



## Carmelina de la Maza

September 6, 1925 - November 15, 2021

Carmelina was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba on September 6, 1925 and joined her savior on November 15, 2021. She was a faithful and dedicated wife to her husband of 30 years, Rene de la Maza, who died in 1979 at the age of 59 leaving her widowed at a young age. She had unconditional love for her family as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and sister.

In 1962, the de la Maza family, Carmelina, Rene, and daughters Miriam and Margarita, immigrated to the United States from Cuba escaping communism. They had a brief stay in Miami, lived in Fort Worth for 2 years, then settled in San Antonio in 1964. Carmelina and Rene, who was a language professor at St. Mary's University, were socially active in the Cuban community and other social clubs. Carmelina and Rene both played the piano and sometimes would entertain Piano 4 hands duet at events. Carmelina was a Seamstress of the Court of the Order of the Alamo and made over 60 Coronation Fiesta gowns in the span of about 30 years. She took the utmost pride and care in making each gown which represents a work of art.

In 1992, she lost her daughter Margarita de la Maza. She is survived by her daughter, Miriam de la Maza, granddaughter, Amanda Lea Gonzales Esquivel, great granddaughter, Skyler Esquivel, and sisters Bertha Gardner and Dulce Lorenzo.

She was a strong, talented, and amazing woman with a sense of humor and a contagious laugh. Her legacy will live on through all who knew and loved her. Visitation will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 12 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Interment to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Cross Cemetery

17501 Nacogdoches Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78266  
(210) 651-6011

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

## Funeral Service

NOV **23**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

## Interment

NOV **23**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Cemetery  
17501 Nacogdoches Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78266  
(210) 651-6011



# Tribute Wall

MR

“ We met Carmelina only about a year and a half ago. Immediately, we were mesmerized by her robust smile, her one-of-a-kind, infectious laugh, and her omnipresent grace.

*For every little item we gave her or gesture we made, she always was so expressively grateful! And each time, she handwrote to us these effervescent thank-you letters to us in Spanish, which we will continue to treasure as keepsakes.*

*Her legacy as an incredibly talented seamstress/artist is evidenced by the legacy of the 60 (or so) San Antonio Order of the Alamo Coronation gowns she made for over 30 years. Her talent and skills were unique and she stitched with love every intricate detail of these Carmelina-creation masterpieces.*

*Her devoted daughter Miriam whom Carmelina adored has so many beautiful memories to hold near and dear. And we, in turn, will be forever thankful to our special friend/neighbor Miriam for introducing us to her remarkable Mom.*

---

**Mattie & Steve Roig-Watnik** - November 23, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carmelina de la Maza.*



---

November 21, 2021 at 11:40 PM

SM

“ 16 hours ago

*I will miss my dear aunt who I was privileged to live across the street from. Loved her stories, many crazy funny, and witnessed the beautiful gowns she made for the coronation. Always caring and funny and so talented. She played the piano but could play a tune without sheet music, something I've never seen anyone do before. I still cherish a picture of Carmelina with 2 of her sisters, my mom and Aunt Bertha. Loved all my Gallart family.*  
*Steve Marshall.*

---

**Steve Marshall** - November 19, 2021 at 02:52 PM

LD

“ *It is with heartfelt sympathy that I offer my condolences on the loss of my aunt. She had a huge personality as she filled the room with laughter and happiness. I must recall how my ailing father was thrilled to see his 3 sisters together one last time as they all played my piano for him. Thanks Miriam for being so kind & thoughtful in escorting your mom on that arduous trip to NJ. Aunt Carmelina had a great passion for her daughter, family, and everyone around her. We love you and you will be missed dearly. With deepest sympathy, your nephew Louie.*  
*Louis Gallart, DMH*

---

**Louis Gallart, DMH** - November 19, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Carmelina de la Maza.*



---

November 19, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Carmelina de la Maza.



---

November 18, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath* was purchased for the family of Carmelina de la Maza.



---

November 18, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Carmelina de la Maza.



---

November 18, 2021 at 01:14 PM

CL

“ It is with sadness that I received the news of Carmelina’s passing. With her goes that generation to which she belonged. That generation that taught us real values and gave us the example of their dedication and hard work, that would give their children the opportunity of a future better than the one they would have had if their parents had never been willing to leave everything behind. Carmelina had a special place in my heart, being part of some of the sweetest memories of my childhood.

My parents and older siblings, as well as us kids (Lisette, Jose Ángel, and myself) looked forward to those Sundays in which my brother Rene, Carmelina and their two little girls would come to spend the day with us. For the kids that meant a day of fun in which we would have the opportunity to play “a las casitas” in the big double door of my parents living room, and many more games, mostly with my niece and “amiguita” Miriam, who was only two years younger than me. Lisette and Jose were my sister’s kids. Margarita was very little and did not enjoy playing with the older kids.

But this is about Carmelina, not us.

René and Carmelina would delight us playing sitting at the piano and playing songs that the adults requested. Rene would be telling funny stories that made the adults laugh, to which Carmelina contributed with her interventions in the conversation, in her unique ways, filling the air with laughter and our hearts with joy.

Many are the memories that come to my mind, but Another one that I will never forget occurred a few days before the Bay of Pigs.

We lived in the outskirts of Havana, not far from the Havana International Airport, and it was normal to hear the planes flying above. That afternoon, suddenly a different sound was heard, the sound was not of a comercial aircraft. It sounded more like a light plane, and in fact that is what it was. From that plane flyers were being sent down which contained statements against Fidel and his government. The adults got very concerned and Carmelina, worried about what could happen as a result of that, immediately got all the kids under the beds, as a precaution, thinking of the possibility of the government sending a military aircraft to bring that other one

*down. Fortunately that did not happen. We wanted to think that the “avioneta” had made it back safely after accomplishing its mission, but the impression of that day is still vivid in my mind.*

*It was that attitude of love and seeking protection for her family what drove her actions and decisions in life. An example worth of recognition and imitation.*

*Good bye my dear Carmelina. You will always have a place in my heart. Love you.*

*Your sister, Raquel*

---

**Carmelina's youngest sister in law** - November 18, 2021 at 11:36 AM

MG

“ *Carmelita and her family were close to us when we moved to San Antonio!*

*My favorite thing that I liked to do at Carmelina's house house was to listen to her piano playing, she was a professional!*

*So sweet and loving, I will never forget her!*

*Magda Rojas Gundersen*

---

**Magda Rojas Gundersen** - November 18, 2021 at 11:01 AM

LL

*thanks for the information and a great person of woman a bird that passed by my side and flew soon very far will be missed forever*

---

**lucia linares** - November 18, 2021 at 02:27 PM

LL

*Great brave and brave woman, how could you not pass an ace on my way to fly away and I will always remember you in my heart Carmensita ...*

---

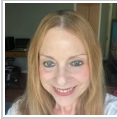
**lucia linares** - November 18, 2021 at 05:26 PM

SM

*I will miss my dear aunt who I was privileged to live across the street from. Loved her stories, many crazy funny, and witnessed the beautiful gowns she made for the coronation. Always caring and funny and so talented. She played the piano but could play a tune without sheet music, something I've never seen anyone do before. I still cherish a picture of Carmelina with 2 of her sisters, my mom and Aunt Bertha. Loved.all my Gallart family.  
Steve Marshall.*

---

**Steve Marshall** - November 18, 2021 at 10:26 PM



*Thank You ❤️*

---

**Miriam De la Maza** - November 20, 2021 at 05:06 PM

LE

*I vividly remember how it felt the first time she called me mijo. I'm honored to have had that title from her.*

---

**Lain Ellis** - November 22, 2021 at 04:51 PM