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The Family History of Cristhian Guzman

Cristhian Guzman

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**The Family History of
Cristhian Guzman
5 February 2019**

List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

A1. Cristhian Guzman (1981-)

Generation Two

A1a. Ruth Guzman (1956-)

A1b. UNK

Generation Three

A1a1. Josefina Castaneda Magallanes (1924-2008)

A1a2. Israel Guzman (UNK)

GENERATION ONE

Cristhian Guzman (1981-) was born in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1981 to **Ruth Guzman Castaneda (1956-)**. The birth story of Cristhian Guzman as told by Ruth Guzman de Castaneda is quite remarkable according to her memory. Ruth Guzman was walking home on a beautiful morning day in Juarez, Mexico after leaving work. She was passing by a church when some of her pains started progressing. She saw the church and decided to stop and pray with some of the nuns as she waited for the bus (also known as the ruta) to arrive. Twenty-one hours later at 11:20am, she gave birth naturally to a gorgeous baby girl at a local Mexican hospital¹.

Ruth was a single mother at the time of Cristhian's birth. She had already gone through her second divorce and was excited to be a mom. She had Cristhian and her two sisters **Ericka Ruth Guzman (1976-)** and **Elizabeth Wendy Guzman (1974-)** before the age of 23. She was a young, single divorced mother and was eager to provide her daughters with opportunities that she felt were not available in Mexico. Plus, the rates of violence and murders against women at that time were off the charts. Ruth quickly decided Mexico was an unsafe place for her to raise three daughters on her own. By the mid-1980s, organizations from Mexico were well-known transporters of several drugs including Colombian cocaine². The drug trafficking brought many other problems including the killing of Mexican girls and women. According to a book called "The Daughters of Juarez" that I read in high school, Juarez was at the center of an epidemic of terrible crimes against women and girls consisting of kidnappings, rape, mutilation, and murder. Most of the unfortunate victims fit a specific profile: young, slender, and poor, girls/women³.

¹ Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Ruth Guzman

² "Mexican Drug War." Wikipedia. February 16, 2019. Accessed February 16, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_Drug_War.

³ Rodriguez, Teresa, Diana Montané, and Lisa Pulitzer. *The Daughters of Juarez: A True Story of Serial Murder South of the Border*. New York: Atria Books, 2008.

In 1983 when Cristhian was only 2 years old, Ruth decided to move to Oklahoma City permanently to avoid the corruption and murders happening in Mexico. Oklahoma was smaller and safer according to Ruth's family. The average annual growth in the Mexican population over a 10-year period (1990–2000) was 5.3% with a population of 1,321,004 people in Juarez, Mexico alone⁴. The population in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma around the same time was 444,719⁵. Plus, majority of her family had already migrated to the United States throughout the 1970s and 1980s so she would not have to do this alone.

Ruth moved in with a cousin of hers, **Noemi Juarez (1967-)** to El Reno, Oklahoma. Ruth had quite a few relatives in the United States so even though it was hard to leave her native home, she knew this would be the best decision in the long run for her and her daughters. Cristhian came from an extremely large family so she was excited to be around kids her age given the age difference between her and her sisters. Cristhian spent most of her childhood playing with her cousins **Tara Le (1982-)**, **Victor Le (1984-)**, **Lisa Le (1985-)** and **Diana Le (1986-)** amongst many other cousins. The Latin culture is often known for being close so most birthdays and many family events were shared together with her cousins. One of her memories as a child was one when they all got the chicken pox together. Cristhian and her cousins all got a fever from the chicken pox that resulted in a fever over 100 degrees. She remembers being put in a tub full of ice with her cousins. They made a fun event out of it. They were often having fun and being mischievous as children often do.

Cristhian attended kindergarten school then elementary school in El Reno, Oklahoma and quickly adapted to the American ways of the English language. She loved school! This was another place that she could go to with her cousins. She was bilingual and was able to read and write in both languages very well. She believes being bilingual helped with her exceptional grammar and abilities to excel in spelling bees. In Figure 2.1 “How America Expanded Education”, Fischer and Hout show us the variation in

⁴ "Ciudad Juarez." Wikipedia. April 08, 2019. Accessed March 2, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciudad_Juárez#Demographics.

⁵ "Oklahoma City." Wikipedia. March 2, 2019. Accessed March 2, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City.

Americans' formal schooling by using a twenty-fifty-eighty percentile chart, first introduced in chapter 1. The most-educated fifth (the eight percentile) of 1901's native-born twenty-one-year-olds had completed at least 10.8 years of school; by the 1991 cohort, the most-educated had completed at least 17.1 years. The least-educated fifth (the twentieth percentile) had completed no more than 5.1 years in 1901 but had more than doubled that to 12.3 years in 1991 to a spread of 5.2 years (17.1 minus 12.3 for 1991), indicating a bit more commonality among Americans in experience. This modest reduction in educational differences makes our later findings that the educational gaps become more consequential – all that more striking. Earning a diploma or degree is a more meaningful educational transition than passing from one grade to another. So, we focus on trends in earning credentials⁶.

Cristhian's education path is one that her and her family is proud of. Most of her family did not complete an education further than fifth grade so it was a big deal that she continued her education. Mexican education was only funded to a certain point making it difficult for most families to afford for their children to continue their education. According to journal called Equity in higher education in Mexico, the Mexican State has continued to do a poor job at providing access for young adolescents coming from disadvantaged areas and who have a different socio-economic and cultural background in Mexico⁷. Plus, most women are expected to start working to help out their family financially at a very young age. It was important to her mother, Ruth Guzman, that Cristhian and her two sisters break the cycle of their past generations and complete their education with credentials.

A few years later, her family moved to Oklahoma City, OK with an aunt, **Maria de La Luz Juarez (1944-)** and uncle, **Jose Galbalena Juarez (1939-)**. This is where most of Cristhian's early childhood memories were made. She had more cousins than she could count at this household so having children to play with was never an issue. She believes that at one time she counted 52 cousins total...way

⁶ Fischer, Claude S., and Michael Hout. *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006. 11-12

⁷ Laya, Marisol Silva. "Equity in Higher Education in Mexico: The Need for a New Concept and New Policies." Education Policy Analysis Archives. Accessed March 2, 2019. <https://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/965>.

more than in El Reno, Oklahoma! In fact, there were so many cousins that Birthday parties were usually combined. She remembers having a birthday party in March every year with her two cousins **Cristina Juarez (1982-)** and Tara Le even though her birthday was in October. She also attended Rockwood Elementary School with several of these cousins. Being bilingual came to very be beneficial in her spelling earning her numerous awards in several spelling bee competitions.

By the time, Cristhian started attending Webster Middle School, Ruth had moved many times for different reasons causing issues in school to her two older daughters. This is when she decided to rent an apartment on her own. This provided more stability and privacy to her daughters in their adolescence years. At the time she was married to her step-father **Felipe Medina (1954-2008)**. One of Cristhian's favorite memories from high school is when her stepfather bought her a car at fifteen years old. It is customary in the Mexican culture to have a quincenera. The *fiesta de quince años* in (also *fiesta de quinceañera*, *quince años* and *quince*) is a celebration of a girl's 15th birthday⁸. These birthday parties can cost anywhere from a few thousand dollars to as much as a wedding. Her father gave her the option to have a quincenera or a car since they cost about the same and she chose a car instead. At this point, Cristhian had become completely Americanized and something like a Quincenera was not a priority. It is also something that corresponds to religion.

Religion is something Cristhian always struggled with because of the cultural differences in churches that she was brought up in versus what she felt she truly believed in. Cristhian's mother was a very religious woman so it was normal to see them at a Catholic Church service three times a week. The Catholic religion is extremely customary and traditional and this was not something she truly resonated with. She never really felt like she belonged considering she wanted to follow the more American

⁸ "Quinceañera." Wikipedia. April 22, 2019. Accessed March 2, 2019. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quinceañera>.

traditions that weren't necessarily religion based activities. She was always more driven to sports and school so religion took a back seat in high school⁹.

Cristhian has not only excelled in school but she really has always really enjoyed sports activities. She found her admiration for athletic events at a junior high event fun day. They had all the students go outside to the playground and compete in several events. Some pertained to running, jumping, stretching, pull-ups and sit-ups. She placed in all categories and got first in the girls push-up competition only losing to two boys overall. Throughout her years in junior high and high school, she participated in soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, cheerleading, dance and her favorite sport...wrestling. She claims that she would have tried basketball and volleyball but she was only a whopping 5 feet tall.

Cristhian attended junior high at Webster Middle School in Oklahoma City Oklahoma from 1993-1996. She enjoyed sports but also wanted to participate in every activity she possibly could. Some of the clubs she participated in was the Spanish Club, the Science Club, and the School Band. She won numerous awards including one that she is most proud. She won a State Award for her science project. Cristhian was not always a big fan of academics so this was a huge win for her.

By the time she got to high school, she decided to narrow down some of the activities to focus on her academics and sports. This is when she found her love for dance. She remembers trying out for her dance team her freshman year with o experience. She caught on so quickly and worked extremely hard only to make the team. She continued to dance for the next four years. Even though Cristhian was good at dance, she absolutely loved wrestling. This is a sport that she had done since middle school. It had become more popular and a few colleges had started female collegiate programs. Unfortunately, her senior year she had some knee injuries that prevented her from continuing on with wrestling. Now Cristhian feels this was a setback for a set-up. This opened up the opportunity to pursue dance at a collegiate level so her senior year she decided to audition for the University of Central Oklahoma's Po Team.

⁹ Personal Knowledge of the author, Cristhian N. Guzman

Cristhian's two sisters unfortunately did not finish high school like their mother. Cristhian was the first person in her immediate family to graduate high school and wanted to continue her education so that she could make her family proud. She decided to attend college after graduation in 2000. Figure 2.3 displays how differences in college rates overlapped with other social distinctions. Unlike high school graduation, for which group differences narrowed, group differences in college graduation widened. The top left panels show two views of college graduation rates. The black circles trace the trend for everyone, and the white circles show the trend just among high school graduates. The sharp increase in college graduation rates for high school graduates between 1940 and 1970 reveals that the expansion of higher education opportunities outpaced the growth in secondary education. The top right panel shows that men and women were about equally as likely to graduate from college when it was a rare thing for anyone to do. Men's graduation rates increased more rapidly than women's did at midcentury, peaking for the cohorts that came of age in the 1970s-the baby boom and the Vietnam-draft cohorts. Men's rates then dropped noticeably after the 1971 cohort- for reasons that are unclear-while women charged ahead and passed men. Women also passed men in getting some college exposure short of a BA degree¹⁰. Even though the expansion of higher education opportunities outpaced the growth in secondary education, Cristhian struggled with continuing her education. There were not many scholarships available for a person in her situation. Her mother had not graduated secondary school much less college. Despite all odds, Cristhian decided that she would attend college and pursue her love for dance.

High school is when Cristhian realized that she wanted to continue a future in athletics. Her college journey in athletics started when she received a college dance scholarship to be on the dance team at Eastern Oklahoma State University in Wilburton, OK. She then proceeded to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and danced on their pom team. Her dance career in college has led her to dance on two

¹⁰ Fischer, Claude S., and Michael Hout. *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006. 14

NBA professional dance teams, work for several prestigious junior high, high school, collegiate, all-star, and studio dance teams all over the nation. She is also a dance choreographer.

Her admiration for dance opened up a lot of opportunities for Cristhian not only in dance but in education as well. She has since attended Eastern Oklahoma State College, University of Central Oklahoma, Neosho County Community College and Pittsburgh State University on either dance scholarships or for a dance coaching job. After college, she had the opportunity to dance professionally for two NBA teams. Never in a million years did Cristhian think that she would dance professionally. One of the teams she danced for were the New Orleans Hornets Honeybees. New Orleans was devastated from Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. The convention center where the Hornets basketball games were held was being used as a shelter of last resort¹¹. This among many other issues caused the New Orleans Hornets Basketball Association to relocate to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a temporary basis. They conducted an audition but were only taking 10 girls since 10 of their original teammates had moved to Oklahoma temporarily as well. Cristhian was afraid to audition for the team considering she had a lot of tattoos and had never considered dancing professionally. Needless to say, she made the team which opened up the door for her to audition for Oklahoma City's own NBA team, the Oklahoma City Thunder. In 2009, she made her second NBA team and had the pleasure to dance professionally for one more year.

At this point, Cristhian had endured several knee injuries and surgeries to both knees. She decided that she wanted to pursue a career in coaching the sport that she loved so much. Throughout the time that she was dancing professionally, Cristhian was unable to finish her bachelor's degree. In order to pursue coaching at a higher level, she needed to finish her college education. This is when she decided to go back to college. She was told by a mutual dance friend that Neosho County Community College in Chanute, Kansas was hiring a dance coach but also provided a professional development program that would help pay for her to finish her bachelor's degree. Before she knew it, she was on her way to Kansas.

¹¹ "Hurricane Katrina." Wikipedia. April 13, 2019. Accessed April 15, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina.

Cristhian is currently finishing her bachelor's degree in Recreational Management at Pittsburgh State University while coaching a college dance team in Chanute, Kansas. Her goal is to receive her bachelor's degree so that she can coach at a professional level or at a Division 1 level college and continue to inspire her athletes to do the same. She will be the first person in her family to graduate with a college degree in December of 2019. According to the Stories of Success: First Generation Mexican-American College Graduates, it is likely that first-generation college students parents may not have experienced the process of helping their children make the emotional break from their role in the families and may have difficulty guiding their sons or daughters through this aspect of going to college¹². It is important for Cristhian to be an example to her seven nephews **Marlon Narvaez (1993-)**, **John Anthony Narvaez (1995-)**, **Luciano Sanroman (2002-)**, **Roberto Guzman (2003-)**, **Eddie Guzman (2005-)**, **Alexandro Guzman (1994-)**, **Jovanny Guzman (1999-)**, and her niece **Carwen Carina Guzman (2000-)**.

¹² "Stories of Success - ASU Digital Repository." Accessed April 15, 2019.
https://repository.asu.edu/attachments/56948/content/Sheffield_asu_0010E_10916.pdf.

GENERATION TWO

- A1a. Ruth Guzman (1956-)**
A1b. UNK

Ruth Guzman was born on March 29, 1956 in Ciudad Juarez Chihuahua, Mexico to **Josefina Castaneda Magallanes (1924-2008)** and **Israel Guzman (UNK)** in a very small one bedroom home that was eventually expanded and turned into a two story home. She grew up in the same home that her mother lived in her whole life on 2401 Ote. Col. Margaritas in Juarez, Mexico with her 10 siblings **Victoria Eubank(1942-)**, **Estrella Castaneda (1943-)**, **Maria de La Luz Juarez (1944-)**, **Panson Castaneda (1950)**, **Lorenzo Castaneda (1952-1954)**, **Benjamin Guzman(1958-1990)**, **Lilly Guzman (1960-)**, **Alfonso Duran (1963-)**, **Josefina Duran (1964-)** and **Pablo Duran (1966-)**. In order of birth, she was the seventh child born. Her mother came from a small immediate family so she always wanted a big family. Her mother had marital issues so she was often going through a divorce. This did not stop her from continuing her dream to have a big family. She was usually the bread winner so she often left the kids to fend for each other. This was not of the normal considering they were all different ages so the eldest had already been helping raise the kids for some time. There was a lot of tension in the home due to lack of space but as the kids got older, the house was expanded and made into a two-story home. Along with many talents, Ruth's siblings helped expand the home over time. She mentioned that her brothers and sisters often shared a beds even after the house was added on to.

As previously mentioned, Ruth's mother was married a few times throughout her adolescence for a short period of time. For the most part, she was raised by her older siblings. They all knew how to cook, clean and do many things that kids their age usually wouldn't know how to do. The best part was that she had plenty of kids to pay with. One of Ruth's first memories as a child was of her running in this house with a toy in her hand called a "pirinola". She remembers falling and breaking the toy. Her older sister, Maria Del La Luz remembers that she had taken this toy from her younger brother, **Benjamin Castaneda**

() and was running from him. This memory is extremely special to her because her brother has since passed away¹³.

The school system in Mexico was only funded until the sixth grade so Ruth was not able to continue her education past that point. She does not have many memories of school because she was not able to complete her secondary education. Studies show that over 90% of children in Mexico attend primary school but only 62% attend secondary school ("secundaria"). Only 45% finish high school ("preparatoria"). After secondary school, only a quarter pass on to higher education¹⁴. This still seems to be an ongoing struggle considering Ruth attended school in the 1960s. Her family simply could not afford to send the oldest kids to school after that so most of them started work at an early age including Ruth. This did not stop Ruth from continuing to read and excel academically on her own. Unfortunately, Ruth's father was absent most of the time as well. After her father and mother separated, she remembers him picking her up every 3 months or so to take her to dinner and a movie but eventually these visits stopped. She missed her father constantly but he went on to get married and have a family of his own.

Ruth's adolescent days were mostly spent working. She started her first job at the age of twelve making \$4.00 (40 pesos) a week at a plantation bagging potato chips¹⁵. She was a hard worker and at times had several jobs to help her family financially. She grew up way faster than she needed to so that she could help her mother, brothers and sisters. She often worked at factories also known as maquiladoras. These assembly plants (maquiladoras) are located around the borders of Mexico and Texas so it becomes a frequent area for Mexicans and Americans to cross over for work. Ruth was a factory worker for quite some time and originally came to the United States on a work visa through one of those

¹³ Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Ruth Guzman

¹⁴ "Education in Mexico." Wikipedia. March 12, 2019. Accessed April 17, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Mexico.

¹⁵ Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Ruth Guzman

factories. There are four entries from Ciudad Juarez to the United States: The Bridge of the Americas, Ysleta International Bridge, Paso Del Norte Bridge and the Stanton Street Bridge. These borders were the crossing locations for 22,958,472 people in 2008¹⁶. This became a frequent way for Mexicans to gain access to the United States.

At the age of fifteen, Ruth got married by a pre-arranged marriage to a 30 year old man and moved to California. Arranged marriages were a common thing in those days in Mexico. She does remember hi, being a kind man unlike some men in the Mexican culture that expected their wife's to stay home and be a housewife. She was "allowed" to work and given "extra" benefits. There were no laws back protecting younger girls from a situation like this. Plus, marriage and kids at a young age was normal back then in Mexico. Even as late as the 1960s, the use of contraceptives was prohibited by civil law, but there were private clinics where elite women could access care¹⁷. Shortly after her marriage, she became pregnant and gave birth to her first daughter, **Wendy Guzman (1974-)**. She was young but as many of her family members before her did, she was okay with it. Ruth claims that is the first time she truly fell in love. She had never known a love like that. Two years later she gave birth to her second daughter **Erica Ruth Guzman (1976-)**. She quickly realized that being married to this man or raising daughters as a young woman in Mexico was not the life for her. She decided to leave her husband and stay in California as a single mother until she could figure out her next move. Surprisingly, he was okay with her decision and decided to continue to help Ruth so that his daughters were taken care of.

Moving to the United States was one of the best decisions Ruth ever made for her family. She knew that this would provide many opportunities for her daughters' as she got older. However, it was a hard transition so she went back and forth from the United States to Mexico several times throughout the next 5 years. In 1981, she became pregnant with her third and last daughter **Cristhian Guzman (1981-**

¹⁶Rodríguez, Teresa, Diana Montané, and Lisa Pulitzer. *The Daughters of Juárez: A True Story of Serial Murder South of the Border*. New York: Atria Books, 2008.

¹⁷"Women in Mexico." Wikipedia. March 24, 2019. Accessed April 17, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Mexico.

). This is when she made the decision to move to Oklahoma permanently. According to the Migration Policy Institute, majority of those migrating from Mexico were men in the mid-20th century. Because of the emphasis on family reunification ushered in by the 1965 Immigration Act, women have migrated to the United States in large numbers¹⁸.

Ruth remembers visiting Mexico quite often after they moved to the United States. She wanted a better life for her daughters but often missed home. At this time, a lot of her family already lived in the USA so she went back to visit her mother and some of her relatives as often as she could. By 1976, there was a two-year waiting period for any eligible applicant from the Western Hemisphere before they could receive a visa¹⁹. Returning to her native country started to become more expensive with the ever changing immigration laws she decided to go back to Mexico once or twice a year. She also lost touch with her daughter's fathers and they quickly remarried and started families of their own. She was used to being a single mother so this was not a problem for her.

Ruth moved to El Reno, Oklahoma where she lived with her niece, **Noemi Juarez, (1972-**) for several years. The struggle to raise three children was extremely hard on her so she worked three jobs like she had known to do in the past. A few of the jobs that she had was with a company called Johnnies Charcoal Broiler as a kitchen manager, a cashier at a locally owned gas station and she also cleaned houses for retired people. To this very day she claims she learned English from listening to Randy Travis and Linda Ronstadt while cleaning homes. Her two older daughters were old enough to go to school at this point so she would take her youngest daughter, Cristhian, to work with her. Looking back, she wishes she could have spent more time with her children but she did the best she could. Someone had to provide financially for her girls. She married a few times but they all ended in divorce. Unfortunately, divorce is all she had seen growing up so it was a normal thing for her. She had always wanted to marry for love but

¹⁸ Ruiz, Jeanne Batalova Ariel G., Jie Zong, and Jeanne Batalova. "Immigrant Women in the United States." Migrationpolicy.org. March 02, 2017. Accessed April 17, 2019. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-women-united-states/>.

¹⁹ "Emigration from Mexico." Wikipedia. April 18, 2019. Accessed April 17, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emigration_from_Mexico.

found herself in and out of relationships that were not healthy for her or her daughters. Plus, Ruth was very independent and did not like the traditional ways of a woman staying home to cook, clean and raise children. She moved in and out of several family members houses for several years then decided to move into an apartment with just her daughters to allow them more privacy as they got older. She continued to work 3 jobs until she was able to open up her own business called La Yerberia Piramide in 1996 which stands for The Herbal Pyramid. This was so important to Ruth because now she had the opportunity to make her own work schedule, be independent and be a part of her family's lives. The percentage of female minorities in self-employment doubled from 1993 to 2012, and more divorced women without young children have become self-employed²⁰. She owned this shop for 10 years before deciding to retire.

Unfortunately after Ruth moved to the United States, she lost touch with her biological father. The date of her father's passing is unknown but she was able to return to his home to retrieve some of his things. Ruth's mother passed away in 2008 when she was 51 years old. This was very devastating for considering that was the only parent she knew. Until this very day, she has a hard time talking about her mother without crying. Since having to deal with her parent's deaths, Ruth has had a few battles of her own. Since then, she was diagnosed with stage III cervical cancer in May of 2018. Ruth was always a very healthy and active person so this was surprising. Her daughter returned from Kansas to be with her and help with the long list of doctor's appointments and to help financially as well. Ruth knew she had a long journey ahead of her but she was ready to fight. She had 2-3 doctors' appointments a day, up to 5-7 days a week. She met some amazing people along her journey including patients and doctors at the Stephenson Cancer Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Out of some tragedy came good. After 5 long months of radiation and chemotherapy, she is happy to say that she beat cancer. She has to return for visits often but she is always happy to see those same smiling faces at the cancer center. Even with a combination of chemotherapy and radiation treatment, approximately 20-40% of patients with stage III

²⁰ "Female Self-employment in the United States: An Update to 2012: Monthly Labor Review." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. October 01, 2014. Accessed April 22, 2019. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2014/article/female-self-employment-in-the-united-states-an-update-to-2012.htm>.

cervical cancer experience recurrence of their cancer²¹. She continues to see doctors as well as lives an extremely healthy lifestyle.

Currently, Ruth still resides in Oklahoma City, OK and lives with her sister. She has been working on getting back to a normal schedule and continuing to get healthy since battling cancer. She lives a positive life with a new outlook on spending more time with family and attending church regularly.

²¹ "Stage III Cervical Cancer." Txo. Accessed April 22, 2019. <https://www.texasoncology.com/types-of-cancer/cervical-cancer/stage-iii-cervical-cancer>.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Josefina Castaneda Magallanes (1924-2008)

Ala2. Israel Guzman (UNK)

Josefa Castaneda Magallanes (1924-2008) was born in a small pueblo right outside of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico to **Juan Magallanes Castaneda (UNK)** and **Juana Magallanes Castaneda (UNK)**. She actually came from a pretty small family compared to those around her and the one she later created. She had a younger brother named Jose Castaneda (UNK) and an older sister named Petra Castaneda (UNK). A special trait that her and her brothers shared was that they were all born with hazel or grey eyes that they never outgrew²².

Josefa grew up in a time that was very different and difficult than the one most live in today in Mexico. Her family was extremely poor therefore she grew up way too fast. Her and her siblings shared a very small one bedroom home with her mother and father on 2401 Ote. Col. Margaritas, Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. She doesn't remember her mother and father being too affectionate. Her father worked outside on a farm when the jobs were available and her mother stayed at home to raise her children and do the housework that was required of her. She does not remember seeing her father much since he worked long days but still admired his hard work ethic. He usually left before the sun came up and was home after she was already in bed. He had a hard time finding jobs so he worked for almost nothing to be able to support his family. The Great Depression affected Mexico and her family a great deal. In 1930, the impact of the great Depression started a rethink of policy and a lurch to the political left that was simplified by the radical administration of Lazaro Cardenas 1934-1940 when socioeconomic reform, support for organized labor, and a measure of economic nationalism took priority over Sonoran/Callista.²³

²² Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Victoria Duran

²³ "Obo." The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940 - Latin American Studies - Oxford Bibliographies. April 16, 2019. Accessed April 22, 2019. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199766581/obo-9780199766581-0033.xml>.

An issue that Josefa constantly had to face living in Mexico was the political corruption and the violence rate that was affected by it on a daily basis. She constantly lived in fear that something would happen to her or her family. In Table 21.1, President Lazaro Cardenas (1937-1940), the former ruling party was organized into three sectors, one for peasants, and another for workers and a third for state bureaucrat. This organizational structure made the PRI a corporatist institution. By incorporating these organizations of peasants, workers and bureaucrats into the PRI, Cardenas gave them privileged access to decision makers. At the same time, however, the incorporation of these groups within the party especially within their leader in the PRI hierarchy, made them vulnerable to co-optation and control. In particular, labor and peasant leaders were co-opted by the PRI national leadership. It offered personal political opportunities in return for exercising restraint in their demands on behalf of their constituents²⁴. These issues led to many presumed resolutions in repeated pledges from political figures to eliminate corruption and broken promises. They were always a part of a continued effort to fix things that remained broken. These issues affected Josefa's family in many ways but eventually affected her in her older age as a mother. Unfortunately, her son Benjamin was murdered sometime in the 1990s which hit too close to home.

Josefa and her sibling's education was very limited. Because her family was poor and education was only funded to a certain extent, her siblings were made to work at the age of nine. The boys often worked in farming like their father and Josefa would help her mother with housework. The plan her parents had for her was to get married and start a family of her own. They were extremely religious so she remembers going to several beautiful cathedrals in Mexico with her family. Mexico has some of the most beautiful and popular cathedrals in the world. One of these well-known cathedrals is Catedral de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de Ciudad Juarez which is also known as the Ciudad Juarez Cathedral. It is located on the border state of Chihuahua in an area called the Historical Center²⁵.

²⁴ Randall, Laura. *Changing Structure of Mexico: Political, Social, and Economic Prospects*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006.

²⁵ Revolvly, LLC. "'Ciudad Juárez Cathedral" on Revolvly.com." Revolvly. Accessed April 22, 2019. <https://www.revolvly.com/page/Ciudad-Juárez-Cathedral>.

Around 1940, Josefa was married to an older gentleman at the tender age of 16. This was a normal occurrence around that time. She was not happy but she knew she would be looked down on by not only the people in Mexico, but her church. Most women in those days faced discrimination and harassment which she was eventually was exposed to leading to her first divorce but not before giving birth to her 11 children **Victoria Eubank(1942-)**, **Estrella Castaneda (1943-)**, **Maria de La Luz Juarez (1944-)**, **Panson Castaneda (1950)**, **Lorenzo Castaneda (1952-1954)**, **Ruth Guzman de Castaneda (1956-)**, **Benjamin Guzman(1958-1990)**, **Lilly Guzman (1960-)**, **Alfonso Duran (1963-)**, **Josefina Duran (1964-)** and **Pablo Duran (1966-)**. She had children well into her early 40's. It was hard to recount the times Josefa was married but her oldest daughter recounts it was anywhere from 7 to 8 times²⁶. Josefa often struggled with her views on religion and how they applied to marriage. She was a very independent women but refused to settle because of the opinions of others. She decided that the happiness of her children was more important than her own happiness so when she was in an abusive situation emotionally or physically, she got out.

Throughout her time in Mexico, her children started to have the same issues that she had related to the government corruption and violence. Mexico has always been known for their political fraudulent issues. Their government has always been set up to protect government officials to do as they please. This opened up even bigger issues with the drug cartel. At the end of the 1970's, one of the largest and most dangerous cartels were founded by a former police officer and a bodyguard. It was called the Guadalajara Cartel and it closely worked with the Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar²⁷. They often bullied the people of Mexico into either working for them or surrendering their businesses to use them as places to make drugs. If people denied their requests, they were often killed, beheaded and made examples of. This scared Josefa so the idea of sending her children to work in America was safer. This became a possibility when they started making factories also known as maquiladoras. These large factories employed Mexican

²⁶ Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Victoria Eubank

²⁷ "Library Blog." Peace Palace Library Mexico and the Drug Cartels A History of Fascination Comments. Accessed April 22, 2019. <https://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2016/01/mexico-and-the-drug-cartels-a-history-of-fascination/>.

immigrant workers sending them over the border to the United States on work visas. One by one as her children reached the age of eligibility, she sent them over to work. Over time, her children started to want a better life for themselves as well and they decided to move to the United States permanently. Her daughter Josefina Duran and Pablo Duran decided to stay behind to help their mother financially. Her other daughters and sons now live in places such as Colorado, Ohio, Texas and Oklahoma.

As her children all decided to move to the United States, Josefa loved her country and vowed to die there one day. Her children often asked her to move to America but she loved her country and had no intention of leaving. In 1998, Josefa suffered a major heart attack. Her children brought her to Denver, Colorado so that she could receive the best care possible. She endured a triple bypass surgery that was successful. Josefa returned to Mexico after her surgery and lived a very active life. She picked up folkloric dancing at the age of 78. She was always active and loved to dance.

Josefa (Josefina) Castaneda Magallanes passed away on June 23, 2008. According to her Death Certificate, she died of cardiogenic shock, congestive heart failure and uncontrolled arterial hypertension²⁸. She had been dealing with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus days before her passing so a lot of her family was able to go back to Mexico to visit with her. She had a beautiful family that she was extremely proud of and left a legacy behind that most leave in many generations.

Unfortunately due to a fire during the Mexican revolution in the early 1930s, a lot of original documents were burned in Mexico so there are no original birth certificates or original documents. Josefa's oldest daughter Victoria Duran was very helpful in recounting these events²⁹. There is also no proof of the fire given the location is unknown.

²⁸ Chihuahua, Ciudad De. 2008 (filed 23 June). "Certificate of Death: Josefa Castaneda Magallanes." Dept. of Health, File No. 090373358.

²⁹ Cristhian Guzman's Interview with Victoria Eubank