

"...y la familia?"

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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 art-
work*

*Original poetry
Vignettes on
your imme-
diate family
Favorite family
recipes*

*Cute things your
kids have
said*

*Funny stories
Prayer Requests*

A Wish Made Reality

This issue features the amazing talents of cousin René Rivera and his sister-in-law, Ada Pacheco Arroyo, wife of Heriberto "Papo" Rivera. Read Ada's story on page 3 about the fulfillment of her childhood dream and see more of her paintings, plus some of René's artwork on page 4.



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A Photo from the Past

Recently, while looking through my box of old pictures, most of which had belonged to my mother, I saw the photo below. I'd seen it before, of course, and had even read the caption on the back, but had never given it much thought. I didn't recognize the mother or the little girl in the picture. This time, I re-read the penciled note on the back: "*Para su tío y tía Oscar y Ana de su sobrinita Zoraida Rivera a la edad de nueve meses.*"

¿*Sobrinita*? Then it dawned on me that this was a picture of a young Milla, wife of my Tío Nery, and the baby was their little girl who died only a month after this picture was taken. What a treasure of a photo! I hadn't recognized Milla since she was much older when I met her. I only found the death record four years ago (published in the Oct. 2011 issue of the newsletter, on page 6).

Little Zoraida Rivera Pérez, born on March 25, 1949, would have been close to my brother Ruben's age, but tragically, she died at the age of ten months on January 30, 1950. The cause of death was listed as *Gastro Enteritis Aguda*, or Acute Gastro Enteritis. What a heartbreaking experience for Tío Nery and Tía Milla—losing their baby that way. Tío Nery never fathered another child, although he raised Annie as his own, Milla's daughter from a previous relationship.



At this time in our family history...

- *On June 8, 1893, Petronila Pacheco was born. She was a sister of Otilia (the mother of Nery, Isidro, Tita and Delia). Their other sister, Francisca, was born on June 11, 1887.*
- *Auntie Anita Merriitt passed away on June 25, 1998 at the home of her daughter, Kathy Caffey in Nebraska. She had been suffering from emphysema for a number of years. Anita was the youngest child of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, and was only a week old when her mother died.*
- *On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera Maldonado and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado Rivera were married. Manuel Alejo's mother, Cipriana Maldonado, and María Apolinaria's father, Felipe, were siblings. That means that my great-grandparents were first cousins in addition to being husband and wife. This was perfectly legal and not so unusual in Puerto Rico in the olden days.*
- *My beautiful and loving sister, Olga María (García) Smith, went home to Jesus on July 4, 2006.*
- *Angela M. Warren, Olga's second daughter, was born on July 15, 1969. She passed away on Oct. 8, 2007.*
- *Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909 in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. She was the oldest daughter of the union of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García. She was not quite seven years old when her mother died a week after giving birth to baby Anita.*
- *Florencio Rivera ("Papa Flor")—our patriarch—died on July 22, 1941.*
- *My mother, Ana María López Maldonado, was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, on July 26, 1911. She was the daughter of Juan López and María de los Santos Maldonado. She had one older brother, Confesor.*



A Wish Made Reality...by Ada I. Pacheco Arroyo

Ever since I was a small child, I liked to draw. I had plenty of notebooks full of paintings. I enjoyed it a lot. I grew up, studied, got married, and had children to take care of. With my fifth child, I quit my job and stayed home taking care of my five children. When they were babies, I made drawings for their rooms, and as students, I helped them with their homework when they needed pictures of different things. When they were all in school, I went to work there as a volunteer in the office and helped the teachers make drawings for their classrooms or the library.

Today, my children are all adults and have their own families, so I had the opportunity to take classes in drawing and painting. In August of 2014, I began taking classes in Centro Sor Isolina Ferré in La Playa de Ponce with my brother-in-law, René. My teacher, Mrs. Marta Rosa, is a sculptor, and her husband is a painter. She is a down-to-earth, spiritual person. We have an excellent, very united class, comprised of retired professionals and a handicapped young boy. I'll miss them all.

On May 29th, we'll have our Achievement Day, and we're going to exhibit our work to all the visitors of the institution. For me, it is a wish made reality. I still have much to learn, but I'll keep on practicing so that in the future I can make masterpieces like Da Vinci and Van Gogh did.

(It's a joke...almost!)





Above, more of Ada's paintings.



Here are some samples of René's artwork, including his heartfelt rendering of El Acueducto Alfonso XII, the historic Spanish aqueduct dating back to 1850. The house in which René and his siblings grew up (no longer standing) was right next to this aqueduct. Recent legislative initiatives propose government funding to restore and preserve El Acueducto as a national historic landmark. Below right is René's amazing self-portrait. Below left, René has amassed a collection of his work, ready for the May 29th exhibition.



Student News



*After three long years of exhaustive study, **Mary Lillian Pérez** has completed her online course and earned her theological degree in Christian education and formation from Colegio Bíblico la Peña de Horeb. She graduated Magna Cum Laude.*

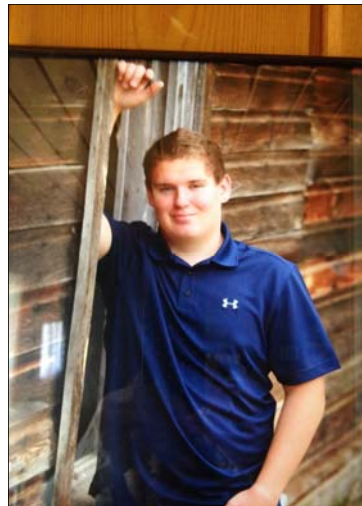
With her to celebrate this great accomplishment were her mother, Lillian, (pictured here with her), sister, Awilda, nephew, Alex Joel, son, Frankie, daughter-in-law, Amy, and grandchildren, Kaylee and Jayden.

Muchas felicidades, prima, y que Dios te bendiga por tus esfuerzos. Sé que vas a ser una bendición para la comunidad y para tu iglesia. Todos estamos muy orgullosos de ti.

Ana Victoria (Tory) Pettit, daughter of Randy and Norma (me!) Pettit, has earned her single subject teaching credential in History as well as completing her Master's Degree in Education from Alliant International University in San Francisco, California.

She is currently teaching history at a middle school in Pittsburg, CA.

Randy and I are extremely proud of Tory and all of her accomplishments.



Cousin Helen (Hernández) Darr reports that she has two grandsons who graduated this year: **Dylan Barry** (left) from Lander Valley High School, and **Jonathan Barry** from Riverton High School, both in Wyoming. Congratulations to all of our 2015 graduates!

¿...y la familia?

Krause Vacation in Eastern Europe

Thank goodness for cousin Marlynn (Merritt) Krause and her husband Paul. Their travels and breathtaking photos provide wonderful material for "¿...y la familia? (Hope you don't mind my pilfering these pictures from your Facebook page, Marlynn!)

The top three photos are from Krakow, Poland and the bottom ones are from Budapest, Hungary, with the exception of the bottom right, which is from Prague, I believe.

Marlynn and Paul, where are you going to take us next?



2015 Reunion Information

Date: June 26-28, 2015

Place: Reading, PA

Hosted by: Edwin and Annie Rivera

Recommended Lodgings: Day's Inn or Candlewood Suites

The actual reunion party is going to be on **June 27th only**, at the Jim Dietrich Park Farmhouse at 4900 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road in Reading, PA. However, those of us who arrive on Friday can gather either at the hotel, at a restaurant, or at the home of Edwin and Annie, for an informal pre-reunion get together. Saturday is open for sightseeing, shopping, or relaxing. Our reunion party is Saturday afternoon/evening from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the farmhouse.



As a history lover, I am looking forward to visiting the Liberty BellCenter in Pittsburg while in the vicinity. Pittsburg has much to offer for visitors besides the Liberty Bell, though. If you enjoy museums, there is the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Carnegie Museum of Art. The Phipps Conservatory sounds like a lovely place, and the Segway tours sound like fun. I understand that going on the incline is a



must for anyone visiting Pittsburgh. You can go to the top of Mount Washington on either the Duquesne Incline or the Monongahela Incline, and the views of the city from the top are reported to be breathtaking. I can't wait to find out for myself!

“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthday Greetings

Jayden I. Feliciano (13) - June 5	Meryem Merritt (64) - June 19	Lilliam Rivera (72) - July 11
Máximo Carrasquillo (39) - June 5	Enid Rivera (30) - June 20	José Medina (65) - July 11
Jeremy Carrasquillo (38) - June 5	Norma (García) Pettit (63) - June 20	Kayla N. Reinke (16) - July 15
Nellie Feliciano (55) - June 9	Laurie Jimenez (56) - June 21	René Rivera Jr. (53) - July 21
Annette García (32) - June 10	Tommy González (45) - June 21	Vickie Jimenez (55) - July 22
Aluna Howell (4) - June 11	Jason Pineda (38) - June 22	Christina Krause (37) - July 23
Joyce Montalvo (15) - June 12	María L. Feliciano (32) - June 24	Annalise Cruz Rivera (11) - July 24
Alicia Rivera (33) - June 12	Scott Hargraves (50) - June 25	Cynthia Feliciano (37) - July 25
Julia Cruz Vilá (89) - June 13	Cindy Nicholson (44) - June 29	Ada Rivera Segarra (35) - July 25
Leslie Feliciano (30) - June 13	Alura G. Barnes (22) - June 30	Rachel Nicholson (15) - July 26
C.J. Burch (26) - June 14	Angel Feliciano (20) - July 2	Fernando Vázquez (25) - July 28
Emily Medina (37) - June 15	Elizabeth Rivera (19) - July 5	Paul Krause (70) - July 30
Garnet Rivera (70) - June 15	Eric R. Stenroos (32) - July 7	Ethen R. Stenroos (5) - July 31
Kimm (Reinke) Hargraves (52) - June 16	Carmen Nydia (Feliciano) Carrasquillo (59) - July 7	
Ken Reinke (52) - June 16		
Nelson Rivera (51) - June 17		

Anniversaries

Jenny & Ted Reinke (54) - June 18

Angela & David Nicholson (18) - June 21

Angélica & José L. Medina (67) - July 9

Edna & Edwin Rivera (11) - July 11

Garnet & Carlos Rivera (28) - July 14

Cindy & Christopher Nicholson (22) - July 17

Joanne & Robert McLaughlin (18) - July 21

Marina & Dennis Nelson (4) - July 23

Randy & Norma Pettit (33) - July 30



8 ¡Feliz Cumpleaños!