

Tumaiguini 2025

Volume VII
Issue I



Upcoming — Events

Ha'ånen Kasamiento Exhibition

Guam Museum
January 25 - April, 2025
9:00pm - 4:00pm

Weddings in Paradise

Guam Museum
January 25, 2025
9:00pm - 4:00pm

[Click here for more info!](#)

7th Marianas History Conference

University of Guam
August 29-31, 2025
Save the date and click
here to explore submissions
from the [6th Marianas
History Conference!](#)

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Guam with operations funded
by the Government of Guam's
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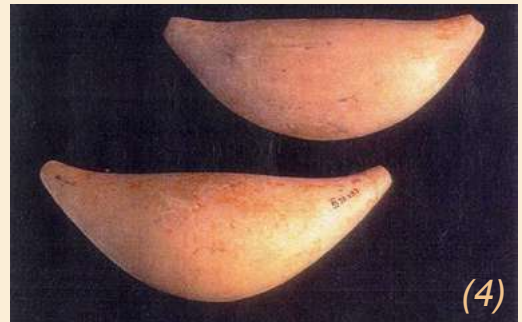
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(1) Star chart found in Litekyan (Rltidian) cave. Courtesy of Mike Carson. (2) Depiction of CHamoru/Chamorros using nets to catch reef fish. Courtesy of J.A. Pellion/Guam Public Library System. (3) Mending of a fishing net. Courtesy of Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) (4) Sinåhi found in Saipan. The sinåhi is shaped to mimic the crescent moon phase. Courtesy of Berlin Museum fur Volkerkunde in Germany/Judy Flores

The Cycle of *i Pilan* Living by the Lunar Calendar

The night sky plays a deeply important role throughout Oceania. Settlers within the Pacific would rely on the stars to navigate the oceans and the phases and cycles of the moon to keep track of countless details from weather patterns to fish spawning seasons. In the Marianas, the year was divided into 13 complete cycles of the moon to create a [lunar calendar](#). This lunar calendar consists of the 13 *pulans* (moons): Tumaiguini, Maimo', Umatålaf, Lumuhu, Makmamao, Mananaf, Semu, Tenhos, Lumåmlam, Fanguallo', Sumongsong, Umayanggan, and Umagahaf.

The development of this lunar calendar shows both the cyclic and predictable movement of nature as well as the acute awareness the CHamoru/Chamorro

people possessed in using the moon to identify these seasons year after year. Over the course of this calendar, the moons would signal a number of things such as the time to catch certain fish, when to begin planting certain crops, and even when to begin preparations for incoming typhoons.

As we embark on this seventh volume of the Guampedia Newsletter, we are called to remember our past and center ourselves around the lunar calendar once again. Throughout this year, we will be publishing our newsletters in tandem with cycles of the moon, not only providing content relevant to the seasons we are living in now, but what these seasons would have meant to our ancestors that first called these islands home.

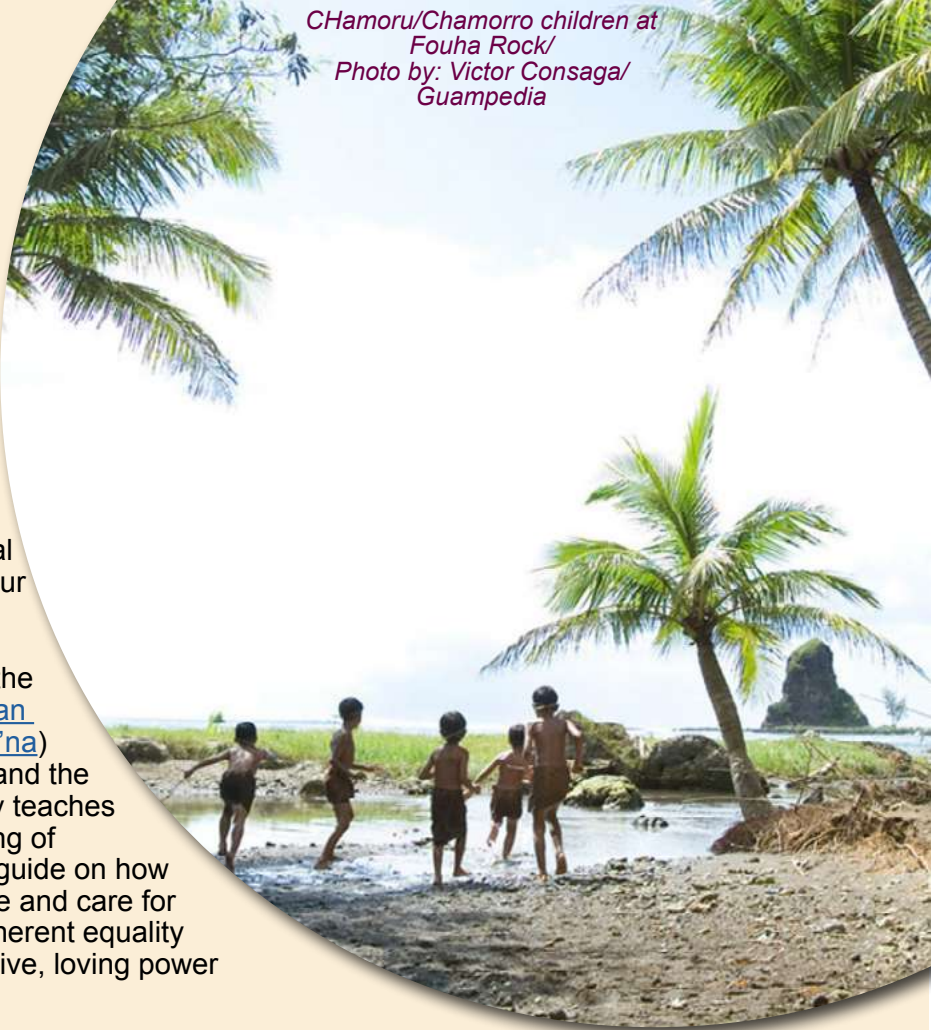
I Tinituhon

The Beginning

The new year generates a sense of renewal, beginnings, and opportunities across geographies and cultures. A CHamoru/Chamorro perspective on the first lunar month of the year states that the weather and our own actions and beliefs give us insight on how the coming year will unfold. The first month, Tumaiguini, translates to “this is the way.” In honor of beginning again, we highlight a special section in Guampedia, a visual storytelling of our oldest remaining oral history and remembered creation story: I Tinituhon: [The Beginning](#).

I Tinituhon is a cinematic representation of the ancient CHamoru/Chamorro sibling gods [Puntan and Fu'una](#) (deriving the words [Pontan and Fo'na](#)) and how they created the universe, the earth, and the CHamoru/Chamorro people. Our creation story teaches many things. As it tells the story of the beginning of CHamoru/Chamorro society, it can serve as a guide on how to begin again: to remember our earthly lineage and care for Nature as our family members, to honor the inherent equality between all genders, and to embrace the creative, loving power of family.

CHamoru/Chamorro children at Fouha Rock/
Photo by: Victor Consaga/
Guampedia



Sharing the Importance of Stories

Guampedia Participates in PIALA Conference

Guampedia recently participated in the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums' ([PIALA](#)) 33rd annual conference, which was held during the first week of December at the Guam Museum. The conference theme was “Indigenizing Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Pacific.” The Guampedia crew shared a panel session reflecting on our efforts to create an indigenous public memory archive to connect the stories and cultural knowledge

across our Marianas archipelago and the broader Micronesian region. Our managing director, Rita Pangelinan Nauta, also honored the legacy of oral historian and genealogist Malia Angelica Ramirez, and presented some highlights of [Ramirez's work](#). Ramirez dedicated her life to documenting and sharing the cultural heritage of the Marianas, and was pivotal in guiding Guampedia's growth and elevating indigenous perspectives



Modern Guam Rises

Profiles of the People that Rebuilt Our Island

Guampedia's "Modern Guam Rises from the Destruction of War" project aims to explore the post World War II period (1945 - 1970) that witnessed the development of local government, politics, social organizations, and culture that have shaped modern Guam as we know it today. Here, we highlight some recent Modern Guam Rises entries that celebrate the legacies and contributions of several key trailblazers in the health and government sectors. To dive deeper, you can read through these entries and more on Guampedia [here!](#)



Dr. Olivia Torres Cruz

[Dr. Olivia Torres Cruz](#) (1934 - 2022) was the first CHamoru/Chamorro woman to become a medical doctor, when she received her MD from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1962. She made history in an era when it was rare for both CHamorus/Chamorros and especially women to become doctors. Dr. Cruz's career spanned over 50 years, and she spent over 30 years at the island's hospital as an internal medicine doctor who worked in the emergency room.

Ana Leon Guerrero Sablan

[Ana Leon Guerrero Sablan](#) (1910 - 2003) was Guam's first CHamoru/Chamorro policewoman. She enlisted in 1946 and served for 29 years, steadily climbing the ranks from her start as Police Matron to Sergeant at the time of her retirement in 1975. After the death of her husband during World War II, Sablan joined the police force in 1946 to support herself and her eight children. Sablan had to overcome constant sexism from her male colleagues in the police department, and distinguished herself with her unique approach to policing. Sablan refused to carry a gun or handcuffs while on duty, but was still respected due to her stature and strength. Throughout her career, Sablan championed non-violent solutions, and made an effort to resolve conflicts without the use of physical force.



Pilar Lujan Cruz

[Pilar Cruz Lujan](#) (1930 - 2022) was a CHamoru/Chamorro language advocate, groundbreaking educator, and a six-term senator in the Guam Legislature. Lujan's dedication to CHamoru/Chamorro language use and preservation led her to implement CHamoru/Chamorro language classes in the curriculum of public elementary schools. During her time at the Legislature, Lujan was responsible for re-establishing the Supreme Court of Guam, crafted legislation to protect children from abuse, and create rights for victims of crime.

(2) Photo courtesy of the Ana Family Collection. (3) Photo Courtesy of the Cruz Family.