



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Winter 2012

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

A STELLAR EVENT: The Cat Writers' Association 18th Annual Writers' Conference!

CONFERENCE REPORT BY CWA FOUNDER AMY D. SHOJAI

I'd call the CWA conference "summer camp for cat writers" except it's in the fall. I always leave this event energized and ready to leap into future work, excited by the paws-ibilities and inspired by all the fantastic writers I meet. Wow.

The 2011 conference was no different. As others have said, the conference planners did a stellar job executing and coordinating everything. If there were any glitches, I saw none.

The TNT party has become one of my favorite parts of the conference, where folks get a chance to scope out all the "kitty swag" donated by our wonderful sponsors. Nancy Peterson does an incredible job contacting, begging – I mean, requesting *s* – donations, and coordinating the shipments. The list of donors is in this issue of our newsletter, as is the list of conference sponsors, so please have your kitties paw-tograph thank-you cards for them. These folks don't have to do this, and we greatly appreciate their effort. My suitcase at the airport was only 4 pounds over weight (I planned well this year!) so just had to hand carry a few books to stay under the \$\$\$-limit. My pets are having a ball with the treats, toys, and more.

Seminars arranged by Dusty Rainbolt offered awesome info. With the double and sometimes triple track, it makes sense to coordinate with a CWA buddy to split up, take notes, and share info later since even clever cats can't be in more than one place at once. Even if they seem able to do that!

The Friday evening reception and meal looked yummy – Susan Logan and I didn't eat or have anything more than water that night, though (no matter what the videos look like!). Very often we both lose our voices at the CWA conference from catching up and talking with friends, so we had to be careful until after our "Cat Calls" caterwauling evening entertainment.



Photo by BJ Bangs

(Above) Founder Amy Shojai's graciousness & winning ways help to keep CWA a strong & vibrant organization.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **Get Ready for** ★
★ **CWA's 2012** ★
★ **Conference** ★
★ **in Los Angeles!** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just so's y'all know – we had about 30 minutes practice time together. It was fun and my apologies for making folks cry, that was never the intent – but am pleased that the performance connected emotionally. That's what writers strive to do, and singers, too. The music "DJ" was courtesy of a cat-loving AV-tech guy who stayed out of the goodness of his heart to coordinate the CD accompaniment. HOTEL STAFF ROCKED!

More great Saturday seminars were followed by the Saturday lunch and drawing for the Premier Scholarship (I didn't win, dang it!) and presentation of the Comfort Zone Membership Bounty (again, I didn't win... need to do a better job of recruiting). And then many of us visited the cat show, shopped for MORE kitty-centric stuff, took cat pictures/ videos and had a lovely time. *(continued ▶)*

See Amy's conference video at <http://amyshojai.com/?s=thrillerfest>

INSIDE

President's Message.....	3
Special Award Winners.....	4
Muse Medallion™ Winners.....	9
Conference Photos.....	14
Article: Kittens into Cats.....	15
CWA News.....	16
Thanks to Sponsors.....	17
Thanks to Donors.....	18-19
Financial Report.....	20
Annual Meeting Minutes.....	21
Thanks to CWA Members.....	22
Bits & Bytes/Welcome Mat.....	23-24
Market News.....	25
The Cat's MEOW.....	26
The 2012 CWA Contest.....	27

A STELLAR EVENT by Amy D. Shojai (continued from page 1)



It was a tie! Janiss Garza (left) and Lalya Morgan Wilde won Muse Medallions™ for Best Color Photograph.

The awards banquet Saturday night as always offered lots of sparkling purr-sonalities and outfits. The food was terrific, hotel staff again incredibly warm and accommodating. I'm always excited to see the winning entries after the presentations. This year there were a number of first-time winners, I think, and that's exciting.

As always, I'm blown away by the recipient of the Mentor Award each year. You can read from the nomination letters in this issue, but just so's you know – this year there were five nominees (I only know the winner's name) and so that tells me there's LOTS of mentoring going on. Gooooood deal! I'm told there was only a single vote's difference between the winner and next in line,

but the winner, Deb Eldredge, DVM, actually was nominated by three different folks, independently. Congratulations to Deb!

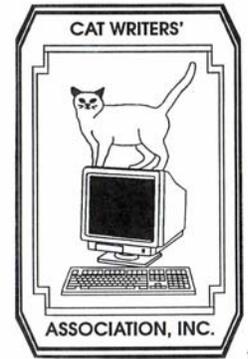
And for those who nominated other folks – send the nomination again next year!

I was incredibly moved and honored to receive the Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award. Thank you to Karen Payne for nominating me. I know there were many others nominated for this award – actually I nominated someone too! – and I think Michael would be very pleased about how many of us follow in his paw-steps to follow his example. The work we all do for and on behalf of cats in so many positive venues makes a difference. Never let anyone tell you any different.

This year is the CWA's 20th anniversary. I hope you'll start making plans now to attend the 2012 conference. I'm sure our new president, Linda Kay Hardie, and her "team" will have an awesome conference planned. ♥



Five past presidents of CWA: Nancy Peterson, Su Ewing, Kim Thornton, Fran Shaw, and Amy Shojai.



Cat Writers' Association

(www.catwriters.org)

Officers

LINDA KAY HARDIE, President

Phone: 775-324-2512

4 Riesling Loop, Reno, NV 89512

Email: linda@louielarkey.com

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: christensen@catlas.mv.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

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Jane Brunt, DVM

Andrea Dorn

JaneA Kelley

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Lyn Garson

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Amy D. Shojai, CABG

Immediate-Past President

Susan M. Ewing

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

Unless otherwise noted, all conference photos in this issue were made by CWA Conference Photographer BJ Bangs. Photos © BJ Bangs. Great job, BJ! Thank you!

CWA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CWA's Great Traditions Continue: Attend the 2012 Conference in California!

By Linda Kay Hardie, CWA President

As I sit here in Reno, Nevada, it's 10 degrees outside. We had a dusting of snow yesterday. The space heater pointed at my feet isn't helping, because Houdini just plopped himself directly in front of it, and he'll soak up the BTUs until the heater's failsafe shuts itself off. I'm dreaming of sunny Southern California. Don't get me wrong, I love living in Reno and having seasons. I love the snow.

But it's not really the weather that has me California dreaming; it's the friends! Workshops! Awards! Sparkles! (And the food; ah, the abundance of food included in our very low conference fees.) The 2012 Cat Writers Association conference is set for the first weekend in November in Los Angeles. CWA is approaching its 20th anniversary. Twenty years of networking and mentoring for people who write about cats – and those who wish to. Our group and our conference are still the biggest bargains in the writing world, even though we had to raise our membership dues for the first time in CWA's history.

Speaking of firsts, this is my first president's column for *MEOW*, CWA's award-winning newsletter. So far, I don't have any grand plans or exciting agendas. I don't even have the chocolate for bribes that Su stocked up on for her tenure. But I have the members and volunteers of CWA to get my back. I have all the wonderful past presidents for advice (Su Ewing, Amy Shojai, Fran Shaw, Kim Thornton, Nancy Peterson). I have the continuing vice president Dusty Rainbolt, secretary Wendy Christensen, and treasurer Allene Tartaglia for continuity. The Karens who so beautifully do our newsletter and website. All those other wonderful people in our masthead (please look there for their names; I would hate to leave someone out in a list here).

Besides all the regulars, the "official" volunteers who continue to provide their expertise and enthusiasm for the organization, I'm also looking forward to working with the "Kittens," new members who bring the new blood and new ideas to our writers' network. Please contact me or any of us with your ideas. We also welcome members who say, "Hey, what about me doing this or that?" And if you're shy, we'll get you eventually. I've been a member since 1996, when I lived in Fresno and the CWA conference was in Anaheim, just a few hours' drive away. I'd just had my first national article published in *Cat Fancy*, and I was nervous – but very excited – to mingle with these professional writers. I lurked for many years, shyly stepping up to do this or that small thing at conferences. I opened my mouth one too many times, I guess, and suddenly I find myself at the head of this organization.

So much has changed in the decades that CWA has provided networking for the people who love and write about cats. Yet our cat advocacy is still needed. In a recent issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, I saw an article about the number of movies that have featured violence against cats. The good news is that the magazine thought to point out this abomination; the bad news is that popular media is still doing it. As we continue to write, we can all help to change public perception of our feline friends. ♥



The CWA Conference is our time for networking, sharing our achievements, and finding joy in the company of other cat fanatics. (Left) Purina's Dan Koelher with Carole Stevens Bibisi and a door prize; (right) Sandy Robins with her new book, *For the Love of Cats: From A to Z*.



President Linda Kay Hardie and Bo



2011 CWA SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

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



#1 – DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD, sponsored by Cornell University’s Feline Health Center, is given to the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine. ~ **Awarded to Kim Campbell Thornton for “The Pill”** ~ Judge: Heather Roberts is the Dean of Sciences and Math at Sierra College in California. She did her post-doctoral work at the UC Davis Center for Companion Animal Health, investigating inherited feline diseases and the origins of the domestic cat. She has bred and exhibited award-winning Bengals, Bombays and Singapuras, and is currently working with Burmese. She is a TICA Approved All-Breed judge and a member of TICA’s Genetics Committee. “The author does an excellent job of providing a unique perspective to the pet overpopulation problem.... and research to develop an effective one-time contraceptive is a revolutionary approach. I was drawn into the article by the author’s dynamic writing style. She presented recent history and future directions for a development of this concept. BRAVO!” ~ \$500 ~

Kim Thornton receives the Cornell Feline Health Center Award from President Su Ewing.

#2 – FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the entrant who best captures the magic of the loving relationship between cats and their owners. ~ **Awarded to Lee Wardlaw for Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku** ~ Judge:

Judith Van Gieson is the author of two mystery series. One features Neil Hamel, an Albuquerque lawyer; her second award-winning mystery series features Claire Reynier, a University of New Mexico archivist and librarian. Van Gieson also has published a children’s book and a collection of poetry and short stories. She is the publisher of ABQ Press and now lives in Albuquerque’s North Valley. “This book was my favorite by far. It is very heartwarming, original, imaginative, and skillfully written. I love the way the story was told in haiku. I liked the illustrations, too.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative award ~



#3 – FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD, sponsored by Purina, goes to the writer who has done the most to promote the welfare, health, and proper care of cats during the contest year; the award is for “a body of work.” ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt** ~ Judge: Dr. Joan Digby is Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program at the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University. Beginning with her NYU Ph.D. dissertation on animal fables in Eighteenth-Century Britain, she has continued to focus on the human relationship with animals in literature. Involved in TNR work on Long Island for the last decade, she has also written copious prose and poetry about cats. “I have really enjoyed reading the entries for the Friskies Writer of the Year Award. They were all of a very high quality and represented many different approaches to communicating with the public. For me, choosing a winner was just as difficult as choosing among a great variety of dark chocolates. Nevertheless, I have chosen the collection submitted by Dusty Rainbolt a.k.a. Hobbes as the winning entries. They represent a range of voices and styles, all of which address the key values of the contest, ‘to promote the welfare, health and proper care of cats.’ As Hobbes, she discusses these issues from the cat’s perspective in a very expressive voice and vocabulary that pays much attention to the ‘sensory stimulation’ that cats need. We all sense the annoyances that cats face, and these pieces bring them into sharp focus, sensitizing her audience in a clever and entertaining manner. Other entries including evaluations of products designed for cats are particularly useful. In all of her writing she is positive, concise, and practical. I was also impressed by the fullness of several of the pieces. Her writing is sustained and thoughtful on a very broad range of topics.” ~ \$500 and a cat figurine ~

#4 – HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. ~ **Awarded to Ingrid King for “The Joys of Adopting the Older Cat”** ~ Judge: Dr. Letrisa Miller, MS, DVM. “This article was a joy to read and was an excellent article with a strong, clear voice. The purpose of the article was clear throughout the piece and was very entertaining while educating people on the advantages of adopting senior pets. This is a well-balanced, educational, and entertaining example of great cat writing. The decision was not an easy one, but in the end this article was the most outstanding.” ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~ [See photo on the next page.]

2011 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

#5 – HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for “The Truth about Tapeworms”** ~ *Judge: Danelle German has authored the Ultimate Cat Groomer Encyclopedia as well as articles for various grooming publications. She has appeared on Animal Planet’s Cats 101 as well as on the Discovery Channel, local TV and other media. She was the first winner of the Groomers Got Talent competition held at Groom Expo. She has judged cat grooming competitions at shows in the United States and Europe. She is the founder of the National Cat Groomers Institute of America and the world’s first feline-exclusive grooming school located in Greenville, S.C. “There were several deserving entries in this year’s Hartz® Glamour-Puss Award competition. It was difficult to choose. I selected the winner because I thought it to be the most well-written entry of all that were submitted. The article was concise and not over-written, yet contained pertinent, useful information presented in a way that was easy to understand.”* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~



#6 – HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is awarded to the best single article or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for “Foster Focus”** ~ *Judge: Dr. Colleen Murray. “It was very difficult picking one article. In the end, I picked the winner because the article is all about common sense and education. We need to use all the resources that we have to make the right choices for the right reasons for the right animals. Not all cats are created to be house pets. However, they have great value if appreciated for what they can provide. If we are willing to meet the basic needs of shelter, food, water, and health care, these animals will ‘work’ for us. No training needed. They do what comes naturally and we all benefit: working with nature for nature. Basically a win-win for everyone.”* ~ The award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque ~



#7 – KARI WINTERS’ RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD, sponsored by The International Cat Association (TICA), is awarded to the best single article or column, 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. ~ **Awarded to Joanne Anderson for “Reducing Stress for Shelter Cats”** ~ *Judge: Michelle King’s life revolves around saving animals and changing the world “one animal at a time.” As a child she tried to save all the pregnant cats dropped off along the country road where she lived in Massachusetts. She is doing the same thing now as the Manager of Lucky Paws, the City of Albuquerque’s retail adoption center in a mall setting. This is the first such facility in the United States. “I chose this article for many reasons.*



To start with, the first line: ‘I am a fan of rotating the stock at an animal shelter to improve a pet’s chances of being noticed and ultimately getting adopted, but this marketing gimmick isn’t as easy as it sounds for cats.’ I liked that [the author] included the necessary steps in stress reduction protocols to improve shelter cats’ emotional well-being. These are most helpful. I was excited by the idea of the Hide, Perch & Go feline furniture. I asked Kennel Kompadres, which raises money for the shelters in Albuquerque, to see about getting these for the Albuquerque shelters. [The author offers] great ways to improve reducing the stress levels in cats so that they will display correctly, be safe in their environment and ultimately lead to a happier feline ready for its forever home. [This] article met the requirements of the award better than any of the others.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative plaque ~

Ingrid King receives the Hartz® Everyday Chewable Vitamin Award from Dr. Melinda Fernyhouse (at left) and Armando Rios of Hartz Mountain Corporation.

(continued on the next page)

2011 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

#8 – 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 its owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. ~ **Awarded to Stacey Ritz for “The Strength of the Human-Animal Bond: Going the Distance”** ~ *Judge: Betty Carmack has had a longstanding interest in the human-animal bond. She authored Grieving the Death of a Pet and has led a long-running Pet Loss Support Group at the San Francisco SPCA. She is a professor at the University of San Francisco and has been a speaker at previous CWA conferences. “I actually narrowed the entries down to three that I went back to for several re-reads. Each time I went back to re-read, one entry continued to best meet the criteria. Even though the entry was short, there was an emphasis that reflected and promoted the strengthening of the human-animal bond as well as highlighting the bond between a cat and its humans — touching and significant to the overall story. The important role of the veterinarian was clearly established, actually life-changing, literally. Had the veterinarian not stepped up, the outcome of this cat’s story would have been totally different.”* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~

#9 – PETFINDER.COM ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD, sponsored by Petfinder.com, is presented for an article (print or online), features, or columns on cat adoption, and the winner will be used on the Petfinder.com website. ~ **Awarded to Debbie Swanson for “Back to Basics: Shelter Cat Enrichment”** ~ *Judge: Vickie Fisher is the President of The International Cat Association (TICA) and was a Maine Coon Cat breeder for over 20 years. She is an Approved All-Breed Judge and Ring Instructor. Fisher worked in executive level positions in the New Mexico state government and for the City of Albuquerque. She is President and Founder of Albuquerque Kennel Kompadres, a nonprofit “friends” of the City animal shelters. “In this informative article, the author dispels the myth that cats are solitary creatures, not needing human interaction to be happy. The author describes the need for social interaction in a shelter environment to make each and every cat more adoptable and their stays shorter. The focus on different methods, customized for each individual kitty purrsonality is right on. I’ll be passing along this piece to our local shelter!”* ~ \$1000 ~



#10 – 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. ~ **Awarded to Sharon Eisen for “How to Choose a Healthy Purebred Cat”** ~ *Judge: Kay DeVilbiss. Judge’s comments: “This author has broad knowledge of health issues to assist a potential owner/breeder/exhibitor with information to investigate.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative bowl ~

#11 – PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is given for the best column or article, blog, or or book on the subject of feline nutrition. ~ **Awarded to Janiss Garza for “Guide to the Well-Fed Kitten”** ~ *Judge: Dr. Stephen Hopkins is an Associate Veterinarian at VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital in Albuquerque. He graduated from Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1983. Prior to joining VCA, he owned and operated Academy Animal Clinic for 25+ years. His professional interests include laser surgery and client education. He is married and has three college-age children. Judge’s comments: “It was very difficult to pick a winner because I thought it was a tie. But I chose this article because it is factual, provides excellent references, and gives a very good comparison of diets.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

Janiss Garza receives the Purina® Cat Chow® Nutrition Award from Purina’s Dan Koelher.

#12 – PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is for the outstanding single article reporting on feline health issues. ~ **Awarded to Arnold Plotnick for “Anatomy of the Feline Mouth.”** ~ *Judge: Ellen Price has worked with Pet Sitters International for the past 12 years, as editor of the Pet Sitter’s WORLD and as PSI’s academic manager. The WORLD is the bimonthly magazine that serves as a major source of information and support for PSI’s 7,000+ member businesses. She also heads PSI’s Certification Program, the continuing education coursework for professional pet sitters. Her academic background includes a B.S. in animal science and graduate work in beef cattle breeding and genetics. “The winning article has good information. It is readable, accurate and applicable. This article can help everyone at all levels of ownership and experience understand the importance of oral health in cats.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

International for the past 12 years, as editor of the Pet Sitter’s WORLD and as PSI’s academic manager. The WORLD is the bimonthly magazine that serves as a major source of information and support for PSI’s 7,000+ member businesses. She also heads PSI’s Certification Program, the continuing education coursework for professional pet sitters. Her academic background includes a B.S. in animal science and graduate work in beef cattle breeding and genetics. “The winning article has good information. It is readable, accurate and applicable. This article can help everyone at all levels of ownership and experience understand the importance of oral health in cats.” ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~



CWA president Su Ewing and Dan Koelher of Purina hold the Fancy Feast® Love Story Award won by Lee Wardlaw, who was not in attendance.

2011 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

#13 – PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. ~ **Awarded to Dusty Rainbolt for “Hartz Kitten Nursery”** ~ *Judge: Joan Caron has a Master’s Degree in Special Education. She worked for 25 years at the Miami Seaquarium as a marine mammal trainer and curator. Presently she is the semi-retired co-owner of a medical software company for Spanish-speaking physicians. She also works part-time as a pet sitter and is a member of The Cat Network assisting in cat rescue. “I loved the article about orphan kitten care. This article was not just enjoyable but it was full of good kitten care information. Although it was only an article, it contained a book’s worth of information. This series of ‘Kitten Care’ articles was the most thorough on the topic. It devoted 100% of its content to the topic.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~



#14 – STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD, sponsored by Fe-lines Inc./Sticky Paws®, is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. ~ **Awarded to Cheryl Kolus for “Unleash Your Cat’s Potential – Try Clicker Training”** ~ *Judge: Linda Aronson, DVM, MA, is a veterinarian with a referral behavior practice, PetShrink, in Berlin, Mass. She treats dogs, cats, and horses, and works with zoo staff and veterinarians and their charges. Her particular interest is medical causes of behavioral problems; the opportunity to bolster the human-animal bond and keep owners and their animals together is a primary motivator. Her DVM is from Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and her BA, MA are in physiological sciences from Oxford University. She also completed postgraduate studies in neurophysiology and psychophysics at Cambridge University. “This is a simple but beautifully clear and concise article outlining the basics of clicker training. It covers all the essentials and offers suggestions for places owners can go once they have mastered the basic behaviors explained in the article. It encourages full owner and cat participation and will only strengthen the human cat bond. The brevity would make it a nice handout for those working in cat behavior and for breeders, shelters, and vets to pass on to new cat owners.”* ~ \$1000 and a commemorative certificate ~

#15 – TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD, sponsored by Purina, is presented for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. ~ **Awarded to Marilyn Krieger for *Naughty No More!*** ~ *Judge: Mary Lou Anderson has been a Legal Nurse Consultant for the last 13 years. She got her first cat when she was five years old, an apple-head Siamese, named Ming. Her husband brought home an Abyssinian and her heart soared with appreciation for their unique beauty, athleticism, intelligence, and playful personality. She began showing and breeding Abyssinians in 1992, and started judging cats for TICA in 2001. Currently she is an Approved All Breed Judge and the Judging Administrator for TICA. “This book is very well organized. It is clear and is very inclusive of problems and solutions. It is an easy read with good references. The photos are excellent and appropriate.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl ~

#16 – WORLD’S BEST 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. ~ **Awarded to Shirley Rousseau Murphy for *Cat Coming Home*** ~ *Judge: Dr. Cynthia Rigoni is the owner of All Cats Veterinary Clinic in Houston. She has been a professional cat breeder for over 20 years. “This book meets all the criteria and is a great read.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative plaque ~

#17 – SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD, sponsored by CWA 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. ~ **Awarded to Deb M. Eldredge, DVM** ~ *From the nomination letters: (1) Janice Biniok: “[Deb Eldredge] sponsored me when I joined the CWA in 2009 and helped me on numerous occasions in the pursuit of my pet writing career. When others were too busy to talk to me she always made the time and has provided expert quotes for several of my cat articles. [She] always seems eager to help a colleague in need. Without people like [Deb] it would be almost impossible for a newcomer to become established in the highly competitive publishing industry.” (2) Nancy Boyd: “She has had a profound influence on my work and success as a pet writer, and tirelessly and freely offers help and assistance to any writer who asks just because she is passionate about animals and the people who love and write about them. I will never be able to adequately thank her.” (3) Florence Scarinci: “[Deb] has spurred me to query editors and develop my ideas. She bolsters my confidence... has introduced me to influential people in the field and made me feel comfortable in their presence... has invited me to become a member of her pet writers group on Yahoo where some of the most recognized and important authors in dog and cat writing share ideas, problems, successes. She does all this enthusiastically, gently, and unselfishly, without thought of compensation, just the pride in seeing a fledgling ‘wannabe’ author fulfill her dreams. I can think of no one more deserving.”* ~ \$500 and a commemorative item ~

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2011 CWA SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*



#18 – 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. ~ **Awarded to Amy D. Shojai** ~ *Judges: The CWA Governing Council. "Choosing the winner of this award was not easy, and [the decision] was not made lightly. All those nominated truly exemplified the ideals of CWA. Finally, though, Council made its decision, and this year, the Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award goes to Amy Shojai."* From the nomination letter by Karen Payne: "From the time the Cat Writers' Association was founded, Amy Shojai has been – and she remains – a keeper of the professional standards and guardian of the warm heart of the organization. She richly deserves our recognition and thanks for all her efforts on behalf of cats, and cat writers, and the CWA." ~ \$500 and her name engraved on a permanent commemorative plaque (at the offices of the Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation), plus a plaque to keep ~



#19 – KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD, sponsored by CWA, is presented to the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. ~ **Awarded to Diane M. Smith for "Stormy: Window Light"** ~ *Judge: Lori Faye Bock, who says, "Knowing animals and caring for them is one of life's joys. Even the most ordinary-seeming animals are truly extraordinary and give us so much. My art reflects my life."* Bock and her husband live in an 18th-century adobe home on a riverside farm near Abiquiu, New Mexico, where they delight in the company of 40 sheep, six dogs, and six cats. Her images are nationally known and have been used by PetSmart, the ASPCA, and the American Humane Association. "This sterling photo depicts the essence of the royal, regal character of the feline and yet the intimate relationship of the feline and human experience. Here is a synthesis of poise, beauty, and the quintessential muse of the friends we simply, lovingly call 'cat'." ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~

#20 – 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 is the "Best of the Best." ~ **Awarded to Wendy Christensen for her column, "Creature Comforts"** ~ *Judge: CWA President Susan B. Ewing. "The Muse winners were all wonderful, with an amazing selection of calendars, blogs, websites, novels, nonfiction books, articles, columns, newsletters, and cartoons. My only guide through this maze of*

excellence was the dog show model that the animals entered for Best in Show are not judged against each other, but against their breed standard. As someone who has written books, articles, and a weekly column, I know that each presents its own challenges, and I also know just how hard it can be to come up with a new topic week after week, month after month, year after year, and to keep the writing fresh as you try to entertain and educate. This writer does just that, whether she's talking about dental care, ferals, or how a cat laps water. ~ \$250 and a commemorative item ~

**Sincerest Congratulations to all
the 2011 Winners!**

ENTER THE CONTEST IN 2012 — IT'S YOUR TURN! (Right) Contest Chair Nancy Marano's cat Sammy went through the 2011 entries and selected his own set of winners, then helped mail out packages to judges. "I couldn't do it without him," says Nancy, whose two new 10-month-old kittens will assist Sammy with the 2012 contest.



2011 CWA Communication Contest Muse Medallion™ & Certificate of Excellence Winners



Muse Medallion™ design
by Karen Kuykendall
© Photo by Mike Friese

The regular category entries below were scored independently by three CWA member judges who had no knowledge of who else shared their judging assignments. Each judge awarded points on a scale of 1-100 and forwarded the results to the Contest Chair, who then averaged the three scores to calculate the Certificate of Excellence recipients and Muse Medallion™ winners. Entries scoring an average of 90 points or higher met the standard of excellence to become finalists and earn certificates. Muse Medallion™ winners scored highest in this outstanding field of excellence. Judges were asked to include comments when possible, and comments about the winners have been published here in italics.

* = Winner of Muse Medallion™

I.1 – Monthly Magazine

***CAT FANCY/Susan Logan, Editor**

“Cat Fancy continues to be the crème de la crème of feline periodicals. Gorgeous photos, up-to-the-minute information and articles that are well-researched and well-written. It is entertaining as well as educational. It is appealing to cat lovers of all ages. The cat’s meow!”

I.2 – Magazine Article – Health & General Care

***Janiss Garza/Guide to the Well-Fed Kitten (KITTENS USA)**

“This article was well organized and gave good information. It has a great comparison of dry, canned raw and homemade food. It gives both sides of the raw food question and includes cautions for homemade cat food. This is a very good article with a good summary to wrap it up.”

Helen Jablonski/Close Quarters (CAT FANCY)

Helen Jablonski/Safe & Sound (CAT FANCY)

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/Anatomy of the Feline Mouth (CAT FANCY)

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/Managing Diabetes (CAT FANCY)

Arnold Plotnick, DVM/What We Know about FIP (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/A Cry for Help (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/Demystifying Feline Herpes (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/The Truth about Tapeworms (CAT FANCY)

Sandy Robins/Hello, Gorgeous! (CAT FANCY)

Fran Pennock Shaw/A Flea’s Life (CAT FANCY)

Rebecca Sweat/The Dish on Diets for Seniors (CAT FANCY)

Rebecca Sweat/When Cats Need to Diet (CAT FANCY)

Kim Thornton/The Pill (CAT FANCY)

Kim Thornton/How To Find a Holistic Practitioner (CAT FANCY)

Elaine Wexler-Mitchell, DVM/Myths Busted (CAT FANCY)

Elaine Wexler-Mitchell, DVM/Chart a Course

(CAT FANCY’S NATURAL CAT)

I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior & Training

***Debbie Swanson/Back to Basics: Shelter Cat Enrichment (ANIMAL SHELTERING)**

“This is an easy read that is chock full of information. It should be a must read for all cat shelter volunteers. It’s too

bad the value and urgency of the subject can’t be scored. This is fresh and new and needed. I’d give it a 100+.”

Helen Jablonski/Bizarre Litterbox Behaviors (CAT FANCY)

I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic – TIE

***1. Dusty Rainbolt/The Best Idea (CAT FANCY)**

***2. Kim Campbell Thornton/Saving Africa’s Big Cats (CATS USA)**

Denise Fleck/Wild World: The Feline Conservation Center Helps Big Cats Survive and Thrive (CAT FANCY)

Elissa Jordan/American the Beautiful (CAT FANCY)

Brad Kollus/Will Work for Food (CAT FANCY)

Cimeron Morrissey/Champion for Cats: A Friend to Ferals (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/From Cruel Cast to Cool Cat (CAT FANCY)

Dusty Rainbolt/Adoption Options (KITTENS USA)

Sandy Robins/Take a Trip, Do Some Good (CAT FANCY)

Kelley Weir/Shelter from the Common Cold (CAT FANCY)

I.5 – Magazine – Column

***Cimeron Morrissey/Foster Focus (CAT FANCY)**

“This column captured my heart through the warmth of its treatment of the subjects. The writing is excellent and various aspects of the stories are woven together in an appealing way. The columns are memorable and cause me to think more deeply about the fostering ‘situations’ that are presented. This is a winner by a whisker in a category of outstanding entries.”

Steve Dale/The Catalyst (CAT FANCY)

Brad Kollus/Wild Cat Race (CAT FANCY)

Marilyn Krieger/Ask the Behaviorist (CAT FANCY)

I.6 – Magazine – Regional

NO ENTRIES

I.7 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Health and General Care

NO WINNER

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
PURRS!!



(continued on the next page)

2011 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

I.8 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Behavior & Training

NO ENTRIES

I.9 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Any Other Topic

***Debbie Waller/Resolve to Make 2011 a ‘Pawsitive’ New Year (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)**

“This gave useful, but not overwhelming, information presented in a friendly get-off-your-duff-and-help-animals way.”

I.10 – Magazine – Regional – Column

***Dusty Rainbolt and Debbie Waller/Dear Hobbes (CITY + COUNTRY PETS)**

“Well-researched answers presented in an entertaining and interesting style. This has overall great humor and voice. It is engaging from the first sentence every time.”

II.1 – Newspaper Article – Health & General Care

***Fran Pennock Shaw/“Giving Older Souls Respect” (INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL/LANCASTER NEW ERA)**

“This is an attention-grabbing article with informative sidebars, good pets with people photographs and excellent interviews that support the topic. It also includes content rich online references for the reader to consult.”

Joanne Anderson/Collars Are Cats Ticket Home (BABYLON BEACON)

Joanne Anderson/Reducing Stress for Shelter Cats (MASSAPEQUA POST)

II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior & Training

***Fran Pennock Shaw/I Wanna Play! (INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL/LANCASTER NEW ERA)**

“The article is balanced with great tips for helping your dog or cat stay healthy, fit and happy through play. It’s easy to read, easy to implement. A well-written article where I learned a thing or three.”

II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

***B. J. Bangs/Problems Arising from Cat and Dog Overpopulation (THE ORIGINAL IRREGULAR)**

“The story was laid out in a way that not only flowed well but it also made the information more compelling. It had great research as well.”

II.4 – Newspaper – Column

***Wendy Christensen/Createure Comforts (MONADNOCK LEDGER-TRANSCRIPT)**

“These columns are interesting and informative, her voice is strong and sure, and her information is reliable (and in one case cutting edge). Where useful advice is given it is truly useful. What an outstanding field of entries this year.”

Denise Fleck and Cecelia Martinez/Paws Up for Pet Safety (THE BURBANK TIMES)

Nancy White/Your Pets (NEWS & MESSENGER)

III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific

***Brigitte McMinn/BENGALS ILLUSTRATED**

“This is beautifully photographed, well written, and informative with strong appeal for both Bengal owners and cat lovers in general. Great job.”

III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation

***Arden Moore, Editor/CATNIP**

“The information presented here is truly for ‘caring cat owners’ and is shared in an educational and informative way that walks a fine line between technical but without sounding like a veterinary journal. A joy to read! This is splendid writing; clearly and concisely presented.”

III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

***Karen Payne, Editor/MEOW**

“This is a lively and fun newsletter that clearly serves its target audience.”

Cimeron Morrissey/CAT TALES

III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health & General Care

***Arden Moore/Toweling Your Cat (CATNIP)**

“This article has a distinctive voice. It is well-written with an even flow. The information is presented very well.”

Lyn Garson/Pet Allergies Bite (OUR COMPANIONS NEWS)

Lauri Henry/Understanding Feline HCM (UBCF NEWSLETTER)

Arden Moore/Giving Liquid Medicine (CATNIP)

Arden Moore/Why Cats Vomit (CATNIP)

Arnold Plotnick/Managing Pain in Cats and Dogs (CATNIP)

Arnold Plotnick/Treating Arthritis Pain (CATNIP)

Arnold Plotnick/Weight Loss in Senior Cats (CATNIP)

Fran Pennock Shaw/Updates on Feline Acne (CATNIP)

Amy Shojai/Managing Feline Lower Urinary Tract Diseases (CATNIP)

Kelley Weir/Strange Surroundings Boost Stress in Animals (CATNIP)

Kelley Weir/Inspiring New Veterinary Professionals (ANIMAL NEWS)

Elissa Wolfson/Treating Nasal Lymphoma (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Save Money on Cat Costs (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Understanding Feline Calicivirus (CATNIP)

III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior & Training

***Heidi Jeter/The Power of a Gentle Touch (ANIMAL NEWS)**

Marilyn Krieger/Addressing Inappropriate Scratching (CATNIP)

Arden Moore/Feline Landing Skills (CATNIP)

Elissa Wolfson/Your Health Ally: Therapy Cats (CATNIP)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
HEADBUTTS!!



III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic

*Arnold Plotnick/Cats in Amsterdam (CATNIP)

“This is an entertaining and informative article that takes the reader on a unique journey into Holland’s famous floating cat shelter and examines its veterinary care practices. The writer succinctly narrates a personal account of the ways another culture manages its homeless cat population.”

Sally Bahner/Love, Loss and Russian Blues (KOSCHKA KOURANT)

Maggie Funkhouser/An Army of Ordinary People (ALLEY CAT MEWS)

Heidi Jeter/Stressed Out No More (ANIMAL NEWS)

III.7 – Newsletter – Column

*Nancy Reeves/UBCF Newsletter Editorials (UBCF NEWSLETTER)

“I appreciated the risks she took, whether it was admitting to being an ‘apprentice’ breeder or revealing that some potential buyers didn’t like the shape of her cats’ noses. I’ve read a lot about cats in my career, and I am delighted to say I learned many new things from these articles. The tone and content were completely appropriate for her audience, but surprisingly accessible to a non-breeder like me – the mark of a good writer.”

Lyn Garson/Technically Speaking (OUR COMPANIONS NEWS)

Arden Moore/Editor’s Note (CATNIP)

Dusty Rainbolt/Catnip Product Reviews (CATNIP)

IV.1 – Short Story

*Lyn McConchie/Opener of Doors (HAZARD CAT)

“I was hooked from the first page. May all of us have a cat to plead for us at our own crossing. Indeed, no one can say ‘No’ to a determined cat.”

IV.2 – Poem

NO WINNER

IV.3 – Humor

*Ann Dziemianowicz/Cat Product Testers Review iPad Painting App (PAPER BAG & STRING)

“This is very cute. It’s just what you would expect from cats.”

IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication – TIE

*1. Nancy Peterson/Can You Help This Cat? (Humane Society of the United States)

*2. Nancy Reeves/Sock FIP Brochure (SOCK FIP)

1. *“This is an attractive brochure with overall good design.”*

2. *“This is a very thorough and informative brochure.”*

IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication

*Linda Young/KITTY CORNER MEWS

“This is clever and humorous. It contains relevant information from the perspective of a rescuer. Well done.”

IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay, or Editorial

*Bernadette Kazmarski/On Dying and Death, and Remembrance (MEOW)

IV.7 – PR / Humane Education / Press Kits

NO ENTRIES

V.1 – Fiction – TIE

*1. Shirley Rousseau Murphy/Cat Coming Home (HarperCollins)

*2. Clea Simon/Dogs Don’t Lie (Poisoned Pen Press)

“This may be the toughest category I’ve ever judged. What a terrific collection of books!”

1. *“This book is excellent. The author is an expert at keeping the reader’s interest. The end of each chapter is actually a beginning, making it nearly impossible to put down.”*

2. *“The characters are deep, well-drawn and realistic. Her ‘talking’ cat is the most realistic and least anthropomorphic depiction I’ve seen, finally doing justice to the personality of the cat.”*

Carole Nelson Douglas/Cat in an Ultramarine Scheme (Forge Books)

V.2 – For Children

* Lee Wardlaw/Won Ton: a Cat Tale Told in Haiku (Henry Holt Book for Young Readers)

“The winning book has a clear, stellar voice in written word and illustration (beautiful, bright colors) style that perfectly suited felines. Superb! The cat stole my heart, or should I say ‘won’ my heart. This captures the life of an adopted shelter cat perfectly.”

Jennifer Levenson/A Cat in New York (Xlibris)

V.3 – Health & General Care

*Darlene Arden/The Complete Cat’s Meow (Howell Book House)

“The author’s wealth of knowledge, thorough research, and engaging writing style come through on every page. But, even more than that, her love for cats makes this book special. If you’re only going to buy one cat guide, this is the one to get. This book will work for the experienced cat servant as well as the newbie.”

Randi Golub/Sugarbabies: A Holistic Guide to Caring for Your Diabetic Pet (Create Space)

V.4 – Behavior & Training

*Marilyn Krieger/Naughty No More! (Bowtie Press)

“This is a fantastic and easy guide. I’ve learned a lot from reading this book. I want to try clicker training with my cats. I hope more cat owners will switch to such humane methods of interacting with their cats. I clicker trained four stay kittens using this book as a guide. I was able to adopt out the kittens to loving homes more quickly based on how they responded to the training.”

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
Paws Up!!



(continued on the next page)

2011 Muse Medallion™ Awards (continued)

V.5 – Gift

***Ann Dziemianowicz/Careers for Your Cat (Ten Speed Press)**

“This book is very different. A hilarious book. It does not overdo the ‘test’ for your cat at the expense of choosing a ‘career’. Fun to read all the way through.”

Dena Harris/*Who Moved My Mouse? A Self-Help Book for Cats* (Ten Speed Press)

Bernadette Kazmarski/*Great Rescues* (Beauty of the Moment)

Marge Yee Webb/*Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings* (Laughing Cat Press)

V.6 – Poetry

NO ENTRIES

V.7 – E-Book

NO ENTRIES

V.8 – Other

***Allie Phillips/How Shelter Pets Are Brokered for Experimentation (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers)**

“This is a necessary book on a difficult subject. It’s very well done. The book is enlightening and heartbreaking.”

VI.1 – Video, CD, DVD, or TV Production

***Jane Brunt and the Catalyst Council/Cats + Carriers: Friends Not Foes (Catalyst Council)**

“This was very well done and contained a lot of information. After nearly a half-century living with cats and 15 years writing about them, any time I learn something new, kudos are in order – and I did pick up a few pointers from this piece.”

VI.2 – Broadcast, Audio – Any Format

***Amy Shojai/Pet Peeves: Feral Cats and TNR**

“This interviewer is a consummate professional interviewer, asking thorough and insightful questions. Her questions are interesting and challenging while she guides the interview.”

VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter

NO WINNER

VII.2 – Website – TIE

***1. Dr. Jean Hofve/www.bigcatlittlecat.com**

***2. Mary Anne Miller/www.felinexpress.com**

1. *“This site is informative and the links are accessible without the site being cluttered. It has good organization and is clear from the start.”*

2. *“Overall a very nice site that gives the reader plenty to click on but does not overload the reader information. It’s there if the reader wants it but it isn’t pushed.”*

Ingrid King/www.consciouscat.net

VII.3 – Online Article – Health & General Care

***Arnold Plotnick/Why We Vaccinate (Even Indoor Cats) (Cat Man Do)**

“There were many excellent articles in this category. With their fluid, easy-to-read style, the winner’s entries, in particular, provided enjoyment while dispensing useful and important information.”

Ingrid King/No One Right Answer When It Comes to Making a Medical Decision (Pet Connection)

Ingrid King/Cats Who Refuse to Be Pilled May Take Emotional Toll on Owners (Pet Connection)

Ingrid King/FIV – Separating Myth from Fact (The Conscious Cat)

Arnold Plotnick/Early Spaying-Neutering in Cats, Get ‘em while They’re Young (Cat Man Do)

Arnold Plotnick/Five Ways to Make Your Vet Happier (CatChannel.com)

Arnold Plotnick/What We Tell Our Clients When the Cat Is Diagnosed with Ringworm (Cat Man Do)

Dusty Rainbolt/Hartz Kitten Nursery (http://stage.hartz.com/Cats/Hartz_Nursery/Kitten_Articles/bathtime_for_kittens.aspx)

Amy Shojai/Caring for Your Aging Cat (PawNation.com)

VII.4 – Online Article – Behavior & Training

***Amy Shojai/8 Kinds of Cat Aggression (Cats.About.com)**

“This article is a definitive short introduction to kinds of cat aggression and remedies. It is perfect! The author accomplishes her purpose so very well by presenting interesting and practical information and holding the reader’s attention throughout.”

Amy Shojai/Neatness Freaks – How and Why Cats Groom (PawNation.com)

Amy Shojai/Why Cats Hate the Vet (PawNation.com)

VII.5 – Online Article – Any Other Topic

***Nancy Peterson/Lobbying 101 for Feral Cat Advocates (HSUS, www.humanesociety.org/feralcats)**

“The winning entry was excellent. It gets high marks for individuality.”

Sally Bahner/Cat Collector: I Was Afraid To Ask for Help (Branford Eagle)

Sally Bahner/“Mother Hen” Helps Feral Cat Colony in the Snow (Branford Eagle)

Mary Anne Miller/Head Bumps of Courage (www.felinexpress.com)

Nancy Peterson/Fostering Ferals (http://humanesociety.org/news/news/2010/07/fostering_ferals_080310.html)

Nancy Peterson/An Overview of Caring for Feral Cats (http://humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/pets/overview_caring_for_feral_cats)

Nancy Reeves/Mod Daeng’s Journey (Moddaengjourney.Blogspot.com)

Sandy Robins/Glamour Puss: New Cat Takes Office at Famed NYC Hotel (Todayshow.com [MSNBC])

Amy Shojai/The Health Benefits of Pets (AOL Healthy Living/Huffington Post)

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
PURR-IFIC!!



2011 Muse Medallion™ Awards *(continued)*

VII.6 – Online – Column

***Marilyn Krieger/Psychology 301, 302 & 303**
(Catchchannel.com)

“This takes a difficult multistep problem and makes it clear as to the remedy. The subtitles help break up the complexity.”

Deb Eldredge/Utica Pet Health (Examiner.com)

Lisa Hanks/Natural Science 501, 502 & 503

(CatChannel.com)

Marci Kladnik/Catalyst for Cats (www.catalystforcats.org)

Marilyn Krieger/Ask the Behaviorist (CatChannel.com)

Ramona Marek/History 401, 402 & 403 (CatChannel.com)

Arnold Plotnick/Biology 301, 302 & 303 (CatChannel.com)

Arnold Plotnick/Ask the Veterinary Expert

(CatChannel.com)

Sandy Robins/Genetics 401, 402 & 403 (CatChannel.com)

Rebecca Sweat/Zoology 301, 402 & 503 (CatChannel.com)

Kim Thornton/Fur and Feathers (Lake Forest Patch)

VII.7 – Blog: Educational

***Kelley Weir/Morris Animal Foundation Highlights Blog**
(www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/blog/)

“This entry simply is excellent.”

VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment

***Bernadette Kazmarski/The Creative Cat**

“Overall a very nice blog that highlights the artist’s work while adding understanding of the background for the work and importance of cats in her art.”

VIII.1 – Black & White Photograph (single)

***Stephanie Galindo/Pootie (THE COALITION HUMANE NEWSLETTER)**

“The winner combines effective communication, artistic values and technical execution to the highest level.”

Bernadette Kazmarski/Birdwatching (MEOW)

VIII.2 – Black & White Photographs (series)

NO WINNER

VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single) — TIE

*1. **Janiss Garza/Watching You** (Café Press)

*2. **Layla Morgan Wilde/Every Day Is Earth Day** (The Boomer Muse)

1. *“Now that’s a picture!”*

2. *“This picture is technically and artistically appealing and has professional quality.”*

VIII.4 – Color Photograph (series)

***Brigitte McMinn/Savannahs Illustrated Calendar** (Award Winning Publications)

“Some truly amazing photos here. This calendar has photos that are works of art – gorgeous.”

Janiss Garza/Sparkle the Cat 2011 Wall Calendar (Café Press)

Brigitte McMinn/Bengals Illustrated Calendar (Award Winning Publications)

Margie Yee Webb/Cat Mulan’s Mindful Musings (Laughing Cat Press)

VIII.5 – Cartoon

***Stephanie Piro/Family Is What You Make It** (King Features, “Six Chix”)

“Cat lovers can instantly relate to this cartoon. This is an excellent capture of that always awkward moment and our true reward – love it!”

Stephanie Piro/Catnip Farm (King Features, “Six Chix”)

VIII.6 – Illustration (single)

***Bernadette Kazmarski/A Wonderful Gift** (Sell/Wholesale)

“This is a beautiful work of art that reveals the cat’s personality.”

Bernadette Kazmarski/22 Cats (Great Rescues)

Christos Spontylides/The Big Yawn (The East Bay Monthly)

VIII.7 – Illustration (series)

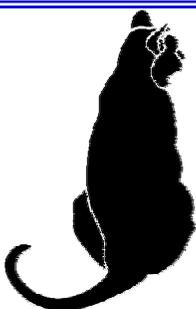
***Bernadette Kazmarski/16 Portraits of Rescued Felines** (Great Rescues)

“Wonderful. Each art work tells a story. I can’t fault her artistic technique either. A great all-around entry.”

To EVERY
CWA Honoree:
GOOD JOB!!



**Enter the Contest
in 2012!**



Quarterly Quotes

I believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through.

— Jules Verne

KITTENS INTO CATS: A Magical Transformation at the CWA Conference

CONFERENCE REPORT BY BJ BANGS



Kittens – they’re curious, naïve, and apt to stick out a neck, paw, or tail to explore whatever catches their attention. They eat. They frolic. They meow, purr, and snuggle. They nap, and then they romp around again, hoping for more excitement.

CWA “Kittens” have a lot in common with happy little felines, and that’s what made the Thursday Night Team (TNT) reception at our 18th annual CWA conference such a joy. We met at White Plains’ Crowne Plaza Hotel for the annual event that lets first-time attendees (the “Kittens”) experience CWA’s cat-mosphere, meet the pillars of our cat writing community, and enjoy a real cat-funfest.

Not knowing what to expect, the new Kittens meandered, one by one, into a room full of boxes, boxes, and more boxes. Some people were busy unpacking the boxes, and they seemed to have some purpose in mind for the contents. Little did we Kittens know about the bounty that was in those boxes!

For us, the immediate task at hand was to meet people, converse, relax, collect and give away business cards, make connections, and try to remember the names of everybody we’d just met. We met as many people as we could, found out a little bit about each one, and moved on to the next person, enjoying the party setting and trying to be catfully correct.

I learned about Diana Diatz’s art and Carole Stevens Bibisi’s love of black cats and how they are treated oh-so-differently in her homeland, New Zealand. I met Valerie Lee Veltre with her book *Moo Kitty Finds a Home*, Ann Dziemianowicz, author of *Careers for Your Cat*, and Marci Kladnik, who would be helping me with conference registration the next

morning. Here also I found my fellow New Englanders JaneA Kelly and Ellen Perry Berkeley.

Both Heike Hagenguth and Omnia Morsi, the senior coordinator for Agribusiness Systems International, had traveled all the way from Egypt. CWA Founder Amy Shojai flew in from Texas, and others came from here, there, and everywhere!

I already felt akin to some of these folks from their postings on the CWA Prolist, and I had actually exchanged emails with some of them. Cool! I was among some almost larger-than-life cat people, totally devoted to felines. Just like a real litter of kittens, we newbies stood a bit in awe of them, and we wondered, what next?

Teams were formed, and we positioned huge pink bags with “Cats Rule” imprinted on them. Now out came the goodies from the boxes to be placed in the bags. They ranged from cat food, kitty Christmas stockings, scratching pads, litter scoopers, yummy cat treats, and toys galore to pamphlets and coupons – so much of it that we couldn’t keep track – and all of it was crammed into the humongous bags.

The overstuffed bags took up so much room that they had to be moved out with bellman carts to await distribution. They were rushed away for safekeeping, away from prying Kitten paws.

Now it was time for the Kittens to socialize again with the wiser, more experienced CWA “Cats” (the conference old-timers). But like overstimulated real kittens, the newbies were a bit worn out by then from all the commotion.

CWA’s Head Cat, President Susan Ewing, gave the cat-tendees a huge welcome, and we all circled round for formal introductions. The Kittens were being initiated as Cats, and now it was time for pizza and other yummy treats, a reward for our good behavior.

When the party was over, we Kittens went to pick up our goodie bags – and even though we had packed them, we couldn’t wait to unpack them and paw through our stuff. Some Kittens went out to play, while others retreated to their nice warm beds to dream of catnip and the good fortune that would come to us over the next couple of days.

During the weekend, CWA Kittens and Cats were in a state of euphoria as we crammed

BJ BANGS is a true cat person who writes about cats for her blog, www.bjbangs.wordpress.com (Paws for Reflection), and for Examiner.com, and as a freelance writer and photographer for magazines and newspapers. She also works as a newspaper journalist in the Western Mountains of Maine. As a “Kitten” at the 2011 CWA conference, she pounced on the opportunity to help with registration and photography.

information into our cat-wired brains and met as many cat people as possible. After all the presentations, lunches, agent-author meetings, the banquet, and the cat-ultimate awards ceremony were over, the TNT event seemed so very, very long ago. The CWA Kittens had grown up, and now we are among those wiser and more experienced CWA Cats waiting to welcome the next generation of CWA Kittens into our clowder. See you at the 2012 CWA Conference! ♥



Photos © BJ Bangs: At left, CWA Founder Amy Shojai with plump CWA goodie bags. Above, Kittens Rebecca Shubin and Layla Morgan Wilde in fancy dress. Below, Kitten Valerie Lee Veltre with her book, *Moo Kitty Finds a Home*, and her publisher, Pamela Haines.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

CWA always needs volunteers who are willing to serve the interests of our group. Please put your skills to use in a job or on a committee. Participation keeps CWA strong, and you will reap many personal reward from your service. Contact CWA President Linda Kay Hardie at linda@louielarkey.com.

Bobbi Graham Wins 2012 Premier Scholarship!

I can't believe I won the Premier scholarship this year, and I hope others who entered aren't upset about this. I assure you I didn't stuff the ballot box!

Every year, since I first started collecting the names, I questioned whether I should enter myself, but as a senior whose income is limited, and living in Canada, where airfares to the United States are much higher, I decided I should leave it to fate.

How amazing that I should win this year, when the conference will be in Los Angeles. I've only been to California once, to San Francisco for a conference more than 40 years ago. So it would be a great treat to go to L.A.

In addition, my oldest friend lives in Burbank, and this will provide a joyous reunion after (ahem!) more than 55 years since we've seen each other.

I will send a grateful thank-you note to the Premier folks, but also wanted to thank all of you for understanding my embarrassment – and my delight!

Let me add that volunteering for CWA is always a joy. The few little things I do take almost no time, and it's gratifying to see how smoothly the organization runs when a large group of volunteers pitch in.

— Barbara Florio Graham

Runners-up for the scholarship were Susan Easterly, Layla Morgan Wilde, Greta Beigel, and Darlene Arden.

Thanks to Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway®

Dusty Rainbolt was the winner of the Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone® with Feliway® Membership Bounty Prize! The \$500 prize is awarded to the CWA member who recruits the most new members during the year. The award was most graciously presented to Dusty at the CWA conference by Carrie R. Foote, Public Relations Manager, on behalf of Central Life Sciences /Comfort Zone® with Feliway®. Everybody, get busy recruiting! Help yourself and CWA!

CWA NEWS



CWA Election Results

Officers

President – Linda Kay Hardie
Vice President – Dusty Rainbolt
Treasurer – Allene Tartaglia
Secretary – Wendy Christensen

Council of Directors,

Class of 2013

Jane Brunt, DVM
Andrea Dorn
JaneA Kelley



PLEASE NOTE THIS SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO HARTZ

In the conference program in November, we accidentally omitted the fact that Hartz Mountain Corp. generously provided copies of *Most of My Patients Wear Fur: Tales of Small Animals and Their Big City Vet*, by Elizabette Cohen, DVM, for each attendee, in addition to sponsoring the conference as a whole. — CWA Past President Su Ewing

NEWS ABOUT DUES: *It's not too late to renew your membership*

If you are one of the VERY few members who have NOT renewed – and still want to – please pay your dues right away. Your \$30.00 2012 renewal dues are overdue NOW. There are two ways to pay:

1. PayPal: via your own PayPal account or a major credit card. Go to <http://www.catwriters.org/renewal.html>. (Be sure to include your full name so we don't have to guess who you are!)
2. Write a check for US \$30.00, payable to the CWA, and snail-mail it to the CWA Treasurer:

Allene Tartaglia
9024 SW 91st Circle
Ocala FL 34481

-- Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

Cat Writers' Association 2012 Conference Ideas Questionnaire

CWA Vice President Dusty Rainbolt will be mailing a conference questionnaire to you in order to get suggestions from members before putting together a list of topics for use in crafting the theme and offerings at our 2012 CWA conference. Meanwhile, please let Dusty know if you have any contacts for potential speakers, editors, or agents in the Los Angeles area, or if you would like to speak at the conference. Contact: Dusty Rainbolt, CWA Vice President, dustycatwriter@pobox.com.



Thanks to Our 2011 CWA Sponsors!



To All CWA Members:

Whether or not you attended the CWA conference, PLEASE take a few moments to express your personal thanks to each of our sponsors for their generous and continued support of the CWA and our conference. The sponsors' addresses are listed below. Your personal thanks really DO mean a lot to our sponsors. We've heard this time and time again. Please write those all-important notes today!
—Purrrrrs... Wendy Christensen, CWA Secretary

PLEASE express your thanks to our generous conference and award sponsor representatives:

ASPCA: Friday reception, Saturday luncheon
Jacque Schultz (jacques@aspca.org)
520 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018

CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION: CWA President's Award and general sponsor
Rachel Anger, Corporate Secretary (RAnger@dykema.com)
The CFA Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 2155, 260 East Main Street, Alliance, OH 44601

CAT FANCY MAGAZINE/BOW TIE INC.: Co-sponsor Friday dinner
Susan Logan, CAT FANCY Editor (SLogan@bowtieinc.com)
3 Burroughs, Irvine, CA 92618

CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCES/COMFORT ZONE® WITH FELIWAY®: Membership Bounty Prize and co-sponsor Friday dinner
Carrie R. Foote, Public Relations Manager (CFoote@central.com)
301 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013-3997

CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER: Cornell Special Award
Luanne Prosperi Stefanucci, lp8@cornell.edu
Cornell Feline Health Center, S3111 Schurmann Hall, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA: General sponsor
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Marion Lane, DWAA Liaison, 5509 State Rte 145, Cobleskill, NY 12043

FE-LINES INC./STICKY PAWS®: Sticky Paws® Special Award and general sponsor
Chris Ruben, Sales Manager (cmr@Concept-to-Consumer.com)
Bonnie Pemberton, President (Kittichik@aol.com)
2806 6th Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CORPORATION: Membership breakfast, 3 Hartz® Special Awards, refreshments, and general sponsor
Bob Shipley, Marketing Department (bshipley@hartz.com)
Kim Cassar, Director of Animal Health (KCassar@hartz.com)
Jennifer Dombkowski, Integrated Marketing Manager (JDombkowski@hartz.com)
400 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ 07094

MERIAL: Merial Special Award
Karen Eyer, Senior Coordinator Corporate Communications (Karen.Eyer@Merial.com)
3239 Satellite Boulevard, Duluth, GA 30005

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION: Co-sponsor Friday dinner and general sponsor
Heidi Jeter, Director of Communications (hjeter@morrisanimalfoundation.org)
10200 East Girard Avenue, Suite B430, Denver, CO 80231

NESTLE-PURINA PETCARE COMPANY: Awards banquet and 7 Special Awards (Fancy Feast®, Friskies®, Pro Plan®, Purina®, and Tidy Cats®)
Dan Koehler, daniel.koehler@purina.nestle.com
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, 1034 Danforth Drive, St. Louis, MO 63102

PETCO FOUNDATION: General sponsor
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7262 N. Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA 91775

PETFINDER.COM: Petfinder.com Special Award, seminar refreshments
Sara Lippincott, Manager of Shelter Outreach (sara@petfinder.com)
Susan Green, Specialist, Shelter Outreach (susan@petfinder.com)
P.O. Box 394, Spencer, NY 14883

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL: Networking sponsor
Ellen Price, Academic Manager and Editor, *Pet Sitter's WORLD* (EllenPrice@petsit.com)
201 East King Street, King, NC 27021

PRECIOUS CAT, INC.: General sponsor
Gina Zaro, Marketing Director (gina@preciouscat.com)
4201 South Navajo, Unit 1, Englewood, CO 80110

PREMIER PET PRODUCTS: Scholarship sponsor, speaker
Michelle Mullins CPDT-KA, Training & Behavior Education Department Manager (MMullins@premier.com)
14201 Sommerville Court, Midlothian, VA 23113

SERGEANT'S PET CARE PRODUCTS: General sponsor
Patsy Sumner, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and Creative Services (psumner@sergeants.com)
Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Inc., 2625 South 158th Plaza, Omaha, NE 68130-1703

SHERPA PET GROUP™: General sponsor
Nicola Plevin (nikki@sherpapetgroup.com)
Sherpa Pet Group, LLC, 300 Roundhill Drive, Suite 1, Rockaway, NJ 07866

AMY D. SHOJAI: Shojai Mentor Award
Amy D. Shojai, CWA Founder (shojai@verizon.net)
P.O. Box 1904, Sherman, TX 75091-1904

STURDI PRODUCTS: Neck wallets, pens, general sponsor
Penny Johnson, Executive Vice President (penny@sturdiproducs.com)
Dana Humphrey, Public Relations (dana@whitegatepr.com)
9704 151st Avenue, KPN, Gig Harbor, Washington 98329

THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA): Kari Winters Special Award
Vickie Fisher, President (coonquest@gmail.com)
139 Palacio, Corrales, NM 87048

WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER®: World's Best Cat Litter-ary Award, general sponsor
Jean Broders, Marketing Manager (brodersjean@grainprocessing.com)
GPC Pet Products, 1600 Oregon Street, Muscatine, IA 52761



Please send thankful purrs to all our generous sponsors!



Thanks to Gift Bag and Raffle Prize Contributors!

Despite the poor economy, many of our loyal contributors have come through for us again. We've also been fortunate to gain new contributors. Please let all of our contributors know how much you appreciate their generosity to CWA, and do what you can to promote their products. — Nancy Peterson, CWA Past President

* = Raffle Prize

+ = New Participant

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www.amberlotus.com
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Arty Mitchell
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Plaistow, NH 03865
www.arubacat.com
(Scratching post)

ASPCA

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520 Eighth Avenue, Seventh Floor
New York, NY 10018
jacques@aspca.org
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(Food scoops)

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(Cat food)

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245 Hembree Park Drive, Suite 110
Roswell, GA 30076
Comments@frrco.com
www.frrco.com
(Bonito treats)

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Pascal Bedard
16909 Rivendale Lane
Rainier, WA 98576
info@fromthefieldpet.com
www.fromthefieldpet.com/
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40 Northport Lane
Staten Island, NY 10314
greenmangoods@gmail.com
www.cattoysbygalileo.com
(Gift baskets)

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www.jardenstore.com
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valerie@kittykottage.com
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www.kongcompany.com
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Phoenix, AZ 85004
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Thanks to Gift Bag and Raffle Prize Contributors! *(continued)*

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carol.scott@purina.nestle.com
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o.morsi@acdimenta.com
(Egyptian Souvenirs)

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P.O. Box 350122
Brooklyn, NY 11235
patiev@aol.com
www.patieventre.com and www.cfa.org
(The Wonderful World of Cats posters)

PETCO Foundation

Paul Jolly
7262 North Rosemead Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91775
paul.jolly@petco.com
<http://www.petco.com>
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850 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
jane@petfinder.com
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Pioneer Pet Products™ + *

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CWA MEMBERS, please thank our purr-ific donors for giving us (and our cats) the chance to experience their fabulous products and enjoy their generous gifts!



CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT for JANUARY 1, 2011 - DECEMBER 31, 2011



Reported by Allene Tartaglia, CWA Treasurer, 1/7/2012

INCOME

GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS

Awards for Writing Contest 2011

Amy Shojai	\$ 500.00
Cat Fanciers' Association	\$ 250.00
Cornell Feline Health Grant	\$ 500.00
Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®	\$ 1,000.00
Hartz Mountain Corp.	\$ 3,000.00
Merial	\$ 1,000.00
Nestle/Purina Pet Care Co.	\$ 3,500.00
Petfinder.com	\$ 1,000.00
The International Cat Association (TICA)	\$ 500.00
World's Best Cat Litter®	\$ 500.00

Subtotal Awards 2011 **\$11,750.00**

Corporate Grants for Conference 2011

Amy Shojai	\$ 1,500.00
ASPCA	\$ 3,000.00
Cat Fanciers' Association	\$ 750.00
Cat Fancy/Bow Tie, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Central Life Sciences/Comfort Zone®	\$ 1,500.00
Dog Writers' Association	\$ 1,000.00
Fe-Lines Inc./Sticky Paws®	\$ 500.00
Hartz Mountain Corp.	\$ 8,500.00
Morris Animal Foundation	\$ 3,000.00
Nestle/Purina PetCare Co.	\$ 5,000.00
PetCo Foundation	\$ 500.00
Pet Sitters International	\$ 250.00
Petfinder.com	\$ 1000.00
Precious Cat, Inc.	\$ 500.00
Premier Pet Products Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Sergeant's Pet Products	\$ 1,000.00
Sherpa Pet Group, LLC	\$ 500.00
Sturdi Products	\$ 250.00
The International Cat Association (TICA)	\$ 250.00
World's Best Cat Litter®	\$ 250.00

Subtotal Conference 2011 **\$31,250.00**

TOTAL SPONSORSHIPS **\$43,000.00**

DUES¹

New members 2011 (31)	\$ 910.00
Renewals 2011 (63)	\$ 1,260.00
New members for 2012 (7)	\$ 480.00
Renewals 2012 ² (179)	\$ 5,370.00

Subtotal Dues 2011 & 2012 **\$ 8,020.00**

REVENUES CONTEST/CONFERENCE

Writing contest fees 2011	\$ 4,011.50
Conference registrations 2011	\$ 3,945.00

Subtotal Contest/Conference **\$ 7,956.50**

MISCELLANEOUS

Member Pins	\$ 90.00
Amazon Book Sales	\$ 86.79
CD Interest Income	\$ 289.61

Subtotal Miscellaneous **\$ 466.40**

TOTAL ALL OTHER INCOME **\$16,422.90**

EXPENSES

CONFERENCE & CONTEST

Awards (Writing Contest) ³	\$12,500.00
Membership Bounty (Central Life Sciences)	\$ 500.00
Conference Speaker (Premier)	\$ 500.00
Conference Scholarship (Premier)	\$ 500.00
Crowne Plaza Hotel bill (catering & rooms)	\$27,020.06
Muse Medallions TM	\$ 1,299.22
Contest – Certificates (2010)	\$ 206.28
Contest – Plaque (2010) ⁴	\$ 113.04
Contest – Chair stipend	\$ 1,000.00
Contest – Mailing & supplies	\$ 783.49
Conference Supplies	\$ 147.35
Miscellaneous (door prize shipping, phone)	\$ 29.45

Subtotal Contest/Conference **\$44,598.89**

DISBURSEMENTS TO MEMBERS

Reimbursements for 2010

2010 Conference booklet & awards program \$ 155.00

Reimbursements for 2011

Four issues MEOW published 2011	\$ 1,709.91
Newsletter editor stipend (4 issues)	\$ 800.00
Web site (webmistress) stipend 2011	\$ 800.00
Directory (publishing/ mailing)	\$ 716.87
Membership cards (mailed with directories)	\$ 14.16
Future Meeting Site Trips ⁵ (LAX & DFW)	\$ 348.20
Admin operating (postage, phone etc.)	
Secretary	\$ 229.60
Treasurer (2010)	\$ 148.21
Treasurer (2011)	\$ 68.65

Subtotal Member Disbursements **\$ 4,990.60**

OTHER EXPENSES

PayPal fees contest, conference & dues	\$ 447.40
Website renewal (DataRealm)	\$ 89.55
Bank fees (stop payment)	\$ 27.50
New bank account checks	\$ 140.70

Subtotal Other Expenses **\$ 705.15**

TOTAL ALL EXPENSES (to date) **\$50,294.64**

NET GAIN (or LOSS) **\$ 9,128.26**

CURRENT OPERATING CAPITAL

Deferred Income (Amy Shojai Grant) ⁶	\$ 1,600.00
CD principal (11-8-11)	\$24,482.37
Lake Shore bank balance ⁷	\$20,359.51
Wells Fargo bank balance ⁷	\$15,042.59

TOTAL BALANCE CWA FUNDS **\$61,484.47**

(Comparison: Reported Total Funds on 12-31-10 in MEOW \$48,434.59)

1. Income from dues, writing contest entries, and registrations are based on amounts paid by check and PayPal. PayPal fees (averaging 3%) were deducted in the final transfers from PayPal to the CWA bank account, and those fees are listed separately under expenses. A year-end PayPal transfer to the regular CWA checking account leaving a \$0 PayPal balance was made on 12/31.
2. Dues are still being received for 2012.
3. The 2011 Contest awards includes \$750 in CWA-sponsored awards (Kuyendall Image Award and Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award).
4. Invoices not yet received for 2011 plaques.
5. Expenses partially offset by \$300 credit towards final 2012 hotel expenses.
6. Amy Shojai grants to be used for future years (2012-\$500, 2013-\$500, 2014-\$500, 2015-\$100).
7. Checking account balances as of 12/31/11 reflect all checks and/or deposits to date, even if not cleared.

CWA's Annual General Membership Meeting and Membership Breakfast

Saturday morning, November 19, 2011 – Breakfast Starting at 8 a.m.

The breakfast was graciously sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation. Speakers were Cindy Read, representing DWAA; Jane Herrel, representing Petfinder.com; and Carrie Foote, representing Central Life Sciences, who awarded its \$500 Membership Bounty prize to Dusty Rainbolt, the CWA member who sponsored the most new members in 2011.

Su Ewing, president, officially called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Officers and current directors present were Su Ewing, president; Dusty Rainbolt, vice president; Amy Shojai, immediate past president; Wendy Christensen, secretary, arrived late; and Lyn Garson, board member. Fran Pennock Shaw volunteered to take minutes of the meeting. Approximately 45 CWA members and nonmembers were present.

Secretary's report: Motion was made by Amy Shojai and seconded to waive the reading of last year's (November 20, 2010) meeting minutes. The attending members approved in a voice vote.

Treasurer's report: It was announced that the full year-end treasurer's report will be published in the 2012 winter issue of the newsletter.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

1. Contest Committee: By Nancy Marano, contest chair, in absentia (her report was read by Su Ewing).

This year's contest had 512 entries in the regular and special categories from 90 people. There were 262 entries in the regular categories and 250 entries in the special award categories. People from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, England, and Greece submitted entries to the contest.

Sixty professional CWA members volunteered to judge in the contest this year. The contest committee thanks everyone who agreed to do this job because without the judges, there would be no contest. Most judges needed to judge only one or two categories since we had so many volunteers. We hope that will continue next year.

This year's contest committee worked diligently all year to revise rules, smooth out problems from the previous year, and do anything asked of them. The contest committee included Marion Lane, Anne Leighton, Stephanie Piro, Dusty Rainbolt, Fran Pennock Shaw, Betsy Stowe, and Sandra Toney. The contest committee wishes to thank Wendy Christensen for doing the lovely Certificates of Excellence and sending them to the winners. All these people have my deepest gratitude. I was honored to be contest chair again this year and hope next year's contest is even better. (Signed, Nancy Marano)

2. Conference Report: By Sharon Melnyk, registrations coordinator, in absentia (her report was read by Su Ewing).

Sharon reported that more people paid with PayPal this year than with a check. She feels that for the third year in the same location, we had good registration numbers, with 16 members taking advantage of the Early Bird rate; 6 non-

members were Early Birds; 2 members after the Early Bird deadline; 5 non-members after the deadline; 2 people attending just the Friday seminars; 1 person attending just the Friday dinner; one person for the Saturday luncheon, and 2 people signing up for the just the awards banquet.

3. Long Range Planning Committee: By Allene Tartaglia, LRPC chair, in absentia (Su Ewing summarized).

The 2012 CWA conference will be in Los Angeles, California, and it will be the 20th anniversary year of the founding of CWA (although it will be the 19th annual conference). The LRPC has recommended that the 2013 conference also be in Los Angeles, and the following year in Dallas, Texas.

Fran Shaw mentioned that the committee members were Allene Tartaglia, LRPC chair; Dusty Rainbolt, Heike Hagenguth, Paul Glassner, and herself. She said the committee recommended and Council subsequently approved moving up the date of the annual conference to the first full weekend in November. That will make it Nov. 1-4, 2012. (A full report from the LRPC was in the fall 2011 newsletter)

New Business:

Election of New Board Members: Fran Shaw presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

The nominating committee, consisting of Fran Shaw, chair, Kim Campbell Thornton, and Ramona Marek, unanimously proposed the following slate for officers and directors for 2012:

President: Linda Kay Hardie

Vice President: Dusty Rainbolt

Secretary: Wendy Christensen

Treasurer: Allene Tartaglia

Council of Directors: Dr. Jane Brunt, JaneA Kelley, and Andrea Dorn

A motion was made by Amy Shojai to accept the slate, seconded by Nancy Peterson. The slate was elected by a unanimous voice vote.

(Note: Retiring from Council are long-time directors Arden Moore, Paul Glassner and Heike Hagenguth.)

Other Business:

Minda Zetlin, vice president of the American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA) announced ASJA's decision to waive its \$50 initiation fee for any CWA member who wants to join the organization, especially in time to attend ASJA's 2012 conference, which will be April 27-28. It was noted this is the third year that Minda (not a CWA member) attended the CWA conference as a seminar presenter.

Nancy Peterson, conference door prize coordinator, presented several larger door prize items. On behalf of the whole organization, she also thanked Su Ewing for being president the past two years.

There was no other new business or reports from the floor. Motion to adjourn made by Amy Shojai, seconded by Lorie Huston. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

– *Respectfully submitted, Fran Pennock Shaw*

Hello, Good-Bye, and Thanks to All CWA Volunteers!

By Susan M. Ewing, CWA Immediate-Past President

First, hello to all those who became new members this past year. I know you'll enjoy every part of CWA, from the helpful Prolist to the writing contest to the conference. Our membership is a great source of information, inspiration, and sympathy! Remember, though, that, as with any organization, you get out of it what you put in. Hello also to the new Council members. We have many wonderful volunteers, but volunteering to be on the board takes a special commitment. Thanks for making that commitment.

Those are my hellos. My good-bye is good-bye to the presidency. It was a great two years. I enjoyed helping to put together the conferences and learning about all the work that goes on behind the scenes.

My thanks go to a long list of wonderful people. The list would be even longer, but, alas, I can't find my official list of volunteers anywhere. So many people work to make the conference a success and everyone deserves to be mentioned, so I feel terrible that I don't have a complete list. Please know that even if you're not listed, your efforts were appreciated, from arranging chairs at the TNT party to introducing a speaker, to just plain stepping in and helping when you saw a need.

Specific thanks, in no particular order, go to the following:

- Dusty Rainbolt, CWA vice-president, who is a dynamo when it comes to organizing seminars and corralling speakers.
- Wendy Christensen, CWA secretary, not only for secretarial duties, but for lugging two projectors, and for doing both the conference booklet and the awards program. Wendy also did all the Certificates of Excellence for the writing competition.
- Nancy Marano, who chairs the writing contest, for rounding up judges, mailing packets, sorting, organizing, and presenting awards.
- Contest committee members Marion Lane, Anne Leighton, Stephanie Piro, Dusty Rainbolt, Fran Shaw, Betsy Stowe, and Sandra Toney, who helped Nancy Marano.
- Fran Shaw, for getting awards to non-attending members, as well as gathering and displaying writers' guidelines and other information from publishers.
- Stephanie Piro, for taking care of all the signage for our winners' display, even though she couldn't attend the conference.
- Sharon Melnyk, for handling conference registrations.
- Marci Kladnik, for taking over on-site registrations and signing people in. BJ Bangs also helped with registration. Thanks so much!
- Nancy Peterson, who gets goodies for the goodie bags, as well as door prizes, and then organizes the stuffing of the bags.
- Debbie Waller and Angie Bailey, for handling speaker introductions.
- Heike Hagenguth, who once again managed the scheduling of editor/agent appointments.
- Barbara Stretton and BJ Bangs, the conference photographers.
- BJ Bangs, for the non-attending authors display. BJ also has agreed to act as our public relations coordinator.
- Diana Diatz, another conference photographer.
- Karen Payne, for our splendid newsletter.
- Karen Lawrence, for maintaining our web site.
- Barbara Florio Graham, for coordinating the Premier Pet Products Scholarship.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND SUPPORT OF CWA!

"Be patient. Cats have spent more than 5,000 years teaching humans to do what WE want. Teaching your kitty to do what YOU want may take time." — Princess Kitty®

WELCOME MAT



NEW MEMBERS [member numbers in brackets]

Deborah Barnes [P678-11], 8702 NW 18th Court, Coral Springs, FL 33071; 954-993-8253; Email: dbarnes@zeezoey.com; Website: www.zeezoey.com. Deborah specializes in the feline-human bond, cat behavior, humor, inspirational, kitten care, custom illustrations, and cat photography. She's a member of BlogPaws, the International Bengal Association, and the Maine Coon Cat Association. She's the author of *The Chronicles of Zee and Zoey*. Her sponsors are Ingrid King and Layla Morgan Wilde.

Lou Belcher [P686-12], 725 Port Malabar Boulevard, NE #302, Palm Bay, FL 32905; 321-727-2197; Email: Lou@LouBelcher.com; Website: <http://www.MaxtheQuiltCat.com>. Lou is a writer, editor, photographer, and artist. She's the author of *The Zen of Max* (2010). Her sponsor is Caren Gittleman.

Harriet Cooper [P683-12], 111 Banff Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2P6; 416-480-9759; Email: harrietcooper@rogers.com. Harriet is a freelance writer and editor. Her areas of expertise include humor, creative non-fiction, cat health and wellbeing, and cat history and mythology. Harriet's sponsor is Dusty Rainbolt.

Douglas W. Dunn [P684-12], 217 Sunset Drive, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; 360-675-2910 (home), 360-675-4500 (business), 360-675-3377 (fax); Email: DougNKatty@yahoo.com; Website: www.cujocatchronicles.blogspot.com. Douglas is a writer and blogger who specializes in humor and cats. He is the author of *The Cujo Cat Chronicles, Musings of a Mad Housecat*. His sponsor is Caren Gittleman.

Lisa Fleming [P680-11], Naples, FL; Website: Lisa92479@aol.com; Facebook: *Cat and Crow Children's Book*. Lisa is a children's book author. She hopes to make a difference in the lives of cats, one book at a time. Her sponsor is Nancy Peterson.

Caren Gittleman [P681-11], 31720 Partridge Lane, #22, Farmington Hills MI 48334; 248-910-2145; Email: cgittleman@mi.rr.com; Websites: <http://opcatchat.blogspot.com>, www.dakotasden.wordpress.com; Blog: *Cat Chat*, <http://opcatchat.blogspot.com>; Twitter: @catchatcaren. Caren is a blogger whose topics of special interest are "Cats! Living Cats, loving cats, sharing cats, laughing about cats, conversing about cats, devoting much of my life to cats!" Her sponsor is Deb Barnes.

Jacqueline Munera [P682-11]; Email: jacquecatconsulting@gmail.com; Website: www.positivecattitudes.com. Jacqueline's expertise includes domestic cat and dog behavior and training, operant and respondent training techniques (such as clicker), dog and cat interactions, impacts of declawing on cats physically and behaviorally, presenting cat behavior and training topics at conferences, environmental and mental enrichment ideas for cats, and educating shelter staff and volunteers about cat needs. She is affiliated with the IAABC, the Association of Animal Behavior Professionals, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and the Companion Animal Sciences Institute. Her sponsors are Darlene Arden, Janet Velenovsky, and Dusty Rainbolt.

Ellen Price [P685-12], c/o P.S.I., 201 E. King Street, King, NC 27021; 336-401-0293 (home), 336-983-9222, ext. 316 (business), 336-985-5673 (fax); Email: EllenPrice@petsit.com; Website: www.petsit.com. Ellen is the Editor of *Pet Sitter's WORLD* magazine, and the Academic Manager of Pet Sitters International. She is a member of the DWAA. She was also a CWA Writing Competition Judge in 2010. Ellen's sponsor is Fran Shaw.



Bits & Bytes



CWA's **Beth Adelman** was the 2011 recipient of the Winn Feline Foundation Media Award, which was created in 2005 to thank and honor journalists and editors who publicly support the mission of the Winn Feline Foundation to advance feline health studies, and to communicate facts about feline health. "Beth has always been on the side of disseminating information about cat health and behavior – sorting out fact from fiction," said Winn Feline Foundation Board Member Steve Dale. Beth was cited for volunteering at the Foundation's booth at cat shows and for writing and editing Winn pieces and for championing feline health in her own writing. A cat behavior consultant and author of *Every Cat's Survival Guide to Living With a Neurotic Owner*, Adelman is in demand as an editor and seminar speaker. Past recipients of Winn's Media Award are Steve Dale, Pam Johnson-Bennett, Amy Shojai, Kim Thornton, and Kari Winters.

Steve Dale has two new ebooks, *Good Dog!* and *Good Cat!* (Tribune Media Services). Go to the press center at <http://www.tmshub.com/good-dog-good-cat/> to visit the Facebook fan page. (Type "Good Dog!" or "Good Cat!") "For me, I know, my Q & A columns have saved lives – readers have told me so more times than I can count," said Steve. "If I can expand my audience, I am happy." Several CWA members are quoted as experts. Steve or the publisher will send a copy if you want to review or write a piece, or broadcast, blog, or podcast. The books have been promoted well and the price is only \$2.99 (unless you want the enhanced version of *Good Dog!* which includes a video and is sold through iTunes or Apple).

Jane Denny, Art Director at The Mad Hand Arts, Graphics & Design and the Creator of The Pride, The Award-Winning Reality Cat Cartoon Starring Crazy Johnny, had a line of designer greeting cards and holiday gifts, "The Twelve Cats of Christmas" on Zazzle.com, in which each day's gift was replaced by cats. Jane's The White Cat Co. now has a "Cats in Love" line for Valentine's Day, featuring several pairs of lovey-dovey cats. See <http://www.zazzle.com/thewhitecatco>, and www.thepridecartoon.com.

(Bits & Bytes continued on the next page →)

ADDRESS CHANGES

Bianca Kennedy, 1455 Kettner Blvd., #2103, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 677-2206.

Karen F. Ohta, 9321 Creosote Avenue, Hesperia, CA 92344; cairn280@gmail.com.

Stephanie Piro's email address is stephaniepiro@gmail.com. It was wrong in some CWA communications, so take note!

Clea Simon, 11 Morgan Street, Somerville, MA 02143-3611; 617-623-2510.

Franny Syufy [P414-030], 2656 Sweetwater Trail, Cool, CA 95614; 925-628-3135.

Valerie L. Veltre [P679-11], 35 Bear Creek Way, Bardstown, KY 40004; 717-371-5245; Email: val@valerieleveltretre.com; Websites: www.valerieleveltretre.com, www.mookittyfindsahome.com. Valerie's specialty is illustrated children's books. She's the author of *Moo Kitty Finds a Home* (Sqidgy Press, LifeReloaded, 2011). Her sponsor is Mary Shafer. ♥

Lisa Fleming's first children's book, *Cat and Crow: An Amazing Friendship, Based on a True Story*, was published on National Feral Cat Day, October 16, 2011. The story is about a stray kitten discovered and cared for by a wild crow. They became best friends. The 48-page book is illustrated with photos of the dynamic duo. The 'Fur' educational section in the back, provided by CWA's Nancy Peterson of the Humane Society of the United States, aims to raise awareness about the plight of feral and stray cats and the need to protect and respect all wildlife. Book signing benefits have been directed to six cat rescue organizations. Says Lisa: "So happy my publisher is giving back." See <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cat-and-Crow-Childrens-Book/229636013746008>.

Heike Hagenuth has a cat library in Cairo (the secondary topic is dogs), and she is seeking in-kind donations in the form of one copy of nonfiction books. Books are available to veterinarians, cat breeders, rescue organizations, kennel operators, and journalists, and the need is great since book supplies are limited. Please ship books to Heike for forwarding at CAI 1142, 147-29 182nd Street, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413; or call 718-553-8740.

Marci Kladnik's *Guideposts* article can be seen at <http://www.guideposts.org/pet-stories/dog-becomes-cat-whisperer>. The readership of the publication is around 10 million. "See what happens when you follow your mentor's (Dusty Rainbolt) advice and meet with an editor not on your list at the [CWA] conference? Whoohooo!" Marci is the author of *Altering the Future for Ferals* and a board member of CATalyst for Cats, Inc. See www.catalystforcats.org and www.maggiestories.com.

Marilyn Krieger, CCBC, has a new, modern web site. Check it out: www.thecatcoach.com.

As the editor of *PETroglyphs*, **Nancy Marano** won 1st place in the New Mexico Press Women's 2011 Professional Communications Contest. NMPW is an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women. Congrats, Nancy! Also, September 15 was *PETroglyphs* Day in New Mexico (proclaimed by Governor Bill Richardson in honor of *PETroglyphs*' being the only independent, award-winning, state-wide newspaper dedicated solely to animal issues).

At the Corpus Christi cat show **Deborah-Ann Milette's** world-famous Best Savannah Cat, Motzie, starred in a newspaper video recording; see it at <http://www.caller.com/videos/detail/meet-motzie/>.

Lesléa Newman, winner of two Muse Medallions™ and a DWAA member, announces her newest book, *I Remember: Hachiko Speaks* (Finishing Line Press). The book consists of a series of formal poems told in the voice of Hachiko, Japan's famous Akita. As a puppy, Hachiko accompanied his master, Professor Eisaburo Ueno, to the train station in the morning, ran home, and came back to the train station every day at 3 p.m. to meet his master. One day the Professor did not return. Hachiko went back to the train station every day for 10 years hoping to be reunited with his master. His loyalty and devotion inspired the people of Japan so much that they erected a statue in his honor which still stands at the train station today. The poems in *I Remember: Hachiko Speaks* are from the perspective of Hachiko as an old dog looking back upon his life. Order at www.finishinglinepress.com.

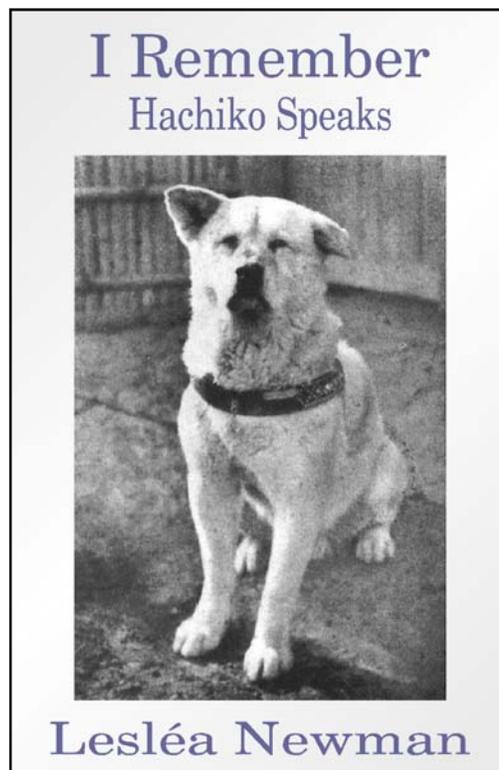
Simon Teakettle III, who kindly consents to live with CWA's **Barbara Florio Graham**, has achieved calendar fame. Besides having his own calendar for 2012, Simon Teakettle III is Mr. July in the *Capital Cats Calendar*, which features photos by Ottawa photographer Aimee Britten. Terzo's own calendar contains 13 photos (12 months plus the cover) by Barbara Florio Graham, and

is available from www.Ottawaphoto.com. Also see www.SimonTeakettle.com/musmews.htm for more from Terzo and Bobbi.

Saul Weber's first children's book, *A Lesson My Cat Taught Me*, has been named a finalist in the 2011 Smart Writ Book Awards. See <http://www.book-lovers.net>.

Celeste Yarnall played a starring role in the first-ever Elvis Week as part of the GRAMMY Museum's special panel focusing on the King of Rock-n-Roll's time spent in Hollywood, which explored Elvis Presley's career in the movies. Through the panel of his co-stars Celeste (*Live A Little, Love A Little*), Mary Ann Mobley (*Girl Happy* and *Harum Scarum*), and Jan Shepard (*Paradise, Hawaiian Style*), guests got a unique view into the inner life of Elvis courtesy of the women who actors who worked with him.

Allia Zobel Nolan signed her two new pet books, *I'd Rather Be a Cat: the Official Better than Dogs Cat Book*, and *Dog Confessions*, at the AmericasMart Gift Show in Atlanta. Allia says the show covered three buildings and 18 or so floors of showrooms featuring everything from books to earrings, gardening stuff, bedding, furniture, rugs, and you name it. "The buyers seemed to be buying," Allia said, "so let's keep our paws crossed that the economy is inching upward." Perhaps some others will follow in Allia's pawprints and wangle an invitation to the next big show?!



That Day

I ran to the train station faster, faster
Deep in my bones I knew something was wrong.
What had become of the one I call Master?
I ran to the train station faster, faster
Racing toward something that smelled like disaster
My heart beating wildly as I raced along
I ran to the train station faster, faster
Deep in my bones I knew something was wrong.

©Leslea Newman, from *I Remember: Hachiko Speaks*



MARKET NEWS & MEMBER VIEWS

About.com is holding its 5th annual Readers' Choice Awards now, and **Franny Syufy** is participating for the first time this year with seven categories for cats. The list includes non-profit organizations, web sites, and books. See the categories at <http://cats.about.com/od/catcare/tp/Readers-Choice-Awards-Nominations-2012-Cats.htm>. **Nominations close February 15 at midnight.** You may nominate up to five in each category, and it is proper to campaign for favorites in social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. After nominations close, the top five in each category will move on to a period of voting that will last approximately a month. The winners will be announced on March 30, 2012. Prizes: the bragging factor, plus a little "badge" for website display. The books categories are Best Book on Cat Care and Best Book on Cat Behavior.

The ASPCA's 2011 Cat of the Year honors went to Mittens, who was trapped in a milk crate and set on fire by two Baltimore teenagers in 2009. Mittens managed to escape the crate, extinguish the fire and return to nurse her newborn kittens. Her plight eventually helped inspire the pursuit of stricter animal cruelty laws in the state of Maryland. See <http://www.aspc.org/news/meet-the-aspca-2011-humane-heroes>.

Changes at *Catnip* — No More Freelancers: After serving for many years as editor of the award-winning publication *Catnip*, Arden Moore has moved on to other venues, and *Catnip* has hired a new editor, Larry Lindner, who is a best-selling author of many books, including dog titles co-authored with Dr. Nicholas Dodman of Tufts (the publisher of *Catnip*). Larry has also previously been an editor for other Tufts health newsletters, according to his bio. Many of us have written for this publication, and we all wish Larry well. Unfortunately for us, though, CWA's Amy Shojai received a note from Larry saying that due to financial concerns he plans to write future content himself, and *Catnip* no longer will use freelancers. Amy said: "It's sad to lose another market in these challenging economic times and I'm sure as a freelancer himself, Larry had to make a difficult decision. Perhaps in the future the publication will again need our services."

Nancy Peterson and Marci Kladnik have started their own publishing company, the **Paw Pad Press**. The intention is to cater initially to unpublished CWA authors and artists who have been unsuccessful in landing a contract and wish to avoid the dreaded self-publishing costs. They are looking for experience in business, legal, editing, book design, whatever you can bring to the table. Says Marci: "If you are interested in coming on board with us, please contact me privately with a listing of what talents you can offer." Contact: mkauthor@verizon.net.

The Winn Feline Foundation has awarded six feline medical research grants in partnership with the George Sydney and Phyllis Redman Miller Trust. "We are excited about the proposals that have received funding," said Winn President Vicki Thayer, DVM. "This year we awarded \$102,887 in grants for studies on stem cell therapy for inflammatory bowel disease and asthma, cancer therapy, FIP, pain management, and a safe imaging and oxygen delivery chamber for cats." Since 1968, the Foundation has funded over \$3 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions worldwide. For further information about the grants, go to www.winnfelinehealth.org.

Maureen Walsh has joined **Winn Feline Foundation** in the role of Chief Executive Officer. The Winn Feline Foundation is the only organization devoted to solely funding cat health research, which attracted Walsh to the position. She brings significant experience from the nonprofit world to her new position, along with considerable executive-level business and marketing experience. For more information, see www.winnfelinehealth.org.

Remembering Our Colleague, Muse Medallion™ Winner Karen Stanley

Karen Stanley, winner of the CWA Muse Medallion™ in 1997 for her poetry book *Purrceptions: Theirs of Us and Ours of Them* has died in New Zealand from ovarian cancer. Prior to her death, Karen gave the Muse Medallion™ (one of her most treasured possessions) to CWA member and very long-time friend Lyn McConchie (who edited the book), and in her will she left all rights to her published and unpublished cat poetry to Lyn as well. Karen was survived by her two Tonkinese for which an excellent home had already been found. For more information, see www.lynmconchie.com.

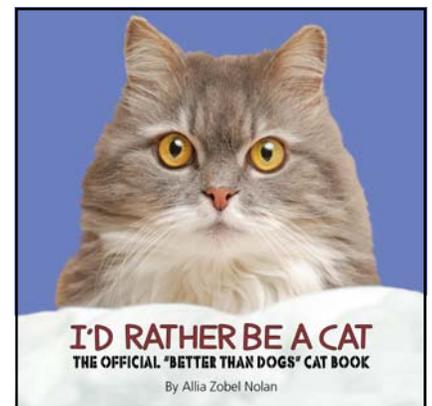
The Numbers Game

One nose 'seal', 'chocolate' two,
Three pink tongues, six eyes blue,
twelve small feet, claws fifty-four,
Now you're asking, what's the score?
Some monster's come from outer space,
to terrorize the human race?
Tessa, Gemma, watch them go,
Followed by Geronimo!
Our home's complete, your answer's that --
"We now have love in triplicat!!!"

By Karen Stanley, from *Purrceptions: Theirs of Us and Ours of Them* © Lyn McConchie

[NOTE: Karen wrote the poem when offered a rescue cat to go with her two purebred Siamese. Contessa looked like a rounder, fluffier Siamese but had been twice rejected by other would-be adopters because she didn't seem to be purebred.]

Look for articles in
the next issue of
MEOW by Allia Zobel
Nolan, author of the
newly released book
I'd Rather Be a Cat,
and by blogger and
grammar guru
Andrea Dorn.



The Cat's MEOW

Cats — Not Just a Refuge from Life's Misery,
But Life Itself for Those Who Love Them

By Meow Editor Karen Payne



Countess Catlyn

Albert Schweitzer famously said, "There are two means of refuge from the misery of life – music and cats." That is certainly true for me, but there is more. My cats have been the very essence of *joie de vivre*, the joy of living, and even life itself to me. They have held me anchored here with them, because they are so precious that I never want to let go.

Lately I have thought deeply about my dearest Countess Catlyn La Minette, who is almost 16 years old. She arrived in my home (now her castle) nine months after the death of my famous performer Princess Kitty® The Smartest Cat in the World, and she literally saved my life. From the first day with me, Catlyn has devotedly purred and massaged me and called me back to life. She would make me lie back in a recliner so she could do her work. She accompanied me to Healing Touch sessions, and when the nurse therapist stepped back, Catlyn jumped on the table, gave her own therapeutic touch treatment in exactly the right spots, and fell asleep stretched out along my midline.

Otherwise, Catlyn never permitted me to touch her when she slept, except that I was allowed to hold her tail during the night like a baby elephant following her mother along some unfamiliar forest trail. For the past year or so, Catlyn has permitted me to embrace her while we sleep. Who knew that bliss would be – this!?!

Of course, Catlyn also became a soft sculpture artist, creating great works with feather toys that she offers as gifts to me. Quite inevitably, she became the absolute ruler of my household, holding everyone who enters in her thrall. Even my dear Aunt Jane Sroufe in Texas ends all our phone calls with, "Give my obeisance to the Countess." It's like that when you have a cat.

Just at this moment, I am weighing whether to allow surgery to correct a hematoma on Catlyn's pinna. I always prayed that her perfect beauty would never be altered, but her ear is now deformed by the swelling and likely will remain so, no matter what we do or don't do. All I can say is, whatever happens, I hope she will stay with me for a long, long time. To me, she will always be purrfect.

My genius cat Princess Kitty taught me everything about cats and soulmates. Catlyn has taught me everything about compassion and deep, abiding love. While she is with me, and while I can go to the piano and play Beethoven, life is good. May it continue so! ♥



Princess Kitty up in a tree ©Princess Kitty, Inc.

Gracious Cat, Let Me Be Like You!

forbearing, forgiving
loving, compassionate
alert, wise, thankful
up at dawn, lover of life
always ready, graceful
lovely, proud
meticulous, clean
patient with friends & fools
ferocious with enemies, playful
joyful, powerful
peaceful, gentle
opinionated
intuitive, far-sighted

home-loving, happy on the road
uncomplaining, accepting
trusting, energetic
inspirational, spiritual
godly, saintly
adoring, beloved
thoughtful, observant
watchful, free
generous, kind
understanding, funny
witty, curious
protective, self-assured
organized, visionary....

— By Karen Payne, for Princess Kitty 2-27-96



© Stephanie Piro

~ A Note from the Contest Chair ~

Choose Contest Categories to Enter ~ Answer this Call for Judges!

By Nancy Marano, CWA Contest Chair Extraordinaire

We are celebrating the 2011 contest winners in this issue – but it's time to start thinking ahead to the 2012 contest as well. Members of the 2012 Contest Committee will be Marion Lane, Anne Leighton, Stephanie Piro, Dusty Rainbolt, Fran Shaw, and Sandra Toney. Please email me if you wish to serve on the Contest Committee. Both Professional and Associate CWA members can serve on the Contest Committee.

The success of the contest depends on your participation, not only with your contest entries, but also as judges. Each regular category requires three judges. To be a contest judge, you must be a Professional CWA member. Please study the categories listed below. Currently, they are the same as they were last year. If there are changes in the future, I will notify everyone and ask for more judges. After you look over the categories, please email me at nmarano@aol.com with a list of the categories you would be willing to judge. List them in the order of preference. Remember, you cannot judge a category you are likely to enter, so please don't include those categories on your list. I'm also looking for people to be Special Awards judges. If you know someone who is not a member of CWA and would be a good Special Award judge, please send me the name and contact information.

I look forward to working with all of you this year to make the contest a success! ♥

CWA 2011 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

- I.1 – Monthly Magazine
- 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
- I.6 – Magazine – Regional
- 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

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

III. Newsletters

(Printouts of newsletters distributed by email may be entered.)

- III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific
- III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation
- III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation
- III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care
- III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training
- III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic
- III.7 – Newsletter Column

IV. Miscellaneous

- IV.1 – Short Story
- IV.2 – Poem
- IV.3 – Humor
- IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication
- IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication
- IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial
- IV.7 – PR / Humane Education / Press Kits

V. Books

- V.1 – Books – Fiction
- V.2 – Books for Children
- V.3 – Books – Health and General Care
- V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior
- V.5 – Gift Book
- V.6 – Poetry

- V.7 – Ebook
- V.8 – Books – Other

VI. Non-Print Media

- VI.1 – Video, DVD, or TV Production
- VI.2 – VI.2 - Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation - Mixed Format

VII. Internet / Web Sites & Blogs

- VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter
- VII.2 – Website
- 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
- VII.7 – Blog: Educational
- VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment

VIII. Graphic Arts

- VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)
- VIII.2 – Black and White Photograph (series)
- VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)
- VIII.4 – Color Photograph (series)
- VIII.5 – Cartoon
- VIII.6 – Illustration (single)
- VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)



Say YES! I want to be a 2012 contest judge! I'm on board!

(Please type or print legibly.)

Please volunteer now to judge the 2012 CWA Contest. It's easy. Simply fill out this form and send it to Nancy Marano at the address below. **SIGN UP NOW!!**

- I am a Professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2012 CWA Communications Contest.
- I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2012 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 method) at nmarano@aol.com.

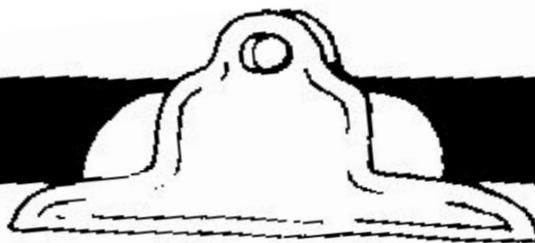
NAME: _____ CONTACT INFO: _____

In order to continue receiving CWA mailings, please forward all changes of address or phone number to:

Wendy Christensen
CWA Secretary
256 Timbertop Road
New Ipswich, NH 03071-3018
603-878-1000 (phone & fax)
christensen@catlas.mv.com



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Deadlines!

**Deadline to renew CWA membership:
NOW!!!**

2012 article deadlines for *MEOW*:

Spring issue — April 3

Summer issue — June 3

Fall issue — September 3

**2012 CWA Contest Entry Deadline:
Must be postmarked by July 1st
details on page 27 & in the next *MEOW*)**

"Mark" Your Calendars!

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P.O. Box 430784

Miami, FL 33243-0784



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"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

— Percy Bysshe Shelley

First Class