

"...y la familia?"

Volume 19, Issue 3

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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*

Article, Photos and Fillers

*Nostalgic stories
Photos and
artwork*

*Original poetry
Vignettes on*

*your imme-
diate 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!*

Oscar González 1939-2014

On November 22nd, I received the sad news that my brother, Oscar González, known to many of us as "Oscalito," had passed away that morning. Oscalito had been declining in recent years as a consequence of diabetes, strokes and heart problems. More recently suffering also from dementia, Oscalito had been living in a nursing home in New York. Even so, the news of his passing was devastating.

Oscar was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on September 21, 1939. He was the child of a relationship that my father had with a woman named Paula Rivera years before marrying my mother. Since my father was also named Oscar, the child was nicknamed Oscalito, and since our father never married Paula, Oscalito later on took the surname of a stepfather who raised him. Even so, Oscalito was definitely recognized as "el hijo de Oscar García," and Dad was always very proud of his son.

We García kids grew up knowing we had an older brother, but knowing very little about him except that he was a musician and was in a trio. Apparently, when we lived in La Playa de Ponce from 1955-1956, Oscalito would come to visit us, but I was too young to remember. After that, thanks to Tía Tita and Tío José Medina who drove me from Maryland to New York in the summer of 1969, I was able to see Oscalito perform with his trio in the Alameda Room.

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¿...y la familia?

I Remember...

My brother, Oscalito

By Norma (García) Pettit

He was our superstar. I used to have his Trio de Oro album when I was a teenager and sang along with all of his songs. I don't know what happened to that album; somehow it disappeared from my stack of LPs. Olga and I used to flip through records in record stores—do they even have LPs on sale anywhere anymore, besides antique stores?—in hopes that we'd find a Trio de Oro album. No luck.

On one trip to Puerto Rico in the summer of 1991, Oscalito surprised us all by showing up at Dad's house with his half-brother, Berto. Dad had tears in his eyes as he and Oscalito hugged, and Dad said, “¡Tanto tiempo!” It had been some five years since Dad had seen his son. I called René and he came right over. I wanted Oscalito to sing something, and since he didn't have his guitar with him, René went home and got one. Oscalito obliged us by singing several songs, with Berto playing maracas and harmonizing with Oscalito. During one song, Dad even joined in! My niece, Yuly, filmed it all with Dad's video camera. I can't remember when I had ever seen my dad so happy.

In 1993, I spent over two months taking care of my father, who was bedridden after suffering a small stroke. Cousin Luz had called me to let me know about Dad's condition and I had to drop everything and fly to Puerto Rico with my two youngest children, Vickie and Luke. Once there, I assessed the situation and called up my siblings to apprise them of the latest developments. Not long afterwards, Oscalito arrived and stayed for a week, helping me care for Dad. He was the first of my siblings to come, and having him there for a whole week was such a blessing and a comfort to me. I am sure that Dad was touched by Oscalito's presence and gentle care giving. Oscalito loved to cook, and he made an octopus salad for Dad that put the shine back in Dad's eyes. He was also very sweet to my kids, and took us to the beach and to the Vigía monument in an effort to give us a break from Dad's house.

When Dad died on April 23, 1995, Olga, Ruben and I went to Puerto Rico for the funeral. Oscalito had said that he didn't think that he would be able to go because he had already missed a lot of work that year due to a heart attack. But he was able to go after all and I was delighted when he showed up at the funeral home.

I'll never forget when I beckoned to Oscalito to come to where Ruben, Olga and I were standing in front of the casket, and I said to Ruben, “Look who's here!”

Well, they just looked at each other and you could almost hear them think, “Yeah, so what, who is he?” So I said, “Don't you know each other? Oscalito, this is Ruben. Ruben, this is Oscalito.” A light went on in their eyes and they just hugged and hugged. I turned around and explained to the people who were sitting in the chapel, “They are brothers, but they haven't seen each other in 40 years.” People were wiping tears from their eyes. It was such a touching scene!

Oscalito stayed with us in Dad's house for four nights before returning to New York. It was the first time that the four of us had been together under one roof. Oscalito cooked fabulous meals for us every night, and we got to know him better. He was a huge blessing to us, and when he left, we really missed him *and* his cooking.

The next time and last time that I saw Oscalito was in the summer of 2005, when I returned to Puerto Rico (after a 10 year absence) to attend the Rivera family reunion that was held in Ponce—that special reunion that celebrated Christmas in June and honored Auntie Marie and Uncle Isidro. Oscalito was supposed to make a surprise appearance at the reunion, but he didn't show up. A few days later, the kids and I visited him in his home in Moca, and he again cooked a wonderful dinner for us. He explained that he had not made it to the reunion because he had been taken to the hospital that night after suffering a small stroke. Although I never saw him again after that time, we talked on the phone every now and then. I hope I never forget the sound of his voice, and I am grateful for the video that I have of his visit. I want to always remember Oscalito.



*Olga, Ruben, Norma and Oscalito—
together under the same roof for the first and only time!*

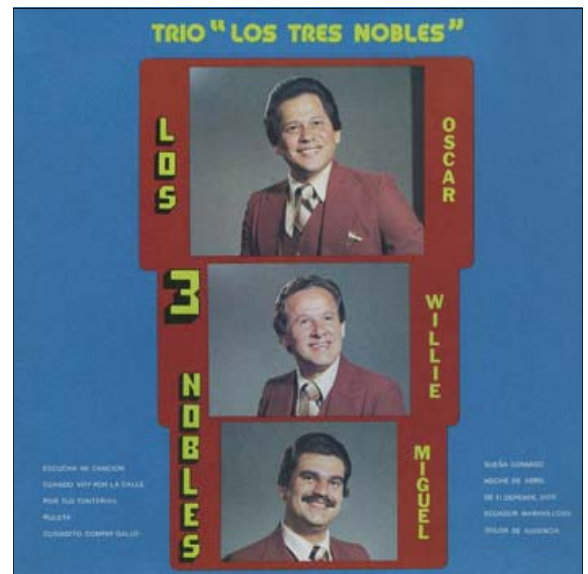
“¿...y la familia?”



Oscalito was about 3 years old in the first picture. In the second, it looks like his 8th grade graduation picture. In the iconic postcard of El Trío de Oro, Oscalito is on the right. He was lead singer and second guitarist.

Oscar was a professional musician for most of his life. He was in two trios: *El Trío de Oro* and *Trío “Los Tres Nobles.”* His voice was so beautiful!

Oscar is survived by his first wife, Myrtelina and his second wife, Gladys. His children are Waleska, Oscar, Juan, Hector, Miguel, Leslie, Diana, Tommy, Arlene, and Melissa. There are also grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His daughter, Arlene, has inherited the music gene and is a professional singer. In the picture below, he is with his son-in-law, Raúl del Orbe and his daughter, Diana. The other photo is from early 1970, when Olga and Angela stopped in New York on their way to Puerto Rico. She was so excited to visit with Oscalito and his family. He looks so much like my father in that picture. May he rest in peace; he will be missed.



“¿...y la familia?”

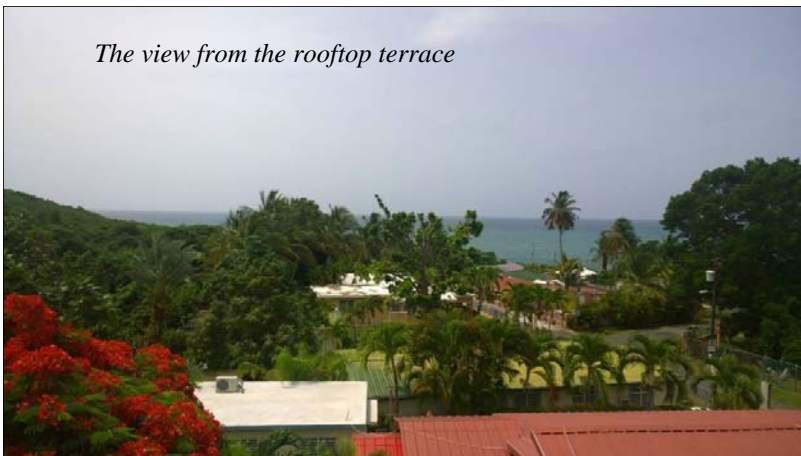
Vacation Home in Puerto Rico!



For years, Randy and I have been looking at homes for sale in Puerto Rico on Zillow.com. It was just a pastime; we never thought we could actually buy a vacation/retirement home in Puerto Rico. For one thing, it's not really feasible or practical to have a home there when you are still living and working all the way in California. Yet, when I saw this picture on the internet, it immediately caught my eye. Randy liked it, too—so much so that he agreed that I should call up the seller and find out more about it. This was in May, at the end of the school year, and I told the seller that we would be traveling to Puerto Rico in three weeks time and would love to see the house, which is located in a gated community in Yabucoa. We were on vacation with two other couples in nearby Palmas del Mar, and the owner affably welcomed all six of us. The flamboyán trees were in full bloom and we were pleasantly surprised at the beautiful

landscaping that met our eyes as we got out of the car. Randy took one look and said, “I’m in trouble!” We loved the wide verandas on both the first and second floor, and the stunning view from the rooftop terrace. The kitchen is updated and the house sports new hurricane resistant doors and windows. The house is even painted my favorite colors! The beach is only a two-minute walk from the house.

To make a long story short, we talked over the pros and cons of buying this house with our friends, and e-mailed the owners an offer that was accepted. On June 20th (my birthday), we signed a preliminary agreement, and on October 27th (Randy’s birthday), we signed the final purchase contract before a notary public here in California. Happy birthday to both of us!



The view from the rooftop terrace



Turtles come up on this beach every Spring and lay their eggs here. The beach is a two-minute walk from the house—we timed it!



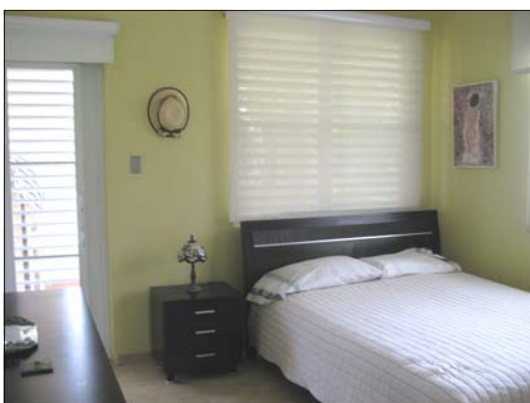
“¿...y la familia?”

During Thanksgiving week, I flew to Puerto Rico with a co-worker who wanted to see the island. We stayed with Waleska, Rafi, Milagros and family in Arroyo that first night and had a *blast*!



The next day Janice and I drove to Yabucoa and met with Higinio, the previous owner. This picture shows the official handing over of the keys to the house. Later that afternoon, cousin Annie arrived from Peñuelas with her granddaughter, Alanis, and we gals all went to the beach. That's Annie in the picture below.

This is one of the three bedrooms in the house. It has one full and one half bathroom. The bedrooms and bathrooms are upstairs and the kitchen, dining area, living room area, and laundry room are downstairs. We will eventually be setting up the place as a vacation rental that we think will make a very inviting choice for people who like serenity and tranquility, plus love the flora and fauna of the area. At night you are serenaded by delightful *coquis*.



At night My favorite spot is the second floor veranda, overlooking the Caribbean Sea. It's a great place to sit and have a cup of coffee and just enjoy the view. The first floor veranda is lovely, too, and

Janice and I enjoyed having breakfast out there one morning. I am so looking forward to doing this all again with Randy during Christmas vacation. Randy has never been to Puerto Rico at Christmas time, and I haven't had Christmas in Puerto Rico since 1980!



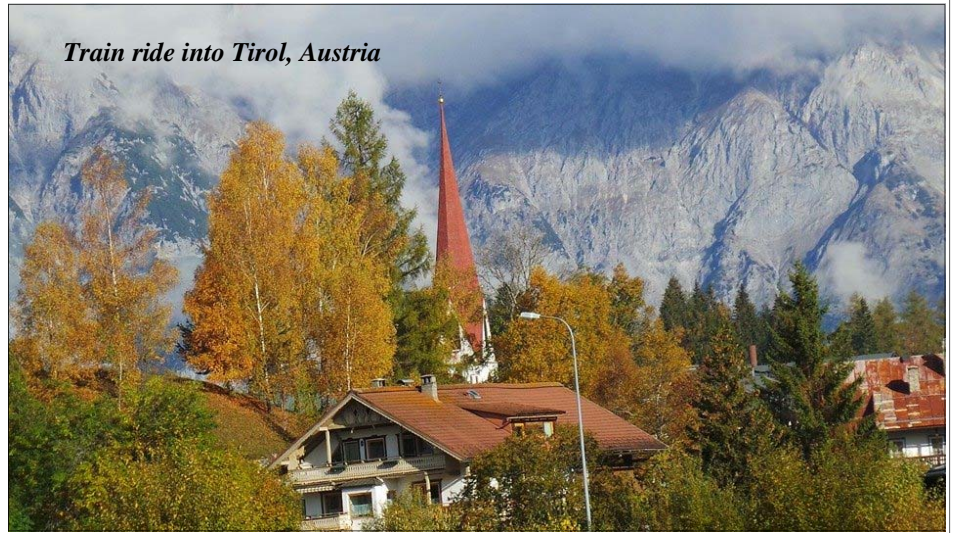
If you live in Puerto Rico or will be visiting the island during Christmas, we would like to invite you to our **Open House on December 27th**. Come visit us and see our new place, have some food, enjoy some time on the beach, and help us celebrate the purchase of our vacation/retirement home. If you have a GPS, type in El Cocal Beach and Country Club, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. It's located on *Carretera 901, km 7.8*, and the house number is 108a. Please RSVP at 530-559-5612 if you plan to come, and give me a call when you arrive at the gate so that we can let you in. ☺

“¿...y la familia?”

Some stunning photos of Marlynn (Merritt) and Paul Krause’s October vacation to Switzerland and Austria



Old Town, Lucerne, Switzerland



Train ride into Tirol, Austria



Innsbruck, Austria



Salzburg, Austria

Your Prayers are Requested



Angélica (Rivera) Medina, 86, flanked in this photo by her daughters Rosa, Carol, and Pepi and her granddaughter, Angie, has been diagnosed with gallbladder cancer. She is currently undergoing tests and evaluations to determine the appropriate treatment and/or course

of action. A woman of deep faith, Tita (as she is known to all) covets your prayers. Please pray for strength and healing, as well as for the wisdom in making the difficult decisions that Tita and her family face. We love you Tía Tita, and remember...¡para Dios no hay nada imposible!



Please continue to pray for cousin **Helen Correa** who has begun yet another round of chemo treatments in her ongoing battle against cancer. We love Helen’s indomitable spirit and trust in God for her healing!

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 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.

The 2015 Rivera Family Reunion

Hosted by Edwin and Annie Rivera
Reading, Pennsylvania

New date: June 26-28, 2015

(one week later than usual)

More details in future issues



The star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

—Matthew 2:9b KJV

Remember to keep seeking Jesus in this season and throughout the year. Jesus is the reason for the season!

Love and Blessings to all of you
from Randy and Norma

“¿...y la familia?”

c/o Norma I. Pettit

2426 Meadow Lane

Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 327-9361

E-mail: mamanony@sbcglobal.net

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

Birthday Greetings

Monica M. García (Muñeca Osorio) (40) - Dec 2

Christopher Nicholson (45) - Dec. 4

Emma Kathleen Thompson - (11) Dec. 5

Yanelis Aisha González (12) Dec. 9

William A. González (22)- Dec. 14

Ryan Rivera (35) - Dec. 16

Jonathan F. Segarra (17) - Dec. 17

Kaden Amir (2) - Dec. 18

Kelsey Pombo (25) - Dec. 21

Arlene González (33) - Dec. 22

Joshua Omar Cabán (9) - Dec. 22

Cama Klene (47) - Dec. 25

Michelle Harrell (48) - Dec. 30

Vanessa Braddock (42) - Dec. 31

Oscar González (55) - Jan. 1

Mary Lillian Pérez (52) Jan. 6

Robert Paul Cavino (10) - Jan. 9

Ada (Pacheco) Rivera (60) - Jan. 10

Marlin R. Barnes (19) - Jan. 10

Edward Rivera (66) - Jan. 11

Bélgica González (34) - Jan. 12

David Nicholson (51) - Jan. 18

Sylvia (Atiles) Lovelace (77) - Jan. 18

Angeleena Ketcher (3) - Jan. 23

Timothy Ketcher (3) - Jan. 23

Amber Nicholson (19) - Jan. 24

Zachary David Nicholson (8) - Jan. 30

Larry Wright (66) - Jan. 30

William Roig (82) - Jan. 31

*Happy New Year,
Everybody!!!*

Anniversaries

*Ada (Pacheco) and
Heriberto Rivera (36)
- Dec. 10*

*Joi (De Nardo) and
Vic Stenroos (34) -
Dec. 26*

*Kathleen (Merritt)
and Jim Caffey (29) =
Dec. 26*

*Michelle (Rivera) and
Jason Su'a (8) -
Dec. 30*

*Ruben and Lisa
Quinones (14) - Jan. 6*

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

