



DECEMBER 2021

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Reflecting on 2021

A message from

Bernard, Gabe, Crystal & Melissa

As December comes to a close, we want to take this time to thank our members and friends who have made 2021 a special year. Considering the circumstances of the pandemic, we are proud to have accomplished so much together with you. Dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase!

Some highlights of this year include:

- The first Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating the Liberation of Guam at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. with the Honorable Leon Lourdes Guerrero, Governor of Guam and other dignitaries representing Guam, our armed forces, and Washington, D.C.
- Safely and successfully hosting Chamorro Night, and it being the first GSA sponsored event since March 2020's Cherry Blossom Coronation Ball.
- Making use of virtual technologies to host general membership meetings and events such as:
 - The first virtual Officer Swearing-in Ceremony
 - The first Mes CHamrou virtual screening of Maisa: The CHamoru Girl Who Saves Guahan with Q&A discussion featuring director Michael Q. Ceballos, executive producer/writer Senora Rufina Mendiola, and live-action director/production manager Miracle Mugol.
 - The first Virtual Paint Night Fundraiser, which was inclusive of members of all ages raising \$243 in funds for GSA.
 - Hosting a series of raffled giveaways to support and appreciate members during our general membership meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GSA QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

FEB, MAY, AUG, NOV - 1PM

MEET & GREET WITH UOG

FEBRUARY - TBD

LIBERATION PICNIC

JULY - TBD

RLGL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 3 - TBD

CHAMORRO NIGHT

OCTOBER - 5PM

OFFICER ELECTIONS

NOVEMBER - TBD

SANTA MARIAN KAMALEN

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER TBD

CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER - 12PM

Membership payments are accepted online via [SQUARE](#) or check payable to:

The Guam Society of America, Inc.
1100 New Jersey Avenue SE
Suite 2187
Washington, DC 20003

Any questions? Email:
GSAMembershipCommittee@gmail.com

Chamorro Night

Chamorro Night was our first GSA sponsored event of the year and was a much needed gathering for our community. The event boasted live music from The Traveling Band consisting of Frank Evangelista, Larry Quichocho, and Frank Topasna. Words from our VP, Gabe Mansapit- "It felt like being back on Guam back in the day attending local fiestas." Chamorro Night also featured Lou Barrett's Chamorro wares and two raffles: 50/50 and prize giveaways. Revenue and fundraising generated from the event totaled \$2,208.



Caption: Cherry Blossom Princess, Sarah Leon Guerrero with The Traveling Band.

Santa Marian Kamalen

The Santa Marian Kamalen Nobenas marks the second series of events we were able to host in-person this year. Many of our members opened up their homes to host our blessed Santa Marian Kamalen statue from Nov. 30-Dec. 7, with devotion concluding on Dec. 8 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Si Yu'us ma'ase Rosanne Mantanona for taking up the mantle and organizing this year's Nobenas and post Feast Day lunch.



Caption: Governor Leon Guerrero joining GSA in celebrating Guam's patron saint at Frank and Rosanne Mantanona's residence.

Giving Back

For the final member giving back raffle of the year, the Officers raffled off an Edible Arrangement, with Annie Quichocho being the lucky winner. GSA and the Officers look toward 2022 with other ways to show our appreciation and support to the members and community.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party concluded our events for 2021. Bernard and Jen Aguon arraigned for Santa to make an early Christmas visit, handing out presents to children and conducting our Christmas train. Adults and older children played the White Karabao gift exchange game (aka White Elephant or Dirty Santa game), organized by Mike and Juvy Blas. Much success to Char Harris' creativity, the Chamorro 12 Days of Christmas was a big hit for members and guests. Check out the video on our [Facebook page!](#)



Caption: The Santos Family with Congresswoman Madeline Bordallo, Guam's Washington D.C. liaison.

CUE THE
confetti
FELISANO
NUEBO!