



Guampedia.com
October 2022

Know our island. Know our history. Click to know! — Volume V. Issue X.

Guampedia is a non-profit affiliate of the University of Guam with operations funded by the Government of Guam's Tourism Attraction Fund.

Guampedia Attends Pacific Islander Festival



Guampedia added another milestone in its Culture of Connecting project by participating in the 28th Annual [Pacific Islander Festival](#) (PIFA) held in San Diego's Mission Beach district. From September 24-25, 2022, festival goers from around the country gathered at the scenic Ski Beach Park to celebrate the cultures and peoples from Pacific communities including Hawai'i, Guam, Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Chuuk and Cook Islands. This year's festival was the first

PIFA since 2019 and the first time Guampedia attended.

PIFA highlights included dances, music, cultural demonstrations and, of course, food. An abundant array of merchandise, including shirts, hats, gifts and unique art pieces, were available for purchase from the many vendor booths surrounding the park. Informational booths featured community organizations, exhibitions and cultural demonstrations to educate and entertain the crowd.

Guampedia's informational booth was abuzz with activity as visitors gathered to learn more about Guampedia's educational resources and online offerings. The Guampedia crew, led by Managing Director Rita Nauta, did their part to represent our island and highlight our work to promote CHamoru/Chamorro history, language and culture. Guampedia welcomed visitors to take shade from the San Diego sunshine and view our

Continued on page two

Continued from page one

table top display that featured the newly published [Latte in the Marianas](#) by Dr. Kelly Marsh-Taitano and Jolie Liston, Guampedia “Gogque Marianas” t-shirts, Guam’s Historic Eras timeline and our Micronesia Milestones, complete with *haggan* (sea turtle) sculptures by Darren Cruz. Volunteer Carmelo Nauta provided a *kulo’* blowing demonstration much to everyone’s delight, especially children wanting to produce the distinctive call of the island’s shell trumpet.

PIFA was also a great opportunity to gather information for our upcoming website re-design. Visitors were asked to take an online survey through the Guampedia website via their cellphones or a paper survey. Their responses will help us learn more about the people who use Guampedia and to hear their ideas on how to better serve our audiences. Survey participants were gifted with a Guampedia t-shirt and a special commemorative five-postcard set of historic images and artwork designed by Raymond Anderson just for PIFA.

Most importantly, Guampedia’s attendance at the festival allowed us to connect with the CHamorro/Chamorro communities that reside outside the Marianas. Our online analytics show that many of Guampedia’s visitors come from the continental United States. Visitors to our booth excitedly shared their stories and memories of growing up in Guam before moving away, reminisced about people they knew and spoke fondly of the food and lifestyle of their Marianas homeland. Many longed to go back someday or lamented they did not know much about their culture and CHamoru/Chamorro heritage. Some visitors were excited to just be able to engage with the CHamoru/Chamorro language again. For our part,



we answered many questions about Guampedia and Guam history. We also wanted to thank them for supporting our work and using Guampedia, as well as to reinforce our cultural connections.

Guampedia also represented our partners who were unable to attend PIFA this year—the [University of Guam](#), the [Guam Preservation Trust](#), [Pacific Asia Travel Association \(PATA\)](#) and [Traditions Affirming Our Seafaring Ancestry \(TASA\)](#). Our informational table distributed their promotional materials and answered as many questions about these organizations and their programs as much as possible.

Travel to PIFA was made possible through the Office of the Governor’s Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment grant program. Congratulations to the Pacific Islander Festival Association and executive team led by PIFA President, Anissa Acfalle, on another successful festival! Special thanks to Joey Cruz Pangelinan and Vincent John Dewitz Pangelinan for their assistance throughout the festival and our stay in San Diego.



More photos on page 4!

[Click here to take our online survey.](#)

A History of CHamoru/ Chamorro Migration

Historically, CHamorus/ Chamorros have been a seafaring people noted for their swift proas and ability to navigate between islands in the Pacific, according to early Spanish documents.. As travel opportunities emerged, the passion for traveling and exploration was ignited. This event was coupled with social, economic, and political forces that were reshaping their abilities to sustain meaningful and satisfying lives on their islands. This led towards the migration of CHamorus/Chamorros from their native islands to the continental US.

CHamoru/Chamorro migration was spurred by three primary reasons: the call to military service, the pursuit of greater education, and the search for better opportunities. Migration to the US began in the early 1900s. The first migrants were young CHamoru/Chamorro men known as *balloneros* who joined the many whaling ships that stopped in Guam during this period. As a whaler, the *ballonero* had the opportunity to travel and work, but definitely to leave the island.



(Top) Jesus Perez along side his shipmates on his wedding day. Photo from the Sanchez collection courtesy of Don Farrell. (Bottom) Scholarship students who left Guam shortly after the War to attend college in the U.S. Courtesy of the MARC.

During the early 1930s, the military induction of young CHamoru/Chamorro men into the US Navy led to the first wave of military families leaving Guam in the 1940s after World War II. These families settled around US Naval Bases in the California communities of Vallejo, Alameda, Long Beach, and San Diego.

More recently, CHamorus/ Chamorros are leaving the islands due to job relocation, in both military and civilian sectors, and to seek better health care. The quest to gain adequate medical care however, has created a new type of migrant from the Mariana Islands.

CHamoru/Chamorro migration has only grown since. In 1980, there were 47,690 CHamorus/Chamorros in Guam, 6,667 in the Northern Marianas and 30,695 in the US as per the US census. By 2000, those numbers rose significantly to 61,922 in Guam, 15,071 in the Northern Marianas and 58,240 in the US for a total of 135,233 CHamorus/Chamorros.

Click here to read more about [CHamoru/Chamorro migration!](#)

Guma Chamorro

Nestled among the International Cottages in Balboa Park in San Diego is Guma Chamorro, the [House of Chamorros \(HOC\)](#), dedicated in 2022 to promote the culture, history, diversity, goodwill and values of the Chamorro/ CHamoru people of the Mariana Islands. On September 27, Guampedia closed out their community outreach activities at the Pacific Islander Festival (PIFA) 2022 with a visit to Guma Chamorro and met with HOC President Jeff Macaraeg.

The effort to open Guma Chamorro was initiated by the Chamorro Optimists of San Diego, who hoped to create a heritage “home away from home” that would capture the heart and spirit of the people of the Mariana Islands. Guma Chamorro became a reality when the nonprofit House of Chamorros was accepted as a member of the [House of Pacific Relations-International Cottages](#), with the building construction completed and the *guma* dedication held this past August. The house is one of 38 other International

Cottages and is open on weekends for visitors. Cultural events among the houses are scheduled throughout the year as well.

During their visit, Guampedia presented President Macaraeg with gifts from the Guam Preservation Trust, the University of Guam, and from Guampedia, copies of “Latte in the Marianas” (Marsh-Taitano and Liston, 2022). In the spirit of island reciprocity, Macaraeg gifted the Guampedia team with commemorative pins and t-shirts proudly displaying the Guma Chamorro logo.

Photos from PIFA 2022



Photos from Guma Chamorro

