

Mori Family International Newsletter

4, April, 2016

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Here the second issue of the Bulletin but ...

We not want to forget the pioneering work of those who founded the organization and also thought of a newsletter to keep the family informed about the meetings and other activities.

Here we reproduce a part of that first issue of 1995.

In fact, we continue a task begun long ago. Congratulations!!

The Board reports ...

- At its meeting on April 10, 2016, the Board considered and / or approved the following matters:
- Approved a budget of \$1,910.00 for 2016; at the meeting of September 4 we will be submitting a report of finances.
- Open a checking account to continue effectively keeping proper records of income and expenses and inform each Annual Meeting.
- Hold the following activities during the year: Christmas Activity, Summer Activity and our Annual Meeting. These also carry costs; however some families bring food or dessert for the occasion. It is very important that, in addition to the annual membership fee, they tell us how they can help to coordinate their contributions and donations.
- At this time, the Mori family has no headquarters where to carry out their monthly meetings and receive our members and visitors. There we could display documents and photos of our ancestors. If you know someone who has a property that can be used as a place of our meetings, assemblies, annual meetings or official headquarters where we keep all official documents and publications, we would like to make it available to the Mori Family International. Our organization would be responsible for utilities such as water, electricity, telephone and maintenance. The property should preferably be located in Yauco but not necessarily in the urban area.
- Another important issue agreed by our Board of Directors is to restore contact with members that used to participate regularly in our Annual Meeting and activities but no longer attend. The *raison d'etre* of the Mori Family International is to "promote and ensure this participation in our meetings and activities."

Happy Birthday, Eva!

Moca, P.R. 2016 - Eva Mori, one of the founders of our organization, was presented with an early birthday celebration organized by her children, grandchildren, sons and daughters-in-law, and by her husband, Choro. Her daughter Martita and his brothers took care of every detail. Some other members of the family got up there to accompany them on such an important occasion. How old she became that day? Well, you can judge by yourself, by counting the number of candles on the cake.

Upcoming activities of Mori Family International:

- Soon the Visiting Committee will begin visits to contact Mori family members which are yet unidentified or of whom have little information. There are 4 groups and trained for this work in several areas of the country:
 - Metro area and other towns (In charge: B. Caraballo Mori)
 - Southern Area - Ponce, Villalba and other towns (In charge: Tony Mori)
 - Southern Area - Yauco and other towns (In charge: Livia R. Ortiz Mori - Kelly)
 - Western Area - Mayaguez and other towns: (In charge: Andresito and Eva Mori)
- Summer family activity will be on July 24, 2016 in the Aguas Blancas house of Aunt Rate Mori. Donations in kind (food and drinks) are requested for this activity. Plan now to attend!
- In less than 5 months we will hold our Annual Meeting 2016. Soon we will report more details. What we already know is that will be on Sunday, September 4 (as always, the day before the Labor Day holiday).

Visit to the Indieras Festival in Maricao.

During the weekend of 16 and 17 April, members of our organization visited the Indieras Festival in Maricao and also places near the Hacienda Salvation, where our Patriarch Mori (1828-1894) worked as a steward. The purpose of both visits was to try to identify descendants and also to distribute the first issue of the Newsletter.

The first person to be identified was a great-granddaughter of the Patriarch and also granddaughter of Eusebio Mori Romani (n.1856). We deliver copies of the newsletter and calendars to people linked to our family Mori. The Visiting Committee will have as immediate agenda to keep in touch with this household descending from Fundador Mori. This great-grandson of Patriarch Mori fathered 37 children. His descendants, in turn, have had their own children and grandchildren that are the great-grandchildren-choznos of Ignacio Francisco Mori Romani.

The name of this neighborhood, Indieras, is due to a sad event at the time of the Spanish colonization that forced the Taíno Indians to retreat to the mountains to save their lives. This is one of the places in Puerto Rico where more Puerto Ricans have indigenous features, according to a recent publication by the University of Puerto Rico. (Information provided by Bienvenido Caraballo Mori).

Many wishes for recovery ...

From the left : José María Ojeda, Mirta Martínez Caraballo, her sister Neida and Carlos W. Caraballo Mori, all of which are great-grandchildren of José María Mori Romani and great-grandchildren of the Mori Patriarch. The photo was taken in Mayaguez, P.R., the town where our Patriarch lived from 1854 to 1862, before moving to Yauco. His first three children including José María Mori were born in Mayaguez.

Mirta will move on April 23 to her daughter's house in Texas. He has been very ill during the past 10 years for lack of a kidney. His condition has become complicated in recent years. We hope her health will improve.

The historic corner

From this issue on, we are initiating this informative section on data, events and people who in one way or another have been part of our history. We begin, of course, by the founder patriarch of our family, Ignacio Francisco Romani Mori (1828-1894), who emigrated from Corsica in mid-nineteenth century.

The Patriarch Mori was born in San Gavino in the southern part of the island of Corsica, located in the Mediterranean Sea. In the late 1840s, after reaching his majority age, he embarked on the old port of Bastia to travel to America. Before arriving in Yauco, which was his original purpose, he lived for a time on the island of Martinique because of a fault the boat had. He arrived at Mayaguez in 1854 when he was twenty (26) years of age, according to the history of Corsicans in Puerto Rico. He there established a small hotel or pension together with Martinican Petrona Romani, his first wife. After becoming a widower, he married again, this time to Maria Ines Romani, who also died soon. In 1862 he finally reached the destination he had set when he left his Corsican homeland. He was then thirty-four (34) years old. In Yauco, she married to Maria del Carmen Roman Galarza (1844-1916). In his first marriage, he fathered one son, two children in his second one, and thirteen (13) in his third and last marriage.

After working as a butler in coffee plantations in the neighborhoods of Rio Prieto and El Naranjo, our patriarch acquired an estate of over one hundred acres for growing coffee in the Aguas Blancas ward of Yauco. There he died on Saturday, November 10, 1894 because of tuberculosis, a fatal disease at the time. His remains were buried in the old cemetery of Yauco. After more than a century after his death, we still remember him. The farm where he lived and died—owned today by one of his great grandsons—is visited annually by many of his descendants, already in the seventh generation. (Information collected by Bienvenido Caraballo Mori)

Soon: more information on Corsica, *la cabeza del moro* and the emergence of the family in Yauco.

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* Malia Reyes, a Mori family member from California, initially translated the text of the bulletin. Our thanks to Malia.