

# Mori Family International Newsletter

## February 2018/Year 3 Num. 2

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### New Mori Family Work Plan for 2018

The Work Plan for 2018 was reported to the Annual Assembly (Annual Meeting #23) on September 3<sup>rd</sup> with the recommendations of the Board's Report. The Assembly approved all the recommendations to said Plan. In addition to the objectives that our Board has been working on, other objectives were added. (A SUMMARY OF THE PLAN FOLLOWS.)

Plan Objectives	
1.	<b>Institute and give continuity to the Workshops</b> to continue preparing (the youth) for the generational relay, become the leaders of the organization and occupy the different positions established in the Regulations.
2.	<b>Growth:</b> achieve an increase in the number of members.
3.	<b>Communication:</b> use more electronic means available as a first option for regular MFI publications.
4.	<b>Finances:</b> strengthen the finances of the Organization even more, since is our responsibility to support it.
5.	<b>Educate about member's responsibilities according to the Regulations.</b>
6.	<b>Historic research about the Patriarch, the Mori Family and create a historical archive of the MFI.</b>
7.	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MFI in 2019.</b>
8.	<b>Work with the Mori diaspora in order to strengthen our bond, as well as to improve communication.</b>
9.	<b>Funds for members that were victims of Hurricane María.</b>
10.	<b>Auscultate the possibility of acquiring through donation and/or purchase a place to become the headquarters of the MFI.</b>

### The Board of Directors informs ...

The Board met on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in the Community Center of El Naranjo in Yauco, at its first meeting this year. On this meeting, the Board considered and/or approved the following matters:

- A report of the Minutes Committee was presented, which met on January 21 to consider the minutes pending approval. The recommendations of the minutes pending approval are considered one by one and all were approved unanimously.
- The President presents the new Work Plan of the Board for the year 2018. It indicates that it incorporates the recommendations to the 2017 Plan approved at the Assembly last September. The plan was approved as presented. See the main points of the plan in the column on the left. (SEE TABLE ABOVE).
- A proposal is presented for the constitution of the working committees for 2018 for the execution of the approved Work Plan. It was approved unanimously.
- The evaluation form of the Annual Assembly and the Octavitas Activity was distributed. It was agreed that members take the form home and bring it for discussion at the next meeting.
- A new program for the Generational Relay Workshops was presented for 2018. There is a pending workshop from last year. The program was approved, including the pending workshop. See workshop program in the left column. (PLEASE, SEE THE BULLETIN)
- The Treasurer's report was presented. The proposal in the Work Plan on the Victims' Fund and the Property Fund that these funds are separated from the operational account was discussed. A motion was approved for the savings account in Yauco to be used only to deposit the funds for those two purposes and for the current balance of the savings account to be separated from the Victims' Fund.
- An income budget of \$ 5,510 and \$ 3,575 of expenses for 2018 was approved.
- Measures to resolve the situation of prolonged unexcused absences of Board members were discussed and approved.
- Consideration of evaluation of the Annual Meeting and Octavitas activity was postponed for next meeting.

As always, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Nancy Pacheco Mori, and also shared together with other members of the Mori Family who always accompany the Board in their meetings. The next meeting will be on Sunday, March 4, 2018, in the same place.

### Program of workshops in 2018 for the Generational Relay

All workshops will be held on Sunday at the El Naranjo Community Center. To get there from Yauco, take highway 128. After the lake, when you see the entrance to El Naranjo, take PR 373 on the right. It is at Km. 2.8 and will be on the left side of the road. (SEE IMAGE OF THE PROGRAM IN THE BULLETIN)

#### What's new on the Mori International Family website?

- \* Bulletin February 2018 English translation SOON!
- \* *Octavitas* 2018 activity with slideshow of photos and video
- \* Work Plan for 2018
- \* Workshop program for the generational relay for 2018

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

**Oscar Ortiz: RIP** - On February 20, Oscar Ortiz, husband of our beloved cousin Nora Irizarry Mori, who was secretary of our Board for a long time, passed away. Oscar was also a prominent member of our family and an active participant in the activities of Mori Family International. Our embrace of solidarity to Nora, children and other relatives. RIP.

### The Historical Corner - The descendants of the Patriarch: Abdón Mori Caraballo

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This Historical Corner is dedicated to Abdón Mori Caraballo (1908-1985), great-grandson of the Patriarch and grandson of his first Puerto Rican son, Eusebio Mori Romani, born in Mayagüez. This story is based on the memory of his sons Roberto, member of the current Board of Directors and Jaime (known as Jimmy) as well as his granddaughter Lisa, also a member of the Board of Directors, of other relatives and even on a recording of an interview that José Luis (Wiso) Mori did by phone, a year before Abdón's death in 1985.

According to himself in the recording, Abdón, whom his family members nicknamed Lulo, was born in the Vegas ward of Yauco in 1908. His father, Ramón Mori, known as Chito, worked at the Natali family farm and, according to him, it was a daughter of the Natali, named Marianita, who told him about his father and family. This is because Chito died very young, leaving his wife Agustina Caraballo (known as Tina) with several children besides

Abdón: Ana Francisca, known as Panchita (see *Historical Corner*, Year 1, No. 12, 2016 / Year 2 # 1, 2017); Pedro, who died in his youth; Inés, who emigrated to New York and died there in 1966 and Ramón, known as Moncho, who lived for many years with his family on the ground floor of Agustina's house in the Pueblito Nuevo of Yauco, where he also died relatively young.

Abdón told Wiso that he did not know Ignacio but that Marianita Natali told him that she had known Ignacio when she was a child. He remembered that according to her, Ignacio spoke French and was called "Munsio" Mori (from French *Monsieur* or Mr. Mori). Roberto recalls that, as a child, he witnessed a similar conversation when Marianita was talking to Abdón while standing on the sill of her house on Pacheco street.

Yes—he answered—he remembered stories about his grandfather Eusebio and his grandmother Pancha Feliciano. He met three of his father's (Chito) siblings: Toñita, Juan Inés and Francisco. He maintained a close relationship with the first two, and used to visit them frequently in their house in Vegas, very close to the lake. In fact, Abdón first name was Juan, and although he did not use it, he believed he was named so for his uncle Juan Inés. Roberto remembers having visited that house, and remembers that it was made of wood with a staircase in front that went straight into the living room. The lake was visible from the staircase. Jimmy also remembers those visits, particularly one in which, due to the cold weather of the place, he suffered an asthma attack and Abdón had to take him immediately to town.

Abdón also remembers his cousin Alejandro, known as Cielo (*sky*, literally but could also mean *darling*), son of Juan Inés. Cielo often visited Abdón's house and Roberto remembers that each time Cielo arrived, he hid behind a curtain to laugh, because he found that nickname very funny. Roberto recalls that last time he saw Cielo was in a Mori Family Annual Meeting towards the end of the 90's. Cielo was then very old, and this time he did not laugh about his name.

The death of Chito, as in so many other cases, brought many changes to Abdón's family. As the eldest son, he saw it as an opportunity to help his mother and siblings, and migrated to downtown Yauco to work. He had the good fortune that a respected businessman named Mr. Eduardo Quiñones welcomed him into his home and guided him into the world of pharmacies, to which he dedicated the rest of his life. Roberto recalls that Abdón used to say that he was treated like a son and that Mr. Eduardo's daughters became like sisters to him. In fact, one of them called Irmina, became a teacher and later a school principal in Jayuya. Since she was called Mina, Roberto thought it was very funny that he had to call her by the name of a vitamin (B12 known as *Tiamina*), but is was still very nice to visit "Aunt Mina".

As a result of all this, a story began as in the novels that happened simultaneously in Yauco and Jayuya. It turned out that a married couple of Yauco, Mr. Rafael Briganti and Mrs. Carmen Negroni, looked for a girl to help Mrs. Carmen due to her health care needs. The connection between this family and that of Mr. Eduardo led to the finding of a young woman from Jayuya who had recently lost her parents, named María González. Thus María arrived in Yauco and came to live at the house of Mrs. Carmen Negroni and the same treatment that Abdón had received at Mr. Eduardo's home. Gladys Milán says: **"We loved María very much, so when she met Abdón, who was working at the Maisonave Pharmacy, and they started a relationship, you could imagine..."** At the time, Gladys was going to be Mrs. Carmen Negroni daughter-in-law, and finally, after almost a decade later, she and her husband, Rafelito, ended up, in 1944, as the couple's godparents at their wedding and as godparents to Jaime Luis, the couple's eldest son born a year later. Also, as it usually happens, Gladys' brother, Guillermo, ended up married to Arcángela Pietri Mori, Abdón's cousin.

Mary (as María was later called) and Abdón established their first home in Muñoz Rivera Street, next to the Borinquen Biscuits factory, where both sons were born. Then they moved to another house on the same street until both sons were grown. Abdón was a "pharmaceutical assistant", as he used to say, but in reality it was much more than that. He was the trusted pharmacist at the Yauco Drug Pharmacy on the same Muñoz Rivera Street, where he worked for many years. Not only did he prepared the prescriptions, but he also prescribed medications to those that consulted him, he gave injections, and he also worked as a "pharmacist on duty" when he was awoken at midnight—just two hours after closure—to attend some emergency. The proximity of the pharmacy to the house betrayed him. **"I remember that Padrino was always working"**, says his goddaughter Zulma Quiñones, who stayed for long periods in the house from time to time.

Abdón never neglected his mother Agustina until her death in 1965, his sister Panchita and her family, his stepfather Valentín Mercado, and most especially his half-brother, Tinín, whom he had to protect on more than one occasion. As the eldest sibling, he felt protective of the family. He took his children religiously to visit their grandmother, who invariably prepared sausage soup (*sopa de salchichón*), Abdón's favorite, although not necessarily his children liking. On the other hand, although he had favored the migration of his family into town, he longed for the countryside. The Luchetti Lake, very close to where he was born and where his aunt and uncle still lived, exerted a fascination on him and many trips in the old Mercury, Roberto recalls, were to spent a Sunday afternoon at the lake and later eat *tostones* at the *Brisas del Lago* restaurant, which still exists.

Over the years, Abdón ended up working at the Moscoso Pharmacies, first on Comercio Street in Yauco, and then in front of Ponce's downtown square, after the family moved to that city. Later, he completed his pharmaceutical work in Droguería González, also in Ponce.

Abdón got to know his two granddaughters. Lisa, his eldest granddaughter, remembers a lot of the only grandfather she met, but Nadia was barely 3 years old when he died. They were both very excited when the family came together to work on a "collective interview" and had the opportunity to listen to their grandfather's voice on the recording of Wiso's interview, and the stories there narrated, as well as deciding which pictures would go into this Historical Corner.

Abdón died in 1985 in Carolina, where he and Mary moved after his retirement. Mary survived him until her death in 2004, when she was 89 years old and while living in Ponce where she returned after Abdón's death. Today, they are both buried in the Municipal Cemetery of Ponce.