



# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

*A message from Bernard, Gabe, Crystal & Melissa*

2022 has proven to be a year in which we reengaged the events that make the GSA. We reestablished the Cherry Blossom Princess program and coronation celebration, followed by our Liberation Fiesta, and annual Roberto LG Lizama Memorial Classic Golf Tournament.

Trying something new, the Society hosted this year's Liberation Picnic at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA. Entertainment was provided by Eric Borja and Ralph Kileleman (formerly Maseha Hafa) direct from Guam. They played the entire afternoon keeping everyone on the dance floor with CHamoru music, contemporary and classic hits. We received positive feedback in trying out this new venue, so mark your calendars for GSA's Liberation Fiesta to be held at Fort Hunt Park.

It's been over 2 years since we hosted the Robert Lizama L.G. Classic Golf Tournament, and it was sorely missed. The tournament hosted 74 golfers and raised \$6,000. Help us get the word out early as we look forward to hosting the 2023 tournament with even more participants!

2022 also saw the Society getting back into the groove of hosting our other staple events such as Chamorro Night, Santa Marian Kamalen, and Christmas Party.

Tickets quickly sold out for Chamorro Night, with the event welcoming old and new members from both near and far. Special shoutout to the Tainatongo & Friends dance group and DJ Tony Weilbacher for showcasing CHamoru dance and keeping the announcements and cha-cha music rolling.

The Society gives thanks and appreciation to our members and friends who opened up their homes to host the blessed Santa Marian Kamalen statue, with special thanks to Santa Marian Kamalen Chairperson, Rosanne Mantanona. We look forward to seeing you at 2023's novenas and feast day celebration and encourage members to consider opening their homes for this CHamoru tradition.

The Christmas spirit was in full swing at the Society's Christmas party with gifts, games, food, and music. Char Harris and Mike Blas were our game and activities officiants for the Christmas caroling duel, 12 days of Christmas, and White Carabao gift swap. Join us next year for a winter serenade show from Bernard Aguon and catwalk from Ray Duenas!

We want to conclude 2022 with saying- Dângkulu na si Yu'os ma'åse for your support, being members, coming out to our events, volunteering your time, and encouraging others to join and participate. 2023 will be an even greater year and we hope to have you with us!

## STAY IN TOUCH

Check out our website: <https://guamsocietyinc.org/>

Like & Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuamSocietyofAmerica/>

Contact us: [info@guamsocietyinc.org](mailto:info@guamsocietyinc.org)

## Merienda Para I Sendalon Guahan (Afternoon Gathering for the Soldiers of Guam)

September 15th celebrated The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center in collaboration with the BITIRANU GI GERAN VIETNAM Humanities Guahan Project special ceremony for the submission of interviews of 25 Chamoru Vietnam Veterans. This event at was hosted at the Library of Congress with GSA members and veterans in attendance. The Society looks forward and will share updates on this project and others related to our Guam veterans.



### Caption:

Dr. Robert Underwood, Project Director of BITIRANU GI GERAN VIETNAM Project Director and Member of Kumision I Fino' CHamoru

## Election Results

Thank you to all that voted in November for our 2023-2024 GSA Officers and many thanks to our Election Committee Chairs Mike Blas and Joelle Thorpe for coordinating our election process. Our officers for the new term are:

**President:** Bernard Aguon  
**Vice President:** Edgar Yanger  
**Treasurer:** Anthony Weilbacher  
**Secretary:** Gerard Baletto

## Membership

2022 memberships are valid from January 1 - December 31, 2023. Membership payments can be made **online:**  
<https://guamsocietyinc.org/membership/membership-application/>

or **check payable to:**

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



**Caption:** Liberation Picnic, RLGL Golf Tournament, Chamorro Night, Santa Marian Kamalen, Christmas Party