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Club celebrates 60 YEARS



Above: Auntie Passing enjoys a refreshing beverage at the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club's 60th anniversary party in San Diego.



Above: Performer Heather smiles at the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club's 60th anniversary party in San Diego.

Sons and Daughters of Guam Club looks to the future

By Sandy Flores Uslander
For Pacific Sunday News

Sept. 14 was a day to celebrate a 60-year-old Chamorro institution and the thriving organization that it is today. More than 500 people gathered at noon at the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club in San Diego for a 60th anniversary welcome by the club president, Jess "Bataik" Cruz. He asked everyone to "take the time to honor our founders and our manamko' for their love and vision in providing us with an organization and a home away from home to celebrate our Chamorro culture."



Uslander

Soon after, former club presidents and founding members were invited to assemble on the stage to be recognized. Reigning and past Liberation queens were acknowl-

edged for their contribution.

Then young children from the audience were asked to come forward to sing "Happy Birthday" to the club.

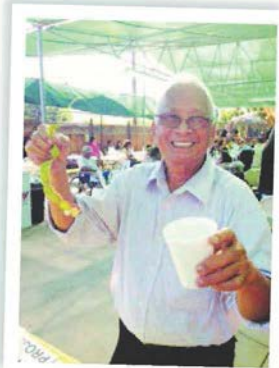
The afternoon was a lineup of popular and cultural entertainment, from the Island Rain ukulele choir to DJs like Ben "Magalahi" Lizama. Chamorro dancers, including Imahen Taotano and Simahen Pulan, also performed.

In the evening, Chamorro and reggae bands got the crowd onto the dance floor.

While there was a lot of talk about the club's past and gratitude for former leaders, there was also talk about the club's youth group that is now forming, and the desire to develop future leaders.



Above: The Benavente family at the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club's 60th anniversary party in San Diego.



Above: Gene Mendiola holds up a kama Chile at the Sons and Daughters of Guam Club's 60th anniversary party in San Diego.

The club is working to become a nonprofit with 501c3 status, and developing its capacity to qualify for grant money to fund future projects — especially youth projects.

The Sons and Daughters of Guam Club's anniversary celebration displayed the importance of the organization's past and future in the events of the day.

"As is our Chamorro custom, let us continue to respect one another and continually strive to promote and preserve our Chamorro culture, heritage and customs for ourselves and our manamko' and our children," Cruz said.

Sandy Flores Uslander lives in San Diego and works to promote Chamorro culture among Chamorros living off island. You can connect with her at www.GolIsland.net.



Celebration: From left: Tony Treitas, Rosemary Petersen Robbins (who represented her mother, Nora Petersen, the first SDGC Queen), Jess Quiugua, Ray L.G. Sablan, Dr. Ron Baza, JD Perez (one of original founders), Larry Baza, Mark Baza, Pete Periera, Mary Alcantara, Ben Quintanilla, Kelly Santos and SDGC Queen Ashly Ulloa Szuch. On stage is President Jess Cruz. Photos courtesy of Sandy Flores Uslander