

Volume VII  
Issue V

# Makmamao 2025

## Phases of i pilan Makmamao



**Homhom i Pilan**  
New Moon  
May 27



**Sinåhi**  
Waxing Moon  
June 3



**Pulan Gualåffon**  
Full Moon  
June 11



**Kuatton Kresiente**  
Waning Moon  
June 19

Lunar phases sourced from  
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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.



Pope John Paul II waving in Hagatna. Courtesy of Guam Public Library System Collection.

## Pope John Paul II Visits Guam

Although short, Pope John Paul II's visit to Guam will forever be remembered in the history and hearts of the island and its people. Pope John Paul II arrived in Guam during the evening of February 22, 1981. The Pontiff had just completed a five day visit to the Philippines and planned to stay in Guam for 18 hours before leaving for a three day visit to Japan.

Ten thousand eager and faithful islanders greeted Pope John Paul II upon his arrival at the Guam International Airport. John Paul II kissed the ground after exiting his plane,

and said, "Dear brothers and sisters, with a heart full of gratitude, I set foot on your native soil and kiss it as an expression of respect and reverence for the people of this territory." The Pontiff then greeted the large crowd before giving an approximately ten minute long speech. In his speech, John Paul II said, "I give thanks to almighty God in whose wonderful Providence I am allowed to greet the people of Guam and all the other Marianas Islands," and incorporated numerous CHamoru/Chamorro words and phrases.

Click here to read the [full article!](#)



# Marianas Storytelling: Land and Lineage

## A Celebration of Culture and Community

Over the course of four Saturdays this year, storytellers, musicians, scholars, and families from across the Marianas have gathered for the relaunch of Marianas Storytelling: Land & Lineage, a matinee series rooted in culture, community, and connection. Presented by Guampedia and the [Guam Museum Foundation](#), and made possible with support from the [Guam Economic Development Authority](#) (GEDA) and [Guam Regional Medical City](#) (GRMC), the series was created to explore what ties us to each other and to the land—through history, storytelling, and tradition. Marianas Storytelling is about passing knowledge forward, honoring our elders, and giving space to the voices of our youth through different variations of storytelling, from oral presentations, films, and our version of the backyard kitchen. This ongoing series was broken down to several parts:

### Part I: Archaeology, DNA & History - March 29



The first installment brought us back to the beginning—into the soil, stones, and stories that shaped our earliest connections. Territorial Archaeologist [Dr. John Peterson](#) and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick Lujan shared insights into Guam's ancient landscape and the importance of protecting ancestral sites.

*Archaeological dig in Ritidian. Courtesy of Mike Carson.*

Baltazar Bordallo Aguon, who discovered he shared [DNA with pre-Latte remains](#) found in Guam and Saipan, gave a moving talk on identity and belonging. The session closed with the premiere of a documentary titled *Knowing Our History Through Chant*, featuring traditional navigators from the Marianas and Puluwat, and a lively panel discussion on the role of chant in preserving culture.

### Part II: Kånta, Courtship & Kasamiento - April 26

In April, the museum filled with music, memories, and stories of love. The program began with the screening of *Guam's History in Songs*, a 1993 musical documentary that reminded many of familiar melodies from years past.

[Dr. Michael Clement](#) presented on postwar [CHamoru/Chamorro music](#), tracing its evolution through time and influence. A kitchen table conversation followed, with musical icons [Flora Baza Quan](#), [Patrick Palomo](#), and Francis Guerrero sharing personal reflections

on performing and composing in Guam.

Next came a deeply rooted presentation by [Dr. Judy Flores](#) on the traditional courtship chants of Inalåhan. She was later joined by Siñora Teresita Concepcion Flores and Siñot Ray Barcinas for a conversation that moved between past and present, discussing how relationships, family, and language were shaped by these customs. The day closed with stories from the *Ha'ånen Kasamiento* exhibit, showcasing [local weddings across the generations](#).



*CHamoru/Chamorro wedding ceremony. Courtesy of Bordallo Family.*

### Part III: Celebration & Commemoration - May 29

This powerful double-feature will begin first with [Dr. Robert Underwood](#), former U.S. Congressman and President Emeritus of the University of Guam, offering historical and cultural context on why honoring veterans is vital to our collective memory. He will also share insights from *Bitirånu gi Geran Vietnam*, a [Humanities Guåhan](#) oral history project that amplifies the voices of CHamoru/Chamorro Vietnam

War veterans.

Following Dr. Underwood will be a presentation by Roy Gamboa, a Marine Corps veteran and Vice President of Got Your 671, a local non-profit organization that supports veterans and their families. Roy will reflect on his personal experiences in service and how his identity as a CHamoru/Chamorro from Guam shaped his military journey.

Joining these two will be Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui (Ret.), the first woman to lead the Guam National Guard as Adjutant General from 2019 to 2023. Together they engage in and invite open dialogue on service, sacrifice, and healing across generations. Through shared stories and lived experiences, we honor those who have served and explore what remembrance means for our island community.

# Guampedia Currents

## Ocean Voyages in the Modern Age

Welcome to Currents! History may be the past, but it's always in the making. In this recurring feature, read about what's going on at Guampedia and in our community – current projects, new entries, plus news and announcements. In this month's issue we highlight two ocean voyages happening in our communities.

### Nautilus Live

Ocean Exploration Trust's (OET) upcoming [Metaw expedition \(NA172\)](#) takes E/V Nautilus in and around the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. While knowledge of the seafloor of the Mariana Trench has been growing for decades, the overlying water column remains virtually unexplored. This expedition is unique because of the advanced technologies that will work together to gather new data about the ocean. By collecting visual surveys, environmental DNA samples, and various chemical and physical sensor data, the team will explore how habitats and biodiversity vary across the region. The expedition will include deployments of OET's remotely operated vehicles carrying Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's eDNA samplers as well as use of autonomous underwater tools like the University of Rhode Island's Deep Autonomous Profiler and the University of Hawai'i's Hadal Water Column Profiler. This 26-day expedition from June 2-28 is supported by NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute. The expedition will be streamed live on [NautilusLive.org](#), a 24-hour platform that brings ocean exploration directly to viewers on shore.

Viewers can engage with the team at sea, ask questions and receive real-time behind-the-scenes updates via social media. Classrooms, community events, and summer programs across the Marianas and worldwide are invited to connect with the at-sea team via [free educational Q&A interactions](#).



*Exploration Exploration Trust..  
Image courtesy of Ocean Exploration Trust/ NOAA.*

### Micronesian Voyaging Society

After 17 days at sea, the Alingano Maisu arrived in Lanyu (Orchid Island), Taiwan on May 7. The voyage began in Palau and was carried out through traditional navigation techniques, using the stars, swells, and the knowledge of Rhapin Woek or Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur that was passed down to him through his ancestors. Master Navigator Sesario is the son of Dr. Pius Mau Pailug, fondly known as "Papa Mau." He continues his father's work reopening the ancient sealanes to reconnect Micronesia through perpetuating and revitalizing our traditional seafaring, and island way of being.

Using traditional techniques like bugolo, the art of reading intersecting wave patterns, the voyage from Palau to Taiwan was done without the use of GPS. As the [Micronesian Voyaging Society](#) shared in a [social media post](#): "Moments like this remind us: voyaging isn't just about reaching a destination—it's about connection, culture, and carrying our stories forward."



*The Alingano Maisu.  
Photo courtesy of the Micronesian Voyaging Society.*