

# Take our Summer Writing Challenge



*classes, had no experience, no knowledge of the publishing world, no agent, no contacts ... Take the risk to let all that is in you, out. Escape into the open.*  
Elizabeth Berg

*Prompt of the Week: Start writing with this first line—The room was full of smoke.*

Where did the summer go? Were you just thinking the same thing?

Alas, we've come to the end of the 2012 Summer Writing Challenge, our call to North Hawaii residents and guests to put pen to paper everyday for ten minutes or one page (for more information refer to the June 7 North Hawaii News issue online). Each week you had a writing prompt to help get those creative juices flowing, as well as what I hope was an inspiring and thoughtful quote to consider. I hope, too, that maybe you were encouraged to read or write a little more, or to encourage someone you know to do the same.

To thank you for following along these last eight weeks, North Hawaii News is offering

**Creative writing reminds us of who we are and what we're capable of. It's more than mere imagination — it's the ability to see what is possible, to bring attention to that which we think is important.**

a special writing contest to island residents to celebrate the end of our summer writing quest. Submit a 500 word (max) story that begins with this first line: The room was full of smoke. Submit your story by registering online and leaving a comment on this article or by sending in your typed story to: Lisa Marie Dahm, managing editor, c/o North Hawaii News, 65-1279 Kawaihae Road, Suite 217, Kamuela, HI 96743. Three writers will receive a \$10 gift card from Waimea Coffee Company. Open to all ages,

students and seniors alike. Submissions must be received no later than August 31. Be sure to include your name, address, age, and phone number so we can contact you if you win. Remember to have fun with it!

I want to leave you with one more thing before I sign off. Why is creative writing important? If you're not interested in becoming a novelist or telling your life story, why bother? If you spend your days in your car or on your phone or in the water, what is it about creative

writing that makes someone like me go on and on and on about it?

Because writing has saved me, and more than once. It brings me back to myself, whether I'm writing a journal or writing a letter. Writing affirms our creative selves, demonstrates our ability to invent and reinvent. You can do anything you set your mind to—get yourself out of debt, move to a foreign country, run a marathon, paint a painting, write a novel. Creative writing reminds us of who we are and what we're

capable of. It's more than mere imagination—it's the ability to see what is possible, to bring attention to that which we think is important.

So don't be shy. Give yourself a handful of minutes and just write. Write because there are still many things you hope to experience in life, because you want to discover what possibilities await you. Write because it's fun. Write because you'll learn something about yourself and the world around you with each word that falls on your page. Write because it could very well change your life, just as it's changed mine.

*Darien Gee aka Mia King is a national bestselling author based in Waimea. Her fifth novel will be published by Ballantine Books in 2013. For more information visit dariengee.com or miaking.com.*

## WRITER'S CORNER

BY Darien Gee

*Quote of the Week: "There are people who have never studied writing who are capable of being writers. I know this because I am an example. I was a part-time registered nurse, a wife, and a mother when I began publishing. I'd taken no*

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Admission is free. Floating lanterns for inscribing messages and decorating will be provided for a suggested donation of \$10.00. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Complimentary self parking will be provided by The Fairmont Orchid. Carpooling is encouraged.

Sunday, August 26, 2012  
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
Coconut Grove  
The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i  
1 North Kaniku Drive  
Kohala Coast, 96743

Everyone is welcome!