

2ND ANNUAL

GUAM NIKKEI ASSOCIATION

2016

LANTERN

FLOATING

CEREMONY



COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Filipino Community of Guam, Japan Club of Guam/Consulate General of Japan
Korean Association of Guam/Korean Sports Council of Guam, Young Mens League of Guam

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 10 2016 | GOVERNOR JOSEPH FLORES BEACH PARK
1PM TO 4PM REGISTRATION & DESIGN | 5PM CEREMONY

Annual Lantern Floating Ceremony

presented by the Guam Nikkei Association

Saturday, September 10, 2016 - Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Beach Park (Ipao Beach)

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Registration

5:00 p.m. - Lantern Floating Ceremony

The Guam Nikkei Association invite you to be a part of the Lantern Floating ceremony on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Joseph Flores Memorial Beach Park (Ipao Beach), Guam. The Lantern Floating Ceremony is a symbolic event meant to give respect and honor to our loved ones who have passed before us in the spirit of love, harmony, understanding and inafamaolek.

This sunset event will include inspirational words from representatives of our community organizations who have experienced loss of family or close friends as victims of war, natural or man-made tragedies, ocean-related incidents, disease, accidents or suicide. It will culminate in the lighting of candles mounted on proa lanterns with personal messages that will be floated into Tumon Bay by the water's currents symbolizing our life's journeys.

The Elements

Proa

The proa is the traditional single-mast outrigger canoe that was used in the Marianas over 3,000 years ago for fishing, communications and transport around the island. It is a cultural icon to the indigenous Chamorro people of Guam and the Marianas. The first western reference to the proa was in a 1521 entry in Francisco Alvos' log that notes, "many small sails sailing so swiftly they appeared to be flying". By the end of the 17th century, the construction and use of the proa was prohibited resulting in the decline of Chamorro voyagers. Renewed interest in the canoe and seafaring traditions led to the presentation of 14 traditional sailing canoes in the recently held Festival of Pacific Arts. The floating lantern is aptly called the Proa signifying the return to customs and traditions which are important to the cultural sustainability of the Chamorro people.

Fire

A waxed candle will be affixed to the lantern and will be lit during the ceremony. Throughout history, the significant role of fire has been one of a supernatural force, oftentimes symbolizing divine origins and creation. The flame symbolizes the eternal spirit of love, peace and harmony that we share with each other and within our diverse communities.

Paper

Paper lanterns date back to almost 500 years ago and are part of Japanese culture and used in various festivals in Japan. The proa lantern will be constructed with paper and will be attached to the Proa base that will be floated. Personal messages can be written onto the lanterns with the hope that this communication will bring peace, understanding and harmony to those that launch them. The paper lantern is also a connection to the heritage of the members of the Guam Nikkei Association and highlights the strong ties between our people and our cultures.

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Funds raised through sponsorship will be used to offset expenses incurred for this event. Lanterns will not be sold, however donations will be accepted during the event.