THE GIFTS WE GIVE

CHEERS to your generous hearts! We know many of you have reached out to a fellow member or friend to support, feed, check in, and assist when you were needed. Like most holidays this year the “new normal” encourages us to refocus and reevaluate what is truly important and necessary. Many have found creative ways to adapt, stay connected and re-establish their best way forward. There are others, however who have hurdled through many challenges these last nine months. Your GSA Familia is right there with you! We applaud your resiliency and grace as we get through this together, and look forward to when we can gather as a family once again.

On behalf of your 2020 Guam Society Officers Gerald, Sara, Bernard and Therese, we wish you and your families a Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season, and a Healthy New Year!

"The Malesso' Coconut Christmas Tree" project created by GSA Members STEVE & ABBY CRUZ and family, located at the Santa Marian Kamalen Park in Merizo, Guam. For the 2nd year in a row, Guam residents, visitors and the Military community are invited to paint a coconut and become part of this coconut tree family. In the words of Johnny Sanchez, “Christmas is about families. Caring is Sharing & Sharing is Caring. We need this spirit during this time of COVID-19. When people get together, something good happens.” See more about this project on Page 2.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ∙ Felis Påscua ∙ Magof Nochebuena ∙ Biba Ha’ånen Krismas ∙ Felis Nabidåt ∙ Maligayang Pasko

CONGRATULATIONS 2021-2022 GUAM SOCIETY OFFICERS
Thank you for casting your vote and electing these motivated individuals for the next phase of the Society’s future.

BERNARD AGUON                  GABE MANSAPIT                  CRYSTAL CRUZ                  MELISSA MOORE
President               Vice President               Treasurer               Secretary

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU’US MA’ASE Mike & Joelle Blas
for managing another successful online election!

BIBA SANTA MARIAN KAMALEN
In celebration of our island’s patroness Santa Marian Kamalen, Guam Society Members came together virtually for nine nights of Novenas via Zoom and Facebook. On the final day, December 8th, the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen was processed around the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. followed by a live streaming celebration of the Mass. UN DANGKULO NA SI YU’US MA’ASE Rosanne & Frank Mantanoña for sharing this tradition with their GSA Familia. Sincere thanks to our members & their families who participated from home.

GSA IS NOW A 501(c)(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
Effective April 4, 2020

Stay tuned for more information in the new year from our 2021 officers.

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU’US MA’ASE Sara Harrison and past GSA Presidents for their continued efforts to make this a reality!

2021 MEMBERSHIP
Valid Jan 1 - Dec 31
Membership payments accepted online. Current members are listed on the website unless you have requested to be left out. Contact Guam Society Membership Committee to update your contact information or for inquiries about your membership.
gsamembershipcommittee@gmail.com

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU’US MA’ASE Mike & Joelle Blas

GSA Website
Email GSA Officers
Pay for Membership
Membership Inquiry
GSA on Facebook
GSA on Team App
GSA on Instagram
GSA Scholarships
Golf Tournament
Hale’ Para Agupa’
Steve & Abby Cruz (left), together with their children and family members, welcomed locals, visitors, and the Military community to partake in the 2nd Annual Malesso’ Coconut Christmas Tree project. The Cruz family provided supplies and refreshments for participants to create their unique coconuts along Malesso’s beachside Santa Marian Kamalen Park. Families were also invited to bring their pre-decorated coconuts, all which are hung on the tree, with the star lit every night after sunset. This family event is featured on social media and is a contender for Best Outdoor Tree in the KUAM Making Spirits Brighter Campaign. The event draws hundreds of people to the village of Malesso each weekend, creating the perfect Christmas memory. Steve & Abby also sponsored the Falling in Love with Malesso campaign featuring a fresh pumpkin patch in October.

THE COCONUT CHRISTMAS TREE

Steve & Abby were introduced to GSA membership by their Uncle Johhny Sanchez who relocated home to Guam this year. He was a major contributor to the Coconut Christmas Tree project. Uncle Johnny continues to advocate for the Society while on island.

A CHRISTMAS POEM...ISLAND STYLE

This poem is featured in the Pacific Daily News on Christmas Eve, first published on December 24, 2000, with illustrations by Cid Caser.

WRITTEN BY: DUANE M. GEORGE & JOJO SANTO TOMAS, Pacific Daily News

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all over the isle,
The stores were jampacked, lines as long as a mile.
Midnight Masses were done, some as early as 10,
Then it was back to the house, to make kelaguen.
The kids watched wrestling, should have been in their beds,
While visions of boñelos dagu cha-cha-cha’d through their heads.
My five dogs were all barking, as midnight came near,
And Santa came calling, but with carabao, not reindeer.
He landed on the roof with such a bump and a shake
That I jumped up and ran, thinking, "Laña! Earthquake!"
To the window I flew, then I cursed and I muttered,
Because it, like the rest, was still typhoon-shuttered.
So I ran out of the house to our kitchen outdoors,
As the coconut trees swayed along white sandy shores,
When what before my wondering eyes did appear now
But a miniature bullicart and eight miniature carabao,
With a little manamko’ driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment that it had to be Tun Nick.

With a clatter of big hooves, his carabao they came,
He said "Sst, hoy!" and then called them by name;
Now Junior! Now Nene! Now Tita and Ding!
Hafa Ko! Hafa Doll! Hafa ‘Sus and Ping!
To the top of the pickup! To the top of the tin!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away again!
Tun Nick landed his own sled, right there on our roof,
So I looked for a Polaroid, so I would have proof.
He was dressed all in red, from his foot to his head,
He didn’t wear boots, but jingle-belled zori instead.
His eyes, how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
And his nose was red as cheesecake with cherries.
He came down the roof, wondering where he should go to,
And his big bushy beard was as white as some potu.
He had a broad face and a little round tummy,
Which he rubbed happily as he ate guyuria so yummy.
He spoke not a word as he put presents under the tree,
A seven-day bracelet for the wife, a new machete for me.
The kids got scooters, betel nut cutters for Tun Ben,
Then he turned to go and almost knocked over the belen.
Ai adai, it was plenty hot, so he loosened his collar,
Then sprang to the roof and to his team gave a holler.
The carabao flew off, carrying Santa over the sea,
And he yelled out: “Felis Pasgua! And to all, esta ki!”