

Mori Family International Newsletter

August 2017/Year 2 Num. 8

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Mori Family invites to the 23rd. Assembly and Annual Meeting on September 3, 2017

The Board of Directors calls and encourages members of the Mori International Family to participate in the Annual Assembly and Encounter # 23 of our organization.

INVITATION IS A PICTURE IN THE ORIGINAL BULLETIN

The Board of Directors informs...

During the months of July and August, the Board held regular meetings on July 2 and August 6, 2017, both held at the Community Center of El Naranjo in Yauco.

The matters discussed and / or approved in the July 2 were the following:

- Finance report is rendered.
- Information is provided on the steps taken to hold the Extraordinary Amendment Assembly on July 23.
- Amendments to the organization's Regulations presented by members of the Board who had been assigned to review according to the motion approved at the June 4 meeting are discussed. The corresponding adjustments are made as approved by the Board.
- The President informs that a summary of the amendments will be prepared to deliver to the Assembly attendees.
- The budget for the Extraordinary Assembly on Amendments and the Summer Activity is informed and discussed including the lunch menu and related matters.

On the other hand, the ordinary meeting of August 6 was held after the end of the 4th. Generational Transition Workshop (on left column). This meeting was mainly devoted to the planning of the 23rd. Annual Meeting to be held on September 3. The following matters were addressed:

- The minutes of the Amendments Assembly are presented for approval. These include the amendments to the Regulations that were approved. The minutes are approved without opposition.
- The Report that will be made to the September 3 Assembly is discussed. It will include the 2017 Work Plan already approved by the Board and the dedication of the Assembly to the Mori diaspora. The rationale, objectives and activities are also read. The Report is approved.
- Information on achievements during the past year that will be reported to the Assembly is presented.
- The process for nominations for vacancies in the Board in newly created positions is discussed through the amendments.
- The Treasurer, the Vice President and the Secretary are given copies of the Income and Expenses report as of July 31, 2017.

As always at each Board meeting, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Nancy Pacheco Mori and a sharing with other family members who usually accompany us at the meetings. The next ordinary meeting will be on Sunday, October 1, 2017 in the same place.

4th. International Mori Family Generational Transition Workshop is carried out.

On August 6, 2017, the fourth Mori Family International Generational Transition Workshop was held at the El Naranjo Community Center in Yauco.

The workshop had 2 parts: 1. *Knowing the Regulations of our organization* - offered by Bienvenido Caraballo Mori, President of the International Mori Family and 2. *Duties and responsibilities of the officers of the Board* - offered by Ángel A. Mori Rodríguez, Vice-President of the organization.

Descendants of Eusebio Mori Romani, José María Mori Romani, Andrés Mori Román, Francisco Antonio Mori Román and Dominica Mori Román, all children of Patriarch Mori, attended the workshop.

Young descendant Mori judo medalist in international competition

Alexander Morales, a 6th. generation descendant of Patriarch Mori, became a medalist in the ITF 2017 Pan American Taekwondo Judo Championship competition held in the city of Toronto in Canada. In the event, teams from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, the United States, Venezuela, Colombia and Puerto Rico participated.

Alexander is the grandson of Nancy Pacheco Mori, a member of our Board, and the son of his daughter of the same name. The International Mori Family Board of Directors congratulates Alexander and his family for this triumph and is proud to have contributed to facilitate this participation.

The Historical Corner - The descendants of the Patriarch: Paula, Melín and Rate Mori Torres (sixth of a series)

This Historical Corner about the descendants of Patriarch Mori, is the sixth of a series dedicated to 3 sisters of the Mori Family: Paula, Rate and Melín Mori Torres. We continue with Rate Mori Torres and start with what was contributed by two of her sons: Ricardo (Richard) and José Luis (Cheo) Ortiz Mori.

Rate's full name was Monserrate Mori Torres and her husband was named Néstor Ortiz López but was better known as Tito Ortiz. According to Richard, Tito's family came originally from Utuado. His grandmother, "*la cinqueña*", mother of *Abuelo Cheo* (Ortiz), lived on a farm in Utuado. Tito was born in Yauco, since his father had moved to Yauco while still a child. Grandpa Goyo was on the Lopez side of the family while Grandmother Juana belonged to the Feliciano family of the Düey ward. Nestor was born in the *Hacienda Leonor* where Goyo was a Butler. When they divided the family land, he inherited a small three-acre farm, just to the north of where the house of Tita, Richard's sister, is located.

Tito and Rate lived in the same community and attended the same school in Aguas Blancas.

When Tito and Rate were still engaged, Tito left for San Agustín in Puerta Tierra where he submitted a request to go to work in French Guiana. Tito enlisted in the army lying about his age, since he was 17 years old. From French Guiana he sent letters for Rate to a shop in the town of Yauco. Grandfather Bin picked up Tito's letters to Rate when he came to town to buy groceries. Bin was not comfortable with getting the letters but he put them in the bag. Then he showed them to Abuela María, who then gave them to Rate. (*Bienvenido* indicates at this moment that Rate told him that Paula sat next to her when she read the letter because she was very curious about what Tito wrote to Rate, asking her about when he would return or if he had asked her to marry him.) When Tito returned from Guiana, Rate was doing the practical training as a nurse in the hospital, for which reason she had to stay in the town. Rate learned to put injections and became the only one who could that in Aguas Blancas.

Tito and Rate got married in the decade of the 40s, possibly towards 1946-47. In total they had 12 children, although only 11 survived, seven males and four females. The children of Rate and Tito, in the order of birth are: Néstor (Juni), Ricardo (Richard), Nelson, Jaime Luis, Francisco Antonio (Toñi), José Luis (Cheo), Olga Milagros, Livia Raquel (Kelly), Moisés, María Esther (Tita), and Lourdes.

In the 1950s, Tito Ortiz left for Chicago to work, and when he returned, he sold the cow, the mare and the calf, the piglet and the chickens in order to collect \$250 to buy a jeep, which he bought in a cane plantation in Mayagüez. In the 60's, Tito turned the jeep into a public car and began to "echar pa'lante" (move forward) by meeting the demand of those who had to go to town. At night, the jeep served as an ambulance getting the sick to town. If someone felt ill during the night, he would be brought to the Ortiz Mori house asking for service. Tito had even a civil defense stretcher which he placed in the back of the jeep to transport the sick. Since the roads were dirt roads, he ordered the children to fill the holes in the road. With Tito using the jeep as an ambulance and Rate putting injections, the Ortiz Mori home became a point of reference in the neighborhood.

Tito Ortiz liked to farm, but he would not devote himself to agriculture like to Rate did. He always felt more prone to work as a salesman, as a carpenter, as a plumber, as a public car driver and the last thing he did was to serve as an evangelical church minister. They say that on one occasion Tito went to Toño Catalá to ask him to give up a piece of land to build the school. Catalá agreed with the condition that the municipality put the rest. Tito Ortiz went to talk to the mayor, who agreed to level the land. The Municipal Assembly of Yauco approved a budget to build the infrastructure. Although the school was built with voluntary labor, it can be said that the initiative, as well as the official arrangements with the Municipality, was the work of Tito Ortiz, while Tati Torres, the mayor, was the facilitator.

Both interviewed sons remembered that they first lived at *el cerro* and then at Gole's house (in Los Helechos), before moving to the Aguas Blancas house, a house that was growing larger as the family did. They never had to go to the river to fetch for water because there was a water tank on the farm that belonged to the Vicarios and they connected a pipe from the tank to the house. However, Rate went to the river to wash clothes.

In 1964, the older children (teenagers), including Richard and Cheo, decided to buy a washing machine so that Rate would not have to go down to the river to wash the clothes. They asked Tito Ortiz to choose a washing machine and they would pay for it. The payment was \$8 per month. They also remember when electric power came to Aguas Blancas. It was the first occasion in which the government used helicopters to install the poles because there were no roads. They then took advantage of the new situation to buy the washing machine for Rate.

Rate liked managing money but she was a good administrator. She sewed gloves for a workshop known as Nelson Laverne's workshop in Yauco. At that time there was still no electricity and she sewed at night with a lamp. When she went to town to make deliveries and collect the payments, she would leave one of the older boys in charge of the house. Richard remembers that he had to cook as he could. As the house grew, they also had to help clean the house, especially on Saturdays.

Tito Ortiz moved the family from Aguas Blancas to El Cortijo in Bayamón. At that time, Rate had the opportunity to meet Serafin, Eva Mori's father. This was so because Tito ended up with Serafin Mori as his boss. After some time in Bayamón, they returned to Aguas Blancas. Later, they moved to a house they built in the neighborhood of Lluveras in Yauco. Subsequently, they moved again, this time to Orlando, Florida, for a while but then they returned one more time to the Barriada Lluveras house. Finally, Tito bought the house in El Cafetal where Tito and Rate lived until they both passed away. Tito Ortiz died in 2012 and Rate in 2014.

(Lisa V. Mori Rivera, of the Editorial Committee, recorded the interview and did the transcription)