

Share your writing with others



WRITER'S CORNER

By Darien Gee

Quote of the Week:

"Surround yourself with people who respect and treat you well." *Claudia Black*

Prompt of the Week: Write about a time someone said yes.

I'd like to lead off with a question: are you writing? Even if you didn't choose to join our 2012 Summer Writing Challenge of writing a page a day or ten minutes a day until August 2 (for more information look at the June 7 North Hawaii News issue online), are you doing some kind of writing? A journal? A letter to an old friend? Something for work? A poem? A novel?

Whatever you might be working on, I'd like to talk a bit about sharing your work in progress with others. Sharing your work in progress is tricky

for writers, because often we want people to love what we've written. Sometimes they do, but sometimes they don't. And then we're crushed and think we have no talent at all (some of us writers are a bit on the neurotic side.)

Here's the thing. If you choose to share your work with someone, you have to be clear as to why you're sharing it and why you're sharing it with them (instead of someone else.) What are you expecting in return? If you want feedback, tell them what kind of feedback you're looking for. Positive feedback is when they tell you what they like about the piece. That's it. Nice things only, please. Helpful feedback or critique is when they get specific about what works and what doesn't. Some people can go a little nuts here and love to look for problems. Tread carefully when asking for this kind of feedback and make sure you're asking someone who knows how to give the kind of feedback you're looking for.

Share your work wisely, and with people who respect what you're doing. If you're looking for the pat on the back, don't wait for someone to do that for you. We all like to get confirmation that we're on the right track, but don't spend too much time looking outside of yourself for assurances. Give yourself a pat on the back, and then get back to writing. If your story is finished and ready to be shared, do it but without

expectation. And if someone is negative or unhelpful or cruel, don't share your work with them again. You don't have to delete them from your speed dial (and remember what I said about making sure you have asked the right people for feedback—don't set someone up for failure if reading isn't their cup of tea.) Just find the right people to share your work with. You only need two or three.

If you have the opportunity to read your work aloud (or have someone else read your work for you aloud,) do it. You'll hear what works and what doesn't. Ann Patchett, author of "State of Wonder" and "Bel Canto," reads all of her novels to a friend once they're finished. I use Alex, the automated voice on my computer (standard for Apple users), to read passages and whole chapters. There are lots of ways to do this, but the bottom line is to write and share your work in progress thoughtfully. Choose your readers well and be specific as to what you need from them—don't be open-ended about it.

Until next time, write well!

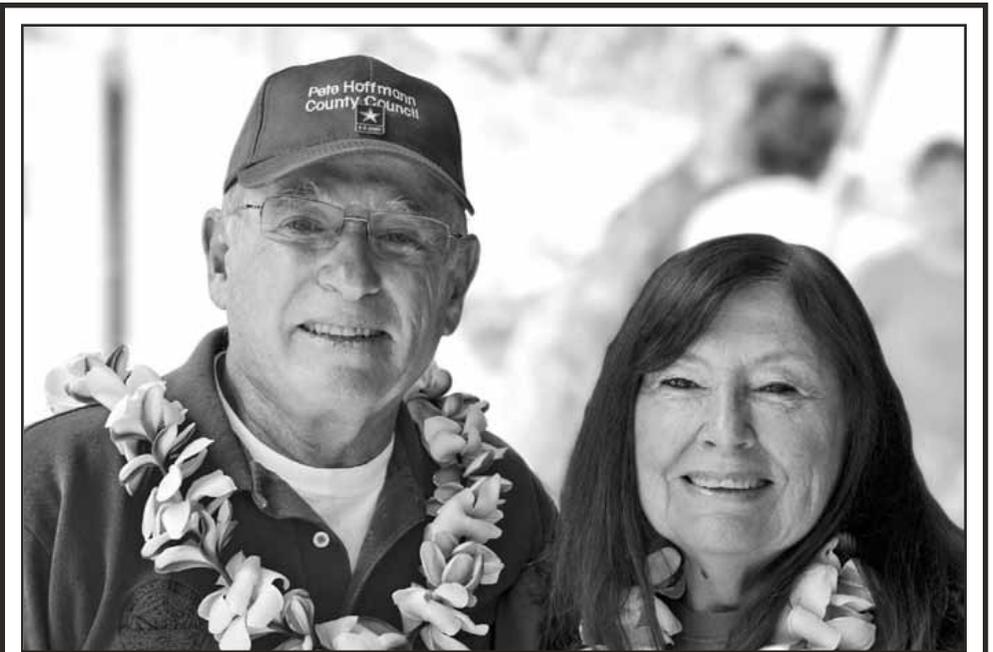
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Go Skate Day celebration



Ewelei'lai-kalaniaka Wong, 7, skates on Saturday, during Go Skate Day at Kamehameha Park in Kapaau. (PHOTO BY ANNA PACHECO | SPECIAL TO NHN)



Pete & Joan Hoffmann Invite You To Talk-Story With Malama Solomon

At their home in Waikoloa

68-1783 Lua Kula Place

3-6 p.m., Sun., July 1

Light refreshments

No RSVP

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Rescue Me

As an 11-lb. Chihuahua/Terrier-mix, I'm not sure why they named me Fatso? Doesn't bother me though. I'm still a people-loving mellow kinda guy. And like my friends around here, I'm just looking for someone to love.



ADOPT YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

All adopted animals receive license/registration, collar, micro chip ID and will be spayed or neutered.



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