



Our History...

The Guam Council-IRA was established on April 15, 1968 by seventeen people dedicated to promoting reading on the island of Guam. The local council's membership has grown since then with over 300 educators, parents, students and community members involved in many reading projects.

In 1979, the first Read-A-Thon was held to benefit the local public television. Currently the annual Read-A-Thon provides Professional Educator Grants, underwrites the public television's Reading Rainbow Program, offers monthly professional development meetings, and many other reading endeavors in the schools and community.

The first visiting author in 1990 was Norman Bridwell. Since that time, the local council has sponsored at least two authors, illustrators, or story tellers annually. These individuals inspire children to become better readers and skillful artists.

The local council organized its first Community Book Fair in 2000. Students, parents, educators, and community members were invited to read aloud, observe dance and musical performances, and given the opportunity to purchase affordable books for family members or friends.

The council also sponsors approximately six members to attend the Annual International Reading Association Convention. Upon their return to the island, these individuals share their experiences through mini workshops. The Young Adult Café, which was established in 2003, was an inspiration from the annual convention.

The Guam Council of the International Reading Association has been recognized as an Honor Council, placed in the President's Club and Membership Honor Roll, and received the Community Service Award. The local council will continue to provide reading projects, but also search for better ways to improve reading on the island of Guam and Micronesia at large.



Why Join IRA...



- Learn innovative instruction
- Receive an educator grant
- Meet a visiting author/
illustrator
- Learn ways to improve
student performance 
- Attend monthly professional
meetings
- Buy affordable books and
teacher resources 
- Expand your knowledge
- Discover the latest research
- Advance global literacy
- Get a chance to attend the
IRA's Annual Convention and
to win educational prizes.



Guam Council



International
Read
Association



**ONE BOOK CAN MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE..**

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Who We Are

The Guam Council of the International Reading Association (IRA) is a non-profit professional organization concerned with improving the quality of reading instruction and developing literacy on Guam and in the Pacific Region.



ONE BOOK CAN MAKE
A
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www.iraguam.org

Our Mission

Our mission is to develop an awareness of the impact of reading among all people. IRA strives to make reading a lifelong habit for our young readers. It also aims to make connections to the island's community through various projects and events.



What We Do

FUNDING OF EDUCATOR GRANTS

IRA awards grants up to \$500 each fall and spring to each member whose grant application is approved. This gives thousands of children access to books they otherwise would not have.

SPONSORSHIP OF GUEST AUTHORS/ILLUSTRATORS

Each year students, parents, members, and the public have the opportunity to meet a well-known author and/or illustrator who visits the schools and the community.

BOOKS FOR CLASSROOMS

Members who participate in the Read-A-Thon are given the opportunity to buy or order books with 25% of the money collected by their students. Non-members earn 20%.

BOOKS AND PRIZES FOR STUDENTS

Every child who brings in the minimum amount in pledge money during the annual Read-A-Thon receives a book.

ATTENDANCE AT THE IRA CONVENTION

Each year, IRA sends members to the Annual International Reading Association Convention. Members bring back valuable information about new teaching methods, reading research, and a wealth of innovative ideas, not only for themselves, but also to share with educators island-wide.

CO-SPONSORING OF THE ANNUAL REGIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCE

IRA co-sponsors the University of Guam's Language Arts Conference during which teachers from Guam's public, private, and DODEA schools along with Guam Community College and University of Guam faculty meet to exchange ideas, research, and learn new teaching methods and strategies.

BOOK DONATIONS

IRA donates hundreds of books to the Alee Shelter, Erica's House, the Department of Youth Affairs, Sugar Plum Tree, and the Guam Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Ward, just to name a few.

COMMUNITY BOOK FAIR

Every December, the council holds a book fair to bring affordable, quality books to the community. As a non-profit organization, we offer most of our books at cost.

NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

IRA sponsors weekly newspaper delivery to a selected elementary or secondary school.

UNDERWRITING OF KGTF PROGRAMMING

IRA underwrites KGTF's Reading Rainbow in which narrators read aloud quality children's literature.

YOUNG ADULT CAFÉ

IRA sponsors meetings where participants read selected books and get together to discuss them. Participants also get to meet visiting authors and attend their workshops.