



# Guampedia.com

## December 2020

Know our island. Know our history. Click to know! — Volume III. Issue XII.

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

*Si Yuos Ma'ase'*  
*For All Your Support*

### Guampedia Partners



This year we received great news that the Government of Guam will be continuing their support of Guampedia, in the 2021 fiscal year. The Government of Guam has appropriated 75% of Guampedia's annual funding at \$150,000, through the Tourist Attraction Fund. These funds will be going directly to the continued general operations of Guampedia including a complete content audit and update of existing entries.



Humanities Guahan, through their CARES Act Emergency Relief grant program, has also awarded Guampedia with \$10,000 in funding to support our continued general operations.



Guampedia will continue to serve as an affiliate program of the University of Guam. The University is a valued partner, supporting us through the use of available resources on campus. This includes a physical office space where Guampedia staff can conduct general operations and maintain a presence that is accessible to students, faculty, and others.



The Guam Economic Development Authority, through their Qualifying Certificate Community Contribution Fund, have approved \$6,387 to partially fund the work hours of the Guampedia staff as they assist in the research and content development of the Modern Guam Project.



In October of this year, the Guam Preservation Trust approved grant funding for phase two in a five-year project to create 100 new entries on the period of political, social, cultural, and economic change experienced in the decades following the end of WWII. The funds from this grant will go to funding a team of academics, scholars, and authors, outside of Guampedia's staff, to create the first 15 new entries.

### Guampedia Visitors and Followers

Lastly, we want to thank you, our visitors and followers, for whom all our work is dedicated towards. It is through the use of our site in your courses, classrooms, personal and professional journeys that we have received as much support from such a wide array of partners. Your thirst for cultural and historical content has made it clear to so many agencies and organizations that learning about our people's past is fundamental to the future of our island and it's people. We are excited to share this new year with you!



# Santa Marian Kamalen Patroness of the Marianas

[Santa Marian Kamalen](#), also known as Our Lady of Camarin, is the Catholic patron saint of the Marianas. Every year on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated, and Guam Catholics turn out by the thousands at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in [Hagåtña](#) to honor Santa Marian Kamalen in a procession around the island's capital.

The 300-year-old Santa Marian Kamalen statue is a revered icon whose importance and origins are deeply rooted in the island's oral tradition. According to one version of the legend, a fisherman from [Malesso](#) went spear fishing and spotted a statue of the Virgin Mary on the ocean floor. Despite continually swimming towards the statue to retrieve it, the distance between the two could never be closed as the statue continued to retreat from him. He returned to shore and sought advice from the village priest. The priest told the fisherman to attempt again but this time, wearing the clothes he would wear to Sunday mass. He did so, and this time had no trouble in retrieving the statue.

In another version, the fisherman saw the statue floating in the water, escorted by two gold-spotted crabs, each bearing a lighted candle between its claws. She thus also became known as the Lady of the Crabs. When the fisherman, who was a member of the *dotacion*, or native militia, returned to his required two months of active duty in Hagåtña, he took the statue to the *presidio*, or main barracks which were still under construction. There the statue was relegated to a tool shed, in Spanish *camarin* and in CHamoru *kamalen*. Thus, she

became known as Santa Marian Kamalen, the Lady of the Barracks.

Santa Maria has continually been a part of the island's history from then on, present during some of the most tragic events experienced by the people of Guam. In 1902, the island experienced a large earthquake that severely damaged the island's Cathedral. Upon entering the wreckage, multiple statues had toppled to the ground and were broken. Santa Marian Kamalen however, was found standing on the ground, completely intact.

The first bombings of the island in [WWII](#) took place on December 8, the day of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Throughout the beginning of the war, the statue would be cared for by [Father Jesus Baza Duenas](#). Upon his execution, a teenager named Mariquita "Tita" Torres assumed the care of Santa Marian Kamalen and the cathedral's valuables in their family home in [Maite](#). Torres carried the statue to the family ranch near Tiyan and continued to move the statue to various bomb shelters during bombing raids to protect her.

Santa Marian Kamalen continues to serve as a symbol of hope and strength to the people of Guam, even as they face the trying times we find ourselves in today. On May 2, 2020, Santa Marian Kamalen was taken out of the Cathedral for the first time outside of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to process around the island in response to the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, in lieu of the traditional procession around Hagåtña, Santa Maria will once again be brought around the island as she had in May.



(1) Depiction of the Santa Maria legend/

Courtesy of the Dept. of CHamoru Affairs.  
(2) Early photograph of Santa Maria/  
Courtesy of MARC. (3) Dec. 8 Procession/  
Courtesy of Paul Guerrero



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# Guampedia's Giftshop

With lockdowns and quarantines being imposed around the world in response to the continued rise of COVID-19 cases, for the first time many of us who live abroad are not able to travel home to the Marianas for the holidays, let alone visit nearby relatives and friends. This may intensify the already desperate need for connection with others while also causing a sense of melancholy for what was. These, coupled with the usual nostalgia brought

on by the holiday season, has forced us to come up with creative ways to connect with our family, friends and island communities during *i tiempón Noche Buena*. Guampedia's online gift shop has a few things that can help you start a new tradition of connecting with loved ones, near and far. Here are our recommendations. Click [here to explore our gift shop](#) or click on the images below to view these items directly.

**Marlin Tail Hair Stick w/ Two Spondylus**  
By Jill Benavente



This single hair stick made with real marlin tail and two orange spondylus shells was hand crafted by CHamoru Master Carver-Body Ornamentation Jill "Mama Jill" Benavente. This attractive, polished hair accessory is one of a kind and great for both day and evening wear.

**Guam Seal and Ocean Face Mask**  
By Pacific Face Masks



These masks produced by Pacific Face Masks provide high quality fashion face coverings while giving people the opportunity to represent their island. Pacific Face Masks continues to serve the island and region with face coverings

and uniform apparel for sports and leisure wear. A 20% discount is available for all purchases of these masks on Guampedia's online giftshop.

**"Original 1" Necklace & Bracelet Set**  
By SPN.DYLUS670



SPN.DYLUS670 is a modernized cultural jewelry collection by artist Momoko Mary Koyama Halstead of Saipan. The necklace has delicately fastened shells, one from Guam and one from the CNMI. It is a perfect gift for someone who has roots in or a personal connection to both islands. SPN.dylus670 is the first from the CNMI to be featured in the Guampedia online gift shop.



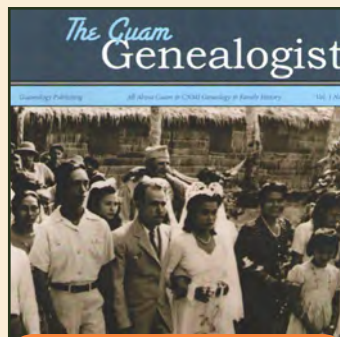
**Beautiful Guam: Gatbo Guåhan**  
By Dos Ma'estra Productions

This children's book depicts a collection of photos of the island's plants, food, people, and scenery highlighting the various facets of Guam's beauty. Each page is accompanied by a caption written in both CHamoru and English translations. This book is ideal for sharing photos of our beautiful island to a younger audience.



**Famalao'an Guåhan: Women in Guam History**  
By Guampedia

Order from the second printing of Guampedia's *Famalao'an Guåhan: Women in Guam History*. This book features profiles of 28 amazing women who have "made their mark" or had an impact on Guam history.



**The Guam Genealogist**  
By Jillette Leon-Guerrero

The only periodical of its kind catering to the Mariana Islands offering insight, tools and references for those interested in, or conducting genealogical family history research on ancestors from GUAM and the CNMI, by Guamology. This premier issue provides information on oral histories, genealogies, and family-name traditions.



# Magof Nochebuena Ginen Guampedia

This year has been like no other in modern history, shifting our way of life to the virtual realm. Guampedia, serving the people of Guam for more than 12 years, has carried on as an educational resource, documenting history and making it freely accessible online.

Our team adjusted its course and launched a virtual community outreach program "Culture of Connecting" in July. In four sessions stories of inspiration were shared across generations centering on understanding World War II on Guam through our mañaina's experiences. Guam's World War II generation's response to a war not of their making provided cultural value lessons for what we are coping with in this current pandemic. Guampedia plans to continue our "Culture of Connecting" theme as we chart our course into 2021, as we are committed to cultivating meaningful connections through education, preservation and access!

Through the support of the Government of Guam, the University of Guam and other community partners this fiscal year, Guampedia will develop new content, update and enhance existing content, develop new programs and partnerships in the Northern Marianas, greater Micronesia and the US.

Although this pandemic brings uncertainty to the forefront, we must draw inspiration from our mañaina, their legacy of resilience and inafamaolek - to work together to restore balance in our community and our natural environment!

From our Board of Directors, Staff and Project Managers - I Familian Guampedia - our warmest wishes!



**Dr. Anita B. Enriquez**  
Guampedia Board President



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*Felis Nabidat yan Magof Nochebuena*

