



Guampedia.com
June 2021

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

Modern Guam Rises From the Destruction of War

Update of Phase II in Our Grant Project



Sumay after WWII. Courtesy of the Toni "Malia" Ramirez



University of Guam in 1970s. Courtesy of Bert Unpingco

In 2019, the Guampedia team began planning our five-year grant project, "Modern Guam Rises from the Destruction of War." This endeavor was conceived in response to the absence of available sources pertaining to the period of Guam's development in the decades following the [end of WWII](#). The vision for this project is to create 100 new entries on Guampedia that set out to explore the social organizations, customs and traditions, religion, language, arts and literature, forms of government, and economic systems between 1945 through 1970.

By late 2019, phase one of this project began thanks to funding from the Guam

Preservation Trust (GPT). This phase was dedicated to conducting a large-scale inventory of source documents, interviews, and publications pertaining to this period across government agencies, libraries, and national archives.

In November 2020, GPT funded phase two, and we began the creation of the first 15 written entries and related oral history vignettes. As of now, we have six draft entries that will go through our peer review and fact checking process and three oral history interviews in post production.

We've rediscovered so much history from that period and are so excited to have these resources accessible in Guampedia. In the meantime,

here are a few interesting facts our writers have found:

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was first headquartered in Maite, Guam in 1954 before relocating to Saipan in 1962.

In 1947 the United States Navy created the Hopkins Commission to review and make recommendations about the naval governments of Guam and American Samoa.

In 1969, Guam adopted the Bilingual/Bicultural Education program where CHamoru/Chamorro was used alongside English as an instructional language throughout the day.

Biba Ha'ānen Mantāta

Happy Father's Day



Father mending talāya (fishing net) with family. Courtesy of the Micronesia Area Research Center

Throughout history, [men's roles](#) in societies have always been that of protector and provider. In the Mariana Islands, men and women were equally important, serving complimentary roles to provide for the entire community. Decisions made for the clan (extended families grouped together to form a hamlet or village) were made through consensus by a village council where both men and women were present. The *maga'lāhi* (eldest brother) was the leader of the clan complemented by the *maga'hāga* (eldest sister).

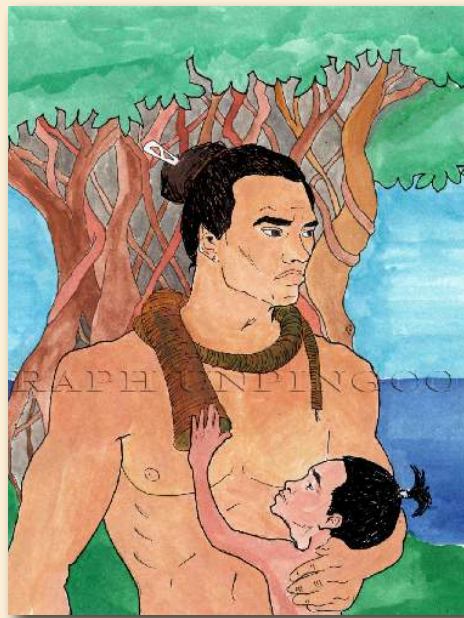
Young men would learn all the necessary skills for living a successful life on the island in the [guma'uritao](#) (house of the bachelors). It was here where the men in the clan would teach skills such as [toolmaking](#), [warfare](#), [canoe building](#), [navigation](#), and [off-shore fishing](#). Men also learned the importance of properly raising children and supporting their clan. In 1602, a Spanish priest named [Juan Pobre de Zamora](#) observed on Rota that when a child acted out or threw a tantrum, the father would never harm the child but rather reprimand with loving words.

Lessons in fatherhood are also preserved in the oral histories of the CHamoru/Chamorro people through the story of [Puntan Pātgon](#). In this legend, a proud and strong chief, Masala, and his wife, had a son. Like Masala, their son started to show tremendous strength of his own as a toddler. One day, Masala saw his son uproot an entire coconut tree in search of his pet *ayuyu* or coconut crab. Masala became extremely jealous of his son

and began to chase him. Eventually, he chased his son to the northernmost point of the island. Masala's son was so scared of his father that when there was nowhere left to run, he leapt and landed in the southernmost part of Rota. This lesson warns fathers to be wary of their actions as they have the potential to push their children away from them and their families.

By the time Spain established the Marianas as a colony, they had brought with them the expectations of men as the sole providers of the family's needs. This meant that the fathers of each family needed to work for days at a time tending to their [lancho](#) (ranch), which was usually outside the established residential villages.

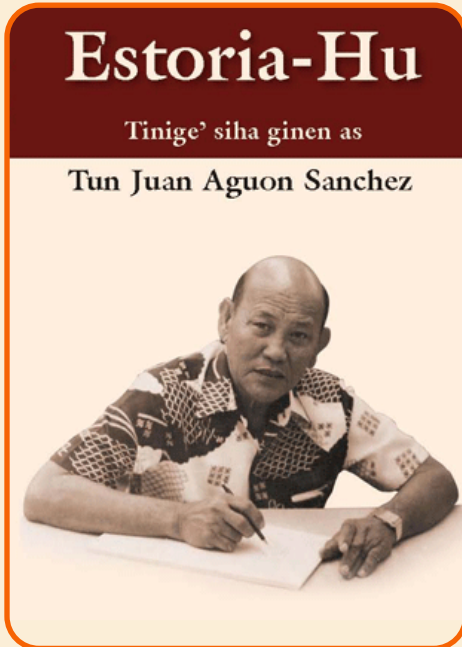
This June 20 we celebrate Father's Day. Our fathers, grandfathers, and father figures have played so many important roles in the lives of our people. Through their roles as mentors, guides, and guardians, their strength and fortitude provided our island with the foundation necessary to persevere through trials and progress into the ever changing future.



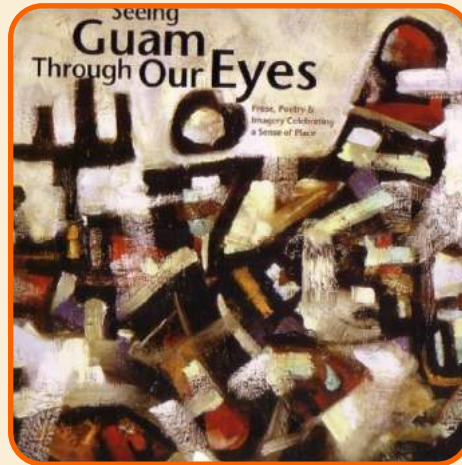
CHamoru/Chamorro father adorned in guinahan famagu'on jewelry. Artwork by Raphael Unpingco

Father's Day In Our Gift Shop

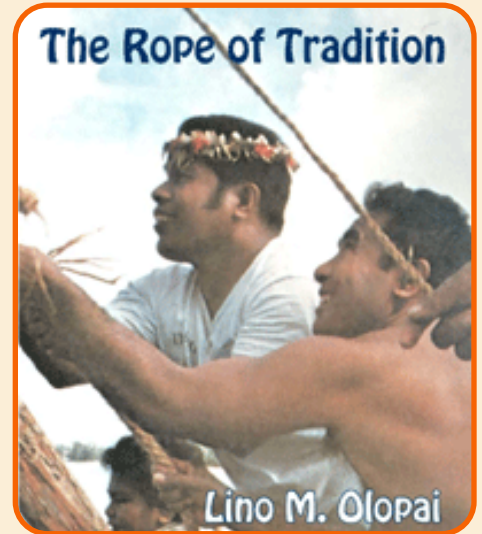
The father figures in our lives have sacrificed so much for our families. Their sacrifice paved the way for their children to pursue their goals and aspirations, sometimes even at the cost of their own. This Father's Day, thank your dad, grandpa, uncle, or *nino* (godfather) with locally produced items found in our online gift shop. Listed are a few books we think any father might enjoy. Click the images to view the full product profiles.



“Estoria-Hu: Tinige' siha ginen as Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez” is a collection of poems and essays written by Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez and the loved ones who inspired his writing. Written in CHamoru/Chamorro, Tun Juan curated these personal narratives of historic events that have impacted the people of the Marianas.



“Seeing Guam Through Our Eyes” is an anthology compiled by Jillette Leon Guerrero. This book contains the responses of 58 Guam residents who contemplated questions like what gives Guam a sense of place or what about Guam fosters a sense of authentic human attachment and belonging? The thoughts on these questions are expressed through prose, poetry and visual imagery and reveal a multi-dimensional, rich and diverse society as defined by its residents.



“The Rope of Tradition,” written by Saipan Carolinian Lina Olopai, examines how indigenous cultures throughout Micronesia have undergone major changes over the six decades since the end of World War II, a situation that has been particularly acute on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. It describes Mr. Olopai’s long standing efforts to document and better understand his rich cultural heritage and to seek a balance between traditional ways and the demands of the modern world.

Discount Extended!

We have extended our May online gift shop promo until July 1st! For the month of June, to thank you for taking 15 minutes of your time to complete our survey, we will be giving 15% off on purchases made in our online gift shop. To receive this discount, simply leave your email at the end of the Guampedia survey and use the same email when checking out your orders. Click the images on the right to take our survey and view our gift shop.



[Click here to take our survey](#)



[Click here to explore our gift shop](#)

June Events From Our Partners

Inafa'maolek Manhoben Marianas

Beginning June 7, [Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam](#) will be hosting the Inafa'maolek Manhoben Marianas youth summer program. This program, funded by the [Northern Marianas Humanities Council](#), aims to bring together 28 youth leaders from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to learn about our islands' culture, environment and heritage from a team of scholars, artists and elders. This summer program consists of five weeks of lessons, tours, and discussions conducted either online or in-person (depending on the island each week will be focused on). This will be followed by a two-week in-person retreat in Rota where all 28 youth ambassadors will gather. Stay up to date with the progress of this program on [Sanctuary, Incorporated of Guam's facebook page!](#)



Our Ocean Heritage



This month of June marks the annual celebration of World Ocean's Month. This year, the [Guam National Wildlife Refuge](#) is hosting an exhibition titled "Our Ocean Heritage." This exhibit will be on display at the Guam National Wildlife Refuge Ritidian Unit Visitor Center from June 12 to June 18 between the hours of 7:30am - 3:00pm. In celebration of our oceans, this will be focused on highlighting the unique marine plants and animals that are sustained by our island's surrounding waters through a variety of posters, specimens, and local photographs. Traditional tools for fishing and seafaring will also be on display, further highlighting the long and rich connection the people of the Marianas have had with the sea. This month take the trek up north to [Litekyan](#) (Ritidian) and take in the pristine sights and sounds of nature as you check out this exhibition!



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