

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 7, Issue 2

Oct/Nov 02

Needed for  
Future Issues:

"Stuff" about  
you and yours...

## Announcements

- New baby
- Engagement
- Graduations
- Promotion
- New address

## Upcoming Events

- family parties
- Reunions
- Weddings

## Article, Photos and Fillers

- Nostalgic stories
- Photos and artwork
- Original poetry
- Vignettes on your immediate family
- Favorite family recipes
- Cute things your kids have said
- Funny stories



## Family Web Site

By Carlos Rivera

In this day and age of busy lives and stress with trying to balance work and family, it is easy to forget or ignore one's roots and those who influenced our life as a child. Or, consider for a moment that all we might know about our roots is who our parents are and a few of the aunts and uncles and cousins who visited while we were growing up. With that in mind, the [www.vlafamilia.org](http://www.vlafamilia.org) web site is dedicated to the descendants of Florencio Rivera Maldonado. Its goal is to give us an opportunity to learn about our roots by sharing among the family members all the history, accomplishments and related current events affecting our lives today.

The idea for this web site was born from the desire to make the family information accessible more broadly. In this electronic age, the ability to share information via the web is fast becoming a common way to stay connected with each other and with current events around us.

Given the vast diversity among our family members and the fact that we are living in different parts of the world thus making family reunions rather difficult, it is only fitting that we inaugurate this web site to promote stronger connections. Because many members of our family read and write Spanish as their primary language, many of the web pages are bilingual.

When you go to [www.vlafamilia.org](http://www.vlafamilia.org) we hope you will enjoy learning about your past, finding long lost relatives, getting reacquainted with those you love and miss so much, and keeping up with the latest events in our great family. We also hope that you will help us by filling any gaps in the data we have. You are encouraged to submit information and photographs for inclusion in this web site, both for current news and for use in the family tree link. New information is being added to the web site each month, so please bookmark the site and check back often.

The web site (and corresponding newsletter) each have costs associated with them. We hope you will consider a small donation to help cover the operating expenses. Please see the web site for details.

If you have any questions or comments about the family web page, you are encouraged to write to Carlos Rivera at [support@pgrcreations.com](mailto:support@pgrcreations.com).

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# I Remember

## Those Wonderful Holiday Get-Togethers

The weather is changing here in the Sierra Nevada foothills. The trees are changing colors, the air is crisp and there's a fragrant pine-scented wind blowing. I love the fall, especially here in Placerville, where each season is so distinctly different.

It wasn't that way growing up in "The City," though. San Francisco's foggy climate varies little from season to season. What separated one time of year from another was more often the activities that that particular season held. With the onset of the holiday season came the excitement of new clothes, festive decorations, the aroma of delectable cooking, and the warmth of family members gathering together.

In the picture at the right, my mother (Anita García) is setting food out on the table for our Thanksgiving feast of 1966. That year we set up two tables in our dining room to accommodate all the relatives that were coming. (See picture below.) Two turkeys were roasted, and everyone who came contributed to the food. My mother's specialty was *rellenos de papa* (stuffed potatoes). Mmmm! Can you see them on a tray in the picture to the right? I also make them, but they will never taste as good as my mother's.

*[There's that framed needlepoint again. Still no*



What kind of memories are we making for future generations? Are we continuing with the tradition to gather together and celebrate the closeness of family and the blessings from above? Surely our parents and grandparents had troubles, financial stresses, sorrows and worries, just like we all face today. I know for certainty that they had arguments, resentments, and strife among themselves, but they put all that aside when it came time to celebrate the holidays and other special occasions together. My parents and my aunts and uncles were determined to provide their families with warmth of a good home, stability and proper values. They embraced the American way of life of the 1950's and 1960's while still preserving the cultural flavor of their Puerto Rican homeland.

Are we continuing with the good work that they began? This Thanksgiving, let us not only thank God for the blessings we enjoy today, for the family members that we gather in our homes, and for our country. Let's also thank God for the memories of our childhood, for what our forefathers did for us, and for the rich cultural heritage that they passed on to us. Let us also strive to do the best that we can for our children and grandchildren, passing on the torch of love, family unity, and cultural heritage.

*"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8 NIV*



## Meet Your Relatives

*This issue I would like you to meet **Marina Ramos**, youngest daughter of my sister, Olga Smith.*

Marina (born Marisa Marie) was born on September 25, 1978, in Hollywood, CA. Here she is as a baby, with her mom.

When she was about nine months old, Olga moved her family up to Daly City, just south of San Francisco. She began working at Cleasby Manufacturing, where she met Tom Smith, who has been her husband for the past 19 years. Tom has been "Dad" to Marina since she was a little girl, but she also has a good relationship with her biological father, Bob Ramos.

In 1981, when Marina was 2-1/2 years old, I moved my family to California from Daly City (and in fact, lived with Olga and family for four months). My oldest two children, Ruben and Sonia, have enjoyed a close relationship with their cousin since then.



Blessed with a cheerful nature and a fantastic sense of humor, Marina would come up to Placerville as a teenager and bring such joy to us all. One time in particular stands out in my mind: Marina had arrived at our house to spend some days with us as she was home schooling that year. Ruben came home from school at a later time due to football practice, and he didn't know that Marina was here or even that she was coming. When he came in the house, he found Sonia sitting at the table, and Vickie and Luke there also, and a very strange person was sitting at the head of the table. This person was wearing an overcoat, with a nylon stocking over the face, and a hat pulled down low. The rest of us just acted like there was no one there, and Ruben was gabbing about his day at school, football practice, etc., all the while stealing furtive glances at the silent, unmoving mystery person.

Finally, almost 10 minutes after he got home, Ruben whispered to me, "Mom, who is that person?"

"What person?" I answered.

"Don't you see someone sitting there?"

"No."

But Ruben's intensely confused look combined with my poor acting skills soon ended the ruse.

I'm sure Marina also remembers the time a bat got into our house, and the time we dragged a mattress out onto the porch to watch the meteors streaking across the night sky. We have some great memories!

Thanks to that year of home schooling, Marina graduated from school a whole year early, in 1995. After that, she took classes at Mount Diablo Community College and worked at the same time.

In the summer of 2000, Marina joined us for the family reunion at the home of cousins Carol and Larry Wright, in Tequesta, Florida, where she befriended her younger cousin, Angie Stickle. It was in a sense a good-bye party for her, since she had joined the Air Force and was leaving for boot camp.

After graduation from boot camp, Marina was stationed in Korea. In January of this year she came home for a short visit and then left for her new assignment in Iceland.

In a letter dated July 18, 2002, Marina sent her mother some pictures of her aboard the Chinook. That's her below in all her gear, listening in on the radio.

In one of the photos she was strapped in a harness, standing on the ledge with the hatch open.



Marina says, "If you look at the full picture of the helicopter, where the back is open, I stood on that ramp while flying just above the clouds. It was such a great experience. We flew out to Reykavik, then to the Westmen Islands. That was just an island until the volcano eruption in 1973. In '73 we evacuated people there and some ended up just staying there."

Some of Marina's other recent adventures include wading in the Blue Lagoon (a natural hot spring), river rafting in the East Glacian River, and deep sea fishing. Marina caught the largest cod. She says, "They [the cod] sure are ugly!"

Marina came home to Martinez for a 2 week visit in September. When she leaves Iceland, her next assignment is supposed to be Italy. *Mama mía!* I know that Olga is going to want to visit her there!



# A Page Out of Our Family History

Fifteen years ago, I sent out letters to all the aunts and uncles, asking them to fill out a questionnaire with family information. The letter said, in part:

"For some time now I have wanted to compile data regarding the family into some kind of a historical account that our children and future generations will hopefully read with interest.

Years ago, while my mother was still well, I asked her about her side of the family, and I asked my father about his side as well. I'm thankful I recorded that information in a notebook which I still have. Now I need your help to complete the gaps and fill in the other branches of the family tree.

Please, as a special gift to all the family, present and future, answer the following questions as best as you can and mail it back to me. I plan to compile this in narrative form and distribute it to interested members of the family. That will be my special gift for the family!"

Here are some excerpts from the response I received from Tía Tita.

## YOU

Your birth name: **Angelica Rivera Pacheco**

Date of birth: **Sept. 27, 1928**

Place of birth: **Ponce, Puerto Rico**

Occupation: **Cosmetologist**

## YOUR SPOUSE

Birth name: **José Lino Medina**

Date of birth: **Aug. 15, 1924**

Place of birth: **Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico**

Occupation: **Cryptoanalist**

Marriage date: **July 8, 1949**

## YOUR CHILDREN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of birth</u>
<b>Josefa (Stepchild)</b>	<b>Oct. 29, 1947</b>
<b>José</b>	<b>July 11, 1950</b>
<b>Rosa</b>	<b>Aug. 10, 1951</b>
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Nov. 17, 1952</b>

## YOUR PARENTS

Father's name: **Florencio Rivera**

Mother's name: **Otilia Pacheco**

Which parent do you think you resemble most in looks?  
In character? **In looks, I resemble my father. In character, my mother.**

What were some of the happiest times in your childhood?  
**Being together with my brothers and sisters; they looked after me and cared a lot for us.**

What motivated you to move from Puerto Rico?  
**My husband's army assignment to the U.S.**

The  
Way  
We  
Were



*Isn't this an awesome photo of María Nicholson and Oscar García? Okay you older kids (like Craig Burch, Shanda Peters or Angie Stickle)...Can you name the three political figures in the pot? (Remember, this was during WWII.)*

Guess Who  
This  
Baby Is?

The answer is on  
page 7.



## Family Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 till ?????**

**At the home of Randy and Norma Pettit,  
in Placerville, CA.**

**Everybody welcome! Bring vittles to share.**

**No alcoholic beverages, please.**

**And don't forget your pink elephant gift!!!**

**For directions or to RSVP, call Norma at  
(530) 642-8960 or (530) 344-0714.**

# Student News

Dear Norma:

Wilmi just received a notification that she has been accepted into the National Honor Society for her scholastic achievements. She will graduate from high school next year and has decided to study Architecture in the States. We will be visiting various universities to choose from this winter.

Bill Roig reporting for the Guaynabo Snooper

Hey kids! (or moms and dads)...

Pretty soon you will be receiving those awesome school pictures that you took a few weeks ago. Why don't you send me one with a note giving me your full name, grade, name of school and city, and I will publish them in the next issue of "¿...y la familia?"

## Other Family News



**Ruben and Lisa Quiñones** (My son and daughter-in-law) spent most of this past summer in Siberia. I recently received a newsletter from them (dated September 18, 2002) so I am cheating and excerpting (with their permission) a couple of the articles that they wrote about their trip.

*We've been back from Siberia for almost a month now, and it's high time we sent out a huge thank you to all the people that helped us get there. Thank you so much for being participants in making this trip actually take place. Seeing Russia (again for Lisa, for the first time for Ruben) was a tremendous blessing to both of us, as well as to many people we came in contact with throughout our time there. It occurred to us at the end of the trip that God had provided for us constantly and made the trip a success in so many different ways. Lisa was able to see firsthand a children's tuberculosis hospital and spend hours talking with the doctors there. Ruben got to dig up the Russian that had been entombed in his brain ever since he went to Japan four years ago. We spent many of our meals with the half-dozen missionary families in Ulan-Ude. We were even able to make a separate trip to Yakutsk, where we spent the week with Lena, a German missionary friend that Lisa met four years ago.*

*We went with an eye toward the future, knowing that God could bring us back there several years from now. Although we love the people there, we can't really say anything conclusive at this point. It is definitely a possibility, but we haven't felt that Ulan-Ude is where God is calling us. For Lisa, part of the blessing was seeing the growth in the church since she left in December of 1998. There were several church members there that Lisa knew before they became Christians.*

One of our most story-worthy adventures was being arrested by the Russian military. Our friend Sasha was videotaping the outside of a prison, and apparently, that's a big no-no. They held us in a little office with a talkative young soldier who was curious about America and why Christian missionaries would come to Yakutsk. Five hours later, we were released, with the videotape no less. A local newspaper later reported that an international scandal was barely avoided concerning a couple of American spies! But we take that as a compliment.

Deepest Sympathy  
to the family of Bob Gonía  
who passed away on  
Friday, September 27, 2002  
in Seiverville, Tennessee.

Bob was the husband of our  
cousin Victoria Nicholson Gonía  
and the father of B.J. Gonía.

### Cousin Joi has Gall Bladder Surgery

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Cousin Joi underwent surgery to have her gall bladder removed. About 6 weeks prior to that she had been taken to the emergency room and hospitalized for approximately two weeks. They couldn't operate at that time because of an inflamed pancreas and her weakened condition, but now all that is behind her and she is mending nicely.

All this followed on the heels of some major dental work, so Joi and I came up with the idea for a new family contest. Instead of "Who's the Poorest?" we are now asking, "Who has the least amount of original body parts?" Joi thinks that she is the winner because she also is missing her appendix, an ovary, and a fallopian tube, plus she had mastoid bone removed from her right ear when she was 5. If all this is grossing you out, sorry! Just turn the page quickly!

Yuck!



As is my custom in the October newsletter, I am printing the Rivera Family Directory that I use for the newsletter mailings in hopes that it will help you all with your Christmas card mailings. ☺

Michael & Angela Barnes	428 East H St.	Benicia, CA 94510
Vanessa Bell	3900 SW 12 <sup>th</sup> St.	Des Moines, IA 50306
Roberto & Vicky Cabán	48653-1 Yano Court	Fort Hood, TX 76544
Jim & Kathleen Caffey	1760 Meadow Lane	Seward, NE 68434
Jackie Correa Rivera	169 Glen Meadow Road	Franklin, MA 02038
Kirstin Frosheiser	728 N. 3rd	Seward, NE 68434
Ruben & Katherine García	2194 Greenbrier St.	Concord, CA 94520
Tom & Elaine Glimme	2568 Kevin Road	San Pablo, CA 94806
Oscar & Gladys González	33-47 96th St.	Corona, NY 11368
Oscar & Nellida González	8801 N. Brooks St.	Tampa, FL 33604
Rafael & Helen González	127 Standard Street	Mattapan, MA 02126
Kimm & Scott Hargraves	978 Dana Circle	Livermore, CA 94550
Leslie & Mark Hill	8517 NW 7th St. Apt. 401	Miami, FL 33126
Laurie Jimenez	1720 S. Marshall Rd. #27	Boulder, CO 80303
Vickie Jimenez c/o R.M. Young	121A Kings Rd.	Kingston Upon Thames Surrey kt2 5JD England
Christina Krause	28 Windsor Drive	Maumelle, AR 72113
Paul & Marlynn Krause	P.O. Box 10216	Conway, AR 72033
Scott & Stephanie Thompson	1234 Bluegrass Ln.	Menasha, WI 54952
Emily Lister	4718 Palm Ave.	Des Moines, IA 50310
Joanne McLaughlin	641 S.W. 4th Ave.	Boynton Beach, FL 33426
Sasha Lloyd Lovelace	P.O. Box 421	Crestone, CO 81131
Rosa & Brian Meddaugh	1553 Chaucer Ct.	Deland, FL 32720
José Medina	4718 Palm Ave.	Des Moines, IA 50310
Jose & Tita Medina	9184 Beverly Ct.	Boynton Beach, FL 33437
Meryem Merritt	3900 S.W. 12th St.	Des Moines, IA 50306
Eric & Catherine Montalvo	3643 S.W. 20 <sup>th</sup> Ave. #603	Gainesville, FL 32601
Edie & Hartmut Neitzel	Manshardtstr 142	22119 Hamburg, Germany
Chris & Cindy Nicholson	4976 Severn Place	Newark, CA 94560
David & Angela Nicholson	2667 Camelian Circle	El Dorado Hills, CA 94762
George & Barbara Nicholson	3524 Ridgeview	El Dorado Hills, CA 95630
María Nicholson	2020-20th Ave.	San Francisco, CA 94116
Victoria Nicholson	2279 Hodgesferry Rd.	Seiverville, TN 3786
Mari Lillian Pérez	190A Leaning Tree Rd.	Lugoff, SC 29078
L.F. & Carol Pettit	639 St. Francis Blvd.	Daly City, CA 94015
Heriberto & Yanire Quiñones	Urb. Sabanera, Camino Los Jardines #392	Cidra, P.R. 00739
Ruben & Lisa Quiñones	1748-8th Ave.	San Francisco, CA 94122
Jake & Sonia Rambo	9231 Elk Grove-Florin Rd #248	Elk Grove, CA 95624
Airman Ramos, Marina M. PSC3	51 SFS/SFO Box 7115	APO/AP 96266
Ken & Brenda Reinke	4852 Speak Lane	San Jose, CA 95118
Ted & Jenny Reinke	647 Baldwin Drive	Brentwood, CA 94513
Awilda Rivera	1824 Baughman Rd. Lot 4	Lugoff, SC 29078
Brook Nicole Rivera	271 Sharp Circle #4	Roseville, CA 95678
Carlos & Garnet Rivera	3760 W. Smokey Row Rd	Bargersville, IN 46106
Charice Ann Rivera	110 Country Club Rd.	New Britain, CN 06053
Ed & Chris Rivera	660 Hubart St.	Menlo Park, CA 94025
Edwin & Sheila Rivera	Ext. Valle Alto Calle 20 I-13	Ponce, PR 00731
Heriberto & Ada Rivera	Calle Fogos #89 Bo. Clausel,	Ponce, PR 00731
Isidro & Rosita Rivera	25 Trey Ct.	Carrollton, GA 30117
Nelson & Elizabeth Rivera	5111 Orchard Rd. #216	Pascagoula, MS 39581
Orlando & Donna Rivera	53 Buckhorn Drive	Temple, GA 30179
Raúl Rivera Sevilla	Res. Tibes Bl.8 #42	Ponce, PR 00731
Raúl Jr. & Maritza Rivera	8631 Wichita Pl.	Orlando, FL 32827
René & Titi Rivera	Urb. Bello Horizonte,	
	1013 Calle Guarionex	Ponce, P.R. 00728

*(Family Directory, Continued)*

Inés & René Rivera Jr.	4009 Loury Dr.	Zephyrhillis, FL 33543
Robert & Myrna Rivera	280 Cobalt Dr.	Kissimmee, FL 34758
Roberto & Carol Rivera	334 Bankhead Hwy.	Carrollton, GA 30117
William & Evelyn Roig	E-17 Calle Nueva	Guaynabo, PR 00657
Tom & Olga Smith	760 Kelly Ave.	Martinez, CA 94553
Vic & Joi Stenroos	18905 East 47th St.	Denver, CO 80249
Familia Vázquez Rivera	Tibes Town House, Bl. 8, #43	Ponce, PR 00731
Lisa & Scott Werner	2113 NW School St.	Ankery, IA 50021
Larry & Carol Wright	11 De Witt Pl.	Tequesta, FL 33469

*The baby pictured on page 4 is my niece, Muneca Osorio (birthname Monica García), at the age of 23 days.*

## Relatives Respond

### **A Prayer for My Friends**

*Father, I ask you to bless my friends reading this right now. I am asking You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self doubting, release a renewed confidence in Your ability to work through them. Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, patience and strength as they learn submission to your leading. Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask You to renew them by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with You. Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to them Your courage. Where there is a sin blocking them, reveal it, and break its hold over my friend's life. Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders and friends to support and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it. I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*I loved this prayer, sent to me by cousin Vickie Jimenez. What power there would be for our family if we would say this prayer for one another!*

*In an e-mail letter from **Cousin Joi** on October 11<sup>th</sup>, she talks to me about a visit that Cousin Vickie Jimenez paid to her the night before. Vickie is currently home in Colorado, but plans to return to London within a month. The following is an excerpt from Joi's letter.*

"Vickie mentioned that since she was here in the states, she didn't get the last issue of the newsletter (waiting for her in London)...so, I pulled out the binders (yes! now two binders!) of issues of Newsletter. She read the most recent issue...and then, of course, how could we not review all the others! It's so wonderful to look back thru the past five years and see all that our family has accomplished, how our children have grown up, our travels, and announcements and stories that make everyone proud and honored to be a part of our loving family. We both agreed (again and again) how special you are to us in continuing to document and publish our family history. It is a job that comes from the heart....and you, Norma, have such a big one! Saying "Thank You" once again from the bottom of our hearts for continuing diligently with publishing "y la Familia!" By keeping every issue of the Newsletter, we have a pictorial history to pass down to our grandchildren so that they will have knowledge of our entire family tree. That, in itself, is PRICELESS!"

### **Your Prayers are Requested**



*Please pray for my father-in-law, Rocky Pettit, who fell off of a ladder on August 27<sup>th</sup>, broke several ribs and his collarbone, has had surgery to repair his aorta, and apparently had a stroke and a heart attack as well. After weeks in intensive care, he is now in a convalescent center, and has a long road to recovery.*



"¿...y la familia?"

C/o Norma I. Pettit

2426 Meadow Lane

Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 642-8960

E-Mail: [mamanony@juno.com](mailto:mamanony@juno.com)

## Birthday Greetings

*Teena Warren (31) –  
Oct. 3*

*Christina Rivera (6) –  
Oct. 3*

*Rubén A. Quiñones (26) –  
Oct. 12*

*Felipe René Rivera (19) –  
Oct. 13*

*Edwin J. Rivera (5) –  
Oct. 14*

*Jackie (Correa) Eddy (38)  
– Oct. 15*

*Austin Rivera (8) – Oct. 17*

*Vickie Rivera Cabán (38)  
– Oct. 23*

*Brandi Klene (33) –  
Oct. 24*

*Randy Pettit (47) – Oct. 27*

*Cassius D. Wright (15) –  
Oct. 28*

*Victoria Nicholson (63) –  
Oct. 28*

*Joanne McLaughlin (55)  
– Oct. 29*

*Luz (Rivera) Mojica (59) –  
Oct. 30*

*Julie Rivera (10) – Nov. 2*

*Alex J. Rivera (7) – Nov. 2*

*Adalberto Rivera (19) –  
Nov. 5*

*Austin Bell (8) – Nov. 8*

*Neysha Rivera (11) –  
Nov. 12*

*Joseph T. Springer (6) –  
Nov. 15*

*Carol (Medina) Wright  
(50) – Nov. 17*

*Michelle Cabán (14) –  
Nov. 17*

*Amanda Knox (15) –  
Nov. 22*

*Edwin Rivera (48) –  
Nov. 27*

*Carol Lee Rivera (42) –  
Nov. 27*

### Anniversaries

*Isidro & Rosita  
Rivera (57) –  
Oct. 2*

*Kimm & Scott  
Hargraves (6) –  
Oct. 18*

*Inez &  
René Rivera Jr.  
(8) – Oct. 24*

*If you know of  
anyone in the  
family who is not  
receiving the  
newsletter,  
please send me  
their address.*