

Waimea Town Market offers talk story with candidates

BY LISA MARIE DAHM
NORTH HAWAII NEWS

With its friendly atmosphere and casual environment, the Candidate Talk-Story at the Waimea Town Market on July 14 won't be your average political forum.

Nine candidates in five different races will be arranged in separate tents on the grounds of Parker School during the weekly Saturday market, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Voters will have a chance to spend time getting to know the candidates and to ask them in-depth questions.

Dr. Paul Johnston, a steering committee member and the market's manager, said the committee hoped that during the morning, voters would have an opportunity to learn more about candidates beyond the few minutes allotted in a debate.

"We thought this is really an important way to help them make an informed decision in evaluating their candidate," Johnston said.

Candidates who have accepted include: U.S. House of Representatives, District 2, Bob Marx; mayoral candidates Harry Kim and Dominic

Yagong; Hawaii State Senate District 4 candidates Lorraine Inouye and Malama Solomon; County Council District 9 candidates Bill Sanborn and Margaret Wille and for Hawaii County prosecutor, Lincoln Ashida and Mitch Roth.

Johnston said that because county races are now without partisan competition, candidates would be elected in the mid-August primary race. He said that another important issue this election year is the significant changes to voting districts due to the redistricting and reapportionment.

Johnston said the steering committee hopes community members would take voting seriously and use the Candidate Talk-Story to explore complex questions regarding education, the environment, job opportunities and other relevant issues. With more than three-and-a-half hours to evaluate candidates, voters will have an opportunity to do much more than shake hands before the Aug. 11 primary election. For more information, contact Johnston at 938-4540.

Discover who you are through your writing

WRITER'S CORNER BY DARIEN GEE

Quote of the Week: "A poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness." Robert Frost

Prompt of the Week: A man named Noa leaves a building with a lump in his throat. What happened and where is he going?

Why do people write? Stories, letters, memoirs, grocery lists. A note to the babysitter, a teacher, the water company. A check versus paying cash or credit. What is it that makes us pick up a pen and put it to paper?

Maybe there's a grave injustice, a street that needs a stop sign, a long overdue thank you note you can't put off writing any longer. Maybe it's a Christmas card, an essay for school, a letter informing your boss that you're finally

quitting your job. Maybe it's a love letter. Maybe you woke up in the middle of the night with an idea that just won't go away. Maybe you have goals. Maybe you want to inspire someone.

Maybe you have a story to tell.

It doesn't have to be the Great American Novel. It doesn't have to be a memoir; it doesn't even have to be true—it just has to be true for you. It doesn't have to be something you show anyone, unless of course you want to. It doesn't have to be intimidating, overwhelming, hard or confusing. It doesn't even have to be long. It just has to be something you want to write about, because it feels important or necessary to you.

Why does this even matter?

You were doing fine until I came along with all the writing mumbo jumbo, right? But it matters because you matter—you're important. How you feel, what you think, what you want to do with your life all comes back to your ability to express yourself, not so much to others but to yourself. Writing helps you know what you really want. I'm not talking about writing down a list of goals or affirmations (though that can certainly be helpful.) I'm talking about listening to that inner voice, to your creativity, and then following it wherever it wants to go. Honor yourself enough to pay attention because I can tell it's talking to you right now.

Don't know where to begin? Feel something but you're not sure what it is? Start with a

writing prompt like the one above. Start writing and don't worry if you go off topic or veer into unexpected territory. Go with it. Consider the prompt a warm-up, like an athlete stretching before a big race. It might take a while to loosen things up, but once you do, be ready.

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, 2012. 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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