

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 11, Issue 4

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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

## Michelle's Wedding

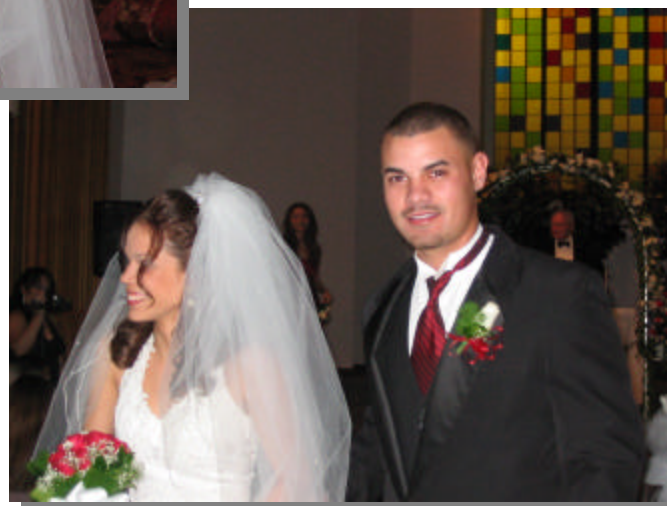


Michelle is the daughter of Roberto and Vicky (Rivera) Cabán, the granddaughter of René and Carmen Rivera, and the great-granddaughter of "Guar" and Elena Rivera.

For more wedding photos of this gorgeous bride and her handsome husband, please turn to page 5.

Michelle Cabán was married to Jason Su'a on December 30, 2006 in a lovely ceremony celebrated at the Plaza Hotel in Killeen, Texas.

As Jason is in the Air Force, Michelle is traveling to join her husband at his duty station in Moron, Spain.



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# I Remember... *"¿...y la familia?"*

## Playing with Dolls

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

When I was very small, Olga and I had identical little dolls. Her doll was named Colleen, which I thought was such a beautiful name. I named my doll Maribel, after a relative on my mother's side of the family. Later on, Dad brought home dancing dolls for us from one of his Merchant Marine voyages. These were virtually life-sized rag dolls with elastic loops on their feet. You could slip the elastic over your shoes and make your doll dance with her feet on top of yours. I don't know what ever happened to those dolls.

The "cuartito" downstairs in our basement was a wonderful place to play house. Our furnishings included an old table, a chair, the famous wicker baby basket, a baby buggy, a toy drain-board and plastic dishes, and an old telephone. My memories of playing dolls are mostly with Joi or with Cheryl, a girl who lived around the corner. Olga, being five years older, had stopped playing with dolls by the time I was six or seven years old.

Mostly I remember playing school with Olga. We would line up our dolls on chairs in the basement, facing an old scratched blackboard that hung on the wall. Olga was always the teacher, but I'm not sure what my role was. Olga had Ruby (a boy doll named after our brother, Ruben), Betty (who was blond and well-behaved), and Johnny (a brown-haired boy doll that was always getting in trouble). Ruby was Olga's doll, but I think Betty and Johnny were community property. And then I had Teddy. Teddy was a brown and gold teddy bear with a molded plastic snout. In true motherly spirit, I viewed Teddy as no different than the other children, until the day that Olga gently suggested we not include Teddy in the line up of "school children". Surprised, I asked, "Why?" She replied, "Because he's a bear." I said, "Oh.", and from that moment on I looked at Teddy with different eyes. He no longer had to attend our basement school.



## LOOK WHAT I STILL HAVE!

I think I was about seven years old when I got this Tiny Tears doll. I loved giving her water with her little plastic bottle with the pink cap. If you tipped her upside down and shook her, "tears" would come out of her eyes. Come to think of it, that probably would make any baby cry. I named my doll Tiny. Hmmm. A teddy bear named Teddy, and a Tiny Tears doll named Tiny. Good thing I had help naming my children when they came along years later!

At this time in our family history...

- Hilario García Jr. and Juliana Pérez were married on Feb. 1, 1861. Hilario's brother, José de la Cruz García, became the maternal grandfather of my grandmother Ana Cruz García.
- Florencio Rivera Maldonado and Ana Cruz García were married on Feb. 12, 1914.
- Auntie Marie and Achilles G. Nicholson were married on Feb. 15, 1937.
- Dionicio del Carmen Rivera Maldonado (a sister of our family patriarch, Papa Flor) was born on Feb. 20, 1867.
- Victoriano Rivera Maldonado (my father's great-uncle) was born on February 23, 1845. He was a brother of Manuel Alejo Rivera Maldonado (my father's paternal grandfather).
- Juan Julian Rivera Maldonado was born 129 years ago, on Feb. 28th. He was five years younger than his brother, Florencio (my father's father), and died on New Year's Eve at the age of nine-and-a-half.
- One of Florencio's paternal uncles, Pedro Alcántara Rivera Maldonado, was born on March 21, 1844. He was the sixth child born to José de los Santos Rivera and Cipriana Maldonado.

The Way We Were



Uncle Bob and Auntie Anita Merritt, around the time of their marriage.

Guess Who This Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 6.



# Retirement at last!

By Carlos Rivera

After nearly 30 years, I walked away from my company for the last time. My last official day with Eli Lilly & Company was December 31, 2006. It was rather anticlimactic. I was ready! I had been thinking of this day for the past three years and played it over and over in my mind until the actual day arrived.



My career with Lilly began in 1977, while I was still attending graduate school at Michigan State University. I was in my final year of studies, preparing my doctoral thesis and contacting various companies about employment opportunities. Lilly was one of five companies that I was seriously interested in. Of those, three came forward with job offers, and after considering what I had seen at each company, I chose Lilly because I liked the people, the atmosphere within and the position they offered was more to my liking. My starting pay with them was the lowest of the three offers, so you can see it was not the money that influenced my decision, and I never regretted that decision.

The job was a field research position where I would do studies with experimental chemicals for agriculture on a working research farm. That first position with the company took me back to California (where I was born and raised), to the San Joaquin Valley and Fresno, where they had a research farm. There were several of us responsible for doing the research work and we each had a territory to cover. Mine was fairly large and included California, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii. Yes, you read that right. Hawaii. I was excited...until the first day at work my supervisor told me that if there was any work to be done in Hawaii, he would do it. Though disappointed at hearing that, it turned out there was almost no work to be done there, anyway. Their agriculture and soil was very different from California and our products didn't work there very well. I spent three years at Fresno doing work with many different crops: fruit trees, soybeans, cotton, rice, grapes, etc. In my first year, I was asked to begin a new research program with a promising pesticide for lakes and ponds that would clean out weeds in the pond but not harm fish in the water or trees and shrubs growing next to the water. I had to use a boat to apply the pellets to the water and then study the effect of the chemical on the pond and surrounding vegetation. My company wanted me to collect specimens and send them back to the lab so they could analyze them. The specimens they wanted included fish samples. So there I was in a boat in the middle of a pond or lake with fishing pole in hand trying to catch fish and all the while thinking they were actually paying me to do this!! Only in America!

My next assignment took me to Indiana where I had regional responsibilities working as a scientist with our sales force. My territory covered nearly one-fourth of the U.S., from Maine to South Carolina to Illinois and up to Michigan. There was a lot of travel. This job lasted about four years and though it was a challenge, it was also a time when companies were struggling to produce new products for agriculture at a price the farmers could afford. I thought about the future and it wasn't very bright. Around that time opportunity came knocking at my door.



Lilly is a large company and they had several divisions. I was in the agriculture division. But Lilly also had an animal health division and a pharmaceutical division. It was in the latter where I got an offer to help the company start up a brand new department called project management. It was 1985. Although I was sad to leave the agricultural division, I could tell their future was bleak, so I gladly accepted the challenge of switching to human medicine. So that I could make the transition from plants to people more quickly, I enrolled in night school and started taking physiology, medical terminology and other medical related classes. Two years after I left the agricultural division, Lilly sold it to Dow Chemical Company.

Back in the 1980's, when Lilly had promising drugs, the scientist who discovered the drug's potential would lead a team to develop the drug for the market. The only problem with that approach was that the scientist didn't know the first thing about drug development and they had to learn from their peers. Many mistakes were made and thus it was a very inefficient process. Also, the scientists were champions of their discovery and found it very hard to know when to stop if they ran into problems. So, professional project management was the answer.

Though it was difficult for the scientists to turn over their pet projects to us project managers, over time it was seen as the best thing that could have ever been done. We eventually reduced the drug development process from a 10–12 year ordeal down to 7–8 years. We also forced decisions in identifying when a project needed to be terminated. I helped terminate 20 of them over the years.

Through the years in project management I developed expertise working with antibiotics and antivirals. Then one day I was asked to lead an osteoporosis project. The drug was called Evista. After 5 years we finished most of our work in the US and got approval to launch the product. Meanwhile, Japan was another large market opportunity and I was asked to work with our local affiliate there. In 1996 I started taking trips to Japan to help our team there. Nearly two years later, I took over that team temporarily and led them for a couple years. It was a big challenge because I did not live in Japan. Instead I had to travel back and forth 6 to 8 times each year. Also, I could not speak Japanese so

there was a lot I knew I was missing. We finally hired a Japanese manager to take over the team and under my direction we were able to make better progress. Though it took us nearly 7 years to develop Evista in Japan, we were successful and were able to launch it in 2003.

Through my experience with Evista, I learned a lot about Japan, its culture and drug development in Japan. I became our company's expert. Other teams were coming to me for advice. So it occurred to me our company needed a full-time Japan advisor in Indianapolis who could focus on helping all of our teams work more efficiently with Japan. I convinced management and they eventually established the advisor role I requested.

I spent my last four years with the company giving back all that I had learned over the years. It was one of those rare opportunities where you were your own boss and could define what you thought should be done. It was fun. I believe I was able to significantly improve the working process between Indianapolis and Japan and by the time my last year arrived, everything seemed to be working well, so much so that my successor's responsibility was expanded to include the company's next big challenge, China. I wish my successor good luck. I'm glad it is not me. I'll watch from the comfort of my living room. thank you very much!



# Michelle and Jason's Wedding Album



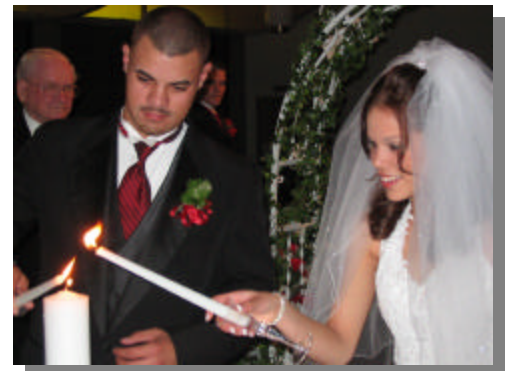
The bride and her mother,  
Vicky.



With Dad in the limo.



Almost ready!



Lighting the  
unity candle.



Michelle's father, Roberto,  
walked her down the aisle.



I'm guessing this is Michelle's  
nephew, Joshua Omar.





¿...y la familia?

# Student News



*Hayli Frosheiser became a horsewoman last summer.*

Hayli Frosheiser, 10, daughter of Kirsten Frosheiser, is a straight A Honor Student, a Girl Scout, takes ballet, tap and jazz classes, and attends AWANA (a children's Bible program) on Wednesdays. In addition (there's more?), Hayli is a very talented artist and has a small business selling her artwork to other kids at school.

Hayli's grandmother, Kathy (Merritt) Caffey, sent in the photos. She says, "She really is a neat little kid. She has a great wit and we call her Squirrel because she is always running around and is so nutty funny."



*Hayli is in the fifth grade at Seward Middle School in Seward, Nebraska.*

Just seven weeks after losing my mother-in-law, my father-in-law, Rocky Pettit, also passed away. After Carol's funeral, Randy's sister took Rocky back to his native Ohio with her since his state of dementia did not allow him to live alone. He died there on December 28th. Randy and I traveled to Ohio for the memorial service where, as a veteran of WWII, Rocky was given a 21-gun salute. On May 4th the family will gather out here in California to scatter Rocky and Carol's ashes at sea, as per both their wishes.

I was blessed to have these wonderful in-laws for almost 25 years, and I really miss them. For Randy, especially, this has been a terrible blow, to lose both of his parents within such a short time. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers, as well as Randy's two brothers and his sister.

## In Sympathy



## Other Family News

- My niece, Marina Ramos is in Italy, taking college courses through a study abroad program. She will be there for three months, so she has promised to take pictures and write an article for the next newsletter. Yay!
- Tom Smith, who was Olga's husband, is retiring as of Feb. 28th, after over 45 years working at Cleasby Manufacturing (where he met Olga). He has purchased a 5th Wheel and is planning to do some extensive traveling around the country. His plans include a stop in Des Moines for the family reunion. Yay, again!

*Thank you to David and Angela Nicholson and to Vic and Joi Stenroos for their gifts of stamps for "¿...y la familia?"*

*The baby pictured on page 2 is George Nicholson.*



*Take a close look at the above photo of Tory Pettit. Do you see her pouting "reflection" in the cabinet glass? My son, Ruben, snapped and edited this pic. He gave it the caption, "Sometimes Tory likes to cook, and sometimes she doesn't."*

# Family Reunion-June 22-24, 2007--Des Moines, Iowa

Meryem Merritt sent this list of possible places to stay. The ones closest to her are the Valley West Inn and the Best Western Walnut Creek Inn (within minutes of her house). You can go online and check them out like you did last year.

Best Western Walnut Creek Inn  
1258 8th Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
Nightly Rates (\$64.99 - \$82.99) 2 Star

Marriott West Des Moines  
1250 74th Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Nightly Rates (\$159.00 - 159.00) 3 Star

Motel 6  
7655 Office Plaza Dr N  
West des Moines, IA 50266  
Nightly Rates starting at \$38 1 Star

Fairfield Inn And Suites By Marriott Des Moines West  
7225 Vista Drive  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Nightly Rates (84.00 - 114.00) 3 Star

Hawthorn Suites Ltd., West Des Moines  
6905 Lake Drive  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Nightly Rates (\$73.00 - \$119.00) 3 Star

Residence Inn By Marriott Des Moines West  
160 South Jordan Creek Parkway  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Nightly Rates (\$94.00 - \$159.99) 3 Star

Valley West Inn  
3535 Westown Pkwy  
West Des Moines, IA 50266-1085  
Nightly Rates (\$79.00 - \$84.00) 2 Star

**Brief reunion notes:** The reunion will take place at a lakeside lodge during Saturday afternoon, and at Meryem's house the rest of the time (Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning). Complete details will come in the April/May issue, and we will have a program for you when you arrive in Des Moines. There will be lots to do and see around the area, such as the Des Moines Farmer's Market, the Living History Farm, bike trails, swimming, kayaking, and a playground for the children.

**Exciting  
News!**

**Family Quilt Project**

In lieu of a souvenir gift exchange, this year we want to have people bring fabric squares which Meryem will later piece together into a quilt. Then at the 2008 reunion she will raffle it off!

Cousin Meryem says, ***"I have seen that others have made family quilts, and quilts actually tell a story. What a great way to be able to reach out and touch your family members by laying your hands on something they have personally made from their heart. Plus the spirit of that special someone they are making it in memory of is in the quilt. All these pieces get pulled together to tell one big story. It is a very emotionally and personal thing. Those who want to contribute to this project are to build a 9 x 9 block (instead of a 12") using the Friendship Quilt Block pattern (see below). Pieces are cut and sewn together and then when everyone comes to the reunion, they can show their block and explain what it's all about. I want signatures to be placed on the quilt also, using indelible ink. If you don't make the reunion and still want to contribute you can mail me your completed piece and I will add it to the rest. Then after all is said and done and the quilt is done, I can bring it to the next reunion and everyone can hunt for their square. Depending on how many squares we get, I may have to make two quilts/wall hangings. I'm so very excited about this!"***

For those of the family that want to participate in the quilt but can't sew, we will have a "build a square workshop" at Meryem's house. Bring your own material for the quilt square that you want to make. We will have the pattern. If you want to put a picture as your square, you need to have that picture transferred to fabric before you come. Any craft store will be able to help you with that. Meryem will do the piecing for you.

There is not enough space for me to print the instructions and quilt pattern in this issue, but I will in the next one. That's a promise! If you want to get a head start on your quilt square, you can e-mail me at [mamanony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamanony@sbcglobal.net) and I will send you the pattern via e-mail. Or if you don't have e-mail, you can write to Meryem at the following address and she will mail the pattern and instructions to you.

Meryem Merritt  
1047 Belle Mar Dr.  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

(Meryem's cell: 515-669-8313.)

Meryem wants to assure you that you don't have to know how to quilt to make your square. All it involves is cutting out pieces of fabric according to a pattern, and then sewing them together (straight lines) into a block. She will do the actual "quilting". Meryem suggests that you select fabric that has some special significance to you, such as from a piece of clothing, or a favorite print. If you are going to have a photo transferred onto fabric, choose muslin.

## "...y la familia?

c/o Norma I. Pettit  
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Placerville, CA 95667  
Phone: (530) 642-8960  
E-Mail: [mamanony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamanony@sbcglobal.net)

Visit us on the Web at [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

## Birthday Greetings

<b>Eduardo Medero</b> (19) - Feb. 2	<b>Dustin Yager</b> (22) - March 3	<b>Raynell H. Díaz</b> (26) - March 19
<b>Juan González</b> (46) - Feb. 2	<b>Miguel González</b> (13) - March 3	<b>Veronica Nicholson</b> (9) - March 21
<b>Katherine García</b> (43) - Feb. 4	<b>Matthew William Hargraves</b> (7) - March 3	<b>Michael Rivera</b> (8) - March 22
<b>Brook Rivera</b> (28) - Feb. 5	<b>Stephen Nicholson</b> (10) - March 11	<b>Mackenzie Eddy</b> (14) - March 24
<b>Angela Nicholson</b> (40) - Feb. 6	<b>Rafael González</b> (38) - March 13	<b>Todd Anthony</b> (5) - March 24
<b>Maritza Rivera</b> (44) - Feb. 11	<b>Karen Rivera</b> (28) - March 15	<b>Sonia (Quiñones) Rambo</b> (29) - March 26
<b>Melissa González</b> (21) - Feb. 15	<b>James Caffey</b> (65) - March 15	<b>Barbara Nicholson</b> (61) - March 26
<b>Nicole García</b> (11) - Feb. 16	<b>Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke</b> (69) - March 17	<b>Milagros Rivera</b> (64) - March 28
<b>Ruben J. García</b> (58) - Feb. 21	<b>Joi Stenroos</b> (57) - March 18	<b>Lisa (Finch) Warner</b> (41) March 28
<b>Heriberto Rivera</b> (55) - Feb. 24		
<b>Gwendolyn Rivera</b> (5) - Feb. 27		

## Anniversaries



**Sheila Andujar and  
Edwin Rivera** (10)  
Feb. 15

**Frankie and Amy Valentín**  
(4) - March 29

**Sonia (Quiñones)  
and Jake Rambo** (5)  
March 30