



Meow

The Award-Winning Newsletter of the Cat Writers' Association ♦ Spring 2013

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

2013 CWA Conference Special: We have an early registration bargain for you!

By CWA President Susan M. Ewing

CWA CONFERENCE: REGISTER NOW!

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 24 FOR ALL REGISTRATIONS! Sharon Melnyk needs time to process registrations and mail nametags and information to the hotel. Late registrants may not have a nametag and may be delayed at the registration table.

EARLY, EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:
Postmarked by June 1

CWA Member(s) _____ @ \$100 = _____
Industry Discount _____ @ \$125 = _____
Nonmember(s) _____ @ \$150 = _____

FULL REGISTRATION:
Postmarked between June 2 and October 1

CWA Member(s) _____ @ \$125 = _____
Industry Discount _____ @ \$150 = _____
Nonmember(s) _____ @ \$175 = _____

FULL REGISTRATION:
Postmarked between October 2 and October 24

CWA Member(s) _____ @ \$150 = _____
Industry Discount _____ @ \$175 = _____
Nonmember(s) _____ @ \$200 = _____

***AWARDS SPECIAL** _____ @ \$125 = _____
(Includes Saturday-only Seminars, Friday & Saturday evening receptions/banquets; does NOT include Saturday breakfast or luncheon)

A LA CARTE REGISTRATION
(For extra guests, late arrivals, etc.)
1-Day Seminar Only (circle Friday or Saturday)
(No meals) _____ @ \$55 = _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 10-24-12
Please return this form to Sharon Melnyk as explained in the story on this page.

This year, for the first time, we are offering a truly terrific bargain — an early, early bird registration for the 2013 CWA Writers' Conference in Dallas, Texas. Register before June 1 and pay just \$100!! This has got to be the bargain of the century. Fantastic seminars, a chance to recharge your writing batteries, and almost all meals will be included. Last year, I attended a different conference that offered no meals and a bunch of very disappointing seminars for over \$400. We CWAers are spoiled, and we need to realize what a great conference we have, and be there!

Sharon Melnyk has once again agreed to handle our conference registrations. Thank you, Sharon! Contact Sharon via email at cwaconfregistrarsam@gmail.com. Her mailing address is 1579 Arch Street, Berkeley, CA 94708. If you would like to register using PayPal, check out the link on our web site.

Please note that we have various deadlines for registration. Sharon works hard to get the nametags done and sent to the hotel in a timely manner. While we realize that things may come up, October 24 is not an unrealistic final deadline for registrations; that's just one week before the conference starts. We'll try to accommodate everyone up to the last minute, but understand that late registrations may mean a hand-written nametag, and last-minute registration may not include meals.

Also note that we've added a new category, "Industry Discount." This will, in effect, replace the nonmember category, since we will offer the industry discount to any writer, editor, or publisher not currently a CWA member.

If you love a good deal, this is your chance. Hurry to sign up and make travel reservations so you can join us "Deep in the Heart of Texas"!

**CWA's 20th Annual
Writers' Conference:
Making a Living in
the Changing World
of Publishing
★
See pages 14-15
for details!**

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**President's
Message**
By Susan M. Ewing, CWA President

**Spring is coming, and so is
our CWA conference!**

I feel like the daffodils in our backyard – snowed under. There are so many things going on and so much to do. About a week ago, there were bare patches of earth in our yard, and the daffodils were up about four inches. It was almost spring. I felt I had a good grip on the conference. Then spring arrived, and with it, six inches of snow. Day two of spring brought four more inches, and day three brought four more. Our yard looked more like December than March and the daffodils were buried. Me, too. It seems like everything needs to be dealt with NOW, and I feel like I'll never see daylight.

I will, of course. Things will get done, and, like the daffodils, I won't be overwhelmed forever. There's thaw predicted as I write this, and pretty soon, those daffodils will blossom, just like our conference. I can't wait for both.

Honestly, so many great things are coming together for the conference, much of it because of Dusty Rainbolt's hard work. She managed to get a room rate of under 100 dollars, which is just about impossible to do. She also got the hotel to agree to let us bring in our own food and beverages for the Thursday Night Team goody-bag-stuffing party. These gatherings are always fun – and this year, the party will be held Halloween night, so start planning your costume now!

Dusty has arranged for a bookstore to host a Saturday afternoon book signing, and there'll be more information about that. Also, Arden Moore has agreed to teach her pet first aid class in conjunction with the conference. Dusty's also working hard, filling all the seminar speaker slots.

Amy Shojai has planned another musical evening of cat serenades for our Friday night entertainment at the conference.

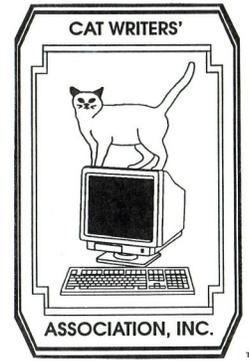
While we have lost a sizable chunk of sponsor revenue this year, the good news is that almost all of our regular sponsors have already committed to supporting us again.

For the first time, we're offering an early, early bird registration special with great rates for those who register for the conference before June 1. You can use PayPal on our web site, or send your registration direct to Sharon Melnyk. (See details on page 1 of this newsletter.)

Marci Kladnik and Barbara Stretton are the new chairs of the CWA writing contest, so start thinking now about what you plan to enter.

Wow! Who cares if it snows? It's not even spring here, but I'm already excited about fall! I hope you are, too. ♥

Register Now
for CWA's 2013 Conference!



**Cat Writers'
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(www.catwriters.org)

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2013 Cat Writers' Association Writers' Competition: Call for Judges, Category Changes, Procedural Changes, New Awards!

Once again it's time to recognize CWA's talented membership. Gather up your best published or radio/TV work from the last year and enter it in the 2013 CWA Communication Contest! The deadline for entries is July 1, 2013. No ifs, ands, or buts. Your entry MUST be postmarked on or before July 1, 2013, to be considered.

Your contest committee has been changing categories and going over rules and awards with a fine-toothed kitty comb this year to give you the best chance of winning a Muse Medallion™ or Special Award for your work. Huge thanks go to the contest committee – Regular Categories Chair Marci Kladnik, Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton, and committee members Deb Barnes, Heike Hagenguth, JaneA Kelley, Nancy Marano, Dusty Rainbolt, Jodell Raymond, and Suzanne Stowe – for all their help and advice.

Judging: All of our Professional members need to step up and offer to judge. Without judges there is no contest. We have 200+ Professional members. This is more than enough to fill all the judging slots and have a few people left to serve as backups. Please snail mail the form below or email your preferred Regular categories to Marci Kladnik at mkauthor@verizon.net. She will do her best to accommodate your wishes, but it is on a first-come, first-served basis. When picking your categories, please remember that you cannot judge a category you plan to enter.

Regular Category Entries: Everyone who judges or volunteers to assist the contest committee gets a discount on his/her own Regular Category entry fees. If you are submitting a Regular Category entry and one or more Special Award entries, you must send the Regular Category fees along with the entries to Marci Kladnik at P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440. Special Award entries and fees must be sent to Barbara Stretton (below). The appropriate fees must accompany their respective entries.

Checks should be made out to the Cat Writers' Association. You may also pay your entry fee using PayPal; that option is available at <http://www.catwriters.org/contest.html>.

Special Award Entries: Send your check and Special Award entries to Barbara Stretton, Special Awards Contest Chair, 62 North Ridge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. You may also use PayPal.

Questions regarding Special Awards entries should be emailed to Barbara Stretton at b.stretton@att.net.

Categories: Please refer to the full list of our Regular

Categories on page 4 of this issue of MEOW.

Category Changes: Please note that we have changed the Blog definitions. In a continued effort to make judging blog categories more fair to the entrants and what they are attempting to accomplish in their blogs, the next change affects the blog categories. The contest rules state that a person must blog regularly for at least two months to be eligible to enter this category, and the judges will be looking at blog entries for July/August 2013. The entrant only submits the URL for the blog. Two blog categories, VII.8 – Blog: Educational and VII.9 – Blog: Entertainment, will be judged directly from the Internet from August 1-August 31 as we do with VII.1 – Online magazine, Newsletter and VII.2 – Website. Another change is that we have clearly defined the two blog categories. Please be sure your entry fits appropriately in the category prior to entering.

An ENTERTAINMENT BLOG is one whose primary purpose is to share creative work, including but not limited to humor, photos, videos, artwork, cartoons, fiction, and poetry. An EDUCATION BLOG is one whose primary purpose is to share information and real-life experience about cats, including but not limited to cat health, behavior, nutrition, and advocacy/rescue.

In the past there has been some confusion between blogs and websites. Please note the following definitions of each for clarification. To clarify, a **blog** is a discussion or informal site consisting of entries (“posts”) typically displayed in reverse chronological order on the home page. Blog posts allow for interaction with readers in the form of comments. In contrast, a professional **website** is a place for offering products, services, or health/behavioral information.

A website typically has a static front page and may also have many other static pages about topics related to the product or services it sells. Websites typically don't offer the

opportunity for readers to comment on material. One additional note, an **online magazine** has the interactive characteristics of a blog but is far more feature-oriented, typically featuring a “lead” story on the home page and links to other content. Online magazines are generally updated with fresh content daily. It is important to note that entrants may *not* enter a blog in the website category. We understand that a blog can be part of a website, so a blog within a website will be entered in the blog category.

(continued on the next page)

YES! I WANT TO BE A 2013 CONTEST JUDGE!
(Please type or print legibly.)

**Please sign up now to judge the 2013 CWA Contest. It's easy.
Simply fill out this form and send it to Marci Kladnik (see below).**

◆ I am a Professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2013 CWA Communication Contest.

◆ I am an Associate member and volunteer to assist the 2013 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)

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Send to Marci Kladnik, P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440, or email her (preferred) at mkauthor@verizon.net.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

2013 Cat Writers' Association Writers' Competition *(continued)*

E-books: It is important to remember, if the entrant wishes to enter an e-book version of his or her book, he/she should enter the e-book in the appropriate book category. It is still up to the entrant to make sure the category judges can download the book without cost to the judges and can read the e-book without difficulty on their computer, Kindle, or other device.

New Special Award: We are also excited to announce a NEW special award this year: The AAFP Cat Friendly Award, sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP). The award consists of \$500 and a commemorative framed certificate and is given to the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of going to a Cat Friendly Practice. Qualifying entries include newspaper or magazine articles or

columns, or a series of articles or columns (print or online), and radio or television broadcasts.

Special Award Judges Needed: I invite members to submit the names of people who might serve as Special Award judges along with a brief statement of their expertise. **A Special Award judge cannot be a CWA member.** When submitting a name, include a valid email address and phone number. If at all possible, please ask the person whether he/she would be interested in judging. You don't have to explain the contest; we'll take care of the explanations, but we would like to contact candidates who are interested. And remember, our Regular Category judging slots are open and waiting for *your* name. Sign up today! ♥

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION 2013 COMMUNICATION CONTEST REGULAR CATEGORIES

I. Magazines

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

II. Newspapers

- II.1 - Newspaper Article - Health and General Care
- II.2 - Newspaper Article - Behavior and Training
- II.3 - Newspaper Article - Rescue
- II.4 - Newspaper Article - Any Other Topic
- II.5 - Newspaper Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies each)

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

- III.1 - Newsletter - Breed Specific (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.2 - Newsletter - National Circulation (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.3 - Newsletter - Regional or Membership Circulation (3 issues, 3 copies of each)
- III.4 - Newsletter Article - Health and General Care
- III.5 - Newsletter Article - Behavior and Training
- III.6 - Newsletter Article - Rescue
- III.7 - Newsletter Article - Any Other Topic
- III.8 - Newsletter Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)

IV. Miscellaneous

- IV.1 - Short Story
- IV.2 - Poem
- IV.3 - Humor
- IV.4 - Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication (under 10 pages)
- IV.5 - Annual or Long Publication (over 10 pages)
- 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 - Behavior and Training
- V.5 - Gift Book
- V.6 - Poetry
- V.7 - Books - Other

VI. Non-Print Media

VI.1 - Video, DVD, or TV Production (VHS videotape or DVD that plays in a standard DVD player must be included.)

VI.2 - Broadcast, Audio - Any Format

VII. Internet / Web Sites & Blogs

- VII.1 - Online Magazine, Newsletter (URLs for 3 issues)
- VII.2 - Website (URL)
- VII.3 - Online Article - Health and General Care
- VII.4 - Online Article - Behavior and Training
- VII.5 - Online Article - Rescue
- VII.6 - Online Article - Any Other Topic
- VII.7 - Online - Column (3 individual columns, 3 copies of each)
- VII.8 - Blog: Educational (URL)
- VII.9 - Blog: Entertainment (URL)

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 - Illustration (series)





2013 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES



1. Entries for all categories must be postmarked by July 1, 2013, to qualify for the contest.
2. All entries must be sent in such a manner that they can be reasonably expected to arrive within 7 days of the July 1 postmark deadline. Regardless of the delivery method you choose, **you MUST specify that the recipient need not be present in person to sign for the material. The Contest Chair cannot be home every day during business hours to sign for packages.** It is the entrant's responsibility to package the entry carefully, so that it will not be damaged in transit. Posters and other large items should be packaged in tubes. The CWA will not assume responsibility for items that arrive damaged or do not arrive at all. If you wish acknowledgment of receipt of your entry, send a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the entry.
3. The contest is open to anyone whose work qualifies in any CWA contest category and was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2012, and June 15, 2013. Entries must not have been published before in any medium. Material published prior to the current contest period is not eligible, even if it was published in a different form. Publication date is the published date cited on the entry. When there is a question regarding eligibility, it is the entrant's responsibility to clarify the issue, that is, to include with the entry a signed letter from the publication's editor or publisher clarifying the date of publication.
4. The categories Online Magazine, Newsletter, Website, Blog: Educational, and Blog: Entertainment will be judged directly from the entrant's web site between August 1 and August 31, 2013.
5. In order to be equitably judged against other contenders, entries in all categories should devote one-third or more space to cats.
6. All contest entries must be published work. "Vanity" publications are not eligible. However, quality self-published professional work is eligible. It will be judged based on the same criteria as all the other entries in a given category. It is the entrant's responsibility to provide any supporting documents with self-published entries to clarify that the work does, indeed, qualify under this rule. For example, self-published work **MUST** be offered for sale by professional outlets (that is, book stores, commercial web sites, and other venues not owned by the author/artist). E-books will be accepted. The author is responsible for providing the Contest Chair with Amazon.com gift cards or some other means of enabling judges to read the e-book for free.
7. Submit each Regular Category entry in triplicate (3 copies), with **one** entry form for each entry.
8. The CWA Entry Form, with category and subcategory noted, must accompany each entry and must be sent to the appropriate Contest Chair along with the total entry fee at the time of entry. Any entry that is missing any element (required number of copies, entry form, entry fee) will be considered incomplete and will not be judged.
9. Make sure your entry is legible and provide clean photocopies in a large enough format to be read. If the judge has difficulty reading an entry, it may be disqualified. Online articles/columns must be submitted in hard copy along with the original online URL and publication date included so that online entries may also be viewed online at the judge's discretion. The exceptions are the categories Online Magazine, Newsletter (VII.1), Website (VII.2), Blog: Educational (VII.8) and Blog: Entertainment (VII.9), which are judged on the Internet during the judging period specified in Rule 4. For these categories only, submit an entry form with just the URL (and dates for Blog issues) specified.
10. Blog entries (VII.8 and VII.9) may be posted either on professional (commercial or nonprofit) sites, or the authors must provide proof that (1) their blogs have been posted two or more times weekly for at least two months and 2) proof of blog traffic or visit or count to their blog site. The purpose of personal blogs is understood to be building a platform, creating interaction with readers, and fostering social relationships, while many for-pay sites blog less frequently and leverage "blogs" in an advertorial style. (If you are blogging on a commercial site less than twice a week, you should consider entering your "blog" in one of the "Online Article" categories.)
11. In the Newspaper categories, when an entry first appeared as a syndicated article, in those specific cases where a syndicated writer is not able to obtain actual copies of the published newspaper articles, the entrant may provide a copy of the original article and a letter of authentication from the syndicate editor.
12. For the Newsletter categories, a newsletter is distinguished from a magazine in that the newsletter does not take paid advertising and is sold only to subscribers (that is, it is not sold on newsstands). Single cat breed newsletters and nonprofit/charitable newsletters are the exception in that they may take paid advertising.

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2013 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST RULES

(continued)



13. Entries in the Video or Television Production and the Radio Presentation, Audiotape, or CD categories must be submitted in their original form; that is, a transcript of a radio or television program is not acceptable – an actual audio or video recording must be entered. Video entries must be submitted as a VHS videotape or a DVD that plays in a standard DVD player. If an entire radio or television program is less than 10 minutes long, the entrant may select his/her three best programs and enter them as a single entry.
14. We will accept entries published in a foreign language, but they must be accompanied by a complete English translation. Entrants must provide three copies of the original that clearly show the date and name of the publication, and three copies of the translation. Bear in mind that the judges cannot judge the quality of the translation; they will base their decision solely on the English language content. Of course, entries in graphic arts categories are the exception and need no translation.
15. An individual person or entity may submit an unlimited number of entries, but each individual work can be entered only one time in one Regular contest category. In other words, the same individual work may not be entered in more than one category. Photos or illustrations that are entered in a Graphic Arts category may appear again as a part of a writing entry (for example, as part of a magazine article or a book). Columnists must choose only their three best columns and submit them as a single entry for that column. This applies to all the Column categories (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, and online) and means no other individual installments of that particular column may be entered as single articles, except in the Editorial and Humor categories. (A column appears regularly in the same publication[s] with the same column title, byline, slug, and/or artwork.)
16. An entry must be entered in a Regular Category to be considered for a Special Award. Send one additional copy for each Special Award entry to the Special Awards Chair (Exceptions: Three copies of the nomination form should be submitted for the Shojai Mentor Award and for the Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award. No additional copies are needed for consideration for the President's Award, and no entry form is needed for this award; the winner of the President's Award is chosen from among the Muse Medallion™ winners, and all Muse Medallion™ winners are automatically considered.)
17. Anyone may submit an entry on behalf of an author/artist, but the award will be presented solely to the author/artist of the entry. A Volunteer Discount is available to current CWA members only. CWA Professional members who volunteer to judge in the contest and CWA Associate members who volunteer to assist the Contest Committee will receive a discount on their Regular entry fee.
18. All judges are chosen by the two Contest Chairs and their Committee. Entries in the Regular Categories are reviewed and judged independently by three professional CWA members and their scores are averaged by the Contest Committee to determine the winner. Winners of Special Awards are selected by judges who are not members and are not affiliated with the award's sponsor; each Special Award is judged by one judge. Special Awards sponsors may be shown the winning entry before the award is given, but that announcement decision is at the discretion of the judge and the Contest Committee.
19. The Contest Chair has the right to make category changes as deemed necessary. The Contest Chair may also delete or combine categories if there are not sufficient entries. What constitutes sufficient entries is decided by the Contest Chair, but there is no absolute minimum number of entries for any category to be judged. If, in the opinion of the judges, no entry represents excellence within a category, no award will be given.
20. Entries will not be returned. Judges' decisions are final. Situations that may arise from time to time that are not specifically addressed in these rules shall be adjudicated by the Contest Chair and her or his committee.
21. Regular Category award finalists receive a CWA Certificate of Excellence and shall be notified in October. In order to earn a certificate, the individual must score an average of 90 or higher based on the scores submitted by the three judges for each category. The winner in each Regular contest category shall receive the CWA Muse Medallion™. Special Award winners shall receive recognition as specified in the Special Awards list.
22. Contest results will be announced at the Annual CWA Awards Banquet and published in the Winter 2014 *MEOW* newsletter and on the CWA web site at www.catwriters.org. Please do not call the Contest Chair or anyone on the Contest Committee to ask if you have won. Those who do not have access to the Internet or the CWA newsletter may enclose an SASE for a list of winners. Please mark on the back of the envelope "CWA Contest Winners."
23. Special Award entries should be mailed to Barbara Stretton, 62 North Ridge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, and Regular Category entries are to be mailed to CWA Contest Regular Categories Chair Marci Kladnik, P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440.
24. The entrant must comply with all rules. Deviation from the rules will result in rejection of an entry and loss of the entry fee. Entrants will be notified of disqualification in as timely a manner as possible. However, CWA is not responsible for disputed entries. ♥



2013 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS



NOTE: If you have questions about any of the Special Awards, please contact Contest Co-Chair Barbara Stretton at b.stretton@att.net.

AWARD #1: The **AAFP CAT FRIENDLY AWARD**, sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), is presented to the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of going to a Cat Friendly Practice. Appropriate topics include why it is beneficial to the cat and owner to visit a practice that is cat friendly, including but not limited to, staff understanding of feline friendly handling, decreased stress associated with the visit, increase in the quality of care and medicine provided, and communication to cat owners of the importance of routine veterinary care. Qualifying entries include newspaper or magazine articles or columns, or a series of articles or columns (print or online), and radio or television broadcasts. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative framed certificate.

AWARD #2: The **AdoptAShelter.com ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD**, sponsored by AdoptAShelter.com, is presented to the entry that best describes the plight of homeless or feral cats and/or the joy of cat adoption and/or improving the quality of life of cats in a shelter environment. Entries will be judged for quality as well as the ability to persuade the reader. Qualified *online only* entries include single articles, features, columns, series of articles, short stories, websites, blogs, videos photos or any other accepted online venue. The award consists of \$500 and inclusion in the AdoptAShelter.com online library.

AWARD #3: The **CEVA HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD**, sponsored by CEVA, is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and on the ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader. Qualified entries include single articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, books, and poetry. This award consists of \$1000 award and commemorative certificate.

AWARD #4: The **DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD**, sponsored by Cornell University's Feline Health Center, is presented to the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine. Qualifying entries include single newspaper, magazine, or newsletter articles; columns or series of articles (print or online); blogs, a website, single books, or radio/television broadcasts, designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments. This award consists of \$500.

AWARD #5: The **FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the entrant whose work best captures the magic of the loving relationship between cats and their owners. Highest consideration goes to those works that are skillfully written/produced, and technically accurate. Qualified entries include single books, articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, poems, blogs, radio or television submissions. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative award.

AWARD #6: The **FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is for the writer who has done the most during the contest year to promote the welfare, health, and proper care of cats, which includes providing sensory stimulation to keep cats healthy and happy. This award is for "a body of work" and can include different publications during the contest period. Single entries do not qualify; therefore, multiple books, newsletters, print articles, online articles, columns, stories, blogs, websites, and series in any pet or non-pet consumer publication qualify. The award honors writing excellence and the ability to communicate technical information in a clear and creative manner to better educate cat owners and help improve the lives of cats. A maximum of 10 articles or items published within the contest period may be submitted. Choose only your best work! This award consists of \$500 and a cat figurine.

AWARD #7: The **HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is given to the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. Topics can include, but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative care, and senior-for-senior programs. Qualifying entries include a single book, article (print or online), brochure, newsletter, editorial, blog, photograph, and commercial radio/TV tape. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

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2013 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS (continued)

AWARD #8: The **HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. Qualifying topics include, but are not limited to, coverage of home and professional grooming, parasite control, nail care, teeth and ear care, and feline skin/coat disorders. Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazine, online newsletters, and videotape broadcasts. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #9: The **HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is awarded to the best single article (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue), or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. Appropriate topics include “how to” articles, stories about feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative plaque.

AWARD #10: The **“IN THE SPOTLIGHT” AWARD**, sponsored by the Jacat Cattery, home of award-winning, pedigreed Japanese Bobtail Cats, is presented to the entry that best advances the protection, preservation and promotion of pedigreed cats and/or the pedigreed cat fancy. This includes breed rescue as well. Qualifying entries include all media. This award consists of \$500, a certificate, and a Maneki Neko.

AWARD #11: The **KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD**, sponsored by TICA, is awarded to the best single article or column (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue) or single radio or television broadcast on the rescue and rehabilitation of cats or kittens from shelters or rescue groups for the purpose of adoption to forever homes. Entries are judged on compelling personal accounts and the education of readers on the need for rescue. This commemorative award consists of a \$500 and a plaque.

AWARD #12: The **PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the writer or creator of the best entry of the year that focuses on cat breeds, pedigreed cats, and professional breeder issues including (but not limited to) health, care, nutrition, and showing cats. Qualifying entries include entire publications, such as breed or breed club newsletters, magazines, articles, stories, blogs, photographs or illustrations in any professional venue, featuring purebred cats. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative bowl.

AWARD #13: The **PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the best column or article (print or professionally published online), blog, or book entry on the subject of feline nutrition. Highest consideration goes to those works that are both skillfully written and technically accurate. The recipient cannot be an employee of or associated with a pet food company at the time that the entry is judged. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #14: The **PURINA® ONE® HEALTH AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the outstanding single article (print or professionally published online) or blog reporting on feline health issues. Articles are judged on excellence of writing and technical accuracy; significance of the topic and public education impact on feline health are also considered. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #15: The **PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented to the author of the outstanding entry on caring for kittens. Qualified entries include single books, articles, labeled series, columns, short stories, blogs, and websites. Entries will be judged on writing excellence and content accuracy. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #16: The **STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD**, sponsored by Pioneer Pets./Sticky Paws®, is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. Entries should have a “how-to” focus. Appropriate entries are labeled series or single articles (print or professionally published online), columns, blogs, websites, online newsletters, and television/radio broadcast tapes on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, proper scratching behavior, trick training, or training cats to stay off countertops, tables, or other forbidden places. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative certificate.

AWARD #17: The **TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD**, sponsored by Purina, is presented for the best entry on the subject of feline behavior. Highest consideration goes to those works that are both skillfully written and technically accurate. Qualified entries include single books, articles, features, columns, blogs, websites, online magazines, or online newsletters and should educate readers while promoting a positive approach to understanding and dealing with feline behavior. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

(continued)

2013 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS *(continued)*

AWARD #18: The **WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD**, sponsored by World's Best Cat Litter®, is presented for the outstanding novel, short story, poem, or radio/television dramatic script which portrays cats and cat ownership in a positive way. All fiction genres are eligible. Highest consideration goes to those entries that include cats as an intrinsic part of the plot. Works will be judged for the exceptional, individual quality (“voice” or “vision”) of the writer/creator. Eligible works may be published in print or electronic media; any scripts or videos must also provide proof of production. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

AWARD #19: The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by past-president Amy D. Shojai, recognizes the CWA member who has offered guidance, encouraging counsel, support, or other help that has had a direct and positive influence on another's writing/publishing success. Qualifying mentor experiences are limited to those occurring within the past three contest periods (approximately the last three years). The recipient shall exemplify the highest ideals of the CWA vision, that is, to promote communal support, networking, and mutual respect between colleagues. Only CWA members are eligible for this award. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #20: The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by CWA, honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, public communication and professional excellence, best promotes the ideals, mission and best interest of the Cat Writers Association. Nominees can include (but are not limited to) writers, editors or publicists whose published work or actions have had a significant impact on improving the quality of life of cats, educating the public, promoting responsible cat breeding and ownership, and/or facilitating the professional growth of cat writers. The honoree shall receive \$500 and his or her name engraved on a permanent commemorative plaque (at the offices of the Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation).

AWARD #21: The **KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD** is sponsored by CWA, and is presented to the outstanding “image” entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. This may be a single piece or series entry, including but not limited to photos/artwork published in a magazine, newspaper, newsletter, book, pamphlet, calendar, poster, greeting card, or commercial online publication. This award consists of \$250 and a commemorative item.

AWARD #22: The **CWA PRESIDENT'S AWARD**, sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association, is presented to the best entry among all Muse Medallion™ winners in the regular contest categories. This “Best of the Best” requires no additional copies be submitted of entries. Muse Medallion™ winners shall be automatically entered and considered for the honor. This award consists of \$250 and a commemorative item.

Send your contest entries ASAP, and good luck to all!



JANE PAWSTEN
Drawing by Dianna Diaz
© Dianna Diaz



**2013 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest
Regular Categories Entry Form**



PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE RULES on our website at www.catwriters.org or on pages 5-6 of this newsletter.
Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2013. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Submit THREE copies of each entry, along with ONE copy of this entry form per entry.

Send your entry to Regular Categories Contest Chair Marci Kladnik, P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440.

THERE IS A SEPARATE FORM FOR SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES (see page 11).

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR SPECIAL AWARD ENTRIES.

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

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

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

- I am an associate member and volunteer to assist the 2013 Contest Committee.
- I am a professional member and volunteer to judge in the 2013 CWA Communication Contest.

NAME OF AUTHOR OR ARTIST _____ CWA MEMBER IDENTIFICATION # _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

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

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

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

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

**I certify that this entry was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2012, and June 15, 2013,
and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.**

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- Each entry is submitted in triplicate with **one** entry form per entry.
- My fee is enclosed, payable to the Cat Writers' Association in U.S. funds.
- A self-addressed, postage-paid postcard is included for acknowledgment of receipt of entry (optional).
- Questions? Email Regular Categories Chair Marci Kladnik at mkauthor@verizon.net.

**MAIL ENTRIES TO
Regular Categories Contest Chair Marci Kladnik, P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440.**

2013 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest

Special Award Entry Form



PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE RULES on our website at www.catwriters.org or on pages 5-6 of this newsletter.

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2013. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

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

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

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

THERE IS A SEPARATE FORM FOR REGULAR CATEGORY ENTRIES (see page 10).

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR REGULAR CATEGORY ENTRIES.

Submit ONE copy of each entry for a Special Award, along with ONE copy of this entry form and the \$5 entry fee, to Barbara Stretton, 62 North Ridge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

NAME OF AUTHOR OR ARTIST _____ CWA MEMBER IDENTIFICATION # _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

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

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

SPECIAL AWARD for which entry is entered _____

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

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

I certify that this entry was first published or broadcast between June 16, 2012, and June 15, 2013, and that it meets all the requirements as stated in the Rules.

Entrant or Submitter's Signature _____

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- All entries have also been entered in a Regular Category.
- For each entry, one copy is submitted along with one copy of this entry form, for each award.
- My fee is enclosed, payable to the Cat Writers' Association in U.S. funds.
- A self-addressed, postage-paid postcard is included for acknowledgment of receipt of entry (optional).
- Questions? Email the Special Awards Contest Chair at b.stretton@att.net.

MAIL ENTRIES TO

Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton, 62 North Ridge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.



2013 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Shojai Mentor Award Nomination Form

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

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

Send this completed form, with any attachments, in triplicate, to Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton.
(Please type or print legibly.)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF SUBMITTER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

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

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2013.

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

**Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton
62 North Ridge Road
Old Greenwich, CT 06870**

Email questions to b.stretton@att.net.

2013 Cat Writers' Association Communication Contest Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

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

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

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

Send this completed form, with any attachments, in triplicate, to Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton.

(Please type or print legibly.)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF SUBMITTER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____ EMAIL _____

Please provide a brief summary of your nominee's accomplishments.

(Please keep the summary to one single-spaced page.)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2013.

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

**Special Awards Chair Barbara Stretton
62 North Ridge Road
Old Greenwich, CT 06870**

Email questions to b.stretton@att.net.

CWA Conference News

Volunteer Now!

We're in need of several helpers in order to ensure that we will have a purr-fectly organized CWA conference this fall.

— We always need volunteers to help with registration at the conference. If you're an early riser, we can use you as early as 7 a.m.

— Help is needed to set up the display of winners Saturday afternoon before the awards banquet.

— If you'll be at the hotel Sunday morning, there are always items that need to be packed up and shipped out.

Volunteers, please send your names and contact information to CWA President Su Ewing at dogwriter@windstream.net, and indicate what you can do to help CWA.

Conference Book Signing Information

It's hard to believe we're already working on our 20th annual writers' conference to be held in the Dallas area (actually in Irving, Texas) October 31-November 2. I just got some great news that I wanted to share with you. On Saturday (and maybe Sunday, too) we are scheduled to hold a book signing at the BooksAMillion, located at the amazing Grapevine Mills outlet mall, just a five-minute drive from our hotel. BAM will order your books if they are available through their distributors. Otherwise, you can bring your own and I believe they will be sold on consignment (or something like that).

There will be a limited number of slots available. It's first come, first reserve. You must have a full conference registration to participate in the BAM signing.

~ CWA Vice President Dusty Rainbolt

Grab this chance to attend a CWA conference! Enter the PetSafe® Scholarship drawing!

Barbara Florio Graham has once again agreed to gather names for the PetSafe® Scholarship drawing (note that our former sponsor, Premier Pet Products, now has become part of PetSafe®). Send your name right away to Barbara at BFG@SimonTeakettle.com if you want to be entered in the scholarship drawing. The \$500 scholarship is donated by PetSafe® and is to be used for conference expenses for the following year. (The winner will be chosen at the 2013 conference, and the check will be presented to the winner at the 2014 conference.) This is a wonderful opportunity to cover most or all of your conference expenses, so pounce on it! We give many thanks to our new scholarship sponsor, PetSafe®, manufacturer of a line of products designed to keep pets safe and happy, for continuing this much-appreciated CWA conference tradition.



Book Now for Great Hotel Rates!

Dusty got us a great rate at our 2013 CWA conference hotel — just \$99 a night! Get a roommate and your price will really drop! It's such a great bargain.

The deadline for reservations is October 25, but don't wait that long. Reserve your place now and relax!

Make sure you mention Cat Writers' Association and confirm the rate when you book your room.

Our conference hotel:

Sheraton® DFW Airport Hotel
4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway
Irving, TX 75063

Phone: (972) 929-8400

Website: [Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel](http://SheratonDFWAirportHotel.com)

Special Offers Reservations: 866-716-8106

Making a Living in the Changing World of Publishing: The 2013 CWA Writers' Conference Is for You!

BY CWA Vice President Dusty Rainbolt

The climate of the publishing industry is changing. More and more pet magazines are going the way of the saber-tooth cat. Online and electronic publishing are rising to become the apex format. Learn how to embrace the changes rather than getting left out in the cold at the Cat Writers' Association 20th Annual Writers' Conference in Dallas, Texas.

An expert-packed writers' conference loaded with professional seminars by nationally known speakers will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 31 through November 2, 2013, in Big D. Sessions will cover writing for (and publishing on) the Web, social media, self-publishing, ebooks, blogging, photography, and exploring new markets. Attendees will be eligible to take advantage of multiple networking opportunities as well as have pitch sessions with magazine and book editors and literary agents.

Really Early Bird Registration (before June 1, 2013) for CWA members runs only \$100 for all three days, Industry Discount Registration \$125, Regular Registration \$150. After June 1 all rates will increase by \$25. (Single-day registration is \$55. Meals and parties not included in one-day registration.)

Full registration includes the chance to participate in a book signing at BooksAMillion at the world-famous Grapevine Mills Outlet Mall. Only attendees with full registration are eligible to participate in the signing event and editor/agent meetings. Registration also includes the Thursday Night Team icebreaker, continental breakfast Friday, Friday evening networking party and buffet, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and awards banquet.)

Speakers and topics will include the following:

- **Jeff Crilley**, founder of Real News Public Relations, the country's first "all-journalist" PR firm, has been recognized by his peers with dozens of national and regional awards including the Emmy, the National Headliners Award, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Thurgood Marshall Award. In 2004 the Texas Associated Press honored Crilley as "The Best TV Reporter in the State."
- **Arden Moore**, award-winning author and host of TWO weekly podcasts (*Four Legged Life* and *Oh Behave!*), will share her insights about earning a living in the new world of pet media: podcasts, Google hangouts, cable TV shows, and more.
- **Patricia Fry**, literary and manuscript consultant, editor, public speaker, teacher, and author of 35 books (and executive director of SPAWN [Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network]), will share the "Ten Best Book Promotion Ideas" for the authors of pet books.
- **Janiss Garza**, award-winning author, photographer, editor, and speaker, will discuss the "Monetization of Your Blog."
- **Amy D. Shojai**, certified animal behavior consultant, co-founder of Cat Writers' Association, and author of 24 nonfiction pet books, will discuss e-publishing and "Kindle-izing" books.
- **Arden Moore, with her cat Zeki and dog Chipper**, will offer an add-on pet first aid two-year certification course on Sunday, November 3, at the discounted rate of \$99.

This is just a small sample of our speakers. Experts are being added all the time. For more information, check out the website www.catwriters.org, or for the latest conference news visit the Cat Writers Association Facebook Page. ♥

Looking for Editors & Agents!

Hi Everyone! It's that time of year again. We're sending out our first round of invitations to literary agents, magazine and book editors to attend the CWA Conference this Fall in Dallas. If anyone out there has a contact, please email me privately so we can add that editor or agent to our list. We probably invite 100 editors/agents just to get a half-dozen to attend, so all referrals are appreciated!

This list benefits everyone in CWA – not just conference attendees who schedule editor appointments. Once the list of pet editors is compiled and updated, it is printed in MEOW (usually in the spring issue) so that all members (and only members!) have this contact information at their fingertips.

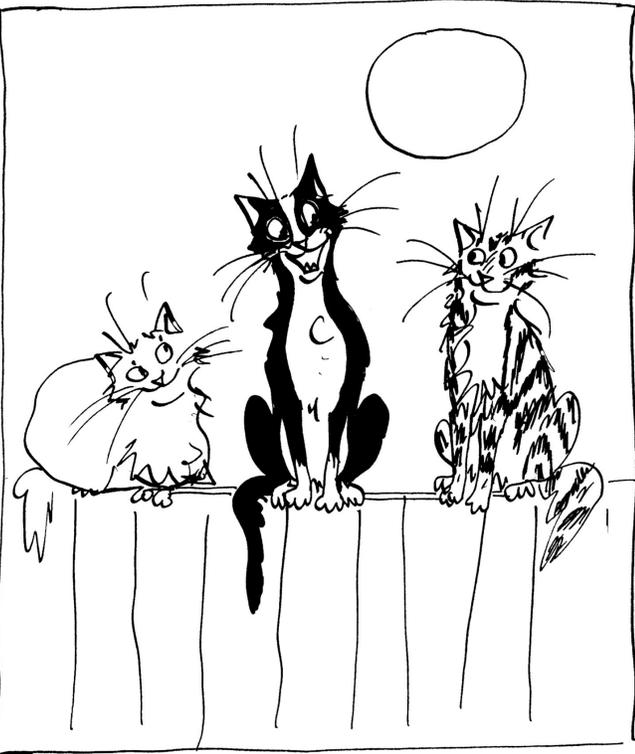
Please send your referrals as soon as possible. We're especially anxious to add names of literary agents or editors on professional websites and e-magazines. Only venues that pay freelancers for articles or art are included.

~ Fran Pennock Shaw

Need a Roomie for the Conference?

Interested in sharing a room at the CWA Conference, but don't have a roomie?

E-mail Lynn Maria Thompson at lynn@thompsonwriting.com with your details, and you'll be matched with another single who'd like to share the expenses of a room. Rooms for CWA members at the Sheraton Dallas Fort Worth Airport Hotel are priced at \$99 per night, with free parking, free shuttle from the DFW Airport, and free wi-fi.



Stephanie 2013

"Good job on "Memories"... on three let's do "MUSIC of the Night"!"

CAT CONCERT © Stephanie Piro

2013 CWA Nominating Committee Announcement

The CWA Nominating Committee is looking for a few good men and women to fill two openings on the Council of Directors, and we will also need a new treasurer. All positions start effective November 2013.

Directors serve two-year terms, and officers are elected every year although we hope officers will also commit to serving at least two years. Any professional CWA member can hold office. (Not associate members, sorry.)

You can volunteer for consideration by the NomCom or you can suggest another CWA member who you think would do a good job, simply by contacting Nominating Committee chair Fran Pennock Shaw at franshaw1@juno.com or calling her at (717) 397-9531. If you're interested in job descriptions or learning more about CWA's leadership openings, please get in touch ASAP!

The other committee members, Dr. Jane Brunt and Linda Kay Hardie, also will be happy to talk with anyone who inquires, so don't be shy. Help CWA by volunteering! And in turn, help grow your own personal and professional contacts!

Watch your email, the CWA website, and *MEOW* for updated announcements.

~ CWA NomCom Chair Fran Pennock Shaw



**CWA's
Conferences:
Lots of Fun!**

(Left) Jane Brunt, and (below) Susan Logan and Amy Shjoai sparkle during their "cat songs" at the 2011 conference

Photos by BJ Bangs



Stephanie ©2013

"Personally... I find these videos demeaning and Cat-ist!"

CATIST © Stephanie Piro

WELCOME MAT



NEW MEMBERS *[member numbers in brackets]*

Tamar Arslanian [P715-13], 217 E 25th St. Apt. 6D, New York, NY 10010; 917-449-6396; Email: tamcalinyc@gmail.com; Website: www.ihavecat.com. Tamar is a blogger whose specialties include humor, relationships, décor, style, and cats. Her sponsor is JaneA Kelley.

Patricia Barey [P716-13], 770 W. Landoran Lane, Tucson, AZ 85737; 520-742-0649; Email: pbarey@gmail.com; Website: www.juliascats.com. Patricia specializes in narrative nonfiction, biography, memoir, human-animal (especially cats) relationships, writing workshops, and presentations. She is a member of the Society of Southwest Authors.

Lonnie Hull DuPont [P711-13] 3090 Hendee Road, Jackson, MI 49201; Email: Lonnie@lonniehd.com. Lonnie

writes inspirational and nonfiction books and short stories. Her sponsor is Angie Bailey.

Thomas Mahoney [P717-13], 400 Matawan Avenue, Apt. 120F, Cliffwood, NJ 07721; 732-320-0029; Email: tpmahoneyjr@optimum.net. Thomas specializes in feline medical topics. His sponsor is Michelle West.

Lorena McCourtney [P712-13], 1762 Patriot Lane, Grants Pass, OR 97527; 541-476-2894; Email: Lorena2@earthlink.net; Website: www.lorenamccourtney.com. Lorena writes mystery novels

with a Christian orientation. Her sponsor is MaryLu Warstler.

Donna Rawlins [P713-13], 818 Angelus Place, Venice, CA 90291; 310-663-6957; Email: donnarawlins@mac.com; Website: www.skinnythecat.com. Donna's specialties are books, older cats, and rescue cats. Her sponsor is Nancy Peterson.

Helene Sola [P714-13], 14 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY 10541; 845-265-3128; Email: hsg@rexxaroo.com; Website: www.rexxaroo.com. Helene is a children's book author, neonatal nurse, and clinical pediatric nursing instructor. Her sponsor is Layla Morgan Wilde. ♥



REST IN PEACE:
Toni Eames' cherished
guide dog KEEBLER,
shown here a few
months ago when the
inseparable pair visited
Miami and the Bahamas

Cat Writers' Association Conference EARLY BIRD SPONSORS for 2013

Our sponsors are the best! The following have already pledged their support of the 2013 conference and/or writing competition.

AdoptAShelter.com

CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION

JACAT CATTERY

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CORPORATION

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION

PETCO FOUNDATION

PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL

PRECIOUS CAT, INC.

PETSAFE® (now includes Premier Pet Products)

PURINA

SERGEANT'S PET PRODUCTS

QUAKER PET GROUP (now includes Sherpa Pet Group)

STURDI PRODUCTS, INC.

AMY SHOJAI

THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA)

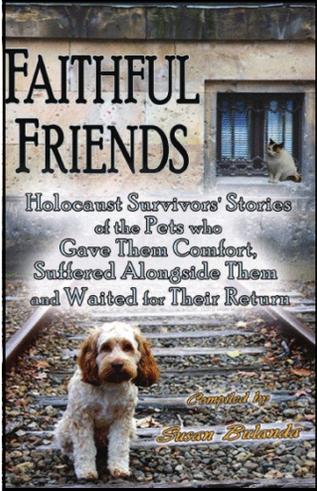
WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER®

BITS & BYTES



Susan Bulanda announces several stellar achievements:

First, awards for her recent book about the Holocaust: *Faithful Friends: Holocaust Survivor's Stories of the Pets Who Gave Them Comfort, Suffered Alongside Them, and Waited for Their Return*. This is the only book written on the subject and has won the Maxwell Medal from the DWAA. It was a finalist for the Alliance of Purebred Dog Writers Arthur Award, a second place winner in the National League of American Pen Woman's nonfiction category, and a finalist for the CWA's Muse Medallion™.



Second, the publication of her first self-published book: *Real Estate Today: Buyer Beware! Save Yourself Thousands of Dollars*, is a guide to help someone who wants to sell his/her house understand the tactics that real estate agents use to get sellers to lower their price. This small, inexpensive book explains how to amend a contract between the seller and agent so that you do not pay unnecessary fees and commission. It is a must-have for anyone who wants to sell a house. This book is available on Amazon.com. If you want to see a picture of the cover or order an autographed copy, go to www.sbulanda.com and click on the book tab.

Cathy Conheim's cat Henry finally made the big reveal and declared Tink, the two-legged dog, to be his girlfriend. Henry was the ASPCA's Cat of the Year 2010 and the subject of Cathy's Muse Medallion™ award-winning book *What's the Matter with Henry?* Now Henry and Tink

have a new book, written with the assistance of Cat Scribe Cathy and B.J. Gallagher. Tink, a dachshund who belongs to Belinda Hein, met Henry and they fell in love. Their story is entitled *Henry and Tink, A Remarkable Romance: The Love Story of a Three-Legged Cat and a Two-Legged Dog*.

"This is a love story for those who are wounded inside or out," Cathy explains. "Our outside wounds are more visible and we're more

self-conscious. It teaches that you're lovable no matter how many limbs you have – or don't." The book is 50/50 about Henry and Tink, and they're looking forward to submitting to both cat and dog writers' competitions! For details, see the story of the smitten

Henry & Tink A Remarkable Romance



The Love Story of a Three-Legged Cat and a Two-Legged Dog

Cathy Conheim and B.J. Gallagher

self-conscious. It teaches that you're lovable no matter how many limbs you have – or don't." The book is 50/50 about Henry and Tink, and they're looking forward to submitting to both cat and dog writers' competitions! For details, see the story of the smitten

BARKS & BYTES



Congratulations to our DWAA award winners!

The Dog Writers Association of America held its annual writing awards banquet in February, and several CWA members won DWAA Maxwell Medallion awards this year. All of us in CWA proudly extend sincere congratulations to Joanne Anderson, Susan Bulanda, Susan M. Ewing, Paul Glassner, and Leslea Newman for this well-deserved recognition of their achievements in writing about dogs.

Joanne Anderson's "Pets, Pets, Pets," (Amityville Record [N.Y.]) won for Newspaper Column (print).

Susan Bulanda's *Faithful Friends* (Cladach) won for Human/Animal Bond.

Susan M. Ewing's *Dogs 101 – American Bull Terrier* (TFH) won for Pet Guides.

Paul Glassner's "Jackson: A Tale of Intensive Caring," (North Bay Pets: Sonoma Humane Society) won for Article on Any Other Topic in Canine Newsletters.

Leslea Newman's "I Remember: Hachiko Speaks" (Finishing Line Press) won for Poetry, Short Fiction.

pair at <http://issuu.com/sandiegopets/docs/sdpm0213>

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/jan/31/disabled-dog-cat-friends/>.

A cat book classic has been reissued and expanded. **Steve Fisher's** *The World Is Your Litter Box*, released by Sterling

Publishing in 2008, has been reissued and expanded with additional – and ultra-hilarious – material. Premised as a how-to manual for cats and written in the voice of a feline (Quasi), *The World Is Your Litter Box: Deluxe Edition* includes the original version of *The World Is Your Litter Box* in its entirety, six chapters from *The World Is STILL Your Litter Box*, and the best (and funniest) posts from Quasi's blog. This is also the first time *The World Is Your Litter Box* has been available as an ebook for all types of devices. *The World Is Your Litter Box: Deluxe Edition* is smart,

meow-out-loud funny and loaded with "cattitude." Available from Amazon. See www.theworldisyourlitterbox.com.

(continued)

BITS & BYTES

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The final ballot for the Ursa Major Awards has been posted, and five of **Mary Lowd's** stories – including both of her cat stories – are in the running for Best Short Fiction! See <http://www.ursamajorawards.org/Voting.htm>. To make it easier for anyone who wants to read her nominated stories, Mary has placed them in a sort of mini-

anthology that's available as a free e-book: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/296457>. This anthology will remain available until May 15th, as long as voting for the Ursa Majors is open. Mary conveys her thanks to everyone who took the time to help nominate her stories!

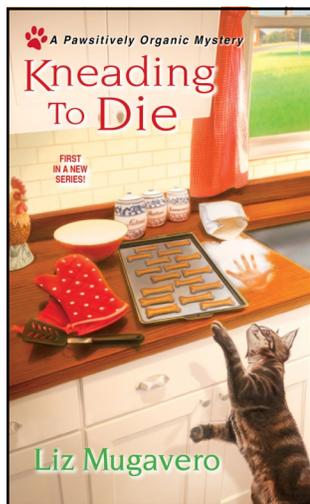
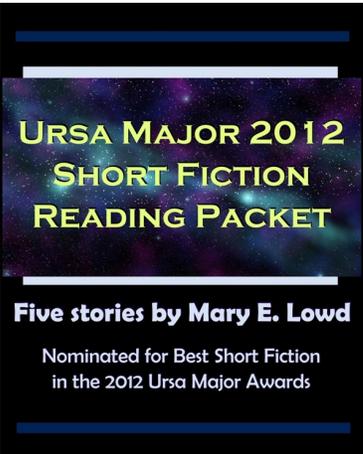
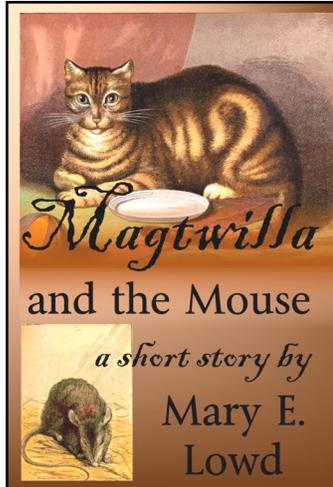
The Ursa Major Awards exist to promote excellence in the realm of anthropomorphic fiction. They're based on a popular vote and are presented yearly. They're meant to be the furry fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award.

(See <http://www.ursamajorawards.org/>.)

Last year Mary had three short stories nominated for Ursa Major Awards – one of them, “Shreddy and the Zomb-dogs,” featured a feline protagonist. The year before, she received Ursa Major nominations for one short story and her novel, *Otters In Space*, which stars a tabby cat named Kipper. Mary's stories that have been nominated this year are “Shreddy and the Christmas Ghost,” “Magtwilla

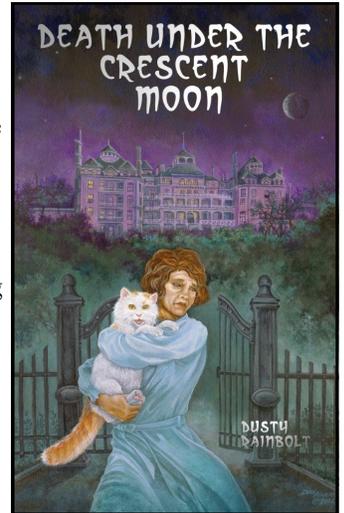
and the Mouse,” “St. Kalwain and the Lady Uta,” “One Night in Nocturnia,” and “Hot Chocolate for the Unicorn.” The first two feature feline protagonists. All five stories are posted online during the voting in an e-book mini-anthology called Ursa Major 2012 Short Fiction Reading Packet. Mary's website is www.marylowlowd.com.

Liz Mugavero's new series, Pawsitively Organic Mysteries, debuts May 7 with *Kneading to Die*, a tale of a former corporate PR maven turned animal chef – and sleuth. Maybe the best thing that ever happened to Kristan “Stan” Connor was losing her high-stress public relations job. Now there's plenty of time to spend in her sleepy new Connecticut town working on her

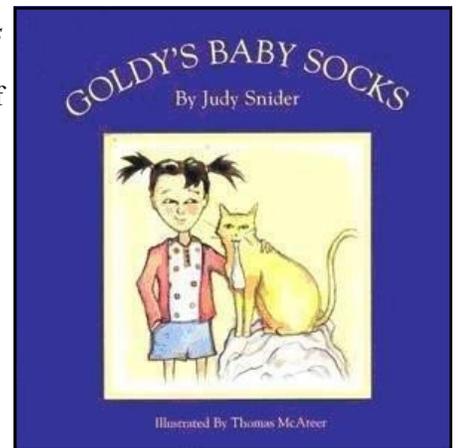


dream: baking healthy, organic pet treats! Before long the neighborhood dogs are escaping their yards to show up at Stan's doorstep, begging for the kinds of special homemade treats her Maine coon cat Nutty loves so much. And Stan's pet-loving neighbors are thrilled with the new organic options available to their furry family members. But not everyone loves Stan and her newfangled organic ways... It seems that Carole Morganwick, the town vet, is from the old school of pet care. But when Stan swallows her pride and brings a very unwilling Nutty in for a checkup, she finds Carole dead under a pile of kibble, and she's in the doghouse as the prime suspect! Finding the real killer and clearing her name will require some seriously surreptitious sniffing around – and let's hope curiosity won't kill this innocent cat! Check Liz's work out at www.lizmugavero.com.

Dusty Rainbolt's new paranormal mystery, *Death Under the Crescent Moon*, is now available at Yarddogpress.com for \$14. The Kindle version is only \$2.99. You can purchase other ebook formats for \$2.99 at Smashwords.com. It's the story of a silent screen star being treated in 1939 at the haunted Baker Hospital in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. (This hospital is now the Crescent Hotel.) Hear and see the incident of the mystery voice that inspired the book at <http://youtu.be/N4evQfzfczE>. The book also happens to have a great cat character – so please tell everyone who loves cats, ghost stories, or mysteries about the book and the video. Order the book from www.YardDogPress.com or Amazon.com.



Judy Snider's book *Goldy's Baby Socks*, a past CWA Muse Medallion®-winning picture book, has just been selected to be a Silver Mom's Choice Award Recipient! *Goldy's Baby Socks* is the funny and heartwarming story of a family who almost had to move because their adopted cat, Goldy, filled their house with her surprise gifts. The family had no idea when they adopted Goldy that the fun and the sleepless nights were about to begin. The book is out in English and Spanish. Check it out at www.goldysbabysocks.com.



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CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Dena Harris is now at 336-337-9608
email: dena.harris@me.com
website: www.DenaHarris.com

BITS & BYTES (continued)

Simon Teakettle III (Terzo)

continues to add members to his popular fan club. Members currently include 129 cats, 61 dogs, 3 parrots, 4 alpacas, a llama, a horse, a rabbit, 2 beta fish, 4 hens, a parakeet, a robin, two ducks, a pig, and a goat. Many CWA members have their pets on Terzo's page, along with a link to their websites. Meanwhile, Terzo will have a new perpetual calendar this year, as well as several sets of blank cards with photos

of him and his MEWSical Society pals. Terzo's 2013 calendar is now available from <http://www.OttawaPhoto.com> and his Very First Video is at <http://lnkd.in/fKSbhH>. For more information, contact **Barbara Florio Graham** on Facebook, LinkedIn, BranchOut, Pinterest, and Google Plus, and see the Simon Teakettle III (Terzo) blogs at <http://www.SimonTeakettle.com/blogterzo.htm>.

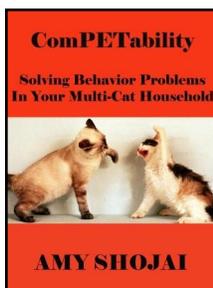
CWA's very own **Amy Shojai** has a slew of announcements about her latest and greatest achievements!

—**New Book:** Amy Shojai's latest book *ComPETability: Solving Behavior Problems in Your Multi-CAT Household* has been released in print and all Ebook versions by Cool Gus Publishing. Amy also "voiced" the audio book version, available from www.audible.com and www.amazon.com.

—**New Radio Show:** Amy is also pleased to announce the debut of a new live call-in Internet radio show, *Cat Crazy*, co-hosted with Tracie Hotchner Monday Nights on the Radio Pet Lady Network (<http://www.radiopetlady.com/cat-crazy.htm>). She hopes this will be a helpful resource for cat rescue organizations and others who otherwise may not be able to fund one-on-one behavior consults. The *Cat Crazy* show page also lists "Special Friends" online resources (several CWA members already) the show can point listeners to for additional help.

—**Thriller Kudos:** Her debut thriller *Lost and Found* has received more than 60 glowing reviews from readers and reviewers. Based on the success of Amy's first "dog viewpoint" Thriller With Bite, her publisher, Cool Gus Publishing, has requested she write the next book and create a series. Readers want more of Macy the cat, too – so of course Amy plans to oblige! See more here: **LOST & FOUND, a Thriller: A dog finds his true purpose...when he disobeys.**

—**Speaking/Other:** Amy will be the featured lunch workshop speaker – discussing *The Reinvented Writer* – at the Oklahoma Writers Federation Conference May 2-4 in Oklahoma City (www.OWFI.org). She also was honored to serve as a judge for



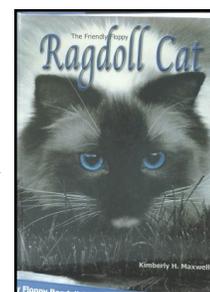
the BlogPaws.com "Nose-to-Nose Awards" and will attend the BlogPaws conference as a featured speaker covering Ebooks for Bloggers.

Margie Yee Webb, co-creator of the upcoming anthology *Not Your Mother's Book . . . On Cats*, announced that May 1, 2013, is the due date to submit funny, silly and endearing cat stories of 500 to 2,500 words. Visit <https://publishingsyndicate.com/> for submission guidelines.

Recently, Margie participated in a Read Across America Celebration at Ottoman Elementary School in Orangevale, CA. With her gift book, *Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings: Insight and Inspiration for a Wonderful Life*, she made two presentations to over 300 children; one for grades 3 to 5 and another for grades K to 2. Margie engaged the children with photographs and stories of Cat Mulan. In talking about the importance of reading and writing, she asked what their favorite book was. After calling on an endless sea of raised hands, she gave all the enthusiastic kids a chance to name their favorite book . . . by shouting it out at the same time! You'll find Margie at <http://www.catmulan.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/MargieYeeWebb>.

Allia Zobel has some exciting announcements for our newsletter: Three new books by Allia are coming soon! *When God Turned on the Light* is a picture book about Creation; *Psalms and Prayers for Little Ones* is a book about the psalms and how they relate to small children; and the third book is a Bible featuring stories about angels. Allia also is working on a Y/A fiction series about cats, and recuperating from her transformation into the Bionic Cat Lady (recent hip surgery!). See her website: www.AlliaWrites.com. ♥

Oops! Apologies for misspelling **Kimberly H. Maxwell's** first name in the last issue. New CWA-er Kimberly introduces herself: "Growing up I was never allowed a cat. However, that changed as soon as I was married. Skeamer came in to our lives when she was only 5 weeks old. She was not the nicest kitty in the world, but then again we did a lot of things wrong that didn't help matters any. We played with her with our hands and got her as a singleton when she was too young. She always wanted to be in the same room with us but didn't like being petted and was not a cuddler. She put up a valiant fight against renal failure, she went blind around age 15, but the mass that developed on her chin was what led me to make the very hard decision to help her in her pain. She lived to be just over 17. The empty house would prompt me in time to add my name to a Ragdoll rescue website. Almost immediately, exactly the kitties I had hoped for showed up in a photo in my email — tagged as "Ragdoll wannabes." Off to Georgia we went and now I have two of the most loving cats in the world: Mr. Tarheel Tyler and Ms. Trinity Paige who turned 5 in April 2012. My cats are my kids (and muses). . . I couldn't find a Ragdoll book with enough photos and Ragdoll specific info. . . so I decided to write one. I am happy to say my book, *The Friendly Floppy Ragdoll Cat*, even made it onto Amazon's top 100 "Best Sellers" in Cat Breed books." See www.KimberlyMaxwell.com.



MEMBER & MARKET NEWS

DO YOU HAVE CAT STORIES?

Margie Yee Webb, co-creator of *Not Your Mother's Book . . . On Cats* announces the submission deadline: May 1, 2013. Go to <http://publishingsyndicate.com/> for details.

Calling all science fiction and fantasy writers: Here's a conference you may enjoy!

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA®) will hold the Forty-Eighth Nebula Awards Weekend on May 17-19 in San Jose, Calif., at the San Jose Hilton. The event is open to the public and will include panels and workshops led by the top professionals in the field of science fiction and fantasy. More information about the Nebula Awards Weekend is available at <http://www.sfwaweb.org/awards/awards-weekend/>. Since SFWA® was founded in 1965, membership has grown to include about 2,000 science fiction and fantasy writers, artists, editors, and allied professionals. Each year the organization presents the prestigious Nebula Awards® for the year's best literary and dramatic works of speculative fiction. For information on obtaining press passes, interviews with nominees, or questions about the event, please contact SFWA's public relations manager, Jaym Gates, at pr@sfwa.org.

Popular veterinary program continues

Veterinarians On Call, the popular YouTube series celebrating the work of veterinarians around the United States, released two new videos in February. Twenty-eight videos have been published to date, with another 12 in production. One of the new videos confronts the topic of pet obesity (<http://youtu.be/X0M3q2y6CuE>). The second new video celebrates the perseverance of a veterinarian in northern Ohio (http://youtu.be/TONTi_uNKuc). *Veterinarians On Call* has logged more than 565,000 views and attracted more than 850 subscribers on YouTube. The series is presented by Zoetis™, the animal health business of Pfizer. For more information, contact John Courtmanche at shortsleevevideo@gmail.com.

Hot topics on the CWA-Prolist:

Reaction to Cat Predation Studies

Publishing Opportunities

The 2013 CWA Conference

Entering the Blogosphere

Developments at *Cat Fancy*

National Feral Cat Spay Day (April 27)

To join our professional email chat group,

contact CWA Secretary JaneA Kelley

at janea@paws-and-effect.com!

2012 Conference Photos: Next Issue!

Sally Bahner, Jane Brunt, Dianna Diatz, and JaneA Kelley at the 2011 CWA Conference

Photo by BJ Bangs



Tutoring can boost your creativity

Looking to boost creativity? Barbara Florio Graham teaches "Tapping Your Innate Creativity" online. It's a flexible arrangement, with weekly lectures about creativity, suggestions, and assignments. It's a tutorial, and very flexible since Bobbi will adapt the timing of the 8-week course to your needs. Find a description and testimonials at <http://www.SimonTeakeattle.com/tapping.htm>.

NonFiction Writers Conference: Is it for you?

The third annual Nonfiction Writers Conference returns May 8-10, 2013. This one-of-a-kind event is conducted online (attendees participate via phone or Skype), with 15 speakers over three days. Topics include traditional and self-publishing, e-books, social media, marketing on Amazon, blogging, SEO and video marketing, professional speaking, and other exciting book marketing tactics. For details and registration, go to <http://goo.gl/JwvWP>. Speakers include Dan Poynter on book publishing and Guy Kawasaki on self-publishing. For details, contact 25-Year Book Coach Judy Cullins at judycullins@cox.net, 619-466-0622.

Publishing News

From *The New York Times*: Barnes & Noble has reduced its orders of Simon & Schuster titles, authors and agents say, because of a dispute between the two over the price of books and display space in retail stores. See <http://tinyurl.com/cbrbgxq>.

Also, the parent company of *Reader's Digest*, RDA Holding, has filed for the second bankruptcy in less than four years. It filed for Chapter 11 protection in 2009. It has now borrowed \$105 million from the lenders, who will eventually own the company. The US Bankruptcy Judge also gave final approval to paying employees and freelancers. See <http://tinyurl.com/bslj3cp>.

National Feral Cat Spay Day 2013

Alley Cat Rescue – The National Cat Protection Association – will host its 4th annual Feral Cat Spay Day on April 27 to bring awareness to outdoor community cats and reduce shelter euthanasia rates. Each participating veterinarian is asked to spay or neuter at least two feral cats for free or at a discounted rate. This special day has resulted in more than 600 vets from 42 states sterilizing over 4,300 cats. The campaign has spread to South Africa and Canada. This year, so far, 100 vets have signed up! Partnerships between veterinarians, members of the community, and other rescue organizations practicing TNR are vital to putting an end to cat homelessness. For details, go to www.saveacat.org. ♥

The Prodigal Cat Returns Home

By Mary Anne Miller



Photo by Mary Anne Miller

CYCLONE in 2003

In July 2003 the big, gold-and-white tomcat came sneaking into the yard at feeding time. In a matter of minutes, he drove all the other cats away from the food, leaving him to eat his fill undisturbed. Afterwards, he slipped off into the night; the shadows effectively swallowing him. A few days later, as I filled up the last plastic bag with autumn leaves, the tomcat reappeared. Cautiously, I made my way to the back steps. Sitting down on the bottom stoop, I waited for his next move. Backing up to the plastic bags, looking directly at me while raising his tail and quivering, with the expertise of a seasoned fireman, he “hosed” the bags down. I grinned as I watched knowing full well that in a matter of days, his spraying prowess would be long behind him.

Lured by KFC’s “finger lickin’ good” chicken, within days the tom took the bait. Launching himself repeatedly against the trap’s wire in a valiant attempt for freedom left him spent. I quickly covered the trap with a dark cloth and hustled him to the vet.

According to the paperwork sent home from the clinic, he was to remain quiet. No one informed him of this rule. The minute the trap opened, he exploded into the room. Bouncing off tables, knocking over chairs, and racing up the wall, he started running laps over my head! Amazed that he didn’t stroke out on me, I backed out of the room. I decided to name him “Cyclone.”

Cyclone lived up to his name. Anytime I entered the room, he became a whirling dervish; captivity was not to his liking. Eventually, he pried off the trellis we had protecting the window screen and escaped over the rooftops. Three weeks later he reappeared, severely injured. He crawled on his belly under our

gate and lay there; he’d been in a serious confrontation. I picked him up and carried him inside without incident.

By that September, a calmer Cyclone joined the house kitties. At about three years old, he made a formidable alpha. Distinct streaks of orange and white on his face made him a striking kitty. One look from him would send most of the other cats scattering.

But one day in October 2003 he found his way outside and simply vanished. I posted flyers, rang doorbells, and flashed photos, yet no one seemed to have seen him. He was gone.

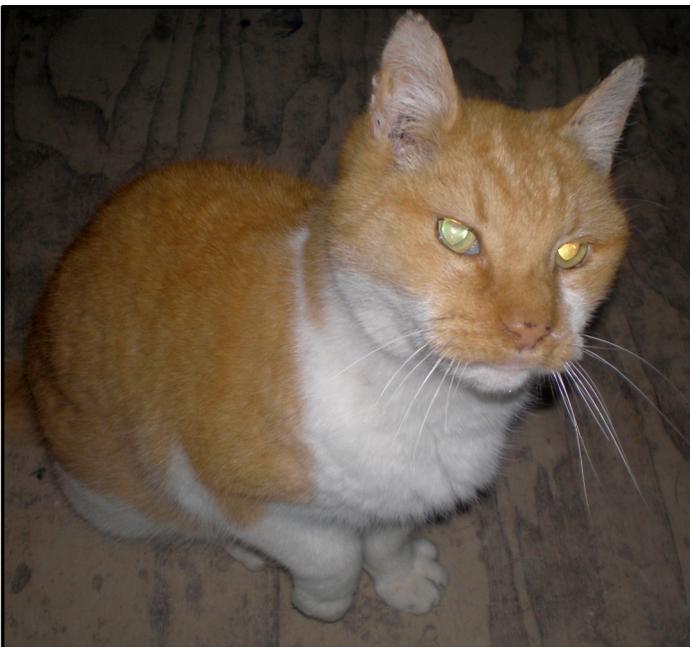


Photo by Mary Anne Miller

FAST-FORWARD to October 2012:

Late at night, during feeding time, I noticed a vaguely familiar, thin, emaciated gold-and-white cat visiting the feeder. Could it be? My heart was in my throat as I took a hard look, scarcely believing my eyes. The cat was Cyclone! The distinct markings on his face and the patterned coat gave him away; they were visible despite his gaunt and dirty appearance.

Walking over to him, I spoke to him softly. Raising his head slowly, he gave one silent meow, then collapsed. As I gathered him into my arms, his loose skin seemed to hang off the sides of his body. Alarmed, I quickly carried him upstairs.

In the same room where he was first released so many years before, I examined him. Every bone on his back bulged against his almost transparent skin. His tailbone protruded awkwardly. No fat or muscle was visible anywhere on his body. His sunken eyes bleakly followed me around the room as I gathered heating pad, blankets, food, and litter and set him up inside my large cage. Taking care not to administer too much at one time, I started subcutaneous fluids immediately.

(continued)

Two months after CYCLONE’s return in 2012

The Prodigal Returns... (continued)

Every piece of food I offered to him he gobbled up eagerly, so I added water with every morsel. Next day my vet tested him for FIV and feline leukemia (negative, thank the Lord) and diagnosed him with anemia, dehydration, and a severe UTI. He expressed amazement when I told him the cat was Cyclone. He remembered him all too well. Cyclone had trashed the surgical room on the day of his neuter operation (they thought he was under, but they thought wrong).

To celebrate his homecoming, I presented Cyclone with daily, small feasts. He ate like a king; canned cat food, dry food, and safe human food several times a day. In a matter of weeks he shot up from four pounds to nine pounds.

My Prodigal, Cyclone, has returned. Instead of whirling around my ceiling at break-neck speed, he now spends his days sleeping, eating, and hanging out on the porch. His body is slowly assuming the form of the robust cat he once was. His favorite pastime is snuggling next to me on the porch sofa (AKA the main scratching post), which he grudgingly shares with some other cats.



Photo by Mary Anne Miller

Mary Anne Miller's Beloved Prodigal, CYCLONE

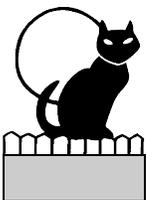
UPDATE, April 13, 2013:

Cyclone took his last breath in this world and traveled off in the winds to a much better place. He lost over half of his body weight in a week. The vet suspected cancer and we decided the best thing for him, though the hardest thing for us, would be to let him go. I kissed his sweet forehead and told him how sorry I was that we lost nine years of our lives together and he left on a flood of tears. Even the vet was sorry that he had to say goodbye to him. He told me that he was glad I was his client because I give all the cats under my care the benefit of the doubt, whereas some clients bring him cats that are "nuisances" and just want be rid of them, or say that the care they need is too involved and they don't have time to take care of them.

All I know is that my wanderer has run over the Rainbow Bridge into the arms of a young man – my first-born son, who has my prayerful instructions to take very good care of this golden kitty boy.

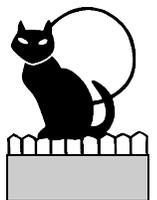
I love you, Cyclone, and I thank you! You changed my life and taught me to hope even in moments when hope has vanished. Welcome home, Cyclone, welcome home. ♥

Mary Ann Miller is an award-winning writer and devoted cat rescuer. She's the founder of CATS Inc. (Caring About The Strays), a 501(c)3 Corporation based in Oregon. Her online magazine www.felinexpress.com has won both CWA Muse Medallions™ and the CWA President's Award. Her other websites are www.kitten-rescue.com and www.feralcatbehavior.com (Blogging on the Wild Side). You can write to Mary Anne at love@felinexpress.com.



Quarterly Quote

*The purpose of human life is to serve,
and to show compassion and the will to help others.*
~ Albert Schweitzer



SOUND TRACK OF LOVE

BY ROSIE SORENSON

There's a new soundtrack to our lives. Sometimes we hear a "B-flat," sometimes an "A," sometimes a trill. With each note we're reminded that every cat snores to her own drummer. You heard right – Sweetie Pie snores. Who knew?

Prior to bringing her into our home, Sweetie Pie lived for fifteen years in Buster Hollow with the colony of homeless kitties I've Mom-catted for seventeen years. She was and still is the funniest cat around.

Sweetie Pie is small. Even now she looks to be the size of a nine-month-old kitten. She had a litter of two before I could catch and fix her. One of her kittens was disabled, impossible to catch, and disappeared within two weeks of the first sighting. The other gray striped baby, Sonny Gray, was her doppelganger, only larger in size with eyes a little less amber. She rebuffed his overtures of friendship time and again, issuing her all-purpose hiss whenever he drew near. She either did not recognize her own flesh and blood, or was put out that she'd been forced against her will into early motherhood. *Why wasn't I consulted?* No one stepped up to claim paternity.

It took me two years to develop a relationship with her. After that, she was my darlin', rushing out to greet me every day when I came to feed. Thirteen years ago, she developed a mad crush on my sweetheart Steve when he began to accompany me on my rounds. I wouldn't exactly say my feelings were hurt, but, geez, I'd been out there every day, rain or shine, courting her, loving her, petting her, feeding her, and now? Steve was her savior? Puh-leeze! Fickle felines!

You'd have to see it to believe it, but whenever Steve came with me to feed the kitties, Sweetie Pie would rush down the path toward us, crying, "Eeee, Eeee," and upon getting closer, would collapse into the brown paper bag of food sitting near Steve's feet. "Omigod, Omigod, Omigod," she seemed to cry. "My man's here, my man's here!" She didn't know whether to eat, get more pats, or hiss at a neighboring cat's butt, such was her excitement. She danced on her tippy-toes, rubbed against his legs, flopped her head into his hands, all the

while smiling. (See www.youtube.com/theyhadmeatmeow.)

This went on for thirteen years, until July.

Prior to July, there was the occasional injury in the colony – a limping cat here, an abscessed cat there, a runny eye requiring the attention of a vet.

But, nothing prepared me for July.

One cat after another turned up injured – six in all, the wounds appearing on the left side of their bodies. As injuries go they were rather minor, a superficial scrape or two along the left side inflicted by some unknown critter. Was the perp another cat? A skunk? A raccoon? We had no idea.

The only clue we had was that one day Steve saw the long-haired black cat Barry attack Sweetie Pie as she emerged from her home in the blackberry bushes near the path. She was heading down to visit Steve on a day when I couldn't come. The following afternoon, I noticed a new scrape on her side. I blamed Barry.

Barry had joined the colony eight months ago, origin unknown. The other cats gave him a wide berth. He never came close enough for me to socialize him, let alone confirm his sex, but I was pretty sure he was a male.

After her injury, we trapped Sweetie Pie and took her to the vet who was puzzled by the nature of the wound. The vet couldn't figure out how it had been inflicted. If it were a raccoon, or even a skunk, the cat would have been eviscerated. Same for a dog. Another cat? Possible, but how?

We might never know, but I couldn't risk Sweetie Pie's life by returning her to the colony until we had trapped Barry and found him another home.

Notice how I said that so casually: ". . . until we trapped Barry . . ." You don't know the meaning of FRUSTRATION until you've tried to trap a homeless cat. I rounded up the best trappers I could find. We each in turns spent HOURS on several different occasions, trying to coax him into the trap. *Ha-ha!* he seemed to say each time he walked around the trap, stood on top of it, refused to go inside. Well, that's not exactly true. He did go into one trap one time, stepped on the metal →



SWEETIE PIE

© Rosie Sorenson

SOUND TRACK OF LOVE (CONTINUED)

plate, but before it closed (we're talking nanosecond here), he got his butt right back out. We finally gave up.

It's a good set of cat-loving friends who will foster a cat such as Sweetie Pie. David and Deborah opened their hearts and home to her, and for three months I hoped and prayed she would settle in and become "their kitty." She did not. No fault of theirs. The only time she perked up was when Steve and I came to visit her. Then, she'd come out of the closet and dance around with joy. *My people are here!* She made it clear that she was stubbornly unadoptable.

During those three months, not another cat was injured even though Barry was still present at Buster Hollow. So we told ourselves, well, maybe we'd unfairly accused Barry of the attacks. Maybe Sweetie Pie would be just fine if we returned her to her outdoor home. After all, she'd done well for fifteen years.

We decided to pick her up and return her one Sunday afternoon, that is, until we actually saw her again. Her yelps and purrs, her happiness to see us broke our hearts.

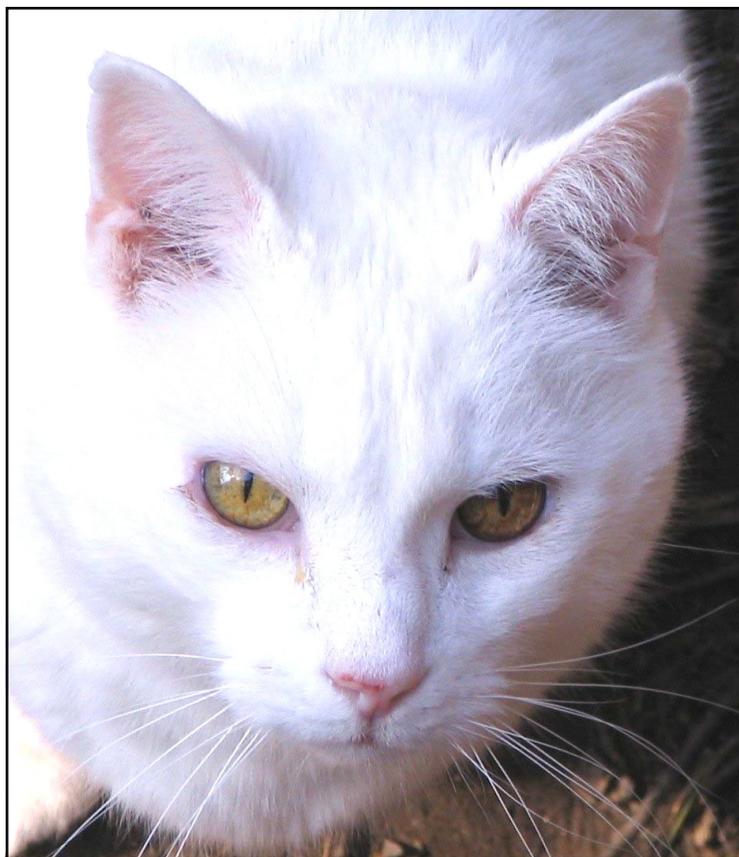
On the way home, with the pet taxi in the back seat, I said, "Well, why don't we just keep her overnight and then take her to the vet for more tests, to make sure she's healthy enough to live on her own again. After that we can take her back out there."

We did, and she was, and we couldn't. She'd worked her magic on us. We. Just. Couldn't. Let. Her. Go.

This is how we've come to find out that she snores. We'd never been privy to Sweetie Pie's night-time routine when she lived outdoors; so we didn't know.

Which brings me to ask: If a cat snores in the forest and there's no one around to hear it, does she make a sound? Well, now there's someone around to hear it; in fact, two someones, serenaded every night by the soft trills of her love. ♥

Rosie Sorenson, MA, MFT, is the Award-winning author of They Had Me at Meow: Tails of Love from the Homeless Cats of Buster Hollow. See her websites www.theyhadmeatmeow.com and www.zazzle.com/theyhadmeatmeow (for t-shirts, mugs, greeting cards, etc. featuring the cats of Buster Hollow) . ARTICLE & PHOTO OF SWEETIE PIE © Rosie Sorenson.



JACOB Photo by Betsy Stowe

Photo and Poem © Betsy Stowe

Empty Nest

(For Jacob, and in Loving Memory of Pidgie, 17, and Bigfoot, 14)

By Betsy Stowe

All my long-time babes
Now grown and flown from my arms.
Aching for you beyond description.
Flashes of remembrances prompting smiles and tears—
Often simultaneously.
Your fur, your purrs, your precious endearments.
Then suddenly...

A snow-white angel brightens my life
Rescuing me from desolation,
Loving me as I thought I would never again be loved.
When a door is closed, a window opens.
Never give up, never give in,
Never close your heart...
For someone always wants in.
Someone is always waiting in the wings.
Someone always needs love.
And if you're open to it
You may be lucky enough to hear that lullaby purr
Once again.

An empty nest no more!

How to Get Blurbs Written for Your Book

(from the CWA-Prolist)

There is an easy, proven system.

You can get testimonials from nearly anyone. You do not have to know them.

First, you soften them up with a peer review chapter matching their particular interest. They will get to know you and your work and want to be part of it.

Then you request a testimonial. But you write a suggestion for them. (Important people tend to be very busy.)

For details, see

<http://parapub.com/sites/para/information/produce.cfm#doc609>

Blurbs, testimonials, and endorsements, should be very short. 1 to 2 sentences. You don't have much room on the back cover for them.

Dan Poynter, author (132 Books), publisher (Since 1969), speaker (CSP). Para Publishing LLC, P.O. Box 8206, Santa Barbara, CA 93118-8206.

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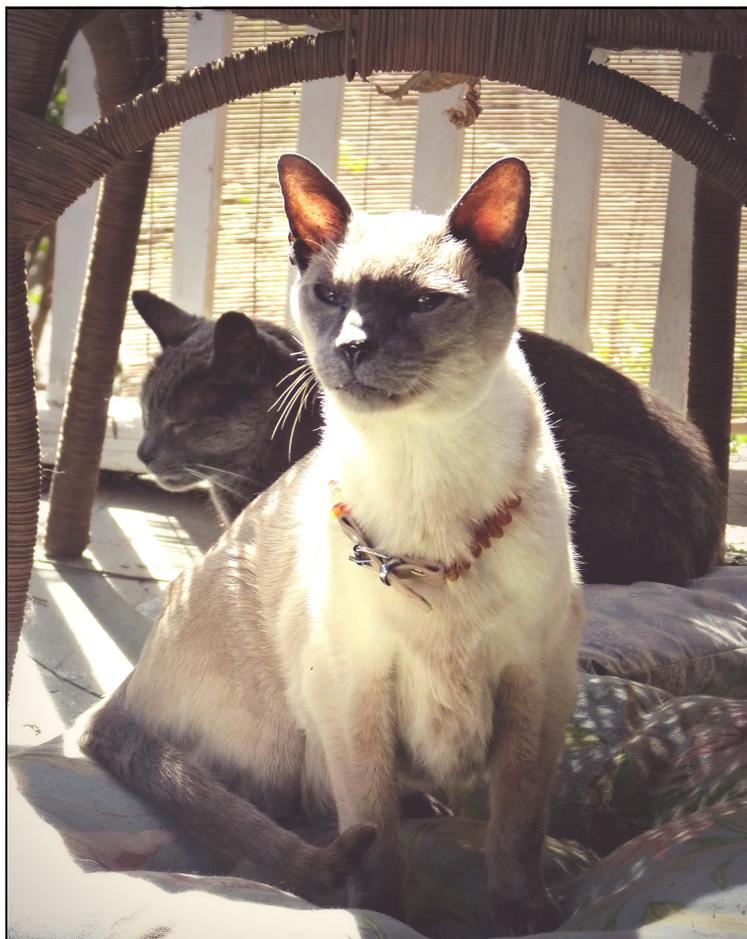
<http://ParaPromotion.com>.

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Poynter.

See Dan at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWl0fnBu7bs>.

Layla Morgan Wilde, blogger, life coach, and holistic cat behaviorist, has been tapped by PetFinders.com to write a monthly column from her perspective as a holistic cat behaviorist beginning in April 2013.

Photo by Layla Morgan Wilde
© Cat Wisdom 101



MERLIN AND GRIS GRIS

The Cat's MEOW

A Little Bit of Paradise

By Meow Editor Karen Payne

Perhaps you are enjoying a late spring or waiting for summer to begin. Not so in Miami! Many flowering trees have bloomed for the past two months – brilliant yellow, red, pink, and purple splotches against the blue sky. The bougainvilleas are in flower, and the fruit trees are already preparing their tasty gifts for us. We're experiencing the semitropical pattern of afternoon clouds and rainstorms. Though some days are pleasant and springlike, others mimic the oppressive heat of summer. The temperature already has hit 90 degrees. Did I say that I run the air conditioner all year long? And I wear shorts and sandals outdoors almost every day of the year? – I do!

For kitties in this climate, lying on a cold tile floor for at least part of the day is appealing. However, my Countess Catlyn, at 17 years old, now prefers warming pads to soothe her arthritis pain and ensure that she enjoys sound sleep.

They say you get sand in your shoes when you come to Miami, making your feet so heavy you can't leave. For me, it wasn't heavy feet but seductively warm weather that induced me to put down roots here. For much of the year (except when hurricanes are roaring around), it is paradise. Excluding the hottest part of the summer, living in south Florida feels like an eternal spring.

Sadly, our warm weather ensures two or three kitten seasons every year, so the need for cat rescue is nonstop, and the number of free-roaming cats is staggering. Last December, one little roamer caught my eye and won my heart. Little Cosette was begging everyone for canned food and turning it over to her companion in abandonment, a beautiful adult cat her kind adopter has named Maya. Now we know that Maya couldn't eat dry food because of a painful gum condition, and Cosette saved her life.

Cosette was fostered in my neighbor's spare room, and I was her caretaker until I fell head over heels in love and wanted to keep her myself! She looked and acted much like the long-lost idol of my heart, Princess Kitty. But I let her go to a wonderful cat mom after I plumbed the depth of my longing for Princess Kitty and finally received Cosette's message that she wanted to be queen of her own home. I've seen her recently, and she is gloriously happy. I am content because I did the right thing. She'll always have a special place in my heart.

Many people contributed to Cosette's happy new beginning. I especially want to thank Layla Morgan Wilde, blogger, photographer, and cat communicator extraordinaire, and all the other incredibly gifted CWA members who responded to my call for an animal communicator.

CWAers include some of the most compassionate, intelligent, kind, creative folks I've ever met. I feel fortunate to be part of the Cat Writers' Association. Somewhat like Miami's climate, our group of fellow cat lovers provides the warmth and comfort of a bit of paradise on earth. ♥

The Future of Meow

Some of our members, especially those who have joined since 2009, may not realize that it is possible to opt out of receiving a print newsletter. To do that, contact CWA Secretary Jane A. Kelley at janea@paws-and-effect.com. We do encourage members to opt out in order to save trees and save CWA money spent for printing and mailing.

You can view *Meow* online at <http://catwriters.org/member-logon.html>. Type in

(username) **member**
(password) **cwa2009w**

Please, everybody, take a look at the newsletter online this time. If you want a print copy, you can make one, and it will be in color if you have a color printer! It's really more fun to see the newsletter in color.

We are all directing our writing efforts toward moving into the electronic age and taking advantage of all that this implies. Our newsletter, too, is poised to make a definitive shift into digital format. At this point, we have an online PDF (simply go to the above link). In the future, we need to move to an online-only PDF, a magazine-type website or sub-section of our regular website, or an email either with attached PDF or formatted as an email newsletter.

I regret this because I prefer a paper newsletter! But anyone who wants to can make a printout, even now, from the online PDF. I hope we can make this change by 2014.

~ Karen Payne, Meow Editor



ODIN SPRING EXPLORING

Photo by Layla Morgan Wilde

2013 CWA Contest Entry Deadline!!!!

Must be postmarked by July 1st
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Contest details are found on pages 3-13
of this issue of *MEOW*.

Get the latest information about new contest
categories. Read the contest rules. Sign up
to be a contest judge. Fill out entry forms,
and get your entries ready to mail to

Regular Categories
Contest Chair
Marci Kladnik
P.O. Box 592
Los Alamos, CA
93440

Special Awards
Contest Chair
Barbara Stretton
62 North Ridge Rd.
Old Greenwich, CT
06870



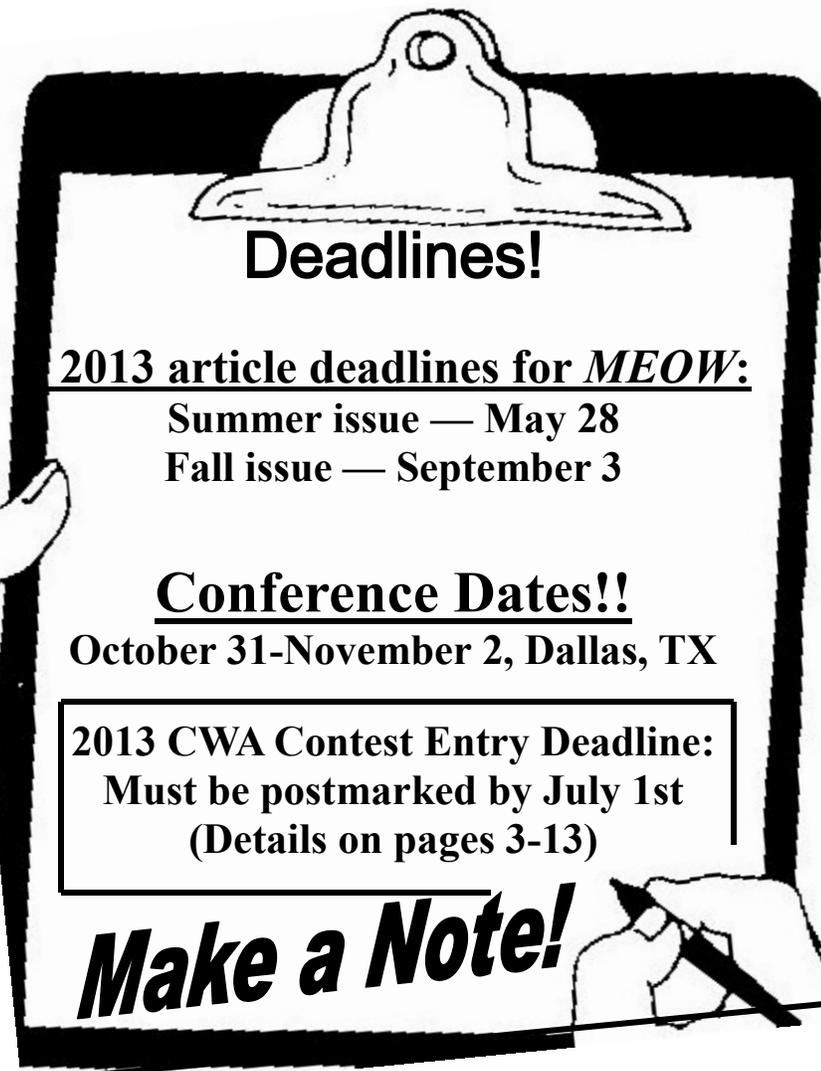
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Meow

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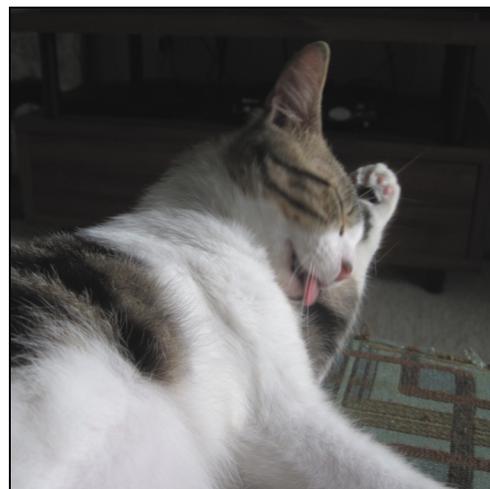
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Miami, FL 33243-0784

First Class



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

~ Heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors who make our CWA Contest possible ~
~ Special thanks to our generous *MEOW* contributors ~



Cosette: Enough ESP! I need a bath! © KP

CORRECTION NOTICE

As you all know, several errors in the CWA contest rules, Regular Categories, and Special Award listings appeared in the print version of this issue of MEOW.

These have now been corrected, and the information that you see in the web version of MEOW is correct. The CWA Contest Committee thanks the newsletter editor and webmistress for helping us get the revised and corrected version up online so quickly.

To be eligible for the contest, an entry must be published or broadcast between **June 16, 2012, and June 15, 2013.**

The information for the AdoptAShelter.com ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT, the CEVA HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND, and the STICKY PAWS® TRAINING awards is correct as it appears on the website.

Another big change is that Marci Kladnik will be the new Regular Categories contest chair. All Regular entries and fees for those entries should be sent to Marci Kladnik, P.O. Box 592, Los Alamos, CA 93440. If you wish to volunteer to judge or to assist the contest committee, you can email Marci at mkauthor@verizon.net. Barbara Stretton remains as the Special Awards chair. All Special Award entries and the fees that go with them should be sent to Barbara Stretton, 62 North Ridge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

Stacey Ritz has resigned as the Regular Categories contest chair due to personal reasons. The contest committee thanks her for her service and help.

We apologize for any inconvenience these errors might have caused any of you, but they are now corrected and the contest will continue as always.

~ The CWA Contest Committee