



GUAM COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

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2020

A Message from the President



Håfa Adai, Happy May, and Happy Belated Mother's Day! Firstly, we apologize for not releasing an April newsletter and releasing this month's quite late, but I hope you and all of your loved ones have been doing well and staying safe during these trying times. May you find yourself with more quality time to read, whether independently or with family, allowing you to explore different worlds and new experiences, all while staying safe at home.

In preparation for next school year, we will be continuing with the elections of officers for our IRA chapter. For everyone's health and safety, the voting will be conducted through a Google Form (see more information on page 3). Kindly ensure you vote only once and in a timely manner as polls will close on Saturday, May 30, 2020. I am confident that our new president Dr. Darlene Roberto and all the nominees will continue to uphold and further our chapter's standards, so we look forward to discovering our future team.

It is truly unfortunate that due to the pandemic we were not able to meet again in celebration to formally close this school year. We, your IRA family, continue to encourage everyone to be safe and practice caution and consideration during these times. We will get through this together.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you again someday!

Your Council Year 2019-2020 IRA President,
Nilfa Milan



Read-a-Thon Prize Distribution: "Bag It, Box It, Book It!"

All prizes earned from this year's Read-a-Thon "Sharpen Your Vision 2020: READ" will be distributed through a drive-thru concept at **Liguan Elementary School** on **Saturday, May 30, 2020**.

Kindly observe the following times:

9 A.M. - 11 A.M. : Top Student and Teacher Prizes

11 A.M. - 1 P.M. : RAT Reps Student Prizes

*****MUST WEAR MASKS!*****

IRA 2019-2020 General Meetings 8 A.M. - 11 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, Agaña Shopping Center)~~

~~January 11, 2020 (Liguan Elem.)~~

~~February 8, 2020 (Read a thon [RAT] Kick off, ASC)~~

~~March 1, 2020 (Liguan Elem.)~~

~~March 28, 2020 (RAT Kick off, Liguan Elem.)~~

~~April 18, 2020 (Special Celebration, Liguan Elem.)~~

~~May 2, 2020 (Liguan Elem.)~~

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

Liwaway Anicas, Recording Secretary/Hardcover

Liwanag Dominguez, Corresponding Secretary/Electronics

Geri Charfauros, Treasurer

Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera, Webmaster/Professional Dev.

Stephanie Taitano, Membership

Annette Leon Guerrero, Membership

Rose Castro, Scholastic Order/Author Visit

Manda Tenorio, Book Exchange

Mae Mendiola, Electronics

Vivian Wolff, Grants

Dylan Orot, Newsletter

April Ann Cordova, Newsletter

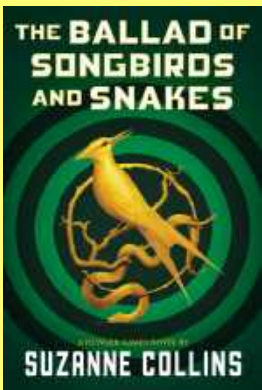
Elvina Johnson, Novelties

Verna Mendiola, Novelties

Martha Sudo, Professional Development

Geri Eclavea, Paperback

TRENDING BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes will revisit the world of Panem sixty-four years before the events of *The Hunger Games*, starting on the morning of the reaping of the Tenth Hunger Games.

RELATED SUBJECTS:

Survival, Abuse, Courage, Bravery, Heroism, Adventures, and Adventurers
([Scholastic Inc.](#), 2020)

EDTECH CORNER



Rewordify.com

Understand what you read.

[Rewordify.com](#), a powerful and free literacy website is dedicated to improving reading, learning, and teaching aimed at improved learner's comprehension level. This app is free, fast, and safe for all users. Both students and parents can become members and have access for a better and monitored learning. Created by Neil M. Goldman, the site's goal is to build on its learners reading comprehension and vocabulary development by making the language easier to understand. It also allows the ability of rewording sentences or paragraphs in simplified forms.

This app is an important part of reading instructions and vocabulary instructions for ESL students, people with reading disabilities, people with a learning disability, or anyone who wants to improve reading skill. Benefits of this app includes saving time when reading hard texts, improves comprehension and self-confidence, improves vocabulary and word retention, reduces frustration and improves comprehension just to name a few. (Y. Kanichy, 2018)

BOOK DONATION

from Guam author Ms. FRANCES BAUMAN

We, the Guam Council of IRA and the University of Guam's School of Education Alumni Association (UOG-SOEAA) received a generous gift of 600 books from Guam author Frances Baumann to support our island's continuation of education and literacy for our students, especially during COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Baumann, along with us and UOG SOEAA, understand that many families may not have access to materials for their children. We are honored that Ms. Baumann continues to support our organization's mission to increase the love of reading on our island. The books being donated are "Ramon on the Phone" and "Midge at the Fridge", both written by Ms. Baumann and illustrated by artists Ariel Dimalanta and Stephanie Librando.

We informed GDOE Superintendent of Education Mr. Jon J.P. Fernandez that the 600 books will be disseminated to elementary schools with a focus on students who are in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program as well as those in most need. Books will be distributed at the "Grab and Go" meals at the selected elementary schools. The Guam IRA Board randomly chose schools located in the central, northern, and southern parts of the island.

The following schools to receive the books are:

Northern Schools

Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School
Liguan Elementary School
Maria A. Ulloa Elementary School
UPI Elementary School
Wettengel Elementary School

Central Schools

Agana Heights Elementary School
Carlos L. Taitano Elementary School
Pedro C. Lujan Elementary School
Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School
Juan Q. San Miguel Elementary School

Southern Schools

Saint Francis Catholic School
Inarajan Elementary School
Manuel U. Lujan Elementary School
Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School
Talofofo Elementary School
Harry S. Truman Elementary School





MEET OUR FUTURE PRESIDENT : Dr. Darlene Roberto

Roberto is an Assistant Principal at Southern High School. She received a B.S. in Biochemistry in 1997 from Marquette University, an M.Ed. in Administration/Supervision in 2004 from the University of Guam, and her doctorate in Higher Ed Leadership from Argosy University in 2014. She was a Science Teacher at SHS for 7 years and an administrator for the last 16 years at SHS, GW, and IMS. She has also taught several semesters at the UOG preparing teachers for certification. She has served on the IRA Board for the last 3 years with her most notable position as President-Elect and Read-A-Thon Chair this year. She is a wife and mother of 2 children and 3 fur babies who bring her great joy as her love for reading!

OFFICER NOMINEES

President-Elect/Read-a-Thon 2021 Chairperson

Liwayway Anicas

Recording Secretary

Martha Sudo

Corresponding Secretary

Liwanag Dominguez

Treasurer

Geri Joleen Charfauros

Nilfa Moncada Milan

*****See biographies on next page*****

↓ CAST YOUR VOTES ↓

Click on the link below or copy the URL to your Internet browser to access the ballot:

bit.ly/36tOEwc

Deadline for votes is Saturday, May 30!



NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES



Liwayway Anicas - Candidate for President-Elect/Read-a-Thon 2021 Chairperson

Anicas is a 3rd grade teacher at J.Q. San Miguel Elementary School. She has been teaching for 15 years. She wanted to become a teacher to make a difference in a child's life. She attended the University of Guam and received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 2004 and her Masters of Education in Reading in 2013. Aside from teaching, she is a W.A.V.E. Club coordinator and Girl Scout troop leader at J.Q. San Miguel Elementary School. She has been the Recording Secretary for the International Reading Association Guam Council for two years. Through IRA, she has received 2 grants in promoting literacy in the classroom and at home. She enjoys dancing, listening to music, watching movies, making arts and crafts, and spending time with family and friends.



Martha Sudo - Candidate for Recording Secretary

Sudo has been an active member of IRA for the past 25 years, serving in various board positions, including Board Secretary. In addition she worked with Grants, Novelties and Book Tables, Read-A-Thon Rep, and most recently, Professional Development (IRA/UOG/SOE Professional Development Credit). Martha retired from DoDEA two years ago having taught 5th grade for 20 years. She is now teaching Middle School math at St. Francis Catholic School, and is one of the Read-A-Thon Reps for her school, still promoting literacy. Martha is also currently the President of the UOG School of Education Alumni Association.



Liwanag Dominguez - Candidate for Corresponding Secretary

Dominguez is a regular classroom teacher at Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School. Promoting literacy is important to encourage her students to build solid foundation. The love of reading and writing will allow them to develop and improve their life skills. She started International Reading Association in CY2016 -2017 as a member and a Webmaster. Since then, she has become an active member and involved in Professional Resources, and Electronics. Currently, she is the Corresponding Secretary for the association. If given the opportunity, she would like to continue to serve the members and the community by taking the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary for CY2020-2021.



Geri Joleen Eclavea-Charfauros - Candidate for Treasurer

IRA Member since 2014 and Board Member since 2015, Charfauros's love for literacy has grown since she attended the 2015 ILA Conference in St. Louis, MO. She left with this in mind, "Literacy is the vaccine to poverty"-Dr. Stephen Peters (Conference keynote speaker). And that is when she understood why she loves literacy. It is something that empowers an individual to express themselves in so many ways than just one. It gives an individual to grow beyond what is in front of them. And It allows educators and students to work hand in hand in so many ways.



Nilfa Moncada Milan - Candidate for Treasurer

Married to Juanito G. Milan, Milan currently teaches at Ligan Elementary School. She graduated from the University of Iloilo with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (B.S.E.Ed) on March 14, 1969. Her teaching experience includes 20 years in the Philippines 23 years in GDOE. She is also involved in different organizations including: (1) President, IRA, Guam Council, (2) Treasurer of Parent Teachers Organization, (3) Treasurer of Guam Harmony Lions Club, (4) Peace Officer of Filipino Community of Guam, (5) Filipino Ladies Association, (6) Filipino-American Association of Guam, (7) Ex-Officio of Iloilo Science of Technology University, (8) Iloilo International Association of Guam, and (9) Member of GFT.