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Legendary Micronesian writers and June's talented icons

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IT is known by many western researchers that traditions in Micronesia are preserved orally and not written down. Knowledge and skills have been passed along from one generation to the next by word of mouth. This is, of course, changing since the arrival of outsiders possessing intellectual traditions, which they have transposed, or superimposed upon Micronesian culture.

Today we feature talented Micronesians who encourage and promote a healthy, cultural and traditional environment through art, dance, music, film, architecture, language, and literature.

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.

Luelen Bernart (1866-1946) of Pohnpei was the first Micronesian to write a book and was Pohnpei's first historian. He was the author of "The Book of Luelen." He was educated at the Protestant Mission School, and his book was translated and published by American anthropologists Saul Riesenberg, Jack Fisher, and Margaret Whiting in the late 1970s through the University of Hawaii Press.

Bernart is as an inspiration for many Micronesians.

In Palau, Ymesei Ezikiel (1921-83) wrote many songs including the anthem "Belau er kid."

On Saipan, there's Lino Olopai whose book, "The Rope of Tradition," which is about indigenous cultures and the issues and challenges confronting cultural preservation in the face of rapid globalization.

There's also Pohnpeian poet Emelihter Kihleng who has published a collection of poetry in English. He is one of few published Micronesian poets. Born on Guam, she obtained a master's degree in creative writing at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2003, and subsequently taught English as a second language at the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei. She published her first collection of poems, "My Uroh" in May 2008. Critics describe her poetry as "refreshingly innovative and compelling"; and "a new way of seeing ourselves in our islands — an important and influential addition to our literature."

Here are other talented Micronesians who educate many about island culture and environmental protection:

Film & photography

Cultural Film Work — "Pacific Emerging Leaders" with Yolanda Joab, Federated States of Micronesia, "Youth-4-Change sings for Danger flow in Pohnpei, Micronesia" by Kevin Callo, A Modern Men's House in YAP (Micronesia, Pacific Ocean) by YAP, Historic Men's House, Micronesia: The "faluw" is the "men's house," "FestPac Cultural Dance" by Stacey Tesei and "Chamorro Chant" with Brandon Lee Cruz, Cultural Entertainment Film "Night Market" by Kambes Kesolei

Environmental Film Work

David Weinberg, UNDP & COP21, the Paris conference on climate change, Ocean Beauty, Sea World Perspective, Richard Brooks Productions,

Environmental Photos — Saipan Environment by Floyd Masga, The Intimate Guam Night Life by Gino Bais, Island Life by Maryann Arriola, Antonio Cabrera, Mobeda Dakine, Boboy Jason Nolan, Cathleen Kinnaman, and Mike Paulino, Melvin Ngiratumersng, Gordon Glasby, Daniel Michell Taijeron, Joseph Ngcheed, Kambes Kesolei, Susan Salvador Pharmin, Jubilee Yobch Toribiong, April Pich

Community, History & Lifestyle

Hawaiian Leisure Hour Song: There's A Place In Micronesia by Johnny Sablan, Michael Pablo, Janet Rasiang, Rebecca Ngirmechaet, Juana Harry Tutii, & Missy Ngiraklang,

Community Celebration by Kambes Kesolei, Raaquel Bagnol, Bryan Manabat, Jacqueline Guzman, Junhan Todino and Emmanuel Eredriano

Cultural heritage photos by Richard Santos, Peter Luzano, Benjamin Iskawa, Gibson Kanai, Francis Kib, Lawrence Olkeriil, Harry Rubasch Fritz,

Most Viewed Blogs — Nutrition by Fallon Asanuma and Culture by Chella Tetsuo

Music, Dance and Performance

Entertainers of the Month — Lulch & Sheldon "Three Little Birds" Night Market

Most Viewed Solo Artists — ShaLaLa by Chicko & Mella Timothy

Most Viewed Group Music Video — "Bamboo Inn" by John Mark & Micronesia Ethnic Music by Eric Whollem

Most Viewed Male Solo Music Video — Chicko

Most Viewed Group Dance Video — Music group by John Idechiil

Best Solo Comedy in a Motion Picture — Micronesian Vine: White Girls want to use a bathroom vs Micronesian Girls

Best Comedy Film — Rock Me Pwi Pwi

Stand Up Comedian — "Kiribati style..kain d qanq ni moatoki

Best Male Comedians in Print — John Lee Borja, Merv Melatk,

Der David, Miles Elbelau, Paul Ngirabiol 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 — Kaisha Borja, Kyola Blaluk, Tricia Wong, 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 — Grafton Kileleman Howard Jr. (born in Saipan) Mattie Sasser of Marshall, Rodman Teltull of Palau, Beo Ngirchongor, Shane Alvarez, Terry Guererro, Kathy Mersai, Carrie, Janice and Diana Camacho & Frank "The Crank" Camacho of Saipan, Regine Tugade of Guam,

Most viewed teams - NMI All Stars, NMI Women, Macau Team, & DFS

Men & Women in Uniform

Most viewed and recognized — Frankie Sylvina Calvo Platoon Leader, PFC Cabrera of HHC completed Ranger School, and Irang Ngirchokebai, military graduate

Men & Women Educators — Emelihter Kihleng, Lino Olopai, Ymesei Ezekiel, Luelen Bernart

Schools & Students — Dandan student Jonathan Wold is national champion in declamation, Arizona Pacific Islanders high school students attend university summer program, Saipan's Michelle Ngirbabul graduates from Cornell College, & Wheaton College student Hye Won Kwon of Saipan was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2016 semester.

Culture & Tradition

Culture Beauty Icons — Makalina Gallagher & Delia Kotlaris

Artists and cultural advocates — Tao Tao Tano, People of the Land. Guam Culture in Dance, Richard Santos, Brandon Lee Cruz, Dr. Takuya Nagaoka, Phillip Reklai, Harry Fritz, & Kambes Kesolei, Saipan CNMI, Peter Luzano, Benjamin Iskawa, Gibson Kanai, Francis Kib & Lawrence Olkeriil

Legend — The Serpent of Elechui

Best Micronesia Cultural Artwork — Art by Dan Suda "Traditional Island Man," Richard Santos "Asan Village" & Richard Ngcheed "Island Fisherman"

Environment, Nutrition, Fitness, & Travel

Environment Beauty Icons —Fallon Asanuma & Roman Cress

Best Micronesia Environmental Art Work — Photo by Gino Bais

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

For promoting local diet and homegrown vegetables and crops — Mike Paulino, Gino Bais, Cathleen Kinnamen, 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, Anonio Cabrera, Boy Boy Katne, Jason Nolan, Peter Adelbai,

Art, Design and Creation — Michael Pablo ,Peter Toves, Dan Suda, Sam Adelbai,

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 Icon — Yolanda Joab

Journalists — Civil Beat Hawaii, Kiribati News Australia, Pacific Daily News Sports, Raquel Bagnol, Tia Belau with Kambes Kesolei, Kaselehlie Press with Bill Jaynes, MV editor Zaldy Dandan and MV sports reporter James Sablan, Bently Techur Palau 2013, Marilyn Rideb of Hawaii, Chuuk News Update Dan Suda, Belau Photo Group by Harry Fritz, Belau Useful Information with Merv Melatk, Olilai Ikesiil, Palau Fitness by Nora Glasby, Chamorro People on Facebook David Atalig, Chuuk Youth, PEC Youth Bradley Kumangai, MV reporter Bryan Manabat, Junhan Todino, Emmanuel Erediano, Guam Daily Post reporter Jacqueline de Guzman, Island Times' Leilani Reklai, Merirei Media LLC Sha Merirei, Palau 2014, '15, '16 News Work Ololk Kazuo.



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