

FY2025

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Celebrates

WOMEN

*of the Public Libraries in the
Northern Mariana Islands*



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Introduction

In honor of Women's Month, we celebrate the remarkable women who work tirelessly in our public libraries across the Northern Mariana Islands. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our libraries, providing invaluable services that enrich the lives of countless individuals.

Their unwavering commitment to knowledge, literacy, and community engagement is truly inspiring. They nurture a love of reading, facilitate access to information, and create inclusive spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Join us in recognizing the phenomenal women who make our public libraries thrive. Their contributions are immeasurable, and we are eternally grateful for their dedication. Biba, Mes Famalaoan! Biba, Marianas!





Haena Norita Cruz

Haena

Haena Norita Cruz: A Dedicated Library Assistant Intern

Haena Norita Cruz has been a valuable asset to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, serving as a Library Assistant Intern going on 8 months. Her journey began in the Children's Library, and she now contributes her skills to the Front Circulation desk. Haena's experiences have provided her with a unique understanding of the library's operations and the importance of community engagement.



TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Assistant Intern

Zodiac Sign: Cancer

Nickname: Ina/Ena/Enagn/Inagn

Length of Service at JKPL: 8 months

What is your Chamorro or Carolinian word of the day? Buenas (Chamorro) means good

Book character: Cecily Knight from God of Wrath

"Haena" in Hawaiian means "red hot". It's a place name on the island of Kauai, and the meaning could refer to the strong taboos associated with the area or the reddish stem of a particular type of sweet potato grown there.

해나 Haena - "sunrise light" in Korean

“We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.”
-- J.K. Rowling

”

Haena proudly embraces her Chamorro and Carolinian descent, which enriches her perspective and connection to the local community. This heritage has instilled in her a deep appreciation for cultural preservation and the importance of accessible resources for all members of the community. Haena's parents are a source of inspiration to her.

During her time in the Children's Library, Haena played a crucial role in creating a welcoming and engaging environment for young readers. Her responsibilities included assisting with story time, organizing events, and helping children find books. Her patience and enthusiasm made her a favorite among the young patrons.

Transitioning to the Front Circulation desk, Haena has expanded her knowledge of library operations. She assists patrons with checking out and returning books, managing holds, and providing information about library services. She enjoys processing and stamping new books. Her friendly demeanor and efficiency have made her an integral part of the circulation team.

Haena's time at the library has provided her with valuable insights into the complexities of its operations. She has often remarked that "there is a lot of work done behind the scenes to place a book on the shelf." This observation reflects her understanding of the cataloging, processing, and organizational tasks that ensure the library functions smoothly.



Haena is eager to continue learning and growing within the library environment. She aspires to further develop her skills and contribute to the library's mission of providing knowledge and resources to the community.

Haena Norita Cruz's dedication and enthusiasm have made her a standout Library Assistant Intern. Her contributions to both the Children's Library and Front Circulation, combined with her unique cultural background, have enriched the library community. Her insightful observation about the "behind the scenes" work underscores her commitment to understanding and supporting the library's essential functions.



"There is nothing wrong with you. If anyone tries to 'fix you', they are the problem." -- Haena Cruz





**Sina Ha'ani
Ulloa Palacios**

Sina

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Outreach Assistant

Zodiac Sign: Scorpio

Nickname: Āni

Length of Service at JKPL: 1.5 years

Book character: Hermione Granger

Favorite Animal: Turtle

What is your Chamorro or Carolinian word of the day? Tåsi: Ocean (Chamorro)

***An Inspirational Journey:
From IT to Library Programs
Coordinator***

Sina Ha'ani Palacios

“*You can always
give something,
even if it is only
kindness!*”

*--Anne
Frank*

Meet our inspirational library outreach assistant, Sina Ha'ani Ulloa Palacios, a beacon of creativity and dedication who has transformed her passion into a fulfilling career. With 1.5 years of experience, she has journeyed through the different facets of library service, leaving a positive impact wherever she goes.



Sina's story began in the Information Technology Center (ITC), where she honed her technical skills and developed an understanding of the digital resources available to the community. One way she helped (ITC) increase patronage to the ITC was by assisting with the ITC calendar of events. She even helped create computer trivia games for patrons. From there, she transitioned to the Children's Library, where her creativity further blossomed. She engaged young minds with stories, activities, and a welcoming atmosphere, fostering a love for reading and learning. While in the Children's Library, she was able to further enhance her design strengths in creating beautiful calendars, participating in hands-on engaging read aloud experiences, and assist in creating Children's Library brochures and events to draw the community into the Children of Our Homeland.

Recently, she has been promoted to serve as the Library Programs Coordinator for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. In this role, she will continue to inspire and connect with the community, creating engaging programs and events for all ages.

She has come to realize that the library is a microcosm of life itself, where all walks of life, just as all kinds of books, can be found.





This understanding has fueled her passion for inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and valued within the library's walls.

Her first library memory is a cherished one. She recalls coming to the library with her best friend to use the computer for their science fair project research. It was an exciting adventure, learning how to navigate the internet and discover new information. After their research, they borrowed books and headed to the beach, enjoying the pleasure of reading together.



Sina finds immense joy in the opportunity to learn something new and meet new people. Each day brings fresh experiences and connections, enriching her life and work. Her children are a constant source of inspiration, motivating her to create a better world for them and the community.

Sina's journey is a testament to the power of passion, dedication, and the transformative impact of libraries. Her story inspires us to embrace new opportunities, connect with others, and make a difference in the world.





**Shanice M.
Guerrero**

Shanice

“As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we’ll all be better off for it.”
— Ruth Bader Ginsburg



**Shanice Guerrero: A
Passion for Community
and Children's Literature**

Shanice Guerrero is a dedicated Library Outreach Assistant at the Children's Library, where her enthusiasm for literature and community shines brightly. Her journey with libraries began in her childhood, filled with memories of exploring vast collections of books and resources, sparking a lifelong love for the institution.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Outreach Assistant

Zodiac Sign: Virgo

Nickname: Shan

Length of Service at JKPL: 2 Years

Chamorro word of the day: Metgot hao- To be strong

Meaning: Graced by Yahweh; God is gracious. Shanice is a girl's name of Hebrew origin, meaning “graced by Yahweh” and “God is gracious.” These meanings are great for religious families and those who adore and appreciate their faith daily.

<https://www.thebump.com/b/shanice-baby-name>



Shanice finds immense joy in her work, viewing it as an opportunity to give back to the community. She takes pride in assisting library visitors, ensuring they find what they need and feel welcomed. The library's friendly and family-oriented environment is a significant draw for her, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

A particularly meaningful aspect of her work is the library's commitment to inclusivity. Shanice deeply appreciates the programs designed for children with disabilities and the special resources provided to support them and their families. This dedication to creating a safe and comfortable environment for everyone, especially those with unique needs, has shown her the profound compassion at the heart of the library's mission.





Outside of her professional life, Shanice cherishes her time with family. She finds inspiration in her children, who motivate her to be the best version of herself. Another passion of hers is cooking, where she expresses her creativity and nurtures her loved ones.

Shanice's story is one of community, compassion, and a deep appreciation for the power of libraries to enrich lives. Her dedication makes the Children's Library a welcoming and supportive place for all.

*"Storms never last, it maybe hard now. But it will all get better at the end."--
Shanice Guerrero*





**Carrie Mae
Camacho**

Carrie

“ *The success of every women should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up.* ”
— *Serena Williams*

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Outreach Assistant

Zodiac Sign: Scorpio

Nickname: Chibi

Length of Service at JKPL: 5 Years

If you were a character from a book, who or what would you be?

Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh

What is your Chamorro or Carolinian word of the day? esóór - Carolinian,

meaning: There isn't, there aren't,

NOTHING!

The name Carrie has its origins in America and is derived from the Old Germanic name Charlotte. It is of English and American descent and is often used as a diminutive form of the names Caroline, Catherine, or Carol. The name Carrie is a symbol of freedom, as it carries the meaning of free in its American origin.

Celebrating Our Bookmobile Outreach Assistant: Carrie Camacho

Meet our dedicated Library Outreach Assistant, Carrie Camacho, a cornerstone of our Bookmobile program, who brings joy and knowledge to our community. With over five years of invaluable library experience, she has transformed lives, one book at a time.

-[https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/carrie#:~:text=The%20name%20Carrie%20has%20its,free%20in%20its%20American%20origin.,"sunrise light" in Korean](https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/carrie#:~:text=The%20name%20Carrie%20has%20its,free%20in%20its%20American%20origin.,)

Carrie's journey began not as a child frequenting library halls, but as a volunteer. She recalls her first impression vividly: "I have never been to the Library as a child, but my first time at the library was as a volunteer, and I remember my initial thoughts were that it was so cold and very quiet." This unique beginning shaped her perspective and fueled her passion for making the library accessible to everyone.

She finds immense joy in her work, particularly in the Bookmobile program. "I love bringing our services to the community and reaching people who aren't able to come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. I love seeing their smiles when we pull up and when they borrow books!" Her dedication shines through every interaction, as she bridges the gap between the library and those it serves.

She has learned many valuable lessons along the way, including the importance of teamwork. "Teamwork makes the team work," she often says, highlighting her belief in collaboration and mutual support. And, with a touch of humor, she adds, "Dreamworks make good movies!"

Her commitment and enthusiasm make her an indispensable part of our library family. We are incredibly fortunate to have her on our team, bringing the magic of books to our community.





Kaleina Carmen Reyes

Kaleina

Kaleina Reyes: A Story of Service and Discovery

For Kaleina Reyes, the library has always been a place of wonder and discovery. Her earliest memory is of elementary school trips to the local library, where she would eagerly search for the "I Spy" books, captivated by the intricate details and hidden objects. These moments sparked a lifelong love for the world of books and the knowledge they held. It wasn't just about finding the hidden pictures; it was about the joy of exploring, the quiet excitement of uncovering something new, and the sense of being part of a larger story.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Assistant I

Zodiac Sign: Cancer

Length of Service at JKPL: 5 years

What is your Chamorro or Carolinian word of the day? Ataktak- Chamorro word or Lessor mwaimwai- good morning

A feminine name of Greek origin meaning "beautiful voice" Hawaiian: The name Kalena comes from the Hawaiian language and means "pure". Hebrew: In Hebrew, the name Kaleena can mean "crowned" or "pure".

“*There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.*”
— Michelle Obama



Kaleina's journey led her to become a Library Assistant 1 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, a role she embraces with enthusiasm and dedication. One of the aspects she cherishes most about her job is the daily opportunity to meet new people outside the library. Each interaction is a chance to connect, learn, and contribute to someone's journey. She believes that the library is more than just a building filled with books; it's a community hub where stories are shared, ideas are exchanged, and connections are forged.

What truly draws Kaleina to the library is the fundamental principle of free access to information and services. She sees the library as a vital resource, a place where everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can explore, learn, and grow. This belief fuels her passion for her work and her commitment to making the library a welcoming and accessible space for all.

Prior to her move to the Administrative Services Division, Kaleina was stationed in the Front Circulation. There, she recognized for her efficiency and excellent customer service skills and quickly advanced to supervisor roles. When a position opened up in the Administrative Services Division, Kaleina was quickly recruited. There she plays a crucial role in the smooth operation of the library. Her responsibilities include routing documents, assisting in Front Circulation, assisting in handling payments, and supporting the Friends of the Library, a group dedicated to enhancing the library's resources and programs. Additionally, she proudly serves as the representative of the Public Service Recognition Week, highlighting the importance of public service and the contributions of library staff.



Kaleina Reyes' story is one of passion, dedication, and a deep appreciation for the power of libraries. From her early fascination with "I Spy" books to her current role as a vital member of Team JKPL, she embodies the spirit of service and the joy of discovery. Her commitment to providing access to information and fostering community makes her an inspiration to all who have the pleasure of knowing her. She reminds us that libraries are not just places to find books, but places to find ourselves, connect with others, and explore the endless possibilities that knowledge offers.





Caitlyn Joan Lieto Crisostomo

Caitlyn

Caitlyn Crisostomo: A Dedicated Library Champion

Caitlyn Crisostomo's journey at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is a testament to dedication, passion, and community service. Twice honored as Employee of the Year, Caitlyn's story is one of growth, commitment, and a deep love for the library's role in enriching lives.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Assistant 1

Zodiac Sign: Cancer

Nickname: Cait

Length of Service at JKPL: 6 Years

Chamorro word of the day: Flores-Flower

The name Caitlyn finds its roots in Irish Gaelic, derived from the original form Caitln, meaning pure. This ancient moniker holds a significant place in history, resonating with the rich cultural heritage of Ireland. Historically, the name's prominence can be traced back to the renowned Irish folkloric figure of St. Caitln, celebrated for her virtuous character and unwavering faith. The name's association with purity reflects the Irish spiritual values of integrity, morality, and devotion.

<https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/caitlyn#:~:text=The%20name%20Caitlyn%20finds%20its,rich%20cultural%20heritage%20of%20Ireland.>

“*The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble.*”

—Serena Williams



Caitlyn's connection to the library began as an intern, a role that quickly blossomed into a full-time position as a Library Assistant 1. Her journey is a shining example of how dedication and enthusiasm can lead to remarkable achievements. The recognition of Employee of the Year, awarded not once but twice, underscores her invaluable contributions to the library and the community it serves.

Caitlyn's earliest library memory is a vivid one. She recalls the excitement of picking up a book titled "The California Gold Rush" at the Tanapag Elementary School Library. This early experience ignited a lifelong appreciation for the power of books and the magic of libraries. This foundational memory shaped her career path and her dedication to providing the same kind of magical experiences for others.

What truly draws Caitlyn to the library is its vibrant role as a community hub. She appreciates the diverse programs, activities, and events that the library offers, which bring people together and foster a sense of belonging. Working at the library has allowed her to explore her creative side, as she has become adept at planning engaging programs and events. Her skills in crafting and creativity have become essential tools in her role, enhancing the library's offerings and making them more appealing to the community.



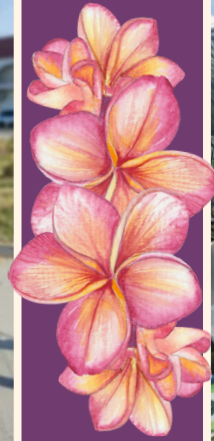
The hospitality of the staff and the wide range of services provided are other key factors that keep Caitlyn passionate about her work. She values the welcoming atmosphere and the dedication of her colleagues to serving the public. The library's commitment to providing resources and support to the community resonates deeply with her.

Caitlyn's role is multifaceted and dynamic. Her responsibilities include serving as a personal assistant to the Library Director, handling various administrative duties, managing the cash register, and organizing birthday celebrations for library staff. She also supervises the Teen Services Department and the Video TeleConference Room. Additionally, she manages reservations for library facility usage, including tours and class visits.

Caitlyn's ability to juggle these diverse responsibilities with efficiency and enthusiasm has made her an indispensable member of the library team. Her contributions extend beyond her job description, as she consistently goes the extra mile to ensure the smooth operation of the library and the satisfaction of its patrons.



Caitlyn Crisostomo's story is one of dedication, growth, and a genuine love for the library. Her journey from intern to award-winning Library Assistant 1 is an inspiration to all who value community service and the power of libraries. Her contributions to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library have made a lasting impact, and her commitment to serving the community continues to shine brightly.



Bergitt Maratita Bergitt

Bergitt Maratita: A Heart for Service at the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library

Meet Bergitt Maratita, a dedicated Library Assistant 1 who has been a cornerstone of the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on the beautiful island of Rota for eight years.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Assistant I

Zodiac Sign: Gemini

Length of Service at JKPL: 8 years

What is your Chamorro or Carolinian word of the day?

Bendision - Blessed - Chamorro word

The name Byrgitt has its roots in Scandinavian languages, particularly Swedish and Norwegian. It is derived from the Old Norse name Birgitta, which is linked to the word berg, meaning mountain. This etymological connection suggests a sense of strength, stability, and permanence, traits often associated with mountainous landscapes. The name is often interpreted to symbolize resilience and fortitude, reflecting the rugged nature of Scandinavian geography.

<https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/byrgitt>



“ Be kind
whenever
possible it is
always possible . ”
-- Dalai
Lama





Her passion for community and love of literature shine through in her daily work, making her an invaluable asset to the library and the island.

Bergitt's journey with books and libraries began in her childhood. One of her earliest and fondest memories is attending a book fair. This experience sparked a lifelong appreciation for the world of literature and the joy of discovery that books provide. Her mother has always been a significant source of inspiration, instilling in her the values of kindness, service, and dedication.

For eight years, Bergitt has served the community of Rota with unwavering dedication. As a Library Assistant 1, she goes above and beyond to ensure that every visitor feels welcome and supported. Her role extends beyond the library walls as she also operates the Rota Bookmobile, bringing the joy of reading to even more people across the island.

What truly drives Bergitt is her desire to help others. "What draws me to the library is that it is a place which extends a helping hand to anyone who walks in the library," she shares. She finds immense joy in assisting community members of all ages, from young children to elderly residents, who walk through the library doors. Her genuine care and willingness to assist make the library a welcoming and supportive space for everyone.



Over her years of service, Bergitt has learned valuable lessons about community and connection. "One thing I learned working in the library is lending a hand to everyone needed & lending an ear to every children," she reflects. She understands the importance of listening and providing support, creating a space where everyone feels heard and valued.

Bergitt also shares some personal wisdom: "Be the person you are and love yourself. Always choose kindness and pray often." These words encapsulate her approach to life and work, emphasizing self-acceptance, compassion, and faith.

Bergitt's contributions to the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library and the community of Rota are immeasurable. Her dedication to service, genuine care for others, and love of literature make her a beloved figure. She not only provides access to books and resources but also creates a warm and welcoming environment where everyone feels valued.





Bergitt continues to inspire and uplift those around her. Her work at the library and with the Bookmobile exemplifies the power of community service and the importance of fostering a love of reading. As she looks to the future, she remains committed to serving the people of Rota with kindness and dedication, ensuring that the library remains a vital resource for generations to come.

“ What draws me to the library is that it is a place which extends a helping hand to anyone who walks in the library. ”
 -- Bergitt Maratita



Beth Rita B. Demapan

Beth

Inspiring Lives: The Story of Beth B. Demapan

For eight years, Beth Demapan has been a cornerstone of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, serving as its dedicated Technical Services Librarian. Her journey, however, extends far beyond the library's walls, woven with a deep-seated passion for community service and a profound love for the transformative power of libraries. Beth Demapan is more than just a librarian; she is a beacon of inspiration. Her journey, deeply rooted in a love for books and family, illuminates the profound impact libraries have on individuals and communities.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Technical Services Librarian

Zodiac Sign: Cancer

Nickname: Befina, Bef, Befi, Bethie

Length of Service at JKPL: 8 Years

If you were a character from a book, who or what would you be?

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Chamorro word of the day: Na Para- Stop it!

The name Beth originates from English and holds profound meaning as it represents one's dedication and submission to a divine power. Derived from the biblical Hebrew name Elisheba, Beth derives its etymology from the words el meaning God and sheba signifying oath. Consequently, the name Beth epitomizes the faithful commitment of an individual to the divine. This name has embedded itself within the annals of history, holding a significant presence across different cultures and time periods.

<https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/beth>

“

Do not stop thinking of life as an adventure. You have no security unless you can live bravely, excitingly, imaginatively; unless you can choose a challenge instead of competence.

”

--Eleanor Roosevelt



Born into a family that cherished stories, Beth's earliest memory of a library wasn't a public institution, but a special corner of her home. A section of their patio was transformed into a personal library, lined with floor-to-ceiling shelves. These shelves were filled with her father's extensive collection, spanning history, classics, biographies, and engineering. She remembers a room teeming with books of all shapes and sizes, from small pocket books to large, heavy volumes. Growing up, books were always accessible, a testament to her family's love for reading and storytelling. Stories at family gatherings were a regular occurrence, nurturing a deep appreciation for literature in Beth and her siblings.

Beth's first experience with a public library was at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. She was struck by its spaciousness, cleanliness, and beauty. It was there she encountered the wonders of dial-up internet, a sound that remains a nostalgic memory. Her experiences at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library solidified her view of libraries as welcoming spaces filled with endless, free resources for everyone, accessible with just a library card. The more she visited public libraries, the more she found them to be safe havens and welcoming spaces with amazing people working there. This belief fueled her passion for her work as a Technical Services Librarian and help her community even more.

Beyond her professional life, Beth is a devoted daughter, mom and wife. She cherishes spending quality time with her loved ones, finding joy and inspiration in their company. Her daughter, Alexandra, holds a special place in her heart and serves as a constant source of motivation. Alexandra's spirit and perspective enrich Beth's life, reminding her of the importance of nurturing curiosity and a love for learning.



Before her tenure at the library, Beth honed her skills and deepened her commitment to community engagement through diverse roles. Notably, she served as a Program Coordinator for the Motherread/Fatheread CNMI Family Literacy Program at the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. This experience ignited her passion for literacy and access to education, laying the groundwork for her future role in the library. Her time in private businesses and nonprofits further enriched her perspective, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and resourcefulness in serving the community.

As the Technical Services Librarian, Beth is a member of the Library Management Team. She works on grant writing, marketing and design of library promotional materials, maintaining the library's social media account, serving as a PIO, supporting the library's administrative services, collection development, record keeping, cashier duties, Program Manager for the Center for the Book, library policy, fundraising, advises the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and assisting wherever she can in the library.

Beth's affection for libraries runs deep. She views them as more than just repositories of books; they are vibrant hubs of knowledge, connection, and growth. She marvels at the vast array of resources libraries offer, from technology and movies to ebooks, fitness classes, and educational databases. She recognizes the vital role libraries play in providing access to information for underserved communities, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to learn and thrive.

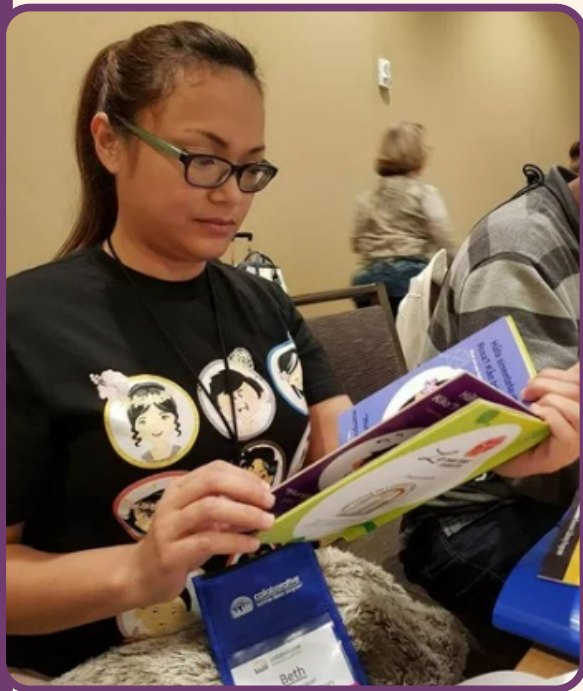
"Libraries are beautiful places," Beth says, "where people can belong. They are places of knowledge and access. They provide a wealth of resources for our community!" She emphasizes the many invaluable lessons libraries impart: responsibility, respect, and the importance of giving back. From cooking and reading classes to computer training and special events, libraries offer a wealth of opportunities for learning and personal enrichment.



Beth expresses deep gratitude for her colleagues at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, whom she considers her "second family." She admires their humility, hard work, and unwavering dedication to serving the community. She feels privileged to be part of a team that shares her passion for libraries and their transformative potential.

Beth's journey highlights the transformative power of libraries. From her childhood home library to her professional role at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, books have always been a central part of her life. Her story is a reminder of the vital role libraries play in providing access to knowledge, fostering community, and inspiring generations. Her dedication to her work and her family makes her a truly inspirational figure.

“ Never say 'no' to adventures. ”
-- Ian Fleming





Leoralynn Sablan Terlaje Leora

Leoralynn Terlaje: A Decade of Dedication to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

For ten remarkable years, Leora Terlaje has been a cornerstone of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, serving with unwavering dedication and a passion that touches the lives of everyone she encounters. As the Bookmobile Supervisor and Library Assistant III, Leora's commitment extends beyond her official duties, shaping her into a beloved figure within the community. Her journey at the library is not just a story of employment, but a testament to her love for service, her appreciation for knowledge, and her profound connection to the people of the Mariana Islands.

“ Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud. ”
— Maya Angelou.



TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Library Assistant III

Zodiac Sign: Virgo

Nickname: Leora

Length of Service at JKPL: 10 Years

If you were a character from a book, who or what would you be?

Charlotte from Charlottes web

Chamorro word of the day: Diskuti-to discuss

The name Leora is of Hebrew origin and means "light unto me" or "I have light"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leora#:~:text=Leora%20\(In%20Hebrew%20%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%94\)%20is,or%20%22%20have%20light%22.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leora#:~:text=Leora%20(In%20Hebrew%20%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%94)%20is,or%20%22%20have%20light%22.)



Leora's role is multifaceted, encompassing the management of the vital Bookmobile service, which brings the joy of reading to those who might otherwise lack access, and the supervision of the Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library branch. In each capacity, she demonstrates an extraordinary level of care and attention, ensuring that resources are readily available and that the library remains a welcoming space for all.

Leora's inspiration comes from her mother, whose values of hard work and compassion have clearly influenced her own approach to life and work. This familial influence is evident in her interactions with library patrons and colleagues alike. It is this genuine care that transforms her workplace into more than just a building filled with books; it becomes a hub of community connection and personal growth.

One of Leora's most cherished memories at the library is the simple yet powerful image of being surrounded by "books galore!" This memory encapsulates the essence of what the library means to her—a sanctuary of stories, learning, and imagination. She marvels at the library's ability to draw "everyone and everything to its doors," recognizing it as a unifying force that enriches the community.

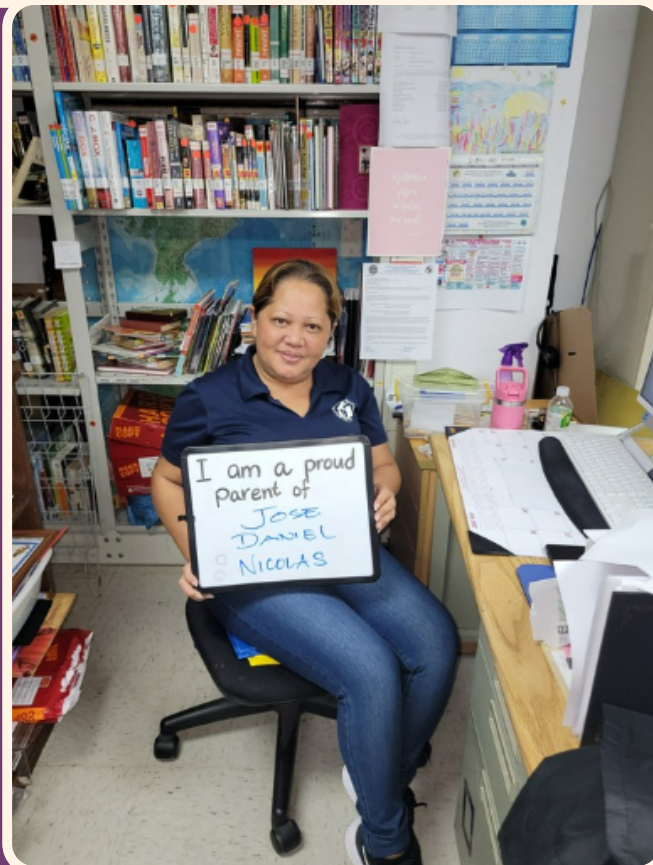


Leora lives by the quote, "Fix others crowns," a philosophy that speaks volumes about her character. She is a humble, loving woman who consistently seeks to uplift those around her. Her colleagues and library patrons often remark on her positive energy and the genuine interest she takes in their lives. Leora's approach to leadership is one of encouragement and support, always ready to lend a hand or offer a kind word.

Leora is also a certified Instructor in the Adult Course and Children's Story Exploring of the Motherread/Fatheread CNMI Family Literacy Program. She is also a Transforming Teen Services T3 trainer under the Young Adult Library Services Association. She eagerly helps in every division that needs assistance, always trying to find a way to make a difference.

Through her decade of service, Leora has learned countless lessons, but one stands out above all: the importance of being passionate about the community she serves. This passion drives her work and fuels her dedication. She understands that the library is not just a repository of books but a vital part of the social fabric, a place where individuals come to learn, grow, and connect with one another.

Leora Terlaje's contributions to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library have left an indelible mark. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to service make her a truly praiseworthy individual.





As Bookmobile Supervisor and Library Assistant III, she has not only fulfilled her professional duties but has also become a beacon of warmth and kindness within the community. Her ten years of service are a testament to her belief in the power of libraries to transform lives and bring people together. The library is fortunate to have Leora, and the community is enriched by her presence.

“Fix other’s crowns.”

—Leoralynnn Terlaje



**Celina C.
Foreman**

Celina

Celina Camacho Foreman: A Story of Books, Blooms, and Community

In the heart of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, where the rustle of pages mingles with the excited whispers of children, stands Celina Camacho Foreman. For two decades, she has been a beacon of knowledge, a friend to young readers, and a pillar of her community. As a Children's Librarian II, Celina's story is not just about books and shelves; it's a vibrant tale of passion, dedication, and the joy of giving back.

TEAM JKPL STATS

Position: Children's Librarian II

Zodiac Sign: Pisces

Nickname: Cel

Length of Service at JKPL: 20 Years

What do you like during your spare time? Baking and Gardening

Chamorro word of the day: Si yu'us ma'ase (Thank you)

The name Celina, derived from the Latin word caelum meaning Heaven, has a rich historical background that dates back to ancient Roman times. In Roman mythology, Caelus was the personification of the heavenly realm, often depicted as the sky or the heavens. Over time, the feminine form of Caelus, Celina, emerged as a popular given name among Roman families. The name Celina embodies celestial beauty and conveys an ethereal sense of grace and purity.

<https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/celina#:~:text=The%20name%20Celina%2C%20derived%20from,the%20sky%20or%20the%20heavens.>



“*Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.*
—*Maya Angelou.*”



Celina's journey with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library began 20 years ago. Over the years, she has experienced every facet of library life. From the bustling Front Circulation desk, where she greeted patrons with a warm smile, to the quiet corners of the Reference section, where she helped researchers uncover hidden gems, Celina has seen it all. Her expertise extends to Cataloging and Processing, ensuring every book finds its rightful place, and even the adventurous Bookmobile, bringing stories to those who couldn't reach the library -- to places like community centers, schools, villages, outreach events, and Head Start Centers.

But it is in the Children's Library where Celina truly shines. Leading one of the busiest divisions, she creates a welcoming space where imaginations soar and young minds blossom. Her work is more than just lending books; it's about fostering a love of reading and learning that lasts a lifetime.

Celina's commitment to education goes beyond the library walls. She is a certified instructor in the Motherread/Fatheread CNMI Family Literacy Program for Adults and Children. Through this program, she empowers families to read together, strengthening bonds and building a foundation for lifelong learning.



Always ready to lend a hand, Celina's willingness to help is well-known. She leads multiple events, bringing stories to life through interactive activities and engaging programs. Recognizing the importance of mentorship, she also supervises the Teen volunteer program, guiding young people and instilling in them a sense of responsibility and service.

Celina believes that empathy and communication are vital in her work. She listens with an open heart and speaks with kindness, creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued.

Celina's passion for giving back extends to her community, especially through her work as a catechist at her church. Sharing her faith and guiding others brings her immense joy.



When she's not surrounded by books or community members, Celina can be found in her garden, tending to her vibrant orchids. Her green thumb has led to the cultivation of hundreds of these beautiful flowers, a testament to her patience and nurturing spirit. She also enjoys baking, creating delicious treats that bring smiles to those around her.

Celina's love for books is matched only by her love for her family, who serve as her greatest inspiration. They are her anchor and her motivation, reminding her of the importance of connection and support.

Her favorite quote, "The best thing to hold onto in life is each other" by Audrey Hepburn, encapsulates her philosophy. It's a reminder that at the heart of everything she does, it's the relationships we build and the love we share that truly matter.

Celina Camacho Foreman's story is a testament to the power of passion and dedication. Her 20 years of service at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library have touched countless lives, and her contributions to her community will continue to inspire for years to come. She is a true gem, a librarian who not only shares stories but also creates them, one book, one bloom, and one act of kindness at a time.





Erlinda C. Naputi Lyn

Erlinda Cabrera Naputi: A Beacon of Passion and Dedication for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Erlinda Cabrera Naputi's journey with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is nothing short of inspirational. With 33 years of unwavering dedication, she has not only witnessed the library's growth but has been a driving force behind its transformation into a vital community hub. Her story is one of passion, resilience, and an unyielding commitment to serving others.

TEAM JKPL STATS

- Position:** Library Director
- Zodiac Sign:** Virgo
- Nickname:** Ti Bisnesmu! or Lyn
- Length of Service at JKPL:** 33 Years
- What do you like during your spare time?** Spending time with my family
- Chamorro word of the day:** Puru Kako / All talk, no action

The name Erlinda has its roots in both Spanish and English, derived from elements meaning noble and sacred maiden. This combination conveys a sense of dignity and holiness, making it an appealing choice for parents seeking a name that embodies strength and virtue. Erlinda is often associated with qualities such as grace, integrity, and a noble spirit, making it a name that carries significant meaning.

<https://www.ancestry.com/first-name-meaning/erlinda>

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

— Helen Keller

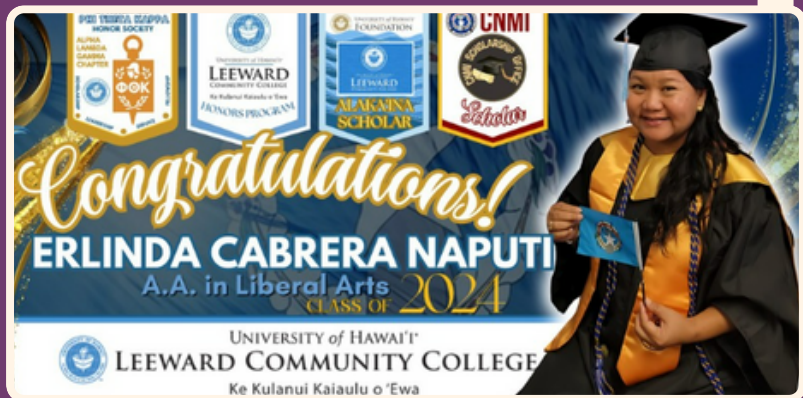


Erlinda's first library memory is a vivid one: the grand opening of the Fernando M. Benavente Library Memorial Library or San Antonio Branch Library in San Antonio. This early exposure sparked a lifelong connection to the world of books and learning. Little did she know then, that she would go on to dedicate her life to fostering that same love for knowledge in others.

Starting right out of high school to support her grandparents, Erlinda began her library journey at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This initial step marked the beginning of a remarkable career that would see her wear many hats and touch countless lives.

For Erlinda, working at the library is about more than just books; it's about the community. "It is the community we serve," she says, "and the awesome uplifting spirit of our JKPL team!" This sentiment encapsulates her deep connection to the people she serves and the collaborative environment she fosters.

Erlinda described how the library was established, giving special thanks to two indigenous businessmen the late Jose "Joeten" Camacho Tenorio and Manuel "Kiyu" Seman Villagomez, who loved their community and saw a need for a public library, so they donated about eight hundred thousand [dollars] each to build a library along with numerous donors and contributors and businessmen like the late Tony Pellegrino, Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, the Younis family [the late Abed Younis]—they donated funding to have a public library for our community, and many others in our community whose tireless efforts helped lay the foundation for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.



Erlinda's career trajectory at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is a testament to her hard work and dedication. Starting as a Part-Time Clerk Typist, she progressed through various roles, including Full-time Library Assistant, Computer Specialist, Front Circulation Supervisor, Children's Librarian II, and Acting Library Director, before finally becoming the Library Director.

One of the most profound lessons Erlinda has learned over the years is compassion. This empathy shines through in her work, making the library a welcoming and supportive space for everyone.

She attributes her knowledge and growth to the amazing team she has worked with and continues to work with. For her, the most rewarding aspect of her job is the opportunity to serve the community. She believes that libraries play a vital role in providing access to information, resources, and educational opportunities for people of all ages.



Erlinda is particularly proud of the library's outreach programs, which bring books and educational materials to underserved communities. In FY2024, the Bookmobile reached over 65,818 patrons, extending the library's reach across the island.

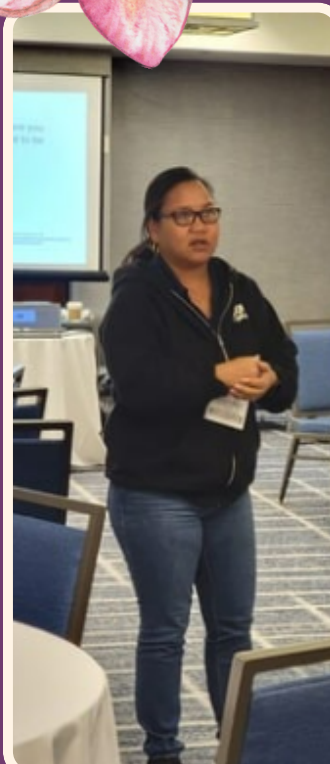
The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is also undergoing monumental developments, including a \$1.2M solar power system project and a \$0.4M furniture upgrade for the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota public libraries. Additionally, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library received national recognition from the American Library Association's American Libraries magazine for its Sensory Corner for families with children with autism and special needs.



Erlinda credits her family, especially her husband Martin, a Super Senior Library Volunteer and President of the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, for supporting her throughout her library career. She shares a powerful message of faith and perseverance:

"We learn in life that you know we will come across hardships and sadness and just have faith and trust in the Lord that he is guiding us in the right direction... I hope that my story... will inspire others, that with hard work, dedication, and passion, your dreams can come true regardless where you are at and what you do in life... as long as you continue to move forward every little step there is just continue to move forward, as long as it's in that direction that you are going to, that you will reach the top."

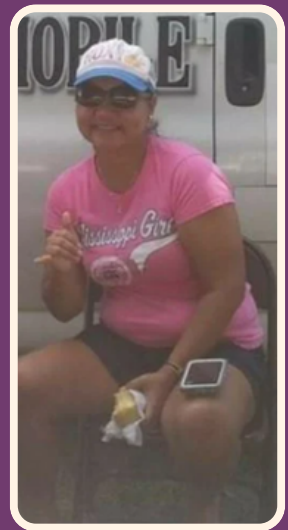
For aspiring librarians, Erlinda offers simple yet profound advice: "Be passionate about your job. Love what you do!"



Not only is she the Library Director of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, but Erlinda C. Naputi is also the 1st female President from the Northern Mariana Islands to lead the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA), the Pacific region's leading library, archive, and museum association.

Erlinda C. Naputi's passion for her job is evident in her dedication to serving the community and her commitment to lifelong learning. She is an inspiration to her colleagues and patrons alike, and she is a shining example of the positive impact that libraries can have on their communities.





Remember, Woman

by Reese Leyva

Remember, Woman, you were born
life giver, miracle creator, magic maker.

You were born with the heart of a thousand mothers,
open and fearless and sweet.

You were born with the fire of Queens & conquerors,
warriress blood you bleed.

You were born with the wisdom of sages & shamans,
no wound can you not heal.

You were born the teller of your own tale,
before none should you kneel.

You were born with an immeasurable soul
reaching out past infinity.

You were born to desire with passion, abandon,
and to name your own destiny.


Remember, Woman, remember
you are more than you can see.

Remember, Woman, remember
you are loved endlessly.

Remember, Woman, your power and grace,
the depth of your deep sea heart.

Never forget you are Woman, divine,
as you have been from the start.





FY2025 WOMEN

*of the Public Libraries in the
Northern Mariana Islands*

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