

**Invitation to Summer Annual Meeting 2018, July 22, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Community Center of El Naranjo, Yauco, P.R.**

Our Board of Directors invite you to participate in the Mori Family Summer Annual Meeting. It will be our party, that of the Patriarch's descendants, we will make of this day one of fraternization. We will have music, raffles, and our usual lunch and snacks. Is the Mori get-together that everyone awaits in the Summer. We will share salads, fritters, deserts and drinks provided by everyone.

**The Board of Directors informs:**

The Board met on Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at the Gazebo of the Luchetti neighborhood in Yauco for an ordinary meeting. In this meeting, the Board considered and/or approved the following matters:

- The Secretary presented the minutes for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that still waited for approval. After its reading, it was approved unanimously.
- The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenses report up to April 30th. It is noted that the amount of donations is the highest (28%) of the estimated for 2018, while the membership fees are only 7%. The report was approved.
- Roberto Mori, of the Editorial Committee, presented the draft of the Regulations of the organization that was prepared for its publication and distribution to the members. Since the Regulations themselves had been approved, only aspects of style and presentation were discussed. With changes presented, the publication was approved.
- 25th Anniversary Committee – the need to search for a location for this celebration was discussed this early since hotel reservations are done well in advance. It was agreed to visit the hotel and other locations to bring recommendations to the Board. As for the publication of the Anniversary Album, planning should start for the sale of ads.
- On the possibility of acquiring a property that serves as headquarters for the organization, it was approved to coordinate a visit to Aguas Blancas to explore a place that was part of the Patriarch's farm and another in El Naranjo.
- As a new issue, Lito Velázquez raised the possibility that the FMI Board could attend the Community Board of Luchetti in terms of guidance and advice in the struggles as a consequence of the damages caused by Hurricane María. Possibilities will be discussed at the next meeting.
- In addition, the following issues remained pending for the next meeting:
  - The organization of the Steering Committee.
  - Every committee on the Board has to schedule its meeting and bring a report to the Board.
  - Revise the schedule of the Workshop Program for the Generational Relay.
  - Agree on the place for the celebration of the Summer Activity.

Again, this time, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Eneida García Quiñones, member of the Board, and a get-together with members of the Mori Family that always accompanies the Board in its meeting. The next meeting will be again in the Gazebo of the Luchetti neighborhood in Yauco on Sunday, June 3rd, 2018.

**Mori Family in Hawaii and the volcano**

Melissa Leilani Estrella, descendant of Serafín Mori Roman, son of our Mori Patriarch, informed from Hawaii about the situation people are going through since the eruption at the beginnings of May of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii island, the biggest in the archipelago. Fortunately, it has not been informed that this situation has affected members of the Mori Family in Hawaii. Serafín moved to Hawaii in 1901 to work in the sugarcane fields and his descendants there total now more than 2,000.

**Carmen Mori Caraballo (3 de marzo de 1953 – 19 de abril de 2018), RIP**

On April 19, our cousin Carmen Mori Caraballo, familiarly known as Carmencita, left to eternal rest. She was part of the Mori Caraballo clan, originally from Aguas Blancas but residents of Mayagüez for many decades. Carmencita was, at the same time, great-granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter of the Patriarch, since she was a descendant of two children of the Patriarch (See *The Historic Corner*, p.2, that tells the story of this family clan).

We express our condolences to her brother Andrés Mori Caraballo and her nephew Andy Mori Rodríguez, Treasurer and Secretary respectively of the Board of Directors, as well as to the rest of her family and we published some lines that Andy sent us for the occasion. May she rest in peace!

*For my beloved and adored aunt:*

*Today I dedicate a few short lines, not so much by the way of farewell, but as a tribute and recognition to a very special person. To my beloved and adored Auntie Carmen, as we called her. An acknowledgment for being so exceptional as you were: as a daughter, as a sister, as aunt, as a mother. Yes, as a mother. Because you were like a mother to all of us. You were the strong column that supported, sustains, and from heaven you will you will support our family. For this, as for many other things, we will be eternally grateful to you. Today we had to separate from you with much sadness, and we will miss you immensely. I will miss your laughter, your pats on my back, your kisses, your hugs, your blessings. But, you will be living forever in my memories and in my heart. Therefore, I do not say goodbye, but see you later. With the immense conviction, that now you will continue watching over your family from heaven, and that someday we will be together again. Thank you, Auntie, for loving me with such immense love, more like a mother than as an aunt.*

*From the depths of my heart, Andy Mori (Joel for you).*

## What is new and recent on the Mori Family International webpage?

- March-April newsletters (Year 3, No. 3) and May-June 2018 with english translation.
- Invitation to the Summer Activity.
- Annual Workplan for 2018.
- *Octavitas* activity (review and video)

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

## The historical corner – The descendants of the Patriarch: Francisca Caraballo Mori and Andrés Mori Martínez

We continue with the series of the Patriarch Ignacio Francisco Mori's descendants with two that, at the same time, were married to each other. Francisca, better known as Panchita, and Andrés were second cousins, descendants, each one on their own, of two of the Patriarch's children.

In an interview with their son, Andrés Mori Caraballo and their grandson, Andy Mori Rodríguez, talkeded, not only about this double descent, but also details about the family they procreated. Andresito, as our interviewee is known, indicates that, on his father side, his grandfather was Andrés Mori Román, son of the Patriarch, and his grandmother was Juanita Martínez. This couple had 11 children, among whom was Andrés Mori Martínez, Andresito's father and Andy's grandfather. Andresito, great-grandchild of the Patriarch on his father side, has been one of the few descendants that met a son of the Patriarch. He says: *"When he died, I was about 4 years old. The last memory I have of him, is that I was in a sort of cradle, and he came to see me and the family. And Mamá Juanita after we moved to Mayagüez, I was about 8 ½ years old, and I saw her after she was bedridden."* He adds: *"Who remembers Mamá Juanita and Papá Andrés very well is my sister Gladisita because she is the eldest."*

He went on to explain how he is also a Patriarch descendant through another family line: *"On my mother side, I come from the line of María Inés, who is my great-great-grandmother and was the daughter of Petrona, who is then my great-great-great-grandmother on that side. The son of María Inés with the Patriarch was José María Mori, my great-grandfather, and father of my grandmother, Mamita Inés Mori who married Francisco Caraballo, Grandpa Pancho, whom are my mother's parents, Panchita Caraballo Mori. They were cousins and, in that neighborhood, lived many families and there wasn't much to pick from, right? You had to choose from what was available...but what was available was of quality. So, my father put his sight on his cousin and they started having children. This was permitted in the environment where they lived. They had a child every couple of years. My father always wanted the first child to be a boy. As they were searching for the boy, Gladisita was born, then Gloria, and then Lilliam and Carmencita, who left this beautiful land to go rest in Paradise with the Lord. And as they wished for a boy, I was born, the fifth in line, and the eldest of the males. As they told the story, when Mami was pregnant, Papito had leg pain, a practically dead leg, and he laid on the floor and Madrina Cola, who was the midwife, was taking care of the labor at home, because except for Nelly, we were all born at the house of Aguas Blancas. That's when Madrina Cola told my father: you wanted a boy? Here you have the boy. My father told me that when he heard this, he was so happy, he jumped on his two feet and the pain was gone. But they wanted more, it was common to like big families at the time. They wanted to see the yard full of children. So then came Frankie, then Betsy, and the last one to be born was Nelly, who is the youngest. Then, we all went to live in Mayagüez."*

Andresito explains how was that the family moved from Aguas Blancas in Yauco to Mayagüez: *"First, Gladisita (Tita) left to Mayagüez to Ignacio's house, my uncle, to work and after four years she sent for us. Afterwards, Tita sent for Gloria, and about two years later she sent for the rest of the family, including my parents..., Ignacio, who could see the difficult situation we were going through in Yauco, he could imagine my father working alone as an farmer and my mother taking care of eight children, convinced my father to move to Mayagüez."*

Andresito remembers an anecdote, from before they moved, about the degree of poverty in which they lived: *"Because we were a family of 10, my mother used to cook stewed tomatoes with a little bit of codfish for flavoring. Because Papito grew the tomatoes, some added salt, a few little pieces of codfish and white rice. And that was dinner. I was tired of all that. I used to eat the rice with a little bit of stew. Many years later I was back living at my mother's house, and I felt like eating that food I didn't like. Mami, cook some stewed tomatoes. She had forgotten how to cook it. Yes, what you used to cook for us in Yauco when we were kids. I tried it, and to this day I haven't wanted it again."*

Andresito continue recalling how was life in Aguas Blancas, before Mayagüez: *"The mode of transportation we had at home was a mare, and Papito will go downtown for shopping or to run an errand. I remember he once told me: take the mare to graze. I took the mare a little bit farther than Don Arcillo's house, and I went for it about 6 o'clock in the evening and couldn't find it, I couldn't see it and got scared. A boy at last, ignorant, I tied her up in a slope, and because it rained, the mare slipped. The dog went in front, and I saw the dog sitting next to the mare from the distance, and when I arrived, I realized the mare had accidentally hanged herself, so I went back home and told Mami. Papito wasn't back home from downtown. When Papito arrived he found out that the mare had hanged, so I hid under the bed sure that he was going to beat me and Mami said: come to eat. I don't want to eat, I want black coffee. I was a seven to eight years old boy, more or less. Uncle Franco's sons arrived and cut the rope from the mare, they dig a hole and buried it there. I think that was the signal for Papito to decide to move to Mayagüez. I also remember taking food to Papito on the mare, I was about seven years old. I used to ride the mare and go to Neca's house in Duey neighborhood, when the road was been built, to take the lunch to Papito. Afterwards I would return home and go to the Aguas Blancas' school to study. I used to go for water, firewood, grass, and picked coffee at that young age. When my uncle saw this... he said, no, no, I am bringing my nephews with me to Mayagüez, and my nieces and my brother, and he did it and I thank god first and my uncle for taking us out of there."*

Andy, on his part, remembers his grandfather Andrés very well and his grandmother Panchita: *"I met my grandparents, at old age. Nobody gave so much love as that old man. He taught me to count from 1 to 100. We are a class of our own."*

Andresito says that his Mamá Panchita died in 2007, and of his brothers and sisters, some live in the United States, and Carmencita died recently. He has three children, Alexis, Andy and Jessica, as well as seven grandchildren. Andy, on his part, has 2 children: Jesmarie and Gabriel Andrés.

Almost at the end of the interview, Andresito said very proudly: *“The Mori surname is alive on the male line. I’m the one that is preserving the surname since my brother Frankie has no sons.”* But what really excites Andresito and Andy is the family unity: *“I always emphasized to my children to remember that we are a unique family, with the Mori surname. It is important in this generational relay that the younger generation dedicate themselves to this, to search for themselves, where we come from, as well as, where we are going. Unity. When we encourage unity, I’m 100% ready to cooperate. Unity is contagious.”*

Translation from Spanish by Lisa Mori Rivera.

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