

"...y la familia?"

Volume 11, Issue 1

Special Edition

Aug/Sept '06

Needed for
Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you
and yours...

Announcements

- New Baby
- Engagement
- Graduations
- Promotion
- New address

Upcoming
Events

- Family parties
- Reunions
- Weddings

Articles, 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

Cherish the Moment



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2006

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Family Reunion



A surprise encounter at Applebee's on Thursday night.

The **2006 Rivera Family Reunion** got off to a great start Thursday night (June 22nd) when Olga and I stopped to eat at the Applebee's in Carrollton on our way to check into the motel. It was 9:30 p.m. and we were starving. What a surprise we had when a man slid into the booth next to me and asked, "Can I join you ladies?" I just stared at him in shock, and it took me several seconds to realize that it was Cousin Frankie — Mary Lillian's oldest son! After a good laugh, Olga and I joined Frankie and the other cousins at their table. I think we were the noisiest group in the restaurant. It got even noisier when I commented that I had brought *bacalao* (codfish) with me on the plane. "¿*Bacalao*?" I was asked incredulously. They wanted to know why on earth I had brought *bacalao* with me.

I tried to keep a straight face while I answered, "I always carry *bacalao* with me when I travel," and Olga added, "Like any good Puerto Rican!" Everyone roared with laughter. Yes, we were off to a great start!



The next day was loads of fun as cousin after cousin arrived at the Quality Inn, where a total of 58 of us ended up staying. I got to meet Vanessa's husband Ken and her two babies, Anita and Logan, in person. They were staying at a different place, but they came to visit us at the Quality Inn. Olga and I met Edwin Rivera Ramos for the first time (at right).



Felita, Valerie and I relaxed and cooled off in the kiddie pool, while some of the men visited, and others just got settled into their rooms.

When it was time to go to dinner at Orlando and Donna's house, the Merritt clan came over from their hotel and we all caravanned to the house.



Frankie



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Here we are all arriving at Orlando and Donna's home—and the cameras are already out! The porch was the first place to stop, meet, greet, hug and smile.



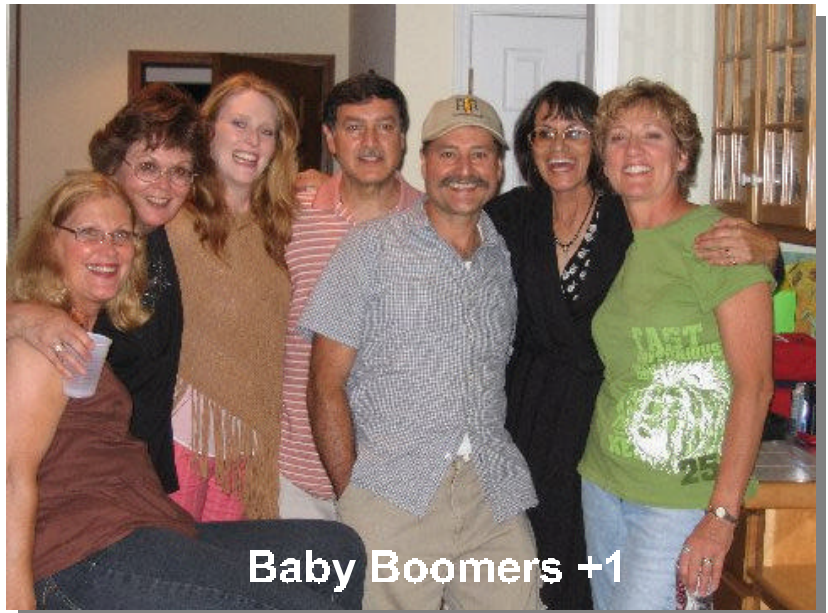
That's Madeline Rivera, Raúl's daughter, in the blue top, and her mother Julia in the yellow top. I hadn't seen either one of them in about 11 years.



Many of the cousins hadn't seen Cousin Carol and Tía Tita since the 2000 Family Reunion in Tequesta, Florida (at the home of Larry and Carol). These two never change. They look as young and beautiful as ever, God bless them!

Olga was so happy to see everyone. She and the "Merritt Girls" —Marylynn, Kathy, and Meryem shared a special bond since Olga lived with them in Iowa for a year when she was a teenager. And of course the "Rivera Boys" and the "García Kids" grew up together in California. All here are Baby Boomers, except for Kathy's daughter, Kirsten (in the brown shawl).

Below, Vanessa and Meryem met for the first time. They are first cousins twice removed, since Vanessa's grandfather (René Sr.) is Meryem's first cousin.

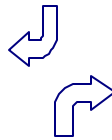


¿...y la familia?

Friday Night Photo Album



Neysha
and
Myrna



Roberto
and
Norma



Uncle
Isidro



Tía Tita,
Olga,
Helen,
and Ada



Joi's Here!
Take
another
picture!



L to R:
Joi,
Vanessa,
Marlynn,
Kathy,
Norma,
Olga,
Uncle Isidro,
Carlos
And
Meryem

¿...y la familia?

Saturday, June 24th



Orlando, the chef, prepared a feast fit for kings...but he did get some help in the kitchen from his brothers Roberto and Carlos, and from Mary Lillian and me. Oh, and look out! René, using that Rivera ingenuity, had prepared dough for "domplines" in his motel room, using a water bottle to mix the ingredients! Mmm...Those "domplines" turned out golden brown, puffy and flaky, just like my mama used to make them.



1—Edna, Edwin (Eddie) and Meryem

2—Olga got some good squeezes from the cousins and lots of extra loving, which she relished. Here Papo tells her how much he loves her.

3— Olga and Carol have radiant smiles for the camera.

4—The "Merritt Girls" (Meryem, Kathy, and Marlynn) with Kathy's daughter, Kirsten. Finally, they got to meet the cousins from Tío Guar's line, and vice versa.

¿...y la familia?



1—Norma, Tía Tita and Olga.
 2—A friendly game of dominoes.
 3—I love the fact that Neysha is very interested in the Rivera family history. God bless her!
 4—Monica is Orlando's daughter and Alicia is Carlos's daughter, so these two beauties are first cousins.
 5—Roberto Rivera, as loving a cousin as they come.
 6—Madeline (in pink) is posing with her parents and husband.



7—Vanessa and her second cousin, George Rivera Ramos.
 8—Nico and Norma try to figure out a puzzle.
 9—This beautiful family group is only a portion of the family members that were present from Tío Guar's line. So far, since our first reunion in 1999, we have not yet had a reunion in which every one of the family lines (with descendants) was represented. Missing from this reunion were representatives from the María Nicholson and Delia Finch lines. Maybe next year in Iowa, eh?

¿...y la familia?

The party continues...



...with food, music, laughter, and singing. Good cooks and great musicians abound in our family, including Orlando's grandson, Tito (shown playing the guitar while René Jr. plays the congas). Kirsten Frosheiser a talented blues singer who impressed everyone with her beautiful voice. Bottom three pics: Meryem won the Rivera Family History album that I raffled off, Uncle Isidro liked the gift he got in our souvenir gift exchange, and Myrna and Roberto are all smiles.



Sunday breakfast at Uncle Isidro's house...



Lillian and her kids.



...and time to say goodbye as most of the family was leaving to go back to their homes. Next year's reunion is going to be in Des Moines, Iowa, hosted by Ken and Vanessa Braddock. Meryem lives in Des Moines, also. Yay! I'm looking forward to another big squeeze from her!



Meryem gives great hugs!



We had a great turnout at this reunion...close to 100 people!



Edwin and Felita with their children and their spouses.



Olga, Joi and I were among the last to leave Uncle Isidro's house. The only other ones left there were Carlos, Tía Tita, Tío José, Larry and Carol. They were spending another night in Carrollton, as was the Merritt family group. Olga, Joi and I had planned to drive up to Tennessee to see Cousin Victoria Nicholson, but a huge storm hit just as we were leaving. After driving for an hour and not even going 20 miles, we wisely pulled over and decided to go to "Plan B". I called Cousin Carol and told her we were heading back, and she graciously got us a room at the Holiday Inn Express, where they were staying. Cousin Vanessa had told me that her husband Ken was going to BBQ that night by the pool of their hotel, the Hampton Inn, so I called her up and told her to set out three more paper plates! While we were sorry to miss out on seeing Victoria and her Bed and Breakfast, we were thrilled to have another evening with the Merritts and the Medinas. I called it a Reunion Encore.

The weather cleared up and we gathered by the pool. Carlos and Orlando joined us, but the Medinas had already made other plans. Ken cooked up a fabulous dinner—a hint of what we can expect next year. Dale and Kirsten went swimming, but Meryem wasn't planning to, until Ken threw her in fully dressed! We all had a great time, and Olga was feeling good. She even helped drag the chairs back into place when it was time to leave.



Monday, June 26th

On Monday, June 26th, I woke up to the sound of Olga praising the Lord out loud from where she lay on her bed. She was saying, “Thank you, Jesus, for a wonderful family reunion. What a wonderful family! Thank you, Lord!!”

When we got up, we had breakfast with the Medinas downstairs in the hotel lobby, and had a chance to visit with them for a while before they left. Then we three Golden Girls went out to tour the shops in the little plaza where the Bradley Street Fish House used to be (one of the restaurants that Orlando and Roberto used to own). We spent most of our time in the bookstore there, and had a nice lunch at Pearl’s, on Cousin Carol’s recommendation. At one store, we got a kick out of the window display, and the owner invited us to climb right into the window for some pictures. What a hoot!

We didn’t know it at the time, but it was to be our last Golden Girl outing.

Back at the hotel, we decided to go play cards by the pool. We played our favorite game, Peanuts—one that had been taught to us by Auntie Adele over 40 years ago. Later, Joi and I went out and got Olga a milkshake (and ice cream sundaes for us). We had an old fashioned pajama party in our room. First I took a picture of Olga and Joi, and then I set up the camera with the timer and ran and got into the next picture. This is the very last picture of Olga that I took with my camera, and how special that we three Golden Girls were in it together!



Joi left early the next morning to fly back to Denver. Olga and I left later, and when our plane was nearing Sacramento, Olga thanked me for being so attentive to her on the trip and taking care of her. She said, “Thank you for everything you’ve done. I love you.” and I said, “Thank you for having been such a wonderful big sister. I love you.” We knew that Olga was terminally ill with cancer, but we thought she still had six months left to live. She died exactly one week later. I thank God that we took advantage of the opportunity to say goodbye to each other. It just goes to show that you have to *cherish the moment*.

Thank you Cousin Carlos for making up the reunion banner with the words “Cherish the Moment”. It was our reunion slogan this year, and I want to thank everyone in the family for making Olga’s last reunion so very special for her. She wanted it to be a huge celebration and a wonderfully fun time, and it was just that, thanks to all of you! Carlos had vowed, “We’ll show her the time of her life,” and you really did. Olga got lots of hugs and loving from everyone, and sweet words murmured in her ear. She relished every bit of attention that was bestowed on her. When she emerged from the bathroom to join all the relatives for the group picture, everyone cheered and clapped and chanted, “Olga, Olga, Olga!” Her grin was huge. In fact, in all the pictures she has a big smile.

Perhaps the most special photo of all that were taken is this one of Olga being engulfed in Roberto’s embrace. Later on, with the candor that we sisters shared, I asked her what Roberto had said to her as he hugged her. She said, “He told me, ‘Good memories of growing up together,’ and he told me that he loved me.”



Olga passed away on the 4th of July. As the news spread, phone calls and e-mails started to arrive. Here are some of the notes we received:

Oh Norma, I am so sorry to hear that Olga is no longer with us. This, for me, is a very sad day (Me being self-ish), yet on the other hand I am also very pleased that she was saved in Georgia and we will all get to meet up with her again when it is our time. I am also thankful that we were able to spend so much time with her prior to her leaving us... Vanessa

Dear Norma and Family:

Kirstin just called me to tell me to look at my e-mail. We are both devastated to hear this news. Kirstin says that although she had never met Olga before she thought she was so sweet and was glad to be with her at the reunion. Kirstin is totally heartbroken to lose a piece of her new family so soon. She seemed to be doing pretty well and we all thought she had a little more time.

In my heart I knew I had to make this family reunion since I knew that I may never see her again. Time was of the essence. I will miss her with all my heart. May God be with you all. We love you and feel that Olga was a true hero in her own way. I'm sure that she is with the angels now and the Lord Jesus is holding her hand. I'm glad she was in the garden that she loved so much.

Love,

Jim, Kathy, Kirstin, Hayli and James
We give ourselves up to the Lord.

Dear Norma:

I am so saddened by the news about Olga. I was out riding my motor cycle and had stopped for lunch when I heard my cell phone beep. Vanessa had called me and didn't leave a message. I called her back and she didn't want to tell me until I got home but I made her tell me anyway. I can't help it but I was more than shocked. I wasn't ready for that news.

Dale and I got back on our bikes and headed home. It was an hour drive home and I prayed for Olga the entire way home. Dale had only known her from the reunion but was just as saddened as I was. He told me how very sweet and special she was.

I love you cuz and know that Olga will be very missed but always kept in our hearts. Thank you for the time I got to spend with her at the reunion. You also made that a reality for me.

Much love & sorrow
Meryem

Dearest Family,

Thank you for sending us this information. I loved Olga and wish you all God's blessing in this time. I would like to thank Olga for her special smile and for making everyone feel so welcome in her home. Thank you Olga for all the Christmas and New years eve parties. I remember being excited and putting on my best dress to come to your house. I remember food and dancing. Dear Olga thank you. I am certain the world was a better place with you here. Thank you for being on the Earth with us. Say hello to all the other members of our family and have a big party. My deepest sympathy to Norma, Ruben and Joi as I know that you are all so very close.

God bless you all. Vickie [Jimenez]

Dear Norma -

Barbara and I were so very sorry to hear of Olga's passing. It is comforting to know that she was surrounded by her family. Our prayers are with her and her family and you and Ruben.

I have fond memories of our cousin play dates and family outings. Olga will be missed.

George [Nicholson]

Dearest Norma,

How hard this must have been for you to send this sad message. My prayers are for you too. Olga was one great wonderful person.. she'll never be replaced...she had a heart as big as the great outdoors...and welcomed everyone in. She'll always be missed and loved. Tom is in our thoughts and prayers too. He'll be lost without her... I'll pray to the Blessed Mother to ease his pain and see him thru this. Talk to you later...take care...God Bless. Much love.
MOM [Pettit]

Norma,

De parte de la familia Rivera-Andujar queremos extender nuestro más sentido pésame a ustedes su familia inmediata. Olga tambien es parte de nuestra preciosa familia y digo "es" por que siempre estará presente su chispa y su alegría con nosotros en todo momento. Doy gracias a Dios por habernos permitido disfrutar juntos y por haberle consedido uno de los más grandes privilegios que puede tener una persona antes de partir y es el haber compartido con casi toda su familia, toda la gente que realmente la quiere y de una manera tan especial. Estoy totalmente seguro que Dios la tiene en sus brazos y que ella estará cuidando de cada uno de nosotros. Les queremos mucho.

Edwin Rivera Soto y familia.

Dear Norma,

I just was able to get online again. It was a total shock to all of us how suddenly the Lord came for our wonderful cousin. I guess he couldn't wait to have such a beautiful new angel in his flock. Olga will live within us in her beautiful personality and how she acted at the reunion as if she was 100% fine.

Norma, we know how hard this will be for all of you, so please do not hesitate to keep in touch. We are with you.

Love, Carol and Family

Dearest Norma and family,

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your sister, Olga. I know that this time is difficult for all who were a part of her life. Please know that our families are praying for you and all of Olga's loved ones. Know also that she is no longer suffering as she rejoices in the presence of our LORD. Find peace in all of your memories of her.

Peace,

Nellie and families in Indiana

*We remember a life today
and all that made her who she was--
all that delighted her,
that made her laugh
or moved her to tears,
calling to mind her story,
and the many lives she touched along the way.*

*We honor a life today--
her outlook,
her inner strength,
and the things that she believed in--
recognizing her goodness, her uniqueness,
her own special gifts shared generously with
the rest of the world.*

*We celebrate a life today
and her connections with family and friends
and all who loved her--
feeling enriched for having known her
and so grateful for our time with her,
for the way she affected us...
inspired us...
and affirmed for us that this is
how a beautiful life should be lived.*

From a card sent to Joi by her friend, Sue.

Norma, Rubén y Oscar:

Nuestra familia se une a la pena que en este momento les embarga y le pedimos al Todopoderoso que les de fortaleza y consuelo por la perdida de nuestra querida Olga. Nuestras oraciones y pensamientos están con ustedes.

Tranquilo en Casa
Queridos míos estoy en casa,
O, tan feliz y luminoso
hay gozo y belleza perfecta
en esta luz permanente.
Todo el dolor y sufrimiento han terminado,
Cada temerosa inquietud ha pasado.
Ahora estoy en paz para siempre,
tranquilo en casa, en el Cielo... Por fin.
¿ Les asombra la calma
con la que crucé el Valle de Sombras ?
O, pero el amor de Jesús ilumino
cada oscuro y temeroso paso.
Y vino El... El mismo a recibirme
a ese camino tan difícil de andar,
en el brazo de Jesús me apoyé...
¿ Pudo haber duda o temor ?
Por eso no deben de sufrir penosamente
pues les amo mucho aún:
Traten de ver más allá de las sombras terrenales,
oren para aceptar la voluntad del Padre.
Todavía hay deberes que les esperan
y no deben permanecer inmóviles.
Háganlo ya, mientras tienen vida,
el descanso llegara en la tierra prometida.
Cuando esa labor llegue a su fin
El mismo suavemente les llamará a casa
“Ah la maravilla de la reunión
O... el júbilo de verles llegar.”

Att: Heriberto Rivera Sevilla y fam.

Dear Norma:

I just received news of Olga's trip to Heaven. People like her never die. As long as one leaves one's prints imbedded in people's hearts, one is present and alive.

Olga's sudden trip serves only to augment her presence in our minds. And rest assured, we may not have her here physically with us, but she is now keeping much better company. Let's all be happy for her.

With love,

Cousin Bill

The Celebration of Olga's Life was held July 8, 2006, in Walnut Creek, CA
The service was officiated by her nephew, Ruben Quiñones.



Born in San Francisco, on July 22, 1947, the oldest child of Oscar and Anita Garcia, Olga is survived by her brother Ruben, and sister, Norma. A half-brother, Oscalito, lives in New York. She was a graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco.



For the past 26 years she was employed as a bookkeeper for Cleasby Manufacturing, where she met her husband.

Married to Tom Smith, she was the mother of Michelle, Angela, Teena, Timothy (deceased), and Marina, and the grandmother of Craig, Christopher, Amanda, Teal, Alura, Marlin, Shanda, Dustin, Raymond, and Robert.



Family was of utmost importance to Olga. She faithfully attended annual family reunions. Last year's reunion was in Puerto Rico where she and Tom took eleven members of their family with them on a two week vacation. Olga was literally in Paradise as this trip was a dream come true for her. She loved Puerto Rico and everything Puerto Rican as this was her heritage. Although terminally ill, she joyfully attended this year's reunion in Georgia, flying out with sister, Norma. Her exuberant personality and radiant happiness belied her serious condition. The color picture on the front page was taken at the Georgia reunion just 10 days before her passing.

Gardening was her passion. She augmented her natural abilities by taking horticulture classes at DVC. Her garden is a living testament of her zest for gardening and is a veritable nursery of plants, fruit trees and shrubbery of all types. She had converted the yard from a landfill to a natural wildlife habitat. It was to her garden that she was carried by her husband, Tom, when it was obvious that the end was near. Olga had been battling cancer the last six months and had taken a dramatic turn for the worse the last week. With her family at her side she went peacefully to be with the Lord at 11:55 a.m.



The chapel was filled with people and flowers, and the presence of those who were able to attend was a comfort to all of us. We also wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all the family and friends who e-mailed (not all the notes could be printed here), called and visited to offer their condolences.

Extra special thanks to Cousin Carlos for the amazing DVD Tribute that he made for Olga and rushed to us via Fed-Ex so that we could have it in time for the service.

¿...y la familia?



Photo Gallery of the Celebration of Olga's life

1. Some of the beautiful floral arrangements
2. Angela took special care preparing the display
3. Ruben and me, smiling through our tears
4. The DVD Tribute was played before the service
5. Ruben Quiñones officiated at the service and also played his guitar and sang, "In the Garden".
6. Following the service, we had a reception at Tom and Olga's house.
7. Olga's oldest daughter, Michelle, and her son, C.J.
8. Marina finally got a chance to sit down and eat. The dogs are waiting for a taste.
9. Olga's kids and grandkids spent days putting together collages of photos.
10. The DVD Tribute was shown on Tom's big TV.



Memories of Olga

Hi Norma,

I will remember my summer trip to PR with Rosa when we stayed with your sister at the beach house. It was great to be unsupervised by parents and we had a great time.

Also the family reunion at our house in Florida when she asked for clippings from my plants and then climbed to the neighbors next door to clip from his exotic bushes. She went home with bundles of cuttings.

I can't believe she is gone, but her smile will always be in my heart.

Love, Carol

That's priceless. I hope she asked your neighbor's permission before she pruned his bushes. :-) —Norma

Nope, she snuck over while I was the lookout. —Carol

Ha! That's hilarious! —Norma

My memories of Olga are so many. From living in San Francisco and going to the basement to wind up the big, tall (to me) record player to play music, to just acting silly. Of course my best memories are during the time she lived with us in Des Moines. We went to St. Joseph Academy for Girls. We had fun. I remember she took a razor and cut off all my hair really short almost like a boy. I thought my Mom was going to have a heart attack. It was only hair and grew back. Of course we went to the high school prom together. Olga never had a problem finding a date. I had an almost blind date. The deal was he would go to my prom with me if I went to his prom with him. I think Auntie Marie sent us some old prom dresses that had been Vickie's or Ginny's. My mother remade them to fit us and we looked good. My most precious memory is at the family reunion. She was so brave and happy and trying so hard. She was so loving with everyone. I was glad we got to ride back to the motel with Olga, Norma and Joi the second night. It gave me a little special time. My favorite picture is of Roberto hugging Olga. You can only see Olga's back but the _expression on Roberto's face shows the love and anguish we were all feeling. I had a hard time at the reunion because I was feeling so much anguish myself. I found myself crying at the drop of a hat. I'm still having a hard time. I take out the pictures of us in our prom dresses and talk to her at times. It helps. She is my angel now. —Kathy (Merritt) Caffey

Joi, I remember the party at Olga's the time that the three of us were together with Elena for the first time in a long while. That's when I first really met my cousin Olga. As I recall, it also would be the last time that you, Sasha and I would be together with Elena. It was such a happy time, full of love and laughter. I remember the special care that Olga (and Tom) had in making all of us feel at home, and the special attention that she had for Elena, like she wanted to add to Elena's evident joy in having us with her there. Later, you would write telling me of the unconditional love that Olga poured over Elena, visiting her when she was alone at home, and helping her in whatever she could. That to me was a measure of the quality of Olga's heart. Even though we didn't have other occasions for being together for any amount of time until the family reunion in Ponce, I will always be grateful to Olga for what she did for Elena. Again, I say, people like her have a special place in Heaven. Let's all rejoice. Love always, Bro Bill [Roig]

GOLDEN GIRL #1

We were the "Golden Girls": Olga #1, myself #2 and Norma #3 (actually referring to our ages --Olga oldest, me in the middle and Norma the youngest). However, in ALL that Olga did, live and breathe, she was **Number One!**

We've all heard that you never know what you had until you've lost it. Well, we Golden Girls knew what we had--a special bond from a very young age. We shared our hearts, our secrets, our fears, hopes and dreams. Our time together was VERY special, even if it was for an afternoon of shopping, an overnight visit or Golden Girl "escape," a telephone chat or a family reunion. With everything, there was laughter! Sometimes we laughed so hard that we cried. Like watching the playback of Olga doing the limbo at the South Carolina Reunion. She fell backwards half-way thru, then scooped herself the rest of the way. A classic! Or surprising her by making her think that she was just meeting Norma somewhere for dinner or shopping and then I would appear. Always seeing the sparkle in her eyes, the smile on her face was the greatest gift. Taking numerous pictures to capture every moment was priceless to us both. We'd joke about who took the most.

Countless memories over the years that will always be in my heart. I will try and not cry because it's over; but will smile and have joy in my heart because it happened. God blessed us with our Golden Girl #1. —Joi

Dear Norma: I am writing from my mother's house since my internet is down at the moment. I only knew Olga three days. But she had a great impact on me. Not only did I find that I had an amazing family that I never knew, I also found Olga who was a beautiful inside and out. Her gentle soul was so accepting and graceful trying to make time for everyone when she had to be so tired. I'm glad she was able to come to the picnic and I wish I had had more time with her. I remember getting the notice that she had passed away on the internet. I called Mom right away. We both cried as I read the note to her. I will never forget her. Love, Kirstin Frosheiser

First Memory of Olga

One of my very first memories of Cousin Olga was my first trip to San Francisco in 1992 and how she was always "fashionably" late. She was to pick me up at the airport since I flew out by myself. She was a half-hour late, but still had that big smile on her face when she saw me.

We went back to the parking garage to find her car so that she could take me to Grandmother's house. However, we couldn't find her car! We walked around and around and around for nearly an hour--all that time she was giddy and making fun of herself for losing her own car that she had just parked 20 minutes before! It was a fun experience to share with her which I will always remember. —Eric Stenroos



*The picture that Eric drew at the age of 8.
See story at left.*

Hello! How are you doing? I stop to think about what to write about mom and I feel myself not finding any words. I loved her more than anything. She was my rock. When I cried or felt alone, her words would soothe me. When I needed guidance, she was there. When I wanted a friend to just talk to, she always listened. She encouraged me to no end. She made me learn to trust myself and life, be proud of who I am and cherish those around me. Family truly was her life. She cherished every person in it, whether she knew them for years or a couple days. I strive to be like her, to think like she would. She put the needs of others before hers, even if that meant sacrificing something for herself. I feel at a loss for words. All I can say is that I am so thankful for the love and support our family has given us. I am truly blessed to be a part of this family. I will talk to you soon. Take care. With love, Marina

Well, I can remember many times being very young and traveling to San Francisco to see our Belmont/San Francisco cousins. I mostly remember lots of music, laughter and dancing.

I remember one time hearing a "record" my big sister Gladys and Olga sang and recorded together somewhere in San Jose. I can't remember the song; just the laughter as they tried to sing without it. I can still clearly hear the end where they choked out their names, "Gladys Hernández and Olga García," still laughing hysterically. You couldn't help but smile just to hear the fun in their voices.

Norma,

[I was able to get more information from Gladys. Here is what she added:](#)

How very nice that you remembered the story about Olga and me attempting to record a song. You remember it very well; a true story. The song we recorded at Playland at the Beach in San Francisco was "My Little Corner of the World" by Anita Bryant. I don't know what became of the record (we shared it), but she and I had great fun recording it and later listening to it. We sang our hearts out. Great memory! Thanks for bringing it back.

Thanks again.

Love,

Helen [Hernández-Darr]

Hi Norma,

My fondest memories of Olga are all the same. Her angelic smile, her warm hugs and never a harsh word from her. I also remember her laugh and I can't remember even once when she was down, not even when she lost Timmy. I know her heart was broken, but when we arrived for his funeral, she was comforting me and my sisters. She knew he was with Jesus.

I'll miss her till we're reunited in heaven.

God Bless,

Nancy

*Editor's Note: I hope you've enjoyed this special, double-length edition.
In the October issue we will go back to our regular features and length.
Please send me something to put in it!
I'd like to take this opportunity, also, to thank Tía Tita & Tío José Medina,
René Rivera Jr., Roberto & Myrna Rivera, and Josy Medina
for their contributions to the newsletter. You are awesome, and I love you!*

"...y la familia?

C/o Norma I. Pettit
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Special Edition

Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (2) - Aug. 3	Héctor Burgos (40) - Aug. 24
Christian Rivera Rosa (14) - Aug. 3	Angelica Stickles (20) - Aug. 26
Brian Pineda (30) - Aug. 3	Frankie Valentin (25) - Aug. 26
Chet Kline (40) - Aug. 6	Hector González (44) - Aug. 26
Michael García (14) - Aug. 8	Yuly (García) Springer (34) - Aug. 26
Timothy Teal Barnes (15) - Aug. 9	Evelyn Roig (62) - Aug. 28
Leandro González (12) - Aug. 9	Julian Miller (8) - Aug. 29
Yamil Williams (20) - Aug. 10	Zulena Delgado (18) - Aug. 29
Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (55) - Aug. 10	Taelyn Darnell (1) - Aug. 31
René M. Rivera (21) - Aug. 15	Nelson Rivera (24) - Sept. 5
José L. Medina (82) - Aug. 15	Luz Rivera (58) - Sept. 6
David L. Finch (66) - Aug. 15	Jerry Feliciano (30) - Sept. 6
Jennifer Campos (32) - Aug. 16	Iris L. Rivera (24) - Sept. 8
Carmen Rivera (63) - Aug. 18	Serena Campos (9) - Sept. 10
Andrea Rivera (17) - Aug. 22	Miguel González (43) - Sept. 10
Shanda Peters (20) - Aug. 23	Leslie (González) López (43) - Sept. 10
Zuleymi Cruz (2) - Aug. 23	

Charice A. Rivera (24) - Sept. 12
Rosanie García (29) - Sept. 13
Rachel Rivera (26) - Sept. 14
Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (60) - Sept. 15
Craig Burch (19) - Sept. 17
Monica (Rivera) Shenker (26) - Sept. 21
Amy Valentín (24) - Sept. 21
Oscar González (67) - Sept. 21
Carmen E. Delgado (22) - Sept. 23
Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (45) - Sept. 23
Raúl Rivera (13) - Sept. 24
Carlos M. Rivera (60) - Sept. 25
Marina M. Ramos (28) - Sept. 25
Johanna Rivera (34) - Sept. 26
Robert Rivera (37) - Sept. 26
Angélica Medina (78) - Sept. 27
Joseph Montalvo (1) - Sept. 29
Logan A. Braddock (1) - Sept. 29

Anniversaries

Michelle & David Fastenau (5) - Aug. 4
Nellie (Feliciano) & David López (18) - Aug. 6
Jeremy & Sheila Carrasquillo (5) - Aug. 11
Luz Rivera & Ramón Trinidad (15) - Aug. 14
Evelyn & Bill Roig (35) - Sept. 11
Rosa & Brian Meddaugh (17) - Sept. 16
Yuly & Todd Springer (12) - Sept. 17
Carol & Larry Wright (19) - Sept. 26
Christina (Krause) & Stan Darnell (3) - Sept. 27

