

Mori Family International Newsletter

April 2017/Year 2 Num.4

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Mori Family International held its first Generational Transition Workshop

On Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, the first Generational Transition Workshop of Mori Family International took place at the El Naranjo Community Center in Yauco. Roberto Mori González, member and communicator and historian of the Board of Directors, gave the workshop.

The topics discussed were: *Brief History of The Island Of Corsica*, and *Origin And Biographical Information of Patriarch Ignacio Francisco Mori Romani*. The workshop worked with his ancestors, as well as the location of the places of origin of the Patriarch in Corsica, his process of migration until his arrival in Puerto Rico and his eventual permanent settlement in the Aguas Blancas ward of Yauco, where he died. Also, an exercise was done in order to identify over 7 generations as descendants of the children of the Patriarch as part of the construction process of the genealogical tree that will be soon available on our organization's webpage.

Participants of the workshop were descendents of Eusebio Mori Romani, José María Mori Romani, Andrés Mori Román, Francisco Antonio Mori Román and Dominica Mori Román, all children of the Patriarch.

The contents of the first workshop are available on the MFI webpage on a video format under the Gallery of videos section.

The second workshop will take place on the same location. Information here: (It is a picture. See it in the original bulletin).

The Board reports...

The ordinary meeting of April took place on Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 at the Community Center of El Naranjo in Yauco. The following items were discussed:

- The minutes of the meeting of December 2016 and February 2017 were considered and approved.
- The Board returned to the pending topic of the absences to the Board's meetings, and it was agreed to send notifications to the directors with high level of absences.
- Due to the lack of quorum in the last meeting, issues where there was consensus but were not approved, were resumed for consideration and approval: proposal of the President to add Tony Mori to the Visiting Committee of the southern region and Andresito Mori to the Activities Committee in the sales area, and to add Tony Mori to the Historical Research Committee. All proposals were approved.
- It was approved that the Amendments' Assembly will take place jointly with the Summer Activity on July 23rd, the Assembly in the morning and the Summer Activity in the afternoon, after lunch.
- The Treasurer presented the financial report and the President informed that the informative forms for the corporation were filed for the year 2016 with the Department of State.

(On page 2) As always, we enjoyed a nice lunch prepared by Nancy Pacheco Mori and a nice gathering with members of the family that always accompany us (see photo on page 1).

The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 7th, 2017, at the Community Center of El Naranjo. Earlier that day the Second Generational Transition workshop will be provided.

What's new and interesting on the Mori Family International website?

- April 2017 Newsletter (Year 2, Num. 4), as well as the English translation (familia-mori-internacional.com/boletines)
- First Generational Transition of the MFI (familia-mori-internacional.com/galeria-de-videos)
- Amendments to the Rules of the MFI (familia-mori-internacional.com/proyecto-de-enmiendas-al-reglamento)

Next activities of the Mori Family International:

Sunday, July 23rd, 2017/Community Center of El Naranjo, Yauco

- **Special Assembly of Amendments to the Rules of Mori Family International @ 10:00am.** Includes lunch. Amendments were provided at the Annual Meeting of September 4th, 2016. They can also be found on (familia-mori-internacional.com/proyeto-de-enmiendas-al-reglamento).
- **Summer Activity of Mori Family International @ 1:00pm.** Music will be available.

Attend! Share!

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The Historical Corner – The descendents of the Patriarch: Paula, Melín and Rate Mori Torres (*third of a series*)

This **Historical Corner** about the descendents of the Mori Patriarch, is the third of a series dedicated to 3 sisters of the Mori Family: Paula, Rate and Melín Mori Torres. We conclude the narration about **Paula Mori Torres (1928-2008)**, whom we know through the

information provided by her son, Bienvenido Caraballo Mori, current President of the Board of Directors of Mori Family International. Bienvenido finish narrating:

Background to the move – *Only a few years had passed since my mother Paula Mori was widowed and she continued raising seven children born of her marriage in Aguas Blancas, the small homeland of the Mori Patriarch.*

One day, Francisco Ojeda Caraballo, great great grandson of the Patriarch and my father's nephew, share his concern about the inconvenience of raising the children in the highlands. To convince her, Frank, that is how we call the cousin, told her that we wouldn't have any future there. Generously, the nephew suggested her to move to an uninhabited house he had in Cupey, near Rio Piedras. There we could continue studying and learn a profession or trade, he said. My older brother, who hadn't graduated from High School, had already moved to Rochester, N.Y. The rest of us went to school, some to Junior High and others to Elementary School.

We always appreciated the material detachment of our cousin. Frank was always grateful of my father, because he helped them when he and his 6 brothers were orphaned after aunt Chefa, my father's sister, passed away. José María Ojeda was one of the youngest; he was my mother's godson. Joseito still remembers those years with a lot of nostalgia and says, "uncle Cielo, as my father was known; always took care of us. He was a special uncle. When we were orphaned, he was opposed of taking us to live with other relatives."

The move – *In the months prior to the move, my mother was worried about the environment of the new place where she was going to raise us. She talked to her father, aunt Rate, aunt Melín and other Mori relatives in Aguas Blancas; and even talked to the Pastor of the United Evangelical Church. Most of them agreed that the best thing for the children was to move. I was little over 14 years old at the time. I was on the first semester of the 9th grade in the Duey School of Yauco. We move from Aguas Blancas on December of 1966. My cousins rented a truck for the move. They came for us in two cars because we were seven children. It wasn't uncommon to find a Mori family in Aguas Blancas with a lot of children. Aunt Rate had about 11 and aunt Melín more than 12. The cousins, more than cousins, were like brothers to us. This feeling has remained to this day.*

The Ojeda cousins helped us with the move, with some of the furniture and to settle in the house that Frank build and we premiered. We lived there until we were adults. The circumstances of took us physically away from the small homeland of the Mori Patriarch, but the memory of our Mori ancestors is still alive.

In our new home, my mother continued the discipline she had established in Aguas Blancas. There was no permission to go out at night. She never stopped going to church and she took us with her. Later, when we were adults, she just invited us.

We helped at home with the expenses with what we earned working on Saturdays. We never stopped working through High School and College to help our mother. We continued receiving the Social Security assistance. We didn't have to pay rent, thanks to the cousin Frank.

Were we moved, we had to buy the fruits and vegetables that we used to get for free in Yauco. We no longer had laying hens but had to buy the 'pale' (jinchos) eggs from the street vendor. There were no more butter crackers. We only ate them when a relative visited us from Yauco, who always arrived with bags of vegetables and oranges. We no longer had the wilderness of Aguas Blancas, but the lakes Carraizo and Las Curías were close by in Cupey Bajo, Rio Piedras. There we became adults and finished our studies.

We all reached adulthood with the teachings my mother provided us. My mother continued a religious life and never stopped going to church. She never remarried. She dressed in black and white for many years, and later used brighter colored clothes.

When I see her pictures I'm reminded of the Corsican women that always wear black. My mother looked like one of them. It was mourning for life. On the economic side she was a good home administrator, and always had a backup in her savings account "for in case of any emergency", she used to say.

We never abandoned her or left her alone. We always helped her even when she didn't want our help. Even as adults, she continued saying: save for a rainy day. I learned from my mother that money is not an end in itself but a means to acquire only what's necessary.

She always had a present for us on Epiphany Day (Día de Reyes) when living in Aguas Blancas, and continued giving us presents after we were adults.

With the exception of my brother Francisco, who died of cancer very young in 2001, a little over his 40th birthday, we all outlived our mother. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease on that same year. She passed away in February 2008, in my home in Trujillo Alto.

Paula has come to have descendants up to the great-great-grandchildren level but she never had the opportunity to meet them. These are the 7th generation of Mori and great-great-great-grandchildren of the Mori Patriarch, her great-grandfather.

(In the next **Historical Corner: Melín Mori Torres**).