



# Guampedia.com

## April 2021

Know our island. Know our history. Click to know! — *Volume IV. Issue IV.*

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

## Guampedia Embarks On Next Phase



This month marks Guampedia's 13th year online. It's definitely not the kind of conditions we imagined commemorating this milestone, but in true island fashion, we adapt and carry on!

In 2002, Guampedia began as a small project created by the Guam Humanities Council and officially debuted online in 2008 with just 350 entries. Today, Guampedia is home to 1,178 entries, 3,805 images, 98 videos and 300 e-publications and counting! Truly a public/private partnership, Guampedia would not be what it is today without the Government of Guam's funding support, the University of Guam and community of scholars, researchers and educators, and the organizations that have supported the development of new content. And last, but definitely not the least, Guampedia's website visitors!

Over the years, we've heard from students, educators, and CHamorus/Chamorros abroad about just how important this site has been in their quest to teach, learn, and discover Guam's rich history and unique culture of the Marianas. So we decided to celebrate our 13th year by reaching out to the community we serve to help

chart our course in developing Guampedia for the next 13 years! Through this survey, we want to get a better understanding of our local and global visitors and how we can develop more content and resources to cultivate more connections.

Guampedia will continue to be a community-based project of both principle and substance. Principle in the determination to accurately describe and place the island's vast heritage in the local and global consciousness, and substance in the execution of strategies to create an online educational resource of quality and integrity through which current and future generations can document the multifaceted history and culture of our islands. We ask that you take our survey and share it with friends and familia. Si Yu'os ma'ase' for celebrating with us and for your continued support!



# Call out to Guam CAHA Artists & Cultural Producers in the Marianas!



With support from Guam’s Council of the Arts & Humanities Agency’s CARES Grant for Cultural and Arts Nonprofits, Guampedia is calling on the Agency’s registered artists and cultural producers and those throughout the Marianas to consider online market access or expanded access through Guampedia’s gift shop.

As a fundraising initiative, Guampedia started this online social enterprise as a “book store” more than eight years ago and transitioned to a giftshop in 2014. In 2020 Guampedia intended on expanding to promote local artists and cultural producers in Guam, the Northern Marianas and greater Micronesia with intentions of ultimately branding the gift shop for heritage and historical related items from the region. With

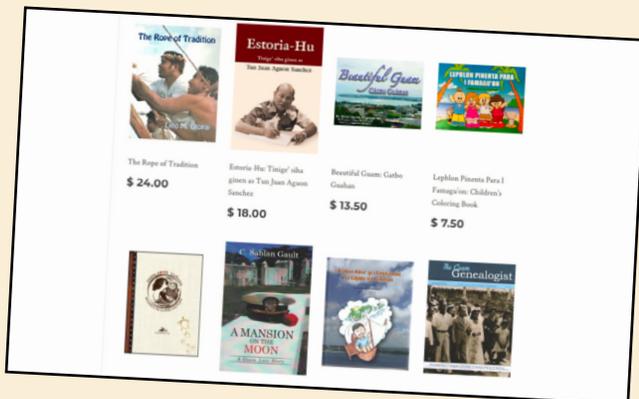
the Covid-19 pandemic hitting Guam’s shores in March of 2020, we had to place our plans on hold, although Guampedia continued to receive online orders primarily from the US.

With the tourism industry projections showing no recovery signs until late 2021, Guampedia’s online gift shop and social network can help to support local artists and cultural producers in the Marianas expand their market and grow our social enterprise.

Guampedia’s Online Gift Shop is featured on the website’s front page receiving consistent traffic of about 30,000 visitors monthly. Our social media platforms total approximately 5,600 followers to date, with monthly E-newsletter subscribers at 700 for this April issue. This community outreach initiative is designed to leverage

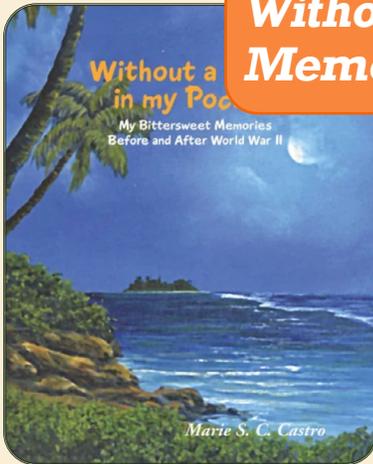
Guampedia’s online reach and use its gift shop to provide new and seasoned cultural producers and artists a non-exclusive starting point into the online market, especially for those that have been affected by the tourism industry’s Covid shutdown. It could also be an additional marketplace for those that are already engaged in online sales.

Send an email to [guampedia.giftshop@gmail.com](mailto:guampedia.giftshop@gmail.com) with a short introduction about you, your craft and what you produce, along with additional contact information, so Eulalia Villagomez Arriola from Guampedia can schedule a meeting with you! Please share this program opportunity with your friends and *familia!*



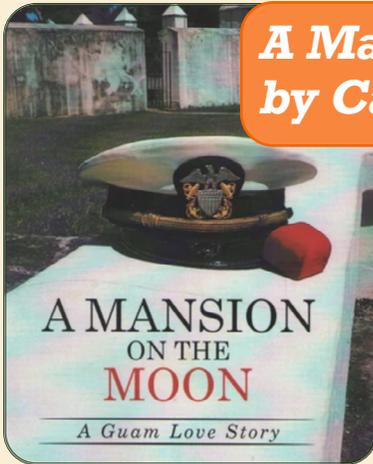
# Featured Books About Famalao'an By Famalao'an

Although Women's History month was just in March, April is a great time to read about [famalao'an \(women\) in Marianas history!](#) Thirty minutes of reading can even be considered part of your self-care regimen! Reading books doesn't just improve your vocabulary and comprehension, it's also been proven to reduce stress, lower blood pressure and heart rate, contributing to a longer life. So this month, we are highlighting books from [Guampedia's Online Gift Shop](#), about famalao'an by famalao'an that gives great historical perspectives. Click on each book to see their product profiles on our gift shop. Read on!



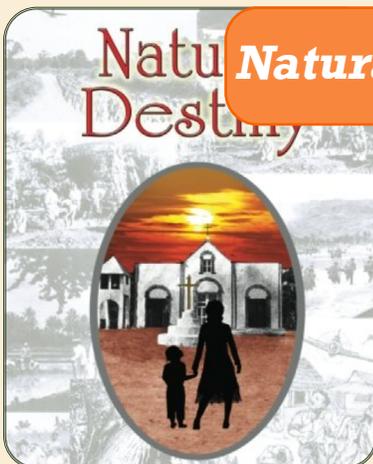
## ***Without a Penny in my Pocket: My Bittersweet Memories Before and After World War II***

This is a moving personal account by Marie S.C. Castro, a life-long educator born and raised on the island of Saipan in what is now the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ms. Castro describes growing up in a traditional Chamorro family in the 1930's, the chaos of the Battle of Saipan during WWII, her career as an educator and entrance into the Mercederian Order, and her eventual relocation – without a penny in her pocket – to Kansas City, Missouri. A rich source of information about Saipan's history and the strength and struggles of the Chamorro people, *Without a Penny in my Pocket* provides a first-hand glimpse of a crucial period of Saipan history.



## ***A Mansion on the Moon, A Guam Love Story*** **by Catherine Sablan Gault**

This book is set in a turbulent period of Guam history, between the Spanish-American War and World War II, where the lives and loves of three CHamoru women are told in vivid detail. A Navy seaman leaves young Amanda de Leon broken hearted. For Sylvia de Leon Camacho, happiness ends too soon. Life teaches the level-headed Vivian Camacho that falling for an American serviceman is futile, like reaching for the moon. Cultural and racial prejudices magnify the distance. Trying to build a life with one is as impossible as building a mansion on the moon. Then a Navy civil engineer comes into Vivian's life.



## ***Natural Destiny*** **by Sherry Dixon**

This story captures the reality of eight-year-old Bernie, as she is thrust into the terror, starvation and daily atrocities of World War II when the Japanese bomb and capture her native island of Guam. Live Bernie's story as she and thousands of Guamanians are captured and placed in concentration camps for nearly three years. Based on a true story.

# Celebrating Earth Day, Everyday in Our Islands



For well over 4,000 years, the CHamoru/Chamorro people have lived in the Mariana Island chain. They held strong cultural beliefs rooted in animism, such that upon passing from this life, your spirit remains on this earth, inhabiting the jungles, beaches, and animals of these islands. This led to a deep understanding of interdependence and respect between the people and the natural environment, creating a sense of stewardship that was dedicated to preserving balance and harmony with their natural resources. This can be seen in the traditional fishing and agricultural practices that dominated the worldview of islanders.

Today, these connections to our environment remain, and should prevail, amidst global

trends that view nature as an exploitable resource. We continue to look to nature to provide us with food, materials, and even [medicine](#). Present within many of our islands' families are plots of land, called a [lancho](#), dedicated to the teaching of sustainable farming and livestock-raising to provide for the *familia*.

And within our own homes, many islanders save what food waste they have to fertilize the soil and feed their animals. Even today children are still taught at a young age to respect the land and waters. They do this by [asking for permission](#) when visiting these sacred places and taking from its bounty.

This April 22, marks the annual celebration of Earth Day, to remind us of how

interconnected we are to the natural environment. It is such a deep connection that we can learn from to help mitigate the climate crises and global pandemic. A CHamoru/Chamorro proverb recorded by Guam historian, Toni Malia Ramirez, speaks to this connection. "*Umatuna I Lina'la' I Tanu' Nu I Ginefli'in I Taotao-ña*" which translates to - "Praise be the Life of the Land through the Love of her People."

So for us islanders, let's all work together to continue this legacy of stewardship. This can be done by picking up trash in your nearby beaches or planting indigenous trees in your backyard. You can also learn more about our environment in Guampedia by clicking below!



**Value of Land Ownership**



**Agricultural Practices**



**Islands' Natural Resources**

Photos courtesy of Guam Paradise Island/ Herman Crisostomo, Don Farrell, and Lazaro Quinata