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The legend of Nemwes and Micronesia's May icons

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THIS month's icons are talented Micronesians who encourage and promote a healthy, cultural and traditional environment through art, dance, music, film, architecture and language.

They allow for the transmission of unique features and methods of cultural expression that promote Micronesia's unique cultural identity on social media and around the world.

Micronesian legends have played a huge role in shaping most of the region's cultural tradition.

The morals of many legends can be interpreted differently by each island culture and tradition such as the legend of Nemwes.

Many have highlighted the disobedience part of the story.

Nemwes, the daughter of a Yapese high chief, disobeyed her father's wishes and went to Udot Island by walking across the sea.

She is now remembered as a cultural icon. She was a pioneer who followed her passion in creating "mwaar" which is part of the islands' cultural attire today.

Nemwes was a 12 feet tall girl who lived in Yap. She loved flower blossoms, and she made the most beautiful flower headdress, or mwaar, in all of Yap.

She spent her days weaving plumeria and hibiscus blossoms into fragrant wreaths for people to place on their heads. When she learned that she had used all of the flowers in Yap, she asked permission from her parents to travel to Chuuk to pick up more flowers.

Her parents told her not to go to Udot Island where Nemwes would lose her magic power that allowed her to return home.

She didn't listen to her parents. On Udot Island, she did lose her magic power and could not go back home. Turtle and fish were sent to rescue Nemwes but the Chuukese ate the turtle and fish. Nemwes had to remain on Udot where she eventually died of grief. (*Micronesian Legends: Nancy Bo Flood, Beret E. Strong, William Flood.*)

Today, the mwaar is an important symbol in all cultural celebrations in the region including the recently held FestPac event on Guam.

Here are our Micronesian icons of May:

Film & photography

Cultural Film Work — 12th FestPac Opening Ceremony May 22, 2016 by Tommy Lokeijzak, FestPac Recap 1,2,3, Day 3 by FestPac Organizing Committee, & Waves Carry First Fest Pac Delegates in Traditional Style by KUAM News

Environmental Film Work — “Dogtooth Tuna” film with Dari Divers by Sunsoo Lee & Richard Brooks

Environmental Photo —Environmental Awareness photo by Richard Brooks. “In the interests of education for both tour operators and visitors, which operators use Bentos and reusable water bottles etc. and which use single use items. And Antonio Cabrera’s Saipan Island Nature Beauty photos.

Community, History & Lifestyle — Richard Santos World War II historical photos

Most Viewed Blogs — Last Chance to Check Out FestPac 2016

Cultural, environment and community photos — FestPac community Team Kiribati Story Telling, Display Art by Dave Ngirailemesang, Latte Freedom, and Guam Dancers photos by Kambes Kesolei, Pacific Traditional Delegations, Singers, and Performers by Harry Rubasch Fritz

Humanitarian work — Bridge Capital LLC donated to Chamolinian Canoe Project and Hyatt Regency to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Music, Dance and Performance

Guam Dancers — preserving and promoting Chamorro Dance

Entertainers of the Month — Kelau Remeliik, Lisa Glover, Roland Merar, Rose Martinez Certeza,

Most Viewed Solo Artists — Mimi Baza, Taka Emesiochel, Ben “LamLam” San Nicolas, Lisa Glover, Galo Certeca, Pete Champaco, Kimie Ueki, Antoinette “Toni” Quitugua, & Chicko

Most Viewed Group Music Video — Vitorez & Norman Music

Most Viewed Male Solo Music Video — Chicko

Most Viewed Group Dance Video — FestPac Dancers Kiribati

Best Solo Comedy in a Motion Picture — When Bae Catch Yal Cheating by Team Alfonso

Best Comedy Film — “The Two Lover’s Point” by UOG, and “Don’t Smoke Micronesia” by C-Jha Crew and producer Doggiez

Stand Up Comedian — “Lou Delang” by Ministry of Cummunity and Cultural Affair Palau

Best Male Comedians in Print —Merv Melatk and writers Der David, Miles Elbelau, Paul Ngrabiol Ueki, Jay Glee Henry, Omelau, Marino Kintaro, Kingston Ace, Melvin Mobel, Kintoki, Randy Ongrung, Lopez Emiliano, Kebei Saburo and Simeon Adelbai

Best Female Comedy Writers —Scarlet Willhence, OrHee Rdialul, Mo Smaserui, Telael Kinsman, Saula Marcy Andrew, Joy Sokau, Shirley Skilang, Mona Conception, Darly Gold Eugenio, Elaine Kramer, Miz Rechelulk Karmelong, Nazreen, Stephnie Lynn Obak

Sports

Most viewed athletes — Kiribati weightlifter David Katoatau and FSM swimmer Margie Winter

Most viewed teams — Saipan Little League, Red Torch, and Babes

Men & Women in Uniform

Most viewed and recognized — Nicole Cabrera, Alfredo Ngalongalo, Mathew Kapileo: group Dolphin Battalion Cadets and SSSHS Cadets

Men & Women Educators — Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, and 2016 graduates

FSM High Schoolers, Palau Community College Graduates, Yap Catholic High Schoolers, NMC, MHS, SSSHS, Dandan Middle School, and Hopwood Junior High, Robo-Day Students, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja Kindergarten, Kagman High School, & WSR Kindergarten

Culture & Tradition

Artists and cultural advocates —Baklai Temengil, Florentina Rehuher, Juan Castro, Sesario Sewalur, Sam Adelbai,

Legend — The Giant Clam

Culture Beauty Icons — Mikie Ueki

Best Micronesia Cultural Artwork — Sam Adelbai Art Work, and Photo by Kaydiani Ongos

Best Micronesia Environmental Art Work— Christian Montiveros

Travel, Environment and Nutrition

Environmental Activist, Beauties and Models — Nora Glasby, Linda Adelbai, Eligin Loren Elwais, Joy Hunter Anson, Dolo Alonz, and Moises Ricaurte

For promoting local diet and homegrown vegetables and crops — Sing Miyozawa, Kaisha Borja, Sal Cruz, Jorge Carreon, Jaieasha Flores, Tierra Nicolas, Aliikai Concepcion, Barney Antonio Jr., Jan Dililau Phillips, Wihelmina Brock, Sing Miyozawa and Laurie Maderkewet, Nora Glasby, Willa Melilt

Travel documentary photos promoting community health and the beauty of the environment —Richard Santos, Eric Taitano, Dee Iglesias, Bill Jaynes, Richard Brooks, Raquel Bagnol, Harry R. Fritz, Frank “The Crank” Camacho, Ziegler Eriich, and Sergio Ngiraingas

Art, Design and Creation — David Ngirailemesang

Fashion Design — Belau Tribe by Scott Weers, Michael Pablo, & Peter Toves

Photo artwork contributors —Ziegler Eriich, Sergio Ngiraingas, Harry R. Fritz, Dr. Takuya Nagaoka, Richard Brooks, Antonio Cabrera, Bill Jaynes, Phillip Reklai, Kambes Kesolei

Sociopolitical Icons — FSM Yoslyn Sigrah, Palau Sen. Sandra Pierantozzi, Delegate Joel Toribiong and CNMI Speaker Ralph Demapan

Journalists

Civil Beat Hawaii, Kiribati News Australia, Pacific Daily News Sports, My Marianas by Raquel Bagnol, Tia Belau with Kambes Kesolei, Kaselehlie Press with Bill Jaynes, Marianas Variety's Zaldy Dandan and James Sablan, Bently Techur and Anji Bohan of California, Marilyn Rideb of Hawaii, Chuuk News Update with Dan Suda, Belau Photo Group by Harry Fritz, Belau Useful Information with Merv Melatk, Oloik Kazuo, Palau Fitness by Nora Glasby, Chamorro People on Facebook with David Atalig.



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