

Octavitas celebration 2018 (despite María)

This past Christmas period - despite the situations caused by Hurricane Maria - the Mori International Family celebrated its traditional *octavitas* activity on Sunday, January 7, 2018. With the electricity provided by a gasoline generator gently facilitated by Chelvin Mori, new member of the Board of Directors, the El Naranjo Community Center in Yauco took on an air of "normality" and provided the basis for the annual Christmas gathering that was well attended. The Trío Ensueño provided the musical framework while the entrees, lunch and joy put everything else. Below a photographic glance (see the original Spanish bulletin). You can access the video at <https://www.familia-mori-internacional.com/que-estamos-haciendo>.

What's new on the Mori International Family website?

* Bulletin December 2017 / January 2018 w/English translation

* *Octavitas* 2018 activity with slideshow of photos and video

* Brief History and Descendants of Serafin Roman Morris and...

* Christmas greetings to Mori Family from Hawaii

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The Board of Directors informs ...

The Board held its first ordinary meeting after Hurricane Maria but also the last one in 2017 on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at the El Naranjo Community Center in Yauco. This was also the first meeting which was attended by the 4 new members of the Board elected at the Annual Meeting on September 3, 2017 in accordance with the regulations amended at the Assembly of Amendments held last summer. The 4 new members, who completed the generational relay workshops held during this past year, are Chelvin Mori, Lisa Mori, Eneida García and Lito Velázquez.

At this meeting, the Board considered and / or approved the following matters:

- It is agreed to refer to the Minutes Committee that worked with the minutes of 2016 to bring a report to the Board on the revision of the minutes of 2017. The Committee is composed of Andy Mori, Tony Mori, Roberto Mori and B. Caraballo Mori.
- The President informs that the Workshop-Laboratory on how to prepare a meeting of the Board, the Assembly (Annual Meeting) and how to plan an activity is pending. It also informs that Roberto Mori is working with the style and grammar corrections of the Regulations of our Organization. As soon as it is brought to the Board, it will be printed. Recommends that the Regulation be sent by email to members and published on our website. He also recommends that the evaluation of the Assembly and Annual Meeting # 23 be postponed for February.
- The Treasurer, Andresito Mori, makes his report of balances in the savings and checking accounts. The table collects this information. The President expresses that we have to create awareness in our members that they have the responsibility to sustain our organization, that there are many members who, with some exceptions, only pay the fee if they attend the Annual Meeting. It also informs that the signature of Eneida García Quiñones as sub-treasurer was already recorded in the current account.
- A calendar of regular meetings of the Board is presented and approved for 2018. The meetings would be held, as at the present, on the first Sunday of each month. It is also approved that these be held at the El Naranjo Community Center, but that this does not prevent them from being carried out in the homes that invite us or by using the Gazebo facilities of the Luchetti Urbanization.
- As a form of solidarity with members of the Mori Family affected by Hurricane Maria, an assistance plan is presented and approved by the organization to those members who request it, but limited to the available resources and the evidence presented.

A comparison of income and expenses (2015-2017)			
By concept of	2015	2016	2017
Income	\$ 1,357.73	\$ 2,799.13	\$ 4,592.04
Expenses	\$ 1,880.00	\$ 2,224.43	\$ 3,312.46
Operational Balance	-\$522.27	\$574.70	\$1,279.12
Balance 12/31	\$990.03	\$1,564.73	\$2,843.85

We enjoyed, as always, a delicious lunch as well as a pleasant sharing with some family members who always accompany the Board at meetings. The next meeting will be on February 4, 2018 in the same place.

This is the seventh **Historical Corner** about the descendants of Patriarch Mori that deals with three of his great-granddaughters and is the second on Monserrate Mori Torres (Rate), a series that we briefly interrupted in the previous bulletin. In this one, we include a note by his nephew, Bienvenido Caraballo Mori, about Rate as "Rapporteur of our Corsican history" and also a photographic account of important moments in her life.

Bienvenido tells us about Rate: "As also did other granddaughters of the Patriarch, Aunt Rate was a good reporter of the oral history of the Mori Family and transmitted the oral documents of our Mori Family to us. Up until 2014, the date on which she went on her *"eternal journey"*, I used to visit her on Sundays. She told me stories that her grandmother told her, about a time in her remote adolescence years when she used to travel paths along the farm that once belonged to her great-grandfather, Patriarch Mori. She made those stories from the oral documents that she received from the elders, including his grandmother Paula and aunts, come alive. Every time she told a story, she would quote the source and say, for example, *"Grandmother Paula told me so. If you take me to Ignacio Mori's farm, I would show you where the houses of all of them were but my legs no longer help me."*

Aunt could not make the desired visit to the farm but even today the places where the houses of the Patriarch's children were located are still called to some by their names, such as: *The Cleonta Way* (1865-1901) referring to the place where her house was located and by way of which you could get to the *finquita* (small farm). *La Jolla de Serafin Mori*, 1872-1945), close to the *Llano de Mori*. Another place is called *the Camino (The Way)* where the Cheo's (José María Mori Romani 1863-1901) ranch was located. The *Media Cuerda (Half Acre)* belonging to Francisco Antonio Mori (1867-1904) and Paula (1860-1965), Rate Mori's grandparents. About Juanita and Andrés Mori's water well, Rate told me: *"Like them, when we lived near their home, I used to go to that well to fetch some water. The well is close to the Media Cuerda.* Another place is *La Estancita*, the first farm of Tía Rate's grandparents, near the *Cerro de Aguas Blancas* where Rate and her sisters Melín and Paula were born and raised. Aunt Rate said: *"Before I got married, sometimes, when they gave me permission at home, I would stay at my grandmother's house. Grandmother Paula told me many stories about Ignacio. She told me about some gold figurines that Ignacio brought from Corsica. He carried them with him at all times."*

Aunt Rate was born, raised, married and lived most of her life in Aguas Blancas, the birthplace of the Mori family, ends by saying Bienvenido.