

State Senate, mayor and prosecutor candidates featured at 'Speed Dating' Forum

Special to NHN

The Waimea Community Association meeting will start earlier than usual, at 4 p.m. on July 12, and will feature a second 'speed dating' voter education candidate forum at Waimea School cafeteria.

The July 12 forum will spotlight three major races – State Senate District 4 (all of North Hawaii,) Hawaii County mayor and County prosecutor – a total of eight candidates in all.

Candidates that have confirmed participation include: For State Senate District 4, Kelly Greenwell, Lorraine Inouye and Malama Solomon; for Hawaii County mayor, Billy Kenoi, Harry Kim and Dominic Yagong; for Hawaii County prosecutor, Lincoln Ashida and Mitch Roth.

Voters from all over the district and island are invited to participate in this forum, which will begin with each candidate having three minutes for a personal introduction, and will then follow an innovative "speed dating" format, which gives small clusters of voters an opportunity to talk-story with each individual candidate. The format was followed at the groups' earlier June 7 forum and received high ratings by the more than 225 voters and 11 candidates who participated.

Waimea Community Association usually meets at 5:15 p.m. However, the time has been moved earlier to

enable North Hawaii residents to attend the forum, then go to Hilo for a Celebration of Life for the late, beloved entertainer Claybourne Smith, known as "Bruddah Smitty," at Dodo Mortuary. Smitty's memorial will be both Thursday evening and Friday.

As with the previous well-received "speed dating" forum, this one also will be co-hosted by a total of 12 North Hawaii organizations including: Waimea Community Association, Friends of the Future/Tutu's House, Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Kailapa Community Association (Kawaihae homesteaders,) Peoples' Advocacy For Trails Hawai'i (PATH,) the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, North Hawaii Rotary, Baby Steps To Stronger Big Island Families, Friends of Thelma Parker Memorial Library, Waimea Preservation Association, Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club and Lalamilo Farmlots Association.

There is no charge and healthy snacks will be provided by co-host groups along with complimentary hot Starbucks coffee and water. Attendees are urged to bring a donation of cash or non-perishable foods to be given to the Waimea food pantry operated by Annunciation Catholic Church. Checks payable to the church for the food pantry are tax deductible. For further information, call Sherman Warner at 885-1725, or Patti Cook at 937-2833.

HEARING YOUR WRITING VOICE IN STILLNESS



WRITER'S CORNER

By Darien Gee

Quote of the Week: "Easy reading is damn hard writing." — Maya Angelou

Prompt of the Week: You're traveling the back roads of Hawaii when your car breaks down. After three hours,

someone comes along. What happens next?

Writing is a solitary activity. There are writers' groups, conferences, workshops, classes and retreats, but most of the time you will be writing on your own with some degree of stillness or silence. Maybe you keep a journal or maybe you write for work or school or as a hobby in your free time. Whatever the case, you need a little peace and quiet to get the work done. I've written with children running around, screaming or crying, with one banging a drum under my desk as I worked to meet a deadline. Sure, you can write that way, but who wants to?

No, if given a choice, most of us will seek out spaces that give us a chance to hear the writing. It's one reason why I tend to write at night, when everyone is asleep—not just my family, but my street, the town, the entire island. All the busyness of the day just settles

like dust on a windowsill. I can usually accomplish more in these hours than I can during the day.

But we're meant to be in the world, because that's how we get material for our stories, real or otherwise. If you're living and breathing, you can find your stories out there. Don't fancy yourself a writer? Give it a try and see.

Sit down with a piece of paper or a notebook or even the back of a napkin, and just start jotting down what's in front of you. Who's there, what's happening, where are you, when is this taking place, and how did everything get to be how it is? Start there,

then ask yourself, now what? Then keep writing. Let yourself write for 10 minutes. Then put it away and go about your day. Let it simmer for a while, then take another look before you're ready to write again.

And an invitation for those of you just joining us: take the 2012 Summer Writing Challenge by 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.

Until next time, write well!
Darien Gee aka Mia King is a national bestselling author based in Waimea. For more information visit dariengee.com or miaking.com.

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