

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

DEC '08/JAN.'09

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

Carlos and Garnet's New House



Just before this year's family reunion, Carlos and Garnet's new house was finally completed and they began their move. When they came out to California, they had just moved into their home and brought their belongings out of storage. With boxes everywhere, and landscapers still at work on the exterior, it was difficult for them to tear themselves away to fly to California. We are all so grateful for their sacrifice, because the reunion wouldn't have been the same without them. When people put family first over their own comfort and convenience, it shows the depth of their loyalty! These pictures are part of a slide show that Carlos sent me on July 7th. Please turn to page six for more photos of the Riveras' gorgeous home. I'm sure we all extend the most heartfelt congratulations to Carlos and Garnet and wish them many, many wonderful years in their new abode. May they be years filled with abundant health, joy, peace and love!

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¿...y la familia?

Pettit Family Christmas Party

This year, due to the fact that I am going to be out of state for a few days in early December, the traditional family Christmas party that we have been hosting for eighteen years will be held a week later.

Please make a note of the date and time...we hope to see you here, and don't forget to bring your "Pink Elephant" gift!

Saturday, December 20th

2:00 p.m. until ???

The Pink Elephant Game will be played at about 6 p.m.

Family-Friends-Food-Fun (Pink Elephant & Karaoke)

Guess Who This Baby Is?

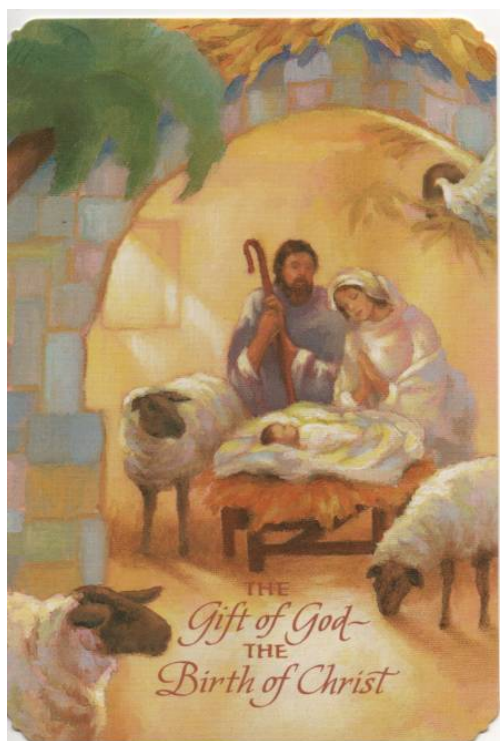
Hint: This picture was taken in January of 1948.

The answer is found on page 7.



At this time in our family history....

- On December 15th, 1852, María de Jesús García was born. She was a sister of my great-grandmother María Engracia García.
- Also on December 15th, but in 1884, my great-uncle Eugenio Cruz García was born.
- Timothy Michael Warren, son of my sister, Olga, was born on December 26, 1974. He died at the age of fifteen months.
- Juan M. García, a brother of the above-mentioned Maria Engracia García, was born on January 2, 1858.
- On January 15, 1907, my great-uncle Gilberto Cruz Maldonado was born. He was the son of Máximo Cruz and Genara Maldonado. He was the uncle of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.
- On January 21, 1820, my great-great-grandmother, María Inés Vilá de la Cruz (Máximo's mother) was born. María's father, Pedro Vilá, was born in Cataluña, Spain.



This is our Christmas greeting to all who receive the "¿...y la familia?" newsletter.

*Praying all God's blessings
will be yours this season,*

*With love,
The Pettit Family*

"This is how God showed His love among us:
He sent his one and only Son..." 1 John 4:9 NIV

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Meet Your Relatives....

Umar Oscar González and family

Allow me to begin with the greeting of Salamu Alai kum...(Arabic for, May the peace of God be with you)
If you were not aware, in the year 1976, I decided to research religions and each denomination of Christianity and their origins.

I discovered that I am a believer in God. In any language.

信奉上帝 = believer in GOD - CHINESE

vjernik u Boga- " - CROATIAN

croyant EN DIEU- " - FRENCH

υποστηρικτής της ΘΕΟΥ- GREEK

- مؤمن بالله- ARABIC- MUHMIIN ALLAH



I decided to surrender to God.

In any language, it is still the same.

In Arabic it is Islam.

So, I decided to alienate myself from religious denominations that I believed were designed to separate mankind, and embraced a way of life called the complete submission to the will of god, the faith of Abraham.

In Arabic it is called Islam.

I enjoy Arabic, Hebrew, and of course, Latin.

.....
As you know, my name is also Oscar. A celtic name that embraces definitions such as leaping warrior, or jumping boundaries with strength, etc.

That is the name of my father, and the name of my father's father.

I adopted a name to enhance my first name.

I chose the name Umar, the name of a warrior King, whose faith was so solid, that even Lucifer ran the opposite direction where Umar walked..

González...the name of the man that raised my father through the hardships of the recession in his day, passed the name to me and my lineage. The name , Gunzhard-ez, was an Irish clan that helped feudal lords in Spain to protect their forts. Once knighted, the head of the Gunzhard (the fighting elves) clan, remained in Spain with his clan, and the sons of, (ez) Gunzhard, known later as Gunzhardez are my forefathers as well, not from blood, but through destiny.

Now my entire name embraces Leaping warrior, over the boundaries with strength, the warrior king, the fighting elf.

.....
In my blinded journey throughout life, I tripped across many blessings along the way. Situations that God placed in my path to show me his kindness and love and mercy.

I also stumbled upon impediments that brought difficulties along the way. However, the end result always made me stronger.

Like everyone in life, the stories are similar, just the names have changed. *(Continued on next page)*

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The blessings I have shared with you, my daughters, are ...

-Belgica González. Born January 12th, 1980 at 9p.m. in St Johns Hospital, Queens NY. to Belgica Jordan de González, born April 13th, 1962. Her mother and I were married in July 1st, 1978. We were divorced August, 1981. My daughter, Bel, has decided not to marry, however, she did finish college and is a Veterinarian. She met a young handsome fellow, resembles Keanu Reeves, about 6'4" tall named John Chang. Father Chinese, mother Irish. My granddaughter's name is Gia Chang, born January 11th, 2007.

-Next is my nubian princess, Sabrina Jaquez González, born July 21st, 1993 to Nelida, my wife. I have adopted her as my own, and have allowed her to carry her fathers name as well. She is in High School, all honors, studying to be a pediatrician. Her activities include reading the Journal of American Medical Association, The Physicians desk reference, U.S. Pharmacopoeia, with several diagnostic and treatment books on her spare time besides playing classical guitar and piano.

-Yanellis Aisha González is a bit timid compared to the other ones. She reminds me of Tía Olga, with her big smile and big eyes. She was born on December 9th, 2000. Her desire to be a Doctor, as well, has me challenged with the responsibility to keep her away from the norm in our times, out of the box, and she is already reading medical books with her older sister. Besides the fact that they all play arabic flamenco guitar and sing arabesque duets and solos.

-Jessica Millenis González, born on August 31st, 2002 is the ferrous one. Iron and fire. Hard will and fiery. Besides being a guitarist and pianist, her boisterous voice is heard above the others in a harmony all its own. She is the leader of all three. Assertive and directing the others in a fair way, to a common goal. Of course, she is only 5, and is very limited in span and scope, however, innately, she transcends.



My wife, Nelida Agosto de González, is the best friend I have ever had.. I met her and fell in love at first sight. Her composure is akin to the Virgin Mary, old school, like grandma...and the balance to my ying/yang. lol I let her know, the day I met her, that she would be my bride, and mother my family. Three months later we were married, and have been inseparable ever since. Our children were all planned. She met me when I sold cars in Florida.

In 2003, a friend had invited me to cross over from car sales into the mortgage industry. He said that as a salesperson, I would be very successful. I took on the challenge, and within one year in the industry, bought and sold numerous properties, as an investor, and made a very fine life for my wife and children, and made my father and my mother very proud. I sent for my dad and his wife to Florida, and furnished one of my empty, renovated investment properties with the best quality money could buy in furnishings for his stay with us. He was impressed. -I later met them back in NY for dinner and brought my wife and children along, and invited a friend and her husband and two children for their anniversary, all expenses paid. WOW, was he impressed. I managed to keep investing in homes, and upgrading, and found myself overextended, equity wealthy, with only a few thousand dollars from month to month. And then, the bottom fell out, and all of my equity went down the drain. ha, ha, ha.....Now, here I am again, at square one. Beginning all over again. I share this rags to riches story with you, the story of a success that is again inevitable. God does not measure the size of one's wallet, he measures one's actions and heart. I know, now, that only in God's name are all things good, and wealth can only be good, in his name, so for the next trick I find myself journeying, I will do it in his name...see you soon...(God Willing)

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Other Family News

The following is an excerpt from Tory Pettit's blog, "Sunrises in the East" (a journal of her time in South Korea):

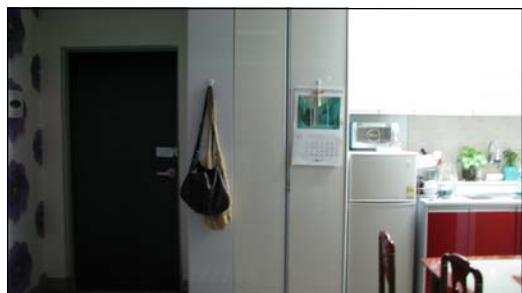
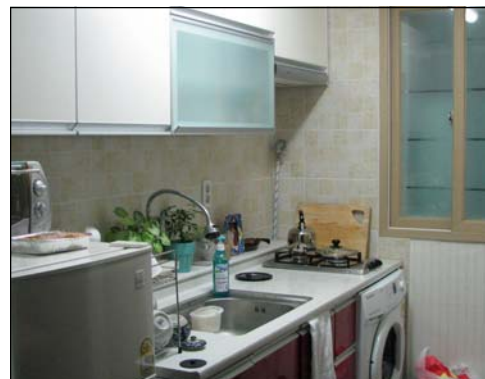
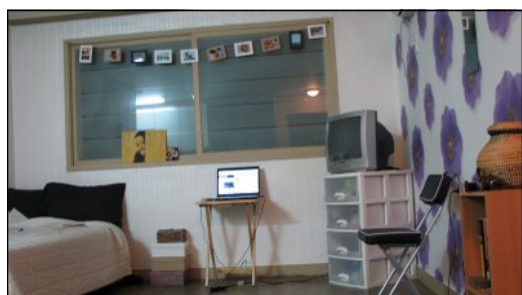
Tuesday, November 25, 2008

The New "Apata"

It's quite late right now. It's just after 2 a.m. I'm up late because I'm just enjoying my new apartment way too much. I need to get to bed, really...but it's so dang nice to be here. I mean, just looking around the room is nice. It's such a pretty place that I feel like it's not mine at all. I feel a bit like a guest in my own home, if that makes any sense. The move was really fast—I closed my eyes, spun around three times, and when I opened them, I was here like magic. (Actually, what happened was I packed all my things and the movers came to haul it all away. Then I unpacked it all and settled in.) It was still very fast!

I'm having a mini party with all my close friends here in two weekends. Probably movies, food, music, talking. You're invited, of course, but I think the distance is a bit too far this time. Eh, well, I understand. There'll be more delightful parties of mine to attend in the future!

Oh right, you wanna see some pics? Sure you do. Okay, so here's the grand tour:



Hi Norma,

I got your e-mail and I would like to receive it [the printed family newsletter]. I, too, am saving them for my grandchildren.

Update on our family. My mom continues to be in great health and great spirits. I go to see her normally once a week. Our granddaughter, Kelsey [Pombo], graduated from high school this year and is now attending Purdue. She is studying Mechanical Engineering. Matt is in third grade. Matt is in chess club, choir, taking piano and soccer. Riley is in second grade. Riley plays soccer. Ryan is now in junior high. He will be playing flag football soon. Kayla is in third grade and enjoys dance. Ted and I enjoy watching soccer games and we will be going to the flag football games. We are very blessed in that all our family is in great health.

Love,
Jenny

Editor's Note:

Kelsey, Matt, and Riley are the children of Jenny's daughter, **Kimm Hargraves**. Upon her graduation from Livermore High School this year, Kelsey received the AP award, granted to students who have passed three or more Advanced Placement exams with a score of 3 or higher. **Ryan** and **Kayla** are the children of Jenny's son, **Ken Reinke**.

“¿...y la familia?”



*More pictures of
Carlos and Garnet's
beautiful new home.*



*Their address is
4884 Krestridge Ct. East,
Bargersville, IN 46106*



Isidro Rivera Undergoes Knee Surgery

Uncle Isidro had knee replacement surgery on October 14, 2008 at Tanner Medical Center in Carrollton, GA. I asked Cousin Carlos to give me an update on his father's recuperation. This is the reply that Carlos sent:

“Dad was hospitalized for about 3 weeks following his knee surgery due to the need for rehabilitation. His stay in the hospital was not without incident, however. The day after his surgery, his wound must have opened somewhat and he bled without notice. It was sufficient that it required a blood transfusion. Then later, he fell twice, probably due to the drugged effect the pain medication was having on him. He lost his balance trying to get up to go to the bathroom. The first time he fell he was bruised. The second time, his head hit something which cut him and required stitches. ¡Pobrecito!

He was never so happy as to be released and sent back home where he felt he could rest better without the nighttime interruptions to take temperature and what have you. Nurses visit him at home several times a week to continue his physical therapy.

Unfortunately, dad also reported that he has now strained his other leg (probably due to favoring his repaired knee) and that is causing some additional pain. He remarked to me that if he knew back then what he knows now, he probably wouldn't have had the surgery. He says he is having more discomfort and pain than before the surgery and he is really discouraged!

I feel sorry for dad and wish I lived closer to visit him often. But, I am certain that once he gets through the rehabilitation period, I can just imagine it's going to be significantly better for him. I certainly hope so.”

“¿...y la familia?”



New Arrival!

Kaylee Noemí Valentín

November 25, 2008, at 7:01 p.m.

5 lbs., 14 oz.—19" long

Parents: Frankie and Amy



Picture below left: Kaylee's Uncle Alexis,
Aunt Jennifer, and Uncle José
Below: Grandmas Mary Lillian
and Maggie



Can You Believe It?

We are already beginning to make plans for the 2009 Rivera Family Reunion in Puerto Rico! So far, we know that Cousins Annie and Wilson are going to be hosting at least part of the reunion in Peñuelas. Annie Meléndez is my second cousin—her father, Juan, was a first cousin of Adela, Oscar, Maria, Elena, Guar, and Anita. The reunion is set for **June 19-21, 2009**. More details will be published in the February and April issues of “¿...y la familia?”.

One important event that we are planning on is to climb up to the area of Peñuelas, in *Barrio Santo Domingo*, where our ancestors came from. This will probably happen on Saturday morning, June 20th. I hope to have more information about that special trek up the mountain in the next issue.

Among the relatives keen on making this trip to Puerto Rico for the family reunion are my niece, Marina Ramos, Olga's youngest daughter. You will recall that Marina's sister, **Angela Barnes**, died of cancer in October of last year, just 15 months after Olga passed away. It is Marina's most heartfelt wish to somehow enable Angela's children to accompany her to Puerto Rico for the reunion. Angela's desire was to have her ashes scattered in Puerto Rico, and Marina rightfully feels that Angela's children should be present when their mother's ashes are scattered. However, Marina can't bear this expense alone, so if anyone would like to contribute to the “Barnes Fund”, please send a check to her at the following address. Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

Marina Ramos
435 Community Ln., Apt. 17
Woodland, CA 95695

“¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit
2426 Meadow Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 642-8960
E-mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

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

Birthday Greetings



Christopher Nicholson (39) -
Dec. 4

Emma Kathleen Thompson
- (5) Dec. 5

Yanelis Aisha González (7)
Dec. 9

William A. González (16)-
Dec. 14

Ryan Rivera (24) -
Dec. 16

Jonathan F. Segarra (11) -
Dec. 17

Raúl Rivera (67) -
Dec. 20

Kelsey Pombo (19) - Dec. 21

Arlene González (27) -
Dec. 22

Joshua Omar Cabán (3) -
Dec. 22

Cama Klene (41) - Dec. 25

Michelle Harrell (42) -
Dec. 30

Vanessa Braddock (36) -
Dec. 31

Oscar González (49) -
Jan. 1

Robert Paul Cavino (4) -
Jan. 9

Ada (Pacheco) Rivera (54)
- Jan. 10

Marlin R. Barnes (13) -
Jan. 10

Edward Rivera (60) -
Jan. 11

Bélgica González (28) -
Jan. 12

David Nicholson (44) -
Jan. 18

Sylvia (Atiles) Lovelace
(71) - Jan. 18

Amber Nicholson (13) -
Jan. 24

*Zachary David
Nicholson* (2) - Jan. 30

Larry Wright (60) -
Jan. 30

William Roig (76) -
Jan. 31



*Happy New
Year,
Everybody!!!*

Anniversaries

*Ada (Pacheco) and
Heriberto Rivera* (29)
- Dec. 10

*Felicita (Soto) and
Edwin Rivera* (25) -
Dec. 23

*Joi (De Nardo) and
Vic Stenroos* (28) -
Dec. 26

*Michelle (Rivera) and
Jason Su'a* (2) -
Dec. 30

*Ruben and Lisa
Quinones* (8) - Jan. 6

*Sephania (Krause)
and Scott Thompson*
(8) - Jan. 6

*Helen (Correa) and
Rafael González* (17) -
Jan. 18