

Melanie Bowden Newsletter
May 2007

Hi Everybody,

There's lots to tell since so much has happened in the last month.

1) **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 offer. For more information click [here](#).

2) **4/24/07 - Library presentation as part of the Writers on Writing series.** What a great turnout! I was thrilled with how many people came. Thank you to all of you who were there. Thank you again also to the Friends of the Davis Public Library for inviting me, and to Elisabeth Sherwin for giving my name to the Friends.

3) **5/19/07 - Magazine Writing for Beginners class.** Again, a great turnout. More than I've ever had for this workshop. Here are some comments from the participants:

"This is the best workshop I've ever taken in my life." - I know that sounds like I made it up, but, I'm not kidding, it really happened. :)

"Melanie is so organized, generous with her time, and informative."

"Melanie's tips were invaluable. I learned so much in this class."

Since 3 hours never seemed to be enough time, I've extended the class to 4 hours. Two upcoming dates are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 28th, and the same time on Saturday, October 13th, at the Davis Senior Center. Be sure to bring a snack to enjoy during class breaks.

Call **(530) 757-5626** or go [here](#) to register. The fee for 7/28 is \$33 and, starting with the 10/13 class, the fee will go up to \$36, so come in July and save a few bucks. Add \$12 if you are not a Davis resident.

Can't make the Saturday dates? 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.

4) If you know of other venues that would be interested in offering **Magazine Writing for Beginners**, please let me know. I love to teach it and would like to offer it outside of Davis.

5) I'm also a writing consultant and can work with you on researching writing markets, writing query letters and manuscripts (including polishing work you've already done to ready it for submission), and other areas related to 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, by phone, or by email.**

6) **This Saturday, May 26th - The *Ten Zen Seconds* interview at Spit-Up On My Shoulder.** I am so happy to be a part of author Eric Maisel's blog tour for his book, *Ten Zen Seconds*. The book teaches you how in just 10 seconds you can calm yourself, find the strength to tackle work projects, learn to appreciate the present moment, and more.

I was skeptical at first. I mean--me?, calm down in 10 seconds? Right! But I've been blown away by how effective Eric's simple-to-use techniques are. Since I've been using them, I've been calmer and more productive than I have in a long time.

To read more about the upcoming interview, click [here](#). I hope you'll check this Saturday's blog post to see what it's all about.

7) *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?* is now part of Google's Book Search Program. Check it out at this [link](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read all of my updates. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to receiving your book club invitations.

Happy Memorial Day Weekend,
Melanie Bowden

Author of *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me? True Stories of New Motherhood*
<http://motherhood.booklocker.com>