





2019 Cat Writers' Association 25th Annual Conference



Twenty-fifth Annual Conference

May 16–18, 2019 Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch, St. Louis, MO

2019 Officers

President: Deborah Barnes
Vice President: Paula Gregg
Treasurer: Dawn White
Secretary: Wendy Christensen
Immediate Past President: Marci Kladnik

Council of Directors

Class of 2018: Julie McAlee, Sharon Melnyk Class of 2019: Janiss Garza, Alana Grelyak

2018 Contest Committee

Wendy Christensen (chair), Deb Barnes, Patricia Fry, Jeremy Greenberg, Mollie Hunt, Katherine Kern, Phillip Mlynar, Arden Moore (Special Awards)



2019 Conference Committee

Deb Barnes (Chair), Lea-Ann Germinder, Paula Gregg, Marci Kladnik, Amy Shojai



The **Cat Writers' Association, Inc.** (CWA) is an international association of professional communicators who provide to the general public and to specialized audiences news, information, education and works of literary and graphic art that help describe, dramatize, explain and illuminate the myriad aspects of felines, especially domestic cats, and their place in human life and culture.

CWA members promote the best interests of all cats through a variety of media and formats, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, websites, blogs, public relations and publicity, photojournalism, illustration, fine arts, photography, video, podcasts, speech, technical writing and more. Members strive always to observe and promote the highest standard of ethics in the generation and publication of cat information in all genres and media.

www.catwriters.com

Storytelling Works.

The #PowerofPink Program honors those who have made their own special mark in the way helped Germinder + Associates achieve success too. Amy Shojai, Co-Founder of the CWA is one of our Honorees. She designated her Honoree donation to the CWA to help celebrate the 25th anniversary. visit www.germinder.com.



Additional Power of Pink Honornes include:



































Germinder + Associates honors each #PowerofPink Program Honoree with a donation to the not-for-profit of their choice. Last year their inspirational donations became a One Health story. In total, nine pet/vet related organizations, nine human health organizations and two journalism organizations benefited from the program.

To read more about the full program, visit www.germinder.com.To read about more pet stories, sign-up at www.goodnewsforpets.com.



Loa-Ann Germinder, APR, Fellow PRSA. Lgerminder@germinder.com

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THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CWA AWARDS BANQUET

6:00 PM OPENING REMARKS by CWA President Deb Barnes

7:00 PM DINNER followed by

AWARDS PRESENTATION

With a special musical trio,
"The Muse" from the musical "Strays," performed by:
CWA Co-Founder **Amy Shojai**, CWA Past President **Marci Kladnik**, and CWA Vice President **Paula Gregg**

Awards will be presented by Contest Committee member Arden Moore with special guest presenters

Kim Campbell Thornton for Fear Free™ Pets
Melissa Kauffman and Jason Maillard for
Catster/Belvoir Media Group
Teresa Keiger for the Cat Fanciers' Association
Joanne McGonagle for Triple T Studios
Beth Stultz-Hairston for Pet Sitters International
Amy Shojai for GoodNewsForPets
Arden Moore for the CATalyst Council

Special Awards presentation will be followed by the Regular Category Awards

Note: All Awards presented this evening cover the contest period of Jan.1, 2018 - Dec. 31, 2018.

THANK YOU to all our judges — Special Award experts and Professional CWA members — who generously volunteered their time, effort and expertise to serve as 2018 Contest judges.

We couldn't do it without you!





Why become a Fear Free Happy Homes Member?

Become a member of Fear Free Happy Homes and get access to the most cutting-edge content and education to help brighten and enrich your pet's life to the fullest. Our contributors are recognized as the leading experts in their fields of veterinary medicine, animal handling, training, and research. We take pride that 100 percent of our content is reviewed by boarded veterinary behaviorists.



Presentation of 2018 SPECIAL AWARDS

Special Purrrrrs of Thanks go to all our extraordinary, and extraordinarily generous, **Special Award judges** for their time, effort, and expertise in judging the Special Awards.



AAFP CAT FRIENDLY AWARD

Sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), this award is presented for the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of going to a Cat Friendly Practice[®]. Appropriate topics include why it is beneficial to the cat and owner to visit a practice that is cat friendly, including, but not limited to, staff understanding of feline-friendly handling, decreased stress associated with the visit, increase in the quality of care and medicine provided, and communication to cat owners of the importance of routine veterinary care.



Qualifying entries include newspaper or magazine articles or columns, or a series of articles or columns (print or online), and radio or television broadcasts.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative, framed certificate.

JUDGE: Erin Fenstermaker is a Dallas-based pet industry business consultant. She holds two bachelor's degrees and an MBA from Southern Methodist University, plus a dog training certification from Animal Behavior College. Erin advises large dog-walking and pet-sitting companies on strategy, financial metrics, and operations; as a Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA), she assists pet-business owners with exit planning and business sale transactions. At home, cats Pippi and Finn keep her company while providing endless entertainment and love.

WINNER: Jen Reeder for "The Cat's out of the Bag"

ALL CATS BIG AND SMALL AWARD

New this year!

Sponsored by **Triple T Studios™**, this award is presented for the entry best reporting on a topic pertinent to furthering awareness of wild cats and conservation projects working to protect them and/or focusing on small wild cats, including educational awareness on feral cats and feral colonies.

Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazine, online



newsletters, online columns, and videotape broadcasts.

This award consists of \$500 and a unique commemorative gift.

JUDGE: Liz Bales, VMD, is a 2000 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine who has gained a special interest in the unique behavioral and wellness needs of cats, including feline behavior and environmental enrichment. Dr Bales is a writer, speaker and featured expert in all things cat around the globe, including appearances on Fox and Friends, ABC News, and Cheddar. She is the founder of Doc and Phoebe's Cat Company, and the inventor of The Indoor Hunting Feeder for cats.

WINNER: Molly DeVoss for "Special Challenges of Senior Cats in Shelters"

CATALYST COUNCIL CONNECTION AWARD

This award, **s**ponsored by the **CATalyst Council**, celebrates both the writer *and subject* of a true story depicting an experience of a kitten or cat adopted from a shelter which results in a profound connection between the cat and its adoptive pet parent. The relationship described will be equally beneficial to the cat and the person; special consideration will be given to those pieces showing a positive community-wide connection involving both the shelter and a local veterinarian. The story may be written in first purr or first person if appropriate.

Entries may include a single book or short story, poem, article (print or online), newsletter, editorial, blog, commercial radio/TV/internet recording or a photograph with corresponding

copy. Entries will be judged on the ability of the reader/viewer to reach the conclusion that cats are valuable members of our families, they enrich our lives, and they deserve our love and our care.

This award consists of \$500 and special gift and/or appropriate acknowledgment of the story subjects.

JUDGE: Rich Anderson is the Executive Director/ CEO of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in West Palm Beach, FL.



WINNER: Dusty Rainbolt for "Saving Private Hammer"

CWA COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS NEWCOMER BLOGGER'S HOME-ENRICHMENT AWARD

Sponsored by the **CWA's Council of Directors**, this award is presented to the online blogger (written or visual/video with accompanying text) who inspires cat caretakers to create an enriched and stylish environment for their pets. Qualified entrants must be new members of CWA having joined **between January 1 and December 31** of the current contest year.

The winner must publish on a regular basis and show a

consistent pattern of interaction with readers through audience involvement (questions, postings, etc.). The winning entry must demonstrate a written/visual presentation that inspires readers to do more at home to improve their cats' environment and lifestyle, demonstrating good taste and style in terms of branding/blog identity (i.e.,

stylish and clever). Most importantly, the



blogger must educate the audience on how to improve the lifestyles, wellness and happiness of their cats.

The award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Carol Bryant is a pet influencer, writer/blogger, speaker, social media pro, and dog mom. She owns the trademark, "My Heart Beats Dog" and is the President of the Dog Writers Association of America. Carol is the founder of FidoseofReality.com and its fundraising arm, Wigglebutt Warriors. While

building her own blog and social media presence, Carol helped grow the BlogPaws Pet Blogging and Social Media company as their PR, Marketing, Social Media Manager, and blogger. She has appeared on many television segments, radio shows, podcasts, speaking engagements, and has contributed to numerous pet publications,

WINNER: Katherine Kern for "Are your cats bored?"

DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD

Sponsored by Cornell University's Feline Health Center, this award is presented for the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine. Qualifying entries include single newspaper, magazine, or newsletter articles; columns or series of articles (print or online); blogs, a website, single books, or radio/television broadcasts, designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments.

This award consists of \$500.

JUDGE: Robin Downing, DVM, MS, DAIPM, DACVSMR, CVPP, CCRP is the Hospital Director of the Windsor Veterinary Clinic in Windsor, Colorado, as well as the founder and Hospital Director of The Downing Center for Animal Pain Management,

LLC. Both practices are Fear Free Certified, Cat Friendly, and Human-Animal Bond Certified. Dr. Downing is an internationally recognized expert in animal pain management, as well as companion animal palliative and end-of-life care. She is building on her MS in Clinical Bioethics by entering the Doctorate in Bioethics program at Loyola University of Chicago.



WINNER: Fran Pennock Shaw for "Stem-Cell Therapy May Help Cats Resistant to Traditional Treatment for FCGS"

FEAR FREE™ PETS AWARD

Special increased prize money to honor CWA's 25th Anniversary!

Sponsored by **Fear Free PetsTM**, this award is for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates the importance of how a cat's emotional well-being can play a role in all aspects of its life and health, including veterinary care.

Topics may include how decreasing fear, anxiety, and stress is beneficial to the patient and owner both during the veterinary visit and at home, a focus on Fear Free applications pre- and post-veterinary visit, or how going to a Fear Free certified professional is beneficial to staff, patients, and clients.

This award consists of \$2,500 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

JUDGE: Beth Adelman, MS, is a Cat Behavior Consultant and a publishing professional in Brooklyn, New York. Beth was a founding member of the Cat Division of the IAABC, and is the former editor in chief of *Cats* magazine and *DogWorld* and former cat columnist for the *New York Post*. She currently is a regular speaker on cat behavior at New York's Meow Parlour.

WINNER: Cheryl Kolus DVM for "Cooperative Care with a Cat: Using a Fun Trick to Facilitate Easy Nail Trims"



FEAR FREE™ CAT ENRICHMENT AWARD



Special increased prize money to honor CWA's 25th Anniversary!

Sponsored by Fear Free Pets™, this award is for the article, book, blog, TV segment,

radio spot, video, column or other creative media formats that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates how enrichment activities (exercise, food puzzles, scent training, etc.) can benefit a pet's emotional and physical well-being and the role that has in their overall health.

This award consists of \$2,500 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative item.

JUDGE: Dr. Tony Buffington is clinical professor at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and emeritus professor of veterinary clinical sciences at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He received degrees in nutrition and veterinary medicine from UC Davis and is board-certified (now emeritus) in veterinary nutrition. Dr. Buffington's research has documented the effects of stress and the role of effective environmental enrichment on feline health and welfare. He has published more than 130 scientific papers, 30 book chapters, 3 books (one an iBook), an iTunes U course, and created the Indoor Pet Initiative website. He currently lives in Northern California with his wife, Terre, and cat, Curry, and describes himself as an "effective environmental enrichment evangelist."

WINNER: Maggie Marton for "Train Your Cat to Walk on a Leash: Outdoor Safety for Indoor Cats"

GOODNEWSFORPETS.com HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD



Sponsored by **Germinder + Associates**, this award is presented for the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver.

Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and on the ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader. Qualified entries include single articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, books, and poetry.

This award consists of \$1,000 award and commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Dr. Lisa Lippman, DVM, is one of the most-followed and socially influential veterinarians in the United States. She is nationally respected by media outlets such as Dr. Oz, Inside Edition, and Good Day New York as a go-to source for expertise in pet health and safety.

WINNER: Katherine Kern for "Do cats need human interaction or are they completely fine on their own?"

GROOMING AND FELINE SKIN CARE AWARD

This award is sponsored by the **CWA**. It honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. Qualifying topics include, but are not limited to, coverage of home and professional grooming, hairballs, parasite control, nail care, teeth

and ear care, and feline skin/coat disorders.

Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazines, online newsletters, online columns, and videotape broadcasts.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Dana Humphrey, "The Pet Lady," happily wears many collars in the pet industry, staging pet fashion events and educating all of us pet lovers about the must-have pet products and pet trends.

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City but this is a gal who

Her home base is in New York City, but this is a gal who travels coast-to-coast and beyond to ensure that pets everywhere lead enriched lives.

WINNER: Kate Eldredge for "Time Takes its Toll on Tangles"



KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD



Sponsored by **TICA**, this award is presented for the best single article or column (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue) or single radio or television broadcast on the rescue and rehabilitation of cats or kittens from shelters or rescue groups for the purpose of adoption to forever homes. Entries are judged on compelling personal accounts and the education of readers on the need for rescue.

This award consists of \$500 and a plaque.

JUDGE: Stacy LeBaron has worked in animal welfare for 20+ years. She currently hosts the weekly "Community Cats Podcast," interviewing experts on cat overpopulation and cat welfare. She also runs two annual "virtual conferences:" The Online Cat Conference and the Online Kitten Conference. Before starting the Podcast, Stacy was President of the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society for 16 years. She now lives in Vermont with her husband, son, daughter and one cat.

WINNER: Zachary Nugent for "Pet Dish TV: Chai, the Courageous Cat"

KITTEN CARE AND RESCUE/ADOPTION AWARD

Sponsored by the **CWA**, this award is presented for the best entry promoting kitten care, kitten rescue, and kitten adoption. Qualifying entries include "how to's," feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazines, online newsletters, online columns, and videotape broadcasts.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Tip Burrows, lifelong animal lover and Executive Director of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama, came up through hands-on shelter work. With backgrounds in criminal justice and business management, Tip takes a hands-on approach: overseeing shelter development, initiating HSGB's Operation Puppy Lift (which sent 2,800+ dogs and puppies to rescues in the U.S. since 2004), and running spay-neuter clinics. She lives in Freeport with her husband and two "Potcakes," mixed-breed dogs common in the Caribbean.

WINNER: Bernadette Kazmarski for "Rescue Story: Resourceful Mom Cat Gets Her Kittens Rescued"



KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD

Sponsored by the **CWA**, this award is presented for the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. This may be a single piece or series entry, including, but not limited to, photos/artwork published in a magazine, newspaper, newsletter, book, pamphlet, calendar, poster, greeting card, or commercial online publication.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Michael Bagley is a professional photographer based in Norwalk, Connecticut. Though his work includes a variety of subjects, Mike is renowned for his pet photography. He has created tens of thousands of animal images, and he prides himself on his ability to express an animal's true spirit via a photograph.

WINNER: Bernadette Kazmarski for "Allegro Moderato"



LORIE HUSTON HEALTH AWARD



This award, sponsored by the **Catster/Belvoir Marketing Group**, is presented for the outstanding single article, column, or blog (print or online) reporting on feline healthcare issues. Entries are judged on excellence of writing and technical accuracy; significance of the topic and public education impact on feline health are also considered.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Michael LoSasso, DVM graduated from Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993. He ran a solo general practice for 10 years before moving into emergency medicine. In addition to practicing emergency medicine for the last 15 years, and acting as Chief of Staff for three different ERs (the last of which he owns), he has also published articles in several trade journals, as well as writing content for websites and brochures in the industry.

WINNER: Helen Fitzsimons for "Tanya's Comprehensive Guide to Feline Chronic Kidney Disease"

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL (PSI) PROFESSIONAL PET CARE AWARD

New this year!

Sponsored by **Pet Sitters International**, this award is presented for the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of using professional pet sitters. Topics may include how to find a qualified pet sitter, how to introduce your cat to a pet sitter, as well as the overall importance to a cat's physical health and emotional well-being to have professional supervision when a cat guardian must leave the cat home alone for extended periods of time.

Qualifying online or print entries include newspapers, magazines, blogs, or websites.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Scott S. Black, CPPS, Certified Professional Pet Sitter, has been owner/operator of Personal Touch Pet Sitting in Kingwood, TX, for 15 years, and is trained and certified in pet first aid and CPR. He was PSI's 2010 Pet Sitter of the Year. Scott and his husband share their home with two cats, Bo and Smokey; and five dogs, Bucky, Chato, Hannah, Leo, and Roxie.

WINNER: Paula Ann Gregg for "Choosing a Pet Sitter"



SENIOR CAT WELL-BEING AWARD

Sponsored by the CWA, this award is presented for the highest-quality entry on the topic of older and senior cats. Topics can include, but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative care, and senior-for-senior programs. Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazines, online newsletters, online columns, and videotape broadcasts.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Briony Scott is the owner of a successful petsitting company in The



Woodlands, TX. She's also a certified cat behaviorist and is continuing her education and knowledge in this field. She has 20

pet-sitting employees and trains them on all things cat so that they can provide the best service possible to their kitty clients. Briony runs a small rescue as well, focusing mainly on high-maintenance animals (Himalayan cats, rabbits). She lives with eight feline friends in her home, and three feline friends in her office – all rescues.

WINNER: Deb Barnes for "Stairs, Safety, and Senior Cats – 10 Tips to Help Ease Your Cat Into His Golden Years"

SLEEPYPOD® TRAVELLER AWARD

Sponsored by **Sleepypod**®, this award is presented for the best entry on cat safety. The entry should take a positive approach to inform and educate the readership about feline safety issues such as safety in the home, preparedness and training for safety purposes, and especially safe travel with cats. Written and pictorial works in all mediums will be accepted, such as on-line columns or blogs, newsletter articles, photographs, and radio/TV broadcasts.

The winner will receive \$500 and a commemorative item.



JUDGE: Joette White is the President/Owner of the multiaward-winning Park Cities Pet Sitter in Dallas TX. Joette has also served on the Board of The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. In addition to "herding" the four Park Cities Pet Sitter office cats (Mindy, Kruzer, Geoff and Henry), Joette also has a sweet rescue dog named Phyllis at home.

WINNER: Janiss Garza for "Five Things They Don't Tell You About Flying with Your Cat"

SMARTCAT™ ALL NATURAL LITTER TRAINING AWARD

Sponsored by **Pioneer Pets**®, this award is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. Entries should have a "how-to" focus. Appropriate entries are labeled series or single articles (print or professionally published online), columns, blogs, websites, online newsletters, and television/radio broadcast presentations on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, proper scratching behavior, trick training, or training cats to stay off counter-tops, tables, or other forbidden places.

This award consists of \$1,000 and a commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Samantha Martin is an expert animal trainer and Chief Human Officer for the Amazing Acro-Cats, featuring the Rock Cats band. She and her troupe of former shelter cats and strays entertain audiences all over the country with this feline show that also helps raise money for non-profit feline groups.

WINNER: Janiss Garza for "Can An Adventure Lifestyle Benefit Your Cat?"



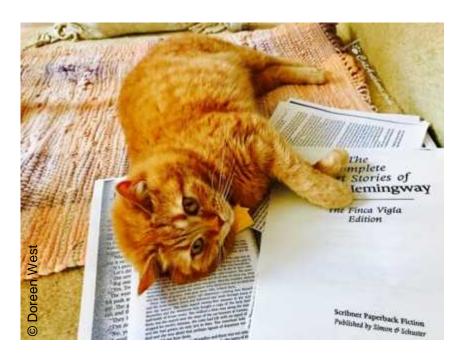
WORLD'S BEST® CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD

Sponsored by **World's Best**[®] **Cat Litter**, this award is presented for the outstanding novel, short story, poem, or radio/television dramatic script which portrays cats and cat ownership in a positive way. All fiction genres are eligible. Highest consideration goes to those entries that include cats as an intrinsic part of the plot. Works will be judged for the exceptional, individual quality ("voice" or "vision") of the writer/creator. Eligible works may be published in print or electronic media; any scripts or videos must also provide proof of production.

This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

JUDGE: Cindy Rigoni, DVM, owns and runs All Cat Veterinary Clinic in Houston, TX, which she opened in 1984 as only the fifth cats-only veterinary practice in the U.S. In the late 1970s, Dr. Rigoni started breeding and showing Cornish Rex. She's an avid reader, consuming 1,500 words per minute. She's also a Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) master clerk.

WINNER: Mollie Hunt for "Cat Café"











PRESENTATION OF 2018 MUSE™MEDALLIONS

The MUSE™ Medallion is awarded to the entry in each category receiving the highest average score from three independent judges.

All judges are volunteers and are Professional CWA members.

To become eligible for a MUSE™ Medallion, each entry listed here has received an average score of at least 90, and has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence.

The CWA MUSE™ Medallion



CWA's MUSE™ Medallion was designed by extraordinary cat artist and founding CWA member Karen Kuykendall.

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS 2018 Communications Contest

I.1 Magazine: National Circulation

- Cynthia Foley, with CatWatch Staff: CatWatch
- Teresa Keiger: Cat Talk magazine

II.1 Written Article: Health & General Care

- Sally Bahner: Tips for a Cat-Friendly Summer
- Deb Barnes: 10 Tips and Tricks to Keep Your Cat Happy, Healthy, and Fit with Exercise
- Deb Barnes: Stairs, Safety, and Senior Cats 10 Tips to Help Ease Your Cat Into His Golden Years
- Deb Barnes: Enjoying the Chaos of the Holidays Safely With Curious Cats
- Deb Barnes: Holiday Tips & Travel Don't Leave Your Cat Alone If You Won't Be At Home
- Deb Barnes: Turning Cat Wheels: Could Your Cat Benefit From This Feline Exercise Trend?
- Claire Bertolini: What is pain in cat? How to spot it? How to relieve it?
- Christine Brovelli-O'Brien: Choosing the Right Cat Grooming Brushes and Supplies
- Marjorie Dawson: Facial Recognition Technology Helps Find Lost Pets
- Lucy Drury: Synthetic Feline Pheromones
- Mate Eldredge: An Itch You Just Have to Scratch
- Mate Eldredge: Emergency Cat Restraint
- Kate Eldredge: Trim Those Nails
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Cats Hide Signs of Hip Dysplasia
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: On the Alert for Liver Problems
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Your Cat's Subtle Hind-Leg Pain
- Janiss Garza: Unusual Household Items that are Poisonous to Your Cat
- JaneA Kelley: Kitty Blood Donors
- JaneA Kelley: New Cat Checklist
- JaneA Kelley: What Should You Feed Your Cat?
- Matherine Kern: Feline Instincts
- Melissa Lapierre: 7 Ways to Make Your Cat's Senior Years Golden

II.1 Written Article: Health & General Care (continued)

- Debora Lichtenberg, VMD: FeLV: What Happens If I Bring a Leukemia-Positive Cat Into My Home?
- Yasaar Nakchbendi: 7 Ways to help your cat keep his cool in a heatwaye
- Jen Reeder: How Helping Pets Helps People Escape Domestic Violence
- Kim Campbell Thornton: Cat Rehab
- Dawn White: 5 Top Household Poisons for Cats



II.2 Written Article: Behavior/Training/Enrichment (Tie!)

- Sally Bahner: Zoom! Zoom! Agility Training Gets Cat Off the Couch
- Sally Bahner: Fearless Kittens: Are They Made Or Born?
- Deb Barnes: 10 Tips to Relieve Feline Boredom in the Same Old 24/7 Environment
- Christine Brovelli-O'Brien: Understanding Your Cat's Body Language
- M Candilee Jackson: Kitten Kindergarten
- Ramona D. Marek: Animal Mourning: Recognizing A Pet's Grief
- Ramona D. Marek: Face Talk: What Your Cat's Whiskers Tell You About His Mood
- Ramona D. Marek: Feline Physics: How The Righting Reflex Helps Cats Stick A Landing
- Maggie Marton: Train Your Cat to Walk on a Leash: Outdoor Safety for Indoor Cats
- Yasaar Nakchbendi: 9 Ways Catnip Can Enrich Your Cat's Life
- Yasaar Nakchbendi: How to make a cat grass bed for afternoon catnaps
- Beth Stultz-Hairston: Why Does My Cat...?
- **M** Kim Campbell Thornton: Friending Felines
- M Kim Campbell Thornton: Got a Fraidy Cat?
- Kim Campbell Thornton: Thunder Cats? Felines Can be Fearful of Storms, Too

II.3 Written Article: Lifestyle

- Christine Brovelli-O'Brien: Tips for Creating Your Cat's Own Social Media Account
- Deborah Camp: Bernie: The Emotional Cat
- Dr. Hanie Elfenbein: Are Cats Both a Liquid and a Solid?
- Maggie Funkhouser: Cats and Coffee: a Purrfect Pair
- Paula Ann Gregg: Preparing for Disaster with Pets
- Paula Ann Gregg: Veterinarian Appreciation Day
- Sierra Koester: Caring for a Cat When You're Visually Impaired
- Ramona D. Marek: Nameowste: Cats Reap Yoga Benefits, Too
- Phillip Mlynar: How to Take Holiday Photos of Your Cat
- Phillip Mlynar: Pouring Purrfection: 8 Cat-Themed Craft Beers to Get Your Paws On
- Masaar Nakchbendi: The ultimate guide to growing cat grass
- Yasaar Nakchbendi: Create the purrfect watering hole retreat for your cat
- Beth Stultz-Hairston: No Dogs Allowed: How cats-only services are thriving
- Kim Campbell Thornton: Kitten Fever
- Dawn White: Hiring a Pet Sitter is Good for Your Cat And You!
- Iris Zinck and Barbara Stone-Newton: What's in a Name?

II.4 Written Article: Feline-Human Bond

- Denise Lee Branco: When You are Called Upon
- Sherry Clark: The Last Meow
- Laurie Coughlan: Taliban George
- Janiss Garza: How to Buy a Therapy Cat
- Paula Ann Gregg: Respect Your Cat Day
- Catherine Holm: Can Fear Free Strategies Help When Your Cat Is Dying?
- JaneA Kelley: My Cats Saved My Life, More Than Once
- Katherine Kern: Do cats need human interaction or are they completely fine on their own?
- Jennifer Kingson: As Animal-Assisted Therapy Thrives, Enter the Cats

Category continues on next page

II.4 Written Article: Feline-Human Bond continued)

- Dusty Rainbolt: Saving Private Hammer
- Melissa Smith: Pets and Domestic Violence: What You Need to Know
- Dawn White: Kids Bond With Cats Through Books Paws to Read at Tabby's Place
- Susan Willett: Every Night my Cat Leaves Me Gifts and It's the Most Adorable Thing Ever
- Susan Willett: When Popular Media Use Sensationalist Headlines to Report on Scientific Studies

II.5 Written Article: Veterinary Medicine & Research

- Christine Brovelli-O'Brien: Do Cats Understand Mirrors?
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Systemic Fungal Infections
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Screening Tests and Bloodwork
- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM: Potential Deadly Feline Calicivirus
- Katherine Kern: The importance of veterinary care for cats and why they're not getting it
- Jen Reeder: How to Maximize Your Laser with Patients who are Cats
- Fran Pennock Shaw: Stem-Cell Therapy May Help Cats Resistant to Traditional Treatment for FCGS
- Kim Campbell Thornton: Keep the Pain at Bay
- Kim Campbell Thornton: 50 Years for Winn

II.6 Written Article: Humor/Entertainment

Susan Willett: Text from Cat: Rub My Belly





II.7 Written Article: Rescue & Advocacy

- Anita Aurit: When Forever Isn't Forever
- T.J. Banks: Dealing with Traumatized Rescue Cats
- Christy Caballero: Try Yoga With Cats
- Deborah Camp: Radical Rescues Updated
- Marjorie Dawson: Filming Solo For Your Rescue or Cat Blog (Hands-Free Movies)
- Lucy Drury: When Kitty Needs a New Home
- Maggie Funkhouser: Compassionate Conservation: A New Approach Emerges
- Janiss Garza: High Five to Save Cats' Lives With Cat Pawsitive
- JaneA Kelley: Forgotten Felines: Warm Hearts in a Cold Climate
- Marci Kladnik: Bootsy's Odyssey
- Melissa Lapierre: 4 Reasons to Consider Adopting a Diabetic Cat
- Melissa Lapierre: Debunking 9 Common Myths about Feral Cats
- Rachel Loehner: Pro Tips for Adopting a Shelter Cat (from a former shelter cat!)
- Phillip Mlynar: The Pipeworks Brewing Company Cats
- Jen Reeder: How to Help a Senior Cat Adapt to Life in a New Home
- M Kim Campbell Thornton: Out of the Cold
- Dawn White: Lola on the Road: Brooklyn Cat Cafe
- Dawn White: Why Lexy Writes to Save Lives #RememberMeThursday 2018



III.1 Poem

- Karen Nichols: Scout Sammy's Cat Scouts Christmas Story
- Susan Willett: Ex-Mouse Gift
- Susan Willett: Haiku by Cat: Asking

IV.1 Short Story/Flash Fiction/Anthology

- Marci Kladnik: A Magical Moment
- Terilynn Mitchell: Beyond Fear

V.1 Annual or Long Publication

Bernadette Kazmarski: Rescue, Foster, Rehome, Repeat 2019: Pittsburgh C.A.T. 2019 Calendar

VI.1 Books: Fiction - Mystery

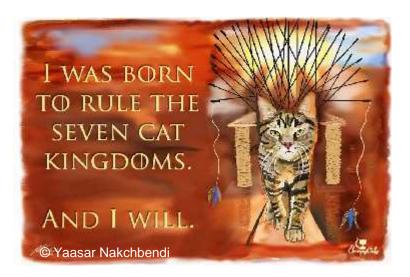
- Michael Craft: FlabberGassed: A Mister Puss Mystery
- Debbie De Louise: Love on the Rocks: Cobble Cove Mystery #4
- Hillari DeSchane: A Christmas Tail: A Regency Holiday Mystery
- Carole Nelson Douglas: Absinthe Without Leave: A Midnight Louie Café Noir Mystery
- Patricia Fry: Furever Bound (Book 31, Klepto Cat Mysteries)
- Patricia Fry: Secrets, Trickery + Meows (Book 27, Klepto Cat Mysteries)
- Mollie Hunt: Cat Café
- Clea Simon: A Spell of Murder
- Diane A.S. Stuckart: Fool's Moon: A Tarot Cats Mystery
- Eileen Watkins: Feral Attraction
- Eileen Watkins: The Bengal Identity

VI.2 Books: Fiction - Sci-Fi/Fantasy (no entries)

VI.3 Books: Fiction - Other

Sandi Ward: Something Worth Saving

- VI.4 Books: Nonfiction Health & Behavior
 - Jason Nicholas, BVetMed: 101 Essential Tips: Kitten or New Cat: Health & Safety
- VI.5 Books: Nonfiction Rescue & Advocacy (no entries)
- VI.6 Books: Nonfiction Other
- **Susan M. Ewing: 77 Things to Know Before Getting a Cat**
- Kim Freeman: How to Find a Lost Cat: Advice from a Pet Detective
- Lawrence Johnson: Show Cats: Portraits of Fine Felines
- VI.7 Books: For Children (no Certificate winners)
- VI.8 Books: Poems/Gifts/Other
 - Mollie Hunt: Cat Poems: For the Love of Cats
 - Mastin Redinger: CFA Ambassador Cats Adult Coloring Book
- VII.1: Video/Television Production: Health/Behavior/ Training
 - Zachary Nugent: How to Leash Train Your Cat in 5 Steps
 - Zachary Nugent: Pet Dish TV Cat Agility Training
 - Zachary Nugent: Pet Dish TV Managing Litter Box Issues
- VII.2: Video/Television Production: Lifestyle
 - **▼ Zachary Nugent: Pet Dish TV Celebrating Captivating Cats**



VII.3: Video/Television Production: Humor/ Entertainment

- Alana Grelyak: Is Your Cat a Nudist? (CATastrophes Web Series)
- Zachary Nugent: Busting Myths About Black Cats

VII.4: Video/Television Production: Rescue & Advocacy

- **Solution** Zachary Nugent: Pet Dish TV Chai the Courageous Cat
- Zachary Nugent: Pet Dish TV Kitten Season

VIII.1: Audio / Broadcast: Any Format

Stacy LeBaron: Community Cats Podcast #262

IX.1 Blogsite/Website: General Care/Lifestyle

(No Certificate winners)

IX.2 Blogsite/Website: Educational/Informative

(No Certificate winners)

IX.3 Blogsite/Website: Rescue & Advocacy

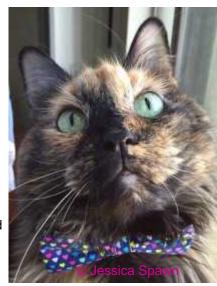
- Stacy LeBaron: Community Cats Podcast website
- Dawn White: Lola The Rescued Cat

IX.4 Blogsite/Website: Humor/Entertainment

(No Certificate winners)

X.1 Column / Online Column

- Cynthia Foley, with CatWatch Staff: Ask Elizabeth
- Lyn T. Garson: Technically Speaking
- JaneA Kelley: Keep it Clean
- Melissa Lapierre: The Purrfect 10
- Dawn White: Summer Safety Tips for Cats
- Dawn White: Lola on the Road
- Make Dawn White: Catnip Nation





XI.1 Social Media Expression: Health and General Care (No Certificate winners)

XI.2 Social Media Expression: Behavior & Training (No entries)

XI.3 Social Media Expression: Lifestyle

- Maggie Marton: A Year in the Life of a Cat and Her Dog
- Dusty Rainbolt: Jeffy's Daily Mews
- Dorene West: Days in the Life of the Cat Authors

XI.4 Social Media Expression: Rescue & Advocacy

- Adam Jablonski: Alley Cat Rescue's Instagram (@alleycatrescue)
- Layla Morgan Wilde: A Year of Making a Difference on Instagram: @BlackCatsOflG

XI.5 Social Media Expression: Humor & Entertainment

Debbie Glovatsky: GLOGIRLY - Tails of Two Funny Cats & Their Girl Facebook Page

XII.1 Photography: Single

- M Lyn T. Garson: Pussy Face
- Jyn T. Garson: Clarence
- Debbie Glovatsky: Waffles the Four-Eyed Kitty
- Debbie Glovatsky: Gratitude
- Debbie Glovatsky: Thankful
- Paula Ann Gregg: Caturday Art Truffle

XII.1 Photography: Single (continued)

- Paula Ann Gregg: Wordless Wednesday
- Lawrence Johnson: Cat Talk Magazine cover
- Rachel Loehner: Toe Day
- Ramona D. Marek: Ivan Kitty Kisses: Happy Cat, Healthy Cat (2019 weekly planner, May)
- Ramona D. Marek: Natasha, Morning Sungazer
- Dawn White: Kitten in a Cat Café
- Susan Willett: A Work of Art
- Susan Willett: Calvin on the Couch

XII.2 Photography: Series

- Debbie Glovatsky: Freckles and Fangs
- Debbie Glovatsky: Vanity and the Orange Mancat
- Debbie Glovatsky: Frenzied Feline Fun
- Mollie Shutt: Ex-Mouse Gift
- Layla Morgan Wilde: Out of This World Snow Day Adventures

XII.3 Photographic Art

- Anita Aurit: Bring Me My Catpuccino
- Debbie Glovatsky: GLOGIRLY Cats 2019 Desk Calendar
- Debbie Glovatsky: Bohemian CATsody
- Debbie Glovatsky: GLOGIRLY Cats Meowy Christmas Collection
- Teresa Keiger: CFA Ambassador Cats 2019 Calendar
- Carol Lowbeer: Happy National Button Day

XII.4 Cartoon

- Abby Denson: Speaking Yiddish to My Cat
- Stephanie Piro: Back
- Stephanie Piro: Cat Ancestors
- Stephanie Piro: Christmas Presents
- Stephanie Piro: Purrs
- Stephanie Piro: Starter Cat
- Stephanie Piro: Kitty New Year
- Marc-Andre Runcie-Unger (with Elisabetta Palmeri): The Adventures of the Katzenworld Cats



XII.5 Illustration: Single

- Yasaar, Nakchbendi: Cover Cat Blogging Calendar 2019
- Cori Solomon: Siamese Christmas

XII.6 Illustration: Series

Bernadette Kazmarski: Cover Illustrations for "Klepto Cat

Mysteries" 27-32

XII.7 Graphic Design

- Deb Barnes: Marketing Series 2018 Cat Writers' Association Conference and Awards Banquet
- Debbie Glovatsky: Sheer Fun For Cats® Toy Project
- ▼ Teresa Keiger: CFA National Awards Banquet Awards Booklet Cover
- Layla Morgan Wilde: 2018 Cat Holiday Calendar

XII.8 Fine Art

- Alana Grelyak:
 Black Cat
- Bernadette
 Kazmarski:
 Allegro Moderato
- Bernadette
 Kazmarski:
 Commissioned
 Portrait: Feebee,
 Amber, Buckley,
 Allegra and Ruby,
 and Red Maple
- Bernadette
 Kazmarski:
 Chocolate Bath
- Cori Solomon: Sima



The SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD, sponsored by the CWA Council of Directors, recognizes the CWA member who has offered guidance, encouraging counsel, support, or other help that has had a direct and positive influence on another's writing/publishing success. Qualifying mentor experiences are limited to those occurring within the past three contest periods (approximately the last three years). The recipient shall exemplify the highest ideals of the CWA vision, that is, to promote communal support, networking, and mutual respect between colleagues. Only CWA members are eligible for this award. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGES: CWA Council of Directors

WINNER: Ramona Marek





The MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE **AWARD**, sponsored by the **CWA**, honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, public communication, and professional excellence, best promotes the ideals, mission, and best interest of the Cat Writers' Association. Nominees can include, but are not limited to, writers, editors, or publicists whose published work or actions have had a significant impact on improving the quality of life of cats, educating the public, promoting responsible cat breeding and ownership, and/or facilitating the professional growth of cat writers. The honoree shall receive \$500 and his or her name engraved on a permanent commemorative plaque (at the offices of the Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation).

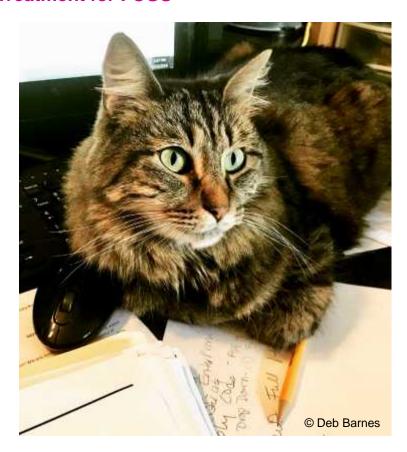
JUDGES: CWA Council of Directors

WINNER: Janiss Garza

The CWA PRESIDENT'S AWARD, sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association, is presented to the best entry among all MUSE Medallion™ winners in the regular contest categories. This represents the "Best of the Best." All MUSE Medallion™ winners are automatically entered and considered for this special honor. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: CWA President Deb Barnes

WINNER: Fran Pennock Shaw for "Stem-Cell Therapy May Help Cats Resistant to Traditional Treatment for FCGS"



THANKS TO OUR 2018 SPECIAL AWARDS SPONSORS

American Association of Feline Practitioners

AAFP Cat Friendly Award

CATalyst Council

CATalyst Council Connection Award

Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA)

CWA President's Award

Catster/Belvoir Marketing Group

Lorie Huston Health Award

CWA Council of Directors

Newcomer Blogger's Home-Enrichment Award

Feline Grooming and Skin Care Award

Kitten Care and Rescue/Adoption Award

Kuykendall Image Award

Senior Cat Well-Being Award

Shojai Mentor Award

Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health

Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health Center

Veterinary Issues Award

Fear Free Pets

Fear Free™ Pets Award

Fear Free™ Cat Enrichment Award

Germinder + Associates

GoodNewsForPets Human-Animal Bond Award

Pet Sitters International (PSI)

PSI Professional Pet Care Award

Pioneer Pets[®]

SmartCat[™] All Natural Litter Training Award Sleepypod[®]

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The International Cat Association (TICA)

Kari Winters Rescue/Rehabilitation Award

The Tiniest Tiger

All Cats Big and Small Award

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THANKS TO OUR 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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THANKS to these talented CWA visual artists whose art appears in this program

Tracy Ahrens of Momence, IL, is an artist, author of six books, and has been a journalist and editor for newspapers, magazines and websites for over 25 years. Her monthly humorous column on raising her pets appears in print and online.

Deborah Barnes is a blogger, publisher, and founder of Zee & Zoey's Cat Chronicles. She's the author of Makin' Biscuits – Weird Cat Habits and the Even Weirder Habits of the Humans Who Love Them. Deb also designs cat-related T-shirts and accessories. She's President of the CWA, Secretary of Pawsitively Humane, Inc. of Miami, FL., and founder of Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day.

By day, *Christine Booras* is a licensed real estate agent. By night, and every other spare minute of the day, she is slave to her favorite feline and canine companions.

Wendy Christensen paints, writes, makes jewelry, and tries to herd cats high on the side of Bobcat Mountain in the woods of New Hampshire.

Marjorie Dawson is known for smartphone moviemaking and her inspirational cat blog, as well as fundraising for cat causes. She loves teaching smartphone and camera techniques to beginners who want to boost their social media and blogging skills.

Debbie De Louise is an award-winning author, and reference librarian at a public library. Her novels include the four books of the Cobble Cove cozy mystery series, featuring Sneaky the Library Cat. She lives on Long Island with her husband, daughter, and three cats.

Lyn T. Garson, CVT, CCRP, has been a Certified Veterinary Technician for over 30 years, and is a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner. She's a freelance writer and photographer and serves on the Editorial Board of *Our Companions News*.

Larry Johnson is a Louisiana-based professional photographer who specializes in making portraits of show cats and pedigreed cats.

Marci Kladnik is Immediate Past CWA President, and a MUSE-winning writer and photographer. She devotes her life to all things cat, with a little dog tossed in to keep things real. She only adopts rescue dogs that like cats. She's retired and lives with four rescue cats and one dog. Marci writes, gardens, TNR's the local ferals, and fosters kittens and injured adult cats.

Rachel Loehner is an award-winning blogger who shares daily photos and conversations with her chatty cats on social media. She is also the volunteer editor for The Jackson Galaxy Project's *Cat Pawsitive Pro* initiative.

Yasaar Nakchbendi is a MUSE winner, blogger and artist from Montreal, Canada. She loves entertaining her readers with fun DIY cat hacks, catio ideas and gardening for cats— all aimed at enriching the lives of cats.

Stephanie Piro is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and designer, and one of King Features' "Six Chix" cartoonists. She creates daily published comics. In addition to winning numerous CWA awards, she's been nominated for the National Cartoonists' Society's Reuben Award.

Rick Reichenbach is a Louisiana photographer specializing in cityscapes, travel photos and animal portraits. He's the author of *Remembering Shreveport: A Photo Scrapbook, Ugly Betty and Other Stories*, and *How to Take Beautiful Pictures of Your Cat.* Rick shares his home with two beautiful cats, Archie and Lucy.

Cori Solomon is an animal artist and writer who lives in Los Angeles, CA, with her husband and four Salukis. Cori strives to capture the spirit and emotions of each animal in her pet portraits and other drawings. She looks into each animal's eyes to find their inner soul. For Cori, the eyes tell all!

Jessica Spawn is a PAWthor, Speaker, and PURRducer who is passionate about cat adoption and all things cats! Her "Instagram Cat Mom" PURRsona is on display at many live events, tradeshows, and social media platforms. Her short film, "Instagram Cat Mom," is touring 40 cities in 2019 with the New York Cat Film Festival. Jessica's recent children's book, The Christmas Kitten, was a 2018 International Book Awards Finalist.

Ruth E. Thaler-Carter is an award-winning freelance writer/editor who has written for the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), among many other outlets. She recently moved back to St. Louis as a first-time homeowner and adopted Skitter - her first cat in 30 years.

Mary Lu Warstler is a retired United Methodist Minister. She lives at Copeland Oaks Retirement Community in Ohio with her husband Rodney, and two rescued cats, Katy and Charlie.

Dorene West: Pre-retirement: 38+ years working in the Los Angles County judicial system. Post retirement: reading, writing, yawning, hanging out with friends & especially with her four best buddies—her cats.

Susan C. Willett is an award-winning writer and blogger whose original stories, poems, and humor appear in print and online. Susan shares her home with three dogs and four cats—including Calvin T. Katz, The Most Interesting Cat in the World™, whose photo went viral and who now has his own social media presence.

THANK MEW! to all 2019 Conference Coordinators and Volunteers

2019 Conference Committee: Deb Barnes (Chair), Lea-Ann Germinder, Paula Gregg, Marci Kladnik, Amy Shojai
2018 Contest Committee: Wendy Christensen (Chair), Deb Barnes, Patricia Fry, Jeremy Greenberg, Mollie Hunt, Katherine Kern, Phillip Mlynar, Arden Moore (Special Awards)

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CWA and Conference Marketing & Graphic Design: Deb
Barnes, Debbie Glovatsky, Rachel Loehner, Yaasar Nakchbendi
Editing Assistance: Deb Barnes, Marci Kladnik,
Ruth E. Thaler-Carter

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Swag Bag Coordinator: Mary Tan

Onsite Conference Ambassadors: Katherine Kern,

Marci Kladnik, Mary Tan

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Certificates of Excellence: Wendy Christensen
Banquet Program: Wendy Christensen

Conference Program: Wendy Christensen
CWA Anniversary Logo Design: Yasaar Nakchbendi

Nominating Committee: Janiss Garza (Chair),

Paul Glassner, Ramona Marek **Treasurer:** Dawn White

Website Guru and Tech Troubleshooters: Janiss

Garza, Weems Hutto, Amy Shojai

In Memoriam...

Please take a moment to remember two very special CWA members we lost during 2018. .



Best known by her pen name, Roby Sweet, **Sarah Andrews** had a significant presence in the cat blogging world. Sarah was an Associate Member of the CWA, a member of both the Editorial Freelancers Association and the American Copyeditors Society, and a Partner Member of the Alliance of Independent Authors.

An editor since 2003, Sarah opened Sundragon Editing in 2008. She edited hundreds of papers, articles, book manuscripts, and other documents of diverse subjects and styles, both fiction and nonfiction. She was also the author of a

cozy mystery series and the *Cuddlywumps Cat Chronicles* blog about cats in history, mystery, and culture. In 2016, she founded Cuddlywumps Publishing.

Longtime CWA member Celeste
Yarnall was a writer, book author,
lecturer, holistic healthcare practitioner
and holistic health consultant for cats,
dogs, and people. She was also a Reiki
Master, EFT Practitioner and life coach.

Among her many specialties were nutrition, natural pet care and non-verbal communication. She was the author of Cat Care, Naturally; Natural Cat Care; and Natural Dog Care; and co-author (with Jean Hofve, DVM) of The Complete Guide to Holistic Cat Care and Paleo Dog.



In addition to her work with animal healing and animal nutrition, Celeste was a well-known actress, with numerous screen and TV credits. Originally discovered by Rick and Ozzie Nelson, Celeste appeared opposite Elvis Presley in one of his films, and gave a memorable performance on an episode of *Star Trek*.



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