

Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association

PROSPECTIVE MASTER STORYTELLER

Håfa Adai:

Last year, I joined the late Clotilde Castro Gould as the second Master Storyteller for Guam. It has been a distinct privilege and honor and I feel that as founder of the island's first and foremost storytelling group, I want this opportunity to be extended to deserving members who have been in the organization for just as long as I have been. Therefore, I have put together this valuable information that could help you plan your journey to this coveted honor as it was basically what I had to gear myself with in going through the nomination. There is no hard and fast rule nor a specific criterion outlined by the law but my experience at UOG in putting together my Promotion Package was what aided me in putting together my background information. The fun, eventually, is in the write up as a distinguished panel of community leaders comprises the selection of the Master's Program in the various categories. As I was told, the next wave of nominations and selection is within the next four years but, as we all know, time flies quickly, and before we know it, time will be on our hands. Therefore, I wish you well and good luck. Remember, it's great to dream and things happen so have fun putting together your portfolio. You'll be amazed at what you have amassed as sometimes we get so caught up in the fever of the moment and not realize that we've accomplished something worthwhile. Si Peter R. Onedera

1. Get a 2 or 3 inch binder, new or used as well as a stack of sheet/document protectors. Label the binder as you will be placing many items into them.
2. Follow a chronological order, dates are important for posterity's sake; knowing how your weeks, months, or years have been, sometimes hit you as a wonderful realization.
3. Print out a copy of the Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association Membership Application and fill it out. Note the date of when you began your membership in the organization. No one will police that and neither will accuracy be verified as it will be your word of honor.
4. Start recruiting members into the organization. These new members become your apprentices so keep track either by a personal roster for your use or even a copy of their membership application. Numbers make a difference. Therefore, consider this, if you only have one or two people you were able to impart your storytelling prowess to as opposed to a dozen or more people, what would that say?
5. Many of the members in Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association are teachers. Unfortunately, some panel members do not look too favorably upon classrooms and students as apprentices because it is viewed as being a part of the job. Remember that, as teachers, it is considered an unfair advantage over a suruhåna, carver, jewelry maker, blacksmith, etc. Storytellers are in the same level as chanters and CHamoru dance masters as students are plentiful. Family members are considered worthwhile apprentices as they are readily available and time commitment is much more concise. However, I listed the membership of Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association as my ongoing apprentices during the years it was in existence.
6. While classrooms and students might be discouraged, activities in the school that promote performances of storytelling are acceptable as well as syllabi that incorporate storytelling as part of a curriculum. I know that my CM101 and CM102 syllabi were accepted but not my student rosters.
7. Start putting the following into your binders: posters, fliers, announcements, program booklets, news articles, clippings, certificates of appreciation, organizational charts, offices held in the organization and proven usually with a letterhead showing the names of leaders, letters of acknowledgements from colleagues, principals, leaders (civic, government, political, religious, military,

society), and others who have given you appreciation for your effort; photos of events that you were a part of, committee project planning that shows your name and title of involvement, awards, commemorations, resolutions, commendations, medals, etc. Note, the more original the above items are, the more credible they become. Therefore, photocopies appear a bit unprofessional. Membership in organizations and conference attendance that aren't related to the area of storytelling won't add credence to your portfolio so save them for another avenue of expertise that warrants your involvement. The above-mentioned items are proof of your area of expertise to be warranted the island's Master Storyteller.

8. Items in Number 7 will not be a part of your nomination packet but sometimes panelists may want to see these items as proof of your involvement so always be prepared especially if someone among them is not familiar with you and your work.
9. If it's anything that is counted upon, it's the length of time that you have contributed to the medium of storytelling. This is why rookies, neophytes, and the young have been discouraged although there have been some exceptions that have gone through the cracks. The law specifically takes this into account.
10. The final and most important thing that is important is the write up of your nomination. If you write well then you have a nice added plus but if you're doubtful, then enlist the help of someone who you are confident will give you justice and would be willing to do your write up. Oh, the write up on yourself is to glorify you and who else can do that but yourself? You won't have time to dwell on modesty and embarrassment. It's like applying for a job and you want to put your best foot forward.

Finally, get involved, talk story is rampant in ALL indigenous communities. It is real!

For those current members of Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association, you are encouraged to go ahead and include past events and activities that were done. Here is a listing based on my memory. I've included the info below, too, in my portfolio. They aren't in any particular order.

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| 1. Puengen Frihonâdas yan Babarihas | 2. Storytelling at Nieves Flores Memorial Library |
| 3. FESTPAC Palau 2004 | 4. FESTPAC American Samoa 2008 |
| 5. FESTPAC Solomon Islands 2012 | 6. FESTPAC Guam 2016 |
| 7. Miss Guåhan Beauty Pageant | 8. Take Me Back to Sumay Memorial |
| 9. Inengilo' I Lina'la' | 10. Estera si Rai |
| 11. In Their Own Words | 12. Evening at Lujan House |
| 13. Puengen Na'ma'ã'ñao – Camp Te'a | 14. Earth Day Event at Ypao |
| 15. Guam Women's Club – Hilton Guam | 16. Rotary Club of Guam – Hilton Guam |
| 17. IRA – Pacific Star Hotel | 18. CHamoru Language Conference – Saipan |
| 19. FESTPAC Storytelling – UOG Fieldhouse | 20. Storytelling Festival – Inalâhan Gef Pa'go |
| 21. Liberation Carnival – Paseo de Susana | 22. Guam Gallery of Art – Storytelling Evening |
| 23. Storytelling Fair – UOG CLASS | 24. Christmas Caroling – Kidney Dialysis Center |
| 25. Christmas Caroling – GMH, Guma' Trang. | 26. Insular Guards Memorial Ceremony – Hagåtña |
| 27. Tetehnan – FESTPAC/CHamoru Village | 28. CHamoru Village Storytelling |
| 29. Saina Destilâdu – John Robert Powers | 30. Zombie Walk – Paseo De Susana |
| 31. Machosflakos Madness | |