

~~*I now have some **slick postcards** with the cover of *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?* on one side and information on how to download a free chapter on the back. They've been going like hotcakes at my recent speaking events and in baby stores. If you would like some cards to distribute to friends, clients, expecting or new parents, or whoever!, send me an email with your postal mailing address and how many cards you would like.

~~*TV-Turnoff Week is April 21-27 this year. Need some ideas to get you away from the tube? Check out my [article](#) that appeared in *Parenting New Hampshire* this month.

~~*I love this resource that I originally heard about in [Writers Weekly](#): Ever wanted to find a font just like the one used by certain publications, corporations, or ad campaigns? Now you can, using the WhatTheFont font recognition system. Upload a scanned image of the font and instantly find the closest match in their database. See: <http://www.myfonts.com/WhatTheFont>

~~***SAVE OUR SCHOOLS!** Our local school district is facing a budget crisis, and maybe yours is too. Here in Davis, we have an over \$4 million shortfall in our school budget for the 2008-2009 school year--yikes! We're doing lots of fundraising in town, and I came up with an idea to raise some \$. I wrote a letter to the local paper suggesting that people use the \$300 per child that they will receive in their government economic-stimulus checks to donate to the schools.

After my letter appeared in the [Davis Enterprise](#), I received some great feedback. There were even "I'm donating my stimulus check!" signs at local school board meetings. I was then contacted by a reporter for the [Sacramento Bee](#) for an article about what's happening in Davis schools. Here's part of that article:

Melanie Bowden, a Davis freelance writer who has daughters in the seventh and 10th grades, said she plans to donate to the foundation this week. She said she'll be reimbursed when the federal government's economic-stimulus check arrives in the mail. "A lot of people think they don't have the money to donate, but this is money they didn't expect," she said. "They can just turn around and donate it."

To view the entire Bee article, go [here](#). Have you used writing to make a change in your community? I'd love to hear about it and share it with other newsletter readers. The pen is powerful!

~~*Check out this [picture](#) of myself and Michelle Trippi, the editor of [Community Kids](#) and one of my biggest cheerleaders, at last fall's Growing Families Expo. If you're in the Fairfield area, maybe I'll see you at next fall's expo on Saturday, October 25th.

