

Melanie Bowden Newsletter
September 2007

Hi,

Can you believe it's September already? What happened to summer? It sure flew by.

I have lots of things coming up and also a short poll for you this month.

1) I won, I won, I won! I'm so excited because I received an Honorable Mention in the Writers Weekly 24-Hour Short Story Summer 2007 Contest. Prizes were given for first, second and third places along with 20 (in no particular order) honorable mentions. I was in the top 23 of almost 400 entries! Since this was my first time submitting fiction (beginner's luck?), I was very surprised.

You can read the list of winners (and see what they won) along with the top three winning stories [here](#).

Would you like to see **my story**? Drop me an email and I'll send it to you. The story is 830 words long.

2) The **Mothering Magazine** chat went well on August 15th. Thank you to Cynthia Mosher for making the arrangements and to Tina Smith, webmaster (mistress?) extraordinaire.

3) Memoir Writing Workshop. Thank you to my swim bud, Barbara, for tipping me off to a great workshop on memoir writing that was held last week in Woodland, a nearby town. I was amazed at how much material I unearthed to write about in only two hours.

If you've ever thought about writing a memoir, check out Thomas Larson's, the workshop teacher's, book *The Memoir and the Memoirist*. His [website](#) will be up soon.

4) Michelle Trippi comes through again! She is the editor of Community Kids and is running two pieces by yours truly this month:

If you have an idea for a parenting product, but don't know where to go with it, check out, "[Steps To Success: Local Parentpreneurs Greg and Kris Sheldon](#)."

An excerpt from *Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me?* is at this [link](#).

5) **Friday, October 12th:** I will be a guest again on Koren Motekaitis' radio show *How She Really Does It*. The show is broadcast from Davis on KDRT at 101.5 FM. Show time is 10 to 11 AM. I hope you can listen in!

6) **Magazine Writing for Beginners Class, Saturday, October 13th, 9 AM - 1 PM** at the Davis Senior Center. If you come, be sure to bring snacks for the breaks. To register, call (530) 757-5626 or go to <http://www.cityofdavis.org>.

7) **Growing Families Expo, Sunday, October 21st, 10 AM - 5 PM** - I will be sharing a table with Community Kids Magazine at this expo in Benicia next month. You'll find me signing books and chatting it up! The expo address is: Benicia Clocktower, 1189 Washington Street. To learn more, go to this [link](#).

8) Recent blog topics at [Spit-Up On My Shoulder](#): 10 Reasons to Take Good Care of a Mother, Postpartum (PPD) Diary, Journaling Ideas and Toilet Training from Birth.

9) Davis High School Journalism Class: I presented an abridged version of my magazine writing workshop to Kelly Wilkerson's class earlier this year. Kelly recently sent me this note, "The kids did a wonderful job on their articles and **two of them got published!** Thanks for helping create success stories! ... We get the 45-minute version of your class - and it works!"

If you've attended one of my writing classes or I've coached you, please send me an email about your publishing successes. I love to hear about what you're doing.

10) **New Workbook:** Have you wanted to attend the magazine writing class, but it didn't work in your schedule or you're too far away? I'm designing a workbook with all the information, insider tips, and exercises from the class. ***Get Your Articles Published!*** will work for you whether you learn the material on your own or attend the class.

I don't have a price set yet (I'm estimating between \$10 and \$15, plus shipping if needed), and I would like to know what your interest is in the workbook. This is **not** a commitment to buy, but to help me gauge the number of copies to run for the first printing. Hopeful publication date: mid-October.

Please hit Reply, put in your answers after each of the following questions, and hit Send. Thank you in advance for your responses!

WORKBOOK POLL

1. Is a workbook preferable to you than attending an in-person class?

2. Does the *Get Your Articles Published* workbook interest you?

3. If yes, how many copies might you purchase?

I hope you enjoyed this month's updates. Have a great weekend and see you next time. :)

Melanie Bowden

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<http://motherhood.booklocker.com>