed hearing from Aunt Claire.

Victoria Lynn Puorro Colbry

Claire was my "Go-To" gal for gathering any and all family history prior to my trip with Dad to Celle San Vito in 1995. The trip was fruitful for many reasons, and we finally learned the true story of Natale and cleared our family name. *Mark*

Aunt Claire and Uncle Dolph were always so sweet to send me money each birthday and special occasion. I still have many of those cards that always included a sentence or two about what they were up to. Thanks so much for all your thoughtfulness. *Caryl*

My mother was not much of a farmer. I could tell because every year she would root an avocado pit hung over a cup of water with 3 toothpicks to hold it up. It would sometimes grow a foot high. But I never saw any avocado trees growing in our yard. *Grace*



I remember you were great at taking pictures... candid ones and action shots! Very funny and real to life. And you loved to see others pictures. Sorry, I have not been the best at sending them. You are not alone. **Deecy**

I remember receiving birthday cards when I was a child. I always looked forward to my birthdays then because I knew that I would get mail from New York from Aunt Claire and Aunt Flo. **Catherine Ann Puorro Meado**

We loved having people over because that was the only time we got soda. Aunt Flo meant ginger ale, our favorite!! And cousins whether on Locust Lane (Porros) or Murray Road (Sianis) meant non-home-cooked food. At the Siani grandparents we got real Italian pastries from Little Italy, and at Grandma Porro's we got ham sandwiches on chewy bread with butter or mayo - a total luxury. **Michael**

Aunt Claire always had a smile & a warm hug whenever we'd see her. **David P.**



It was always a special time when you gave home-baked treats to Dad. You would share and give us half of your baked goods wrapped in wax paper. (I think I could part with a 1/4, not a whole half like you did!). I loved all of them; you are a great baker. I especially remember the pound cake and the whipped Cream Cheese Cake. I still make the cheese cake when I can find the whipped cream cheese and the Chocolate dipped in walnuts Butter Cookies at Christmas. Got any other recipes to pass along? **Deecy**

Stay well and healthy and enjoy your family, life and the many blessings that you have been given. You and Dolph are so fortunate to have had a milestone anniversary. **Viola**

We still have our wedding Savings Bond from Aunt Claire & Uncle Dolph. That's since 1981... I believe it still is earning interest. **David P.**

As we matured, people called us by the wrong name. I love the name, "Claire," so I didn't mind when they made a mistake. **Flo**



My mother was always sewing or knitting or hooking rugs, the last of which she left for the winter since the rug on her lap was too warm for any other time of year. But every once in a while, she would bring home a new pattern and lay it out on our living room rug, cutting out the pattern and then the cloth (usually in outrageous colors) with her "pinking" shears. I still remember those psychedelic colors from the 70s. One of them had the following written over and over the entire dress, "Never underestimate the power of a woman." And she sewed every dress she owned as long as I lived at home or was in college until I moved permanently to California in 1984. I never saw my mother in pants!! **Michael**

Claire always loved hearing about our family news, and we always had plenty of it. **Gen**

After we started commuting on the LIRR we had more in common as we became friends as well as sisters. We even got fur coats together! **Flo**



My mother also made the most of what I grew in the garden: tomatoes, bell peppers, Italian long peppers, corn, string beans, eggplant, squash of all kinds. She boiled, peeled, then ground the tomatoes into sauce by hand. It amazes thinking back on the work and the good food she managed to pull out of the garden. **Michael**

I am so glad that I visited Claire and Dolph in the mid 90's... stayed at their home... took a few excursions here and there with them. When it was time to leave, Claire gave me a big hug and told me I would always be family. I visited with Noel and Gen on that trip. They drove over from New Jersey to have lunch with all of us. **Alice**

I really enjoy our Christmas-time lunches with Claire and Flo. I wish I took more time in years past to visit more often because we have so much fun. **Mark**



Once I moved away from NJ and began traveling to Long Island on my own for visits, end-of- summer visits became a regular part of my schedule. It was my last opportunity to travel before the school year began and since it also happens to be the time of my birthday, I recall that you always had a birthday cake ready for me so we could celebrate. Here's my 28th thanks so much for it! **Laurel**

You know I love receiving cards in the mail so you drop me a postcard every time you take a trip and sometimes even between our weekend phone calls. I have loved the times when you sent me a feast day card for Saint Anthony and was especially touched to see the arrival in early December of a feast day card for St. Florence. Only you would keep track of those days from the daily missal. **Flo**

My mother likes to talk. As she gets older she seems to have more control. But I really think there were times that she could not stop talking no matter what. **Grace**



I must have been part of the wedding photo shoot with you and Dolph because I remember the lights and especially the way the photographer was making Uncle Dolph hold you for one shot. He could not hold you so the man made him hold one leg up and you had one leg still on the floor and your dress draped the standing leg so that it looked like he was holding you in his arms. It is funny that I was only four at the time, but I sure took that whole experience in. **Caryl**

I was so jealous that my younger sister got to be the flower girl in your wedding; I still recall how nervous Caryl looked when she came down the aisle; I was thinking, "If that was Laurel instead of Caryl, I would have smiled and thrown flowers." In fact, I'm sure that I would have been just as nervous and not nearly as cute! I'm still waiting for Aunt Flo to come through so I can be a flower girl. Guess that probably won't happen! **Laurel**

I was honored to be your Maid of Honor at your wedding at Our Lady of Victory. I still remember that the blue velvet dress I wore was just right for me. **Flo**



My mother is a faithful church goer. Though she did not need to join any organizations to socialize, she somehow found herself cleaning the altar at our local parish when she joined the Rosarians. She even brought home Priests' vestments to clean and iron. It was way more work than she could really handle, but she felt obligated. As time went by, she limited herself to cleaning the altar. Even when she moved to a new neighborhood (in her sixties) she could not give up cleaning the altar at the old parish. She continued to drive back there to do her work. I am not sure if she cleans the altar at the new parish too. **Grace**

There were a few funny cake mishaps, as my mother with three kids racing around the circle of the dining room, living room, and kitchen managed to distract her. She always told us not to "bounce" so as to prevent any cake from collapsing, but there were a few times when she left out a key ingredient, discovering it only after the cake was "done." Unfortunately, one cannot leave out a key ingredient and expect a cake to be edible.

Michael



It was great to have you and Aunt Flo at our surprise 70th birthday party for dad. We all almost witnessed a heart attack as he was truly shocked... speechless in fact. **Mark**

When we young, Mom had to go into the hospital for several days for surgery. She made sandwiches ahead of time, wrapping them and stacking them in the freezer so we had our lunch ready every day for school for a week. Even though I was only ten at the time, I still remember those sandwiches neatly wrapped in waxed paper in the freezer. And frankly, I don't know what my father would have done without them prepared ahead of time. As it was, we kids were horrified when he tried to give us warm milk (yuck) right before bed. **Michael**

Your Dad loved to play the flute and Flo at the piano and me singing was one of the many events I remember - it's possible we drove everyone out of the house with our noise. **Viola**



Over the years, you always asked what kind of birthday cake I'd like; thanks for hosting my parties all these years. **Flo**

My mother made almost every meal we ate growing up. To this day, people are left slack-jawed when I tell them we went out to eat twice in our childhood. Even Elias, wants to confirm, "You mean twice a week, right?" Nope. My mother cooked ethnic themed meals every night. I especially disliked the corned beef and cabbage and boiled potatoes (Irish) night, where I didn't enjoy any of the items. But my friends in high school sure appreciated coming over for her baked goods, which she even tailored to the tastes of my friends. Jeff W. didn't particularly like walnuts in brownies, so she left them out for him! Who knew we had it so good. We especially loved those Italian meals, which made up the majority of them. Not eating out probably explains why I was always so thin as a kid. **Michael**



I felt very privileged to be presented with Grandpa's flute. Aunt Claire gave it to me for maybe Emily to use in grammar school. She gave us the fife too and Emily played that beautifully. We still have both and have the great story of Grandpa playing them under the tree with all the kids around him like the Pipe Piper. **Caryl**

Thanks for having a great name that I could be named after! I love the name Claire, and now one of my daughters, Shea Claire, also follows after you. **Deecy**

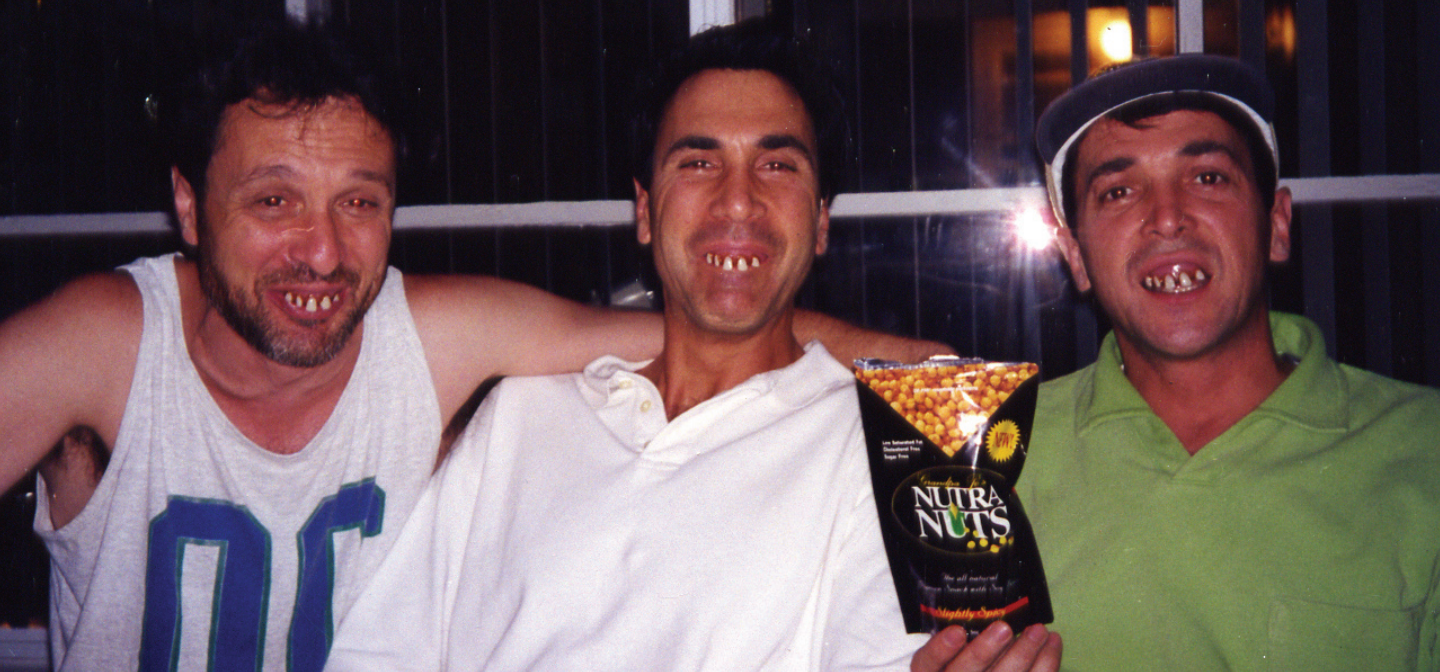
Over the years she sent cards and short letters here and they're keeping me in touch with what was happening. Claire has been more of a sister than sister-in-law. I will always be thankful she was, as is, there. **Alice**

Flo has her scarves, Claire has her camera... always! **Mark**



I love to read. Books, magazines, pamphlets, cereal boxes, candy wrappers -- anything. Claire found this out soon after I married Grace. Grace and I have never subscribed to a newspaper but whenever we visited the Siani household I always tried to find an excuse to read the copies of the New York Times that were always in the living room -- in spite of how antisocial it was. Before long, without me asking, Claire started collecting the New York Times Book Review sections for me. When we visit her, or she visits us, she always has the most recent ones gathered together in a shopping bag for me. Whenever I see that shopping bag full of Book Reviews it always makes me feel loved. Because of her thoughtfulness I have read almost every New York Times Book Review in the last ten years. This is really a treat for me. In fact, I have purchased very few books in the last ten years since I feel I know all about most of them already from reading the Book Reviews! **Larry**

You have a terrific sense of humor. It's always an at home feeling when we're together with Claire. **Mark**



Take it from us. These things are great. They don't hurt your teeth or nothing. And you are "Hot" too! Happy Birthday! **Three Sexy Guys**

I loved that you and Dolph actually joined us on one of our reunions when you made it up to Naraganset (Mark you gotta check the spelling for me). It was great to have you both spend some time with us! Visiting the topiary gardens was fun, but the highlight was the wineries. We all appreciated you taking the long trip up to Rhode Island. **Mike P.**

In Tucson, grandma walked slowly while grandpa and I trekked ahead on long walks in the morning. **Elias**

I have always appreciated Aunt Claire's stories about our family and all of the members. She is definitely the historian of the Porro roots. **Caryl**



Happy Birthday Claire!

When we all worked in New York in later years I used to tell you about my job and eventually you ended up working for the same man who hired me. I believe you were his secretary. Remember "Chic" Abry? **Viola**

When I got married I found out at the wedding that Aunt Claire and Uncle Dolph were celebrating their 15 wedding anniversary on the 28th. Isn't that something. I did not know that at the time we planned it. **Caryl**

My mother is not a great musician. She did study piano in her youth, so it should not be a surprise that she loves Mozart. But I am not sure if many people know that she used to enjoy listening to Pink Floyd with me in the seventies. And even enjoyed new wave music in the eighties. I can only imagine what she listens to in private now that it is 2008! **Grace**



I remember you and Dolph dance at our wedding. I think you two danced the whole night! You were very fun to watch. **Deecy**

I appreciate you and your camera, especially when you took shots on difficult occasions. **Mark**

I think my mother likes to bake. At least she likes giving home baked goods to everyone she knows. Maybe that is why she has so many friends. But I must admit, she has never been a great baker. In fact, throughout my youth and adulthood, she has burned or made many cakes that never rose. Some cakes were black as coal while others were flat and hard as pieces of slate. My family always loved when this happened though, because it meant that she would have to bake another one for whomever she baked the cake for originally. And we always got to enjoy the ruined cake. After a while I really developed a taste for heavy dense unrisen cake. And my father, to this day, loves burned cakes and cookies. **Grace**



Mom was the only adult (age 40) who had braces in Plainview. She had these terrible teeth, where one side was an overbite and the other an underbite. So, when my classmates were getting braces, my mother had them. She would cook regular meals for the family and then take her portion and put it through the blender. If dinner were ham, peas and potatoes, she would have three piles on her plate: pink ham, green peas, and white potatoes. We thought it was the coolest thing, kind of astronaut food. After years of begging her to do the same for us, she finally relented. Boy, were we disappointed when we found out that it tasted exactly like the regular food!! **Michael**

I remember Aunt Claire supported my christian rock band "Exit Up" when we travelled to Peru to do ministry. **John Edward Puorro**



You and Flo were the only aunts that Noel's kids ever had and you set the example for me to pass on "aunt-ship" to my eleven nieces and nephews and a few godchildren from friends along the way. You always remember our birthdays with a card that arrives early; a pretty good track record for 57 years. Thanks to your example, my birthday card budget has been a pretty hefty one since I first became an aunt in 1976. **Laurel**

Dad would talk to me about Claire and other relatives. He had respect for her. Even though we didn't see the east coast relatives, he talked about Noel, Claire, Flo, Gene, Audrey and their children to us. **Cathy Puorro Meado**

I don't recall much of your early years - you must have been a good baby cause you didn't capture the attention of one a few years older than you. I do remember lots of special things at the Puorro household and most of them were the fun and noise and your dear Mom in complete control of any chaos that might develop with the big brothers! **Viola**



You were a good little sister and didn't bother to tag along with Flo and me. I guess having a good friend named Theresa who lived down the street kept you busy enough.
Viola

Claire got braces as an adult. I thought that was quite brave but, come to think of it, she did avoid all the teasing most kids get in school. And I'm sure she didn't get any at home.
Mark

I don't get out to see Aunt Claire as much as Laurel does, but I do remember the last visit to her house for Flo's birthday. I could not believe it, they are both the same. I have such wonderful memories of my visits with them at Grandma's house. They have been wonderful Aunts and great members of the Porro family. They sure are going strong very much like my Dad.
Caryl



My mom appears to be quite sociable. She seems to talk to people and make friends where ever she goes. No matter where she is, she talks to people as though she knew them all her life; and people respond to her as though she is a dear friend. I think she is just genuinely sincere and others feel comfortable with her right away. And even after she gets to know people, they still feel comfortable with her. I cannot begin to guess how many friends she has. And she never limited herself to having friends only in her age group. A number of my and my brothers' friends used to come to our home looking for us, but when we were not home they would sometimes stay and have tea with my mother instead. Jeff (my brother Michael's friend) just started coming to visit my mother for tea and conversation, whether my brother was around or not. **Grace**

You and your family have been so helpful to Flo with her recent move - know who much she appreciates all you did for her. **Viola**

I remember our visits to Grandma's house. I always looked forward to seeing you and your family. **Deecy**