

# "...y la familia?"

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

DEC '02/JAN '03

*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*



## A Peaceful Christmas



I expected this year's family Christmas party to be different, and had warned those who were coming that it was just going to be a mellow get-together instead of the usual rambunctious crowd. Even so, stormy weather and other circumstances reduced the number of attendees to only eight of us. Olga had been planning to drive up to Placerville with Teena and all the grandkids, but there was a violent storm raging, and she wisely decided to stay put in Martinez.

Luke had spent hours decorating the outside of the house with icicle lights, and stringing big outdoor bulbs around trees, bushes and windows. We even had lights up inside the house, around doorways, and the house looked more dazzling than ever. Just as he put the finishing touches on the light display...the power went out! I thought maybe we had overloaded some circuit with

all of our lights, but there were power outages all over Northern California due to the severe wind and rain. So out came the candles and the lantern, and our home took on a warm glow.

We played electronic Catch Phrase by the light of a mini flashlight, and then my son, Ruben, brought out his guitar and we sang all the lovely old Christmas carols.

Of course, I had cooked food for a lot more people. The *rellenas de papa*, the *gaspacho de bacalao* and the *empanadillas* went quickly, but I have enough *arroz con gandules* and ham to last me several more days of no cooking.

It was so peaceful and mellow that we didn't even play the traditional "Pink Elephant Game," but we all agreed that it was a very special time together, and just what we needed this year.

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# Christmas around the Country

Larry and I are spending the holidays with his family in Indiana. We are looking forward to a little cool weather and some snow hopefully.

Mom and Dad, and Rosa and Brian will spend Xmas at our house while we are gone, and taking care of our house and Charlee the cat. Brian is undergoing the cancer treatment and is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. He is now the coach of his tennis team until he recovers from this and his up and coming hip surgery some time in the next 6 months. Rosa is very busy with her party business and now her vintage fashion displays.

Larry and I are busy with his new townhome developments and expect a very busy 2003 completing the three projects. Mom and Dad are always busy with antiquing and hanging out with us.

We hope and pray that all family and friends have a healthy and happy holiday season filled with love.

God Bless,

Carol, Larry, Tita, Jose, Rosa and Brian and all the pets.

Hello Norma,

I plan on praying for peace on Earth, goodwill towards all men (especially our leaders).

Opening presents with my mother in Crestone, Colorado.

I plan on practicing the art of holiday goodie consumption (and lots of it.)

I am going to two Christmas parties and have decorated the house for Christmas guests.

I plan on thinking about my goals for next year and how to achieve them.

Sending you love and all that is Christmas.

God bless us all.  
Vickie Jimenez

Hi Norma,

Because of Christmas falling in the middle of the week, Vanessa and I get to have Austin (my grandson) Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. We will not do the traditional thing. Instead we will have a Christmas Breakfast together after opening gifts and then Austin will be on his way back to his dad for the remainder of Christmas Day. The rest of the day will be a quiet one. It almost makes it "just another day".

The best part of it for me is that I do get to see my grandson on Christmas morning and watch all the excitement of him opening his gifts. It's all about the children.

I wish you Peace and a very Merry Christmas and a very good New Year.

Love, Meryem

Dear Normy Jane:

Well, after a few years of spending Xmas at Jo's we decided that this year it was going to be different so we are staying home for a change. Wilmi is taking time to apply to various universities in the States and today she got her first response, from Notre Dame, in South Bend Indiana. She's been accepted! We are waiting for the rest of the universities to reply and then we will make a tour of those that accept her this coming Easter (Wilmi will have 2-weeks vacation then so we'll probably spend them traveling from one university to the other). Other choices: Carnegie-Mellon, Harvard, M.I.T., Catholic University, Princeton, Cornell, Washington U ( my Alma Matter), and Georgetown. We hope they accept her at Princeton or Carnegie-Mellon because of their excellent program in Architecture, which is what she has finally decided to study.

Now, besides eating plenty of *lechón* and *pasteles* and *arroz con gandules*, we also plan to send you a little donation so that the "...Y La Trapo de Familia ?" keeps on the good work. We already called Santy Claws about this but he wasn't in so we left a message.

Love, Big Cousin Billy Bob



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# Christmas around the Country

**From Cousin Carlos...**

Norma,

You asked about our Christmas plans. Garnet and I plan to have a Christmas brunch with our children and grandchildren assuming that my mother's condition does not suddenly worsen. Then after Christmas, we plan to go to Georgia to visit mom and dad and my two brothers for a few days.

With all the recent events and my parents' health problems, it is very difficult for us to feel festive this year. If it were not for us putting up the tree and lights during the Thanksgiving holiday, we probably would not have any Christmas decorations out this year. I do not think we will be sending Christmas cards this year. It is much too difficult given the stress we've been under lately.

I hope everything is going well for you and your family.

We received an invitation from Roberto to attend Rachel's graduation in California next June. We think it will be an excellent time to plan a vacation around that event and visit relatives. I'll let you know our exact plans as we get past our current situation and can look to the future.

With love,

Carlos

*Editor's Note: As many of you already know, Auntie Rosita passed away on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please read the bereavement notice on page 5.*

**From me...**

Randy and I took the kids to Daly City for an overnight visit with their grandparents, Rocky and Carol Pettit. The next day they were picked up by Ruben and Lisa Quiñones, with whom they will spend a few days. They will all drive up to spend Christmas with us.

We finally got a tree...with the storms we've been having, we hadn't been able to get out to buy one until yesterday. Randy and I will have to decorate it by ourselves tonight. We're getting an early taste of "Empty Nest Syndrome."

This year everything is different. We're saying it's the year to break with tradition, and we have mixed feelings about that. To complete the picture, I am planning to fly out to Georgia on Christmas Day, if I can get on a flight. I didn't make it to Auntie Rosita's birthday celebration last April, so I want to be there for her funeral.

God Bless!

—Norma

**From Cousin Joi...**

We'll be dreaming of a white Christmas here in Denver as it seems to be snowing everywhere else around us but here! Not that we're complaining, but it's always nice to have that additional spirit of the holiday with us. The mountains carry the white glimmer of the winter season and are a spectacular sight against the vibrant Colorado blue sky.

Otherwise, it'll be a quiet holiday for the Stenroos family with us reflecting on our blessings, thinking of family and friends and enjoying being together. This holiday season we've been able to attend few gatherings with friends, keep in closer touch with family, do the usual baking and gift giving, but mostly remembering Christmas pasts growing up and all those cherished celebrations with those who are no longer with us. Those special memories fills our hearts and reminds us that any chance you have to be together with cousins, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers now and throughout the year is certainly the true meaning of this holiday. For the present holds our memories of our future.

I am scheduled to work on Christmas, but will be off on Christmas Eve. Vic, Eric and I will plan something special to also celebrate our 22nd wedding anniversary on Dec. 26th.

We send our best wishes to everyone in the family for good health, happiness and joy in the New Year!



*Joi and son, Eric, at a friend's Christmas party this year.*



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## Guess Who This Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 7.

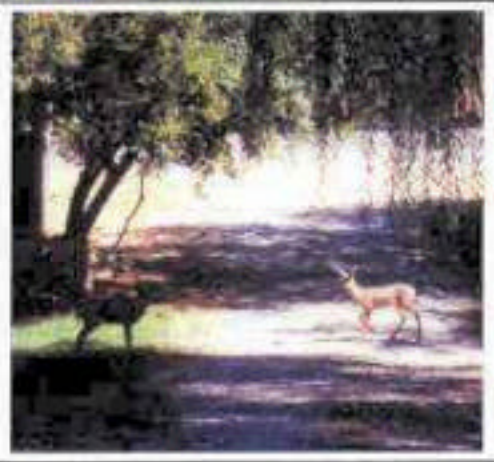


The Way We Were



*Misc. photo:* Olga and Joi at my house in November, eating apple pie at our annual Golden Girl Getaway.

## A View of...



...the deer on my driveway.

At this time in our family history...

- Maria de Jesus Garcia was born on Dec. 15, 1852. She was a sister of my great-grandmother, Maria Ignacia Garcia.
- On Dec. 15, 1884, Great-uncle Eugenio Cruz Garcia was born.
- Timothy Michael Warren, son of my sister, Olga, was born on Dec. 26, 1974. He died at the age of 15 months.
- Juan M. Garcia, a brother of Maria Engracia Garcia, was born on Jan. 2, 1858.
- My father's uncle, Gilberto Cruz Maldonado was born on Jan. 15, 1907.
- On Jan. 21, 1820, my great-great grandmother, Maria Vila was born. Her father, Pedro Vila, was born in Cataluña, Spain about 200 years ago and married Maria del Pilar Gonzalez of Peñuelas, P.R.



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# Student News



Dustin Cavino, eleven-year-old son of Teena Warren (and grandson of my sister, Olga), is a sixth grade student at Martinez Middle School. His favorite subjects are P.E. and Science, and his favorite pastime is skateboarding.

Dustin's sister, Shanda Peters, is an honor roll student at Liberty High School in Benecia. A 10<sup>th</sup> grader, Shanda has earned the distinction of Student of the Quarter in both quarters so far this year.

*Way to go, guys—keep up the good work!*

*Veronica and Rachel, daughters of David and Angela Nicholson (granddaughters of George and Barbara, great-granddaughters of my Auntie Marie), wish to announce the arrival of a new baby sister...*

*Annalise Louise Nicholson*

*Born on October 17, 2002 at 7:15 a.m.*

*Annalise weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches.*



## Your Prayers are Requested

Brenda Campbell of Dallas, Texas, wife of Walt Campbell and sister of Garnet Rivera, passed away Tuesday, December 10th, from complications resulting from her year-long battle with cervical cancer. She was 55 years old. Surviving family includes daughters Shannon and Darcy and step-daughter, Jennifer, as well as her husband, Walt.

During her visit to Dallas to be with her sister, Garnet Rivera, wife of Carlos Rivera, Bargersville, Indiana, suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for several days. She underwent catheterization and implantation of two stents to restore normal blood flow to the heart. She recovered fully without permanent damage and has since resumed normal activity.

Garnet and Carlos wish to extend appreciation to those who sent letters and cards of sympathy and well wishes for Garnet's speedy recovery.

### *Rosita Rivera*

*Wife of Isidro Rivera and mother of Carlos, Edward, Roberto and Orlando passed away peacefully in her home on December 22, 2002.*

*Auntie Rosita had been stricken with pancreatic cancer and was lovingly cared for in her illness by her husband, with the additional help of her sons and daughters-in law.*

*The February-March 2003 issue of the newsletter will be a special edition dedicated to her life and her memorial service.*

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## Other Family News



Tia Tita and Tío José sent me a Christmas card (and a check for \$25 for the newsletter—THANK YOU!).

In the card she sent me some lovely pictures that I just have to share with all of you. They are of the Roig family's visit to Florida last summer (reported by Bill in the Aug/Sept issue.

Tita says, "I waited a lifetime to meet my nephew and finally our good Lord granted my wish."



What a good-looking couple!

*Angélica and José  
Medina*



*From left to right: José Medina, William Roig, Angélica (Tita) Medina, Carol (Medina) Wright, Larry Wright, Evelyn Torres de Roig, and Wilmi Roig Torres*



# Relatives Respond

**Uncle Isidro** sent me a note after the October/November issue was sent out, saying that he had misplaced his copy and had searched his whole house over looking for it. He had only had the chance to read page 1 before he lost it, and wanted me to send him another copy. I found it so touching that he spent the time to search all over for his copy—it showed me that he really enjoys reading it and that it is important to him.

Of course, I rushed off another copy to him! Thank you for the \$25 check, Uncle; I appreciate your faithfulness in sending me something now and then. **Cousin Carol** also sent a \$25 check for the newsletter in her Christmas card—thank you Carol and Larry! **Cousin Joel** sent me two books of stamps, and also contributed \$25 online, which was split between Carlos and me. A while back, George and Barbara Nicholson also made a generous online contribution. These are all greatly appreciated and go a long way in helping to keep the newsletter going. ☺

Charice Ann Rivera,  
daughter of René Jr.,  
(granddaughter of René and Carmen,  
great-granddaughter of Tío Guar)  
gave birth to a healthy little girl...

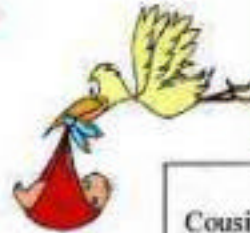
**Liliana Charice**

**Born November 14, 2002**

**At 10:27 p.m.**

**Weight: 6 pounds, 8 ounces**

**Length: 18 inches**



I *think* the little guy pictured on page 4 is my brother, Oscalito, but I am not sure. On the back of the photo it only says, "Para mi titi Elena de Jr. Rivera, 4/29/43." Do any of you know for sure?

In a telephone conversation with Cousin **Mari Lillian Pérez** (daughter of Cousin Lillian of Puerto Rico, granddaughter of Tío Guar), she told me that her sister had bought her a combination printer/scanner, and that now she would be able to send me pictures via e-mail. I was elated about that since I don't get enough mail and information from Tío Guar's line and from relatives east of Colorado. Remember—the newsletter is all about *keeping in touch and keeping informed!* ¡Mari, espero que me envíes fotos e información de la familia para la próxima edición!



Cousin Marilyn (Merritt) Krasze sent this lovely family photo with her Christmas card. L-R: Christine, Paul, Stephanie, Scott, and Marilyn in front.

By now you should all know that I don't send out Christmas cards to the people who are on my newsletter mailing list...this is my official holiday greeting to all of you!

**¡Feliz Navidad!**

**May God grant you the desires of your heart this Christmas season and all through the coming year.**



## “¿...y la familia?”

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## Birthday Greetings



*Christopher Nicholson*  
(33) - Dec. 4

*Yanelis Aisha González*  
(2) - Dec. 9

*William A. González*  
(10) - Dec. 14

*Ryan Rivera* (23) -  
Dec. 16

*Jonathan F. Segarra* (5)  
- Dec. 17

*Raúl Rivera* (61) -  
Dec. 20

*Kelsey Pombo* (13) -  
Dec. 21

*Arlene González* (21) -  
Dec. 22

*Cama Klene* (35) -  
Dec. 25

*Michelle Harrell* (36) -  
Dec. 30

*Vanessa Bell* (30) - Dec. 31

*Oscar González* (43) -  
Jan. 1

*Ada (Pacheco) Rivera* (48)  
- Jan. 10

*Marlin R. Barnes* (7) -  
Jan. 10

*Edward Rivera* (54) -  
Jan. 11

*Bélgica González* (23)  
- Jan. 12

*David Nicholson* (38)  
- Jan. 18

*Sylvia (Atilés)*  
*Lovelace* (65) - Jan.  
18

*Amber Nicholson* (7)  
- Jan. 24

*William Roig* (70) -  
Jan. 31

*Happy New Year,*  
*Everybody!!!*



### *Anniversaries*

*Ada (Pacheco) and*  
*Heriberto Rivera* (24)  
- Dec. 10

*Felicita (Soto) and*  
*Edwin Rivera* (19) -  
Dec. 23

*Joi (De Nardo) and*  
*Vic Stenroos* (22) -  
Dec. 26

*Ruben and Lisa*  
*Quiñones* (2) - Jan. 6

*Sephanie (Krause)*  
*and Scott Thompson*  
(2) - Jan. 6

*Helen (Correa) and*  
*Rafael González* (11) -  
Jan. 18