

DESPERATION



WRITER'S CORNER

By Darien Gee

Writing Exercise of the Week: Write for 10 minutes about a near miss, something that almost happened (an accident, winning class president, being smacked in the face) but didn't.

For several years our family home-schooled. Those years were lean, not just financially, but in terms of our available time, our available brain power. We had three young kids, two businesses, a mountain of debt, and a 1,200 square foot rental in which our work, our homeschooling, our meals, and everything took place. My husband and I would pass each other in the narrow hallway, each on different shifts, different sleeping schedules. I thought for a long time that it would never end or that I might go crazy. I wrote my first four books under those conditions, often in the middle of night on a cheap desk or rickety camp table, sometimes with a fussy child on my lap.

"Don't confuse desperation with inspiration," I would tell people who asked me how I did it. It was kind of a joke, but not really. They would be startled at my response, because desperation seems like a terrible way to write, much less

how to navigate. But 10 years later I found my old manuscript and told my husband, "I think I could write another."

We desperately needed the money and I needed a creative outlet—I could feel my brain and spirit going to mush. I was desperate to try anything.

I wrote the novel, found an agent and started on my next book. I didn't wait for inspiration to arrive, but sought it out. I had reservations and fears about that first book (and every one thereafter—we writers are a neurotic bunch), but I forced myself to step out of the way and let it go into the world.

There are no excuses with desperation, no discussions, no pros nor cons. Desperation doesn't have the time. Desperation doesn't wait for things to get lined up or the right opportunity to appear. Desperation is a deep, burning desire for things to be different,

that final cry in the dark. It means that things are ready to change and you are now willing to do something you weren't willing to do before. Desperation is so full of hopelessness that I was actually able to find hope, because what did I have to lose?

If you're feeling desperate, take heart. Maybe it's time to let go of some old thinking or beliefs you've been holding on to. And maybe it'll give you that final push to do the thing you've always wanted to do.

This fall Darien will be teaching memoir, writing and publishing classes through Waimea Community Education. Visit waimeaeducation.com for more information.

Darien Gee is a national bestselling author based in Waimea. Her most recent novel is The Avalon Ladies Scrapbooking Society. She also writes under the name Mia King. Visit her at dariengee.com or miaking.com.

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to live. And they're right.

But what desperation did, at least for me, was help me get out of my own way. I'd wanted to be a writer since the fourth grade. In my heart, I knew

ready? Did I really want this to be my first book? I panicked.

I didn't sign the agreement. I put the manuscript on the shelf to collect dust. I went back to the life I knew, the one I knew

Possible North Hawaii Community Hospital and Queen's Medical Center partnership to top Aug. 1 Waimea town meeting

The possible partnership between North Hawaii Community Hospital and Queen's Medical Center will top the Waimea Community Association's town meeting agenda at 5:15 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 1, at the Waimea School cafeteria. There will be time for questions and comments from the community.

Also on the agenda will be briefings from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the state's Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District. The two

agencies facilitate important partnerships with other federal, state and county agencies, private land owners, managers and their lessees to conserve, sustain and improve natural resources.

NRCS focuses on private and other non-federal lands and MKSWCD focuses on agricultural lands, regardless of ownership. MKSWCD also assists with implementation of the county grading ordinance and the state's polluted runoff control program. It takes available technical, financial and educational resources

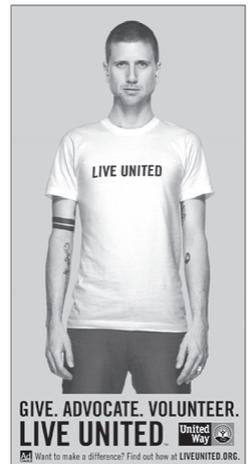
and focuses them to meet the needs of the local land users for the conservation of soil, water, and other related environmental resources.

NRCS, in implementing the 2008 Farm Bill, offers farmers and ranchers financial incentives to voluntarily conserve natural resources on privately and publicly owned lands. Its conservation provisions help reduce erosion, protect streams, rivers, and oceans, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality.

Presenting on behalf of NRCS will

be the district conservationist at the Waimea Service Center, Matthew Wung. Margaret Fowler will present on behalf of MKSWCD.

All are invited to WCA town meetings and there are no membership dues. Starbucks will provide coffee, for a suggested food pantry donation. The WCA board asks the community to bring either non-perishable food items, or cash or check contributions. For information, call WCA President Sherman Warner at 885-1725 or visit www.WaimeaTown.org.



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