



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Summer 2011

A professional writers' association encouraging professionalism among cat writers, photographers, artists, and broadcasters

Time to Make Plans to Attend the 2011 CWA Conference!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

Every year you're told in the newsletter and in emails about how wonderful the CWA annual conference is and how worthwhile it is for both newcomers and "old-timers." This year is no different. I have always been amazed at how inexpensive the conference is, and now that I've seen "up close and personal" what the expenses are, I'm even more amazed. Our sponsors make this possible, and I am so grateful for their support each year.

I believe they support us because they know how much our writing impacts the pet-owning public and they value that. We certainly value them and I hope each of you who attends the conference lets our sponsors know how much we appreciate their help.

Well, that was a digression. My point in this particular ramble is to tell you about my introduction to conferences and to the CWA. I was (and still am) a member of the Dog Writer's Association of America, and I learned about the CWA conference from the DWAA newsletter in 2000. I had just written my first dog book and I wanted to learn more about writing in general, and pet writing in particular.

The CWA conference was in Kansas City, Mo., that year, and I was both excited and nervous. I had quite a history with dogs, but not so much with cats. I worried that, as a dog person, I wouldn't get a very warm welcome. I hoped by being quiet and unassuming, I could avoid detection as a dog person. I pictured other participants as serious writers with no tolerance of those (like me) who were just getting started.

I couldn't have been more wrong. First, there may have been serious writers there, but that didn't mean they were *serious*. Linda Hardie wore cat shoes, and Carole Nelson Douglas (and several others) had purses shaped like cats. Participants celebrated cats with wild sweaters and all kinds of wonderful cat jewelry. Wendy Christensen even had stockings with cats on them. Wow! And everyone was friendly. Truly. Everyone. Not one "catty" remark about dogs. Just people willing to share everything they knew about writing.

I went to all the seminars and learned so much in those two days. I began to feel that maybe, just maybe, I really could be a professional writer. I took advantage of the editor appointments as well. One was with a TFH editor who dealt with the small animal publications, but who offered to carry my resume and clippings back to the dog book editor. That was the start of my relationship with TFH, which has led to my writing seven breed books for them (as well as three which were never published). In fact, almost every year, those editor appointments have led to work, either immediately or within a few months.

Best of all, that first conference led me to join the CWA, and that has been priceless. I've met so many wonderful people, and the support of our Prolist has been amazing.

When I have a brag, a complaint, a question, CWA members are there to help, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. (We have members in several time zones, so it seems someone is always awake and at the computer).

I'm passionate about our CWA conferences. There's no better place for networking, for learning, for recharging our creative batteries. If you've been to a conference, you know what I mean. If you've never been, this is a good year for you to start! ♥



Photo by Betsy Stowe

(Photo at left) CWA President Susan M. Ewing and sponsor Carrie Foote of Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway® at the 2009 Conference. It's a great time to make new friends and have fun with those we already know!

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URGENT: July 1 Contest Deadline!

President's Message

By CWA President Susan M. Ewing

Attend the CWA Conference, Find Your Inspiration, and Write!

I am SO excited about the speakers for this year's conference! I want to attend every single seminar. It's going to be very hard for me to make choices. There are speakers on writing for websites, and on how to blog. Learn about defeating writer's block and how to use veterinary resources. Learn about the Cloud (I'm clueless; all I know is that it's not about weather). There'll be a seminar on writing about personal experiences, and another on how to make the switch to other genres. Both of these last two are on my "must do" list. The older I get, the more personal experiences I have and the more I think some of what I've learned might be useful to others. With the number of animal publications shrinking, I think we all want to know how to branch out into other areas to keep those free-lance checks rolling in!

Speaking of checks rolling in, huge thanks to Amy Shojai, who is blogging on Red Room and making money for CWA. Red Room sends us a check based on how many blogs Amy writes. In a time of reduced support by many sponsors, this is a huge help.

On a personal note, I am rejoicing in summer, which seems to have finally arrived after a cold, very wet spring. May was both a good and bad month on the pet front, as we lost Rory, the rescue Corgi. He was very old and he had a great last year, but as we all know, it still hurts to lose them. The good news was a puppy. I had sworn

off getting a puppy, but while helping a friend select a puppy, this one wiggled her

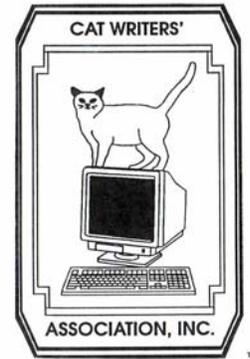
way into my heart. So, I've embarked on the adventure of raising a puppy.

This puppy is having the same effect on my writing as the CWA conference does each year. It's charging my batteries, and making me excited about writing. There are so many good things about our annual conference that it's always hard to say what the very best part is. There's the chance to see old friends and make new ones, the opportunity to meet editors and agents, the enjoyment of "getting away" and eating lots of good food, and there are all the amazing seminars that can help us all expand our knowledge. The combination of all these things does, truly, recharge my batteries. I come away from the conference excited and eager to try new things. I come away believing in my power as a writer to help make things better for our furry companions.

It's so easy to feel like you just can't write one more word about flea control or litter boxes or proper nutrition. It's easy to forget that there are "newbies" coming along every day who don't know what we know, and who are eager to learn. My new puppy is reminding me of the work and worry and, most of all, the joy that comes from having a pet. The CWA conference can do the same thing for you. This November, in White Plains, recharge *your* batteries. Share your thoughts, stories, and dreams. Learn from the experts. Then go home and write. ♥



Su's Pembroke Welsh Corgi GAEL © 2011 Jim Ewing



Cat Writers' Association

(www.catwriters.org)

Officers

SUSAN M. EWING, President

Phone: 716-484-6155

66 Adams Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Email: dogwriter@windstream.net

DUSTY RAINBOLT, Vice President

Phone: 972-724-0032 * Fax: 214-632-9367

P.O. Box 293413, Lewisville, TX 75029-3413

Email: dustycatwriter@pobox.com

WENDY CHRISTENSEN, Secretary

Phone: 603-878-4251 * Fax: 603-878-1000

256 Timbertop Road, New Ipswich, NH 03071

Email: wendy@wendycats.com

ALLENE TARTAGLIA, Treasurer

Phone: 732-977-1691 (C), 352-304-8531 (H)

9024 SW 91st Circle, Ocala, FL 34481

Email: ATartaglia1@cfl.rr.com

Council of Directors

Class of 2012

Lyn Garson

Ramona Marek

Clea Simon

Class of 2011

Paul Glassner

Heike Hagenguth

Arden Moore

Co-Founder/Lifetime Director

Amy D. Shojai, CABC

Immediate-Past President

Amy D. Shojai, CABC

MEOW Editor Emeritus

Betsy Stowe

Newsletter Editor

KAREN PAYNE

Phone 305-665-1639 * Fax: 305-665-1639

P.O. Box 430784, Miami, FL 33243-0784

Email: karen90@attglobal.net

Webmistress

KAREN LAWRENCE

Phone: 905-934-5726 * Fax: 905-934-1661

P.O. Box 573, Lewiston, NY 14092-0573

Email: kml@cfa.org

Volunteer to Be a CWA Contest Judge – You’ll Love It, Guaranteed!

By Barbara Florio Graham and Linda Kay Hardie

If you’ve never judged before, please consider offering to judge this year. You don’t have to be an “expert” in any area to judge, as we have special judges to handle specific special categories.

The rest of us just need to be “cat people” who enjoy reading about animals.

I feel that being a judge provides several benefits:

- * I get to know some of my CWA colleagues better by reading what they’ve written.

- * I often learn something I didn’t know.

- * I help out CWA, which, after all, keeps our dues so low because everything is done by volunteers.

- * I get a discount on my entry fee.

If you’re worried about “how” to judge, put your qualms aside. You’re given a description of what to look for, as expectations for different categories vary, and a rating sheet so you can allot a specific number of points for each think you should be looking for.

I usually photocopy the rating sheet(s) so I can use one to scribble on, erasing and changing my ratings as necessary (!) and adding any comments at the bottom that will help me remember the entry. Some of these may be added to the original sheet before I send it back to Nancy, if I feel I want/need to justify my rating.

It’s fun, and you learn quite a lot about how things are judged in all kinds of contests.

So please DO volunteer! ♥

Barbara Florio Graham won the CWA’s 2010 Shojai Mentor Award. Her expertise includes contracts, online and live training, mentoring, books, special projects, marketing, media, and publicity. For more information about her services, Terzo’s Blog and calendars, the official Simon Teakettle Virtual MEW’sical Society, and Bobbi’s new book *Prose to Go: Tales from a Private List*, go to www.simonteakettle.com.

I love to read, and I love to read good stuff, no matter what it is. I know that when those boxes or envelopes come in the mail from the CWA contest that I’ll have some good stuff to read. Sometimes it’s nationally published stuff that I might have already seen, but often it’s regional newsletters or self-published books or blogs or online articles, stuff that I missed. Coool.

This is different from judging an amateur contest, where the judges have to wade through a lot of... litter

box leavings. Because these are published pieces, there’s an expectation of quality up front. Sure, sometimes I’ve read pieces that I didn’t care for (but could appreciate the quality of) and on occasion I’ve read stuff that’s vanity published and not good at all (but that’s rare, because of our

rules), but most of the time this is ENJOYMENT reading. For me, it’s a great break from reading student papers (I teach first-year composition at the local university and college, and some of that is mind-blowingly awful).

That’s my two cents’ worth (or, as one of my students wrote, “too sense worth”). ♥

Linda Kay Hardie has a Master of Arts in English (Writing). She is the author of the illustrated children’s book *Louie Larkey* and the *Bad Dream Patrol* and the editor of *Not Fit for a Dog! The Truth about Manufactured Dog and Cat Food* by Dr. Michael W. Fox.



ARTWORK: HAPPY CAT by CatmanDrew™ Drew Strouble

Drew says: “This is an 18 x 24 inch (image size) original watercolor of one big, colorful, happy cat. It’s the largest single cat that I’ve painted in this style. It has a powerful impact on the viewer and will be sure to please the eye of the discerning cat art lover. I painted this a tribute to my segment in Animal Planet Network’s new show, *Must Love Cats*.” Go to <http://www.catmandrew.com/> for more information, to order prints, and even to get Drew to paint your own cat(s)!

**Everybody, Please Volunteer
to Judge the Contest!!**

The Time is NOW! Send in Your CWA Contest Entries!

Payment Options for CWA Contest, and a Call for Judges

By CWA Contest Chair Nancy Marano

Hurry! Gather up your best published or radio/TV work from the last year and enter it in the 2011 CWA Communication Contest! The deadline for entries is July 1, 2011. No ifs, ands, or buts. **Your entry MUST be postmarked on or before July 1, 2011,** to be considered.

Check out the Regular Entry category listings and the Special Award requirements in this issue before sending in your entries. There are changes.

This year's category changes are in the V. Book and VII. Internet/Web Sites & Blogs categories. We added one new division to the Book category: It will be V.7 – E-books. In the Internet/Web Sites & Blogs category, the change comes in what qualifies as a Blog entry. We will be accepting blogs published on professional (commercial or nonprofit sites) or personal websites. Blogs on personal websites are being accepted on a trial basis this year.

Remember that the fee for each Special Award entry is now \$5.00.

We need all of our Professional members to step up and judge. By my count, we have 200+ Professional members. This is more than enough to fill all the judging slots with a few people left to serve as backups. Just send me your name and category choices. Please fill out the form below, or email me at nmarano@aol.com with your preferences. Remember, you cannot judge a category you plan to enter.

Also, note that if you volunteer to judge, you'll receive a discount on your Regular Category entries, so you'll be helping the CWA contest and yourself. Can't get a better deal than that!

I invite members to submit the names of people they might like to see as Special Awards judges. A Special Award judge cannot be a CWA member. When submitting a name to me, include a valid email address, phone number, and a brief statement of the person's expertise. If at all possible, please ask the individual whether he/she would be interested in judging. You don't have to explain the contest; we'll take care of the explanations, but we would like to contact candidates who are interested.

Please note that paying for your CWA contest entries is easier now: You can use a credit card or your own PayPal account. Using CWA's PayPal link couldn't be any easier – just combine payment for your regular entries and Special Award entries into one amount and enter the total in the PayPal box at <http://catwriters.org/contest.html>. Please mark on your entry forms "Paid with PayPal" and note the amount you paid, so I can keep track of the entry payments. If there is a discrepancy between what you paid and what is due, I'll let you know.

Of course, you can always pay by check, too. If you pay by check, you can combine the amount of the regular entry and all your Special Award entries into one check, since all entries and payments are coming to the Contest Chair. It saves you time and checks.

Remember, **our regular-category judging slots are open and waiting for your name.** Sign up today! ♥

YES! I WANT TO BE A 2011 CONTEST JUDGE!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please sign up now to judge the 2011 CWA Contest. It's easy.
Simply fill out this form and send it to Nancy Marano at the address below.



- I am a Professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2011 CWA Communication Contest.
 I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2011 Contest Committee.

Although I understand that no category can be guaranteed to any judge, the categories I would most like to judge are
(please list at least three) _____

Send to Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 or email her (preferred) at nmarano@aol.com.

NAME _____ EMAIL OR PHONE _____

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
2011 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

- I.1 – Monthly Magazine - National (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- I.2 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care
- I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training
- I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic
- I.5 – Magazine Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)
- I.6 – Magazine – Regional (3 issues, 3 copies each)
- I.7 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Health and General Care
- I.8 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Behavior and Training
- I.9 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Any Other Topic
- I.10 – Magazine – Regional – Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)



II. Newspapers

- II.1 – Newspaper Article – Health and General Care
- II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior and Training
- II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic
- II.4 – Newspaper Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)

III. Newsletters (Printouts of newsletters distributed by e-mail may be entered in this category)

- III.1 – Newsletter – Breed-Specific (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care
- III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training
- III.6 – Newsletter Article - Other Topics
- III.7 – Newsletter Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)

IV. Miscellaneous

- IV.1 – Short Story
- IV.2 – Poem
- IV.3 – Humor
- IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publications (under 10 pages)
- IV.5 – Annual or Long Publications (over 10 pages)
- IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial
- IV.7 - PR/Humane Education/Press Kits

V. Books

- V.1 – Fiction
- V.2 – For Children
- V.3 – Health and General Care
- V.4 – Behavior and Training
- V.5 – Gift
- V.6 – Poetry
- V.7 – E-book
- V.8 – Other

VI. Non-Print Media

- VI.1 – Video, CD, DVD, or Television Production (VHS videotape or DVD that plays in a standard DVD player must be included)
- VI.2 – Broadcast, Audio – Any Format

VII. Internet/Web Sites & Blogs

- VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter (URLs for 3 issues)
- VII.2 – Website (URL)
- VII.3 – Online Article – Health and General Care
- VII.4 – Online Article – Behavior and Training
- VII.5 – Online Article – Any Other Topic
- VII.6 – Online Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)
- VII.7 – Blog: Educational (URLs for 3 individual issues)
- VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment (URLs for 3 individual issues)

VIII. Graphic Arts

- VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)
- VIII.2 – Black and White Photographs (series)
- VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)
- VIII.4 – Color Photographs (series)
- VIII.5 – Cartoon (May enter series from same publication)
- VIII.6 – Illustration (single)
- VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)



2011 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES



1. Entries for all categories must be postmarked by July 1, 2011, to qualify for the contest.
2. All entries must be sent in such a manner that they can be reasonably expected to arrive within 7 days of the July 1 postmark deadline. Regardless of the delivery method you choose, **you MUST specify that the recipient need not be present in person to sign for the material. The Contest Chair cannot be home every day during business hours to sign for packages.** It is the entrant's responsibility to package the entry carefully, so that it will not be damaged in transit. Posters and other large items should be packaged in tubes. The CWA will not assume responsibility for items that arrive damaged or do not arrive at all. If you wish acknowledgment of receipt of your entry, send a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the entry.
3. The contest is open to anyone whose work qualifies in any CWA contest category and was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2010, and June 15, 2011. Entries must not have been published before in any medium. Material published prior to the current contest period is not eligible, even if it was published in a different form. Publication date is the published date cited on the entry. When there is a question regarding eligibility, it is the entrant's responsibility to clarify the issue, that is, to include with the entry a signed letter from the publication's editor or publisher clarifying the date of publication.
4. The categories Online Magazine, Newsletter, Website, Blog: Educational, and Blog: Entertainment will be judged directly from the entrant's web site between August 1 and August 31, 2011.
5. In order to be equitably judged against other contenders, entries in all categories should devote one-third or more space to cats.
6. All contest entries must be published work. "Vanity" publications are not eligible. However, quality self-published professional work is eligible. It will be judged based on the same criteria as all the other entries in a given category. It is the entrant's responsibility to provide any supporting documents with self-published entries to clarify that the work does, indeed, qualify under this rule. For example, self-published work **MUST** be offered for sale by professional outlets (that is, book stores, commercial web sites, and other venues not owned by the author/artist). E-books will be accepted. The author is responsible for providing the Contest Chair with amazon.com gift cards or some other means of enabling judges to read the e-book for free.
7. Submit each regular category entry in triplicate (3 copies), with **one** entry form for each entry.
8. The CWA Entry Form, with category and subcategory noted, must accompany each entry and must be sent to the Contest Chair along with the total entry fee at the time of entry. Any entry that is missing any element (required number of copies, entry form, entry fee) will be considered incomplete and will not be judged.
9. Make sure your entry is legible and provide clean photocopies in a large enough format to be read. If the judge has difficulty reading an entry, it may be disqualified. Online articles/columns must be submitted in hard copy along with the original online URL and publication date included so that online entries may also be viewed online at the judge's discretion. The exceptions are the categories Online Magazine, Newsletter (VII.1), Website (VII.2), Blog: Educational (VII.6) and Blog: Entertainment (VII.7), which are judged on the Internet during the judging period specified in Rule 4. For these categories only, submit an entry form with just the URL (and dates for Blog issues) specified.
10. Blog entries (VII.6 and VII.7) may be posted either on professional (commercial or nonprofit) sites, or the authors must provide proof that (1) their blogs have been posted two or more times weekly for at least two months and 2) proof of blog traffic or visitor count to their blog site. The purpose of personal blogs is understood to be building a platform, creating interaction with readers, and fostering social relationships, while many for-pay sites blog less frequently and leverage "blogs" in an advertorial style. (If you are blogging on a commercial site less than twice a week, you should consider entering your "blog" in one of the "Online Article" categories.)
11. In the Newspaper categories, when an entry first appeared as a syndicated article, in those specific cases where a syndicated writer is not able to obtain actual copies of the published newspaper articles, the entrant may provide a copy of the original article and a letter of authentication from the syndicate editor.
12. For the Newsletter categories, a newsletter is distinguished from a magazine in that the newsletter does not take paid advertising and is sold only to subscribers (that is, it is not sold on newsstands). Single cat breed newsletters and nonprofit/charitable newsletters are the exception in that they may take paid advertising.

(continued on the next page)



2011 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES

(continued)



13. Entries in the Video or Television Production and the Radio Presentation, Audiotape, or CD categories must be submitted in their original form; that is, a transcript of a radio or television program is not acceptable – an actual audio or video recording must be entered. Video entries must be submitted as a VHS videotape or a DVD that plays in a standard DVD player. If an entire radio or television program is less than 10 minutes long, the entrant may select his/her three best programs and enter them as a single entry.
14. We will accept entries published in a foreign language, but they must be accompanied by a complete English translation. Entrants must provide three copies of the original that clearly show the date and name of the publication, and three copies of the translation. Bear in mind that the judges cannot judge the quality of the translation; they will base their decision solely on the English language content. Of course, entries in graphic arts categories are the exception and need no translation.
15. An individual person or entity may submit an unlimited number of entries, but each individual work can be entered only one time in one regular contest category. In other words, the same individual work may not be entered in more than one category. Photos or illustrations that are entered in a Graphic Arts category may appear again as a part of a writing entry (for example, as part of a magazine article or a book). Columnists must choose only their three best columns and submit them as a single entry for that column. This applies to all the Column categories (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, and online) and means no other individual installments of that particular column may be entered as single articles, except in the Editorial and Humor categories. (A column appears regularly in the same publication[s] with the same column title, byline, slug, and/or artwork.)
16. An entry must be entered in a regular category to be considered for a Special Award. Send one additional copy for each Special Award entry. (Exceptions: Three copies of the nomination form should be submitted for the Shojai Mentor Award. No additional copies are needed for consideration for the President's Award, and no entry form is needed for this award; the winner of the President's Award is chosen from among the Muse Medallion™ winners, and all Muse Medallion™ winners are automatically considered.) Special Award entries are sent to the Contest Chair.
17. Anyone may submit an entry on behalf of an author/artist, but the award will be presented solely to the author/artist of the entry. The author/artist must be a current CWA member to qualify for the discounted member's entry fee, and CWA membership dues must be paid current at the time of the contest deadline.
18. All judges are chosen by the Contest Chair and his or her Committee. Entries in the regular categories are reviewed and judged independently by three professional CWA members and their scores are averaged by the Contest Committee to determine the winner. Winners of Special Awards are selected by judges who are not members and are not affiliated with the award's sponsor; each Special Award is judged by one judge. Special Awards sponsors may be shown the winning entry before the award is given, but that announcement decision is at the discretion of the judge and the Contest Committee.
19. The Contest Chair has the right to make category changes as deemed necessary. The Contest Chair may also delete or combine categories if there are not sufficient entries. What constitutes sufficient entries is decided by the Contest Chair, but there is no absolute minimum number of entries for any category to be judged. If, in the opinion of the judges, no entry represents excellence within a category, no award will be given.
20. Entries will not be returned. Judges' decisions are final. Situations that may arise from time to time that are not specifically addressed in these rules shall be adjudicated by the Contest Chair and her or his committee.
21. Regular award finalists receive a CWA Certificate of Excellence and shall be notified in October. In order to earn a certificate, the individual must score an average of 90 or higher based on the scores submitted by the three judges for each category. The winner in each regular contest category shall receive the CWA Muse Medallion™. Special Award winners shall receive recognition as specified in the Special Awards list.
22. Contest results will be announced at the Annual CWA Awards Banquet and published in the Winter 2012 *MEOW* newsletter and on the CWA web site at www.catwriters.org. Please do not call the Contest Chair or anyone on the Contest Committee to ask if you have won. Those who do not have access to the Internet or the CWA newsletter may enclose an SASE for a list of winners. Please mark on the back of the envelope "CWA Contest Winners."
23. The entrant must comply with all rules. Deviation from the rules will result in rejection of an entry and loss of the entry fee. Entrants will be notified of disqualification in as timely a manner as possible. However, CWA is not responsible for disputed entries. ♥



2011 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS



NOTE: If you have questions about any of the Special Awards, please contact Contest Chair Nancy Marano at nmarano@aol.com.

AWARD #1: The **DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD**, sponsored by Cornell University's Feline Health Center, is presented to 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.

AWARD #2: The **FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the entrant whose work best captures the magic of the loving relationship between cats and their owners. Highest consideration goes to those works that are skillfully written/produced, and technically accurate. Qualified entries include single books, articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, poems, blogs, radio or television submissions. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative award.

AWARD #3: The **FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is for the writer who has done the most during the contest year to promote the welfare, health, and proper care of cats, which includes providing sensory stimulation to keep cats healthy and happy. This award is for "a body of work" and can include different publications during the contest period. Single entries do not qualify; therefore, multiple books, newsletters, print articles, online articles, columns, stories, blogs, websites, and series in any pet or non-pet consumer publication qualify. The award honors writing excellence and the ability to communicate technical information in a clear and creative manner to better educate cat owners and help improve the lives of cats. A maximum of 10 articles or items published within the contest period may be submitted. Choose only your best work! This award consists of \$500 and a cat figurine.

AWARD #4: The **HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is given to the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. Topics can include, but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative care, and senior-for-senior programs. Qualifying entries include a single book, article (print or online), brochure, newsletter, editorial, blog, photograph, and commercial radio/TV tape. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #5: The **HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, 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, 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 magazine, online newsletters, and videotape broadcasts. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #6: The **HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is awarded to the best single article (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue), or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. Appropriate topics include "how to" articles, stories about feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #7: The **KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD**, sponsored by TICA, is awarded to 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 commemorative award consists of a \$500 and a plaque.

AWARD #8: The **MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD**, sponsored by Merial, is presented to 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 \$1000 award and commemorative certificate.

(continued on the next page)

2011 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS (continued)

AWARD #9: The **PETFINDER.COM ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD** sponsored by Petfinder.com, is presented to the entry that best describes the plight of homeless cats and/or the joy of cat adoption. Entries will be judged for quality as well as the ability to connect with and persuade the reader. Think — How can this increase cat adoption? Qualified *print only* entries include single article, feature, columns, and short story. The award consists of \$1000 plus inclusion in the Petfinder.com online library.

AWARD #10: The **PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the writer or creator of the best entry of the year that focuses on cat breeds, pedigreed cats, and professional breeder issues including (but not limited to) health, care, nutrition, and showing cats. Qualifying entries include entire publications, such as breed or breed club newsletters, magazines, articles, stories, blogs, photographs or illustrations in any professional venue, featuring purebred cats. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative bowl.

AWARD #11: The **PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the best column or article (print or professionally published online), blog, or book entry on the subject of feline nutrition. Highest consideration goes to those works that are both skillfully written and technically accurate. The recipient cannot be an employee of or associated with a pet food company at the time that the entry is judged. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #12: The **PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the outstanding single article (print or professionally published online) or blog reporting on feline health issues. Articles 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 pewter bowl.

AWARD #13: The **PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. Qualified entries include single books, articles, labeled series, columns, short stories, blogs, and websites. Entries will be judged on writing excellence and content accuracy. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #14: The **STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD**, sponsored by Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®, 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 tapes on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, proper scratching behavior, trick training, or training cats to stay off countertops, tables, or other forbidden places. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative certificate.

AWARD #15: The **TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. Highest consideration goes to those works that are both skillfully written and technically accurate. Qualified entries include single books, articles, features, columns, blogs, websites, online magazines, or online newsletters and should educate readers while promoting a positive approach to understanding and dealing with feline behavior. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #16: The **WORLD’S BEST CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD**, sponsored by World’s Best Cat Litter®, 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.

AWARD #17: The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by past-president Amy D. Shojai, 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.

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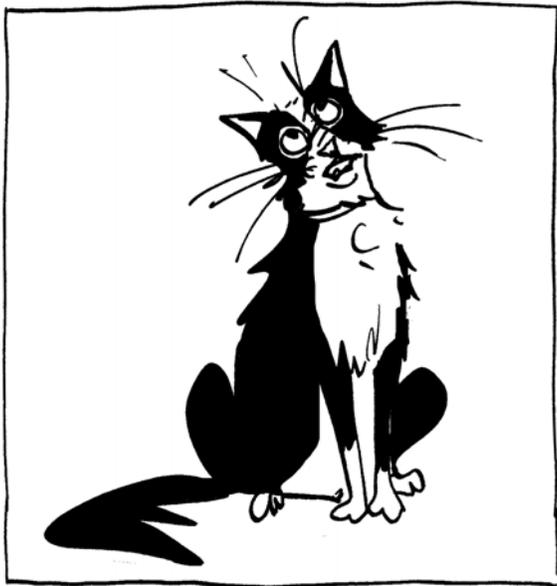
2011 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

AWARD #18: The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by 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).

AWARD #19: The **KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD** is sponsored by CWA, and is presented to 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 \$250 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #20: 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 "Best of the Best" requires no additional copies be submitted of entries. Muse Medallion™ winners shall be automatically entered and considered for the honor. This award consists of \$250 and a commemorative item. ♥

Send contest entries right away, and good luck to all!



Stephnie©2011

"Independent is my middle name... or, does it come AFTER Fluff Bunny?"

Arthur's Food

My two-foot opens up a can of food;
I watch it closely when she puts it down;
it might be poison; it might not be good,
so I inspect it as I walk around.

I sniff at it then try to walk away,
but she grabs me and puts me there again.
I scrape the floor to show her my dismay;
she turns the dish, but there it does remain.

I stick my paw in and I take some out
and lick my paw and put some on the floor;
again I want to walk away and pout,
but she just puts me back near it once more.

She gives the dish another quarter spin;
I guess I'll eat that food and just give in.

©2009 Margy Ohring



2011 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Regular Category Entry Form



PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE RULES on our website at www.catwriters.org or on pages 6-7 of this newsletter.

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2011. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Submit **THREE** copies of each entry, along with **ONE** copy of this entry form per entry.
Send your entry to Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

THERE IS A SEPARATE FORM FOR SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES (see page 12).

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES.

The contest entry fee is \$15 per entry. A Volunteer Discount is available to CWA members only.
CWA Professional members who volunteer to judge in the contest and CWA Associate members who volunteer to assist the Contest Committee may pay \$8.50 per entry.

Please make your check payable to Cat Writers' Association. All payments must be in U.S. funds.

You may also pay using PayPal at <http://www.catwriters.org/contest.html>.

If you are sending in a Special Award entry as well, you may combine the fees into one payment.

- I am an associate member and volunteer to assist the 2011 Contest Committee.**
- I am a professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2011 CWA Communication Contest.**

NAME OF AUTHOR OR ARTIST _____ CWA MEMBER IDENTIFICATION # _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

Name, Address, Phone of Submitter (if different from Author/Artist) _____

CATEGORY NAME AND NUMBER (Example: I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training) _____

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

NAME OF PUBLICATION OR PUBLISHER _____ Issue/Publication Date(s) _____

**I certify that this entry was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2010, and June 15, 2011,
and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.**

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- Each entry is submitted in triplicate with **one** entry form per entry.
- My fee is enclosed, payable to the Cat Writers' Association in U.S. funds.
- A self-addressed, postage-paid postcard is included for acknowledgment of receipt of entry (optional).
- Questions? Email the Contest Chair at nmarano@aol.com, or call 505-296-8869 (MDT).

MAIL ENTRIES TO

Contest Chair Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

2011 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest

Special Award Entry Form



PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE RULES on our website at www.catwriters.org or on pages 8-10 of this newsletter.

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2011. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

The fee is \$5 per Special Award entry (in addition to the fee that accompanies Regular Category entries).

Please make your check payable to Cat Writers' Association. All payments must be in U.S. funds.

You may also pay using PayPal at <http://www.catwriters.org/contest.html>.

You may combine the fees for your Regular entry and Special Award entry in one payment.

ALL ENTRIES FOR SPECIAL AWARDS MUST ALSO BE ENTERED IN A REGULAR CATEGORY.

THERE IS A SEPARATE FORM FOR REGULAR CATEGORY ENTRIES (see page 11).

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR REGULAR CATEGORY ENTRIES.

Submit ONE copy of each entry for a Special Award, along with ONE copy of this entry form.

Send your check/money order for Special Awards entries, along with your entry form(s), to

Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

NAME OF AUTHOR OR ARTIST _____ CWA MEMBER IDENTIFICATION # _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

Name, Address, Phone of Submitter (if different from Author/Artist) _____

REGULAR CATEGORY NAME AND NUMBER in which entry is entered (Example: I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior & Training) _____

SPECIAL AWARD for which entry is entered _____

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

NAME OF PUBLICATION OR PUBLISHER _____ Issue/Publication Date(s) _____

**I certify that this entry was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2010, and June 15, 2011,
and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.**

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- All entries have also been entered in a regular category.
- For each entry, one copy is submitted along with one copy of this entry form, for each award.
- My fee is enclosed, payable to the Cat Writers' Association in U.S. funds.
- A self-addressed, postage-paid postcard is included for acknowledgment of receipt of entry (optional).
- Questions? Email the Contest Chair at nmarano@aol.com, or call 505-296-8869 (MDT).

MAIL ENTRIES TO

Contest Chair Nancy Marano, 7601 Vista del Arroyo NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109



2011 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Shojai Mentor Award Nomination Form

The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by CWA's past president, Amy D. Shojai, 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 the award. The honoree shall receive \$500 and a commemorative award.

Nominations of any CWA member may be submitted by any individual (member or nonmember). The "Submitter" must be the direct beneficiary in the mentor relationship. Multiple nominations of one individual by several different people are allowed. (Impact of individual mentor experiences weighs most heavily and a "group vote/campaign" for an individual is strongly discouraged. It shall not influence the judging one way or another.) The "Nominee" contribution must go beyond that individual's required duties as defined by his/her employment – in other words he or she cannot be "paid" to act as a mentor (i.e., an editor's routine purchase, editing, or publishing of a Submitter's work does not qualify, nor does a book doctor's revision, nor an agent's sale. To qualify, the mentoring must reach above and beyond the "normal or routine" business relationship one would expect the agent, book doctor, editor, or other professional to extend to any of his/her other clients). You may not nominate yourself. Nominations shall be reviewed and a recipient selected by the contest committee. There is no entry fee required to nominate someone for this award.

Send this completed form, with any attachments, in triplicate, to Contest Chair Nancy Marano.

(Please type or print legibly.)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF SUBMITTER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

Please provide a brief summary of your mentor experience, including direct, positive professional results of the relationship. (Please keep the summary to one single-spaced page.)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2011.

Send this completed form, with attachments, in triplicate, to

**Contest Chair Nancy Marano
7601 Vista del Arroyo NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

2011 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by 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).

CWA members and non-members are eligible for this award. Nominations must be made by a CWA member in good standing. You cannot nominate yourself. The submitter must explain his or her reasons for nominating the person, i.e., explain how the nominee has published and/or performed in some extraordinary fashion to benefit cats or cat writers. This should include a detailed description of what the nominee has done, whether a one-time accomplishment or a listing of publications and activities over time, for example. Referral to specific publications, articles, web sites etc., is not required, but can help the judges in making their decision.

Michael Brim was instrumental in his lifetime in promoting many things that benefited cats – increasing the awareness, education, and responsibility of owners and improving the lives of cats overall (as advertising director of *Cats Magazine*); publicizing the value of purebred cats, responsible breeding, and the showing of cats (as the Cat Fanciers' Association's first public relations and marketing manager); and facilitating writers' and illustrators' professional growth (in co-founding the Cat Writers' Association). Our goal is to honor others whose writing and deeds share and reflect Michael's varied accomplishments.

Send this completed form, with any attachments, in triplicate, to Contest Chair Nancy Marano.

(Please type or print legibly.)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF SUBMITTER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

Please provide a brief summary of your nominee's accomplishments.
(Please keep the summary to one single-spaced page.)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2011.

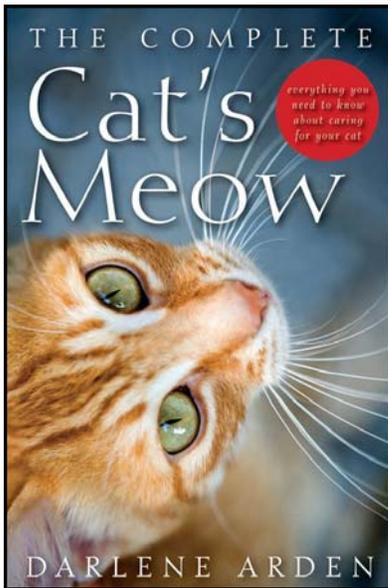
Send this completed form, with attachments, in triplicate, to

**Contest Chair Nancy Marano
7601 Vista del Arroyo NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

BITS & BYTES



Darlene Arden's new book, *The Complete Cat's Meow* (published by Howell Book House), was released in April and



already has gone into a second printing! This complete guide to cat ownership is purrific for every cat owner, potential owner, shelter volunteer, or foster parent – anyone who loves cats. See it at <http://tinyurl.com/46os5sl>. The book is a WOW – way to go, Darlene!

Sally Bahner received two awards from the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists as part of the group's 2010 Awards Competition for her articles in the *Branford Eagle* online newspaper. She received first place for "Cat Collector: I was Afraid to Ask for Help" in the Online Media In-Depth article category and second place for "Recession Hits Banford Kids" in the online Media Investigative Article category. The *Branford Eagle* received 12 awards total in the competition.

In May, Greta Beigel published *A Jew from Riga*, a tribute to her father (Kindle, Nook, www.amazon.com/dp/B004YKXSUQ),

based largely on a 2004 trip Greta took to Latvia in order to uncover her Dad's mysterious past. Tracing his roots, she learns much about the region, namely that Riga, capital of the Baltic States, rocks on, with clubs, much erotica, and wonderful ballet and opera. Then the darker side emerges....

Greta's book *Mewsings: My Life as a Jewish Cat* recounts the story of a rescued powdery brown-and-white cat called Ketzal, now also known as Meow Meows.

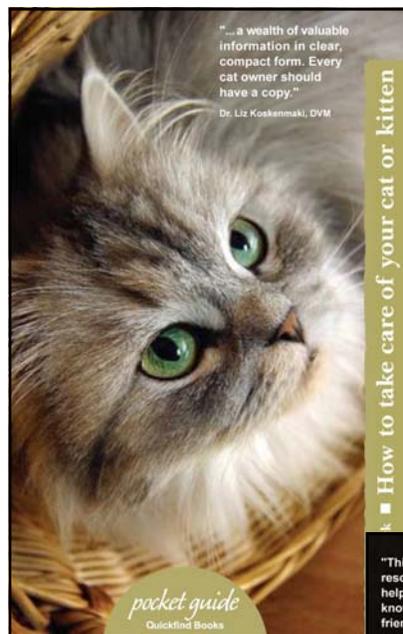


Published in October as an e-book, Ketzal's pontifications on what it takes to be a devout calico in a religious household, especially during the High Holidays, was uploaded to Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook and, finally, to Smashwords.com.

Since Ketzal craved more kudos, Greta collaborated with Grammy-nominated pianist/composer/producer Michael Hoppe to record the audio CD of *Mewsings*. The 15 tracks depict rituals of Passover, Hanukkah, and Yom Kippur, and travels to Iceland and New Zealand in search of fellow Jews. Hear and download them at iTunes®, Amazon MP3, and CDBaby.com.

Wendy Christensen has a new Etsy shop with her handcrafted cat jewelry: www.etsy.com/shop/wendycats. She invites you all to visit and tell your friends. If you'd like to be notified when she adds new jewelry to the shop, email Wendy at her new email address, wendy@wendycats.com. Wendy advises that comments, critiques, suggestions, and requests are welcome!

Deb Eldredge, DVM, is celebrating the publication of her new book about rally (a dog sport that is sort of in between agility and obedience). *The Ultimate Guide to Rally-O* features many photos by Deb's son Tom, with most of the training sequence photos of Deb's daughter Kate with her Belgian Tervuren, and a number of photos by Jean Fogle, who is known to many CWA members. Says Deb: "I admit, I have yet to see a move to try rally with cats."



Denise Fleck wrote definitive guides on everyday and emergency pet care, *Cat First Aid & CPR* and *How to Take Care of Your Cat or Kitten* by Quickfind Books – and these are now available as e-books. Denise advises, "With over 90 million cats in U.S. households and that number growing, people truly love their pets and spent over \$50 billion in 2010 on them.... Just be sure you can respond like a best friend

when your cat needs you!" Her easy-to-use books have all the information needed for emergencies like choking, snakebites, high rise falls, and accidental poisoning; they also cover basic needs such as nutrition, grooming, how to introduce a new cat to the family, and understanding cat behavior. Denise is a go-to authority on pet first-aid & CPR who has shared her skills on Animal Planet, Lifetime, CNN, and PBS; she was also the cover story in a recent issue of *The Pet Press*. To order the books, you can go to <http://www.sunnydogink.com/page4.html> or www.quickfindbooks.com. You can also visit Denise's blog at www.quickfind-petcare.com.



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BITS & BYTES *(continued)*

Barbara Florio Graham will be launching *Prose to Go: Tales from a Private List* on Saturday, June 25, from 1-3 p.m. at Books on Beechwood in Ottawa, Canada. The Managing Editor of this collection of 34 first-person stories from 18 professional writers across Canada, Bobbi also contributed three selections to this book, which is being distributed worldwide. See details at www.SimonTeakettle.com/prosetogo/htm.

Frederick Fuller has published the novel *Children of Bast: A Memoir*, in which Gaylord the cat seizes his chance to escape from apartment life, take to the streets, and determine his own life. He falls in love with an alley cat named Adele and eventually winds up telling his story (in Egyptian Arabic) to one Professor Fuller. Check out *Children of Bast* and Frederick's other books at <http://skimbleshankstherailwaycat.wordpress.com/category/words-words-words/my-books/>, which is part of Frederick's new blog, <http://skimbleshankstherailwaycat.wordpress.com/>.

The novel is available at www.amazon.com and www.smashwords.com.

Dena Harris has good news that she's excited to share with us. Exmo, a Russian publishing house, has purchased foreign rights to publish her book *Who Moved My Mouse? A Self-Help Book for Cats (Who Don't Need Any Help)*. The Russian version will appear in about 16 months. *Ura!* (= *Hurrah* in Russian!)

Marci Kladnik, a board member of Catalyst for Cats, Inc., a Santa Barbara, Calif., rescue group, has launched a new website in an effort to generate a following for stories about Maggie, her Scottish Terrier/kitten fosterer. Maggie's first blog has been posted! Marci asks you to please cruise by and leave a comment at www.maggiestories.com. She has included the Suggested Reading list (mostly about cats) that is also on the Catalyst for Cats website (<http://www.catalystforcats.net/>). Finally, Marci says that any authors who write about cats AND dogs can get your books reviewed by Maggie and her human by dropping a note to Marci at mkauthor@verizon.net; she will send a street address so you can send a copy to her.

Marilyn Krieger, CCBC, announces that her cat book

Naughty No More! published by Bowtie Press in January 2011, will be available in e-book format (in all the different flavors and formats of e-book) by June 21. The book is currently available as a T-book (a traditional book you hold in your hand and spill coffee on), from your favorite bookseller; it also can be pre-ordered from Amazon as a Kindle e-book. The popular book focuses on changing unwanted cat behavior through clicker training, environmental changes, management, and other positive methods. You can check out Marilyn's latest projects at www.thecatcoach.com.



© Marilyn Krieger

Marilyn's kitty shows off a trick!

Our hard-working CWA contest chair, Nancy Marano, won 1st place in the New Mexico Press Women's 2011 Contest as editor of *PETglyphs* and 2nd place for Informational Columns. Congratulations, Nancy!

Linda A. Mohr led a writers' workshop entitled *Write It Down Now* at the Village of North Palm Beach Library January through April 2011. The workshop emphasized brainstorming ideas, finding inspiration, staying focused, and meeting goals. Linda was a guest on the Mary Jones *Talk of Connecticut* radio show in February. For more information about Linda's work, go to www.lindamohr.com.

Stop the presses! Dan Poynter has been on a fabulous adventure! To promote *The Air Travel Handbook* and his "Up In The Air" speech, Dan flew around the world using commercial airliners on 17-19 May. Dan flies more than 6,000 miles each week and has toured 52 countries so far; he has even skydived into the North Pole. Previously Dan circumnavigated the globe 20 times; the 21st was for speed. His itinerary resembled that of Phileas Fogg in the 1873 Jules Verne novel *Around the World in Eighty Days* – but Dan reduced the time to only two days. See <http://RTW2D.COM> for details.

Amy D. Shojai, CABC, is the new Puppies Guide at www.puppies.About.com. You'll find details on her blog at <http://amyshojai.com/2011/05/06/furry-friday-puppies-guide/>. Amy's latest Paw Nation article on kitten play is at <http://amyshojai.com/2011/05/06/feline-friday-squeaky-games-kitties-play/>. She also wrote a recent article for Huffington Post about what all pet lovers know anyway – how pets are good for your health! http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amy-d-shojai-cabc/pets-lower-stress_b_867025.html. Her personal blog expanded the idea: <http://amyshojai.com/2011/05/26/thoughty-thursday-health-benefits-of-cats-dogs/>. Way to go, Amy!

Clea Simon had a book party for her books *Dogs Don't Lie* and *Grey Zone* at Harvard Books in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Mass. If you didn't make it to the party (there *was* chocolate), then boo-hoo for you! But you can still get copies of Clea's latest books from various sources, including Amazon.com and your favorite local bookstore. Check it out at www.cleasimon.com.

Harold "Catman" Sims has just published the second book

in his series of three books for children (ages 5-8 or younger), each with a moral. The first, published last year, was *Kevin The Helpful Vampire Cat*, in which Kevin's teeth make him look like a vampire, but he actually is a nurturing cat who helps other

cats adjust in a shelter. The moral is to think not only of yourself, and be helpful to others. The second book, just off the press, is *Kevin Tames the Bullies*, in which some of the cats Kevin had befriended tease and bully him because of his funny teeth. Kevin finds a way to stop the bullying in a nonviolent way and bring peace and friendship. A third book will teach the way to make dreams come true through hard work. To order the books, go to www.catman2.org, or write to hsims@catman2.org.

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BITS & BYTES *(continued)*

Judy Snider and her sister/co-author Joan Dickow have a new book out called *I Love You, Be Careful*. Illustrated by Cady Driver, this gift picture book is geared for parents, new brides, and new parents, with a page to personalize as a gift for grownups. From the moment we are born, someone is telling us to be careful. No matter what country we call home or what language we speak, these words follow us our entire lives. This uplifting, sentimental book goes through many of the “Be Careful” moments parents experience with their children through the cycle of life. Kids like the same words over and over (“I Love You, Be Careful”) and the hidden Be Careful’s on each page. Check it out at www.iloveyoubecareful.com. The book is available and has been reviewed on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Borders, and other online sites.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Wendy Christensen has a new email address: wendy@wendycats.com. Her old email (christensen@catlas.mv.com) will cease working very soon.

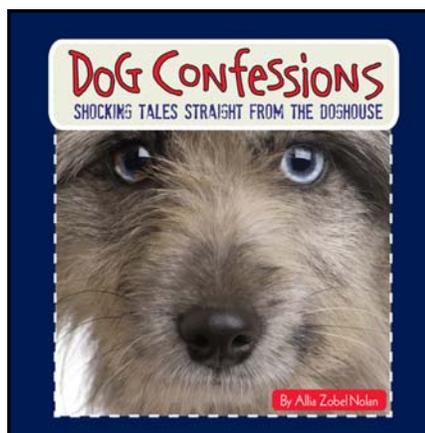
Kathy Covey asks that all snail-mail correspondence be addressed to her at this address: 18530 Pilkington Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

Toni Eames has a new e-mail address, teames559@gmail.com. Please erase her old address so you don’t use it by mistake.

Marion Lane’s email address is marionl@earthlink.net, just in case you missed the change.

Corrected information for Stephen & Patti Thompson: P. O. Box 361, Tupelo, MS 38802; 662-231-2308, 662-231-5519, Fax 662-840-4791; Email: wayfil@comcast.net.

Allia Zobel Nolan’s very first book trailer (for *Thank You, God, from Kids Around the World*, published by Zondervan) is out, compliments of Zonderkidz, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwM2Wq3XdZI>. The book is due on the shelves in August, but can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com now. **Allia’s** books *I’d Rather Be a Cat* and *Dog Confessions: Shocking Tales Straight from the Doghouse* will be available in January 2012. ♥



CWA Members, please note! If you want your achievements and news to appear in MEOW, send them to me via email in suitable format (120-150 words maximum). Submissions will be accepted until the published deadline; however, please don’t wait. Submit as soon as possible, and make my task easier! Thank you. — Ed.

CWA’s Farewell to Our Award-maker Extraordinaire

By Amy D. Shojai, CWA Founder

Patrick Dennis, 61, passed away quietly in his home in Denison, Texas, on May 23, surrounded by family and friends – and, I suspect, his beloved pets.

Few folks in CWA know that name. But Pat has been a part of the CWA since the early contest years, providing us with many of our contest plaques: President’s Award, Council of Directors Award, Kuykendall Image Award, and Shojai Mentor Award plaques were made by Pat and his wife Ann at Red River Trophy at a price that made me blush because it was so economical.

Any time I visited, there was at least one dog to step over on the porch (they worked out of an old house), and a cat or two wandering around inside. Time had to be scheduled not just for a quick drop off/pick up but for actual conversation to learn about the latest pet exploits.

I don’t know if Ann will continue the business or not. Last Fall, when I picked up the latest batch of distinguished plaque awards, Ann told me that Pat was sick. I wish that I’d had a chance to say godspeed.

If anyone is so inclined, the family asks that any remembrances be made to the Texoma Detachment #929 Marine Corps League, 2355 FM 406, Denison, TX 75020, to support their yearly Toys for Tots campaign. Yep, Pat was a Marine, and Vietnam vet, and electrical engineer (I didn’t know any of that!). To me, he was an easygoing, gentle man who loved pets and enjoyed making others smile with the trophies he made.

As his obit says in the paper, “Patrick, we love you and will miss you.”

FOND FAREWELLS

“The Cat Who” Author Dies at 97: Pioneering cat writer/mystery author Lilian Jackson Braun, 97, died on June 5 in a hospice facility. Her longtime editor Natalee Rosenstein at Berkley commented: “She ultimately created a whole new chapter in the American Mystery, and our wonderful working relationship spanned more than two decades. But most of all, it is Lilian the person I will remember – a strong, dedicated, feisty woman who would always speak her mind and not be intimidated by anyone. She will be deeply missed by all of us at Putnam and Berkley, as well as her millions of fans around the world.” Her husband said her one regret was that she was unable to complete her final novel, *The Cat Who Smelled Smoke*. It would have been the thirtieth novel in the best-selling series. Rosenstein tells us she “was not able to get very far [on the manuscript] before she became too ill. There are no plans at this time to have anyone else complete it.” For more information about this influential cat writer, see <http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20110606/NEWS/110609883/1042/news?Title=NY-Times-bestseller-Lilian-Braun-of-Tryon-dies-at-97>.

NEWS from CWA Members

Cat Behaviorists: Join IAABC in June!

In honor of Cat Adoption Month, the IAABC is offering membership in its Cat Division, with the application fee waived for all new members, throughout the month of June. IAABC President Marjie Alonso points out that cats are now the most popular pets in the United States, and it is imperative to provide support and education on feline behavior to cat owners. The IAABC a professional membership organization promoting Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) principles in work with companion animals.

“We strive to assist companion animals and their humans by interrupting and preventing the cycle of inappropriate punishment, rejection, and euthanasia due to behavior problems,” Says Alonso. “We promote professionalism and continuing education in the field of animal behavior consulting.” The IAABC was established in 2004, and has divisions for consultants working with cats, dogs, parrots, horses, and working animals. For all the details, see <http://iaabc.org/about>.

The IAABC offers several benefits and opportunities to our members, including webinars, podcasts, member blogs, online discussion groups for each species and cross species, discount registration fees for our Conference (the next conference to be held in Providence, R.I., April 20-22, 2012), networking with other consultants, discounts on other pet- and behavior-related products, and listings in the online Consultant Locator for Associate and Certified Members.

The IAABC has three levels of membership to accommodate different levels of experience and expertise. You can go to <http://iaabc.org/join> to join the group.

NEED A MENTOR?

For those members who would like help from a mentor, please contact **Barbara Florio Graham** at 819-663-3206, BFG@SimonTeakettle.com, www.SimonTeakettle.com.

CATalyst Council Carrier Video Released

The CATalyst Council has released a brand-new video in May, *Cats and Carriers: Friends Not Foes*. Executive Director Jane Brunt, DVM, says this much-needed educational video may well turn up as a CWA contest entry. One thing is sure – it’s bound to help all the cat owners who have so much trouble wrestling their kitties into a carrier. The CATalyst Council hopes this video will help to promote better health care for cats; even though there are 10 million more cats than dogs in the United States, they are taken to the vet less often than dogs. See the 10-minute video at http://catalystcouncil.org/resources/health_welfare/cat_carrier_video/index.aspx.

MARKET NEWS

Writing opportunity? David Beart has notified CWA that he’s looking for cat content/contributors for a new project: construction of the World’s Most Pet Friendly House.

“The reason for this request is we want to see if your members would like to get involved in this unique project that can help promote their blogs, books and websites,” he says. Information about the project can be found at <http://www.professorshouse.com/project/>, or you may contact David Beart at 403-554-9634, email: dbeart@telus.net, website www.professorshouse.com.

Late-Breaking Award News!

Long-time CWA member **Lyn McConchie** had a brilliant night after New Zealand’s National SF Convention banquet on June 5, when the Sir Julius Vogel awards were announced and Lynn discovered that she had won “Best SF/F Book (Adult) of 2010” with her fantasy, *The Questing Road* (yes, many cat characters). This was followed by the announcement that she had also won “Best SF/F Book (Young Adult) of 2010” with her supernatural adventure *Summer of Dreaming* (no cats, but there are cats in the sequel). The competition was strong, and Lyn is delighted to have done so well.

National Dog Party Day, June 24

Arden Moore, founder of *Four Legged Life* (<http://fourleggedlife.com/>), has declared June 24 as National Dog Party Day! She is partnering with *Pet Sitters International*, *K9 Cakery*, and *Pet Life Radio* to make this a full day of celebrating that wonderful people-dog connection and raising awareness about pet adoptions. Arden is calling for sponsors and vendors to participate. Learn more by going to <http://www.dogpartyday.com/>.

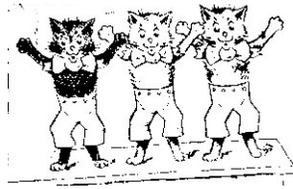


Photos © Debra J. White

(Left) A participant in the successful annual Cinco de Meowo adoption event at the shelter in Phoenix sports a sombrero and an immaculate fur coat.



(Right) Shelter volunteer Debra J. White says: “I love this cat!”



NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

BJ Bangs [P658-11], P.O. Box 215, Phillips, ME 04966; 207-221-3227 (business), 207-860-9075 (cell); Email: bjbangs@yahoo.com. BJ writes about cat rescue, cat abuse, cat welfare, and just about any cat related issue. She also photographs and artistically depicts cats, and makes videos about cat-related issues. BJ's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Jenny Dean [P662-11], 5512 Fairway Road, Fairway, KS 66205; 913-400-3888, 816-225-9331; Email: jenny@floppycats.com, steiff100@gmail.com; Websites: <http://www.floppycats.com>, <http://businessblogwriters.com>; Twitter: @floppycats. Jenny's interests are overall cat health and well-being. She's the author of *A Ragdoll Kitten Care Guide: Bringing Your Ragdoll Kitten Home* [Kindle Edition]. Jenny's sponsor is Maryanne Miller.

Frederick Fuller [P656-11], 6562 Mill Run Circle, Roanoke, VA 24019; 540-774-0186 (home), 540-598-5515 (business); Email: haisodesu@gmail.com; Website: www.frederickfuller.com/. Frederick's interests are cats, writing, cooking, reading, studying, research, woodworking, and singing. He has written two novels, including *Children of Bast*, a kindle e-book. Frederick's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Cheryl Kolus [A661-11], 1919 Creekwood Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525; 970-221-2823; Email: sleepybub@gmail.com. Cheryl's areas of expertise are behavior and training. She is a student member of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior. Her sponsor is Jane Brunt, DVM.

Deborah-Ann Milette [A663-11], 1508 East Lindsey #N, Norman, OK 73071; 518-321-2577 (cell); Email: TellFelids@aol.com. Deborah-Ann's areas of expertise are research and development, public speaking, domestic cats, and exotic cat rescue. She's affiliated with TICA. Her sponsor is Raven Simons.

Stacey L. Ritz, M.Ed. [P660-11], 2727 Kearney Lane, Xenia, OH 45385; 937-823-0974; Email: StaceyRitz@aol.com; Website: www.Advocates4Animals.com. Stacey specializes in feline rescue, feline rehabilitation (physical, mental, emotional, and social), feline adoptions, and success stories. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of Advocates 4 Animals Feline Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc., a 501(c)3 rescue organization. Stacey's sponsor is Wendy Christensen.

Cindy Sakiyama [A657-11], 333 South Brunswick Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E2R6, Canada; 801-623-6487; Email: cindys@tbaytel.net. Cindy is the co-founder of Kitty Kare Feline Rescue, volunteer coordinator at the City of Thunder Bay Animal Services shelter, and a therapy dog handler with two dogs (a Siberian Husky and a Great Dane) visiting homes, schools, and the hospital. She's the author of *About Mandu: A Story of Love*, a book published to raise funds for rescue. Her sponsor is Barbara Florio Graham.

Belinda Sauro [P659-11], 5622 160th Avenue East, Sumner, WA 98390; 253-891-1197 (business), 253-297-7717 (business cell); Email: macat@bemikitties.com, info@hostdesign4u.com; Websites: <http://www.hostdesign4u.com>, <http://www.belindasauro.com>; Twitter: macat5. Belinda is a web developer, and most of her work involves designing animal rescue web sites. Her skills include script installation, database creation, graphic design, web development, photo manipulation, and pretty much anything related to web design. She is also knowledgeable about senior cat-related health issues. Her sponsor is Michelle West. ♥

HEART CATS

Moving on is one of the most painful parts of loss, always looking back with the fear that as we move away from our loved one we truly leave them behind. But we don't really move away from them; we carry their memory - and in truth, they've been training, and the other cats have been learning, the art of being a heart cat, knowing that no kitty lives in its physical body forever. Your best beloved would never want you to live with an empty heart.

— Bernadette E. Kazmarski

MEOW ONLINE?
We currently have 252 members; 81 of them see MEOW online only. To stop your print copy of MEOW, contact CWA Secretary Wendy Christensen at wendy@wendycats.com.

Quarterly Quote

"Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind."

— Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)



SINCEREST THANKS TO OUR 2011 CWA SPONSORS!

FOUNDING SPONSOR

Nestlé-Purina PetCare Company

CROWN JEWEL SPONSOR

Hartz Mountain Corporation

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Nestlé-Purina PetCare Company

PLATINUM SPONSORS

ASPCA (*confirmation pending*), Morris Animal Foundation, PetFinder.com (*confirmation pending*)

GOLD SPONSORS

Cat Fanciers' Association

Cat Fancy/BowTie Inc.

Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway®

Dog Writer's Association of America

Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®

Merial

Premier Pet Products

Sergeant's Pet Care Products

SILVER SPONSORS

Cornell Feline Health Center

PETCO Foundation

Precious Cat, Inc.

Sherpa Pet Group

Amy D. Shojai

The International Cat Association (TICA)
(confirmation pending)

World's Best Cat Litter®

BRONZE SPONSOR

Pet Sitters International

2011 AWARDS and/or CONFERENCE SPONSORS

ASPCA (*confirmation pending*)

Cat Fanciers' Association (*President's Award, general*)

Cat Fancy Magazine/BowTie Inc. (*co-sponsor, Friday night dinner*)

Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway®
(*co-sponsor, Friday night dinner*)

Cornell Feline Health Center (*award*)

Dog Writer's Association of America (*general sponsor*)

Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws® (*award, general sponsor*)

Hartz Mountain Corporation (*3 awards, breakfast, refreshments, general sponsor*)

Merial (*award*)

Morris Animal Foundation (*co-sponsor Friday dinner, general sponsor*)

Nestlé-Purina PetCare Company (*awards banquet, 7 awards*)

PETCO Foundation (*general sponsor*)

Petfinder.com (*confirmation pending*)

Pet Sitters International (*networking sponsor*)

Precious Cat, Inc. (*general sponsor*)

Premier Pet Products (*scholarship, speaker*)

Sergeant's Pet Care Products (*general sponsor*)

Sherpa Pet Group (*general sponsor*)

Amy D. Shojai (*award*)

The International Cat Association (TICA)
(*confirmation pending*)

World's Best Cat Litter® (*award, general sponsor*)

Enter to Win a \$500 Conference Scholarship Prize from Premier Pet Products!

If you'd like to win \$500 toward attendance at CWA's 2012 conference, you must enter the Premier Pet Products Scholarship Prize drawing and hope you are the lucky one. Just send your name and CWA membership number to Barbara Florio Graham at BFG@SimonTeakettle.com. Please make your subject line: Premier Scholarship.

Although submitting by email is best, you can also send your entry by snail mail to Barbara Florio Graham, ATTN: CWA, 535 Charles-Desnoyers, Gatineau, QC J8P 3X4 CANADA. The postal rate for a one-ounce First-Class Mail® International Letter from the United States to Canada is 80 cents.

The winner will be chosen at random at this year's conference, but will receive his/her check the following year when actually attending CWA's 2012 conference. Three runners-up also will be drawn in the event that the winner cannot attend next year. Remember, the person who wins the drawing this year does NOT have to be present at this year's conference. The prize is designed so that the sponsor presents the winner with the reimbursement check at our 2012 conference. Last year's winner was Dusty Rainbolt, who will collect her prize at this year's conference in White Plains, N.Y.

Any current CWA member (except a previous Premier Pet Products Stipend winner) may apply **by October 15, 2011** (postmark date). Please direct any questions about Premier Pet Products' generous scholarship prize to President Susan M. Ewing at dogwriter@windstream.net.

CWA Book Booth Changes at the Westchester Cat Show By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

The past two years, the Westchester Feline Club has graciously provided CWA members with booth space at their club's cat show, as well as allowing CWA members complimentary admission to the show. This year, things will be a little different.

The Feline Club will still provide booth space and our free admission, for which we thank them very much. What is changing is the way the booth will be run.

As most of you know, we have not had a participating bookstore in White Plains. This has meant that the Committee Chair, Lyn Garson, ordered all the books, loaded them into her car, unloaded at the show, set up all the books, and organized volunteers to staff the booth. On Sunday, she loaded up all leftover books and returned them to the bookstore from which they were ordered. Yes, she had help, and I thank everyone who has participated in this endeavor, but it still meant that too many people had to miss too much of the conference.

This year, if you want to sell books at the Westchester Cat Show, you will be responsible for your own books. There may be a volunteer at the booth 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. who is willing to sell books for others, but there's no guarantee. So, ship your books to the hotel the week of the conference (more information on that in the fall newsletter). Make your own arrangements for getting the books to the show. If you want to get together with friends and share booth duties, that's wonderful.

Alternatively, we will arrange for a table at the conference for those who don't want to sell at the cat show, but would like to offer their books to CWA members. You can sign and sell between seminars, as well as mornings before seminars start. CWA will not be supplying cash boxes.

I can hear the groans now, and I do sympathize, but not having a bookstore willing to handle selling and staffing and stocking the booth has put a real strain on willing volunteers. The primary purpose of the conference is the conference itself, and not the chance to sell books. With luck, we'll be able to find a willing bookstore at the 2012 conference site. I hope so. ♥

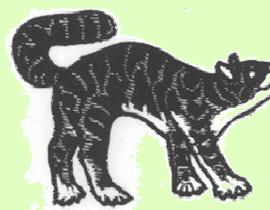
CWA 2011 Conference Volunteers Needed!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

CWA needs you! We still need volunteers for our 2011 CWA Conference, so please step right up and sign on the dotted line.

Several people have volunteered to continue the great work they did last year. Stephanie Piro will again handle the contest winners display, and Wendy Christensen is doing the awards banquet program. Thanks so much!

Even if your daily schedule is crammed full, you might be able to do one of these jobs if you're going to be attending the conference anyway.



Your reward? It will be very worthwhile!! All volunteers for these positions will receive free conference registration and the organization's undying thanks. Let me know if you're willing to tackle any of these important jobs. Send your YES replies to dogwriter@windstream.net.

Conference Photographer: *MEOW* Editor Karen Payne wrote up some terrific guidelines for this position. We need candid shots as well as pictures of all the award winners. Barbara Stretton is willing to take photos once again, but she'd like someone else to be there with a camera as a backup. You can't have too many photos!

Editor/Agent Appointments: Heike Hagenguth needs an assistant to help with on-site duties.

On-Site Registration: Sharon Melynk has graciously offered to continue handling pre-registrations, but she can't be there to check people in or register walk-ups. Wendy Christensen will do the name tags (Wendy, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!), but we need someone on-site, especially Friday morning from 7-9 a.m. If you're an early riser, this is the job for you.

BJ Bangs, a new member this year, has offered to take care of the **Non-Attending Author Display**. If you are a CWA member and can't attend the conference this year, but would like to have some materials on display, you can send them to BJ. Send no more than 100 items (bookmarks, one page summary of a book, copies of cover art); leftover items will not be returned. Send to BJ Bangs, P.O. Box 215, Phillips, ME 04966.

BJ has also volunteered to be the **Publicity Coordinator for CWA**, replacing Lea-Ann Germinder.

CWA Seeks Leadership Candidates

Hello, all CWA members! The 2011 CWA Nominating Committee is looking for a few good men and women to serve! We are seeking candidates for the following officers in the November 2011 election:

- (1) CWA President – for a one-year term
- (2) Three Council members – each for a two-year term

Any Professional member (not Associate members) may serve in these elected offices. If any Professional member wants to volunteer for consideration or wants more information – or if you want to nominate another Professional member for elected office – please contact Nominating Committee Chair Fran Pennock Shaw at franshaw1@juno.com or (717) 397-9531. Feel free to check out our nominations and elections guidelines at <http://www.catwriters.org/08nominating-guidelines.pdf>.

Anyone who is interested must notify us AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and absolutely no later than June 30, 2011. The Nominating Committee will interview all candidates and select an official slate which will be announced to the membership immediately via the CWA website, Pro-List, and email membership list. The slate will also be published in the Fall *Meow*.

Please help CWA grow and prosper. You'll find that serving in office will also help YOU grow personally and professionally. Serving as president, for example, heightens your profile among editors and others looking to hire writers, and it broadens your horizons – especially your event planning skills!

The NomCom will talk with everyone who inquires, so don't be shy. The Nominating Committee – consisting of Fran, Kim Campbell Thornton, and Ramona Marek – can provide job descriptions and answer questions based on their experience. FYI, we have consulted CWA's current vice president (Dusty Rainbolt), secretary (Wendy Christensen) and treasurer (Allene Tartaglia), who have agreed to run for reelection in 2011. We thank them all for their continued service!

Remember to watch for updates on the CWA website and in the newsletter. Meanwhile, please step up now and do your part to keep our great organization going strong!

Fran Pennock Shaw
Chair, CWA Nominating Committee

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi

WE FEEL IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE IF THE SUPREME BEING BECAME KNOWN AS "TAC."



MIFFY FORMS A LOBBY GROUP AFTER DISCOVERING THAT "GOD" SPELLED BACKWARDS IS "DOG"

For more information on how to use funny cat cartoons for your projects, please visit <http://www.offthemark.com/rates/reprints.htm>

Editor's note: Mark Parisi has created a fabulous collection of cat cartoons and books. Check out his website. This cartoon has had me LOL for a month and may have permanently altered my thinking about TAC.

NEWS FLASH: CWA's Facebook Account Rocks!

CWA Board Member Heike Hagenguth has (re)activated our CWA Facebook account, and it is taking off like a rocket!

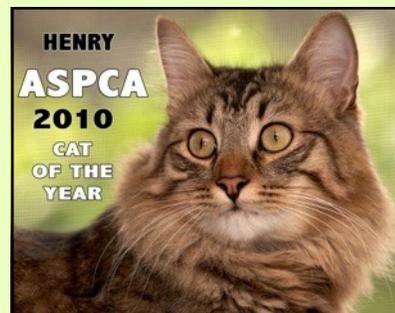
Heike set up the account long ago in order to have a CWA presence on Facebook and announce the CWA contest. "Recently," she says, "group members have started to introduce their works, news and interesting links. It is an open group, and anybody can join and invite friends. Some group members have indicated that they are interested in joining CWA. I am the admin of the group, and I will leave it unmoderated as long as discussions move around writing, publishing, cats and dogs, rescue work, etc., and the tone remains friendly." The group already has 210 members.

The FB group DOES NOT replace the CWA ProList — and anything CWA-internal will not be posted there.

If you are not a member yet, please visit us on FB and request to join. The group's name is Cat Writers' Association, Inc.

In the Next MEOW:

A story was planned for this issue about the ASPCA's 2010 Cat of the Year and his human co-mom, writer-psychotherapist **Cathy Conheim**, who won a CWA award for the book *What's the Matter with Henry?* Henry is a truly inspirational three-legged kitty. Also planned: a sidebar on cat contests. Because of space considerations, these have been postponed until the next issue, with my apologies. — Ed.



How Writing Resembles Going to Sleep with My Cats

By Andrea Dorn

I don't take naps, at least not the 15-minute kind. My bedtime ritual is just too complicated. I can't just lie down, cover up, and go to sleep, nooooo. I lie down, cover up, then have to lift my covers for at least one of the cats to find his or her cozy spot.

Now usually if I'm lying on my right side, it starts with Lady Butterfly and Mewdy Blue jockeying for the best position right up against me. If Lady gets there first, then Mewdy Blue tries to lie on top of her, but she doesn't give in easily so I have to intervene. Once those two settle down, someone else decides to join them. Sometimes it is Gooseberry who likes to cuddle with both of these two, but of course they don't like him. If it is Jabberwocky Glitter, then all she wants is to be farther on down the line near my knees, but she prefers to climb over the others rather than walk around.

If I'm lying on my left side, the race is on between Rainbow and the other two. If Rainbow gets there first, well, all bets are off. If the other two get there first, then Rainbow spends the next half hour trying to dig her way under anyway and changing her mind several times. She usually settles on top of the comforter.

Now, once the "unders" have settled, we have to deal with the "on-tops." Sky Voice is the worst offender when it comes to disturbing others. He insists on lying on top of everyone else even if there is plenty of room behind me, so that sets off the unders while I struggle to keep everyone happy. If Glitter didn't find her way under the covers, then she also becomes an on-topper and she's pretty dominant. Then there's Twygal who simply must sleep on top of me and gets



very upset if I move at all. But if Bluebird beats her, she'll grumble and sleep at my feet.

As if this doesn't take enough time, I have other cats who come to bed after everyone else is settled and usually settle on the top, trapping me in position and making things even more difficult. You might suggest that I could shut them out, but if I did that they'd only scratch at the door and keep me up that way. No, we've come to understand each other's needs and live with them all. We have a patchwork of desires all leading toward the same goal: sleep.

So what does all of this have to do with writing? Well, words and phrases can cause the same sort of trouble as you pen your latest piece. You might start working on a piece with every intention of heading in one direction, but as you get into it the piece seems to take you in another direction. Then when you get into the revision process it all seems to be a jumble so you

take it apart, replacing phrases, adding sentences, moving entire paragraphs until it all seems to settle at last. In other words it is a patchwork of thoughts that all lead toward the same goal: a conclusion.

And just as I don't always fall in love with a particular sleeping position, you must not fall in love with any portion of your writing. Just because you love that sentence or even that word, don't use it if it doesn't fit the entire piece. Be prepared to throw away even your most precious phrases in order to make the entire piece work.

Now I've got to get to bed and find a spot for myself under the covers. ♥

Andrea Dorn is a contributing writer for *Cat Fancy*, *Just Labs*, *The Des Moines Register*, *Applez 'n' Oats*, and *Our Iowa*. She is an expert wordsmith. See her blog at <http://andreadorn.blogspot.com>.

MORE NEWS FROM CWA MEMBERS

Book donations requested: Debra J. White tells us that the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition will hold its 9th annual Bowl a Rama for animal rescue this fall. Board members solicit donations and goods to be used for raffles and silent auctions, and autographed books have always been well received by our participants. Proceeds from the auction/raffle go into an emergency medical fund to aid sick/injured animals and make them adoptable. Please send any books or art work you can donate to Bari Mears, President, PACC, 16224 N. 44th Street, Phoenix AZ 85032. If you want a receipt for tax purposes, please note that with your gift. For more information, see www.pacc911.org.

ASPCA Grant to Joplin Humane Society: Steve Dale relayed news from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA), which awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Joplin Humane Society in Joplin, Mo., to support disaster relief and recovery efforts as a result of the May 22 tornado that decimated a third of the community and killed more than 130 people. The grant will be used for resources needed to support it's the Joplin Humane Society's operation as well as for repair infrastructural damages to the facility. Additional funding will be used for future disaster response and preparedness efforts in the community. The grant is named in memory of Joplin Humane Society executive director Karen Aquino's stepdaughter, Rachel Markham, 31, who perished in the disaster. For more information, go to <http://www.asPCA.org/Blog/100000-grant-to-joplin-humane.aspx>.

CWA MEMBER BLOGS

Compiled by CWA Secretary Wendy Christensen

Anderson, Niki
<http://nikianderson.net/apps/blog>

Arden, Darlene, CABC
<http://perpetuallyspeaking.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.redroom.com/author/darlene-arden>

Bahner, Sally E.
www.exclusivelycats.wordpress.com

Bailey, Angie
eclecticcatldyland.blogspot.com
www.kattfood.com

Baker, Harriet E.
<http://catcatalyst.wordpress.com>

Boyd, Nancy
<http://www.brightwings.com/articles>
<http://www.DancesWithFlowers.com>

Clement, Blaize
Kitty Litter: <http://DixieHemingway.wordpress.com>

Covey, Kathy
<http://blog.oregonlive.com/cats/index.html>

Dale, Steve
www.chicagonow.com/stevedale

Davis, Christine
<http://lightheartedpress.blogspot.com>

DeLouise, Debbie
<http://debbiesrainbownotes.blogspot.com/>

Denny, Jane
www.thepridecartoon.com/blog.html
www.thepridecartoon.com/feralcatreport.html

Dorn, Andrea
www.andreadorn.blogspot.com

Dow, Carrie
www.missmooblog.blogspot.com

Dracker, Pune
www.aspcapro.org/blog

Dziemianowicz, Ann
<http://anndziemianowicz.blogspot.com>
- paper bag & string

Eldredge, Deb M., DVM
<http://literarypets.blogspot.com>
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<http://frequentlyfeline.blogspot.com/>
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Olson, Robin A. F.
www.coveredincathair.com
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Phillips, Allie
http://alliephillips.com/?page_id=13

Piro, Stephanie
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www.artofthedog.blogspot.com

Shafer, Mary A.
<http://almostperfectpets.blogspot.com>

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www.amyshojai.com
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Simon, Clea
<http://cleasimon.blogspot.com>

Snopek, Roxanne Willems
www.roxannewriteson.wordpress.com

Steer, Pat
<http://patsteer.com> (Life Out Loud), <http://dogtrainerslog.com> (Dog Trainer's Log) <http://kitchenjam.net>
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Stockwell, Kellene
Kellene23@wordpress.com

Stowe, Suzanne
<http://www.catchannel.com/cat-blog/suzanne-stowe>

Strouble, Drew
<http://360.yahoo.com/catmandrew2001>

Thompson, Patti
www.diamonddivaonline.com

Wardlaw, Ms. Lee
<http://leewardlaw.livejournal.com>

Wolfe, Deborah, L.L.B.
deborahwolfe@redroom.com

Wormald, Karen
www.catsworking.com

Youngreen, P. Emily
<http://www.pets-people-and-possibilities.blogspot.com>

The Cat's MEOW

My Indomitable Mother

By Meow Editor Karen Payne

Lately I have faced several challenges and received some precious gifts of laughter. Most of these originated with my dear mother, Maye, and I want to thank her because she often reminds me to “smell the roses” along the way and to keep laughing – even when both seem impossible.

I just spent a month with her, doing a few things to try to make her life a little easier. If I tell her age, I will be barred from visiting her again (she's been 39 for quite a while now, though she turned 40 when my brother Thomas was 39; then she quickly slid back to 39). Suffice it to say that regardless of age, she is a courageous and determined woman. She has “true grit,” or she would not still be living on her own. Long ago she labeled herself “a tough old bird,” but, alas, the bird is not quite so tough anymore.

My mom has endured quite a few trials, including the loss of her husband 17 years ago, brain surgery to remove a benign tumor, two elbow surgeries, and the persistent attentions of her unwelcome visitor, “Arthur.” Arthur is the code name among her friends for arthritis. Arthur gives them fits, especially during the constant weather changes in West Texas, where the temperature can vary by 60 degrees in 24 hours. You can experience everything from fog to blazing sun to sandstorms to hail and freezing cold, all in one day. The old joke is, “If you don't like the weather, stick around for a few minutes, and it will change”.

Mother and I have had many adventures since my father died – a cruise to Alaska, two trips to France, and a New York blowout – including museum visits, Broadway shows, a harbor cruise, and tea at the Plaza Hotel. The highlight of that trip was my mother in her “I ♥ New York” T-shirt, clinging to a subway strap in a packed car while swaying and singing “New York, New York” at the top of her voice. Never mind the amused stares – my mom has never been afraid to take risks in order to make friends and get people to smile. Even in countries where she couldn't speak the language, she secured lifelong friends.

Usually at some point during our trips or my visits to her home, something tickles both of us, and we collapse in a heap of uncontrollable laughter (and happy tears). One time, she had attended a “Laughing Yoga” class and taught me the chant, “It's very good, very good, very good – YAY!” (At the end, you throw your hands up high and laugh.) This last visit, when we both were desperate to relieve her pain, we would burst into a



vigorous rendition of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* whenever the slightest good thing happened, which always made us laugh out loud (LOL).

Mother has other delightful attributes, including her love of flowers (her moniker is “Daisy Maisie”) and her absolute devotion to friends. I recall one luncheon when she and I, at separate tables, regaled her friends with anecdotes

about our trip to France. Everyone at her table was LOL – and I, overhearing, and much less successful at getting laughs, was

envious. Many people have confided that Maye brought them through bad times with daily calls, notes, and advice – including her favorite mantra, “The busy bee has no time for sorrow.”

Dr. Albert Schweitzer's idea that true happiness lies in service to others is a given for her. Unable to do all the visiting and other good works of past years, she got out her scissors and has cut at least 40,000 quilt blocks used by women in her church to make quilts for the poor.

Her fortitude is legendary. After Mama had undergone surgeries, one doctor dubbed her the “miracle lady,” while another made her a teaching case, honoring her plucky attitude and amazingly quick recovery from a complex elbow operation.

In her work life as an administrative assistant and office manager, she pioneered working rights for women. Even so, she found time for artistry in flowers and pastels, and under other circumstances, she might have been a great artist or poet.

What has this to do with cats or writing? My mom, who grew up on a farm, does not share my sentimental attachment to cats, although she respects mine. What she may not realize is how much she has in common with our furry friends. Like them, she is secretive about her ailments and always ready to share a game or a purr with you. Like them, she is fiercely devoted to those she loves *and* fiercely independent. And, like them, she is determined to enjoy every possible moment of her life.

I've often wished I could be more like my cats. In many ways, I also wish I could be more like my mother. Thanks to them and to her for their many life lessons, and especially for the smiles and laughs – the gifts that make life worth living.

PHOTOS: (Left) Maye and her cherished granddaughter Tiffany in France. (Above) She and I were privileged to touch these blown-glass spears in the “Chihuly at Fairchild” exhibit at Miami's Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. We felt like warriors in some primitive, very artistic jungle!



Here's Your Preview of the Exciting Cat Writers' Association 18th Annual Conference Seminar Schedule Get Your Plane Ticket & Reservations, & Join Us for a Fabulous Weekend in New York

Friday Seminar Schedule (Subject to change)

How to Write an Irresistible Non-Fiction Book Proposal

Rita Rosekranz

What are the key components that define a winning book proposal? What research should an author do to help make sure the project has merit? How can an author leapfrog over the competition in the category? In this especially competitive climate, authors need to be savvy to manage the marketplace. This presentation will guide the author through the basic steps for writing a proposal and making the project count.

RITA ROSENKRANZ started her agency in 1990 and has a full-spectrum non-fiction list (www.ritarosenkranzliteraryagency.com). Rita works with major publishing houses as well as regional publishers that handle niche markets. She looks for projects that present familiar subjects freshly or lesser-known subjects presented commercially.

Kiddy (& YA) Lit – All It's Scratched Up to Be

Ann Tobias & Thea Feldman

Thousands of children's and young adult books are published every year, for kids of all age groups – from toddlers to teenagers – many of them featuring felines. Join agent Ann Tobias and editor/writer Thea Feldman to hear what's happening in the children's book market today.

ANN TOBIAS heads A Literary Agency for Children's Books, established in Washington, D.C., in 1988, now located in New York City, where she represents 25 authors and artists of books for children from infancy through adolescence – picture books, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Her background is that of children's book editor for such publishers as HarperCollins, William Morrow, and Handprint Books.

THEA FELDMAN, now a full-time freelancer, has held editorial positions at Golden Books, Disney, Scholastic, and other major children's publishers. She is also the author of over 100 books for children, including *Harry Saves the Day*, published in 2011, which features Harry the Cat, and which is based on the children's classic, *The Cricket in Times Square*.

Finding Web Work

Speaker TBA

Is This a Bad Cat?

Beth Adelman

All too often, perfectly natural cat behaviors are labeled as "spiteful" or "acting out." Certainly, there are lots of ways to modify problematic behaviors, but a cat's got to do what a cat's got to do. What are the behaviors cats can never give up, and how can we learn to live with them? (I'll also include some advice about how to find cat behavior experts with real expertise to interview.)

BETH ADELMAN is a Certified Cat Behavior Consultant with the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and has a private cat behavior practice in the New York area. She volunteers as a cat behavior consultant with Pets for Life, a program to keep cats with behavior issues in their adoptive homes. Beth teaches the Cat Behavior segment of Kutztown University's Canine Training and Management Program.

Using Your Public Library to Write Your Next Award-winning Article

Florence Scarinci

Your public library subscribes to periodical databases filled with hundreds of scientific articles that can form the basis for many future articles. This workshop will acquaint you with the types of material available to you and the tools and methods to access them.

FLORENCE SCARINCI has been a librarian for more than 30 years and has worked as an acquisitions, reference, and bibliographic instruction librarian in different types of libraries. She is a member of DWAA and CWA. She owns two dogs and is owned by two cats.

Editor Panel

Susan Logan (Cat Fancy), Wayne Barr (Barrons Educational Series), Steph Flanders (Tor/Forge), Diane West (New York Tails) and Mary Grangeia (TFH), Anne Simpkinson

SUSAN LOGAN is the editor of *Cat Fancy*, the world's most widely read cat care and lifestyle magazine. A veteran in print journalism with more than 20 years of experience, she has devoted the past 10 years to pet and veterinary topics at BowTie Magazines. During her seven-year tenure with *Cat Fancy*, the magazine has received five Muse Medallions™ in the national magazine category, and Logan was awarded the Muse Medallion™ twice for her monthly column. A life-long pet lover, Logan is the proud mom of 2-year-old Maine Coon mixes, Madison and Sophie. When she isn't writing and editing, Logan enjoys singing, running, and hanging out with her two-legged and four-legged family and friends.

WAYNE BARR is the acquisitions manager at Barron's Educational Series.

STEPH FLANDERS is an editor for Tor/Forge.

DIANE WEST is founder and publisher of *New York Tails* magazine, an award-winning publication covering the people and pets of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; and founder of the 400+ member New York City Cat Meetup Club. Visit the online version at www.newyorktails.com.

MARY GRANGEIA is an editor at TFH Publications, Inc.

ANNE A. SIMPKINSON is the online managing editor for Guideposts.com.

Research That Saves Lives

Margaret R. Slater, DVM, Ph.D.

The ASPCA™ strives to save as many animals' lives as possible. Dr. Slater talks about new research findings that help lost pets find their owners, identify feral vs. frightened pet cats in shelters, and increase adoptions.

MARGARET R. SLATER, is the ASPCA's Senior Director of Veterinary Epidemiology, Shelter Research, and Development.

Agents Panel

SORCHE ELIZABETH FAIRBANK (Fairbank Literary Representation), ANN TOBIAS (A Literary Agency for Children's Books, KATHARINE SANDS (Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency) and RITA ROSENKRANZ (Rita Rosenkranz Literary Agency)

WordPress 101

JaneA Kelley

You can make your website look like a million bucks – and maintain it yourself – with this powerful, free, and easy-to-use tool. Get a guided tour through the WordPress content management system, and learn about some key add-ons that will make your life as a webmaster a lot easier.

JANE A KELLEY has been building websites since the late 1990s. She is the webmaster and chief cat slave for Paws and Effect, an advice site "by cats, for cats and their people," and the editor of *Catster's Kitty News Network* blog.

Breaking into Other Genres

Speaker TBA

Topics may include travel, food, health, etc.; and From Nonfiction to Fiction.

(continued on the next page)

Preview of the Cat Writers' Association 18th Annual Conference Seminar Schedule (continued)
IT WILL BE PURR-IFIC — SEE YOU THERE!!!

Finding Yourself in the Cloud & Useful Things on the Internet for Writers

Bill Pflieger

BILL PFLEGING is a computer tech consultant, writer, and speaker living and working in Woodstock, N.Y., who writes about new technology. His work has appeared in national publications such as *Computerworld, Inc., Razor, Games*, and others; and in Internet publications like Inc.com, GeekWeekly.com, and Learnvest.com; and in a popular technology column in the *Woodstock Times*. He appears regularly as the “Tech Guru” on WDST’s *Woodstock Roundtable*. He is co-author (with Minda Zetlin) of the critically acclaimed book *The Geek Gap: Why Business and Technology Professionals Don’t Understand Each Other and Why They Need Each Other To Survive*. He is a popular speaker at conferences, corporations, and universities on how to create better communication and cooperation between “geek” and “suit” coworkers.

First-Person Storytelling

Anne A. Simpkinson

One would think that telling your own story would be easy. But, in fact, it’s much more difficult. This presentation will focus on tips for writing your own story, what to keep and what to throw away. We’ll cover the pitfalls as well as the advantages to putting your story – or that of a beloved pet – down on paper.

ANNE A. SIMPKINSON, online managing editor of Guideposts.org, lives with Mimi, an 8-year old tuxedo cat. Anne joined the Web world in 1999 as senior producer of Beliefnet and went on to work at Prevention.com and WeightWatchers.com. In addition to her online work, she also leads writing, editing, and creativity workshops.

Podcasting/or YouTube for Writers

Speaker TBA

When Bad Things Happens to Good Writers

Minda Zetlin

Last year, a woman posted a piece about apple pie on her blog, and a magazine called Cooks Source lifted the article and one of her recipes and published it without her permission. She contacted the magazine, alerting them to what she thought was an error and asking that they send a \$130 contribution to the Columbia School of Journalism as compensation. The answer she got from the managing editor read in part, “honestly, the web is considered ‘public domain’ and you should be happy we just didn’t ‘lift’ your whole article and put someone else’s name on it!” The editor suggested that the blogger should have paid *her* for her editing services.... Bad as this is, it pales in comparison with Google’s recent undertaking to scan millions of books and put them on the Internet where they can be searched and read, at least in part, for free. (They also were hoping to sell them outright without the authors’ permission in accordance with a deal they’d struck with the Authors Guild and some major publishers, but that has been prevented, at least for now. This session will give tips on surviving in this new economy where anything can be reproduced or linked and plagiarism appears to be the norm.

MINDA ZETLIN is vice president of the American Society of Journalists and Authors. She’s the author or co-author of several books, of which her favorite is *The Geek Gap: Why Business and Technology Professionals Don’t Understand Each Other, and Why They Need Each Other to Survive*, co-authored with her husband, technology presenter Bill Pflieger. She’s a regular contributor to *Inc. magazine* and Inc.com, CreditCards.com, LearnVest.com, Computerworld, and other business and technology publications. She and Bill live in Woodstock, N.Y., with a large number of computers and two Sphynx cats. She can be reached at www.mindazetlin.com or minda@mindazetlin.com.

Saturday Seminar Schedule (Subject to Change)

Vetting Veterinary Sources on the Internet

Lorie Huston

We all strive for accuracy in our writing, but how do you know if the source you are using is accurate and reputable? And once you know the source is reliable, how can you most easily contact that source?

LORIE HUSTON is a veterinarian and free-lance author/blogger. She specializes in pet health and pet care topics.

Writer’s Block, Procrastination, and Other Fun Things That Stop You from Actually Getting Stuff Done

Nancy Boyd

For writers and other creative types, there can be not one, but a whole host of things stopping you from getting done what you need and want to do. It’s not your fault (whew!) – but do need to understand the sneaky ways you set yourself up to avoid accomplishing your best work. In this session we explore the top offenders – and offer easy solutions.

NANCY BOYD started writing at the age of 3 and really never stopped. An award-winning writer and award-winning coach, she blogs about animals, time management, motivation, self-growth, and personal development. She offers entrepreneurs and small business owners pathways to excellence through her empowerment company, Bright Wings, Inc. (<http://www.BrightWings.com>).

Build a Blog, Build Your Opportunities: Why Blogging Is the Most Important Writing You Can Do for Your Career

Caroline Golon

Whether you’re hoping to publish a book or secure more writing projects, the key to success is to market yourself. Today, the most effective way for a writer to do this is to create a blog. This session will cover the benefits of having a blog, where to begin, what content you need and how to leverage it for optimal exposure. If you’re thinking about creating a blog or have one and don’t know what the heck to do with it, this session is for you! Come ready for discussion – we’ll have plenty of time for Q&A.

CAROLINE GOLON is an expert speaker and consultant on blogging, social media, and marketing for the pet industry. A serial blogger, she writes at www.romeothecat.com, www.thehappy litterbox.com, and www.highpaw.com. To share her passion for blogging, Caroline co-founded BlogPaws.com, a community, resource, and annual conference for pet bloggers. Caroline, her husband, and two young daughters are dedicated staff members for Romeo and Pugsley, the rescued Persian cats who run the household.

Medical Writing Strategies

Cindy Read

Just in – veterinarians have discovered the cause of a critical feline health issue, and a new treatment is in sight. How do you help your readers understand the news? Nitty-gritty research and writing tips for making the science simple, as well as compelling.

CINDY READ has 30 years’ experience as a science and medical writer and editor and only slightly less experience as pet writer and editor. Since she became editor of *The Corgi Cryer*, it has received 11 DWAA awards and 41 nominations. Visit her at petwriterscentral.com/cindy-read.html.

Medical Problems Can Involve Behavioral Problems and Vice Versa: Taking a Preemptive Stance

Elizabeth Cohen, DVM

Cats are already very good at hiding disease; however, when a change in behavior is seen, it could mean there is an underlying disease. Once the medical problem is resolved, many times a behavioral problem lingers. Examples of diseases and behavioral changes, and how to prevent both will be discussed.

DR. ELIZABETTE COHEN is a licensed and USDA-certified veterinarian practicing in New York since 1988 after graduating Cornell. She is the WCBS news radio pet reporter delivering *Healthy and Happy Pet* advice since 2004, heard on 880 AM every Saturday and Sunday in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, and worldwide on the Internet. Dr. Cohen is the author of *Most of My Patients Wear Fur*. She lectures at schools, libraries, and veterinary conferences. Dr. Cohen became an Associate Professor of Veterinary Technology in 2010. ♥

Circle these dates on your calendar: November 17-19, 2011!!!

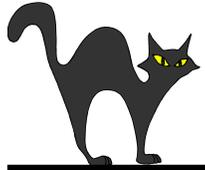
2011 CWA Contest Entry Deadline!!!!

**Must be postmarked by July 1st
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Contest details are found on pages 4-14
of this issue of *MEOW*

Get the latest information about new contest
categories. Read the contest rules. Sign up
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and get your entries ready to mail to

CONTEST CHAIR
NANCY MARANO
7601 Vista del Arroyo NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



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Meow

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CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
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