

Melanie Bowden Newsletter
June 2007

I hope everyone is enjoying the longer days of summer, my favorite season of the year. I don't mind the Davis heat that much (I grew up in Riverside, where it gets REALLY hot), my birthday is in July, things are much less crowded in Davis because most of the college students are gone, and I still have that school kid mentality that summer means lazy days.

You can't be too lazy though when you're a grown-up as there is always work to do! Here are my latest updates:

1) I'm really happy to be back in the querying mode. For those of you who don't know what query letters are, they are one page article proposals you send to editors to obtain magazine writing assignments. I haven't published a magazine article for over a year due to being busy with teaching and publishing/promoting *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?*, so I'm excited to jump back in.

Some of the topics I've been pitching to editors are: dealing with arrogance in the workplace, tapping into your intuition, and how to use *Ten Zen Seconds* techniques. I'm looking forward to receiving a thumbs-up from an editor soon.

2) If you want to learn about writing query letters, along with tons of other info on how to break into magazine writing, remember my **Magazine Writing for Beginners** class will be held Saturday, July 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street.

Call (530) 757-5626 or go [here](#) to register. The fee for is \$33 for Davis residents, and \$45 for nonresidents.

3) Can't make the Saturday class? Then meet with me one-on-one either in person or by phone (I'll mail you the class materials in advance) and we'll cover everything from the class. These meetings are usually shorter (90-120 minutes) and the fee is \$40 total for up to 2 hours of instruction.

I've already met one-on-one with four writers to cover the class and loved it. These meetings allow time to get more in depth about your individual writing dreams and goals.

4) **Book Club Tour** - Have you ever wanted to pick an author's brain after you read their book? Now's your chance! I'm currently arranging dates for my book club tour.

If your club chooses *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?*, I will participate in your group's discussion either in person, by phone (I'll cover the phone charges), or by email. No matter where you are, I can be your guest author for a meeting. If you're not in a book club, any group that would like to discuss the book is fine.

Respond to this email if you're interested. If you know someone in a book club, please let them know about my tour. For more information click [here](#).

5) *Charlotte Parent* magazine ran an abridged version of a chapter from *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?* in their April issue. To view it, go to this [link](#).

6) **Mothering Magazine Chat** - I will be hosting an online chat sponsored by Mothering Magazine on July 18th at 10 AM Pacific time. We will be talking about motherhood and, in particular, the postpartum year. Go to this [link](#) to find out more.

7) Would you like to learn more about getting your work published? I can consult with you on researching writing markets, writing and polishing up query letters and manuscripts to ready them for submission, managing the writer/editor relationship (including negotiating for higher fees), and many other areas of magazine and book publishing. My consulting fee is \$40 an hour for individuals, or \$25 an hour per person if you and another writer would like to meet with me together. Consultations can be done in person or by phone.

8) This is not writing news, but a lot has happened with my family since last month's update. Danielle graduated from junior high and Linda from elementary school. Mark, after many, many months of work, received a National Institute of Health (NIH) Fellowship that will fund his research for 2 1/2 more years. I am so proud of my brainy/nerdy/scientific husband. We are also happy to know that we won't have to leave Davis until at least 2010 since we love it here.

PASSPORT CRISIS: The girls will be leaving in 5 days on a trip with their Grandma Carol (a.k.a. **Grandma of the Century**) to New York City and then onto a tour of Europe. Although we applied in March for their passports, we just received Danielle's today and Linda's should be here tomorrow. This was after numerous hours of phone calls, research, and stress about how to get them on time which shouldn't have been an issue as we applied weeks in advance of what they said the wait would be.

If you need a passport anytime in the near future, apply now! There is a huge backlog. If you're in your own passport crisis, feel free to contact me and I'll answer any questions you have and share with you some tricks we learned along the way.

Special thanks to our congressional representative, Mike Thompson, and his wonderful staff workers, Cheryl and Melissa, for speeding up our passport process. They are lifesavers!

Until next month,

Melanie Bowden

Author of *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me? True Stories of New Motherhood*

<http://motherhood.booklocker.com>