

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

DEC '11/JAN '12

*Needed for
Future Issues:*

*"Stuff" about
you and yours...*

Announcements

*New baby
Engagement
Graduations
Promotion
New address*

Upcoming

Events
*family parties
Reunions
Weddings*

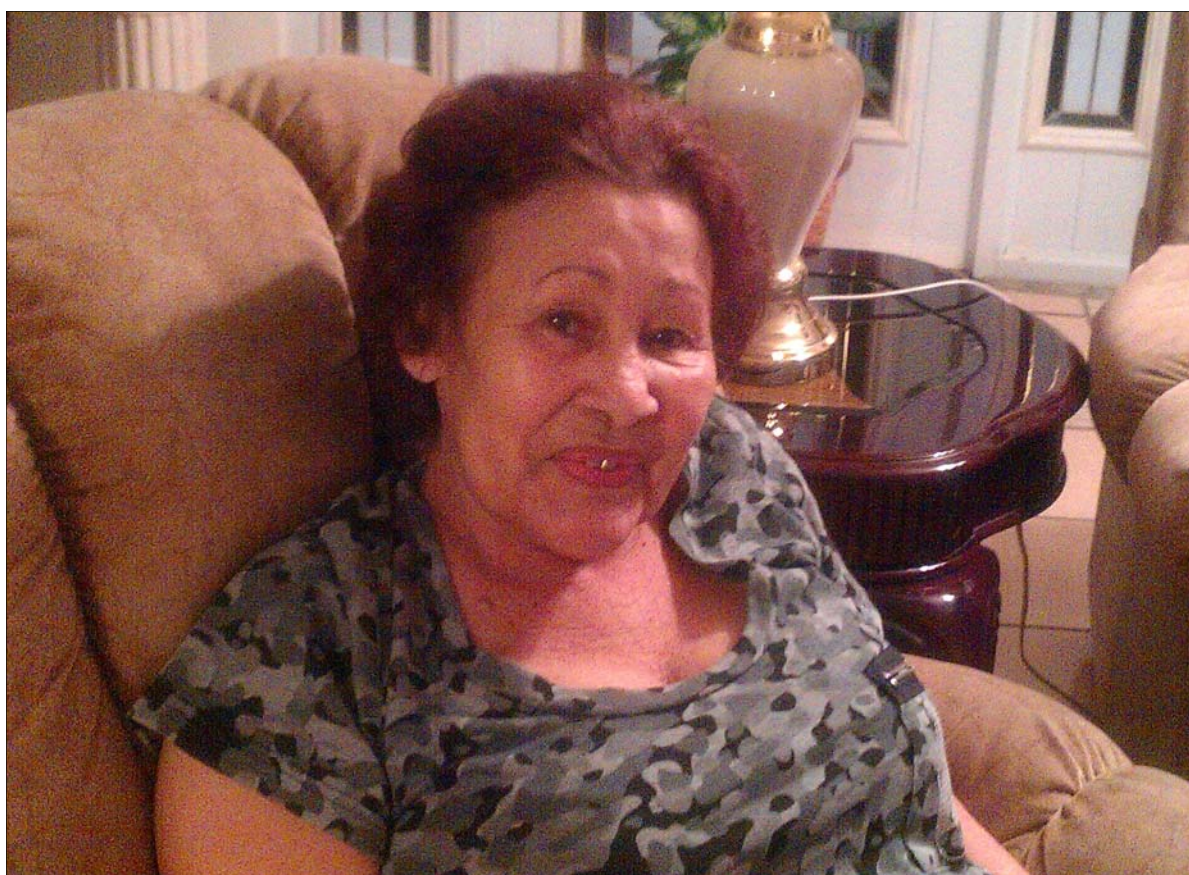
Article, Photos and Fillers

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

*This is **your**
family news-
letter. Fill it
with things
about your
family!*

Carmen "Titi" Medina Cruz, 1943-2011

René Rivera's beloved wife of 50 years passed away.



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¿...y la familia?

On October 12th, Cousin René Rivera lost his wife of 50 years—Carmen Medina Cruz. Carmen, or “Titi” as she was called by all who knew and loved her—had been in a lot of pain for months and had recently had back surgery. She died from a heart attack at the age of 68.

Titi was born on August 18, 1943, in Ponce, Puerto Rico. She was the daughter of Esteban Ramón Medina (1924-1994) and Antonia Cruz (1926-1978), both from Ponce. Her paternal grandparents, Salomé Medina and Beatriz Vélez were also from Ponce, but her maternal grandparents, Maximino Cruz and Josefina Martínez, were from Peñuelas and Yauco respectively.

Titi was the oldest of eight children; her siblings were Ramón (1945-2009), Jesús (b. 1946), Vigdalia (b. 1950), Evelyn (b. 1954), Estéban (b. 1958), William (b. 1964), and Carlos (b. 1971).

In the Feb/Mar 2005 issue of “*¿...y la familia?*” René wrote about how he met Titi back in the summer of 1960.. He was fresh out of the Army and was hanging out in front of a *cafetín* with his best friend. A *cafetín*, he explained, is a shop where they sell beer, rum, sodas, candies, and where they have a pool table and jukebox. Here is an excerpt from that article.

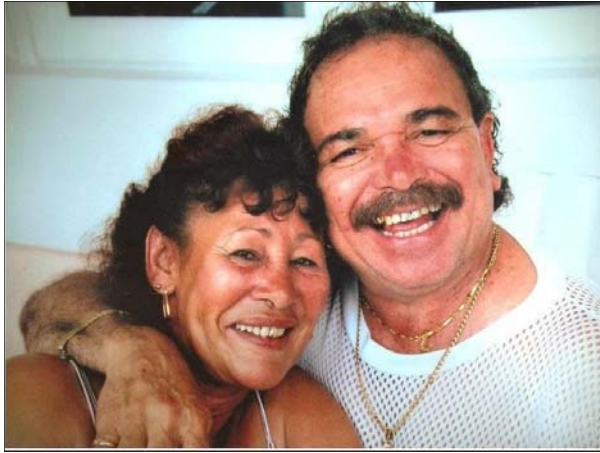
“One afternoon I was drinking a beer with my friend in one of those *cafetines*. In those places you buy a beer and most of the time you go outside to talk about any subject such as sports, music, and other things. It is really a front; it is your way to show off how well dressed you are in your new shoes or necktie, trying to be cool to impress the girls in the new territory. Oh! Also you have to buy one or two drinks for the fellows in the shop, yes! You’ve got to remember they are the local boys, and one of them might be your next brother-in-law, or you need his knowledge of everybody in the neighborhood so you are okay.

On this particular afternoon, this beautiful, small girl, sixteen years old, walked by. She was coming from her part time job, and all of a sudden she looked at me, I looked at her, and she reeled me in, using her beautiful smile as a bait and warm look as a hook. There was no way for this marlin to run away. You can call me a marlin or René tuna, Charlie tuna, no matter what; the fish is caught, no two ways about it.”

They were married on June 17, 1961, and had their first baby—René, Jr.—on July 21, 1962. Their second baby boy, Nelson, was born on the day of their second wedding anniversary—June 17, 1963. What an anniversary gift! Next came their only daughter, Vicky, born on Oct. 23, 1964. When Vicky was eight years old she finally became a big sister to Joshua, born on Feb. 23, 1973. Tragically, Joshua preceded his mother in death on Sept. 19, 1996. Then, this past January 14th, Joshua’s only child, Francheska, passed away from epilepsy. Titi carried the pain of these losses in her heart to the very end. But her 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren were the light and joy of her life. She knew each one’s birthday by heart, and spoke to many of them on the phone daily.



“¿...y la familia?”



The joy of a happy marriage is unequaled.



I'm not sure where and when the above photo was taken, but René and Titi were blessed to be able to travel to Spain in 2008. That is a memory that René will surely cherish.



This photo was taken at the 2009 family reunion in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. With Titi and René is their granddaughter, Charice, the daughter of René, Jr.



Titi's loving daughter, Vicky, called her mother on the phone every day. She was at Titi's bedside when she was undergoing her surgeries. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family members who are grieving.



Titi was warm, caring, and hospitable. Her home was always open to family that came to visit. During the 2005 family reunion, she and René ceded their master bedroom to bunk (I think) eight of us females, including Auntie Marie Nicholson, who was allotted their bed to sleep in.



Joi and Titi, June 2009, Ponce, Puerto Rico

“¿...y la familia?” Meet Your Relatives



Erice Lynn Rodríguez González is the daughter of Tommy González. She lives in North Port, Florida with her baby daughter, Alianna Linea Service Rodríguez. Erice was born February 21, 1991 and her daughter was born December 4, 2010.

Tommy González



Tommy is pictured here with his two sisters, Diana del Orbe and Leslie González, and their mother, Myrtelina. They were celebrating his mother's 73rd birthday together with the first birthday of Tommy's granddaughter, Alianna.



Tommy “Taino” González was born on June 21, 1969 in Brooklyn, New York, and now lives in Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. He is the son of Oscar González and Myrtelina Nogueras.

His paternal grandfather was Oscar Cruz García from Peñuelas, P.R., and his maternal grandparents were Alfonso Nogueras from the town of Aibonito, Puerto Rico, and Providencia Alicea from Comerío, Puerto Rico.



Nebraska in November

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

I took a day off from my teaching job and flew to Nebraska the Friday before Thanksgiving to spend a few days with cousin Kathy (Merritt) Caffey. The next morning, bright and early, we set up her booth at a craft show which she shared with her daughter-in-law, Erika, who makes custom jewelry. Kathy is wearing one of Erika's tiaras in the picture I snapped of her at left.

Kathy had been lamenting that her sister, Meryem, wouldn't be able to come from Des Moines for the craft show, and Kathy didn't know when and how she'd make it to Iowa to visit Meryem. Mid-morning, while Kathy was away from the booth, Meryem showed up, giving me a huge (and happy) surprise. She stayed out of sight when Kathy returned to the booth, and then kind of snuck up on her unsuspecting sister.



“Kathy, is that you?”



“You came!”



“I'm so happy!”



The three of us together.

October Was a Good Month for Luke Pettit

As reported in the October issue of “¿...y la familia?”, Luke was chosen to participate in the three-day National Community College Aerospace Scholar Program at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He was one of only 48 students selected from over 10,000 applicants nationwide, earning the all expense paid trip and a lifetime of memories. Luke flew out to Alabama on November 8th, and one neat thing that happened on the way was that he ran into cousin Joi at the Denver airport. Talk about perfect timing!



They got to walk together and chat for a few minutes.

An article about Luke appeared in the October 19, 2011 issue of our local newspaper, *The Mountain Democrat*. The article, written by Wendy Schultz, was titled, “Local student making plans for Mars,” and included the picture at left. The caption read, “*Space Scholar—Placerville resident Luke Pettit looks at a 3D drawing of a Mars rover on his laptop computer Friday. Luke designed the rover as part of his participation in the National Community College Aerospace Scholars Program.*”

Two days later, another article on Luke appeared in the *Mountain Democrat*! This one was written by Mike Bush, and was titled, “Students display talent in art show.” It featured Luke and another student from Folsom Lake College, both of whom had artwork on display at the college’s art show. This article also had a picture of Luke, this time at work on his self-portrait for the art class he is taking at the college.



Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh has started her own line of Retro fashions made from original patterns, writes her sister, Carol Wright.. “She has sold 4 dresses and 28 fascinator hats in my store. Her line is called Rosie's Retros. She is getting a following already.”

Rosa designed and sewed this Pan Am uniform for Carol to wear at the Halloween party in her store, Circa Vintage. Rosa also created the luggage. “She is very talented!” says Carol.

At right: Tía Tita Medina (on the right), with daughters Pepa and Carol.



“¿...y la familia?”

Weeklong Road Trip to Georgia and Tennessee

By Carlos Rivera

On Monday [October 17th] we visited Dad in Georgia. He seems to be doing so well. Always happy, singing and telling funny stories. As usual, he had dinner ready for us by the time we arrived. Orlando and Jana came over and we all had dinner together and had a great visit.

The next day (Tuesday), by prearrangement, we took dad to his favorite gambling spot, the Silverstar Casino near Philadelphia, MS. We thought it would be fun to watch him play and try our luck as well. Unfortunately, lady luck did not shine down on Garnet and me, but dad had the golden touch. He just seemed to know which machines to play and how to push the button on those one-arm bandits. More often than not he'd walk away from a slot machine with more than he put into it. We wouldn't have believed it if we hadn't seen it with our own eyes.

We spent the night at the casino's hotel and on Wednesday we returned to Georgia.

On Thursday we bid farewell to Dad and proceeded to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Garnet and I were in the market for furniture and what better place to shop than in the heart of furniture country. It was Friday before we could get to Furnitureland South. If you are ever in the area, you owe it to yourself to visit this store. In fact, "store" doesn't come close to describing this company. We're talking several buildings, multiple floors and acres of furniture under roof. I swear it's equivalent to a multilevel shopping mall all by itself. We spent all day there and finally left at 6 pm after completing our purchase.

Saturday we left Winston-Salem and traveled to Black Mountain, NC where we met Roberto and [his son] Nicho. It was a pleasant surprise to see Nicho. We had no idea he would be there. We had a nice visit over lunch and then went to Roberto's home and saw his shop. His location is beautiful, across the street from a golf course with mountains in the background. Very idyllic.

We couldn't stay long as we needed to get to Sevierville, TN that evening to visit cousin Victoria [Nicholson] and stay overnight in one of the cabins of her B & B. It's always a pleasure to see Victoria. She's doing so well and always full of energy. And there's so much to do around her property. We don't know how she keeps up with it all. The setting is so tranquil and beautiful. We wished we could stay for several days. We had a great visit that evening and again the next morning catching up on

family news and reminiscing old times. Finally, we had to leave to return home. It was hard to leave.

All-in-all, we had a fabulous trip and lots of good memories. It was a lot of time on the road but well worth it.



At this time in our family history....

- **María del Carmen Rivera** died in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico on December 6, 1896 at the age of 54. She was an aunt of our family patriarch, Florencio Rivera.
- On December 10, 1897, **Otilia Pacheco Arroyo** was born in Barrio Santo Domingo in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was the mother of Neri, Isidro, Angélica (Tita), and Delia.
- On December 15, 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.
- On December 25, 1878, Rómulo Rivera passed away at the age of 16. He was the oldest brother of our family patriarch, Florencio Rivera. Florencio was only six years old when his Rómulo died, which may explain why he didn't talk about him to his children.
- **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.

The Pettit Christmas parties are a thing of the past, but cousin Joi still blesses me with a trip to visit me in December. She flew out from Denver on Friday, December 9th, and that evening we attended a party for Latina women hosted by the mother of one of my students. There were women from Chile, Nicaragua, Panamá, México, Puerto Rico, and El Salvador. We ate food from all of those countries, including *arroz con gandules*, *empanadillas*, *gazpacho de bacalao*, and *mantecaditos* from Puerto Rico.

Here we are at a Ladies' Tea at my church on Saturday. More good food! We had such fun together all weekend. I hated for it to end.



¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!

*This is my Christmas greeting to everyone in the “familia”.
May the new year bring good health, happiness, and many,
many blessings to your household.*

*Que el nuevo año les traiga buena salud, felicidad, y muchas, pero
muchas bendiciones para todos en tu hogar.*

“¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit

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Phone: (530) 327-9361 **NEW!!!**

E-mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

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

Birthday Greetings



*Christopher Nicholson (42) -
Dec. 4*

*Emma Kathleen Thompson
- (8) Dec. 5*

*Yanelis Aisha González (9)
Dec. 9*

*William A. González (19)-
Dec. 14*

*Ryan Rivera (32) -
Dec. 16*

*Jonathan F. Segarra (14) -
Dec. 17*

Kelsey Pombo (22) - Dec. 21

*Arlene González (30) -
Dec. 22*

*Joshua Omar Cabán (6) -
Dec. 22*

Cama Klene (44) - Dec. 25

*Michelle Harrell (45) -
Dec. 30*

*Vanessa Braddock (39) -
Dec. 31*

*Oscar González (52) -
Jan. 1*

*Mary Lillian Pérez (48)
Jan. 6*

*Robert Paul Cavino (7) -
Jan. 9*

*Ada (Pacheco) Rivera (57)
- Jan. 10*

*Marlin R. Barnes (16) -
Jan. 10*

*Edward Rivera (63) -
Jan. 11*

*Bélgica González (31) -
Jan. 12*

*David Nicholson (48) -
Jan. 18*

*Sylvia (Atiles) Lovelace
(74) - Jan. 18*

*Amber Nicholson (16) -
Jan. 24*

*Zachary David
Nicholson (5) - Jan. 30*

*Larry Wright (63) - Jan.
30*

*William Roig (79) -
Jan. 31*



*Happy New
Year,
Everybody!!!*

Anniversaries

*Ada (Pacheco) and
Heriberto Rivera (33)
- Dec. 10*

*Joi (De Nardo) and
Vic Stenroos (31) -
Dec. 26*

*Michelle (Rivera) and
Jason Su'a (5) -
Dec. 30*

*Ruben and Lisa
Quiñones (11) - Jan. 6*

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

