As managing editor of guampedia.com, Shannon Murphy shares more than information about Guam. She also shares the Håfa Adai spirit. “We have a feature on every page of Guampedia that invites users to contact us if they need more information or help with something,” Shannon says. “We answer their questions and help them in any way we can, usually with research help. We constantly encourage people to learn about Guam and Chamorro culture to appreciate the beauty of what we have.”

Guampedia.com is an online resource about the history of Guam and the Mariana Islands as well as the Chamorro culture. It has a wide range of materials, from encyclopedic entries to historic and contemporary photographs. Even before guampedia.com, Shannon helped to keep people informed. She worked as a reporter and editor at the Pacific Daily News before becoming chief of staff for former Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero. She and Carlotta later co-founded the Ayuda Foundation, a regional health support organization.

The Håfa Adai spirit encompasses all of the special qualities of the Chamorro people, she says. “It means being welcoming and friendly, on a daily basis.” Chamorros still practice the Håfa Adai spirit. Shannon says, “Others can learn it and practice it too, as I try to do. ‘My family moved to Agat, Guam when I was 13,’ Shannon says. “I am 63 now. I was married to a Chamorro and have three Chamorro children and 11 Chamorro grandchildren. Culture can be learned, and shared with our visitors.”

As a longtime resident of Guam, Shannon has embraced the Håfa Adai spirit. Her efforts to help others learn about Guam history and Chamorro heritage show her dedication to the Håfa Adai Pledge.

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