

Mori Family International celebrates its traditional *Octavitas* activity

On January 8, 2017, the Mori Family International carried out its traditional *Octavitas* activity, adopted as our way of sharing during the Christmas period. From mid-morning, relatives from different parts of the Island began arriving at the El Naranjo Community Center in Yauco to share that day with joy and with the abundant Christmas food put together, in one way or another, with the help of everyone.

The typical "*lechón asado a la vara*" (spit-roasted pork, with a lot of pigskin), the rice and pigeon peas, and Nancy's *pasteles* couldn't been missed as main dish. To this was added the rice and codfish with stewed beans, the pasta and potatoes salad, the meatballs in sauce, the chorizo in wine sauce with bread, the breadfruit *flan*, the candied papaya, and many other delicacies.

A DJ and a musical ensemble of the same neighborhood of El Naranjo, aided by the voices of several divas of the family, enlivened the activity musically. All this set by a beautiful waterfall of the El Verde Sector of El Naranjo (picture in page 2). The traditional raffle could not be missed, where everybody won something so that everyone could go home happy. Also we could not miss the family photo, for which this year we thank the skill of Joxelle Velázquez (*Jumping Jox*). We look great, don't we? (For pictures, see page 2 of Spanish bulletin. Also for more pictures and video, please log to: <http://www.familia-mori-internacional.com/que-estamos-haciendo>).

The Board reports...

At its regular meeting, held on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at the residence of Eva Mori and Choro Salinas in Moca, the Board considered and/or approved the following matters:

- It was agreed to hold a meeting of the special committee appointed for consideration of the minutes of pending board meetings; the committee is composed by Bienvenido Caraballo Mori, Andy Mori, Roberto Mori and Tony Mori and will meet on Sunday, January 15, 2017 in Juana Díaz.
- It is reported that on November 28, Tony Mori, Andresito Mori, Harry Irizarry Mori and Bienvenido Caraballo Mori visited the Yaucocoop Credit Union where the organization has its bank accounts. During the visit the signatures of the treasurer and of the authorized representatives by the Board of Directors were registered. Also, they submitted documents received by the IRS relating to our employer number.
- It is reported that the use of the Communal Center of El Naranjo was confirmed for the celebration of the *Octavitas* Activity on January 8th, 2017. A contribution of \$50 will be made for the use of the premises. A donation of \$20 will also be made for each meeting of the Board holds there. It is also reported that all meetings in 2017 were already scheduled in the calendar of the Community Center, although some meetings could be held elsewhere.
- Andresito Mori, Treasurer, reported on the balances in the savings and checking accounts.
- A general review of the checklist of all aspect relating to the *Octavitas* activity was made.

We enjoyed, as always, of a delicious lunch as well as a nice gathering with some family members who always accompany the Board in the meetings. The next meeting will be on February 5, 2017 in El Naranjo.

What's new on the Mori Family International's webpage?

- December 2016 / January 2017 edition of the Bulletin plus the English text.
- *Octavitas* 2017 with pictures and video (*¿Qué estamos haciendo?*)
- New section: *Leave your comments*

Visit <http://www.familia-mori-internacional.com>

The Historical Corner – The descendants of the Patriarch: Ana Francisca Mori Caraballo (1910-1995)

This second Historical Corner dedicated to the descendants of the Patriarch Mori, has been dedicated to his great-granddaughter, **Ana Francisca Mori Caraballo** and granddaughter of his eldest son, Eusebio Mori Romani. Panchi, as she was always known, was the daughter of the son of Eusebio, Ramón Mori Feliciano, known

as Chito, and Agustina Caraballo Rosa, whom everyone knew as Tina. Panchi was the only daughter of the children of Chito and Tina. The men were: Abdón (Lulo), Pedro, Inés and Ramón (Moncho).

In addition to the official historical data, we counted for this review with the information provided by her youngest son, Ariel Irizarry Mori and her granddaughters Minerva and Eneida García Quiñones.

We were told that Panchi had 7 children, one in her first marriage, named Segundo García Mori, but familiarly known as Cundo (father of Minerva and Eneida), who passed away. Ariel tells us that his grandfather Chito was a foreman at the Natali family farm and never lived in downtown Yauco. Panchi's children didn't know him, they only knew Tina's second husband, Valentín Mercado o 'Tino'. They also met Tinín, son of Tina and Tino. Of Tina, Ariel remembers that *(she) cooked rice and beans, and that rice was stuck-together ('amogollao') and without salt, with green bananas and codfish.*

After divorcing Cundo's father, Panchi returned to Tina's house, which took care of little Cundo so that Panchi could work. Panchi embroidered gloves and handkerchiefs delivered by a workshop and that she later returned.

Panchi married again with Francisco Irizarry Arroyo (Franco) and had 6 children: William, Nora, Luis, Harry, Ramonita (Tata or Ramy) and Ariel Irizarry Mori. Ariel informs that Franco married 'old', and that all the children of the couple were born in the Pueblito Nuevo sector of Yauco. All of the children of the second marriage, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, are still with us today. Franco had many occupations in his youth but is mostly remembered for his grocery store on the ground floor of the house in Pueblito Nuevo, just across the street from Tina's house. The couple moved to the Urbanización Luchetti, where Eneida (Shity) still lives with her family. Tina passed away in 1965, Franco in 1972 and Panchi in 1995.

Ariel says that Panchi *'loved her granddaughters more than her children, because—he explains—that the children had to eat 'what was there', while the granddaughters ate what they wanted.* He adds that *'Mom was so good a person that whoever came home never remained hungry. There was always lunch at home for whoever came in. And another thing she had was that, at Christmastime, no neighbor was left without a plate of 'arroz con dulce' for their home, as well as two or three 'pastelitos'. At home in Christmas, there was always roasted pork for us and for the neighbors.'*

Minerva (Mini), her eldest granddaughter, tells us that Panchi was "a spectacular grandmother". Mini doesn't remember seeing Panchi tired, or denying any of her requests. She never saw Panchi complain of fatigue. Before she herself went to school, she has an image of Panchi getting up every morning to cook a large breakfast pot for all those that went to school. She cooked spectacular meals in an oven that was fed with charcoal.

Mini indicates that she never heard Panchi speak negatively of anyone. She says that, at one point, they (Mini and Shity) realized that Panchi was their grandmother and not their mother. She remembers that the relationship with their "uncles-siblings" was perfect and that eventually almost everyone of them moved to the U.S. but always brought them things from there. She also remembers that *Papi Franco* was strong of character but he could not see Panchi cry, *because he was strong but Panchi always won him over.* Panchi prayed the rosary several times a day and had a close relationship with the nuns of Fatima, to whom she sent meals with Ariel or Harry.

Eneida (Shity), on the other hand, tells us that *Papi Franco had a shop and sold bread. With the left over and hardened bread, she used to bake 'budín' to be sold in the shop. She also baked corn bread and coconut candy.*

She continues: *There was never a refrigerator in my house. Mami Panchi used to bring jugs with water and ice up from the shop where there was a refrigerator for sodas, etc. Every day she brought up the meat to be cooked. She never left the kitchen. She cooked breakfast for everybody. After she was done washing the dishes from breakfast, it was time to start cooking lunch. Papi Franco used to go up at 1pm for lunch. After she was done washing the dishes from lunch, it was time for the 3 o'clock coffee, and for the children to come home from school to drink coffee.*

I'm still looking for something negative about Mami but I can't find it, concludes Shity.