

"Servando Banuelos"
by Alyssa G.

1
When I was 15, I interviewed my Abuelo, who was cooking carne asada in the backyard. He talked about how his father used to make really delicious carne asada when he was a little boy.

I had just come back from my friend's house and my Abuelo was preparing dinner for himself and me. He had asked how my day went at my friend's house, but I was more curious about what else it was like for him as a little boy. Once he had finished the last piece of carne, we went inside to set up the table and I asked him, "Did you like your Mexico life more than here?" I was expecting a yes or no but he told me, "Life was simpler over there but I'm proud of the life I made here."

2
My Abuelo was the middle child, he has six siblings and they all grew up in Zacatecas, Mexico in a rancho named La Masita.

My Abuelo moved to America because his dad wanted to bring his family to live with him since he was a U.S. citizen. His family and himself came to the U.S. by bus. It was a 48-hour journey. He said it was tiring sitting on the bus all day long, and that they only ate when the bus stopped when necessary. The food at the rest stops weren't the best but they ate what was available.

3
My abuelo has a prostate cancer gene that runs in his family. When he turned 64 he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he was able to catch the cancer at an early stage and get it removed.

4
My abuelo lives here in Pasadena, but he has a third house in Montclair where we like to go on the weekends

to fix up, he is renovating it because he wants to move out there
Soon. We usually drive to Montclair on the freeway and it takes about 30-45 minutes depending on traffic. On the way to the house in Montclair we like to stop at this taco stand that is about a mile or two away from the house, we stop there because it's our favorite place to get tacos. I like spending time with him because when he had cancer and I first found out, I thought I took the time I spent with him for granted. The smell of the tacos remind me of him because it's our thing that we do together.

5
Thinking back, my abuelo is sitting on his black chair watching the channel 7 news. He always has the three dogs with him while he watches tv. The big dog sleeps beside him on the floor while the two little dogs sleep on his lap or his arms. He rests while switching back and forth between the news channel or Jeopradly while he waits for my abuela to finish making dinner.

6
When I was 9 my abuelo was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I didn't know at the very start, I was told a couple days before his surgery, He had to stay in bed for a week without eating any solid foods and was on an all liquid diet. The smell of his favorite orange juice always crept into my nose when I walked in the room. He had arthroscopic surgery. He was unable to work for 2 weeks and would pee through a wire that went down his leg. He was home all day and would eat and sleep over and over again.
He would always make a funny noise when he lifted up his foot to open the wire when using the

bathroom. He was so happy to be able to drive around and go to work after recovery because he hated doing nothing all day

7
My abuelo has already decided that he wants to be cremated. He doesn't want anything fancy and outgoing because he says it's a waste of money. He told me that when he passes away he's gonna leave my brother and myself his dentures.

8
A show my abuelo and I like to watch together is Jeopardy. He's really confident that if he were to be put on the show to compete that he would win easily. I was 10 years old and loved watching and feeling the suspense of not knowing whether the question was going to be super hard or super easy, as well as the tension of the contestants losing or gaining money.

The show Jeopardy is an American game show created by Merv Griffin. Jeopardy is hosted by alex trebeck, there are a series of topics with clues in the form of answers that help the contestant that buzzed the fastest figure out, which then they must answer in the form of a question. My abuelo believes that he will be the next jeopardy champion whenever he gets the answer correct or somewhat close.

9
That was the first time I saw a show where people were willing to risk all their money to earn or lose more. Dark and light blues, on the screen, in the bedroom, while my abuelo, a man who showed me that courage is about someone who takes risk and being bold without the absence of fear will succeed in life is always up to any challenges.

10.
My abuelo has been a construction worker and handyman for 40 years. He is currently still working this same job. He helps with electrical,

plumbing, and basically anything that has to do with your house. He builds houses and remodels them. He gets up for work everyday at 6am and works 7 days a week. The only time he didn't work was when he had gotten his surgery.

11.

A photo of his mother and his father that sits on his desk. A photograph taken with love and put into a frame to cherish and adore.

12(16)

Building houses is a special talent that my abuelo has mastered. He has taught himself every skill that he knows. He built my godmother's house in a year with the help of 1 helper and 2 assistants. I've seen him build at least 2 houses my entire life. I thought it was really impressive for a man who never had anyone to show him and teach him, being able to do something hard and time consuming.

13(18)

When I see or picture my abuelo, I always see his work outfit. His black or Navy Blue dickies work pants, his worker boots, and either a tan button up shirt or blue sweater. My abuelo cherishes this outfit because it reminds him that he works hard everyday.

14(19)

We like to celebrate birthdays with our family. Whenever someone in our family has a birthday we always go out to eat. We either go out to eat or order in and eat at the dinner table. We love to get Italian food or if the birthday person has a specific place they want to get food from we choose that. I think many people like to celebrate birthdays with dinner but not as much as us. This celebration means a lot to us because it's the time where we all get together and talk.

15(21)

My abuelo is a very hardworking man. A man who sees beauty in /a finished construction project. A man who waits about 3 months to see his success. A man who thinks nothing is more ravishing than a finished house with a beautiful layout and decor. A man who feels the pride of knowing that he made other people's visions come true.

16(22)

This story is a story that won't last forever. I'm searching for the experience of being confident, outgoing, and hardworking. This

narrative is about being able to go from nothing to something. It's about laughter. It's about Love. And sickness. And Health. And Change. With family. With commitment

