



# GUAM COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

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## *A Message from the President*



Happy New Year and Welcome to 2020! Firstly, I want to acknowledge the efforts of the committee for the GC-IRA 's Community Book Fair this past December at the Agana Shopping Center. As in past years, the event once again renewed the community's love and appreciation for reading and overall literacy through entertaining performances and captivating live readings from local authors. Invaluable raffles were given throughout the afternoon, and I am certain that each attendee (whether an educator or not) went home with a new book to expand his/her imagination!

Secondly, I would like to invite everyone to our January meeting. We will be having an array of items for purchase from novels to other trinkets for the classroom. In addition, we will be hearing from our first round of presenters fresh from the ILA Conference in New Orleans. Lastly, our new grant cycle is upcoming and two of our Guam teachers can look forward to building their classroom library. I wish you all a prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

*Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!*

*Your Council Year 2019-2020 IRA President,*

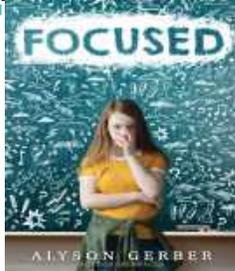
*Nilfa Milan*

### BOOK OF THE MONTH

#### DESCRIPTION:

Clea can't control her thoughts. She knows she has to do her homework . . . but she gets distracted. She knows she can't just say whatever thought comes into her head . . . but sometimes she can't help herself. She knows she needs to focus . . . but how can she do that when the people around her are always chewing gum loudly or making other annoying noises? (Scholastic, 2019)

**RELATED SUBJECTS:** Board Games, Living with Illness and Disabilities, Confidence and Self-Esteem, ADHD



A TEACHER PLANTS THE SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE SPRINKLES THEM WITH LOVE AND PATIENTLY NURTURES THEIR GROWTH TO PRODUCE TOMORROW'S DREAMS

### **IRA 2019-2020 General Meetings**

**8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

- ~~September 7, 2019 (Liguan Elem.)~~
- ~~October 5, 2019 (Liguan Elem.)~~
- ~~November 15-16, 2019 (L.A.C. @ Pacific Star Hotel)~~
- ~~December 14, 2019 (Book Fair; Agana Shopping Center)~~
- January 11, 2020 (Liguan Elem.)
- February 8, 2020 (Read-a-thon [RAT] Kick-off; Agana Shopping Center)
- March 21, 2020 (RAT prize distribution, Liguan Elem.)
- April 18, 2020 (Spend It All, Spend It Now, Liguan Elem.)
- May 2, 2020 (Liguan Elem.)

[www.iraguam.blogspot.com](http://www.iraguam.blogspot.com)

International Reading Association, Guam Council  
P.O. Box 21733 Barrigada, GU 96921



## IRA Board Members:

**Nilfa Milan**, President

**Dr. Darlene Roberto**, President-elect

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**Rose Castro**, Scholastic Order/Author  
Visit

**Manda Tenorio**, Book Exchange

**Mae Mendiola**, Electronics

**Vivian Wolff**, Grants

**Dylan Orot**, Newsletter

**Elvina Johnson**, Novelties

**Verna Mendiola**, Novelties

**Martha Sudo**, Professional Development

**Geri Eclavea**, Paperback

## IRA Grants

### Free Money for Literacy Projects!

Do you have a creative literacy idea that you've always wanted to do with your students, but couldn't quite spend "that kind of money" on the books and resources? Apply for an IRA grant and get the financial help you need to kick start your special classroom project. Two grants of \$500.00 each will be awarded this coming April, courtesy of the International Reading Association and UOG's School of Education Alumni Association. Go to [www.iraguam.blogspot.com](http://www.iraguam.blogspot.com), download the rules and application form, and tell us your idea. Turn in your grant request at the April meeting and keep your fingers crossed. Grant recipients will be announced shortly after.

### New Year's Resolutions for Teachers

- Lighten up!
- Talk with children, not at them.
- Foster creativity!
- Utilize the time spent with children wisely—interact, laugh, and play.
- Give up some of your control and let children plan, execute, and even evaluate projects.
- Share ideas, resources, and revelations with parents, children, and other teachers.
- Send thank you notes directly to children's homes, addressed to the children.
- Add to your teaching portfolio on a regular basis.
- Try one new idea, sing one new song, play one new game, or read one new children's book every week.
- Be yourself! Keep a positive attitude!



Children intently listen to a featured author at the Community Book Fair



Featured authors take a quick photo with our President, Nilfa Milan



Members pose for a photo at the ILA Community Book Fair



Board member Verna Mendiola smiles for a photo at the Book Fair



Author readings excite at the 2019 ILA Community Book Fair

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

*December IRA Meeting*

*December 14, 2019*

*Agana Shopping Center*

## EdTech CORNER



PowerUp can make it happen. For teachers, PowerUp offers you resources, strategies, and practical tips to personalize your instruction with technology to meet the needs of struggling students. For administrators, PowerUp provides you with the tools necessary to build an effective, school-wide technology infrastructure to transform teaching and learning. Although educators recognize the value and potential benefit of technology for students with disabilities, there are few places to find reliable information, curated resources, guidance, and support.

With an increased demand for technologies that are accessible to all users, including those with disabilities, many assistive technology features are moving into mainstream educational technology. PowerUp is ready to meet you where you are, with the resources and tools you have in your school and classrooms, to help you ensure that every student succeeds. (PowerUp, 2020)

## READ-A-THON 2020

Look out and save the date for the annual IRA Read-a-thon in February 2020! The kick-off meeting is February 8, 2020 at Agana Shopping Center. See you there!

sharpen your vision 

 **READ**

**GUAM ILA COUNCIL READ-A-THON**