

## Biba Mes CHamoru!



Tumaiguini, the first moon of our Chamorro/CHamoru [lunar calendar](#), means 'this is the way.' Our lunar calendar offers us knowledge of the way our ancestors passed down stories, wisdom,

and lived connections with our lands and waters. This tumaiguini, we can be inspired to turn to the stories that have been passed down to us to chart our way forward.

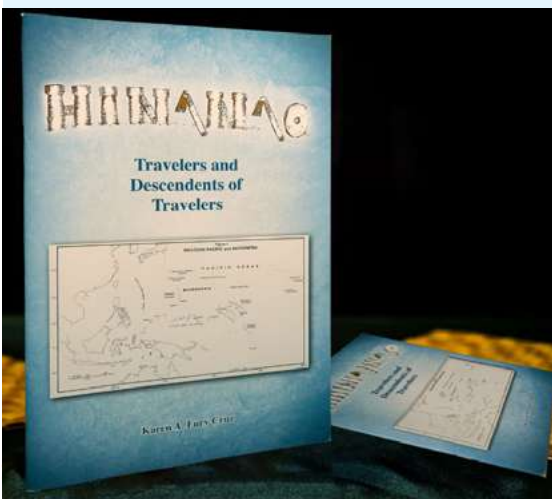
Fifty years ago, [Governor Carlos G. Camacho](#) signed a bill into law that created a five-year program to begin teaching Chamorro/CHamoru language and culture in schools. In the past half-century, we've seen the growth and success of the Chamorro/CHamoru studies program in our school system, and even the



emergence of an immersion language school which was designed to fully surround youth with our native language and worldviews.

Learning about our island's history and the stories that we've inherited prompts deeper reflection on the resilience and strength of our people.

For example, did you know that Carlos Camacho was also Guam's first governor ever to be elected by the people? Following many years of [Naval rule](#), Camacho's [election in 1970](#) marked the first time that the people of Guam chose their own leader since the beginning of Spanish colonization in 1668. This history also speaks to our island's continued struggle for self-governance and empowered indigenous leadership.



### Hinanao: Travelers and Descendants of Travelers

by Karen A. Fury Cruz

Karen Cruz's work experience has focused on health and education and the use of oral histories to document Guam's past and the people's stories. This book examines through interviews the time period of the late 1800s to the late 1940s to determine what factors contributed to the travel of CHamorus/Chamorros from Guam to other parts of Micronesia. These CHamoru/Chamorro "travelers" reflect on how decisions and travels of their parents and grandparents impacted their lives.

[Click here to find Hinanao at the Heritage Gift Shop.](#)

Here at [Guampedia](#), our crew has been dedicated to weaving the stories of our island - through film, celebrations of our island's artists who are at the forefront of cultural preservation, and a commitment to learning and sharing the histories and currents that continue to shape us as the indigenous peoples of our Marianas archipelago.



Through our Marianas Storytelling: Land and Lineage Saturday matinee series, we're launching a month-long celebration of Chamorro/CHamoru culture through film in partnership with the Guam Museum Foundation, the Department of CHamoru Affairs, PBS Guam, and the Guam International Film Festival, with support from Pacific Islanders in Communication.

On these next three Saturdays, the 16th, 23rd and 30th this Mes CHamoru, we'll be featuring short films that reflect the diversity, creativity, and brilliance of Chamorro/CHamoru stories throughout the Marianas archipelago.

Our inaugural program theme was Connecting Culture Through Music (celebrating the film Tradewinds by Mighty Island, and the Manamko' to Manhoben feature on Señot Vicente 'Ben' Meno and Kântan CHamorita). The March 16 program, themed, From Our Ancestors (featuring the Guampedia's [ITinituhon](#), the CHamoru/Chamorro creation story, and film on traditional healing with Saipan [suruhânu](#) and educator Señot Donald Mendiola as a live speaker).

We are excited to invite the community to join us at the Guam Museum theatre on March 23 at 2:30 pm for a special screening and the Guam premiere of the film Promesa by Dr. Lola Quan Bautista. Please see the end of this newsletter for the full list of films and live session dates. Please see page four for the full list of films and live session dates.

The films, alongside select interactive sessions with our celebrated cultural practitioners, foreground the ancestral practice of storytelling as the dynamic vessel for perpetuating our culture.

This Mes CHamoru, we encourage our community to continue seeking out the stories that propel us forward. Tumaiguini reminds us that it has always been our way to attend to the ancestral knowledge that is woven into our language, and running through the stories that our people tell.



## Marianas Storytelling: Land and Lineage

The Guam Museum Saturday  
Matinee Film Series Schedule

March 16 @ 1:00 pm

THEME: **Connecting Culture  
Through Music**

**FILM:** "I Tinituhon" by  
Guampedia, CHamoru/  
Chamorro Creation Myth

**LIVE:** Origins & Connections by  
Baltazar Aguon & Rita Nauta

**FILM:** "Attituyi i Åmot-ta" by  
HAYA Foundation

**LIVE:** Traditional Healer & Saipan  
Educator, Señot Donald Mendiola  
along with local traditional  
healers.

March 23 @ 10:00 am

THEME: **The Strength of Our  
Future** - Youth Focussed

**FILM:** "Halmon Hikes (Fouha)"  
by Mañe'lu and the Inafa'maolek  
Youth

**FILM:** "Island Time" by Sophia  
Perez; Presented by Shannon



March 23 @ 12:30 pm

THEME: **Kostumbren CHamoru/  
Chamorro**

**LIVE:** Kântan Chamorita by  
Señora Teresita Flores, UOG  
CHamoru Studies and Señot  
Ray Barcinas, DOE Educator  
CHamoru Studies

**FILM:** "Kântan Hereru" by Sean  
Lizama

March 23 @ 2:30 pm

THEME: **Kustumbrin/Kostombren  
Chamorro/CHamoru**

**LIVE:** Pale Eric Forbes, OFMCap,  
Reflection on Kostumbre; Jillette  
Leon Guerero and Malia Ramirez,  
Conversation on CHamoru  
Genealogy

**FILM:** Guam Premiere of  
"Promesa" by Dr. Lola Quan  
Bautista

March 30 @ 1:00 pm

THEME: **Ti Geran-Måmi (A War  
Not of Our Making)**

**LIVE:** National Park Service  
WWII True History Project, Dr.  
Jennifer Craig, Mellon Fellow

**FILM:** "We Drank Our Tears"  
by Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero,  
Filmmaker & Pres. NMI  
Community College

**FILM:** "War for Guam" by Frances  
Negrón-Muntaner, Co-Producers  
Baltazar Aguon & Michael Lujan  
Bevacqua

**Familian San Jose: 340th Jubilee of Saint Joseph Church Inalahan** uses oral histories passed down from those who faithfully worshipped and maintained the church since 1680. William “Bill” Paulino is the author of the oral histories that were passed to him from his elders. Judith Flores, PhD, served as co-author in that she used historical documents to corroborate the oral histories shared by Bill,

### Help Renovate St. Joseph Church Book Drive



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and served as editor of his writing, being careful to retain the local ways of expression and colloquial phrases. Other parishioners contributed stories about the building of our present-day St Joseph church (1933-1940). Mary Chargualaf Camacho told the “story about her father who fell from the 30-50 foot scaffolding at the church tower and walked away from it.”

## Women In Guam History

March is also Women’s History month, which gives us an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the famaloa’an who have shaped the currents of our histories and safeguarded many of our cultural practices for generations. Guampedia launched a section on Women in

Guam History to specifically highlight women’s contributions and stories.

This Mes CHamoru, we are excited to celebrate Chamorro/CHamoru women cultural practitioners, and as always - we encourage our readers to visit Guampedia to take a deeper dive!

**Clotilde “Ding” Castro Gould** (1930 – 2002) was a beloved storyteller, educator and advocate for CHamoru language and culture. Through her sense of humor and gift for weaving stories and songs together about Chamorros and life on Guam, Gould helped create and shape Chamorro language resources and programs on Guam, as well as advanced cultural awareness of the Marianas in the larger Pacific region. [Click to Know Herstory](#)



**Tan Elena Cruz Benavente** was recognized as a master folk artist and culture bearer, praised for her skill in weaving natural materials like pandanus leaves and coconut palm. Despite changing cultural conditions and increasing outside influence, Tan Elena was deliberate about passing on this art form and its teachings to her descendants and others in the community who expressed a desire to learn.

[Click to Know Herstory](#)