

Melanie Bowden Newsletter
January 2008

MELANIE'S WRITING NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2008

Happy New Year!

Here's a quote dedicated to my unpaid holiday bills:

"If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not the thing itself but your own estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment." - Marcus Aurelius

So ha!ha! holiday bills, I'm revoking your power.

The news for this month:

- 1) Welcome to all my new subscribers--over 25 new people since last month. Thank you for joining us.
- 2) The winner of the *Spread the Word Contest* is - drum roll, please - Karen Klussendorf. Karen won a \$25 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Congratulations, Karen, and thanks for getting the word out about *Get Your Articles Published!*
- 3) My article *After the Leap: 10 Ideas For The New Full-Time Writer* was published in *Writers Weekly* this month. To view the article, go [here](#). I also had reprint articles appear in the December issues of *Baton Rouge Parents* ("Taming the Evil Mother") and *Carolina Parent* ("Families Can Save Money and The Environment Too").
- 4) Are you determined to achieve your writing goals this year? Put those goals down on paper. I'm amazed at what a difference it makes in how much I accomplish. One of my goals is to line up more speaking engagements this year. As writers, it can be easy to limit our interactions with the outside world. It's a lot healthier to get out there and make new contacts. There are many places looking for speakers: bookstores, service clubs, religious organizations, art fairs,

libraries, or professional groups.

If speaking in front of people makes you nervous, you're not alone.

Did you know that surveys show time and again that people pick public speaking as their #1 fear? Yes, even above death! Personally I'd rather give a presentation than die, but it can be nerve-wracking to prepare for and perform a talk. Here's a tip: tape record your talk beforehand and listen to the pace and inflection of your voice. Are you going too fast (that's my biggest problem)? Maintaining a dull monotone the entire time? Saying "Um" and "Uh" a lot? Catch those problems early and you'll feel more confident when you give your presentation. Go [here](#) for more public speaking advice.

5) ***Get Your Articles Published!*** ebook is now available online by credit card. You can view an excerpt and/or purchase the ebook at this [link](#). The cost is \$8.95 when you order online.

The only way to order a print version of ***Get Your Articles Published!*** (\$12.95) is from me. **Free Query Letter Review** with purchase. Click on Order Books for more information.

“Melanie’s workbook is exciting because you get the feeling that you can do it – you can get published if you do your homework and follow her lead. Her conversational style puts you at ease and motivates you to get started right away. It’s clear that she knows what she’s talking about and really wants to share in the joy of getting published.” - Eve Visconti, Movie Reviewer

6) **Insider Publishing Tip:** Do you need experts to interview for an article or book? [Profnet.com](#) is one of the best resources I've found for finding interview subjects. ProfNet connects reporters and writers with expert sources for **free**. Once you register, click on the Journalist button and submit your interview subject request. I often hear from more experts than I need within 24 hours.

7) On January 8th I made my annual trek to Kelly Wilkerson's Journalism class at Davis High School to discuss magazine writing.

Even though it was first period, the students were lively and had great questions and ideas. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you, Kelly, for inviting me back.

If you belong to a group that hosts speakers, please let me know (refer to my goal in #4 above - hint, hint). Topics for presentations include: postpartum doulas, magazine writing, infant massage, perfectionism, working with magazine editors, reducing new parent stress, and working out with your baby.

8) Recent postings at my blog for new moms, [Spit-Up On My Shoulder](#), include: [Gentle Caesareans](#) and a three-part interview with the authors of *I Was a Really Good Mom Before I Had Kids*: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).

9) Upcoming ***Get Your Articles Published!*** class in Davis, California. Join me for a four-hour workshop where we'll outline the steps that take you from article idea to publication--and paycheck! If you've ever dreamed of opening a magazine and seeing your name in print, this is the class for you. Class attendees may purchase the ***Get Your Articles Published!*** print workbook for a reduced fee of \$10.

The next class is Saturday, **February 23rd**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center Activity Room. Class fee is \$36 (there is an extra charge for non-Davis residents). Go to the [City of Davis site](#) for class and registration information. Sign up soon--class size is limited to 15.

10) Can't make the class? Combine a one-on-one writing coach session with the workbook and save. For \$50, \$40 for two hours of coaching (half my regular coaching fee) plus \$10 for the ***Get Your Articles Published!*** workbook, sign up for an in-person or phone coaching session. We'll cover the class material and, for phone sessions, I take care of any phone charges.

I wish you a happy, productive month. As always, please email me if you have any questions about writing and/or coaching.

Melanie Bowden

Author of *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me? True Stories of New Motherhood* and *Get Your Articles Published!*

<http://motherhood.booklocker.com>

